



*Loving People into the Kingdom of God in the Heart of Catawba County.*

# First United Methodist Church

## Newton, North Carolina

JULY 2016

### IN TOUCH



300 N. Main Ave.  
PO Box 926  
Newton, NC 28658



828-464-8422



fumcnewtonnc.org



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Dear Friends,

Sunday, June 26 was an incredible day of worship and celebration at First Methodist! Thank you for the myriad of ways you honored David and encouraged me – the *Pastor Parade* at 11:00 Worship, the delicious breakfast at the Praise Service, the ice cream party in the afternoon, the generous gifts, and all the words of affirmation will be treasured memories for years to come. For the past several weeks, First Church has been through an interesting transition - the senior pastor accepting a new appointment while the associate pastor moves into the lead role and to top it off, the two pastors are married! There are only a handful of United Methodist churches that experience this type of transition and let me say, First Church you have navigated it with wisdom and grace. Thank you for your openness to change, your willingness to try new things and your joy filled spirit!

As we move into the future, I am confident that this great church will not miss a beat. The number of lay people who have said, “Yes” when asked to serve has been remarkable. The ways in which you will now be sharing in the ministries of the church beautifully mirrors the disciples’ actions in Matthew 14:13-21. The disciples were experiencing a food crisis. A huge crowd had gathered around Jesus, it was getting late in the day, people were getting hungry and no one had reserved a caterer.

Domino’s pizza wasn’t available and no one had called for take-out. Panic stricken, the disciples went to Jesus and suggested that he send everyone away. Instead, Jesus said, “They need not go away; **you** give them something to eat.” Just like the disciples joined together and shared in the serving of others, so too have the modern day disciples at First Church. Here are just a few examples ...

**WORSHIP LEADERS** – will now serve in the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Lay Readers have been trained and are eager to lead this congregation in celebrating and honoring God on Sunday mornings.

**COMMUNION MINISTERS** - will be sharing communion with our homebound members. Traveling in teams of two, they will set out to share the holy meal and extend the fellowship of our congregation. If you would like to be a communion minister, please join the training event on Tuesday, July 12 at 10:00am at the church. Contact Julie Braswell at [juliebbraswell@gmail.com](mailto:juliebbraswell@gmail.com).

**BUILDING MINISTERS** – will give oversight to our physical facility. The Trustees, under the leadership of Anne Lemons, has created a team of building ministers to manage the buildings, specifically on Sunday mornings and other non-office hours. If you would like to assist in this way, contact Anne Lemons at [annelemons@charter.net](mailto:annelemons@charter.net).

**THE VISION TEAM** – will begin working in the fall to prayerfully discern God’s calling for this church over the next 3-5 years. What is God calling First Church to do so that we can be effective in reaching people for Christ? The Vision Team will facilitate the conversation with the congregation as we consider all the possibilities for a vibrant future. This team is under the direction of Paul Campbell, Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

At the feeding of the 5000, Jesus instructed the disciples – **you** give them something to eat. But before the disciples went to work, Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish and he looked up to heaven and do you remember what he did? He gave thanks ... he gave thanks, and then he broke the bread and the disciples distributed it. As we begin this new chapter in the story of First Church, let us begin by giving thanks to God – the God who called First Church into being and who continues to call each of us to be His hands and feet in this community and in the world.

With deep gratitude, Willis

# Children's Ministries

## Summer Sunday School

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Preschool ages 3-5 your are welcome to join Ms. Kim & Ms. Bev for tons of fun!

K-5th graders will venture into 5 different celebrations in the Bible. Join us for Bible stories, games, crafts and cooking!

## UP\*\*\*IN\*\*\*OUT

Children K-5th grade  
Wednesday, July 20th  
9:00 am to noon, Activity Room

**UP** - we will worship God

**IN** - we will build good relationships

**OUT** - we will work together on a community project.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**VBS 2016**

**August 1 - 4 6:00 to 8:00pm**

Wax up your board and get ready to Hang Ten for Jesus. Our VBS this year will be great fun for children of nursery age through 5th grade. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall each night at 6:00 for Opening Assembly and then rotate through Bible Stories, Crafts, Science, and Recreation stations. At the end of the evening, we will return to the Fellowship Hall for Closing Assembly. On Thursday, we will have a Pancake Supper at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall to go along with our "Breakfast on the Beach" Bible story. **You may register your child and/or register to volunteer online at [2016.cokesburyvbs.com/fumcnewtonnc](http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/fumcnewtonnc), through your church bulletin, or call the church office.** Please contact Julie Braswell with any questions regarding Children's Ministries at [juliebraswell@gmail.com](mailto:juliebraswell@gmail.com)

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Katie Fleming	7/1
Timothy Wykes	7/1
Jewel Gates	7/2
Lisa Martin	7/2
Clacy Petree	7/2
Nathan Rhyne	7/2
Martha Cox	7/4
Lynn Delancey	7/4
John Lamb	7/4
Crystal Podger	7/4
Elena Swink	7/4
Betty McGee	7/5
Shawn Fountain	7/7
Benjamin Benson	7/8
Kasey Boger	7/8
Kyle Lynch	7/8
Michelle Caldwell	7/9
Kayla Cochran	7/9
Martin Driscoll	7/9
Camden Hollar	7/10
Betty Jackson	7/10
George Johnson	7/10
Emily McNeely	7/10
John Saunders	7/10

Kathryne Awad	7/11
J. Kenneth Hunsucker	7/11
Caroline Smith	7/11
Ann Davis	7/12
Robert Drum Sr.	7/12
Kay Smyre	7/12
Katie Foster	7/13
Bernice Allen	7/14
Audrey Smith	7/14
Eunice Gutyar	7/15
Jessica Rhyne	7/15
Amy Bandy	7/16
Logan Carter	7/16
James Stockner	7/16
Shannon Hefner	7/17
Susan Reinhardt	7/17
Nichole Sigmon	7/18
Teresa Fletcher	7/19
Allen Bandy Jr.	7/20
Kimberly Boston	7/20
Fred Cook Jr.	7/20
Elijah Ervin	7/20
Ashley Nguyen	7/20
Laurin Swink	7/20

Sophie Cox	7/21
Joyce Dixon	7/21
Ted Cooke	7/22
Cooper Drum	7/22
Lorene Drum	7/22
Kimberly Caldwell	7/24
Steven Dennie	7/24
David Hall	7/24
Chester Cooke III	7/25
Leslie Benson	7/26
Jason Jones	7/26
Susan Peacock	7/26
Edwin Copeland Jr.	7/27
Evelyn Johnson	7/27
Randall Podger Jr.	7/27
Randy Underwood	7/27
Celena Carter	7/28
Catherine Couture	7/28
Brittany Fulbright	7/29
Bailee Podger	7/30
Louise Barkley	7/31
Jennifer Holt	7/31
Colby Kelley	7/31
Jenny Trapp	7/31
David White	7/31

## JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Rob & Christian Cambra	7/1
Roy & Kaye Lewis	7/3
Haskew & Kristy Smith	7/4
John & Teena Branton Jr.	7/5
Peter & Marjo Erickson	7/6
Greg & Beth Phillips	7/9
Mark & Allison Newton	7/15
Ken & Paulette Moss	7/17
Al & Debbie Bandy Jr.	7/18

Bob & Jean Carter	7/18
John & Becky Stiver	7/23
James & Joelle Clark	7/24
Michael & Rebekah Laney	7/25
Clayton & Brandy Storms	7/26
Charlie & Tommi Anderson	7/28
Brett & Terra Butler	7/31
John & Donna Mull	7/31

**IMPORTANT  
ANNOUNCEMENT !**

### 3 Services will be held on Sunday, July 31.

At this time, 5th Sunday Unity Services are being discontinued. However, a combined service at 11:00am will still be held on the July 4th weekend and Christmas weekend.

### June Memorials

Bob Rights, Sr.	Current Expense fund
Lindsay Lawing	Garden Fund

### June Honorariums

David, Willis, Elizabeth, and Carter Greene	Capital Building Fund
David Greene	Garden Fund
David Greene	Robe Fund

### Sharing Our Gifts

Sunday	Attendance	Tithes and Offerings	Capital Bldg. Fund
June 5	271	11,840.50	400.00
June 12	240	8,219.00	130.00
June 19	209	7,256.00	760.00
June 26	256	8,657.40	195.00

### First United Methodist Church Staff:

Lara "Willis" Greene, Pastor  
 cell: 828-461-5918  
 John Coffey, Organist  
 Beth Fowler, Choir Director  
 Michael Roberts, Praise Service  
 Rose Bibeau, Children's Music  
 Julie Braswell, Children's Ministry  
 Ann Cook, Administrative Assist.  
 Kayla Sigmon, Nursery Ministry  
 Kristi Harvell, Preschool



*We are going to have a volunteer meeting  
 Monday, July 11th in the fellowship hall  
 for the new JOY Ministry.*

**2:00pm** - All those interested in helping with Registration (name tags, pre-registering for the following month, visitor forms etc.)

**3:00pm** - All those interested in helping with Hospitality (greeters, decorations, table games, etc.)

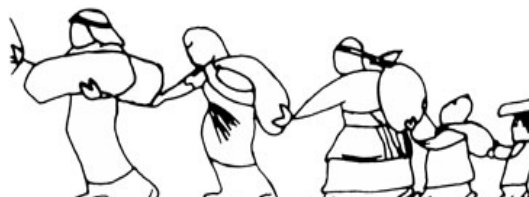
**4:00pm** - All those helping with Food (serving, dessert teams, coffee/snacks etc.)  
*If you can not attend the meeting but would like to volunteer, please call the church office.*

## First Youth Summer Events



### Ever Hiked the Appalachian Trail?

Now is your chance! You will be in great company! The church's annual Wilderness Trail trip is scheduled for Saturday, July 23rd through Friday, July 29th. This ministry is open to rising 7th graders through adult. This is a one day retreat at Mt. Rogers, Virginia followed by backpacking on the Appalachian Trail. The cost is \$225 per person and we have 2 openings available. Please contact Julie Braswell if you are interested in going [828-464-8422](tel:828-464-8422) or [juliebraswell@gmail.com](mailto:juliebraswell@gmail.com).



### Prayer Request . . .

Dear First Methodist family,  
 Please keep the youth and adults that will be on Wilderness Trail in your prayers. We specifically ask for prayers of safety. Thank you for the opportunity to be still, thus appreciating God's great landscape and HIS amazing grace. Amen.

# Build a Backpack

Would you like to sponsor a child in who is involved with Catawba County Child Protective Services with school supplies for the next school year? We have two options for backpacks. Please consider providing backpacks for each.

## Elementary

- A new standard sized backpack
- 1 wide ruled one subject spiral notebook
- 1 pack of #2 pencils (at least 10 pencils)
- 2 wide ruled composition notebooks
- 3 packs of wide ruled loose leaf paper
- 24- pack of Crayons
- 1 pair of blunt tip scissors
- 1 hard 3 ring binder (2 inch)
- 1 pencil pouch with grommets
- 1 highlighter

## Middle/High School

- A new standard OR string/cinch backpack
- 2 college ruled one subject spiral notebooks
- 1 pack of #2 pencils (at least 10 pencils)
- 1 hard 3-ring binder (3 inch)
- 1 pack divider tabs
- 3 packs of college ruled loose leaf paper
- 1 yellow highlighter
- 1 pack of blue/black ink pens

~OR~ \$20 to purchase these materials



## **A Time to Give**

During the month of July, we will be collecting school supplies for Catawba County Department of Social Services. These items will be given to foster families, post adoption families, and child protection services. The goal this year is to hand out 300 sets of school supplies in early August so that every child is prepared for the new school year. Shopping carts will be located at the Welcome Center, church vestibule, and in our Fellowship Hall for your convenience. The deadline is Sunday, July 31st. Thanks for sharing God's love with those in need.