



*A Church that Loves People into a Relationship with Christ as we
Worship, Grow, and Serve*

First United Methodist Church

Newton, North Carolina

September 2017

Dear First Church,

The summer is coming to a close and with the changing of seasons the church gears back up with programs such as Kids for Christ, the JOY ministry for adults and Youth Group gatherings. You will find details about all these ministries in this month's newsletter and here are just a few more I'd like to highlight ...

Listening Session with Adults over 65 – Sunday, September 10 at 5:00pm

The Vision Team and Church Council would like to hear from you. Come and share your hopes and dreams for this great church! Questions for you to consider will be provided beforehand so please RSVP by Thursday, September 7 to the church office at 464.8422 or by e-mailing Ann Cook at annmcook@gmail.com.

Vision Team – The twelve member Vision Team charged with the task of discerning God's vision for First Church is nearing completion of their work. At the end of this month and during the month of October, Vision Team members will share their work through Town Hall Meetings, visits with Sunday School Classes and through the website, newsletter and E-news. The Team and I are excited to receive your input and questions as we share what God is calling the church to be as we move into the future!

Congratulations to Ann Cook! Ann Cook, Church Administrator, has announced her retirement as of January 31, 2018. We celebrate this milestone in her life and give thanks to God for her faithful years of ministry. Ann is the first face that people encounter when they walk into the church and we have come to love and appreciate her graciousness and hard work. I know you will want to join me in January when we honor Ann.

It's hard to believe that it is September. It's been a great summer and I look forward to a fantastic fall with the family known as First Church!

With joy,
Willis

Invitation to Sing!

You are invited to join with the Chancel Choir to form a special "Lessons and Carols Choir." This choir will work exclusively on music for Lessons and Carols (Cantata) for **Sunday, December 17, 2017**. All that's required is a willingness to sing and praise God! Do not worry if you have no prior musical background. We will help you learn the music and have fun singing. Middle school and high school students are also encouraged to join! Rehearsals will be Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:15pm, beginning September 6, 2017. Dress rehearsal is the morning of Saturday, December 16. To sign up, or for more information, contact Sarah Luhrs at fumcnewtonchoir@gmail.com or 651-600-2301.



It's time again to support the Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley

PCC is a church-supported, nonprofit organization serving women facing unplanned pregnancies. The women are often young and have limited assistance. Staff members provide emotional, physical, and spiritual support as some women contemplate whether to keep the pregnancy. PCC promotes the sanctity of human life. PCC offers educational classes, which include Christian devotions, for women and their families about pregnancy and child development. Women can "earn" points by attending class, and they can redeem points for baby supplies and equipment. After the baby is born, PCC is there for the transition to parenthood, and to connect them to vital community resources. When you put your extra change, dollars, and checks into the empty baby bottles, you help change the trajectory of women's lives as well as their children's. We will pass out the empty baby bottles on September 10 and collect the filled bottles on October 1. For more info about PCC, please call 828-322-4272.

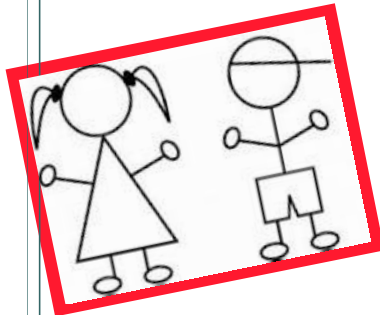


Children's Ministry



Sunday School

Children 3 years through 5th grade are invited to attend Sunday School. It is offered each week from 10:00 am to 10:45 am on the Children's Hall. Each month a different theme is presented to our children in a way in which they can understand and retain. Children experience the lessons through art, games, cooking, music, science, and videos. Our theme for September is The Prodigal Son. Please join us.



Kids 4 Christ (k4C)

This ministry is offered to children in K-6th grade beginning September 6th. Kids 4 Christ meets in the Activity Room on Wednesdays from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm and will continue during the school year. Our church bus picks up children from 4 area elementary schools for this program. Time together is spent enjoying healthy snacks, worshiping God through music and dramas, playing outside when the weather cooperates, and serving our church and community through mission projects. Our children share their talents with the congregation several times throughout the year during one of our worship services on Sunday. The first date is November 19th. Mark your calendar, as our k4C will be a big part of your worship experience that day!

Acolyte and Crucifer Training Sunday, September 10th

Children in 2nd through 5th grade and their parents are invited to meet with Julie Braswell in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 10, at 10:00 am for acolyte and crucifer training. This is an exciting time in the life of your child as they are offered the opportunity to be a worship assistant. If you have been through training but would like a refresher, you are welcome to attend.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

John Branton Jr.	9/1
Treva Sweezy	9/1
Dan Windham	9/1
Logan McLaughlin	9/2
Aniston Raines	9/3
Wendy Hildebran	9/7
Barbara McLawhorn	9/7
Lynn Preston	9/7
Ann Cook	9/8
Nicholas Foster	9/8
Betty Newsome	9/8
Carl Wayne	9/9
Joe Goble	9/10
JoAnne Hewins	9/11
Alex Yoder	9/11
Will Yoder	9/11

Evelyn Brady	9/12
Tony Sigmon	9/13
Devin King	9/14
Dot Harmon	9/15
Wayne Smith	9/15
Katie Templeton	9/15
Morgan Butler	9/17
Nona Burns	9/18
Karen Arndt	9/19
Harrison Cadwallader	9/19
Chasity Saunders	9/19
Doris White	9/19
Tracy Wilson	9/19
Margaret Dixon	9/21
Dianne Hollar	9/21
Pat Barkley	9/22

Monteen Fox	9/22
Pat Gantt	9/22
Laura DeVos	9/23
Alice Averitt	9/24
Willis Greene	9/25
Dawn Powell	9/25
Elizabeth Branton	9/26
Amy Cable	9/26
Gary Davidson	9/26
Diane Hain	9/26
Carleen Jarrett	9/26
Martha McPherson	9/26
Gail McRee	9/26
Adam Wilson	9/28
Neely Harvell	9/29
Alexis King	9/30

First YOUth - Students 6th-12th grade



Sunday School

Students in grades 6th-12th are encouraged to attend Sunday school each Sunday morning from 10:00 to 10:45 am. Youth meet on the 3rd floor of the church, first room on the right. As hot chocolate and pastries are enjoyed, weekly topics are discussed and views shared.

Sunday Evenings Events

First Youth meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. However, due to the Labor Day Holiday in September, activities will be held on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays as follows:

- **September 10 - Lake Party** at the Dixon Lake House, 5793 Powder Loop in Hickory. Traditionally, the Lake party is a time to say good-bye to summer and welcome to our newest youth members, the 6th graders and their families. Please plan to attend from 2:00 to 5:00 pm for swimming and boating. Please bring a snack to share. Thanks to the Dixon family for sharing their little piece of heaven on earth with us again!



- **September 17 - Mission Response Center**



Our first service project for this school year will be working at the Western North Carolina Conference Mission Response Center in Terrell. Please meet at the church at **2:00 pm**. We will work at the center from 2:30 to 4:30 pm and stop for dinner at The Landing Restaurant in Sherrills Ford before returning to the church. You will need money for your dinner, and you can check out their menu at <http://www.landingatthelake.com>. We should be back at the church by 7:00 pm.

If you have any questions regarding any of the children or youth ministries, please contact Julie Braswell, [828-464-8422](tel:828-464-8422) or juliebbraswell@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Wayne & Diane Hadley	9/1
Clarence & Gaye Hood Jr.	9/3
Merv & Betty McGee Jr.	9/3
Jim & Janet Byrd Jr.	9/5
Jim & Vicki Yount	9/5
Michael & Angela Gantt	9/11
Al & Susan Ellis	9/12
Will & Veronica Autry Jr.	9/13
Bill & Diane Shillito	9/13
Brandon & Allison Cox	9/15
Jason & Ashley Lamb	9/18
Kenneth & Anne Hunsucker	9/19
Jim & Trilby Stockner	9/28
Larry & Stacey Gregory	9/29

Women's Ministry

The Women's Group will meet on Monday, September 11 at 2:00pm in the Gomedela Room.

A most interesting program is planned. Dianne Hollar will be giving an overview of her recently completed book that traces the history of the Jewish Nation from its origin to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Dianne and her husband Ken are active in our church, having served on several vital committees. Dianne shares communion with the shut-ins, and assists in teaching the Joe Love Sunday School Class.

Sharing Our Gifts

Sunday	Attendance	Tithes and Offerings	Capital Bldg. Fund
August 6	190	9,350.25	100.00
August 13	185	12,913.86	180.00
August 20	193	5,737.70	1,331.00
August 27	176	8,371.20	160.00

Memorials

Maxine Morrison	Garden Fund
Sara Caldwell	Capital Building Fund
Maxine Morrison	Capital Building Fund

Honorarium

Louise Barkley	Garden Fund
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ECCCM Workday - The first Wednesday of each month has been designated as the day for our church to volunteer at ECCCM. No registration or sign-up is required, just show up! Don't feel obligated for an 8 hour day; a couple of hours will be appreciated.

On the first Sunday of every month, First Church will celebrate **PB & J Sunday**, a day for everyone to bring a plastic container of peanut butter or jelly for school Backpack programs.

IN TOUCH



300 N. Main Ave.
PO Box 926
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828-464-8422



fumcnewtonnc.org



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You can now give electronically at
www.fumcnewtonnc.org

First United Methodist Church Staff:

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



September 14

in the Fellowship Hall

Coffee/refreshments available at 9:30am

Program begins at 10:00am

The Sigmon Stringers (Bluegrass/Gospel)

A three-generation band from Newton that began performing in the 70's. They play and sing traditional as well as new songs which appeal to both younger and older audiences.

Devotion

Pastor Charmaine von Rooyen
Assistant Pastor FUMC Conover

Lunch at noon

Hamburgers, Macaroni Salad, Chips,
and Homemade Desserts

Lunch Reservations are **required. Donations accepted.**

Please call the FUMC office at (828)464-8422 by 12:00 noon the Monday before each meeting.