



# Cross and Flame

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UMC PULASKI, VA  
MARCH 2018

## **Things are not always what they seem!**

You may have had that thought last week when we experienced record-high temperatures and it felt like spring but you knew from looking at the calendar that winter was not quite over. A commercial on TV might have convinced you of your need for an item and when opening the package, it was *WAY* different than what you expected it to be. This may have even been the experience of the early disciples who arrived at the tomb early one Easter morning. They wanted to believe that Jesus' words of being the Messiah were true — but the tomb was empty. Things are not always what they seem!

I know that I am somewhat biased to the Easter story because I come from a faith perspective and I have to remind myself that not everyone has that same experience. We are surrounded by people who are skeptical of God and have no understanding of Jesus' sacrifice and passionate love for them. They are missing out on the fullness of life that God offers and that I wonder how things could change for them if they could understand the extent of God's love for them. The reality of God's unconditional love seems almost too good to be true but our faith teaches us a different story. May we celebrate the love that God has for the world and for each of us as we gather to worship on Easter. And someone to worship with you that needs to hear the wonderful hope of the Easter story.

## **JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE EASTER**

- **Sunrise Service @ 6:45am on the front lawn**  
(followed by breakfast in the FLC)
- **Hispanic Worship service @ 8:30am**
- **Contemporary Worship service @ 8:45am**
- **Traditional Worship service @ 11:00am**

**EASTER**  
Celebrate The Resurrection

**40 days — 40 items**

## **Lenten Challenge**



Bring cans of food & non-perishable items to the church during Lent. They will be donated to the “Little Free Pantry” that is located in front of First Presbyterian Church.



An Easter offering will be collected to help support our area needy. These funds provide assistance with utilities and emergency needs that may arise. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

*“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*



United Methodist Women Bake Sunday  
Sunday, March 25 in the overflow area



## 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, E. G. Black, Richard Blevins, Mary Lou Copenhaver, Pete Crawford, Phil Dalton, Joanna Frith, Janet Hanks, Betty Hess, Sadie Hillman, Mildred "Duckie" Keller, Tinky Layman, Jim McMillan, Polly Mitchell, Eleanor Moore, Mary Sue Newsome-Peters, Tommy Quesenberry, Tip Quillen, Paul Ratcliff

### Serving Our Country

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

## Our Presence

### FEBRUARY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

|                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| Sunday School                              | 60  |
| Morning Worship<br>(8:45, 11:00, Hispanic) | 136 |

## Our Gifts

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 2018 Budget                  | \$ 369,799 |
| Needed for February 2018     | 61,633     |
| Received through February 25 | 43,343     |

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sally Howard
- 2 Joyce McMillan
- 4 Milton Yopp
- 7 Sherry Yopp, Diana Nunley  
Margaret Woolwine, Kaylee Newby
- 9 David Booker
- 11 Kathy Woolwine
- 15 Marc Fitzwater
- 18 Allen Palmore
- 19 Jean Gates, Gaspar Vicente
- 20 Brian Queen, Oscar Vicente Mendoza
- 22 Pete Crawford, Ben Rudisill,  
Micah Lewis
- 23 Betty Hess
- 28 Doug Steger
- 31 Betty Lou Crawford



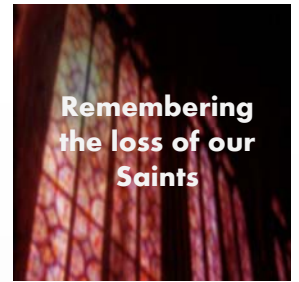
## *Mildred Eloise Bolen*

### Joined First Church

April 3, 1966

### Died

February 9, 2018



## *Cynthia Jo Anderson* *"Cindi"*

### Joined First Church

December 12, 1971

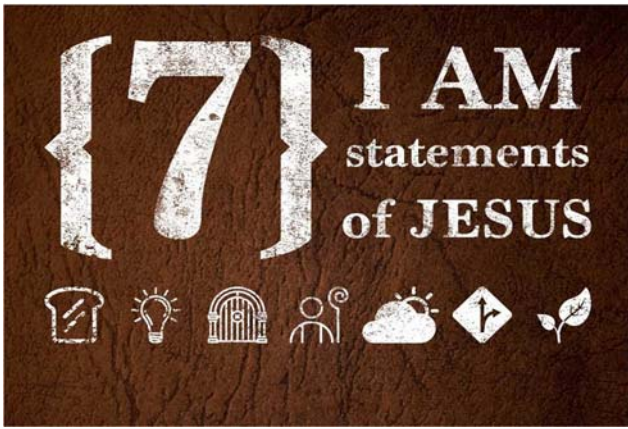
### Died

February 13, 2018

## Wellness Class for strength & flexibility



March 8 and March 22 @ 7:00pm in the gym



# Missions Month Celebration

April 8 - May 6

## “Live Generously”

- Speakers from Local Mission agencies
- Hands-on projects for all ages & abilities
- Exciting Worship opportunities

**UPCOMING SERMONS:**

- March 4 — **“I AM the light of the world”**  
(John 8:12)
- March 11 — **“I AM the good shepherd”**  
(John 10:11)
- March 18 — **“I AM the true vine”**  
(John 15:1)
- March 25 — **“I AM the Way, Truth, Life”**  
(John 14:6)
- April 1 — **“I AM the Resurrection & Life”**  
(John 11:25)

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Church Staff

|                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Senior Pastor                      | Melissa Smith          |
| Hispanic Lay Pastor                | Sebastian Ruiz         |
| Ministry Intern                    | Chip Hanks             |
| Director of Youth Ministries       | Taylor Downey          |
| Chancel Choir Director             | Doug Lindamood         |
| Praise Band Leader                 | Hank Hanks             |
| Organist                           | Suzanne Steele         |
| Financial/Administrative Assistant | Susan Hall             |
| Custodians                         | James and Sharon Smith |
| Nursery Attendant                  | Sonya Atkinson         |

Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
8:00am - 4:00pm  
Friday  
8:00am - 12:00pm

Church Office  
540.980.3331

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website: [www.fumcpulaski.org](http://www.fumcpulaski.org)

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PULASKI, VA 24301  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED