

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Wed	2nd	12 & 6 p.m.	Bible Study
Mon	7th	10-12 p.m.	Kid Junction
Mon	21st	10-12 p.m.	Kid Junction
Thurs	24th	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion
Fri	25th		Christmas

ALTAR GUILD : C.C. and Janis Kurtz



THANK YOU
ELAINE AND
BARBARA FOR
ALL THAT YOU
DO.



(continued from page 1.)

Christmas Eve Communion will continue at 6:30 on Christmas Eve. We will not be passing out the individual candles, but the sanctuary will be lit by candles in the windows and altar and communion rail. There will be no intinction (dipping the bread in the cup), but there will be our small, disposable communion cup with bread and juice. We celebrate God coming to us! God comes to us in Holy Communion though the bread and wine in the communion of the Holy Spirit. As noted earlier, Christ is formed within us and among us through the Holy Spirit.

This year will not be forgotten for a long time. I remember back in March thinking we would be closed for in-person worship for only a week or two. On the bright side, it has pressed upon us other ways to get the message out and worship together. Through Facebook Live broadcasts of Sunday Worship and weekday devotions, our connection has expanded. We have also expanded the mailings for those without access to Facebook or the internet. Bible Study is on Zoom. There is one downside: I cannot cancel worship or Bible Study due to weather, but that is OK.

Pastor Mark McFadden



MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS



Donor

Mariah Nunn
Billy & Ruth Sizemore

Fund

Kid’s Junction
Kid’s Junction

In honor of

Mark Glenn McFadden
Kid’s Junction Volunteers



Shirley and Ken Rosenbaum 12/26
Judy and Richard Farmer 12/29



Jaime Butler	12/01	Betty Butler	12/18	Helen Morton	12/28
Nancy Westmoreland	12/6	Morgan Tompkins	12/19	Don Houk	12/31
Derek DeZern	12/7	Bill Brannon	12/24		
Babette Nuckolls	12/18	Skip Boyer Jr.	12/26		



KID JUNCTION NEWS DECEMBER VINE 2020
GREAT NEW TO REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

- We were open both Mondays in November and served a total of 11 families and 33 children
- A very special thanks to the Mission Committee for donating the very timely contribution of \$1,000. We were able to replenish much needed items for the months of November and December.
- With contributions from our church family and the volunteers who assist, we are able to fund and operate this important local mission that reaches out to our community for those children in need.
- Sincere thanks to our November volunteers—Elsie Davis, Janis Kurtz, Linda Richardson, and Dianne Marshall

ALL GLORY BE TO GOD FOR WORKING THROUGH US AT FUMC-GALAX
“But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

Hebrews13:16 (NKJV)

NATIONS FOR WHICH TO PRAY:

- December 1— Myanmar, Thailand
- December 6— Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam
- December 13—China, Hong Kong, Macau
- December 20—Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan
- December 27—Stateless people

Sunday, December 6 (Advent 2) (Holy Communion)

Scripture: Isaiah 40:6-8; 2 Peter 3:8-15
Focus: Anticipation of Christ’s Return

Sunday, December 13 (Advent 3)

Scripture: John 1:6-9
Focus: Bearing Witness

Sunday, December 20 (Advent 4)

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:16; Luke 1:26-33; Luke 1:47-55
Focus: Beyond imagination

Sunday, December 27 (Christmas 1) (Holy Communion)

Scripture: Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
Focus: Light of the Gentiles

PRAYER LIST:

NEW ADDITIONS: Jimmy Baxley Family (upon his unexpected passing); Yvonne Strader Alexander (Taylor Alexander's grandmother); Randy Harrison & Family (upon passing of his wife)

Shelly Algers	Ike Cruise	Bud Nelson
Maggie Amburn	James Duncan	Mary Parks
Alice Anderson	Eddie Farris	August Reavis
Geneva Anderson	Susie Floyd	James Rollins
Mike Anderson	Brenda Gravely	Jo Rudy
Bell Arvin	Ronnie Gravely	Barbara Sawyers
Sandy Billings	Mimi Hll	Linda Sharpe
Susie Blevins	Keith Helton	Benny Shupe
Audene Bogert	Angie Hill	Melissa Sizemore
Betty Bowman	Laurie Hawks Jones	Tim Spraker
Clare Boyer	Tommy&Rhonda Jones	Autrey Taylor
Skip Boyer	Keri Grimes Keith	Wayne Thayer
Tracy Brannock	Don Knox	Jimmy Walls
Gardner Brannon	Penny Kyle	Sandy Ward
Christine Briscoe	Rubie Larrowe	Mary Warren
Max Brown	Pam Leadbetter	Judy White
Steve Burcham	Danita Moore	R.Carl & Shirley Whitlock
Billy and Vivian Coleman	Trish Moore	Edith Wilson
Ruth Ann Cox	Jane Naylor	Jerry Wolford
Stacy Cox	Pat Naylor	Lloyd Works



DECEMBER 2020 “I am the vine...you are the branches” VOL. 57 – ISSUE 12

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

INVITING—FORMING—SERVING

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

We have finally reached the last month of 2020. It has been a crazy year to say the least. Worldwide pandemic, a contentious Presidential Election, and murder hornets on the West Coast. Let us pray that 2021 be not at tumultuous, yet whatever happens may we know that God is with us. The Holy Spirit dwells within and among us, forming Christ within us and among us.

Christian Year began anew on Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent. Although our large, beautiful Christmas Tree will have to wait until next year to be put up and decorated, we do have Christmas trees on a smaller scale. One to balance out the Advent Candles, and another at the Center street entrance. Drive by one night and check it out!

Christmas preparations help us finish out this year with some joy.The Highland Country Lights at Felts Park are up and running, and a neighbor of mine on LaFayette street was in the 2019 Top Ten in the world for home Christmas decorations. It looks like it will be another doozy this year.

As for shopping I have a plan doomed to fail in our society, but hear me out. The twelve days of Christmas begin on December 25 and end on January 6 (Epiphany). What if we prepared like we do during Advent to celebrate Christmas. After Christmas Eve Communion we begin our Christmas shopping and give gifts on January 6 (Epiphany when the Magi brought their gifts). Like I said, doomed to failure.

Despite the commercialization of Christmas, I do think it is a wonderful time to tell a part of the Greatest Story Ever Told: God coming to us in Jesus Christ. God comes to us in humility and kindness and his way among us judges us in that it points out where we lack humility and kindness, as individuals and as a society. The Good News is that this judgment leads us to repent and make the world a better place today! May the final word not be judgment but repentance that leads to life. (continued on page 3.)