

LJ's LETTER

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” Julian of Norwich

Julian was born in 1332 in a small town, Norwich, several hours outside of London. In 1338 the beginning of the great plague occurred killing 1/3 of the population of the country. It was a trying time in which Julian lived.

Julian, when she was 30, experienced visions from God, which she wrote down. She became known as one of the great mystics. Some say she was the first mystic of the western world, the first woman in the west to write of spirituality, and the first writer in the west to speak of God as mother.

The most famous of Julian’s visions included the words quoted above. Julian heard God say these words to her. In the midst of incredible suffering around her, in her family, in her church, in her community, in her country, she heard these words. These words have endured from her to us for over 600 years.

Julian heard these words in the midst of God’s love for her, her community and her country. Being grounded in the fact that she was the recipient of God’s unconditional love and grace, Julian could say, and believe, that all would be OK. Nothing can separate us from the love of God – so all is well.

Julian’s words remind me of one of my favorite hymns. The last words we sing at the end of the hymn are, “It is well, it is well with my soul!” Perhaps this is a more contemporary version of Julian of Norwich’s vision in the 14th century.

No matter what is happening in your life, no matter what happened yesterday, what happens today, or what will happen tomorrow, remember the words of Julian of Norwich, and believe, grounded in faith as the recipient of God’s unconditional love and grace – all shall be well. Amen.

Inside This Issue	
United Methodist Women	2
The Runabouts	2
Children and Youth Page	3
Our Mission Notes	4
The Bulletin Board	4
Mark Your Calendar	5
Donations	5

Blessings,
Lauri Jo

(adapted from a devotion by the Reverend Dr. Sharon Bezner)

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met January 14, beginning the New Year with a program by Gwen Chambers, assisted by Phyllis Lovette and Maxine Davidson. There was very little business to take care of. After the busy days of November and December, we just sat back and said "Whew! Let's catch our breath before we plunge into the New Year."

The February meeting will be on the 11th. Marie Geisler and Marilyn Harden will present our annual Call to Prayer and Self Denial.

As always, we want to encourage all women of the church to join the United Methodist Women. The importance of this organization cannot be over-emphasized. Our PURPOSE helps us to know who we are, whose we are and for what purpose we have organized. Our primary concern has been mission; the total program encompasses a broad spectrum of activities, concerns, issues, challenges and opportunities. Education is the key, so we strive through Bible studies, retreats and inspirational events to learn how best to carry out our mission work for women, children and youth around the world, to follow Christ's teachings to do acts of love, justice, mercy and faith, and to serve one another on an equal basis.

PURPOSE of United Methodist Women
United Methodist Women is a community of women
whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom
as whole persons through Jesus Christ,
to develop a creative supportive fellowship and to
expand concepts of mission through participation
in the global ministries of the church.

The Runabouts (Adult Ministries)

The Adult Ministries Committee held a planning meeting on January 15th where we discussed activities for the Runabouts for the year. A number of good suggestions were made for activities that should keep us involved and busy during the coming months.

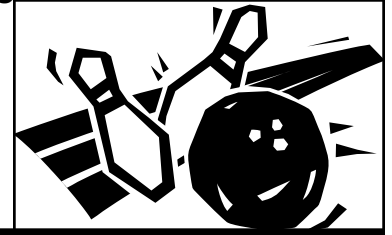
We have planned a movie day for Sunday afternoon, February 21st at 2:00 PM in the church fellowship hall. We will be showing the movie "Facing the Giants". This is a movie about a high school football coach who, when faced with seemingly insurmountable professional and personal crises, learns to trust in the power of faith and discovers the strength to win. We invite everyone to the showing of this movie. We are asking those that will to bring finger foods (snack foods) and the Adult Ministries Committee will provide soft drinks and coffee for those attending.

We'll be playing BUNCO on Monday, February 22nd at 1:00 PM in the fellowship hall. we think everyone would enjoy this get together. We have good fun and truly enjoy the Christian fellowship we have together. We will have snacks and soft drinks and coffee. COME JOIN US.

We are planning another movie afternoon for Palm Sunday, March 28th. We'll be showing the movie "THE ROBE" on this date. This will be an appropriate time for this film since the central theme is the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please make plans now to join us for this one.



Children & Youth News



ACOLYTES

Feb. 7: Hannah & Katie

Feb. 14: Mason & Will

Feb. 21: Julia & Kali

Feb. 27: Karter & Sophie

Youth Schedule

Feb. 7: Super Bowl Sunday UMY Time: 3:30-5:00

The youth will meet early today for a short devotional, games, and yummy finger foods. Youth are encouraged to come join us for some pre-game fun. Game starts at approx. 6:30 so this will get you home for the game with plenty of time to spare.

Feb. 14: UMY Time: 6:00-7:30 Snacks: David

Feb. 21: UMY Time: 6:00-7:30 Snacks: Geagley

Feb. 28: Youth Fun outing & Lunch

What: Bowling at Holiday Lanes

Time: 12:00-3:30

Cost: \$5.00 plus snack money for lanes

Coolager Schedule

Feb. 3: Coolager Snacks: Cagney

Feb. 10: Coolagers Snacks: DeAnndra

Feb. 17: Coolager Bowling outing

Feb. 24: Coolagers Snacks: Susanna

Coolager Fun outing

Wed, Feb. 17

Bowling at Holiday Lanes

Time; 12:30-3:30

Cost: \$5.00 +

Snack money for lanes

Our Mission Notes



LENTEN OFFERING

LENTEN PRAYER/OFFERING CALENDAR – TO BENEFIT THE UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (UMCOR)



Once again we will be collecting a special offering during the 40 days of Lent. This year we will have a calendar to guide our prayer and our giving on behalf of the millions of people served by the work of UMCOR. UMCOR is the global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church working in over 80 countries, including the United States. UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster. Most recently, UMCOR has provided relief to earthquake survivors in Haiti. Each day in Lent you will have the opportunity to learn about and pray for the work of UMCOR around the world. Then you will be invited to give back based on your own abundant access to food, clean water, shelter, and health care. During the season of Lent, let us turn from our own self-interest and consider the needs of the poor, the suffering, and the hungry both in our country and around the world.

Look for your Lenten Prayer/Offering Calendar beginning at the Ash Wednesday service on February 17th.



PARAGUAY MISSION TRIP

July 5th - 15th • Volunteers needed for more details please see David Hale. This mission trip will provide many opportunities for volunteers to provide help, please don't hesitate to offer your talents and gifts. The trip is not limited as to where your talents and opportunity to serve can be used.



The Bulletin Board

Abiding Love Bible Study with Trudy Tait

On March 2nd Trudy Tait will resume her Bible Study on a Tuesday morning. For those who are tired of the Old Testament, there's good news! We will be studying the Book of Acts which should be a challenging and exciting experience. All are welcome at the usual time: Tuesday morning in the Fellowship Hall at 10am.

My heart is so full of appreciation for the prayers that have gone up for my son, Bobby, for skill for the Surgeons and love shown with the thousands of posts that give much encouragement and bring Gods love pouring into his heart. All the Goddard family say how we appreciate the prayer warriors that give with a sacrifice of prayer on his behalf, and his sisters and brothers who are there to lean on. Thank you so much IN HIS LOVE Patricia Goddard Longmire



Mark your Calendar

	USHERS	SOUND	VIDEO	SCRIPTURE	ACOLYTES
02-07-10	Team 5	Doug Canter	Rachel Hulshult	Wesley Bradley	Hannah & Katie
02-14-10	Team 6	Doug Canter	Doug Hulshult	Ron Laws	Mason & Will
02-21-10	Team 1	Doug Canter	Sage Geagley	Andrew Bentley	Julia & Kali
02-28-10	Team 2	Doug Canter	JD Livingston	Diane Walter	Karter & Sophie

02-06-10	Trip to deliver items to Jubilee Project in Sneedville, TN—8:00 am
02-11-10	UMW Meeting—1:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting—7:00 pm in the Conference Room
02-17-10	Ash Wednesday Service—6:30 pm
02-20-10	Johnson City District UMW Luncheon—noon in the Fellowship Hall NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - email soblessed@embarqmail.com
02-21-10	Roundabouts—Movie in the Fellowship Hall “Facing the Giants” 2:00 pm

*All the Coolager and Youth Activities are not included in this schedule, please refer Children and Youth section of Newsletter each group’s schedule of events.

Happy Birthday to....

Caleb Tull 1st
Norma Tetrick 2nd
Phyllis Meece 7th
Jonathan Gwinn 8th

Ellie Smith 9th
Catherine Edwards Bunton 15th
Robbie Rike 17th
Becky Sharp 17th
Doug Canter 18th

Briana McManus 18th
Diane Horton 21st
Marilyn Hardin 23rd
Barry Tait 25th
Danae Hill 28th

Donations

Thanks again to our family and extended family for their contributions as well as for honoring and remembering their loved ones.

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO:

GENERAL MEMORIAL

Frank & June Harrill by Patty & Phil Miller
Hazel Schuettler by Katherine LaPorte

JUBILEE PROJECT

Richard Lovette, Sr. by Robert L. Schaff

MISSIONS

Virginia Alexander by Pairs and Spares

MUSIC MINISTRY

Hazel Schuettler by Sam and Ruth Ritchie
Hazel Schuettler by Lou Howell

HONORARIUMS GIVEN TO:

GENERAL MEMORIAL

Greg, Julie, Alan, & Daniel Bowers
by Patty & Phil Miller

MUSIC MINISTRY

Jim & Marilyn Hardin by Sam & Vickie Shipley
Jim & Marilyn Hardin by Betty & Lewis Bowers
Hazel Schuettler by Sam and Ruth Ritchie
Hazel Schuettler by Lou Howell



First United Methodist Church
325 East E Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Non Profit Org.
 U. S. Postage
PAID
 Elizabethton, TN
Permit No. 157



Place label here

Our Staff and Services

PASTOR:

Lauri Jo Cranford
 revlj@embarqmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Robin Gray
 soblessed@embarqmail.com

MINISTER TO CHILDREN/YOUTH:

Debbie Fields
 fumckids@embarqmail.com

MINISTER OF MUSIC:

David Hale
 dhrhhale@chartertn.net

CONTACT US:

Phone: (423)543-3505
 Fax: (423)543-2168

WEBSITE:

www.elizfumc.com



STATED MEETINGS

Weekly

Sunday

Morning Worship	9:55 a.m.
Children's Church	
Fellowship Time	11:00 a.m.
Sunday School	11:20 a.m.
United Methodist Youth	6:00—7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Coolagers	3:15—4:45 p.m.
Mid Week Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Handbell Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8:00 p.m.

Monthly

Administrative Council	2nd Sunday, 7:00 p.m.
Trustees	2nd Sunday, 6:00 p.m.
Worship Committee	2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
United Methodist Women	
	2nd Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
Circle #6	3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.