

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 7, 2009

Dear Friends:

We are moving ever closer to the holy day of Christmas, but it is critical that we use these days of Advent to prepare ourselves for the joy of that day. Once again, so many shared their God given gifts with us on Sunday.

Thanks to Chris Jacobs, Dan Armfield, Todd Yann, George McLaughlin, Glenn Atamaniuk, Sarah Evins, John Knorr, Keith Graves, the Chancel Choir, our Acolytes, sound technicians, the Maddox family, the Cartee family, the Lewis family, the Piper family, our bus drivers/assistants, nursery workers, ushers, greeters, and the list goes on. It is amazing how many people are involved in making our times of worship at FUMC the incredible experience it is week after week. My thanks to all of you. Please know that you are appreciated!

Can you help with a night shift on December 18 thru December 21 at 61st Ave. UMC Last Minute Toy Store? The shift begins at 3:00 a.m. and ends at 7:00 a.m. During this time shoppers are standing in line to get their shopping ticket for the following day. Your role will be to keep the people safe and peaceful while making the wait as hospitable as possible. To volunteer, please contact Pastor Paul Slentz at www.61aveumc@bellsouth.net. Our friends at 61st Ave. UMC will be glad that you did and so will you.

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, December 13 for an awesome day. At 11:45 we will host our Newcomers' Lunch for those who are considering making Franklin FUMC their church home. Then at 2:00 the Claim His Name children's choir will be sharing their Christmas musical in Sanctuary East and at 4:00 in Sanctuary East the Cherub Disciples Choir will be sharing their Christmas musical. Make your plans not to miss any of these times of celebration!

On Christmas Eve there will be services at 4:00, 5:30, 7:00 in both Sanctuary East and the Historic Sanctuary. There will also be services at 9:00 and 11:00 in the Historic Sanctuary only. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be served at all services except the 4:00 service in Sanctuary East. Music in Sanctuary East will be blended with traditional in the Historic Sanctuary. I hope to see YOU at one of our eight services on the holy night as we welcome the Christ Child. Why not invite someone to come with you.

One of the most exciting ministries at FUMC is that of scouting. All young boys ages 10 through early teens are invited to an Open House for Troop 131 on December 8 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Scout Room. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our scout leaders, learn more about our scouting ministry, and have some great refreshments. Please R.S.V.P. to John Josten at www.ijos10@yahoo.com. Don't miss this exciting time!

These days of Advent leading up to Christmas are often filled with so many things. If we are not careful when Christmas arrives we are exhausted. Let's slow down to hear the songs, see the lights, and hear again the story of God's love for us seen lying in a manger. Then we will know beyond any doubt, the best is yet to be!!! Thanks be to God!!!

Grace and Peace,

A. Lynn Hill

FIRST KIDS

Calling all 3rd Graders!! There will be a December SonShine Kids Club Meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 4:30 pm in A210. All 3rd graders are invited to the next SonShine Kids event to benefit Room in the Inn! Every Thursday night from November to March, our church provides 12 homeless people with a meal, a place to spend the night, and breakfast the next morning. We will meet to learn more about the Room in the Inn ministry, make special gifts for the guests, and help set up the beds and the tables along with the adult Sunday School that is hosting for the evening. The SonShine Kids have also been asked for donations of travel size lotion, toothpaste, and toothbrushes and packs of disposable razors because these supplies are used most often by the Room in the Inn guests. Parent help is needed before and/or during the event. Please contact Camille O'Donnell to RSVP or for more information at 661-6215 or camilleodonnell@comcast.net.

If you have wondered . . . The Children's Ministry team did not sponsor an Advent Festival this year for children and families. After evaluating our current Children's Ministry programs and spending 30 days in prayer we decided that the festival did not meet many of the core values established by Children's Ministry and that for this year, the Advent Festival would not happen to allow time to refocus and rethink the purpose of the event.

Calling all Parents.... Pick up a Discussion starter Car tag at the Children's Welcome Center on the 2nd floor. The questions follow your children's curriculum for the month of December. Watch for more Discussion starters each month!

For more news about Children's Ministry, check out the children's page of the church's website, www.franklinfumc.org.

FELLOWSHIP

Connection Event: Calling all 5th and 6th graders – Please join us in the Tween Room on Saturday, December 12 from 10 am to noon to celebrate the season and wish Jesus a Happy Birthday. We will make ornaments to deliver to an assisted living facility, have an air hockey tournament, a Wii bowling tournament and of course, birthday cake! Friends welcomed. Parent chaperones are needed! Sign up for the Connection event by picking up Event Reservation and Permission Forms/Medical Release forms during Sunday School, by signing up on the Mission Menu, or by contacting Mori Fuller (jfmfkf@bellsouth.net) or Sarah Carty (scarty@franklinfumc.org). For more information visit the website at www.franklinfumc.org/connection.htm.



The Evangelism Ministry Team is sponsoring a Newcomers Lunch and Orientation class on Sunday, December 13 in the Fellowship Hall from 11:45 – 1:45. A meal will be served at 11:45 and a program for adults and a separate program for children will begin around 12:30. The Nursery will also be open following the meal for children ages three and under. Please contact the church office to make a reservation @ 794-2734, or sign up on the Mission Menu. When making your reservation, please let us know the number and ages of your children. The purpose of the class is to share the story of First United Methodist, discover how to get connected to the ministries of the church, understand how to “live out” the membership vows and share information about joining our congregation. The Newcomers' Lunch and Orientation class, offered every other month, is required for church membership.

The UMW Sisters Circle will meet at the home of Dennie Pickard on Monday evening, December 7 from 6:30-8:00 pm. It will be a potluck event with a special UMW Christmas program. Please bring a teen gift to donate to the 61st Avenue Last Minute Toy Store. Call Kay Matthews at 790-6579 or email Dennie at pickdmp@aol.com for more information. All women are invited.

The Mary and Martha UMW Circle will not meet on the second Sunday in December. We will have a Christmas luncheon on Monday, December 14 at 11:30 am in the 3rd floor youth area. There is no charge for lunch but a free-will donation/offering will be held to benefit the Bethlehem Center in Nashville. Please bring a favorite Christmas item for show and tell. Call Blanche Hill (790-2665) or Barbara McClellan (599-2546) to reserve your spot.

Youth High School and Middle School Confirmation starts in January! Look for our Confirmation booth in December in Fellowship Hall during fellowship time or pick up materials on the 3rd floor or at www.415youth.com. To register, a signed Confirmation Covenant must be turned in for the youth. Registration ends January 3, 2010. No registrations will be accepted after that date. Questions? Contact Jacob Fasig.

415 Student Ministries needs a new Synergy Sunday night food coordinator for the next semester, beginning January 2010 and beyond! Meals are served from 5:30 to 6:00 pm on the third floor. If there are any closet caterers out there who want to help feed hungry teenagers on Sunday nights, contact Helen@415youth.com for more details. We need you!

Come join us for the Troop 131 Open House on December 8 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Scout Room. Meet our Scouts and leaders and enjoy some refreshments. R.S.V.P. to John Josten at jjos10@yahoo.com.



About the Chrismon Tree . . . Chrismons are the creation of Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She originated the concept in 1957 when she set out to create decorations appropriate for a church's Christmas celebrations. The ornaments she created became popular, so Spencer began creating additional ornaments and wrote a series of how-to books. After her death in 1990, Spencer willed the rights to the Chrismons name and patterns to the Ascension church to continue its non-profit ministry.

The Chrismon tree is decorated each year by Connie Clark, Sr., her children, Connie Clark, Jr., Bill and Lulu Clark, and Cathy and Loy Hardcastle, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It honors the memories of Connie's mother, Mildred Ewin, and Louise White, who began the Chrismon tree tradition at First Church and made all the ornaments from 1968-1971.



The Chrismon tree is symbolic, conveying the life of Christ and the meaning of Christmas through commonly found items and easily understood symbols borrowed or modified from other sources. The tree is evergreen, representing eternal life, and decorated with traditional and modified ancient Christian symbols, called Chrismon, which are usually handmade by members of a local congregation using beads, sequins, glitter and styrofoam in colors of white and gold.

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This year our church will be hosting a Christmas party for the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division and their families prior to their deployment to Afghanistan. Santa will pass out gifts to the children with dinner provided. If you're attending Dickens of a Christmas on December 12 at 6:00 pm, come in and wish these families your best.

The Columbia District Laity Connection 2010 is a workshop to enhance lay ministry in our district. The Columbia District is 14,000 strong in laity. It is important that we know each other and multiply our effectiveness as a district. This workshop is for chairs or reps of the SPRC, Church Council, Trustees and Finance Committees in addition to all lay speakers, lay leaders, our children's workers and witness ministries representatives. The workshop will be held on Sunday, January 10 at 2:00PM at Franklin First United Methodist. Please let your pastor know that you would like to register for this workshop.

SERVICE & GENEROSITY

Our partner church, 61st Avenue UMC, needs our help once again for the Last Minute Toy Store, Friday December 18 thru Monday, December 21. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. Also, new unwrapped toys and gifts are needed, especially for ages 1-4 and for teens. To volunteer or to deliver gifts, please call 61st Avenue UMC at 292-7184. For more information, visit www.lastminutetoystore.com.

Volunteers are needed to spend the night at the church with our Room in the Inn guests on Thursday night, December 24. Contact Frances Bozeman at 599-3490 for info.



Next WNL is January 6, 2010



The Night Shift at the 61st Ave UMC Last Minute Toy Store - Want to do something really special during Advent? Volunteer for the late night shift at the Last Minute Toy Store. The shift begins at 3:00 am and ends at 7:00 am. During this time the "shoppers" are standing and sitting in line to get their shopping ticket for the following day. Your role is to keep people safe and peaceful while making the waiting as hospitable as possible. Advent is a lot about waiting . . . And you can make a difference this year by being a cheerful presence. Questions? Email ywilson@franklinfumc.org, Pastor Paul 61aveumc@bellsouth.net or check out the website at www.lastminutetoystore.com. Sign up on the Mission Menu.

Year End Charitable Giving - When planning your year-end charitable giving, remember you can make a prepaid contribution to the 2010 Capital Campaign for our North Campus Development. Mark you check "Prepaid 2010 Capital Campaign." The prepaid amount will be applied to the commitment you make to the capital campaign in May or June of 2010. If you have questions, please contact La Verne Sweeney, Church Business Manager, at 794-2734

Year End Contributions - Donors must deliver or mail (and postmark) checks on or by December 31, 2009, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2009. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2010 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2009 even if the check is predated to 2009 or was actually written in 2009. However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2009 will be deductible in 2009 even if the church does not receive them until 2010. If you are giving stock to the church as a contribution for 2009, call the Church Office, 794-2734, for instructions or to let us know that the transfer has been made. Please transfer stock two weeks prior to year-end (Dec. 15, 2009).

FIRST FAMILY MATTERS

as of December 7, 2009

At NHC: Evelyn Miller, Ed Ladd

At Vanderbilt: Chuck Hendry

Condolences to Roger Parker and family on the death of his mother on December 3, 2009.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE MENU December 9, 2009

Glazed Ham, Baby Potatoes, Assorted Vegetables, Chocolate Cream Pie, Salad Bar, Rolls

Kids Menu: Cheese Quesadilla



Graceworks desperately needs more Manger gifts of new, unwrapped items under \$20-\$25 for any age, infants to seniors, but especially those for teen boys and men. If you can help, donations can be brought to Graceworks (marked Manger) at 104 Southeast Parkway, Tuesday—Saturday, 9:00 am thru 4:00 pm.

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS for NOVEMBER 29, 2009

Sunday School Attendance	603
Worship Attendance (4 services)	920
Offering this week	\$30,423
YTD Offerings	\$2,012,088
YTD Operating Budget	\$2,306,304
YTD Operating Budget Spent	\$1,999,355
Loan Balance-October 2, 2009-Activity Center	\$1,766,355
Total Principal Paid YTD-Activity Center	\$215,137
Loan Balance-2/15/09 -North Campus	\$3,815,689
Legacy of Faith Gifts this week	\$1,931
Foundation gifts	\$0

Questions? Call LaVerne Sweeney,
Business Manager, 794-2734

WEEK AT A GLANCE

2009 CALENDAR FOR FRANKLIN FIRST UMC:

Please complete an Event Form
(available at the office or online) 2 to
4 weeks in advance to reserve
dates for all meetings and
activities. Also, if you should
change a date, day, or time
after completing the initial Event
Form you must contact Pam
with the update as all of our
publications rely on the accurate
information supplied to the office
staff and recorded on the
church calendar. Contact Pam
at the church office (794-2734)
if you have any questions.
pgarland@franklinfumc.org
www.franklinfumc.org/pdf/EOF.pdf

MONDAY, December 7

- 6:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting, B101
- 6:30 pm Advent Study, B214
- 6:30 pm Missions and Outreach Committee Meeting, A303

TUESDAY, December 8

- 6:00 am Men of Momentum, Café
- 7:00 am Women's Bible Study, B101
- 9:00 am Older Adult Fitness, Sanctuary East
- 10:00 am Women's Bible Study, B101
- 5:00 pm Children's Choir Musical Rehearsal, Sanctuary East
- 5:30 pm Primetimer's Dinner and Program, B104
- 6:30 pm Honor Flight Volunteers Meeting, B104

WEDNESDAY, December 9

- 8:00 am Weekly Prayer Walk, North Campus
- 9:15 am Disciple II Bible Study
- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group, B214
- 5:00 pm Cherub Disciple Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary East
- 5:30 pm Chancel Handbells, Historic Sanctuary
- 6:15 pm Cherub Disciples Choir, B209
- 6:15 pm Claim His Name Music Ensemble, B101
- 6:15 pm Heavenly Sonshine Choir, A208
- 6:15 pm KA-BAM, A202, A205, A206
- 6:15 pm Disciple V—Jesus in the Gospels, B205
- 6:30 pm Disciple I, B201, B203
- 6:30 pm Disciple IV, B214
- 6:30 pm WNL Foundations, Middle School, A301
- 6:30 pm WNL Foundations, High School, A303
- 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study, B202
- 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study, A210
- 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study, B211, B212
- 6:30 pm FirstSong Rehearsal, Historic Sanctuary
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Historic Sanctuary

THURSDAY, December 10

- 8:30 am Primetimers to Beersheba
- 9:00 am Older Adult Fitness, Sanctuary East
- 4:30 pm SonShine Kids December Event, 3rd Grade, A210.
- 5:00 pm Children's Choir Musical Rehearsal, A210

SATURDAY, December 12

- 7:00 am Franklin Lions Club Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 8:00 am Rehearsal Worship Team for 9:00 Service, Sanctuary East
- 8:00 am Prayer Walk, North Campus

Franklin First United Methodist Church

143 5th Ave. South • Franklin, TN 37064 • www.franklinfumc.org
Office: (615) 794-2734 • Fax: 790-4926 • Parents' Day Out/Preschool: 794-5386

9:00 and 10:30 Worship Services (Blended Worship & Traditional Worship) • 9:00 and 10:30 Sunday School

Knowing Christ | Sharing Christ | Making Disciples



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES: It's **IMPORTANT** to keep your family and contact information up to date with the church office. Please contact Debbie Miller, your Membership Secretary, at the church office (dmiller@franklinfumc.org or 794-2734) with any changes or additions (i.e. name, address, e-mail, phone, births.) Thank you!

VIDEO SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENTS: New PowerPoint presentations are loaded each Sunday morning. If you have information for the week ahead, please let John Knorr know by the Friday before. *John Knorr*, jknorr@franklinfumc.org

NEWSLETTER AND/OR BULLETIN PUBLICATION REQUESTS: The deadline for submitting information for the Mission Menu, Franklin First UMC bulletin insert, and First Things First Newsletter is **Tuesday at noon**. Please submit to: secretary@franklinfumc.org. Thank you! *Due to limited space on printed publications, an article may not be able to run more than twice—consecutively. We will do our best to accommodate each request.*

Church Staff:

Dr. A. Lynn Hill, *Senior Minister*
Rev. Vona R. Wilson, *Associate Minister*
Rev. Mark Coursey, *Minister of Evangelism & Program*
Rev. John Williams, *Minister of Visitation*
Rev. Becky Peeler, *Minister to Children*
Sarah Carty, *Asst. Director of Children's Ministry*
Jacob Fasig, *Director of Youth Ministry*
Helen Lombardo, *Associate Youth Director*
Mary Phillips, *Organist*
Jim Kimmel, *Music Director—Historic Sanctuary*
Sarah Evins, *Music Director—Sanctuary East*
John Knorr, *Music/Media Asst.*
Brenda Kessell, *Preschool Director*

Office Staff:

LaVerne Sweeney, *Business Manager*
Pam Garland, *Office Manager-Financial Secretary*
Brooke Rainey, *Communications Director*
Debbie Miller, *Membership Secretary*
Laura Lindquist, *Church Secretary*
Carmen Greenwald, *Receptionist*
Amber Wakefield, *Childcare Coordinator*
Roy Reed, *Facilities Supervisor*
Juanita Hill, Bert Miller, Sid Bradley, Jr., Arthur Polk, *Custodians*

