

CROSS AND FLAME

First United Methodist Church
Pulaski, Virginia

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

Words are important but putting actions with our words is even better.

Back in the spring, we began talking about an expanded purpose statement for our congregation: “LoveFirst: Through God . . . With Grace . . . For All.” You’ve seen it on t-shirts, on banners and on multiple church publications. Recently though, you have proved that these are more than just words — you have put these words into action. Consider these examples over this Christmas season:

- Made over 60 food boxes for area needy families
- Donated numerous hats, gloves, and scarves to Taking It to the Streets
- Provided over 100 gifts for the Pulaski County Christmas store which helps local families in need
- Provided a meal & Christmas caroling to the Bluegrass Apartments here in Pulaski.
- Gave a Christmas Eve offering of over \$800 to support ministry of Willow UMC in Willow, Alaska.

My heart is filled with gratitude and thankfulness for the many ways that we continue to express our love for God and our love for others. May we be committed in this new year to doing even more of the same!

Melissa

Church Events

- **January 7** — Youth Parent Meeting @ 7pm. Resurrection forms and money due at that time.
- **January 10** — JOY Club @ 11am. Sharing our stories of Faith.
- **January 17** — Brown Baggers begin @ 12
- **January 19-21** — Youth to Resurrection 2018
- **February 13** — Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- **February 14** — Lent begins
- **February 25** — Youth Lunch & Silent Auction after 11am worship

Stewardship

*"We will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and support it with our **prayers**, our **presence**, our **gifts**, our **service**, and our **witness**."*

Our Prayers

Nursing Homes, Retirement Center and At Home

Lorene Beamer, Mary Lou Copenhaver, Pete Crawford, Betty Hess, Sadie Hillman, Mildred "Duckie" Keller, Ruth Lynn, Jim McMillan, Polly Mitchell, Eleanor Moore, Sarah "Tip" Quillen, Paul Ratcliffe, Chime Saltz

Serving Our Country

David Booker, John Warren Hedge, Marc Fitzwater, Adam Marc LeBlanc

Our Presence

DECEMBER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

Sunday School	57
Morning Worship (8:45, 11:00, Hispanic)	161

Our Gifts

2017 Budget	\$ 346,733
Needed for December 2017	346,733
Received through December 24	312,667



Be sure to check out the new prayer garden in the front of the church.

Evan Clark designed this as an Eagle Scout project and we will have an "official" dedication in the Spring.



Congratulations to Gary and Carol Hancock on the arrival of their grandson, Lucca Bowie Hancock, on December 19. Lu weighed 8 lbs. 2 ozs. and was 21 inches long. His proud parents are Matthew and Dorsey Hancock.



The pastor and congregation extend Christian sympathy to following families:



The family of Brenda Riggie Haymore

Chime Saltz on the loss of her husband, Rhea "Bunny" Saltz

Pam Clark and family on the loss of her mother, Nancy Collins

The words "thank you" are not enough to express our appreciation and gratitude for your love and support during our time of loss. Brittney and I are blessed to be a part of this church family.

Donna and Brittney Worrell



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Molly Cox
- 2 Bill Thomas, Chime Saltz
- 3 Anne Neighbors
- 4 Kathryn Kelly
- 6 Sally Ratcliffe
- 9 Guillermo Velasquez
- 10 Evan Clark, Cathy Dalton
- 16 Cindy Olinger, Virginia Donelson
- 17 Justin Stump
- 18 Barbara Cain
- 20 Regina Edwards, June Aker, Joseph Stacy
- 21 Allen Queen, Donia Eley, Gaspar Mendez, Olivia Stacy
- 24 Donna Worrell
- 27 Jenni French
- 31 Ann Lambert

