CHRISTMAS 2018















MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

FUND







DONOR	<u>FUND</u>	IN MEMORY OF		
Rexene Spraker	Kid's Junction	Dale Chappell		
Rexene Spraker	Kid's Junction	Mary Beth Waddell		
Rexene Spraker	Kid's Junction	Turner Cockrell		
Nathan & Janet Smith	Angel Tree	Dale Chappell		
Donnie & Earlene Ogburn	Angel Tree	Ken Schaeffer		
William & Marla Tignor	Reading Program	Dorothy Foster		
Chrissy Chappell	Angel Tree	Wayne Chappell		
Rexene Spraker Nathan & Janet Smith Donnie & Earlene Ogburn William & Marla Tignor	Kid's Junction Angel Tree Angel Tree Reading Program	Turner Cockrell Dale Chappell Ken Schaeffer Dorothy Foster		

DONOR

Agape Sunday School Kid's Junction Chrissy Chappell Angel Tree **IN HONOR OF**

Sunday School Teachers

Peggy Chappell

BIRTHDAD!		SISTNOASI
	BIRTHDAYS	

Mark Sanderford		01/01	Susan Grancey	01/12	Paige Hanks	01/22	
Brent Crockett			01/02	Taylor Vaughan	01/12	Alicia Ford	01/23
Tyler Boyer			01/04	Nancy Frangos	01/14	Susan Helton	01/23
Carolyn Crockett Reynolds		01/04	Ruth Puckett	01/15	David Shaw	01/23	
Laura Reynolds		01/04	Chelsi Stoneman	01/15	Donald Koger	01/24	
Christopher Shaw			01/05	Scott Kegley	01/16	Jack Wolford	01/24
Carly Parks		01/08	Ed Hanks II	01/18	Rickey Wilson	01/26	
Rebecca Cardwell		01/09	Cameron Higgins	01/18	Reid Ostrander	01/27	
Jennifer Smith		01/09	Jackie Keene	01/19	Vinnie Chappell	01/28	
Tim Spraker	01/10	Richard Farmer	01/21	Scott Wilson		01/28	
Bill Lindsey	01/11	Sarma Doane	01/22				

UMW NEWS

Thirty-nine angels received Christmas gifts this year thanks to those of you who took an angel and to those of you who provided the monetary gifts so that presents could be bought. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by Galax Middle School, the UMW and those families that received the gifts. Special thanks goes to the shoppers who took the extra time to make sure no child was without presents under their trees on Christmas morning.

Dear FUMC Members: My heartfelt thanks for all the expressions of sympathy from my church family for my family's recent loss. I am so appreciative of you all.

Jivene Turner

JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan. 3 (Monday 7 p.m.)—Trustee Meeting

Jan. 7 and 21 (Monday)— Kids' Junction

Jan. 8 (Tuesday 10 a.m.)—UMW Meeting and Christmas Party

Jan. 8 (Tuesday 6:30 p.m.)—Mission Committee Meeting

Jan. 9,16,23,30 (Wednesday 12 and 6 p.m.)—Bible Study

Jan. 10 (Thursday 7 p.m.)—Finance Committee Meeting

Jan. 13 (Sunday)—Covered dish meal after worship

Jan. 14 (Monday 7 p.m.)—Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Jan. 17 (Thursday)—Administrative Board Meeting



We celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday on Sunday,
January 13th during Sunday
Worship. It is a time to remember our baptism and be thankful; and, a time to renew our Baptismal vows.



Januray 2019

"I am the vine...you are the branches"

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – 306 W. Center St. (P.O. Box 445) – Galax, VA 24333 Phone: 236-9937 E-mail: fumcgalax1@gmail.com Web Page: www.fumcgalax.org

<u>VISION STATEMENT:</u> Jesus calls us to be a community of loving and growing Christians committed to spreading the Good News while serving God and our neighbors.

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

December was a joyful month. We celebrated the joy of Christ's birth at Christmas Eve Communion. We have shared meals and enjoyed family gatherings. Most of us, if not all of us, received a present or two. We had our fill of good food and cheer. December with its Christmas season is a special time of the year, but if I had my way, Christmas Eve would begin the Christmas season and we would shop until January 5. Presents and gifts would be shared on the twelfth day of Christmas, the day of the Epiphany when the Wise Men delivered their gifts. That is the time we celebrate the Wise Men bearing their gifts to Christ; but, alas, I know that is not going to happen in that order in my lifetime.

December was also a surprising month. The surprising part of December was 22 inches of snow in Galax. My Subaru could not even drive through it. For these parts, I hope 22 inches of snow is an oddity and not the norm. If is the norm, I may have to look at a vehicle that needs a ladder to ascend into the cockpit. I have seen a few around town. Even though a very small pile of snow sits in the churchyard from the "big one" a few weeks back, we now transition into the new year. Let's hope that pile of snow is not waiting for more of its snowy friends to arrive.

On a positive note, the hours of daylight are beginning to slowly lengthen in January. Looking at the weather forecast, it looks good; but, as we know, that can change quickly in January. The last college football game for the season is played next week. The NFL playoffs are played in January. College basketball teams begin playing their conference opponents, and by the end of the month, we will know who the top contenders will probably be, come March Madness.

Church calendar-wise, January is the season of Epiphany. The day of Ephinay is always January 6 (twelve days after December 25). This year we celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 6. Now, I debate whether I should still call it "Epiphany Sunday" as opposed to the day of the Epiphany. Epiphany celebrates the day when the star shone over the manger and pointed the way to the Wise Men to come and pay homage to the newborn kind born in a manger.

Concerning Epiphany, which means "shines upon," I myself love the image of a "light shining in the darkness" as Isaiah puts it (Isaiah 6). Think of the birth of Christ as a dawning whose brightness only grows as time marches on. Think of it in a personal sense as the light of Christ points out our flaws and leads us to turn from sin. Think of it in the social sense in that we can create a better society, both today and for the future. Epiphany tells us that God has not forgotten us and left us in the darkness. There is a light!

Living the light of the revelation of God's love in Jesus Christ, we celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday on Sunday, January 13 during Sunday Worship. We will be given the chance to renew our Baptismal vows in conjunction with the beginning of the new year. To help us celebrate the new year, we have a feast after Worship on Sunday, January 13. Come, bring a dish to share. Dessert will be provided (I hope you like cookies!)

Pastor Mark McFadden