



THE CIRCUIT RIDER

First United Methodist Church

338 Third Street, PO Box 492, Henderson, KY 42419

270-827-2100

A decorative banner with a light pink background. At the top, a string of white hearts is strung across the width. Below this, the text "We Love Our Staff!" is written in a large, red, serif font. The word "We" is in a smaller, simpler font, while "Love" and "Our Staff!" are in a larger, more decorative script. At the bottom, there are several large, stylized hearts in shades of red and pink, some overlapping a scalloped white border.

We Love Our Staff!

First UMC Staff Appreciation Week
February 10-16

Our amazing staff works very hard to care for our church and congregation. Please help us show all of our staff members how much we love them! During the week of February 10, First UMC's Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be providing breakfast and lunch for them, and you are invited to participate in the celebration through email messages, cards, letters and other gestures of gratitude which may be delivered to the church office.

Terry Green
SPRC Chair



Rev. Janet Carden
Senior Pastor

In June 2023, the KY Annual Conference, Bishop Fairley, Dr. Jay Smith, and the KAC Cabinet appointed Pastor Janet to First UMC. She and her husband of nearly 53 years, Tim, have a daughter Andrea, son-in-law Troy, and two grandchildren, Lydia Simpson and Levi Adkisson.

She loves being a part of creating, organizing and implementing our worship services and special services for our congregation. She treasures the First UMC people and working with our staff!

Her hobbies and interests include cooking, sewing, arts & crafts (of any kind), floral designing, cake decorating, going to the movies, and participating in Emmaus Walks as a part of the team.



EJ Simmons
Worship Leader,
Director of Youth,
Young Adult
& Outreach
Ministries

EJ came to First UMC 8 years ago when he “walked in the back door for service, and just stayed!” His family includes his wife Allah, daughter Shaddai, son Tavien, grand-dog Bean and grand-cat Lewis.

He always looks forward to delicious goodies offered to him by the Women’s Bible Study Group. And he says some of the best things about his work here are planting seeds of hope in young people and leading worship each week.

Although he likes summer gardening and caring for his potted plants, he insists that he is NOT an outdoorsy person!

Nikolai Peek, Director of Choral Ministries, Organist

A series of events beginning with a broken finger eventually led to Nikolai landing at First UMC over 6 year ago, and he is gratified to see others’ hearts become inspired by music on a weekly basis.

His parents live in Georgia, but he is able to make occasional trips home, and we always look forward to worshipping with them when they visit Henderson.

As our unofficial resident weatherman, he is fascinated by weather and is a certified Storm Spotter for Henderson. He is also very interested in history and theology.





Beth Hayes

Administrative
& Executive
Assistant

Although she has been on staff for nearly 9 years, Beth and her husband Bob have been members of First UMC's congregation for 24 years. Now empty-nesters (except for their 4 kitties), they enjoy traveling together —often to Louisville, where their son Ben resides, or Lexington, to visit daughters Eileen and Emily. Occasionally, they are fortunate enough to escape for a little while on a cruise ship!

Never a dull moment for her in the church office, she describes her work as a perfect blend of routine tasks and creative expression, fellowship and solitude, and chaos and peace!



Mary Fuller

Financial
Secretary

Mary credits our own Bob Park for some of her success due to his guiding her toward getting her GED when she dropped out of high school at age 16. She eventually earned a Masters degree and began her career in accounting and has served First UMC as Financial Secretary for the past 15 years.

She is a talented ballroom dancer and has a son who is married with children living near Indianapolis, a daughter who works with her at Fuller Tax Service, and a granddaughter who attends WKU.



Doug Sasse

Custodian

As a long-time member of First UMC, for many years Doug has willingly and cheerfully labored as a volunteer in multiple capacities including running sound and lights for services, helping in the kitchen during special events, and performing various janitorial and maintenance tasks. Upon Mr. Starks' retirement at the end of 2024, Doug was officially hired as Custodian, so he's finally receiving financial compensation for his work! He also works as a local stage hand, but he really loves working with the friendly people at First UMC.



Jamie Trodglen

Financial
Assistant

Since 2015, Jamie can generally be found each Monday afternoon working in the church's Finance Office. Employed by Fuller Tax Service, she isn't technically an employee of First UMC, but she loves the people she works with and that we include her as one of our own!

When she isn't working, she enjoys spending time with her husband Glen and their three grown children, Cassady, Breezie and Leighton, as well as two grandchildren, Olivia and Henry.



**Shanta
Floyd**
Nursery
Attendant

Shanta had accumulated numerous years of experience in childcare tending her many nieces and nephews. In 2010, she began providing loving nursery care for the kids of First UMC under the direction of former First UMC Nursery Director Joanne Branson. Of course, hers is a labor of love. She says it warms her heart to help families.

She also likes reading, walking by the river, traveling, spending time with her dad, and riding 4-wheelers and bikes.



**Daniel
Shade**
Audio/Visual
Technician

For over eleven years, Daniel has applied his A/V skills to facilitate and enhance worship services and other special events at First UMC. He values the friendships that have developed through his work and attendance at First UMC.

When he's not working, he enjoys playing guitar, woodworking, fishing, and spending time outdoors. He and his wife Kelly Joh have been married for seven years and they have a border collie named Emma.



**Harbor House
Christian Men's Center**

As a safe haven for homeless men, Harbor House is an integral and necessary part of Henderson's infrastructure, especially due to the recent very cold weather. To assist their efforts, the Mission Team is collecting men's socks and over-the-counter cold & flu medicines in the Gathering Area throughout February. Additionally, each Sunday, we are collecting milk, butter, eggs, bread, and fresh fruits and vegetables in the office hall kitchen, which will be delivered to Harbor House on Monday. THANK YOU for your support of this worthy organization!



One of the best ways to move a church toward renewal and flourishing is to help that church look beyond her own walls and engage her community and world.

This Missions Summit will help you catch a vision for church renewal through missions and outreach and will provide you with incredible resources to help move the needle in your congregation.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Janet Carden or Cathy Motter. Registration deadline is February 6.

First United Methodist Church

2025 Church Officers

*non-voting

Leadership Council

Council Chair: Rotating Council Members

Lay Leader & Delegate to KAC: Ray Nix

2nd Lay Delegate to KAC: Pam Moran

Alternate Delegate to KAC: Ann Crafton

History/Archives: Sandra Carter

Treasurer: Jerry Gentry

Financial Secretary: Mary Fuller*

UMW President: Pat Workins

Membership Secretary: Beth Hayes

Church Ministry Staff

Pastor: Rev. Janet Carden*

Worship Leader, Director of Youth, Young Adult

& Outreach Ministries: EJ Simmons*

Director of Choral Ministries, Organist: Nikolai Peek*

Ministry Team Chairpersons

Congregational Care & Fellowship: Shirley Moore & Charles Kirkpatrick

Missions: Cathy Motter

Spiritual Formation: David Latham

Worship & Evangelism: Annette Garrison & Ardith Shannon

Administrative Team Chairpersons

Board of Trustees: Tom Utley

Finance Committee: John Luckett

Safety Team: Bob Hayes

Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Terry Green

Trust Fund Committee: Frank Tulipana

Board of Trustees

Chair: Tom Utley

Vice Chair: John Berrong & Pete Summers

Secretary: Trudy Buckman

2025

Cameron Grindall

Barbie Tope

Frank Tulipana

Tom Utley

2026

John Berrong

Ben Burnley

Charlotte Boyle

Tony Fanok

2027

Trudy Buckman

Alan Hedgespeth

Rick Motter

Pete Summers

Ex-Officio

Rev. Janet Carden*

Bob Hayes

Finance Committee

Chair: John Luckett

Treasurer: Jerry Gentry

Financial Secretary: Mary Fuller*

2025

Jim Crafton

John Logan

Lisa Tulipana

2026

John Luckett

Beth Moran

Greg Pritchett

2027

Bill Dibert

Timothy Lutz

Stacy Powell

Ex-Officio

Rev. Janet Carden*

Terry Green

Pam Moran

Ray Nix

Tom Utley

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Terry Green

2025

Ann Crafton

Danny Perkins

2026

Kenny Floyd

Cathe Hedgespeth

Dennis Nelson

2027

Evie Glover

Hannah Hudson

Cathy Kemp

Ex-Officio

Rev. Janet Carden*

Pam Moran

Ray Nix

Trust Fund Committee

Chair: Frank Tulipana

Vice Chair/Secretary: TBA

Financial Secretary: Mary Fuller*

2025

Chuck Armstrong

Dennis Nelson

2026

Michelle Jolly

Jo Logan

Kathy Park

2027

Meg Burnley

Jane Shipley

Frank Tulipana

Ex-Officio

Rev. Janet Carden*

Committee on Lay Leadership and Nominations

Chair: Rev. Janet Carden

2025

Stacy Powell

Donna Stinnett

2026

Cary Carter

Larry Crick

Beth Hayes*

2027

Karen Hill

Shirley Moore

Ex-Officio

Rev. Janet Carden*

Ray Nix

February 2025

Henderson First UMC Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Jacob Butts

Use the Breeze ChMS app to access the Church Directory and Calendar of Events!
Contact the church office for more information.

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Patrick Daugherty	Jessica Lett	Kayci Coyne	Ashley Hall	Adam Grogan
Kim Portman	Kennedy Robards	Hayes Sights	Susan Vickers	

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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Marie Latham	Megan Allred	Scott Conrad	Cathy Crick	Georgetta Miller	Gary Jennings	Terri Fulkerson
	Velma Gibson	Jennifer Keach	Debbie Dempewolf	Daniel Williams	Jarvis Morrow	Johanna Hoffman
		Caroline Mouser	Amy Holt			Stacey Shannon
		Margaret Sights	Sam Jackson			
		Mahogany Webb	Ronald Smith			
			Jim Solomon			

16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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Kathy Craig		Tom Dempewolf	Leanne Banna	Linda Floyd		Emily Furlong
Bill Dibert		Bill Embry	Debbie Duncan			
Kendall Stocke		Jim Goldie				
		Josie Springer				

23	24	25	26	27	28	1
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Sheryl Chapman	Jim Crafton	Peggy Duncan	Jane Shipley	Sandra Carter
LaNeave Hall	Herbie McKee	Shannon Hudson	Andrea Steele	
Don Moffett		Nikolai Peek		
		Will Wilson		



THOUGHTS FROM

Pastor Janet

Love is...

Valentine's Day was quite an ordeal while attending grade school. We worked diligently to create a special Valentine's Day, handmade, created for just this holiday, "sack" to hold those Valentine's wishes from our friends and classmates. The morning of our Valentine's Day celebration, we would display our beautifully handmade sacks on the window ledge, offering others the opportunity to place those Valentine's Day cards within each one. What excitement the morning would bring, as we would watch our classmates drop those cards in the appropriate place! We could not wait for lunchtime to conclude, as the afternoon welcomed that time of celebration. Our teacher would call our name and we would walk (hurriedly) to gather our personalized Valentine's Day sack filled with loving wishes. After each classmate had their sack in their possession, our teacher would give us permission to remove those cards and view just who wanted to share that Valentine friendship (if just for a moment). Our day would end as we shared cupcakes, treats and kool-aid. We could not wait to arrive home to share those cards with our parents and siblings. What excitement the celebration of Valentine's Day created for us, especially in grade school. Do you, as well, share similar memories?

The passage in 1 Corinthians 13, verses 1-13, (from the New International Version) shares the detailed description of love, both positive and negative. The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the Corinthians, the people whom he loved and cared for. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

In the Bible, love is the ultimate all-time gift! If you're going to be known for anything, let it be love. Perhaps a lifelong goal should be to embody the diverse characteristics of love found in 1 Corinthians 13. The Apostle Paul used the Greek word "agape" to describe love that is divine; this type of love originates with God. It is eternal; it never fails. Verses 4-7 describe the many facets of this preeminent type of love: patience, kindness, perseverance and hope. Here is a challenge for you: Live today seeking the greatest of all attributes. Try to express the heart of Biblical love in all that you say and do. Let today be your "love song" to everyone you encounter. How has God shown his love for you in a very tangible, personal way? How can you show him you love him in return? Review verses 4-7. Which aspect of love is the most difficult for you to express? May this holiday of Valentine's Day offer you a chance to reminisce, warming your heart with those special Valentine's Day memories.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Janet



Dear Church Family,

The annual 2024 Operating Fund Financial Summary shows the church had a gain of \$26,652, which is a \$26,652 positive comparison to budget. Giving for the year 2024 is \$59,723 under budget and expenses are \$86,375 under budget. During 2024, total cash has increased \$150,589 from \$317,339 to \$467,928. This increase is primarily the result of extra designated giving for facility maintenance and security. Please see charts below for additional details.

The 2025 Stewardship campaign is almost complete. Giving for church operations is lower than last year's estimates of giving. The next steps are to estimate 2025 non-pledged giving and finalize the 2025 financial operating budget. There is concern that the total estimated giving for 2025 will not fully fund our church's operating needs. Our goal is to achieve a sustainable budget with operating expenditures within the giving provided by church membership.

Please consider the church's general operation needs in your giving plans.

During the 2025 Stewardship campaign, maintenance and security of our church facilities was identified as a special need. To fund this, the congregation has responded with designated giving pledges of \$31,600, and actual designated gifts in December 2024 of \$125,000. Combining these gifts with existing designated balances will allow these church maintenance and security needs to be addressed in 2025:

- o Renovate and Paint Four Entrance Columns \$56,246 (Planning in progress and awaiting funding.)
- o Fire Alarm & Thermostat Upgrades \$11,000 (Planning in progress.)
- o Parking Lot, Handicap Paint, & Striping \$7,000 (Planned for spring.)
- o Sanctuary Air Flow Improvements \$10,000 (Planning in progress and awaiting funding.)
- o Security Cameras & Panic Buttons \$33,000 (Planning in progress and awaiting funding.)
- o Church Painting \$100,000 (Preliminary planning scope/pricing awaiting funding.)

Thanks to your previous generosity the following projects were completed in 2024:

- o 40 Ton HVAC Unit over Gathering Area \$21,006
- o Education Building Roof Refurbishment \$54,723 (With support from the General Trust Fund.)

Thank you to the staff for their cost-conscious efforts and for your exceptional generosity.

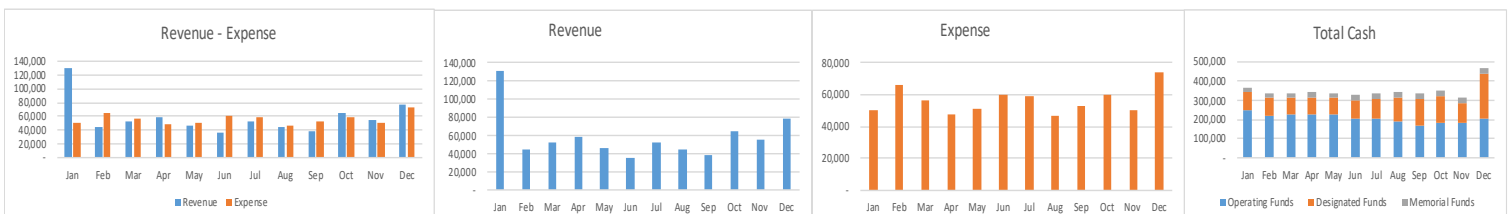
If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mary Fuller or John Luckett.

2024 First UMC Operating Fund Summary

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2024 YTD Total	2024 Variance	2024 Budget
Operating Funds	197,229	248,786	217,574	226,053	228,585	226,263	204,639	207,149	192,621	166,865	183,997	181,364	203,713		
Designated Funds	95,765	92,881	93,275	85,381	84,783	84,685	97,680	96,313	123,222	136,912	136,947	100,137	234,140		
Memorial Funds	24,345	26,100	26,700	26,815	27,350	28,410	29,325	29,630	29,650	29,750	29,950	30,049	30,075		
Total Cash	317,339	367,767	337,549	338,249	340,718	339,358	331,644	333,092	345,493	333,527	350,894	311,550	467,928		
Monthly Change	50,428	(30,218)	700	2,469	(1,360)	(7,214)	1,448	12,401	(11,966)	17,367	(39,344)	156,378			
101 - Revenue / Operational Income															
Pledged	120,460	32,930	45,531	45,531	36,516	25,850	42,421	32,660	24,988	48,659	37,410	57,137	550,093	(32,341)	582,434
Non-Pledged	7,922	7,287	5,372	9,673	7,201	6,637	6,348	7,977	8,699	10,991	13,445	16,733	108,285	(31,715)	140,000
Funds TR from Designated Funds	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	6,000	-	6,000
Parsonage Sale Proceeds Earnings	-	3,400	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	20,400	-	20,400
Revenue Rollover From Previous Year	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	(500)	1,000	-	1,000
Other Income	556	656	(1,077)	552	276	612	604	1,876	2,038	2,068	1,935	2,087	12,183	4,333	7,850
Total 101 - Revenue / Oper Income	130,438	44,773	52,026	57,956	46,193	35,299	51,573	44,713	37,925	63,918	55,490	77,657	697,961	(59,723)	757,684
Expense															
Part 1 - Administrative Ministries															
Total Sect 01 - SPRC (staff Parish Rel Comm)	30,856	31,786	30,492	31,202	31,532	32,871	31,332	32,598	31,731	31,917	31,246	32,621	380,184	(39,000)	419,184
Total Sect 02 - Trustees	275	21,443	(11,485)	1,094	1,664	1,177	5,645	633	4,346	7,314	1,214	6,467	39,787	(4,174)	43,961
Total Sect 03 - Admin / Oper Expenses	7,103	6,463	18,618	4,904	6,189	13,824	14,507	6,169	2,900	4,615	12,358	6,798	104,448	(11,016)	115,464
Part 2 - Programmatic Ministries															
Total Sect 05 - Evangelism Team	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	(2,500)	3,000
Total Sect 06 - Discipleship Team	1,859	3,389	3,159	1,916	2,952	3,188	2,352	1,523	1,764	5,958	(1,184)	3,320	30,196	(4,744)	34,940
Total Sect 07 - Worship Team	865	199	1,570	894	1,736	499	790	1,530	1,236	513	480	4,142	14,454	(8,946)	23,400
Total Sect 08 - Congregational Care Team	142	(50)	112	218	(20)	(350)	(1,250)	(952)	2,499	-	-	199	548	(852)	1,400
Total Sect 09 - Lay Ministry Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	344	-	-	344	(306)	650
Total Sect 10 - Mission Team	8,799	2,484	13,406	6,846	6,722	8,652	5,492	4,968	8,396	8,674	6,339	20,070	100,848	(14,837)	115,685
Total Expense	49,899	65,714	55,872	47,574	50,775	59,861	58,868	46,469	52,872	59,335	50,453	73,617	671,309	(86,375)	757,684
Net Ordinary Income	80,539	(20,941)	(3,846)	10,382	(4,582)	(24,562)	(7,295)	(1,756)	(14,947)	4,583	5,037	4,040	26,652	26,652	-

Meets or exceeds budget

Did not meet budget



Worship Service Volunteers

February 2, 10:00 AM Service

Greeters: Rick & Cathy Motter
Announcements: Donna Stinnett
Offertory: Ray Nix
Scripture: John Lockett
Communion Stewards: Ray Nix, Donna Stinnett,
Howard & Pam Moran, Jayda Overfield, Brooklyn Talley

February 9, 8:30 AM Service

Greeters: Dave & Susan Latham
Announcements: Donna Stinnett
Affirmation of Faith: Kevin Hein
Offertory: Ray Nix
Scripture: Stacy Powell

February 9, 10:45 AM Service

Greeters: Dave & Susan Latham
Announcements: Meg Burnley
Scripture: Rev. Leslie McKown

February 16, 8:30 AM Service

Greeters: Rita Stagg & Annette Garrison
Announcements: Donna Stinnett
Affirmation of Faith: Mike Duffy
Offertory: Ray Nix
Scripture: Allah Simmons

February 16, 10:45 AM Service

Greeters: Rita Stagg & Annette Garrison
Announcements: Cathy Motter
Affirmation of Faith: Dennis Nelson
Scripture: Rev. David Latham

February 23, 8:30 AM Service

Greeters: Dave & Sandi Wallace
Announcements: Donna Stinnett
Affirmation of Faith: Jayda Overfield
Offertory: Ray Nix
Scripture: Ann Crafton

February 23, 10:45 AM Service

Greeters: Dave & Sandi Wallace
Announcements: Susan Latham
Affirmation of Faith: Sandi Wallace
Scripture: Brenda Sasse

First UMC Officer Installment

Sunday, February 2, 10 AM

(See page 6 for a list of 2025 Officers)



"She Loves to Eat Out"

All Women Are Invited!

Applebee's

Thursday, February 13, 12:15 PM

Please RSVP by February 10

**Susan Latham (270-826-1191)
or Joyce Lutz (270-577-5300)**

The Nellie Brown Circle expresses sincere thanks to everyone who gave generously at the November 3rd Soup & Sandwich Luncheon. \$1300 was raised for UMCOR Helene Hurricane Disaster Relief.

*Nellie Brown
Circle*

Bake Sale

February 9

Proceeds will benefit mission needs.

Worship With Us!

First Sunday of Each Month at 10:00 A.M.
All Other Sundays at 8:30 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.
(Nursery Care is available for children up to age 4)



Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
(The office may close each day for a 30 minute lunch break)
Friday: 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Articles for The Circuit Rider

All articles for the March issue
should be submitted to the church office
by Monday, February 24.

Church Staff

Rev. Janet Carden, *Pastor*

EJ Simmons, *Worship Leader,*

Director of Outreach, Young Adult & Youth Ministries

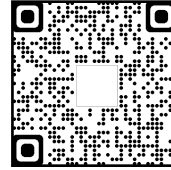
Nikolai Peek, *Director of Choral Ministries, Organist*

Mary Fuller, *Financial Secretary*

Beth Hayes, *Administrative & Executive Assistant*

Gifts to First UMC

may be mailed to the church, given in person
during worship services or church office
hours, or given online by scanning
the QR code below.



H e n d e r s o n F i r s t U M C . o r g

First United Methodist Church
338 Third Street
PO Box 492
Henderson, KY 42419

NonProfit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 132
Henderson, KY 42420



Our Mission is To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the Transformation of the World

