

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, December 10

9:30 Coffee in the Commons
 9:30 Intergenerational Advent Activities in Fellowship Hall
 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
 12:15 Lunch, Advent Fair Activities
 Christmas Caroling & Basket Delivery to Shut-in's
 5:00 Youth Group

Monday, December 11

8:15 Women's Emmaus
 8:30 Mother's Morning Out
 2:00 Bell Choir Practice
 6:00 ELL at Good Shepherd

Tuesday, December 12

8:30 Men's Emmaus
 8:30 Mother's Morning Out
12:00 Prayer & Healing Service
 5:00 Trustees Team Meeting
 7:00 Benefit Concert for BRES Music Student Aid Fund by Bryan Heller in the CUMC Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 13

8:30 Mother's Morning Out
 3:30 Kreative Kidz Zone
 5:30 "An Unexpected Christmas" Musical by Kreative Kidz Zone & Young Singers of the Plateau
 6:30 Fellowship Meal
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 14

8:30 Mother's Morning Out

Friday, December 15

8:30 Mother's Morning Out
 9:30 Friday Folders

Consider Year-End Giving through Tax-Favored Opportunities

As you begin to make decisions about your year-end giving, please give prayerful consideration to include Cashiers UMC in your plan. Through your generosity we are able to help so many people in need near and far. As with all financial matters, you should consult your professional tax advisor to be sure that these provisions are advantageous to your individual situation.

Stock Gifting: Forms and instructions for stock gift giving can be found on our website at www.cashiersumc.org/aboutus/financial, on the credenza outside the sanctuary door, or by contacting Sarah Henry at cumcmain@gmail.com or 828-743-5298.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD): If you are 70 1/2 years of age or older, you must make Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA. The IRS allows a taxpayer to make a tax-free QCD of up to \$100,000 annually directly to an eligible charity such as a church. These RMD can also be made throughout the year and not as a single gift. As you talk with your financial advisor about year-end tax deductions, please consider the church as one of your RMD tax-free deductions. It's a great way to give to CUMC to further our ministries and to take the gift as a tax-free deduction - a win-win for both of us.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal December 13, 5:30 p.m.

Reservations are needed by noon on Tuesday. Please call the church office for reservations or drop this form in the offering plate.

**Menu: Spiral-Sliced Ham, Macaroni & Cheese,
Green Bean Casserole, Salad, Bread & Dessert**

Name (s) _____

Opportunities for Service

This Tuesday, December 12th, 7:00 p.m. Benefit Concert at CUMC



CUMC's pianist, **Bryan Heller**, will be hosting a concert in our church sanctuary to benefit the BREC Music Student Aid Fund. The fund assists Blue Ridge School music students in the pursuit of musical knowledge. The concert will feature Bryan on piano, as soloist and also accompanying Greg Hall on trumpet, Judy Cottingham on vocals, and Sarah Harkins on flute. One hundred percent of the love offering taken during the concert will be donated to the BREC Music Student Aid Fund. For additional information regarding the Music Department at Blue Ridge School and Early College, contact music teacher, Sarah Hall, at shall@jcpsmail.org.



Would you like to be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army this Christmas season? Dates and times are available to ring the bell in two hour intervals at Ingles in Cashiers. Monies collected are used to help many families in need throughout the year. A little bit of your time can really impact the lives of many. If you would like to help, contact George Henry at 828-743-3870.

Upcoming Wednesday Evening Study: *The Five Marks of a Methodist*

This 6-week small-group, video-based study is by Dr. Steve Harper, United Methodist clergy and Asbury Seminary president and professor. We will begin the study on Wednesday, January 3. *The Five Marks of a Methodist* provides extended reflection on the five identifiers that John Wesley set forth in "The Character of a Methodist," which he published in 1742, which rests upon the solid foundation of gospel characteristics for all Christians. The six sessions are:

1. Character: The Marks of a Methodist
2. A Methodist Loves God
3. A Methodist Rejoices in God
4. A Methodist Gives Thanks
5. A Methodist Prays Constantly
6. A Methodist Loves Others

Participant books may be purchased in the office for \$9.00.

Women's Monday Bible Study to Begin on January 15

Beginning on Monday, January 15, at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall, the Monday Women's Bible study will resume. The eight-week study will focus on "Jesus Calling—Putting Jesus First," the book by Sarah Young. Ladies, mark your calendar and join us!

It's Holiday Shopping Time Again!



Do you want to shop at **Amazon.com** and help our church at the same time? We are set up as a charity through Smile.Amazon.com, so we receive a very small portion of what you spend without you spending an extra penny. It's a win-win for everyone. **It's very easy to do! Just type www.smile.amazon.com.** Then, you will be asked **the charity of your choice in which you will type "Cashiers United Methodist Church"**. The next step is to shop, shop, shop, until your heart's content! Tell your friends and family about this opportunity too - it doesn't cost you a thing and it helps the church and as always, thank you for supporting our church!

Smoky Mountain District Leadership Empowerment Event

First Sylva United Methodist Church, Sylva, NC
 Sunday, February 11, 2018, 2:00 — 4:30 p.m.

Empowering Lay & Clergy Leaders
 through Practical Training, Interactive Discussion and Best Practices.
 Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this informative event!

An Open Letter to Church Council Members and Upcoming Members:

Dear Servants of God,

We will not have Church Council during December. If you need Church Council approval on an issue, please notify Sarah or myself, and we will schedule a called meeting. I pray that during this time you will cherish and enjoy your time with family and friends. I also ask that you take time to pray for our country, our leaders, our community, our church, our pastor, and our staff, as well as the new members of the Church Council.

In an effort to prepare our Church for this next year, I have asked that the sanctuary be available for prayer each Sunday from 9:30 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. I invite all of you to come and pray, spend quiet time with God, seeking His guidance and discernment. This prayer time is open to everyone in the Church, and you may want to extend a personal invitation to the members of your ministry team to come and pray.

I believe in the power of prayer to strengthen our church, to guide our hearts, and to restore our souls. It is through the power of prayer that we can, as a church, do what we are called to do: simply to serve God wherever and whenever we can, to continue to support those in need, and to reflect the love of God that we have personally experienced.

I believe in the ministry of our church and that God has great things planned for us if we only take the time to seek His will in all that we say and do. It has always started with prayer. It is through intentionally setting aside time to commune with God and by first giving thanks for all that we have been given that we can then seek His will for our lives and for our church. I believe in the power of prayer to support and to guide our pastor, our staff, and our Church as we seek to serve God through helping others.

I pray that the joy of Christ will fill your Christmas. I pray for peace in our world in this coming year, the true peace that Jesus brought to this hurting world.

Larry Morris
 Council Chair



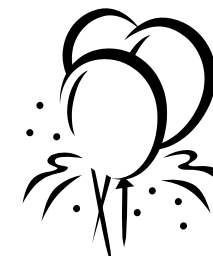
Our Children's Ministry Experience!

Each Wednesday, 3:30 - 5:20 – Bus pick-up from school!

All children experience a full palette of creative activities with the arts and God. To register, contact Betty Morris at 828-743-5298 or BLMorris1201@gmail.com.

UP (United Praise) Ministries at CUMC!

Classes include Ballet Foundations on Mondays, Spirit Stomp on Tuesdays, and Revelatory Contemporary Dance on Thursdays. All ability levels are welcome! See the UP website at <https://www.up-ministries.com> or call 828-399-0839.



Celebration

We celebrate and were blessed by the talents of the Cashiers Community Chorus, their Director, Betty Morris, and the Young Singers of the Plateau, by their presentation of the cantata "God With Us!" this past Sunday.