

First United Methodist Church of Union County
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(706) 745-2073



Contact Us

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Ben B. Lewis	Pastor	223	blewis777@aol.com
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Evelyn Ueltzen	Administrative Ass't	234	firstumc@windstream.net
Deidra Gilbert	Financial Secretary	232	fumcfinsc@windstream.net
Tricia Wallace	Children's Minister	235	fumckids@ymail.com
Zach Thompson	Youth Director		zachthom@yhc.edu
Parish Nurses		224	parishnurses@gmail.com

Church Email Address: firstumc@windstream.net
Church Fax Number: 706-781-6252

Church Web Address: www.fumcunioncounty.org

Worship Services

To Know Christ - To Make Christ Know

9:00 am Contemporary

10:00 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Traditional Service



NEVER UNDERSTIMATE THE SQUIRREL

(inspired by a Leonard Sweet sermon)

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)

Have you ever thought about Squirrel theology? The way squirrels live their lives puts them on a different theological plane than dogs or cats.

Squirrels are so good at what they do they have generated a whole anti-squirrel industry — the manufacture of "squirrel-proof" bird feeders. If you have ever attempted to feed just birds and not squirrels from your backyard feeder, you know that no one has yet succeeded in creating a truly "squirrel-proof" feeder. Products designed to baffle don't baffle them for long. Weighted feeding slots don't get them discouraged.

Squirrels aren't rocket scientists. But they use all their squirrely attributes to get to the prize. They dig in with their toes. They balance on precarious perches. They use their tails like anchors. They use their front paws like a surgeon's skilled hands. The squirrel's tactics aren't necessarily perfect, but they are always persistent.

All squirrels' antics are centered on a single-minded purpose. NUTS! And because of that single-minded purpose, they find joy in every moment as though it is the only one that matters. By the way, I think the 4-letter words NUTS is an acronym for Never Underestimate The Squirrel.

My vision for 2012 is to drive you NUTS . . . so you will live a NUT'S Life . . . a life that has a single-minded-purpose.

"With our eyes on the prize," We Christians at First UMC will exhibit a lot of behaviors the world will find just plain "squirrely" — and that is a good thing! Let me give you a couple of examples.

Squirrels delight in going "out on a limb." Confident in their God-given gifts, strong claws for climbing, a long tail for balance, an eye for perfectly gauging distances, they are comfortable and unconcerned perched on the tip-end of a tiny branch. Forty or fifty feet in the air, clinging to a scrawny twig, the squirrel enjoys the view and the winds that ruffle its fur.

As followers of Christ we will find ourselves "out on a limb" from time to time. What helps to bring in the kingdom and reveal God's righteousness isn't always the most popular stance. Seeking God's kingdom may put us in a precarious position — at work, at school, in the community.

Squirrels are very intentional in their gathering behavior. When searching for nuts or seeds they will traverse the ground carefully, scouring every inch, rooting under every fallen leaf, overturning stones, digging in the earth. If our priority is the kingdom of God our intentionality needs to be just as exhaustive. We are to take our witness and words out into the community and the world.

We need to be very intentional about our asking and inviting those who have not heard the good news, those who have given up hope, those who have slipped between the cracks, and those who are hidden under heavy weights of life. There is no place we cannot find the kernels of God's kingdom.

Therefore, we will be more intentional, and more focused on our five year plan of implementing The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.

- Radical Hospitality (Evangelism)
- Passionate Worship (Worship)
- Intentional Faith Development (Discipleship)
- Risk-taking Missions (Missions)
- Extravagant Generosity (Stewardship)

(continued on next page..)

Membership News

December Average Worship Attendance

9:00	Contemporary	80
10:00	Sunday School	120
11:00	Traditional	303

Servants

Ushers: Bob Barnes
Billie Roach
Joe Roach
Gray Williams
Ron Taylor
Miriam Sherman



Sunday, January 15th
9:30 am till 2:00 pm
Fellowship Hall



Don't forget to use your Ingles' card for CEC credit and bringing in your box tops. The preschool benefits greatly from these programs.

(Pastor continued...)

Currently, we have two of the "Practices" in place; **Radical Hospitality** (Outreach) and **Intentional Faith Development** (Discipleship). For 2012 we will give our focus to **Passionate Worship**.

Passionate Worship is "... authentic, alive, creative, and comprehensible, where they (people) experience the life-changing presence of God in the presence of others." "God uses worship to: transform lives, heal wounded souls, renew hope, shape decisions, provoke change, inspire compassion and bind people to one another." Also, Passionate Worship will deal with different times for worship, as well as, types of worship, and locations for worship. I look forward to working with those who are interested in worship that is passionate.

Beloved, I anticipate a very "squirrely" **Happy New Year!**

Your Servant, Ben

New News



The youth are preparing a spaghetti supper on Wednesday, January 25th as a fundraiser for them. Please come and support this ministry.



This year, contribution statements will be done at your request. Please sign on the sheet on the desks if you would like one for 2011. Out-of-town members may call or email the church with their request.



The Church Council meetings for 2012 are:

March 7th	6:00 pm
June 6th	6:00 pm
Sept. 5th	6:00 pm
Dec. 5th	6:00 pm

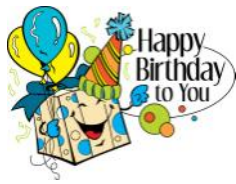


The WMU ladies are collecting used paperback books to send to the soliders overseas and USA. They ask for no Romance novels. Look for a collection box in the entry way.



The Monday Ladies Bible Study begins January 30 and ends the last week of March. They'll be doing Beth Moore's study on James covering joy, hardship, faith, wisdom, humility and prayer using a new study approach.

Cost: \$20 (\$15 for the book and \$5 for dvd expense)
Meets in the MAC Gathering Room at 10:00 am



January 1 Sara Holloway
 January 4 Jim Hughes
 January 5 Flo Evans
 January 7 Ceil Jordan
 January 8 Kathy Brandenburg
 January 10 Robert Howell
 Joel Legg
 January 11 Lennie Dyer
 January 12 Justine Leigh
 January 14 Jordan Young
 January 15 Lee Baenninger
 Ellie Dobson
 Marion Lifsey
 Gene Strickland
 January 16 Helen Owenby
 January 17 Cason Carter
 Stephanie Vandiver
 January 19 Layne Baenninger
 January 20 Avis Shaw
 Danita Stephens
 January 21 Stephen Schuknecht
 January 22 Thomas Gilliland
 January 23 Curtis Sparkman
 January 25 Glenn Fite
 Marci Forney
 January 26 Ryan Thomas
 January 27 Adele Bauman
 John Estep
 Wayne Jones
 January 28 Dobie Brackett
 Fran Browning
 Grace Weldon
 January 29 John Redgrave
 January 30 Virginia Lane
 January 31 Blanche Candler
 Bill Gleasure
 Jerri Rogers



Homebound:

Lois Barr
 Norma Day
 Omah Rogers
 Shirlee Evans
 Hattie Gleasure
 Lavon Butt
 Jim Hinton

January Calendar

Sunday, 1st Happy New Year! Worship service
 Monday, 2nd CEC
 Wednesday, 4th CEC
 Morning Glory Circle, 10:00 am
 FUNDamentals
 WNL Supper, 5:00 pm
 Adult Bible Study, Children, Youth, 6:00 pm
 Hand bells, 6:00 p m
 Choir, 7:00 pm
 OASIS begins
 Circle of Love, 6:30 pm
 Thursday, 5th CEC
 Friday, 6th Worship Services
 Sunday, 8th CEC
 Monday, 9th Stephens Ministry, 5:45 pm
 Zumba is back, 6:15 pm
 Wednesday, 11th CEC
 FUNDamentals, 3:30 pm
 Bible Study, 6:00 pm
 Hand bells, 6:00 pm
 Choir, 7:00 pm
 OASIS
 Thursday, 12th CEC
 Friday, 13th Youth Lock-in, 6:00 pm
 Saturday, 14th Worship Services
 Sunday, 15th Blood Drive, 9:30—2:00 pm
 Youth to Winterjam
 MIFT, 6:00 pm
 Zumba, 6:15 pm
 Monday, 16th UMW Missions Circle, 10:00 am
 Tuesday, 17th CEC
 Wednesday, 18th FUNDamentals, 3:30 pm
 WNL Supper, 5:00 pm
 Programs, 6:00 pm
 Choir, 7:00 pm
 OASIS
 Circle of Love, 6:30 pm
 Thursday, 19th CEC
 Friday, 20th UMM, 8:00 am
 Saturday, 21st Worship Services
 Sunday, 22nd CEC
 Monday, 23rd Zumba, 6:15 pm
 Wednesday, 25th CEC
 FUNDamentals
 WNL Supper, 5:00 pm
 Adult Bible Study, Children, Youth, 6:00 pm
 Hand bells, 6:00 p m
 Choir, 7:00 pm
 OASIS
 Thursday, 26th CEC
 Friday, 27th BUNCO party, 6:00 pm
 Sunday, 29th Worship Service
 Monday, 30th CEC
 Zumba, 6:15 pm

Please see the MAC page for the schedule of fitness classes available during the week.

Wed. PM Schedule

- 3:30 FUNdamentals
- 4:00 Angel Choir
- 5:00 Church supper
- 6:00 Children and Youth Programming
Adult Bible Study
Handbells
- 7:00 Choir Practice



January 1	Team #5
January 8	Team #6
January 15	Team #7
January 22	Team #1
January 29	Team #2
Team #1	Caroline Legg Adalyn Rogers
Team #2	Grace Wischmeyer Mary Wischmeyer
Team #3	Gracie Weldon Tucker Weldon
Team #4	Steven Seiler Milo Bauman
Team #5	Jordan Olmsted Jaden Olmsted
Team #6	Alex Collins Emma Collins Isaac Metcalf
Team #7	Kanon Hemphill Kaston Hemphill DJ Robbins

Children's Ministry

As we close-out a season of children's ministry, just let me say it has been the most rewarding I've been around in a long time. Thank You is not enough, but I say it with the most sincerity. Thank You to our families, to our church family, staff and the MANY volunteers. Most of all to our children, who have a true desire to be together, to learn together and be a part of a church family.... You are the best!!!

If we reflect back all that we have been a part of since August, it is amazing. God is amazing....

We have one more event before we close out this year. The most important of all....Happy Birthday Jesus celebration! This will be during the 10:30 service on Christmas Morning. We will be celebrating this most special birthday with cake and yes, WEAR YOUR PJs or something very comfy!!!

Be on the look-out for our children's newsletter for events for the upcoming winter... Stan and I want to wish all of our church family a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Blessed New Year....we so look forward to seeing what God has in store for 2012....

For His Children,
Tricia

Youth Ministry



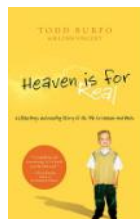
The youth made up and distributed 23 Christmas food boxes with your generous donations. Thank you!



Winterjam is coming and we are going!

January 15th
Phillips Arena, Atlanta
Cost is \$20.00

We will first meet on Saturday night for a lock-in beginning at 6 pm in the MAC. Sunday we'll worship then leave for Atlanta for the Winterjam. That night we will return to the MAC for another sleepless night! You'll be free by 9 am Monday morning.



Youth Sunday School:

We'll start a new book series based on the book Heaven is Real beginning this month.

EXERCISE CLASS



Mac Fitness ...

"Zumba" Fitness...IS BACK!

Beginning January 9th,
Mondays at 6:15pm Class meets downstairs in the MAC in room M-0. What is a Zumba fitness class like? It's a very exciting dance party atmosphere full of Latin and international music. Class will work with DVD instruction. There is no cost.

"Get Fit" Exercise Class:

Tuesdays & Thursdays led by Dan D'Agostino. Class includes weight training, cardio exercise, and muscle toning and meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:15pm until 6:00pm in room M-0 downstairs at the MAC and there is no cost.

Christ Centered Yoga:

Compliment any exercise program at any fitness level with yoga. Led by Pat Tomzyck. Cost is \$5.00 per class. Bring your own yoga mat. Meets Tuesdays at 9:00am in Room M-0 and 5:30pm in room M-32.

"Tai Chi": Tuesdays at 1:30pm downstairs at the MAC in room M-0 and is open to everyone. Class is led by Dr. Dennis Tidwell. Cost is \$10.00 per class. Bring a mat!

Opportunities @



MAC Hours:

Monday, Tuesday: 8:00am - 5:30pm Wednesday: 8:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am - 8:00pm Friday: 8:00am – 1:00pm

Upward Indoor Soccer!

First Game: Saturday, January 28th

Awards Night: Saturday, March 6th

Christmas Food, Fun and Entertainment



Op-



portunities @



Young at Heart

S.M.A.R.T. Team (Small Maintenance and Repair) 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 items call Stan at the church office and give a description of the work needed.

YAH Bunko Party! Friday, January 27, 2012 6:00pm In the Fellowship Hall
Sign Up begins in January in the MAC

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!

Footlocker Ministry

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting The Morning Glory Circle's Footlocker Ministry. You have been so giving, and with that we have been able to send out 25 boxes. We have received thank you notes from several soldiers and they are so appreciative. There is an updated "wish list" at our footlockers in the Narthex and in the MAC, and we hope you will continue to support us in this mission. We currently have a large supply of books, magazines, and small size toiletries. The things we are running low on would be the larger sizes of shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, aspirin, ibuprofen, Tylenol, hand sanitizer and wipes. We are running low on snacks, i.e. popcorn, crackers, drink mix, candy (such as tootsie rolls). We are currently out of any games, playing cards, CDs, DVDs, etc. Please check out the new wish list, and thank you for supporting our troops! Merry Christmas!



Wednesday Nite Suppers

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| January 4th | Parmesan Talapia, hushpuppies, baked potato, slaw, lemon raspberry mousse squares
Kids' meal— Fish sticks |
| January 11th | OPEN—Here's your chance! |
| January 18th | Pork Roast, roast potatoes, green bean Almondine, salad, chocolate cake
Kids' meal—Hotdogs |
| January 25th | Spaghetti dinner fundraiser by the Youth |

The other January Wednesday nights are available for a group to take. You may sign up on the supper poster to prepare a meal.

PLEASE make your reservations by NOON on TUESDAY. The ladies have to shop and prepare the meal based on THAT number. If you wait till Wednesday to make your reservation there might not be enough food for everyone. Therefore, we would appreciate everyone's consideration in abiding by the deadline.



Military Addresses

EN1 (SW) Blane Dorton, He is Buddy & Teresa Moore and Bob Dorton's son.

ND Brody Dorton, He is Buddy & Teresa Moore and Bob Dorton's son .

AW3 Evan Albright, 3620 Park Blvd., Apt. 1, San Diego, CA 92103. 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.

SrA Krystle Marie Lewis 1531 West Lemom Street, Apt. 4405, Tampa, FL 33606. She is the daughter of Barry and Shelley Lewis.

Pvt, Prentice, Nathaniel, 11214 8th Avenue CT E #82, Tacoma, Washington 98455. He is the grandson of Juanita Prentice.

Capt. Paul Hargrove, CMR445 Box 1270, APO AE 09046. He is Myrtle & Henry Von Staden's grandson-in-law.

Tech Sgt. Kevin Ryan , 102 Santa Rosa Drive, 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

Sgt 1st class, Josh Pierce, grandson-in-law of George Houdeshel.

Sgt. Patrick Riley 2/1 WPNS Co., Unit 40210, FPO AP 96427-0210. Patrick is Norm and Carole Thompson's grandson.

USAF Major Curtis DeLoach, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Curtis is the son of JoAnna and Sam DeLoach

Sgt. Womack, Christopher G. Back in the states. He is the grandson of Glen and Linda Womack.

Sgt. Ueltzen, Matthew, Afghanistan. He is the son of Evelyn and David Ueltzen.

Michael Couture, US Marine Corps, Afghanistan.

Raymond Pomeroy, PSC 3, Box 4335, APO AP 96266. He is the nephew of Joan Wiley and Marti Shaffer.

1st Lt. Sparks, Andrew, JTFGTMO- JDGS2, APO-AE 09360. He is the grandson of Janice and James Jarrard.

Hank von Staden, SAIC (HRDC) MRAP, FPO AE, 09372. Hank is the son of Myrtle and Henry von Staden.

OASIS

The OASIS winter session begins Thursday, January 5th.



Hope House is in need of baby and adult diapers, baby wipes, feminine pads, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, bar soap, and clothes detergent. The older size diapers for the babies go the quickest. You may drop off your donations in a Hope House box at either entrance. We are also seeking volunteers for one 3 hour shift each month. Want more information, please see Evelyn in the church office.

United Methodist Women Circles

Circle of Love will meet on January 5th and 19th at 6:30 pm. The 5th will be a planning session to map out the new year.

Morning Glory Circle will be meet Wednesday, January 4th at 10:00 in the Friendship SS room.

UMW Missions Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 17th at 10:00 am in the chapel.

MIFT will meet on Monday, January 16th at 6:00 pm.



The Methodist Men will meet on Saturday, Jan. 21st at 8:00 am.



Blood pressures will be taken Sunday, January 4th in the MAC.

As a New Year begins, think about these ideas for a better you

Eating More Healthily—Suggestions for Mini-steps:

Replace salt with herbs and spices
Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables
Reduce saturated fat in your diet
Have a vegetarian meal once a week

Mental-Social Suggestions for Mini-steps:

Call up a forgotten friend; share a funny story; drop old grudges; free yourself of envy and malice;
Make quality time for family;
Encourage a youth to do his or her best; be a role model;
Find the time to be kind and thoughtful; give a compliment; forgive an injustice;
Lighten up...will this really matter a month from now?
Be optimistic; the can-do spirit is the fuel that makes things go;
Smile more; say, "I Love You" more.



There will be a blood drive on Sunday, January 15th from 9:30 am till 2 pm in the fellowship hall.