Our Gifts
Weekly Offering
Oct. 20-26 $18,362.75
Oct. 27-Nov. 2 $36,449.83
Nov. 3-9 $35,744.75
Nov. 10-16 $19,795.22

Our Service
December Greeters and Ushers
Greeters: Mary Simpson, Mary Emma Scott, Jerry and Joan Griffee, Betty Hicks, Karen Needly, Lili Holbert
8:30 Traditional Service
Head Ushers: Charles and Celia Thompson; Lee and Susan Iglehart, Ed and Joanne Owens
11:00 Traditional Service
Head Ushers: Al DeBusk, John G. Shipman; Jimmy Villarreal, Paul and Michelle Koontz, Neal Cook, Buzzy Lytle, Rachael Hedgepeth, Bob Chandler, Bill Reseigh, Tyler Slack

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS
8:30AM - Traditional Worship
Sanctuary
9:30AM - Coffee & Fellowship
Fellowship Hall
9:30AM - Sunday School for all ages
Churchwide
11:00AM - Traditional Worship
Sanctuary
11:00AM - The Journey (Contemporary Service) - Gym

Our Presence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sunday, Oct. 26</th>
<th>Sundays, Nov. 2</th>
<th>Sunday, Nov. 2</th>
<th>Sunday, Nov. 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30AM Traditional Worship</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00AM Traditional Worship</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00AM The Journey</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Morning Worship</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Sympathies
We express our sympathy to Warren Prator and family in the death of his wife, Pat Prator, on November 17, 2014.
We express our sympathy to Mike Hueser and family in the death of his wife, Julie, on November 16, 2014.
We express our sympathy to D. J. Moore and family in the death of his mother, Ruby Moore, on November 12, 2014.
We express our sympathy to Dixie Bopp and family in the death of her husband, Phil Bopp, on November 4, 2014 and her grandson, Keith Stinnett, on November 9, 2014.
We express our sympathy to Doug Martin and family in the death of his father, Bill Martin, on November 1, 2014.
We express our sympathy to Louise Nelson in the death of her brother-in-law, Francis Morts, on October 23, 2014.

We express our sympathy to Louise Nelson in the death of her brother-in-law, Francis Morts, on October 23, 2014.

We express our sympathy to Doug Martin and family in the death of his father, Bill Martin, on November 1, 2014.

EMERGENCY ON CALL
December 5-7: Amy Aycock, 423-276-1065
December 12-14: Randy Frye, 228-5510
December 19-21: Daniel Ogle, 474-0544
December 26-28: Amy Aycock, 423-276-1065

Medical Transportation
Jean Payne, 688-4165
Stephen Ministry
Gail Cliff, 722-608
Intercessory Prayer
Mary Bolton, 688-6277
Tom Harrington, 687-9460

December Drivers
Before Church: Brent Eldridge, 494-5154
After Church: Robert Smiddy, 583-6811

Our Gifts
Weekly Offering
Oct. 20-26 $18,362.75
Oct. 27-Nov. 2 $36,449.83
Nov. 3-9 $35,744.75
Nov. 10-16 $19,795.22

December 2014

The Arrival
By Jessie Buttram

I didn't always call this season the Advent season. I mostly just called it Christmas. Or December. Or Is-H-Spring-Yet. It wasn't really until recently I began calling it Advent. I don't know why; it just felt holier somehow. And when I looked up the precise definition of "advent," I got this: "The arrival of a notable person, thing, or event."

Every year it tends to sneak up on me. One minute I'm unpacking the Halloween decorations (i.e., a couple of bags of cotton cobwebs; the end) and the next I'm shivering in the middle of December thankful for our Amazon Prime membership (i.e., thankful I forgot to cancel our subscription before our free trial was up).

Every year I try to scramble together present-wrapping and holiday baking and family visits and a dozen Christmas parties and it all feels so very deadline-ish. Or rather, I make it so. I tend to make the Christmas season feel more like THE END, or maybe more accurately, THE CULMINATION. The reward for a year of good behavior or other such nonsense.

But maybe this year I'll remember what Advent really means: the arrival.

Oftentimes, I love to skip to the end of the story. When I was a kid, I used to read the last page of the chapter I was on, just to know where the story was going. (Who am I kidding? I still do that.) I love Christmas and everything it stands for, and how it just seems magical and miraculous and cozy. But my heart belongs to Easter because it's the end of the story and I am impatient. We get to see where God was going with the whole barn-birth in Bethlehem chapter. Lucky us, we get to skip ahead. And yes, it's all tied together, neatly, perfectly, with a blood-stained bow. But even after His birth, the world still had to wait -- decades -- for that final act.

But I get to skip ahead. And yes, it's all tied together, neatly, perfectly, with a blood-stained bow. But even after His birth, the world still had to wait -- decades actually -- for that final act.

Continued on page 2.

Sermon Series
Songs of the Season

Music and Christmas go hand-in-hand. Whether it is the familiar hymns of faith like Joy to the World or more current expressions of faith, the joy of God coming near at Christmas leads us to singing. Accordingly, our Advent Sermon Series will explore examples of singing that result from God's mysterious and wonderful movement in this remarkable story we have come to call Christmas. We will hear songs from prophets, old men, young women and even angels -- all of which will lead us to sing gratefully that in Christ, God is with us. Thanks be to God.

December 7
The Prophet's Song
Isaiah 35:1-10

December 14
Zechariah's Song
Luke 1:67-79

December 21
Mary's Song
Luke 1:46-55

December 24: Christmas Eve
The Angels' Song
Luke 2:1-20

December 28
Simeon's Song
Luke 2:25-35

Christmas Eve Worship
Join FCUMC as we worship together on Wednesday, December 24 to celebrate Christmas Eve. There are three opportunities to worship:
4:00 p.m. Children's Nativity Service
6:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship
It amazes me how God didn’t skip ahead. If the end result was reconciliation and creation, to be the human skin that now houses Jesus. I think that’s what I want to remember most about Jesus’ birth, His arrival, this season we celebrate, gives me the freedom to live as He did, to love as recklessly as He does, to work as tirelessly to restore His creation, to be the human skin that now houses Jesus. I think that’s what I want to remember most about this Advent season, this season of His arrival, not just that He came, or even why He came. But mostly, how God sent His Son to save us, housed in newborn skin with hot, human blood beating through a fragile human heart. God sent His Son after us, chasing us for a lifetime in our own flesh and likeness, wearing our weaknesses, feeling the sun and the earth and the water He helped create with His now-created hands and feet.

Jesus’ birth, His arrival, this season we celebrate, gives me the freedom to live as He did, to love as recklessly as He does, to work as tirelessly to restore His creation, to be the human skin that now houses Jesus. I think that’s what I want to remember most about this Advent season, this season of His arrival, not just that He came, or even why He came. But mostly, how God sent His Son after us, chasing us for a lifetime in our own flesh and likeness, wearing our weaknesses, feeling the sun and the earth and the water He helped create with His now-created hands and feet.

Jesus, God’s Word, became human, yes, but sometimes I forget how He grew into a man. Years and years removed from the comfort and authority of Heaven so He could walk and laugh and grieve and tire among us, His beloveds, His creation. For decades He knew us like He hadn’t quite before He slipped so willingly onto this dusty, broken world.

I forget how His calloused hands touched people, real people, how those hands broke bread and washed feet and healed wounds. I forget the years He spent between His immaculate birth and His conquering death. I tend to focus on the highlights: His birth, His death, His resurrection. I pick and choose headlines from His life, sure, but more often than not, I forget the details.

I most want to remember this Advent season, this season of His arrival, not just that He came, or even why He came. But mostly, how He lived once He got here. How He spent those years between the highlighting fully God here, but clothed in our humanness, the very same humanness I walk in now, with hands like His to hold the broken pieces, with feet like His to go to the broken places, with ears and eyes and a heart like His to hear and see and bleed for the brokenhearted.

Jesus’ birth, His arrival, this season we celebrate, gives me the freedom to live as He did, to love as recklessly as He does, to work as tirelessly to restore His creation, to be the human skin that now houses Jesus. I think that’s what I want to remember most about this Advent season, this season of His arrival, not just that He came, or even why He came. But mostly, how God sent His Son to save us, housed in newborn skin with hot, human blood beating through a fragile human heart. God sent His Son after us, chasing us for a lifetime in our own flesh and likeness, wearing our weaknesses, feeling the sun and the earth and the water He helped create with His now-created hands and feet.

End of Year Giving
As you make plans for year-end giving, please remember that for financial gifts to be included in your 2014 statement of giving they must be postmarked or received in the office by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31. You may also make gifts online through our website at www.fountaincityumc.org. If you have questions about your financial giving, please contact Dee Dee Seals or John Patterson in the church office at 689-5175.

Trim the “Necessitree”
This year’s “Necessitree” will support Fountain City Ministry Center, Wesley House and Lost Sheep Ministry. Help us trim our tree with necessities!

Items needed for the "Necessitree:"
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Tube socks
- Caps
- Gloves

Donations may be dropped off at outside Wesley Hall from December 6-27 and placed on or around the tree. For more information contact FCUMC’s Church and Community Worker, Missy Adams at 689-5175 or missy.adams@fountaincityumc.org.

“Lift Up” A Congregational Care Initiative
The Congregational Care Committee has set out to be more intentional in taking our church to those who are unable to attend services and activities regularly. We hope that this ministry will be a function of the whole congregation, and there are many opportunities to serve. Of course you can serve this part of our congregation with prayers, phone calls, and visits. If you know about a homebound member not currently on our list, please contact Leroy Hatcher through the church office at 689-5175. Please note the following activities, all of which need volunteers and financial support from the congregation:

1. Communion taken to each homebound member if they wish it during Advent (Dec. 1-Dec. 20)
2. The Upper Room devotional booklet provided and delivered to the homebound members;
3. Take-out Wednesday night supper meals supplied and delivered to homebound members who desire them.

We do not wish to require the homebound members to pay for these services. We ask the congregation to consider contributing to this ministry any amount; a contribution as a memorial for a death would also be very appropriate. To support this ministry, please write a check to the church with congregational care in the memo line. If you can donate your time to help with delivery of any of the activities above, please contact Leroy.

We are all responsible for taking the love of God to our members who are unable to come to our building. We are grateful for your support in this outreach.
A Journey With Jesus: Confirmation Class of 2015

Beginning in January, 6th graders will embark on an important part of their spiritual formation: Confirmation. Through a series of games, lessons, a unique retreat and building relationships with mentors from our church family, Confirmands will learn what it means to be a true follower of Jesus Christ and a faithful member of the United Methodist Church. We encourage you to be in prayer for these Confirmands and their families, as well as the Confirmation leaders, teachers and mentors. For questions, comments or to learn how you can more tangibly support our Confirmands, please contact Amy Aycock (amy.aycock@fountaincityumc.org or 689-5175).

Please join us in supporting and praying for Confirmation Class participants and leaders.

Confirmation Class of 2015:

Carley Baldwin
Roland Belew
Ellia Campbell
Joseph Coram
Natalie Duncan
Katherine Dupree
Hannah Gregg
McKayla Harris
Thomas Hooper
Camryn James
Avery Lockhart
Kate Luttrell
Joe Meade
Gab Neubert
Brody Perry
Nathan Stapf
Kara Stinnett
Caleb Thompson
Madelin White

Choir Performances

Join us for the annual choir Christmas performance at FCUMC:

Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m.
Monday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.

The FCUMC choir performance will also air on WBIR and 10News2. Share the opportunity to watch the choir via social media and with your neighbors, friends and family. Showings:

December 24: 5:00 p.m.
December 25: 6:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. (10News2) and 5:00 p.m.

Glory to God

By Rob Sterling, Chancel Choir member

After finishing the in house choir retreat for the Christmas concert, some of us were hanging around, talking about who had been in the choir the longest. We think that goes to Deb White, but several of us had logged over 40 years, spanning at least five directors!

The choir has meant a lot to me personally through the years. It is one of my several church families. The friendships that are celebrated in that room, Wednesday night after Wednesday night represent the real value of a church connection. Yes, I feel you can be a Christian without belonging to a church, but how much you miss by not being a part of a group such as our choir.

However, the real thing about the choir for me is the music. When I reflect on on the great works, the great melodies, the great hymns that have been given to us down through the years by the master composers in the name of our Christ, it is really overwhelming. To think of all the years, all the decades, and all the centuries that man has raised his voice in song to the Lord, it is humbling to join in the chorus that has gone before us!

From the early church, to the monks, to the great masters: from the writers of the carols, to the modern day composers. Each bringing their song through the ages, that we too might lift our voice to the Lord and join the heavenly chorus saying: “Glory to God, and on Earth, Peace, Goodwill towards Men!”

Christianity is a belief system built on faith. To believe in a God that can’t be seen; to follow a man born 2,000 years ago in a land half way across the world takes that leap into the unknown. Many days it is hard to see through the clouds of our busy lives. But every once in a while, the curtains part, and we get to glimpse the majesty and the glory of heaven. A day spent in the beauty of God’s creation, an evening with close friends and family, a new born child opening their eyes and looking at you for the first time!

I get to peek at heaven sometimes singing with some of my closest friends, singing my favorite carols, and singing to my God! The great music turns our eyes, ears, and hearts towards heaven, and lets us worship Him in song. Once again I will greatly anticipate this years service of music and hope I get just another glimpse....
### December 2014 Calendar

#### Upcoming Events

**RETIREES CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, DECEMBER 5**  
On Friday, December 5, at 11:00 a.m., FCUMC Retirees will be welcomed by Sonny Melton at the plaza, hot cider, and Dough’s scrumptious buffet and holiday decorated tables. FCUMC member and familiar TV personality Don Dare will lead us in the Christmas meditation. Please call Jean Payne at 688-4165.

**FOUNTAIN CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE, DECEMBER 6**  
Join the community in celebrating Christmas! Children who would like to dress-up as part of the living nativity can pick up costumes at the Welcome Center on Sunday, November 30 and Wednesday, December 3 from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. On Saturday, December 6 participants will gather in the CiCi’s Pizza parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to line up for the parade. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. (Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.)

**LOVE TOWERS COLLECTION DAY, DECEMBER 7**  
Help FCUMC Retirees provide supplies for stockings to be given to 300 residents of the Love Towers. Collect travel-size toiletries, pens, pencils, small pads and small candy items. The collection date is Sunday, December 7. Join our retirees in bringing the Christmas spirit to these residents. For more information, contact Jean Payne at 688-4165.

**FINAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM OF 2014, DECEMBER 10**  
The final Wednesday night dinner will be Wednesday, December 10. Please come for dinner at 5:30 p.m. and stay for the Children’s Christmas Program beginning at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night dinners will resume Wednesday, January 7.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY AND PROJECT SERVE, DECEMBER 13**  
All pre-school age children and their families are invited to prepare for the birth of Jesus at the Christmas Party. There will be a time of worship in the sanctuary followed by cookies and milk and a special Christmas story. Join us for this family celebration of Jesus’ birth. Project Serve will also meet at 10:00 a.m. for a family mission project.

**BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS, DECEMBER 21**  
Children’s Sunday School classes are invited to a Baby Shower for Jesus on Sunday, December 21. Bring a baby item to be donated to the Hope Resource Center. Children will report to their Sunday School class the following Sunday at 9:45 a.m. There will be a time of worship in the sanctuary then return to classrooms for snacks. (Parents are welcome.)

**CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING CLOSED, DECEMBER 24-25, JANUARY 1**  
The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25 for Christmas. The offices will also be closed on Thursday, January 1 for New Year’s Day.

**UWM FUNDS DISBURSEMENT, DECEMBER 31**  
Requests for funds from the UWM to support projects and missions are now being accepted through December 31. To be considered for funds please submit a request in writing including how funds will be used, how much requested and if you are also applying for Scoggie Mission Funds. Send requests to Marie Pereleman at mpereleman@comcast.net.

**Fountain City’s Got Talent: A Night to Remember**  
The UWM hosted Fountain City’s Got Talent variety show and silent auction on November 1. More than $3,000 was raised to support missions during a memorable night. Thanks to all who supported the event.

---

**Monday, December 1**  
Family Promise Week  
7:00 p.m.: Charge Conference at First UMC  
7:00 p.m.: Stephen Ministry (Room 138)

**Tuesday, December 2**  
6:30 p.m.: UMW Wesley Circle (Room 137)

**Wednesday, December 3**  
6:00 p.m.: Youth at Under the Bridge

**Thursday, December 4**  
6:00 p.m.: Children’s Homebuilders Class Dinner (Wesley Hall)  
6:30 p.m.: Personally Experiencing Prayer (Room 138)

**Friday, December 5**  
11:00 a.m.: Retirees’ Christmas Fellowship (Wesley Hall)

**Saturday, December 6**  
10:00 a.m.: Fountain City Christmas Parade

**Sunday, December 7**  
10:00 a.m.: Project Serve (Old Fellowship Hall)

**Thursday, December 11**  
6:30 p.m.: Children’s Christmas Program (Sanctuary)

**Monday, December 8**  
6:00 p.m.: Finance Committee (Room Wesley Hall)

**Tuesday, December 9**  
10:00 a.m.: UMW (Wesley Hall)

**Wednesday, December 10**  
6:30 p.m.: Christmas Eve (Sanctuary)

**Thursday, December 11**  
6:00 a.m.: Drama Ministry (Room 109)

**Sunday, December 7**  
5:30 p.m.: Open Door Community Meal (Wesley Hall)

### REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

#### Sundays
- **8:30 a.m.:** Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- **8:30 a.m.:** Children’s Worship (Room 215)
- **9:30 a.m.:** Sunday School
- **11:00 a.m.:** Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- **11:00 a.m.:** The Journey Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- **11:00 a.m.:** Children’s Worship (Wesley Hall)
- **11:00 a.m.:** Wee Worship & Godly Play (Room 215)
- **4:00 p.m.:** Youth Offeling Handbells (Room 208)
- **5:00 p.m.:** Youth Choir (Choir Room)

#### Mondays
- **8:30 a.m.:** Preschool (M-F)
- **9:00 a.m.:** Aerobics (M, W, F) (Gym)
- **9:30 a.m.:** Dance for Joy Mommy & Me Class (Room 135)
- **9:30 a.m.:** Monday Morning Bible Study (Room 106)
- **3:30 p.m.:** The NET (M-F) (The NET Room)
- **4:30 p.m.:** Dance for Joy (M & T) (Old Fellowship Hall)
- **6:00 p.m.:** GED Classes (M & W) (Room 106)
- **7:00 p.m.:** Boys Scout (Room 135)
- **7:00 p.m.:** Cub Scouts (Room 207)
- **8:00 p.m.:** Alcoholics Anonymous (M, W, T)

#### Tuesdays
- **7:00 a.m.:** Men’s Bible Study (Room 106)
- **9:00 a.m.:** Staff Meeting (Room 137)
- **9:30 a.m.:** Knox Co. Adult ELL Classes (T, Th) (Room 106-112)
- **4:00 p.m.:** Off Broadway Kids Worship Ensemble (Choir Room)
- **6:00 p.m.:** Knox Co. Adult ELL Classes (T, Th) (Room 106-112)
- **6:00 p.m.:** Celebrate Recovery (3203 Tazewell Pike)

#### Wednesdays
- **5:00 p.m.:** Genesis Handbells (Room 108)
- **5:30 p.m.:** Fellowship Meal (Gym)
- **6:30 p.m.:** Youth (Old Fellowship Hall)
- **6:30 p.m.:** Wednesday Night Live (Children’s Program)
- **6:30 p.m.:** Invitation to Joy (Wesley Hall)
- **6:30 p.m.:** Studying the Story (Room 137)
- **6:30 p.m.:** Toller’s Handbells (Room 109)
- **7:30 p.m.:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- **7:30 p.m.:** Journey Band Rehearsal (Room 136)

#### Thursdays
- **5:00 p.m.:** Dance for Joy (Old Fellowship Hall)
- **6:00 p.m.:** Yoga – Adult Class (Wesley Hall)
- **6:30 p.m.:** Personally Experiencing Prayer (Room 138)
- **7:30 p.m.:** Volleyball (Gym)

fountaincityumc.org