

## CHRISTMASWISHES A HUGE SUCCESS

The shopping and sorting is complete; the train is in the station, quietly awaiting the next departure, the ChristmasWishes Celebration is done and the families have gone home with crafts, books, gifts, treasured memories of a warm welcome and fellowship, as well as a few new dance moves...

To every person who participated in ChristmasWishes - from making wishes come true to volunteering your precious time to help with our Celebration, thank you so very much. With your help, ChristmasWishes granted wishes to almost 450 children at four celebration sites. NPPC's Celebration touched the lives of 168 children and their families and we want to share one child's story. A little boy made his way to the Christmas card craft table after the devotional and asked the volunteer for help. He wanted to "draw the barn that Jesus was born in and the soft blanket that Mary wrapped around him." Jesus touches lives - one at a time. One life was touched that night...

Again, to every person who helped in so many ways... our sincere thanks for your support and participation in ChristmasWishes.

*Chris Combs*

## NEW PROV U

Get your scuba gear and underwater robot and join us for New Prov U on Wednesday, January 13, 2016! Our speaker Johnny Johnson, born and raised in Blount County, is the co-founder of Ocean Engineering, International. They are a multi-billion dollar underwater support company. His company has been involved in almost every undersea project in the last fifty

years, including world-wide oil spills, searching and finding the Titanic, and raising the Confederate submarine *Hunley*. Johnny is an inventor, innovator, explorer and historian. He and his wife Jodie are now retired and living in Townsend. He will be talking about exploring the ocean depths. Contact Karen (karen@newprovidencepres.org, 983-0182) by noon on Friday, January 7 to make reservations for the 11:30 a.m. lunch or come for the program at noon.

*Cynthia Freeman*

## SESSION SUMMARY

Session approved the following:

- Use of Westminster Hall by NPPC's Boy Scout Troop 88 for its annual fund-raising chili dinner and the selling of tickets in the Atrium
- Donation of the dishwasher and range hood currently located in the kitchen in Eastminster Hall to the Chilhowee View Community Center
- Fund the replacement of the old flat roof using moneys in the Maintenance Reserve Fund and the balance from foundation funds to be determined by the NPPC Foundation Board
- Purchase of a new stove for the kitchen at a cost of \$4,554 to be funded from memorials
- Complete an energy audit as a first step toward becoming an Earth Care Congregation
- Andy Morgan, new minister at UKirk at UT to assist with communion 5:00 service on Christmas eve

## HEALTH TIPS

In his book, *Live Long, Die Short*, Dr. Roger Landry offers these tips to experience successful aging, with the goal of living long and dying short.

- Use it or lose it. Rarely do we abruptly choose to stop living. Rather, aches and pains or occasional forgetfulness challenge our willingness to participate. Regularly use your mind, body and social skills to remain engaged in living.
- Keep moving. Our sedentary culture has lulled us to an inactive lifestyle, particularly for older adults. Physical activity is vital to maintaining strength, endurance and balance.
- Challenge your brain. My mother's 20 year journey with Alzheimer's has heightened my passion for maintaining a fit mind with:
  - physical activity
  - mental stimulation
  - stress control
  - regular relaxation
  - balanced nutrition
- Stay connected. Multiple generation friendships are key to maintaining a sense of connection that can mitigate all your same-aged friends passing away. Invest in relationships that energize you. Make new friends. And while face-to-face time is optimal, technology can be used to stay connected when circumstances require it.
- Lower your risks. A health assessment with your physician can help to identify risks. Making small changes can reap huge rewards to your well-being. Older adults living alone should consider a professional review of their for problem areas in order to reduce the risk of falling.
- Never "act your age!"

*Trish Badgett, RN, Parish Nurse*

## FROM THE PASTOR

United States, United Methodists, United Kingdom, United Nations, United Way. "United" is a positive adjective, unless your Christmas gifts or your holiday guests haven't yet arrived thanks to United Airlines or the United Parcel Service.

But unity seems awfully hard-won these days. Paul tells us to "make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3), but so much threatens to divide us. Few

of us see eye to eye on any one of a hundred issues: race relations, politics, gun control, immigration policy, and abortion rights, to name a few.

Even within the Christian church, we are not all of one mind. Should we baptize by sprinkling or dunking? Should women be leaders in the congregation? Is Jesus "present" with us in the Lord's Supper, or is it simply a reminder of something that happened long ago? Wars have been fought over lesser issues!

Still we are called to "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." And as I watch unity be increasingly threatened in multiple arenas, I feel called to preach on that central Christian tenet this month.

As I mentioned in the last New Prov Press, I've been helped in my thinking by a short sentence borrowed from the Moravian Brethren: In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love. I intend to use those three phrases as a framework for my sermons on January 10, 17, and 24, respectively.

On January 10, we'll look at what's essential, or "non-negotiable," to put it another way. For me, that non-negotiable is the Lordship of Jesus Christ. And I think I'm in pretty good theological company on that.

On January 17, we'll explore what to do in areas in which we disagree, drawing on an example from the life of the Corinthian church in Paul's time. While it may seem unimportant to us all these years later, it seriously tested the unity of that fledgling congregation.

Finally, on January 24, we'll delve

into what it means to stay in community with one another when we disagree. In fact, I'm going to invite us to practice what we'll learn about unity and liberty, or what our Book of Order calls "mutual forbearance," using another hot-button topic. Last summer, the PC(USA)'s General Assembly, and a majority of its 171 presbyteries, voted to revise language in the Directory

for Worship that opens the way for Presbyterian pastors to officiate at same-gender marriages. It was not an easy decision, and we

don't all agree with it. As the session said last summer, there are devoted and honorable Presbyterians who speak passionately on both sides of the topic. It's a good illustration of how differing viewpoints can threaten our unity. I will speak about that and what it means for us to stay together even when we passionately disagree with one another.

After both services of worship on the 24th, you are invited to Westminster Hall for roundtable discussions hosted and facilitated by members of the session. It will be a time for you to share your thoughts, and to listen carefully to others at the table. Those conversations will last no more than one hour.

*In Essentials, Unity;  
In Non-Essentials, Liberty;  
In All Things, Love.*

Some of you may be wondering why in the world I would want us to do this. Why bring up controversial subjects in worship, especially when everything is going well? I think that's exactly why. The best time to practice listening to one another where we disagree is when things are good, so that when we're struggling, we've learned how to live together and honor one another.

I hope you'll be a part of these worship services and the roundtable discussions this month. It feels particularly appropriate to delve into this area, given that January 24 is the end of an annual ecumenical "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity." Melanie will write some e-votions for us for that week to help in our prayerful and thoughtful preparation for our conversations. We'll also celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper that day, gathered around the table of the Christ who loves and calls each and every one of us, and "in whom" as Colossians 1 puts it, "all things hold together."

It is a joy to be the church with you!



Emily J. Anderson

## SUNDAY MORNING LEADERSHIP FOR JANUARY

### FIRSTLIGHT SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.

	Elder Greeters	Ushers	Children's Time
3	Lily Wilner, Harry Herrmann	Denise Vogado*, Sandy & Dick Dalhaus, Teresa & Harry Herrmann	Cindy Sugg
10	Beth Lazar, Brian LaRose, Bob Beard	Denise Vogado*, Margaret & Lynn Kidd, Mary & Denny Moore	Terri Carroll
17	Rusty Winchester, Chris Combs	Denise Vogado*, Margaret & Lynn Kidd, Sharon & Sam Kyker	Kyasia Benjamin
24	Bill Schult, Lily Wilner	Denise Vogado*, Teresa & Harry Herrmann, Joan & Ken Marmon	Olivia Lazar
31	Harry Herrmann, Beth Lazar, Brian LaRose	Denise Vogado*, DeAnne & Ron Gibbs, and Joan & Ken Marmon	Melanie Rasnake

### TRADITIONAL SERVICE AT 11:05 A.M.

	Elder Greeters	Children's Time
3	Janet Kolarik, Joanna Huntoon, Mike Harrington	Cindy Sugg
10	Cynthia Freeman, Liz Britt, Shelby Middleton	Terri Carroll
17	Brenda Craig, Diane Hicks, Beth Ragsdale Smith	Kyasia Benjamin
24	Ann Bennett, Jason Brooks, Karen Paxton	Olivia Lazar
31	Phil Reilly, Janet Kolarik, Joanna Huntoon	Melanie Rasnake

\* Head Usher

# CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					01 New Year's Day - Church Closed	02
03 Epiphany Gibson, Owens Baptisms at 11:05 9:00a FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00a Church School 11:05a Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30p iGroup (WH) 6:00p Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30p PYC (WH)	04 MCS & ACS Christmas Break End 7:30a Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00a CBS Sorters (WH) 6:00p BSA - Wolf Cubs (WHF) 6:30p BSA - Bear Cubs (EHR) 7:00p BSA - Webelos 1 (WHR) 7:00p BSA - Troop 88 (EHF) 7:00p BSA - Webelos 2 (208) 7:30p NA Group (206)	05 BCS Christmas Break Ends 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (EH ) 9:30a Community Food Connection Board Meeting (Chapel) 1:30p Welcome Table Prep (WH) 1:45p Centering Prayer (Youth Room ) 5:00p Welcome Table (WH) 6:30p Event Support Committee (211) 6:30p BSA - Tiger Cubs (EHR) 6:30p Congregational Life/Deacons (206) 7:00p Personnel Committee (Choir Room) 7:00p Budget & Finance (108) 7:00p Stewardship Committee (109) 7:00p Policy Committee (Youth Room) 7:00p Green Team (Conf. Room) 7:00p Admin Team (Chapel)	06 Epiphany of the Lord 8:30a Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (EH - Rear) 4:00p Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 6:00p Open Gym (WH - All) 6:00p Men's Lead Team (109) 7:00p Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30p NA Group (206)	07 8:30a CBS Set Up (WH) 10:00a Martha Circle (Chapel) 10:00a Ruth Circle (Youth Room) 10:00a Leah Circle (Parlor) 2:00p Deborah Circle 4:00p FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:45p Grace Notes (211) 6:00p Girl Scout Troop #20487 (206) 7:00p Mary Circle (108)	08 8:30a Community Benefit Sale (WH) 7:00p Officers' Training Kickoff Dinner (WH)	09 8:30a Officers' Training (WH - All)
10 Baptism of the Lord 9:00a FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00a Officers' Training (Chapel) 10:00a Church School 11:05a Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30p iGroup (WH) 6:00p Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30p PYC (WH)	11 7:30a Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00a CBS Sorters (WH) 6:00p BSA - Wolf Cubs (WHF) 6:30p BSA - Bear Cubs (EHR) 7:00p BSA - Webelos 2 (208) 7:00p BSA - Troop 88 (EHR) 7:00p BSA-Webelos 1 (WH) 7:00p Women's Study Group (Parlor) 7:30p NA Group (206)	12 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (EH ) 1:30p Welcome Table Prep (WH ) 1:45p Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00p Welcome Table (WH - Front) 6:30p Worship & Arts (Choir Room) 6:30p Children's Committee (215) 6:30p Disc & Education (216) 6:30p BSA - Tiger Cubs (EHR) 6:30p Leadership Dev. Committee (206) 6:30p Adult Ed Committee (214) 7:00p Church In the World (Chapel)	13 7:30a Men's Witnessing Square (Youth Rm) 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (EH - Rear) 11:30a New Prov U (WH - Front) 3:00p P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00p Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 6:00p Open Gym (WH - All) 7:00p Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30p NA Group (206)	14 9:00a Quilters (WH) 4:00p FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:45p Grace Notes (211) 6:00p Girl Scout Troop #20487 (206) 6:00p BSA - District Committee (EHF) 7:00p BSA-District Roundtable (EHR)	15 10:00a Life Beginners	16
17 Money for Mana 9:00a FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00a Church School 10:00a Officers' Training (Chapel) 11:05a Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 12:30p Youth Committee (Youth Room - Front) 4:30p iGroup (WH) 6:00p Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30p PYC (WH)	18 MLK Day - Church Closed	19 New Prov Press Deadline 8:00a CBS Sorters (WH) 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (EH) 1:30p Welcome Table Prep (WH) 1:45p Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00p Welcome Table (WH - Front) 6:30p Communion Training (Sanctuary) 6:30p BSA - Tiger Cubs (EH - Rear) 7:00p Session (Chapel)	20 8:30a Men's Building Square (Atrium) 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (EH - Rear) 3:00p P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00p Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 5:15p Cloud 9 (217) 6:00p Open Gym (WH - All) 7:00p Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30p NA Group (206)	21 9:00a Quilters (WH) 10:00a PWC Coordinating Team (Chapel) 4:00p FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:45p Grace Notes (211) 6:00p Girl Scout Troop #20487 (206) 7:00p Officers' Training (Chapel)	22	23
24 Communion 9:00a FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00a Officers' Training (Chapel) 10:00a Church School 11:05a Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30p iGroup (WH) 6:00p Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30p PYC (WH)	25 7:30a Men's Lectionary Bible Study 8:00a CBS Sorters (WH) 6:30p BSA - Pack Meeting (WHA) 7:00p BSA - Troop 88 (EHF) 7:00p BSA - Webelos 2 (208) 7:00p Women's Study Group (Parlor) 7:30p NA Group (206)	26 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (EH - Rear) 1:00p New Prov Press Mailing (Chapel) 1:30p Welcome Table Prep (WH) 1:45p Centering Prayer (Youth Room) 5:00p Welcome Table (WH ) 6:30p BSA - Tiger Cubs (EHR)	27 7:30a Men's Witnessing Square (Youth Rm) 9:00a PWC Bible Study Leaders (Chapel) 9:00a Bartlett Adult Day Out (EH - Rear) 11:00a Lectionary Group (Conf. Room) 3:00p P.E.A.K. (16) 4:00p Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 6:00p Open Gym (WH - All) 7:00p Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30p NA Group (206)	28 8:30a CBS Set Up (WH) 9:00a Quilters (WH) 4:00p FirstLight Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 5:45p Grace Notes (211) 6:00p Girl Scout Troop #20487 (206) 7:00p Officers' Training (Chapel)	29 8:30a Community Benefit Sale (WH)	30
31 9:00a FirstLight Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00a Church School 10:00a Officers' Training (Chapel) 11:05a Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) 4:30p iGroup (WH) 6:00p Youth Dinner (WH) 6:30p PYC (WH)						

## TENDING OUR FLOCK

### CONGRATULATIONS

- Eliza Grace Salerno, 12/9, weighed seven pounds, eight ounces and was 20 3/4 inches long, daughter of Jeff & Sarah Salerno, granddaughter of Bob & Donna Booher and the great-granddaughter of Maxey McArthur.
- Luke Corley Blackburn, 11/21, son of Joe & Rachel Blackburn, grandson of Rick & Cindy Blackburn and great-grandson of Liz & Charles Blackburn.

### IN MEMORY

- Mary Louise Thomas, Jeremy Thomas' grandmother, 11/20
- Susan D. LaRose, Brian LaRose's mother, 11/22
- Katherine Willene Chote, Sue Birdwell's sister, 12/1
- Graeme Sieber, brother-in-law of Marvin Beard, Bob Beard, and Liz Heid, 12/13
- David Keller, Allison Reagan's father, 12/16

## ONLINE DONATIONS

New Prov is now accepting online donations. Scan this QR code or go to [www.newprovidencepres.org/donate](http://www.newprovidencepres.org/donate) and use your debit or credit card to give to the church online. Contact Penny Bever ([penny@newprovidencepres.org](mailto:penny@newprovidencepres.org), 983-0182) for assistance.



## MINISTERS & SUPPORT

The Reverend Doctor Emily J. Anderson . . . . . PASTOR  
 The Reverend J. Steven Musick . . . . . ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
 The Reverend Doctor Stan Rushing . . . . . PARISH ASSOCIATE  
 Melanie Rasnake . . . . . DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
 Rob Britt . . . . . DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
 Peggy Rogers . . . . . ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF HANDBELLS  
 Jason Graffis . . . . . YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTRIES AND  
 FIRSTLIGHT WORSHIP COORDINATOR  
 INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC  
 Jaclyn Beeler . . . . . CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR  
 Trish Badgett . . . . . PARISH NURSE  
 Ray Bryant . . . . . FACILITIES MANAGER  
 Penny Bever . . . . . BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR  
 Coco Everett . . . . . COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR  
 Karen Vogt . . . . . INFORMATION COORDINATOR  
 Amelia Geis-Scott . . . . . WELCOME TABLE COORDINATOR



703 West Broadway  
 Maryville, Tennessee 37801  
 Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Maryville, Tenn.  
 Permit No. 120

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Calendar for January 2016 . . . . .	3
ChristmasWishes a Huge Success . . . . .	1
From the Pastor . . . . .	2
Health Tips . . . . .	1
New Prov U . . . . .	1
Online Donations . . . . .	3
Session Summary . . . . .	1
Sunday Morning Leadership For January . . . . .	2
Tending our Flock . . . . .	3

## DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY

4	Church Closed
8	Community Benefit Sale
18	Church Closed - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
19	<i>New Prov Press</i> Deadline
24	Communion during both services of worship
29	Community Benefit Sale

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY

- January 3, 2016: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9) 10-18
- January 10: Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- January 17: Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11
- January 24: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21
- January 31: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30