

**First United Methodist Church of Union County**  
**938 Hwy 515**  
**Blairsville, GA 30512**  
**(706) 745-2073**



## Contact Us

STAFF MEMBERS	TITLE	PHONE EXT.	EMAIL ADDRESS
Ben B. Lewis	Pastor	223	blewis777@aol.com
Richard Rivera	Executive Ass't	232	solidrockcafe@windstream.net
Tricia Wallace	Children's Minister Interim	227	kids@fumcunioncounty.org
Stan Wallace	Older Adult/Recreation	222	stanwallace@windstream.net
Evelyn Ueltzen	Administrative Ass't	234	firstumc@windstream.net
Bill Earnest	Financial Secretary	235	fumcbill@windstream.net
Parish Nurses		224	parishnurses@gmail.com

**Church Email Address:** [firstumc@windstream.net](mailto:firstumc@windstream.net)

**Church Web Address:** [fumcunioncounty.org](http://fumcunioncounty.org)

**Church Fax Number:** 706-781-6252

**Times that Services are aired on Cable Channel 4:** Sundays at 9:00 am and 8:30 pm.



## *A Christmas Blessing*

*You are in God's place at God's perfect time.  
Your days are in His hands, and He is your future.  
He has gifted you and placed His hand upon you  
to bless you and make you a blessing.*

*(Roy Lessin)*

*Why not be a blessing this Christmas  
in response to how God has blessed you?*

*Adopt a child or a family  
and give them a Christmas to remember.*

*And/or send a care package to a  
missionary, a soldier, or a college student.*

*And/or give a very special monetary gift  
to your church.*

*We pray your Christmas and  
Coming New Year are blessed  
and filled with the goodness of God.*

*Merry Christmas*

*We love you and there's nothing you can do about it!*

*Ben and Gwen*



## Worship Services

To Know Christ - To Make Christ Known

8:30 am Casual Service  
Sanctuary  
Pastor Ben B. Lewis

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 am Traditional Service  
Sanctuary  
Pastor Ben B. Lewis

10:45 am Contemporary  
The MAC  
Pastor Richard Rivera

## Membership News

### November Average Worship Attendance

8:30	Early Service	82
9:45	Sunday School	159
10:45	Traditional	268
10:45	Contemporary	110



**Ushers:** Lamar Franklin  
Dennis Bradley  
Glen Boland  
Bud Akins  
Lou Voshall  
Richard Myers

**Greeters:**

**8:30** Bill & Joan Wiley  
**10:45** Bob & Marilyn Barnes  
Gene & JoAnn Strickland

## New News

THE GATHERING is a short time set aside before Sunday School (9:30 am) for us ALL to come together. THE GATHERING is downstairs in the MAC in the youth room. Thanks to the adult Sunday School classes for bringing the snacks for THE GATHERING each week.



THE GATHERING

Schedule for December "The Gathering"

December 6th	Searchers
December 13th	Friendship
December 20th	Bridges
December 27th	Fidelis



Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, 6:00 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 6th  
Sunday, Dec. 13th, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 16th, 5:00 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 20th  
Thursday, Dec. 24th, 6:30 pm/8:00 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 27th, 10:45 am

Hanging of the Greens  
Cantata, casual and traditional services  
Children's Christmas Program  
Church-wide Christmas Dinner follows  
Children's Angel Workshop  
Festival of Carols and a Christmas Message  
Christmas Eve services  
All Saints' Sunday, traditional service

The **church-wide Christmas dinner** will follow the Children's program on the evening of the 13th. The church will provide the ham, rolls and drinks. Please sign up for the side dishes and desserts on the sheets on the narthex and MAC desks beginning Sunday, November 29th.

## Meetings

**Trustee's Meeting**  
December 8th  
6:30 pm  
Conference Room

**Parent's Meeting**  
December 9th  
6:00 pm  
Sanctuary



### Winter Weather Policy:

Regarding Sundays—If inclement weather comes in during Saturday or Sunday morning, the early service and Sunday School will automatically be cancelled. The 10:45 service **will** be open for those who choose to attend. If the weather is severe enough that **no** travel is possible, all services will be cancelled. Weekdays—If the schools close, the offices close. If the offices close, all events and programs will be cancelled too. If the weather clears considerably during the day, the Recreation Director and Senior Pastor will make the decision about activities.

The **Joy Sunday School** class will have their Christmas social on Sunday, December 6th at 4:00 pm. You will go Christmas caroling and enjoy a chili supper. Meet at the church to "van up".



Parent Meeting

There will be an important meeting of all parents of children ages birth through college on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. A new plan and vision for these children will be laid out. Please come and get informed!



# December Calendar

- December 2 A. G. Sherman
- December 3 Stan Wallace
- December 4 Bill Dittus
- December 5 Melanie Howell  
Lewis McAfee  
Richard Myers  
Catherine Schaaf
- December 6 Mary Shirey  
Amy Whitmore  
Jordan Workman
- December 8 Shirley Walker  
Peggy Wood
- December 10 Pat Busby
- December 11 Sharon Willits
- December 12 Milton Bradley  
Barry Malac  
Richard Rivera
- December 13 Gerri Crubaugh  
Roger Evans  
Krystle Lewis  
Anita Padgett
- December 15 Bambi Wooten  
Richard Workman
- December 16 Nathaniel Prentice  
Kathy Wiley
- December 18 Benetta Cook  
Lucille McFarlane  
Jerry Roberson
- December 19 Nisia Redgrave  
Sally Wiley
- December 20 Beverly Denbleyker  
Glenda Wischmeyer
- December 23 Benton Workman  
Noel Smith
- December 24 Tawana Aaron
- December 25 Mitzi Gasaway  
Karen L. Meeks  
Joyce Wyckoff  
Alan Zimmerman
- December 27 Buddy Moore  
Maggie Plott
- December 28 Kerry Rittenhouse
- December 29 Marilyn Barnes  
Cecil Brown
- December 31 Gwen Lewis  
Billie Roach  
Carole Thompson

- Tuesday, 1st Scrapbooking, 9:30 am  
Yoga, 9:30 am and 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, 2nd Morning Glory Circle, 10 am  
FUNdamentals, 3:30 pm  
Supper 5:00 pm  
Hanging of the Greens, 6:00 pm  
Choir, 7:00 pm
- Thursday, 3rd Parish Nursing, 9:00 –11:00 am  
Circle of Love, 6:30 pm
- Sunday, 6th Cantata, 8:30 am & 10:45 traditional
- Tuesday, 8th Scrapbooking 9:30 am  
Yoga, 9:30 am and 5:30 pm  
Trustees meeting, 6:30 pm  
Friends of the Library, 1:00 pm  
FUNdamentals, 3:30 pm  
Supper 5:00 pm, Programs 6:00 pm  
Parent’s Meeting, 6:00 pm  
Choir 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, 9th Parish Nursing Office. 9:00—11:00 am  
Worship Services  
Children’s Christmas Program, 5:30 p  
Church-wide Christmas Dinner follows  
Scrapbooking 9:30 am  
Yoga, 9:30 am and 5:30 pm  
UMW Missions, 10:00 am
- Thursday, 10th FUNdamentals, 3:30 pm  
Supper 5:00 pm, Programs 6:00 pm  
Children’s Angel Workshop 5:00 –7:00  
Choir 7:00 pm
- Sunday, 13th Parish Nursing Office 9:00—11:00 am  
Worship Services
- Tuesday, 15th Scrapbooking 9:30 am  
Yoga, 9:30 am and 5:30 pm  
UMW Missions, 10:00 am
- Wednesday, 16th FUNdamentals, 3:30 pm  
Supper 5:00 pm, Programs 6:00 pm  
Children’s Angel Workshop 5:00 –7:00  
Choir 7:00 pm
- Thursday, 17th Parish Nursing Office 9:00—11:00 am  
Worship Services
- Sunday, 20th Scrapbooking 9:30 am  
Yoga, 9:30 am and 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, 22nd **No** supper or programs  
Christmas Eve Services  
6:30 pm Casual  
8:00 pm Traditional  
Merry Christmas!
- Wednesday, 23rd Worship Services—All Saints’ Sunday
- Thursday, 24th **No** supper or programs  
New Year’s Eve
- Friday, 25th
- Sunday, 27th
- Wednesday, 30th
- Thursday, 31st

**CEC** will be closed for Christmas holidays from Monday, December 21st through January 3rd.



## WNL

## Wednesday Night Suppers



3:30 FUNdamentals  
5:00 Supper  
5:30 Beginning Hand bells  
6:00 Youth B.A.S.I.C.S.  
Hand bells  
Children's Programs  
Adult Bible Study  
7:00 Adult Choir

There will be NO Wednesday night activities on December 23rd or 30th due to the Christmas holidays.

December 2nd Baked chicken spaghetti, baked meatless spaghetti, browned butter vegetables with almonds, salad bar, garlic rolls, red velvet cheesecake.  
Kids: chicken and cheese pizzas, fruit, and chocolate covered pretzels

December 9th Meatloaf, squash casserole, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad, bread and cookies and ice cream  
Kids: Hotdogs

December 16th Chicken and wild rice soup, vegetable beef soup, tomato bisque soup, chili, deli sandwiches, grilled cheese sandwiches, salad bar and dessert

December 23rd and 30th No meal due to Christmas holidays

## Children's News

### Homebound:

Bonnie McCullum  
Lavon Butt  
Sharon Jones  
Elizabeth Henley  
Omah Rogers  
Harry Madducks  
Melissa Devereaux  
Shirlee Evans  
May Langman  
Lois Barr  
Hattie Gleasure

Wed, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hanging of the Greens Service: Kids are welcome to participate; call or email if they would like to take part. We will meet in the fellowship hall at 5:30 to get ready.

Angels Are Coming.....

Sun, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – The Angel Tree will be ready for your picking. This year, each Angel will contain only one wish list item of a child. So yes, there are more Angels, but this will allow us to work together to complete a child's wish list. Pick one or pick many, just please pick. Gift wrapped items should be returned by Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Wed, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – PARENTS, PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT INFORMATION MEETING IN THE SANCTUARY AT 6:00PM\*\*\*

Sun, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – Join us for a night of remembering the “The Real Meaning of Christmas” presented by the children's ministry and our traditional church-wide Christmas dinner afterwards.

Wed, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:00 It's our Angel Workshop & Birthday Party for Jesus. Watch for special information and emails on how you can help and participate. We will be collecting Baby items to be donated to the Women's Enrichment Center that night.

Children's Christmas Practice Schedule:

Wed. Dec 2, 4:00-5:00 in Choir Room

Sun. Dec 6, 12:00-1:00 Lunch & Practice in MAC

Wed. Dec 9, 6:00-7:00 in the MAC

Sun. Dec 13, Showtime- Meet in fellowship hall at 4:00.

## Youth News



We are now taking registration for REAL '10: ONE LIFE. The dates for this event are January 15-17, 2010 held in our very own MAC. The cost for the retreat is only \$30. Registration forms and the fee of \$30 should be turned in by Wednesday, December 16, 2009.

## New Members



Peter and Nancy Hussey  
71 Beacon Hill Drive  
Murphy, NC 28906  
828-835-9083

Nick and Jessica Frechette  
293 Foggy Mountain Drive  
Clayton, Georgia 30525  
706-212-0078

Richard and MaryIn Demers  
222 Old Beech Road  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
706-745-1067

## Print Info

Some people have said that they like having the newsletter on email but still wish to have a hard copy for the calendar or birthdays or military list. There is a way to print just particular sheets from your computer. With the newsletter on your screen, on the bar at the left top of your page, there is the picture of a printer. When you click on that, your print menu will come up. Under "Print Range" you have the option of  
O All  
O Current Page  
O Pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
You click on your choice and hit "Ok" at the bottom right on the menu.

The page number is listed on the top bar "1/8" meaning you are on page 1 of 8 pages.

This should print just the pages you desire to have.

## Opportunities @



### MAC Holiday Hours!

Wednesday, December 23rd	8:00 am—5:00 pm
Thurs. & Fri, Dec. 24th & 25th	CLOSED
Thursday, Dec. 31st	CLOSED
Friday, January 1st	CLOSED

- **Upward Basketball and Cheerleading Awards Celebration!** Saturday, December 12th 6:00pm in the MAC.
- **Upward Indoor Soccer Registration Has Begun!** Register online at [www.fumcunioncounty.org](http://www.fumcunioncounty.org) or get a brochure at the MAC! Cost is \$50.00 per child if you register by December 17th. Evaluations will be December 15th and 17th between 6:00pm and 8:00pm at the House of Prayer FLC. Practices begin the week of January 11th. Games will be on Saturdays beginning January 30th with the last game on March 13th.
- **December Fitness Opportunities!**

**NEW! Beginning December 1st Tuesday & Thursday "Get Fit" Exercise Class** led by Dan D'Agostino. Class will include weight training, cardio exercise, and muscle toning and will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00pm until 6:30pm in the MAC Gym & Fitness room. Class is for individuals of any fitness level and there is no cost.

**Christ Centered Yoga:** (1 Hr.) Compliment any exercise program at any fitness level with yoga. Led by Pat Tomzyck. Cost is \$5.00 per class. Bring your own yoga mats. Meets Tuesdays at 10:30am and 5:30pm.

**Please Note! FUMC of Union County... Winter Weather Policy!** If the church offices are closed for inclement weather, all other activities scheduled for the Church and the MAC will be cancelled unless the weather clears during the day. In these cases, the Senior Pastor and Minister of Recreation will make the decision. Information about closings or schedule changes will be disseminated by phone tree or web site.

## Sr. Adults Young- At- Heart

**Coming in January! YAH Bunko Party! More info soon! So what is this game of Bunco?** Bunco has been around for a long, long time. It has been played in America at least since the 1800's. It's a game centered around three dice and usually three sets of four players, averaging a standard group of 12. It is a game of pure luck; no real skill is required other than rolling the dice. However, the game is played in upbeat and social settings involving a lot of eating and talking, so there is always plenty to do! It's meant to be a dice game that provides a great reason for a group of people to gather and socialize. This evening is one of the highlights of our year. Join us!

**2010 Southeastern Flower Show! Saturday, February 6th The Cobb Galleria Centre.** The Southeastern Flower Show is the region's premiere gardening and horticultural event. See the latest landscaping trends as well as the newest and most desirable plant material and gardening products. Mark your calendar. Cost and sign up info soon.

Our **S.M.A.R.T.** (Small Maintenance and Repair Team) is ready to do small maintenance or repairs for any of our shut-ins or older adults that are unable to do for themselves around their house. If you know of anyone needing assistance with small home or yard projects, call Stan at the church.

**Coming in March...The "Atlanta Passion Play"**

## Prayer Corner



It shouldn't matter what college team you cheer for, everyone should love this man.

America's largest church has a capacity to hold 16,000 but while Tim Tebow may not be a preacher, when he runs into the University of Florida's stadium-affectionately known as "The Swamp"- his congregation numbers over 90,000. And you can bet they are hearing Tim's message. It's not that this school's quarterback wears bible verses etched into his eye black on game days. Tim Tebow has been making headlines for more than simply his Heisman trophy win as a sophomore and his two National Championships. This summer the New York Times, GQ and Sports Illustrated all covered the quarterback's strong Christian faith.

Last year, when the Florida Gators won the National championship, the pre game show followed Tim into a local Florida prison where he can regularly be found sharing his testimony and preaching the Gospel. And this top notch athlete, who spends his spring breaks and summers ministering to orphans in the Phillippines has actually helped change the culture of the University of Florida. According to Sports Illustrated, "Since Tebow's arrival on campus, and in large part because of him, the university has launched a series of community-service initiatives." Even his coach Urban Meyer has taken his family on a "Tebow-inspired mission trip to the Dominican Republic."

A day or so before the National championship game God touched his heart with a message.... Tim needed to change the message on his eye black liner that he wears when he is playing. All year he had a reference to Phillipians 4:13 on the eye liner which represented the following: I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. He talked to several others about switching the message and everyone except his parents told him not to do it because they had been so successful all year with the Phillipians 4:13. His parents, Pam and Bob Tebow, supported the change with John 3:16 on the eye liner which represents the following: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. We all know the outcome of the game, but the phone call that Tim received a couple of days later when he was back in Gainesville was nothing short of unbelievable. Tim answered his cell phone and it was the P.R. guy for the UF football game. He said, "you set a record." Tim wondered what kind of a record was he talking about. "In the 24 hour period from the start of the championship game, John 3:16 was googled...93 MILLION times!" No other topic had ever been Googled that many times in a 24 hour period."

Tim's dad continued to tell him, "God's got a purpose for you and at some point, He's going to call you to preach." Dad was right. God's message would come through the roar of the crowd, beamed to millions via satellite. But little did

they know, Tim would wear a jersey, not robes, and use a stadium for his pulpit. Tim's a great example of an opportunity every believer has---to put our faith to work on the field of play where God has gifted us and called us.

## Military Addresses

**PFC Jeff Cook**, Bravo Troop 1-40 Cav (ABN) FOB Gardez APO, AE 09354. He is Omaha Roger's grandson.

**Fireman Brandon Rightnour**, 320A Dewey Avenue, BEQ 634 RMG 208, Great Lake, Illinois 60088. His email is: brandonrightnour@yahoo.com. He is Rosa Mandon's great-grandson.

**EN1 (SW) Blane Dorton**, 355 Aoloo Street, Apt. M101, Kailua, HI 96734. He is Buddy & Teresa Moore and Bob Dorton's son.

**ND Brody Dorton**, MDSU One, Bldg. 17 Bishop Pt., Pearl Harbor, HI 96860.—He is Buddy & Teresa Moore and Bob Dorton's son .

**AWR3 Evan Albright**, P.O. Box 180912, Coronado, CA 92178-0912. He is the son of Tonia Albright.

**1 Lt. Loertscher, Seth, J.**, 11 11th Street, Apartment 9, Columbus, Georgia 31901. He is Ruth Stefko's nephew.

**A1C Lewis** 4003 S. Westshore Blvd. Apt. 4005, Tampa, FL 33611. She is the daughter of Barry and Shelley Lewis.

**Chris Varian**, Bravo1-321 AFAR, FOB Salerno, ATO AE 09314

**Pvt, Prentice, Nathaniel**, B Co. 1-222 D AVN Regt., 1004 Pearl Place, Ft. Eustis, VA 23604. (on back write 3rd PLT) He is the grandson of Juanita Prentice.

**Krogmeier, Cory Army Gilhooley, Ryan USAF**

**Dr. John Quigley**, USN

**Capt. Paul Hargrove** (Army Special Forces), 1266 Arailia Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28314. He is Myrtle & Henry Von Staden's grandson in law.

**1st Sgt. Kevin Ryan** (Air Force), 104 Creekside Lane, VAFB, CA 93437. He is Henry Von Staden's grandson in law.

**Cpt. Laura Jeffrey, 1 Sgt. Craig Jeffrey, Lt. Andre LaTaste** All children of Vern and Angie Craft

**S/Sgt Josh Pierce**, grandson-in-law of George Houdeshel Serving in Iraq and Afghanistan



## United Methodist Men

The Methodist Men will NOT have a meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 16th, 2010. See you then.

## United Methodist Women Circles

**Circle of Love** will meet Thursday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm at the home of Sandra Buchanan. This will be our Christmas Dinner. Bring a dish to share. The main course will be provided.

**Morning Glory Circle** will meet Wednesday, December 2nd at 10 am at Paula Myers' house. We will have lunch and reveal our secret sister.

**UMW Mission Circle** will meet on Tuesday, December 15th for a Christmas luncheon at 11:30 at Doris Langston's home.

**MIFT** will meet Monday, December 21st at 6:30 pm.

As the end of the year approaches the UMW Mission and Morning Glory Circles are pleased to report that they have been blessed in giving to many different "missions" locally and abroad. A few of their financial gifts have been to:

- \*North Georgia District UMW for projects that work with women and children in the United States and abroad.
- \*Murphy Harpst Home for Troubled Youth
- \*Hinton Rural Life Center;
- \*UMCOR Relief
- \*Samaritan's Purse
- \*Czech Republic UMC
- \*Red Bird Mission
- \*Jon Herrin Mission in Mexico
- \*Ecuador Mission.
- \*Women's Enrichment Center;
- \*Meals on Wheels;
- \* FUMC Caring Fund;
- \*Ninth District Food Fund;
- \*Safe House;
- \*MAC Building Fund;
- \*CEC Scholarships;
- \* Youth Retreat trips
- \*FUMC Building Fund memorials for Pat Black, Liz Cristofaro, Cora Meservy and Ermine Branch.

All ladies of the church are welcome to join any of the four circles.

## Welcome Desk Receptionists

The December schedule should be available the week of November 30th. Please pick up a copy in the file drawer under "schedules".

## Caught ya! (on film)



Bud Akins presents a plaque of war veterans to the church on Veterans Sunday. Roy Hamby and Joe Roach are holding it.



Children participating in the children's message on Thanksgiving in the traditional service.



Third graders receiving their Bibles on Promotion Sunday.



Have a safe, healthy and joyous Christmas and New Year in the name of our blessed savior, Jesus.

Love to all, The Parish Nurses

