



# CROSS AND FLAME

NOVEMBER 2022

## An Opportunity to Love First through Generosity

The past month we have focused on our identity statement at First UMC Pulaski, #LoveFIRST, or, in its expanded form, #LoveFIRST through God...with grace...for all. We began our messages recognizing that we love because God FIRST loved us. Then we looked at how Jesus has made clear that love is first as the FIRST and greatest commandments as we are to love God with all we are and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This past Sunday we talked about our call, as Paul puts it, to put on love FIRST "above all."

This is our call as the church, to put on love, to help one another put on love. We are then sent into our "mission field," the mission field of our everyday lives to live out this love.

We are now transitioning to a season of stewardship in which the focus is on our living out this love through living lives of generosity, through giving. We are given an opportunity to love first in this way, expressing our love for God and one another through giving to God's work here at First UMC Pulaski. Our giving is for the purpose of supporting the ministries that build us up in love and giving to the ministries that reach out in the world with the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Here's my testimony: I LOVE JESUS more than anything. He died for me, and He has called me to follow Him in a transformed life and into a life of helping others experience His love and saving and transforming grace. I love His church because His church has made a big difference in my life in knowing His love, accepting His grace, and answering His call. I have found it is truly a blessing and an incredible opportunity to give to His redemptive purposes and work through His church. It is a JOY to give to His work. It is a JOY to serve Him and join Him in this work.

I invite you to pray with me during this stewardship season to ask Jesus to guide you in what He is calling you to give to His work in 2023. I have fallen in love with First UMC Pulaski, and I see that the LORD is doing great things here and wanting to do greater things. He is inviting all of us to be part of this and help make this happen. It takes us all doing our part to really be the church we are called to be.

I know we've been through a challenging few years and this has been a tough year for many due to economic challenges, but I believe God is inviting us to experience the JOY of investing in what makes an eternal difference, the work of His church, and the redeeming work of His kingdom in this world! So join us as we join God in loving first through generosity as we follow Jesus!

- Pastor Josh

You can support our church by giving:

- In person today by placing your gift in the offering plates in the back as you enter or exit the service
- Bring your offering by the office 9am - 2pm, Monday - Thursday
- Drop your offering in the mail to FUMC 135 4th St., NW Pulaski, 24301
- Give online by clicking "DONATE" at [fumcpulaski.org](http://fumcpulaski.org)



*(During our Fall Stewardship Campaign we will be sharing testimonies about giving and the impact it has.)*

## HERE'S WHY WE GIVE:

**(A testimony from the Dotsons)**

As I (Carli) was growing up, church was always a priority for my family. This is where I learned my core values that have followed me into my adult life. The church is where I learned to care for others less fortunate, share meals with one another, lean on others for help during hard times, and be there when someone else needed a shoulder too. I was able to share this community with Tyler when we were in high school by inviting him to youth group and Resurrection. I have loved seeing him build his faith and come to know the loving community of the church as well.

Now, we want to establish those values in our own growing family. We want our children to enjoy the fun of Sunday school and playing with friends. We want them to jump up and down with their hands in the air at Resurrection as they praise God with all their peers. We want them to have the opportunity to go on life changing mission trips where they can be the hands and feet of God and see the impact of their efforts. We want them to have a community of people who will love and support them throughout their lives just like we have had in ours. We support our church each month because we know we are investing in something so important for our children and theirs to follow.

## SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER

for victims of



**Sunday, November 6 in the FLC**

after morning worship

Cost: Donation

The following items are needed to complete the menu: Cheeses - mild cheddar (*shredded*)  
Parmesan and desserts

*(For more info or to donate contact Marcia Lewis.)*



**NOVEMBER**

- 3 Terry Stump
- 4 Jim Kelly
- 5 Jane Bell
- 7 Robbie Gardner
- 9 Ruth Childress
- 11 James Smith
- 13 Carl Hanks, Hayes Owens
- 14 Emma Schleich
- 15 Janet Hanks, Austin Crabtree
- 18 Evelyn Crabtree
- 19 Todd Howard, Rick Banks
- 20 Fran Alba, Katharine Tozier
- 21 Erin Hamric
- 27 Toni Ayers, Erik Velasquez
- 29 Araceli Ruiz
- 30 Dave Crabtree, Tinky Layman

If you would like to add your name to the monthly birthday listings call or email the office.



Congratulations and best wishes to Josie Brewer and Landon Armentrout who were married on Saturday, October 22 at Buck Mountain in Giles County.



I want to take a moment and let you know how much I appreciate this church family. You all are such a true blessing and continue to be a true blessing to me and my family. With 50 years in the making, I'm more grateful to you than words can express for the words of gratitude, kindness and love offerings. It's not often you encounter people that possess the considerate, unselfish, loving hearts that you have all displayed. With that being said, I am overly honored and thankful for each and everyone of you.

God Bless,  
James and Sharon Smith

**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**

**Church Family**

Becky Phillips - Rehab - High Point, NC  
Barbara Patterson - Lewis-Gale Montgomery  
Sallie Steger - Carilion - Roanoke Memorial  
Michael Solomon - Carilion - NRV

**Retirement Centers and Nursing Homes**

Ella Rose Blevins, Maxine Hyatt, Tinky Layman, Sarah Williams

**At Home**

Janice Breedlove, Billie Jean Farmer, Louise Haynes, Betty Hess, Sadie Hillman, Joyce McMillan

**Our Gifts**

2022 Budget	\$ 347,859
Needed for October 2022	289,822
Received through October 16	268,248



**BLESSING BOXES**

*Buy the following items and bring back to church by Sunday, December 18.*

Two small cans of green beans

Two small cans of sweet potatoes

Box of stuffing mix

Gravy mix

Cookie mix

Brown sugar

(The church will provide a spiral sliced ham, potatoes, dinner rolls, butter and fruit.)

Blessing Boxes will be distributed on

Wednesday, December 21.

Don't want to shop?  
Monetary donations are gladly accepted for this project!

#LoveFIRST through God...with grace...for all

