

Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am

Listen to our service online at

www.fumccollingswood.org.

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:

The First United Methodist Church

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Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is online at
www.fumccollingswood.org and is available via
e-mail. Send an e-mail to
ewindows@fumccollingswood.org to subscribe.

In Windows This Month...

From the Pastor's Heart.....	4
Announcements.....	6
Sermons and Scriptures.....	7
Seeking God's Face Week.....	8
Wednesday Night Live.....	10
Calendar	12
Missionary Messages	14
Wings of Prayer	16
Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	18
Opportunities for Serving	19
The Kid's Page.....	20
Financial Notes	22



The submission deadline for the
March issue of Windows is
February 10th.

***THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!***



From The Pastor's Heart

Wow, it is hard to believe we are already thinking about February, the month of “LOVE”, Valentine’s Day, candy, more snow and Super Bowl! As I write this, there are many excited Eagles fans hoping and anticipating their beloved Eagles playing in Minnesota this year. However, I want you to think about the greatest expression of love that comes to your mind. Maybe your mind may go to a time when you experienced your first valentine, or you can reflect on those in your life nearest and dearest to you. However, the greatest demonstration of love I find in my life is Jesus. When he was willing to sacrifice everything for me and love me unconditionally that changed my life!

Now, Jesus calls us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and to have a deep love for others that calls us to love our neighbor in new and transforming ways. As we continue to look to 2018 as year of **“SHOWING GOD’S LOVE,”** our heart’s prayer is to allow Jesus’ love to shine through us



individually and as a body brighter. We are excited about sharing our renewed vision and purpose for the future during this month: *To see all people WORSHIP God, CONNECT with his people, and join His MISSION in this world.* The foundation for all we do grows out of the wonder of God’s love as we watch God transform people into the image of His Son through His plan of making disciples.

As I was thinking about this, I was reminded in God’s word that Abraham, Peter, and Moses all experienced that personal “Ah ha!” moment of experiencing God’s presence, then simply being obedient to God. I was reminded of that by A.W.Tozer recently in a powerful way in a way only he can share it!

*Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight,
show me now Your way, that I may know You
and that I may find grace in Your sight.
Exodus 33:13*

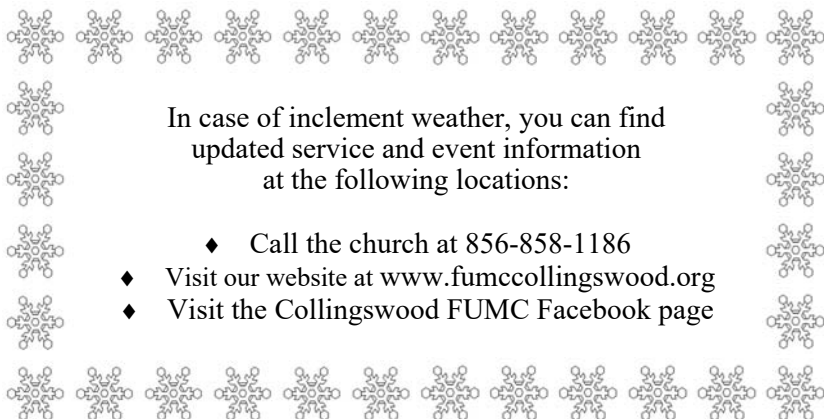
Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heat of their desire after God. They mourned for Him, they prayed and wrestled and sought for Him day and night, in season and out, and when they had found Him the finding was all the sweeter for the long seeking. Moses used the fact that he knew God as an argument for knowing Him better. “Now, therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight;” and from there he rose to make the daring request, “I seek thee, show me thy glory.” God was frankly pleased by this display of devotion, and the next day called Moses into the mount, and there in solemn procession made all His glory pass before him. *The Pursuit of God*, 15.

Then he asks a probing question: “Does anyone today know anything about that kind of heat of desire after You, God? I’m not seeing or hearing much that comes close, though, thankfully there are a few exceptions. Restore to us today this deep longing, I pray, in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

May each of us take the opportunity to experience God’s love and desire in our heart so we might share it in the places and space we live.

In His love and grace,
Pastor Sam





In case of inclement weather, you can find updated service and event information at the following locations:

- ◆ Call the church at 856-858-1186
- ◆ Visit our website at www.fumccollingswood.org
- ◆ Visit the Collingswood FUMC Facebook page

WEE SOCCER

Grades K-3
Saturdays, February 3, 10, 17 and 24.
Times assigned to each team.



SUPER SUNDAY 2018 - February 4th

Join us for this special Sunday as we celebrate how God does super things in our lives. We will have Santos Tollinche from Seeds of Hope as our speaker. He has a unique story of God's grace from prison to now overseeing men in the Seeds of Hope ministry. Later than day we will be celebrating and enjoying the Super Bowl. We encourage you to celebrate this day by inviting other members and friends to your home for fun and fellowship within our church family.

SOMETHING NEW IS COMING!!!!

Jesus once said, “I have come that [people] may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). God didn’t create us to just “get through” life - He wants us to THRIVE in Him, and in the purposes He’s given us in this life. We believe we are entering a new season as a church, with a more focused vision! And we believe living out this vision – as a church AND as individuals – will help us to thrive in the way God wants us to here on earth. Join us in February as we roll out the direction in which we believe God is leading us!



Don't miss our
**“Living Out Our
Purpose Series.”**
This is an exciting time
in our church!

FEBRUARY SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



February 4

Super Sunday

Santos Tollinche from Seeds of Hope will share the message today!

Living Out Our Purpose Series

February 11

“What Are We About”

Communion

February 18

“Worship”

February 25

“Connect”

Seeking God's Face Week February 11 – March 18

We are putting aside this week for a special time of prayer, meditation and fasting to God so we might know God's mind intimately, know His will for our lives and our church, and for the future. We'll seek Him through...

- Daily prayer – challenging each to devote 30 minutes a day to prayer for God's will.
- Wednesday evening prayer (February 14) – meet in the sanctuary from 6:00 - 7:00 pm to pray (Holy Wednesday.)
- Friday and Saturday (February 16th and 17th) - for 24 hours of prayer (sign up in the church office.)



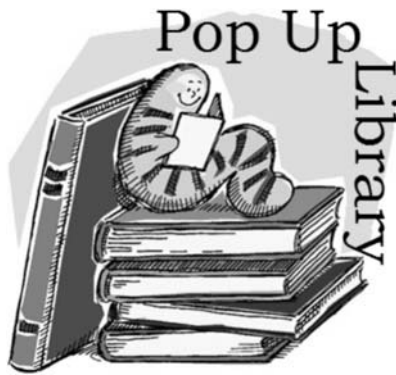
SAVE THE DATE(S)

**FUMC FINANCIAL
ROUNDTABLE**



FEBRUARY 8TH AND FEBRUARY 13TH!

Whether you are actively involved in any work area of the church, or simply a financial donor who wants to better understand how the church administers and stewards the funds that are received, you are invited to attend one or both of these OPEN discussions on the topic of the church and its' finances. The intent is to promote understanding of how the church functions in this area, and identify any potential areas where we can improve & simplify our financial processes where it may make sense to do so. Additional information will be made available prior to these meetings, and all are welcome to attend, and even submit questions to be answered in the course of these discussions. To make sure everyone has the opportunity to attend at least one discussion, two dates have been scheduled: Thursday February 8th and Tuesday, February 13th - both at 7:00 pm in the Parlor.



The Gateway South District Poverty Task Force began a Pop Up Library a year ago as part of our focus to promote literacy, a main factor in breaking the cycle of poverty. Studies have shown that a child's ability to read directly impacts their success in school , and therefore in life. Adults who are poor readers have difficulty even filling out a job application.

Our project began by collecting a large volume of books , all through donations. They are housed at Memorial UMC in Pine Hill as well as a storage facility. Volunteers take a variety of books, for both adults and children, to various sites in the area. Books have been dispersed at events such as outdoor markets, health fairs, church events and food pantries. Here people are welcome to take books which they can keep or pass along. The Collingswood Food Pantry is kept supplied with books. Two days per month a Pop Up Library is held at Neighborhood Center in Camden. I can tell you firsthand how excited the kids are to come and choose books to take home. Adult books and Bibles are there also for parents or other adults.

We are always looking for new sites and for volunteers to man them. The Poverty Task Force meets monthly at Pine Hill . We have a great mix of members, both laity and pastors from a variety of Methodist churches in the district. Visitors are welcome to come and try us out. Connie Cline and I carpool each month. We welcome others to join us.



In the meantime, please keep donating books! Especially needed are all children's books, comics, Harry Potter, toddler books and popular authors for adults (such as James Patterson).

Thank you!
Sharyn Bailey



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE (WNL) is back, starting January 24th!! Bring the whole family for an amazing, home-cooked dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by gatherings for all ages at 6:45 and 7:00 pm. Reserve your spot for dinner by signing up on the tear off on Sunday mornings or call or email the church office by 10 am. on Tuesday mornings. The cost of the WNL dinner is: \$6/person – adults (age 11 and older), \$2.50/child (10 & under), 3 and under free. (family maximum \$25)

Kids will join with others their own age each week for exciting activities and relevant Bible lessons, led by our wonderful children's team. Checkout the kids classes which begin at 6:45 pm so parents can sign in their children and still arrive at their own 7:00 pm Bible study class right on time.

WNL Preschool (Room 202)

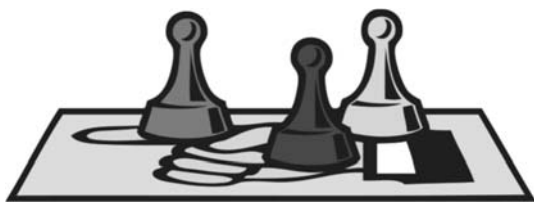
WNL Kindergarten – 2nd Grade (Room 106 – off the gym)

WNL Grades 3 – 5 (Room 105 – off the gym)

For adults:

As we begin a new season of WNL, we're excited about the direction God is taking us! We'll see some of the same great things - like our monthly prayer gatherings, and awesome food and fellowship. But we'll also begin to see some new ingredients - such as hands-on serving, and training to help you live out the mission God is calling you to! Get involved and help us move forward together!

2/7	"First Night" Prayer Gathering
2/14	Ash Wednesday Worship
2/21	DNA of the Church: Who We Are
2/28	DNA of the Church: Why We're Here



GAME NIGHT

GAME NIGHT – held the 2nd Saturday of every month from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in Stokes Dining Room. Feel free to bring your favorite game or come and learn a new one! Also, bring your favorite snack to share. Hope to see you there. Any questions, please See Emily Davis or Susan Gibbins-Davis.

GRACE CAFÉ Open Mic Night February 23, 2018



Join us on the last Friday of each month for an evening of entertainment! Sign-up starts at 6:30 pm. Entertainment from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. We welcome all performers to share their love of music, poetry, comedy, etc. All generations welcomed! There is a PA system, stage lighting, amps, keyboards, drum kit and a large stage area to enhance your performance. Coffee and assorted food items will be served. If you would like to bring a tasty treat to share, that would be great! Bring your entire family! For additional information contact John Vernon or check us out on Facebook - Grace Cafe!

SING
SONGS
OF PRAISE.

James 5:13

FEBRUARY			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver	5 Church Office Closed	6 10:00 AM Follower Bible Study	7 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mas 7:00 PM "Firs Prayer Gather
11 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver	12 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Discipleship Meeting 7:00 PM Missions - Evangelism	13 10:00 AM Follower Bible Study	14 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mas 7:00 PM WNL Studies VALENTINE ASH WEDNESDAY
18 MWA (Junior High) 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver 1st SUNDAY IN LENT	19 Church Office Closed PRESIDENTS DAY	20 10:00 AM Follower Bible Study	21 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mas 7:00 PM WNL Studies
25 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service 6:00 PM Ryver 2nd SUNDAY IN LENT	26 Church Office Closed	27 10:00 AM Follower Bible Study	28 6:00 PM WNL 6:45 PM Mas 7:00 PM WNL Studies

RY 2018

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3 9:00 AM Wee Soccer Games
L Dinner ter's Men st Night" ring	8 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	9	10 9:00 AM Wee Soccer Games 6:00 PM Game Night
L Dinner ter's Men L Bible WINE'S DAY WEDNESDAY	15 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	16 MWA (Junior High)	17 MWA (Junior High) 9:00 AM Wee Soccer Games
L Dinner ter's Men L Bible	22 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	23 7:00 PM Grace Cafe	24 9:00 AM Wee Soccer Games
L Dinner ter's Men L Bible			



Curt and Carol Detwiler, Trans World Radio

Friday, December 22nd:

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners

News reached us this morning that the Cary Fire Department responded to a call at 6:45 this morning at the loading dock. We have no details about the extent of the damage and TWR has closed the offices until further notice.

This is our busiest time of the year for year-end receipting and gifts. The Lord knows all of this - pray that TWR will be open to His leading in how to handle this.

Wednesday, December 27th:

In place of our normal prayer bulletin, we would like to give you the latest information about the TWR Cary fire, and request your prayer in the coming days for the items listed.

TWR Staff and Leadership have begun working through what will be months of additional tasks and processes to bring this chapter of our history to a good conclusion. One important bit of

information is that TWR owns and operates two buildings on the property in Cary. One of them is the one in the picture which was involved with the fire. The second building is one which is located a few hundred yards away, and is



composed of about 16 private hotel-like rooms and other facility rooms which are larger. This building has become an important back

up for several operations, as it was totally untouched by the fire.

1. Even in the hours of Dec. 22nd, the critical people of Donor services had been successfully relocated with their computers to the Lodge. The TWR switchboard was also transferred electronically over to the Lodge within hours.
2. The main office building is closed to all staff until January 2nd or 3rd. Many of us have the ability to work from our homes, and that is being maximized.
3. As you may observe from the picture above, the section of the office building directly above the smoke has been seriously damaged. In fact, due to the heat, the concrete floor on the second floor cracked. The restoration company has built some additional support below that section of floor, but that part of the building (approximately 1/4 of the office floor space) will need major reconstruction which will take months. The staff members who previously worked there will need to be assigned to other spaces.
4. The rest of the building has mostly smoke damage. In fact, the entire building smells like the inside of a fireplace. Restoration companies were brought in to begin dealing with that, even over the Christmas holiday. Computers are being specially washed of smoke and toxins, and office furniture is being cleaned, walls and floors are being scrubbed even the air is constantly being filtered and cleaned through heavy duty blowers to remove the after effects of the smoke and fire.
5. Two of our staff came back to assess the damage on Saturday morning, only to find the fire had reignited on the ground floor!! They grabbed several fire extinguishers, while calling 911 for the fire company to return. Had these two men not been in the building, it is likely the damage would have been far more extensive, as the fire alarms were out of operation at that point! One of the men needed to spend a day in the hospital due to the smoke.
6. PRAYER: Our building does have closed circuit TV cameras. The cause of the fire is the subject of a criminal investigation by the Cary Police Department. The properties are presently under 24 hour security guards.
7. PRAISE: In a truly amazing way, TWR's ministry has continued almost with NO pauses or downtime. Computers and

(Continued on page 17)



Wings of Prayer



Do you ever think much about the Holy Spirit? I listened to a teaching in which the pastor spoke about the 3 persons of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we think about God the Father, what comes to mind? Maybe the words holy, powerful, righteous, jealous, anger, and judge? Maybe a picture of blazing light or a powerful figure with a long white beard. And when we think of Jesus? Gentle, loving, forgiving, self-sacrificing, healing, and Savior might be words that come to mind.

Think of the Holy Spirit. What comes to mind? What is His role? Who is the Spirit? Do we have as clear a picture of Him as we do of Jesus or the Father? The pastor in the study I watched said we often have – at least in our limited ability – a good idea of the Father and the Son. But when we think about the Spirit, things get a little vague.

Some study materials I read a few days after viewing the teaching video spoke of the power of Scripture and the Holy Spirit. The author described the Spirit as Living Power (Hebrews 3:12), God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16), and more fully as the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge and fear of the LORD (Is. 11:2). In John 14 Jesus tells His disciples more about the Spirit who will be sent to them. He is Comforter, Counselor, Teacher, Reminder, Helper, Spirit of Truth and One who convicts people of sin, righteousness, and judgment. In Romans 8 we read *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”*

How wonderful and reassuring to know that as we pray for ourselves or others, the Spirit helps us and intercedes for us! Something to think about and rejoice in as we pray for the Church

worldwide, the strength and witness of every Christ-follower, and the boldness to proclaim Jesus as Lord and King. How encouraging to know the Spirit helps us pray for our nation and leaders and those around the world. And this same Spirit intercedes as we pray for these more local concerns: *Sherry Rappe, Harry Miller, Cheryl Averell, Harry Ellis, Emma Hughes Plotts, Marybeth Kosich's Mom, Linda - Marion's sister, Arnie Arnold, Matt Robb, Bill & Brenda Antinore, David Shropshire, Florence Keller, Jim Doherty, Holly Gibbons.*



(Missionary Messages - Continued from page 15)

Information Systems were down only for several hours. All systems and operations are presently up and running, including telephones, donor services, and broadcasting. There were no broadcasting interruptions in our worldwide network! God is great!

8. PRAISE: In another truly amazing way, all of this happened before our normal work shifts begin, and when no one was in the building. God is great!
9. PRAYER: There will be significant expenses as a result of the fire. President Lauren Libby is working together with our staff and our many ministry partners to begin asking for help in order to bring the building back to full utilization.



If you have not already done so,
please give your dates (birth dates
and anniversary dates) to the church
office in writing or by e-mail:
maria@fumccollingswood.org.

Feb. 1	Grant Knudson	Feb. 17	Tom Thompson
Feb. 2	Sandra Wright		Lou VanPelt, Jr.
Feb. 6	Jim Doyle	Feb. 18	Marva Wallace
	Marilyn Ellis	Feb. 20	Jennifer Schwehm
	Sherry Rappe	Feb. 22	Cheryl Aversa
Feb. 7	Stan Sheaffer	Feb. 23	Barb Oliver
Feb. 8	John Vernon	Feb. 24	Barbara Edelman
Feb. 9	Ruthmarie Weinberg		George Hemphill
Feb. 10	Carol Vernon Grant	Feb. 25	Lori Vernon
	Will Jungclaus	Feb. 26	Jane Doyle
Feb. 11	Julie Ross	Feb. 27	Megan Bickel
Feb. 14	Vienna Knudson		Jennifer Kennedy
Feb. 15	Juliana Atkinson		
Feb. 16	Jadon Hamilton		
	Rose Hamilton		



Opportunities for Serving Others in 2018

Looking for a resolution to make for the new year?
How about serving in one of our behind-the-scenes ministries?



We are always looking for volunteers to expand our Technical Ministries team (including the laptop team.) Each Sunday, we are responsible for the lights and sound for our services, recording and editing the service for streaming from our website and for running the projection system in the Sanctuary. We serve the Lord by enabling His message to be seen and heard by others. You don't need any experience - just a willingness to learn. If you are interested in helping us out, you may contact Phil Boswell or you are also welcome to drop by the sound booth or control room and talk to any of our operators.

We are also looking for new faces for our Nursery teams. Each week we staff the nurseries at both the 8:30 and 10:45 am services. No experience is necessary, just a love of children. Please contact Kathy Boswell if you are interested in helping in this vital ministry.



Can YOU Help?







heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.

What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)



What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.

Bible Quiz

Paul declares that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Which of the following does Paul specify as unable to block God's love?

- A. death; life
- B. angels; demons
- C. present; future
- D. height; depth
- E. all of the above

ANGELS
LIFE
FUTURE
death
depth
present
demons
HEIGHT

A HEAVENLY FOCUS

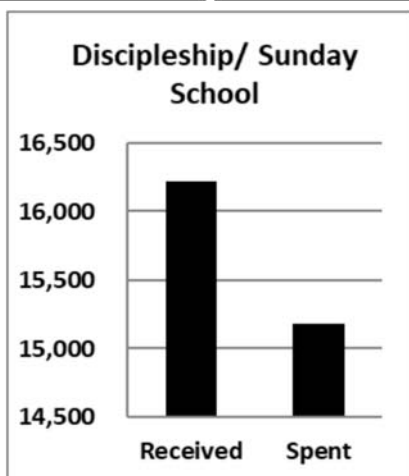
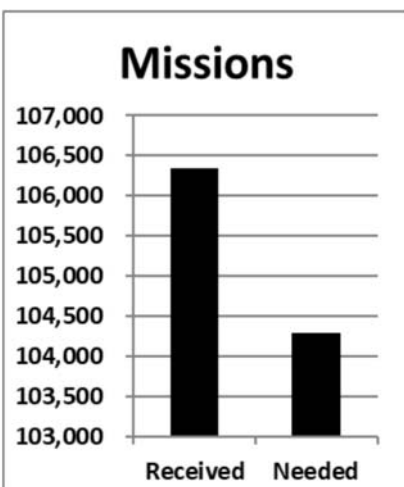
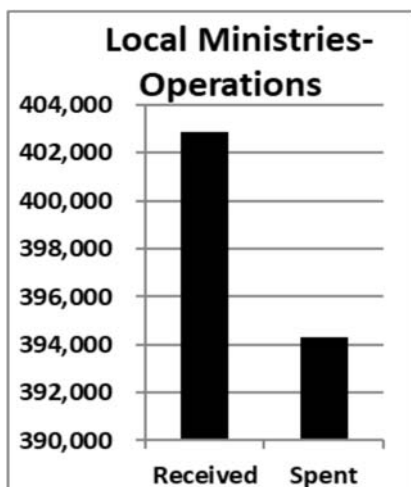
"Why are not our hearts continually set on heaven?" asks 17th-century pastor and author Richard Baxter. Focusing on heaven stirs our faith, guards against temptation, eases suffering and makes us an encouragement to others, Baxter says. He urges: "Bend thy soul to study eternity, busy thyself about the life to come ... and let not those thoughts be seldom and cursory, but bathe thyself in heaven's delights."

Answer: E (See Romans 8:38-39, NIV.)

Financial Notes



DECEMBER 2017 FIRST CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT -
 We appreciate your consistent, generous giving as we build the kingdom together. Finances through December were as follows:



Local Ministries-Operations Account - This account supports our church's personnel, property, program and administrative expenses and the Greater NJ Annual Conference shared ministries. The 2017 local ministries-operations budget is \$440,423. It is funded by 90% of the 90%/10% operations /missions offerings, 100% operations offerings, 90% of loose plate offerings, conference apportionment - world service offerings and miscellaneous income.

Missions Account - This account supports First Church-related missionaries, First Church-related ministries and other missionaries and ministries. The 2017 missions budget is \$104,288 or \$8,691/month. It is funded by a 10% tithe operations/ missions offerings, missions offerings, 10% of loose plate offerings and the Easter and Christmas missions offerings.

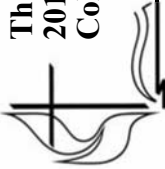
Discipleship / Sunday School Account - This account supports the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and certain youth expenses. The 2017 Sunday School/Discipleship budget is \$17,024. It is funded by offerings given in Sunday School classes and by church offerings designated for Sunday School/Discipleship, Vacation Bible School and youth.

Consistent support of our operations, missions and Sunday School/Discipleship ministries by members and friends of First Church enables us to do all we do. Thank you. We report 2017 finances to the congregation each month.

Contact local ministries-operations account treasurer, Ted Robb, for questions on the operations account report, missions account treasurer, Jean Robb, for questions on the missions account report and Sunday School treasurer, Charles Hill, for questions on the Discipleship / Sunday School report.



The First United Methodist Church
201 Dayton Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108



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*To see all people **WORSHIP** God, **CONNECT** with His people,
and join His **MISSION** in this world.*