

# Nolensville First United Methodist Church

7316 Nolensville Road    Nolensville, Tennessee 37135  
Office 615-776-2815    numc@nolensvilleumc.org  
www.NolensvilleUMC.org    www.WeLoveWhereWeLive.org

*a neighborhood church  
where people experience a life-changing relationship with Jesus  
in a welcoming church family*

*January 2023*

## Welcome to the Story Letter!

Hello! Welcome to the Story Letter, a celebration of the ministries of Nolensville First United Methodist Church! We started off the new year with a bang - a likely lightning strike hampered some of our equipment. The Board of Trustees has everything up and running again, but put us a bit behind on a few things. But our loving God in worship and our serving neighbors through RITI has been right on time!

Just a reminder: details of upcoming events are in our weekly electronic newsletter. If you would like a print copy of that newsletter mailed to you each week, please call the front office at 615-776-2815.

*being a neighborhood church*

## Room In The Inn

For RITI, we hosted 20 men during our two nights in December. We had over 40 volunteering opportunities met. The men we have hosted have been very appreciative of the meals, the clothing, the food, and other supplies they have received. We have prayed together, talked about life's challenges, offered words of encouragement, and received God's blessings on both our guests and ourselves.



In particular, we had a guest last Friday who has been separated from the love of his life, his granddaughter, due to the actions of his daughter, and he was so passionate about wanting to be present for his granddaughter and to be in her life, but DCS has moved her out of his range so all he can do is talk to her on the phone occasionally. We talked about his situation and prayed for deliverance for him, his daughter, and his granddaughter.

In another case, we had a guest who was very appreciative of the Christmas stockings and everything else that we provided. He confided in me that due to the included gift card he could make purchases at McDonalds and they would be less likely to force him to leave. He was traveling around with all his meager possessions in one of the last things he was able to retain, a suitcase from his prior life. He is looking for work and now that RITI has given him a mailing address, he is feeling more confident he can get work.

And not to mention, the fellowship of those who help. We have a great team; many people go the extra mile to help. That is truly a God sighting for me — the love of Christ is not invisible, I see it plainly every time we host RITI.

~Jason Holley

*loving God and neighbor where we live*

## Red Cross Blood Drive Results

Nolensville First UMC hosted a Red Cross blood drive in December and we made a difference! The drive collected 50 pints of blood which will help up to 150 patients! Your efforts have helped boost the community blood supply and ensure hospital patients have the lifesaving blood they need.



American  
Red Cross

*Thank you!*

Unfortunately, our December 23 blood drive was cancelled due to snow and ice. We have 12 blood drives scheduled in 2023, and may be adding additional ones, so watch out for opportunities to love your neighbor, give blood, and help save a life.

## Kroger Community Rewards

Dear Nolensville First United Methodist Church,

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission not to be just part of but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

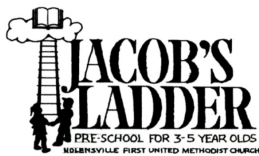


**From August through November, 2022, 25 households contributed \$91.91** to Nolensville First UMC. If you would also like to have Kroger give to the church every time you shop there, visit [www.Kroger.com/CommunityRewards](http://www.Kroger.com/CommunityRewards) and link your Kroger Card with Nolensville First UMC (account number YY167).

~Community Rewards Staff

*experiencing a life-changing relationship with Jesus*

## Jacob's Ladder Preschool News



Our students had lots of fun learning about Jesus' birth in December. We had a birthday party for Jesus complete with cake and pizza, learned Christmas songs, a poem, and Bible verses for our Christmas program and donated 60 pairs of pajamas to Tusculum Elementary school students!



---

## Ministry CelebrationsAdvent and Christmas

Christmas at Nolensville First was a wonderful season of sharing the hope, peace, joy, and love that the season brings through the birth of Emmanuel, God with us. We began with preparing for Advent at our first Candlelight Hanging of the Greens service and creating an Advent candle craft. Everything looked beautiful that night and thanks to those who helped decorate everything for the season.

On the first week of Advent, the Christmas Tea returned after three years; the food, fellowship, and tables were full and fabulously decorated. Thanks to the members of the NFUMC Choir who planned and prepared along with those who served it was great success raising money for the Dot Arnold Scholarship. The next day NFUMC shared the story of Christ with our town as over 30 children, youth and adults walked or rode in the Second Annual Nolensville Holiday Parade.

On the second week of Advent we joined together on Sunday night for Merry Christmas to all presented by our NFUMC Choir and our Children's Ministry sharing with music and drama. It was an amazing night of seeing them all use their talents and gifts!

On the third week of Advent we celebrated our last Wednesday Night GROW (Growing Relationships on Wednesday) with a big party for all ages and games too!

On the fourth week of Advent we invited our community to gather together at our Blue Christmas service to support those who find this season not so merry for a variety of reasons. In addition to our church family, several came from the greater Nolensville community after seeing it on our sign and were so appreciative that we offered it.



Finally, we arrived at Christmas Eve after some wild and wacky weather that could have derailed that night. But everything went on as planned with our 4pm Family Worship that involved everyone present as a part of the story. We all became the cast of Christmas! Then our 7pm Contemporary Service continued the celebration led by our Praise Team and then we gathered together for our 11pm Classic service. There is always something different and almost magical about being together when midnight comes and we truly celebrate Christ's birth. Then on Christmas Day, we gathered again at 10am for an opportunity to worship that will not come again for eleven years.

Looking back there were so many ways in which came together in worship and witness along with serving Christ through Operation Christmas Child, Operation Santa with the Williamson County Juvenile Justice, and serving the Room in the Inn men with love, laughter and gifts.



Celebrating a Savior who has come to the world to save us and be with us — truly that is what Christmas is about, Charlie Brown. :^)



## Children's Ministry News



Things could not have gotten much busier for the Children's Department than what they were in December! In addition to weekly Sunday School classes and WonderKids! on Wednesday nights, the kids had a number of discipleship experiences.



We kicked things off on December 4 by participating in the Nolensville Holiday Parade. More than a dozen kids were dressed as part of the Cast of Christmas and joined youth and adults on the church float in the parade.

The next week was our biggest event of the season, involving 20 children from pre-school through grade five. The children presented their Christmas musical, "Christmas Road Trip," in front of a packed congregation! Their enthusiasm in acting, singing, and sharing the story of a large family learning about the road trip experienced by Mary and Joseph all those years ago was an inspiring way to feel the joy of the season.



The Light Brights (our pre-youth fourth and fifth graders) held their Christmas dinner in the Foundation. They played several games before dinner, and then laughed their way through "the worst Christmas gift ever" gift exchange.



During children's worship time one Sunday the children created Christmas cards to give to the men from Room in the Inn when they stayed at the church.

Finally, a number of our children were involved in the Family Friendly Christmas Eve service, serving as angels and shepherds in acting out the Christmas story. This non-traditional nativity pageant included youth and adults in the roles of the animals, the kings, and additional shepherds and angels. It was quite an experience!



*Mr. B.*

David Belden  
Children and Family Director  
[children@nolensvilleumc.org](mailto:children@nolensvilleumc.org)



## Youth Ministry News

Youth were very busy during December. We had:

- float making
- card sending
- Christmas tea serving
- Nolensville parade participating as the Cast of Christmas float,
- Plaid and pancakes partying
- Stocking designing
- "Snow ball" fighting, and
- Advent studying!

NOLENVILLE  
FUMC  
YOUTH



Blessings,

Ms. T

Tonia Bush

Youth Director

youth@nolensvilleumc.org

### Welcome Our Newest Members!

Please welcome and congratulate our newest members of Nolensville First Dawn & Tom Ruiz. Welcome to our family!



To the Staff Parish Relations and the Nolensville First Community

In December, the SPPRC asked the entire church family recognize the hard work that goes on behind the scenes.



The Staff replied:

We are all so very grateful for the love and support you have given to us all over this past year. With all the changes new exciting things have taken place and we are so happy that you all appreciate the new programs that have been added. You have helped the transition to be seamless and we are so thankful. Thank you also for showering us all with encouragement and love. This church operates above the norm for most congregations and its all due to the support of you all. We, the staff, are overwhelmed with love and are beyond grateful.

Blessings,  
NFUMC Staff 2022

---

### The Annual Christmas Tea Returned!

A Nolensville First UMC Christmas tradition returned in December as the music department held its Christmas Tea. Sixteen women prepared highly decorative tables, and more than 100 guests enjoyed the afternoon. The formal tea treats were created by a team of women and men from the church. As usual, the men of the church volunteered to be the servers. Lynn Glick, Jeff Glick, and Barbara Belden served as the coordinators of the event.



While the Christmas Tea is a wonderful time of fellowship, the event serves as a the chief fundraiser for the Dot Arnold Music Scholarship. In addition to selling tickets to the tea, many women donated baked goods which were auctioned to raise additional funds. The money raised assures that the scholarship fund has been replenished and will continue to be awarded to college bound youth in the coming year.



# Upcoming Events in



For more information and updates, see the weekly bulletin and email, or visit [www.WeLoveWhereWeLive.org/news](http://www.WeLoveWhereWeLive.org/news)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 10am Worship</p> 	<p>2 New Year's Day observance – offices closed 7pm Lions Club</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Jacob's Ladder first day</p>	<p>5 10:30am Friendly Neighbors 6pm Cub Scouts 297</p>	<p>6</p>  	<p>7</p>
<p>8 <b>Epiphany Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am</p>  <p>9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 5pm Youth Progressive Dinner</p>	<p>9 4pm Girl Scouts 2992 7pm Venturing Crew 299</p>	<p>10 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Trustees</p>  <p>7pm Boy Scouts 298</p>	<p>11 10:30am UMW</p>  <p>5:30pm</p> 	<p>12 1:15pm Blood Drive</p>  <p>6pm Cub Scouts 297</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 St. Patrick's Anglican Church Leadership Retreat</p>
<p>15 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30am Worship 9:45am Confirmation Info Meeting 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship</p>	<p>16 MLK Jr Day – offices closed</p>  <p>7pm Lions Club</p>	<p>17 1pm Staff Meeting 1:30pm District Meeting 7pm Boy Scouts 298</p>	<p>18 5:30pm</p> 	<p>19 6pm Cub Scouts 297</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21 6pm Youth Guys Night</p>
<p>22 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 2pm Youth Ignite 5pm Family Night: Red White &amp; Pink</p> 	<p>23 7pm Venturing Crew 299</p>	<p>24 7pm Boy Scout Court of Honor</p>	<p>25 5:30pm</p> 	<p>26 1pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>  <p>6pm Cub Scouts 297</p>	<p>27 10:30am</p> 	<p>28</p>
<p>29 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:30 Youth Roller Skating 4pm Confirmation Classes Begin</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 7pm SPPRC 7pm Boy Scouts 298</p>				