

# First Fruits



## Worship in January

### Jan. 13

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

*Baptism of Jesus*

### Jan. 20

John 2:1–11

*The First Sign*

### Jan. 27

Luke 4:14–30

*The Trouble with the Bible*

Dear Friends,

Our God is a God of new beginnings; I hope the beginning of this New Year, 2019, reminds us of this good news of scripture. Throughout my life of faith, I have been grateful for the witness that, at whatever point in life we find ourselves, God is still at work to bring about new life.

As we recall the services of worship with which we concluded 2018, as we recall the visit of the Christ child by the Wise Men from a distant land, I hope we remember again how God constantly reaches out to us in new ways so as to bless and save.

As we recall, I hope we also move into this New Year with great hope and anticipation. I am convinced God

works in new ways so as to create new experiences of worship, new means of ministries of mission, new ways to reach out to this community in the name of Christ, new ways to learn and grow in faith, new means by which to serve God through our gifts. Our God is truly “Emmanuel,” God with us – well beyond Christmas, and into this New Year.

Please join with me in prayer for the General Conference of the UMC, scheduled for February 23–26 in St. Louis. A wealth of information regarding this General Conference is found at these links: <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session> and <https://www.vaumc.org/GC2019>. I encour-

age you to read this information and to be informed. My prayer is that the United Methodist Church remains united, following General Conference. My prayer is that we remain “One in Christ,” following this Conference. If you have questions or concerns regarding General Conference, including references I have made to this conference from the pulpit or by any other means, I hope you will let me know. I wish to love God and to love his church and all within, and to behave according to this love.

As we worship on January 13, we remember the baptism of Jesus, but we also remember our baptism. I am convinced the waters of our baptism never dry; they

always cling to us, and we are always given new ways in which to live, according to the promises made as we are baptized. Again, recalling God’s words spoken as Jesus is baptized and the words spoken as we are baptized is an inspiring and powerful way by which to enter God’s gift of a New Year.

So as we remember the vision God gives to First UMC, we anticipate God giving us new ways to live into this vision. First UMC is an Uptown Church where all are welcome, all worship, and all serve – to the glory of God.

Grace and Peace in Christ,  
Keith

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## Notes from the Bench

It is hard to believe that I have been at FUMC now for almost a year! I had no idea when I walked into this church as a substitute organist on February 18, 2018, that God would put on my heart “the call” to serve this congregation as your Director of Music Ministries and Organist. And yet, what a mighty God we serve! It has been a true blessing to work for this congregation, and I thank God for all the very special moments of worship and fellowship we have shared around one of God’s greatest gifts — MUSIC!



As we begin this New Year of 2019 together, I recommit myself to each of you at FUMC and to the larger community of Martinsville in the ministry of MUSIC. With every anthem or hymn we sing, with every color of the organ or piano or orchestral instrument, with every beautiful voice or “joyful noise” issued forth from children and adults alike, my New Year’s prayer is that every musical offering in the year ahead will draw us closer to God so that we will be inspired to serve others.

Jill

Happy New Year! As I write this and reflect on this past Christmas season, I am reminded of how blessed we are as a congregation to know and love our children! They are such a joy to work with, and all did wonderful jobs with their worship responsibilities throughout the

month of December. I thank God for the opportunity to be the Children’s Choir Director and am looking forward to Mondays in the New Year!

In Christ’s love,

Beth



*The children did an incredible job with their Christmas musical Christmas Around the World on December 16th! The choirs and puppeteers were outstanding!*

## JAMZ News

The JAMZ (Jesus And Me Zone) kids did a tour around town playing “SANTA PAWS!” We went to nine church members’ homes and gave treats to their pets, sang carols, and visited.

In January, they will finish their lesson series titled JESUS IS.... These lessons teach about the many names of Jesus: Wonderful Coun-

selor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and Immanuel. They will also continue with the New Testament books of the Bible memorization.

JAMZ will meet January 13 and 27. No JAMZ on January 21 due to the MLK long weekend.



# January 2019

## Souper Bowl Lunch

Join us once again for a variety of delicious soups on Sunday, February 3 at the ministry center. For just \$3 per person, you get several bowls of soup, bread, crackers, drinks, and dessert!

Join the J.A.M.Z. kids as they raise money to provide meat for the food bank families.

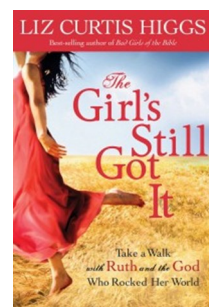
No tickets will be sold in advance. Simply pay at the door! Come to the ministry center after worship on February 3.

## Ruth—The Girl's Still Got It!

Join us on Tuesdays at noon, beginning January 15 as we learn more about Ruth. We will use a book and video by Liz Curtis Higgs— *The Girl's Still Got It!*

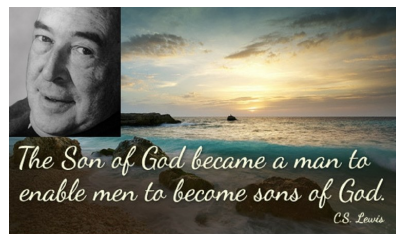
If you would like a copy of the book, please contact Karen in the church office. \$10 per book.

Bring your lunch and come to the youth room of the uptown ministry center!



## New Sunday School Class—Meditations by C.S. Lewis

We have a new Sunday School class which began January 6! Fred Smith will lead the class through a book of meditations by C.S. Lewis. Please let the church office know if you are interested in joining this new study. This class will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor near the children's Sunday School classes.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

<b>Birthdays</b>	Mary Smith	1/11	Rebecca Stone	1/21	
Norma Reed	1/2	George Clanton, Jr.	1/12	Tara Compton	1/22
Byron Corcoran	1/3	Doris Gunter	1/13	Ray Mallinak	1/25
Billy Cross	1/3	Sam Nichols	1/14	Jan Martin	1/27
Paul Eason	1/3	Ricky Swinney	1/14	Suzanne Turner	1/28
Walter Rhea	1/4	Charles Whitmore	1/14	Julie Bryant	1/28
Vincent Childress	1/5	David Smith	1/14	Rebecca Williams	1/29
Paula Ritchie	1/5	Laura Rogers	1/15	Emilie Wooldridge	1/30
Davis White	1/6	Martha Clark	1/15	Beth Adkins	1/31
Diane Bassett	1/8	Connie Roberts	1/16		
Neil Hawks	1/8	Sissy Sherwood	1/16	<b>Anniversaries</b>	
Campbell Ferguson	1/9	Susan Parker	1/17	Craig & Kathy Dietrich	1/15
Holly Hunter	1/9	Letitia Smith	1/20		

## First United Methodist Church

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## Announcements

**Seniors Unlimited** will meet **Wednesday, January 16**, at noon in the fellowship hall. The menu is soup, cornbread, and dessert. Jill Gardner will lead the group in a sing-along.

**The food bank** is collecting cans of fruit for the month of January.

**Join Pastor Keith** and many other members of the United Methodist Church in prayer each day from 2:23 – 2:26, in preparation for the General

Conference of the UMC to be held in St. Louis February 23 – 26th, 2019.

**Chrismon Class being offered:** Carolyn Hudson will hold a Chrismon class at Mt Bethel UMC (63 Mount Bethel Church Rd, Martinsville) on January 14 at 9am & 6pm. Cost is \$10 for non-church members to cover the cost of the beads.

Attendees will make a beaded crown Chrismon to take home. Carolyn holds

a Chrismon class (normally) each month at Mt. Bethel UMC during the year making a different beaded Chrismon each month. If you wish to attend, please contact Carolyn at (276) 673-1181.

