

CROSS AND FLAME

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PULASKI, VIRGINIA
JANUARY 2019

2019

On Christmas Eve, hundreds of people gathered in our sanctuary. It's one of the holiest moments of the year. But there might be something we believe in even more a few days later. **Everyone is spiritual on Christmas Eve. But everyone is religious on January 1.** New Year's Day is grace on a calendar page. At midnight, we all get a fresh start, a new chance. And people of all kinds of faith are drawn to this idea. It's why so many of us make New Year's resolutions.

And the thing about those resolutions: they never really change. The most popular resolutions are the same every year: lose weight, exercise more, get on a budget or get out of debt, quit smoking or drinking or looking at pornography, and usually something like "be happy" or "live life to the fullest." The list never changes, and neither does the fact that by the middle of January we've usually fallen short, done something we wish we hadn't, and tend to give up on the whole idea.

We are so enamored with the idea of grace...but we so often fail to really understand what it can be in our lives, or we're tempted to believe it's only available at midnight on January 1. **But what if there were more to grace?** What if we came to know it as not just something that offers us forgiveness when we fail to live up to what we think we should be, but something that makes us more? Something that offers us life? And something that's here at all of our midnights?

In this new year, we're diving into the way grace intersects with our everyday lives in new ways. Starting Sunday, January 6, our contemporary service will move from 8:45am to 9:00am. It's everything we love about our contemporary service, just 15 minutes later. Traditional worship will continue to meet at 11:00am in the sanctuary, and our Hispanic friends will continue to gather in the chapel at 8:30am.

We'll start a new sermon series called Every Day, inspired by the book *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch. On Sundays we'll be talking about the larger themes in the book: the practical intersections of grace and every day life. What's the balance between what we consume and create? What's the first thing you do in the morning? Why is singing good for us? And on **Wednesday nights at 6:00pm starting January 9**, we'll dive deeper into The Tech-Wise Family and talk specifically about how technology impacts our faith and our lives.

And on **Sunday nights at 6:00pm starting January 6**, we're offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. It's one of the most powerful ways to introduce life-changing grace to one of our most frequent resolutions: how do I handle my finances?

In this new year, may we find life-changing grace is here, not just at midnight but every day.

Grace & Peace, Will

Church Events

Sunday, January 6

Contemporary Service moves to
9:00am

Rez '19 Youth Meeting
5:15pm

Financial Peace University
6:00pm - 7:30 pm

Monday, January 7

Blue Grass Apartments
New Years' Meal

Wednesday, January 9

The Tech-Wise Family
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday, January 12

UMM Breakfast
8:00am

Monday, January 14

Circle One
10:30am

Circle Two
7:00pm

Friday, January 25

Youth leave for Rez '19



Remembering
the loss of
our Saints

RICHARD BLEVINS

Joined First Church

March 10, 1985

Died

December 6, 2018

MILTON YOPP

Joined First Church

March 10, 1996

Died

December 18, 2018

MARY SUE NEWSOME-PETERS

Joined First Church

March 3, 1968

Died

December 18, 2018

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 Centers and At Home

June Aker, Lorene Beamer, E. G. Black, Janice Breedlove, Mary Lou Copenhaver, Pete Crawford, Jenni French, Joanna Frith, Janet Hanks, Betty Hess, Sadie Hillman, Catherine Humphrey, Maxine Hyatt, Mildred "Duckie" Keller, Kathryn Kelly, Tinky Layman, Jim McMillan, Polly Mitchell, Eleanor Moore, Sally Ratcliffe, Eddith Stowers, Ron and Louise Vaughan, Dorman Williams, Dorothy Wright

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)	164

Our Gifts

2018 Budget	\$ 369,799
Needed for December 2018	369,799
Received through December 23	321,869

Welcome New Members

We welcome to our First UMC family the following new members:

Robyn Arnett joins us by Profession of Faith and

Alex Shelton by transfer from Keith Memorial UMC in Athens, Tennessee

The pastor and congregation extend Christian sympathy to Dorothy Wright, Deena Stowers and Gayla Cline on the loss of their daughter-in-law and sister-in-law, Nancy Wright of Bastian, Virginia.



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

