

"Deck the Halls" of Tucker First. The worship team invites you and your family to help "Deck the Halls" of Tucker First. We will decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons today at 4:00 pm. There are multiple activities available, including decorating the Chrismon tree, hanging wreaths and garlands, fluffing bows, and more. Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/DeckTheHalls2021> so that we can estimate the number of volunteers. Questions? Contact Evelyn Burkett at ehburkett@comcast.net.

Readers needed for Hanging of the Greens Program. On Sunday, November 28, our 11:00 am worship service will focus on the significance of the Advent decorations in the Sanctuary. The service will include short readings and special music. We need twenty-eight readers for this program (script provided). Adults, youth, and children are encouraged to participate alone or with their family and their friends. To sign up, go to <https://tinyurl.com/HangingoftheGreensReader>. Questions? Contact Evelyn Burkett at ehburkett@comcast.net.

Lend Your Nativity for Advent. For Advent this year, we would like to have the Gathering Room and Narthex filled with Nativity sets borrowed from Tucker First families and members.

Please bring your nativity sets to the Gathering Room on Sunday, November 28, or to the church office, November 29 – December 2 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm). Include your family's name, the set's origin (e.g., country, region, or state.), approximate set age, and any other significant item you would like people to know about the set. The nativities will be on display during worship on Sunday, December 5 and December 12, and during the Christmas at Tucker performances on December 12.

We hope these nativity sets will be an inspiring art display where you can view the many ways the birth of Jesus is depicted throughout the world and in our members' homes. You can pick up your nativity sets beginning December 13.

Christmas Open House-Nativities and Crafts. On Saturday, December 4, from 9:30 am to noon Tucker First will host a Christmas Open House. We invite you to visit and tour the displayed nativity sets in the Gathering Room during this time. There will also be fun activities in the Chapel where you and your family can decorate special gingerbread nativities, Christmas cookies, and Chrismons.

Please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/TuckerFirstOpenHouse> so we may make sure to have enough supplies. No RSVP is necessary for viewing the nativity sets.

We also need a few volunteers to help things run smoothly. If you would like to help, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/TFUMCOpenHouseVolunteers2021>. Questions? Contact Stephanie Shanholtzer at sshanholtzer@tfumc.org.

Let's Reach Out to Children in Our Community This Christmas Season! Our Children First program strives to provide opportunities to reach out to children in need in our local community. You can help make this Christmas season a brighter, merrier one for foster children served by Wellroot Family Services, one of our local volunteer partners. Please choose a December volunteer opportunity from these needs:

- Sort donated Christmas gifts and organize the "toy store" for foster parents to pick out gifts for their children. Help is needed on December 1, 2, and 6 at the Wellroot offices.
- Serve as a volunteer at the annual Wellroot Family Christmas event on Saturday, December 11, from 8:30 am to 11:45 am. This year's event will be outside the Wellroot offices. Volunteers will assist in checking in families, helping Santa Claus as needed, playing games and activities with the families, serving food, and loading cars with Christmas gifts.
- Wrap gifts on Tuesday, December 14, from 9:00 am to 12 noon at the Wellroot offices. The presents are for children in the Wellroot family housing program, which works with young adults transitioning out of foster care.

The Wellroot offices are located at 1967 Lakeside Parkway in Tucker. Please click on <https://wellroot.org/cultivate/annual-special-events/> for more information and to sign up for these volunteer opportunities. For questions, contact Robin Pounds at robinpounds631@gmail.com or 404-918-0069.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive. The Weekday Preschool is collecting plastic jars of peanut butter and jelly through December to benefit NetWorks. Our goal is 100 jars of each. Donations may be dropped off in church office or Preschool office.

One-Stop Shopping! Bows, Ornaments, and Baked Goods Sale. Please stop by the Gathering Room today and purchase some wonderful baked goods for your Thanksgiving table. New this year, our UMW (United Methodist Women) is also offering homemade bows and a do-it-yourself Christmas memory ornament!

- **Baked Goods Sale** - We all know that our UMW ladies are famous for their annual bake sales, so skip the baking this week and purchase a cake or a pie for Thanksgiving.
- **Homemade Festive Bows** – Freshen up your home holiday decorating with some new, homemade bows. Large bows are \$10 and smaller bows are \$7.
- **Christmas Memory Ornament** – Remember Christmas 2021 with a Christmas Memory Ornament. Have your family and friends sign the ball to create a lasting memory or to send a special message on a present. Each memory ornament is \$10 and instructions, as well as a Sharpie, are included in your bag. Special thanks to Pat Shaver for designing the ornament.

Don't Forget to Get Your Christmas at Tucker Tickets. Pick up your tickets for Christmas at Tucker in the Gathering Room before and after the 11:00 am worship service. Tickets are limited to four tickets per person - any combination of performances (Sunday, December 12, 3 pm and 6 pm). Encourage your friends and family to reserve their tickets on the Christmas at Tucker website at www.christmasattucker.com. The tickets are free, but are needed for everyone to ensure adequate seating in our Sanctuary. Tucker First is following the CDC recommendation for seating during Christmas at Tucker.

Christmas at Tucker Ticket Table Helpers Needed. We need persons to staff the tables in the Gathering Room to help distribute the Christmas at Tucker tickets before and after the 11:00 am worship service and a few other dates and times. Please click the button below to sign up to help at the ticket tables this year. Questions? Contact Cindy Smallwood at cindysue30084@gmail.com.

Tucker First Welcomes Dawn Smith Jordan to Christmas at Tucker. In addition to the great choir, talented orchestra, and powerful drama, Dawn Smith Jordan will be joining us this year for Christmas at Tucker. She is a contemporary Christian singer and songwriter as well as a recording artist from South Carolina. You may remember that she visited Tucker First several years ago. We are very excited to have Dawn with us. You can find more about her on her website at <https://www.dawnsmithjordan.com/>.

No More Plastic Shopping Bags. The church office reports they no longer need plastic shopping bags for the "Bags to Blankets" project at this time. NETWorks also has their need for plastic bags covered. We encourage you to recycle the bags at your local grocery store.

Please note that the Bags to Blankets crochet group has adjusted their meeting dates in November and December due to the holidays. Meetings are now scheduled for November 18 and December 16 at 10 am in Jenkins Hall.

Watch For Angel Tree Christmas. Incarceration can strain family ties to the breaking point. Through *Angel Tree Christmas*, churches and organizations share the love of Christ in a tangible way and strengthen family bonds by sponsoring Christmas gifts and sharing the Gospel to children on behalf of their incarcerated parents. Please watch for upcoming details on how you can support *Angel Tree Christmas*. This activity is sponsored by our United Methodist Men and our children's ministry.

Winter Retreat: I Found Hope When..... Start your new year off with your Tucker First family at a special winter retreat, January 7-9. This retreat is for adults and youth; there are no children's activities scheduled. Our time away will focus on our church theme for 2022, *Endorsing Jesus*. Through a study of the Gospels, we will explore how the hope of Jesus is genuine and present in our lives. The retreat will be at the Shocco Springs Conference Center, Talladega, AL. The cost is \$145 per person. Contact Stephanie Shanholtzer at sshanholtzer@tfumc.org to register.