



News at First



Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church | August 2020

Dear First UMC family,

Thank you so much for the great honor and privilege of being your Minister of Music these past twenty-one years. It has been a deep joy to serve such a vibrant and wonderful congregation of followers of Jesus Christ. Patti, Lauren and I were excited to come to Gastonia in 1999, and I was delighted at the prospect of returning to North Carolina, where I had grown up. Over the years I had become familiar with the great ministry occurring within the Western NC Conference. I felt very much that God had called me to FUMC. I am so grateful for the opportunity to live out my vocation here as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church. And what a privilege to have followed Edith Kersh, Roger and Liz Miller, and others in such an excellent legacy of music ministry. I hope I have been able to continue that legacy.

Patti, Lauren and I have been so thankful to have been both a part of this family of faith, and the Gastonia community. Phill Morgan, SPRC chair, told us during the interview process that Gastonia was a good place to raise a child, and he was right! We will treasure the relationships that we have built here. You as a congregation have helped me grow as a minister, as a musician, and as a person. Thank you for your encouragement and love, and for your patience and forgiveness with my mistakes.

Thank you also for the opportunity to do, week in and week out, something I love to do: praising God, sharing the gospel of Christ, and celebrating the sacraments in worship! I am grateful for what we have been able to do musically as a congregation. I am especially thankful for the purchase and use of The Faith We Sing and Worship & Song as supplements to the United Methodist Hymnal. In addition, what a wonderful gift the 162 East service, launched in 2012, has been! Thank you also for the opportunity to have served, in recent years, as liturgist at the 8:45 service, and in the visitation ministry.

I am so thankful for the talents and dedication of all of our choirs: adult, youth, and children; vocal, handbell, and instrumental. Thank you for the beautiful music, wonderful worship, and discipleship we have shared.

I hardly could have imagined such a wide range of experiences: from being in the dunking tank at the church carnival, to accompanying the carillon service person up into the church steeple to inspect the bells, to participating in mission venues both locally and in other states, to preparing cantatas and concerts, to leading a Wesleyan heritage / choir tour to Great Britain!

It has been a privilege to be part of such a dynamic church staff. I am grateful for these colleagues for their friendship, collaboration, and support. I am also grateful to have served with senior pastors from Jody Seymour through David Christy and Matthew Burton.

I would especially like to thank my colleagues on the music & worship ministry staff: Susan Lisle, Timothy Scruggs, Aaron Prillaman, James Smith, Don Turner, Laura Beatty, Lisa Jurs, and all the helpers that make youth and children's choirs happen!

Patti and I are building a house in Morganton, NC and will be moving there in several months. We plan a garden plot in the backyard! The neighborhood is not far from Lake James, where we look forward to sailing. We also look forward to participating in ministries in that community. Morganton is only an hour's drive from Gastonia, and we invite you to visit! We also look forward to staying in touch with you.

In Christ's love,
Saxon Scarborough



First United Methodist Church
Gastonia, North Carolina

Take Note

Minister on Call Schedule

Matthew: 704-750-9126

Tripp: 704-477-7715

Avery: 704-559-9942

July 31-Aug. 2 – Tripp

Aug. 7-9 - Matthew

Aug. 14-16 - Avery

Aug. 21-23 - Tripp

Aug. 28-30 - Matthew

Sympathy to

- The family and friends of Mary Allen who passed away.
- Giles Beal and family on the death of his sister.
- The family and friends of Ingrid Jones who passed away.
- The family and friends of Mays Stott who passed away.
- Stephanie St. Joseph on the death of her father.

Joy to

- Ben & Jennifer Cabaniss on their birth of their son, Luke Franklin on July 22.

Sunday Morning Views

Date:	FUMC views:	162 Views:
July 5	782	201
July 12	1,059	338
July 19	1,060	312
July 26	987	475



Annual Conference 2020
Saturday, August 8, 1:00 p.m.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020
WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY.**

Program & Reports are available at
<https://www.wnccumc.org/files/content/departments/ministerial+services/ac+2020/2020+p%26r+final.pdf>

SEND US YOUR
Pictures
FOR OUR
*Pews
& chairs*



Help Rev. Dr. Matthew Burton preach to a full congregation by either mailing (PO Box 218 Gastonia, NC 28053), emailing (amanda@fumcgastonia.org) or dropping off a photo to the church of your family. Pictures will be placed on the pews and chair backs of the Sanctuary and in the Theatre. Please describe where you normally sit and we will try to place your photo there.

Thanks to those who have already made a submission.



HELP US CELEBRATE REV. SAXON SCARBOROUGH!

Rev. Saxon Scarborough has retired as of July 1, 2020 as Minister of Music. His last day with us at FUMC will be August 16. We are grateful for Saxon's ministry among us!
We are inviting anyone who would like to do so to contribute to a Love Offering to be presented to Saxon. You may make your checks payable to the church and mark them "Saxon Scarborough Love Offering". Please send your offerings no later than Wednesday, August 12th.

Send checks to:

P.O. Box 218

Gastonia, NC 28053

You can also give online by clicking this link: <https://www.fumcgastonia.org/givepay/tithedonate> and choosing "other" in the fund drop down menu and typing "Saxon Scarborough Love Offering" in the notes section.

We will plan a reception that can be held at a later date in his honor.

In His Light,

Stephanie Elliott

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

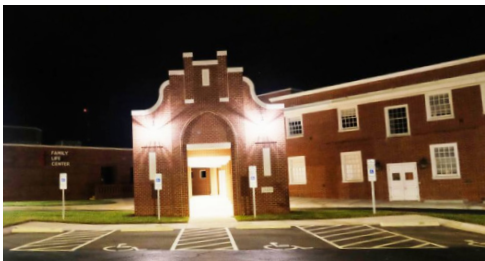


Yellow Hat Report

August 2020

The Yellow Hat Crew thought we'd share some nighttime photos of the exterior of the campus, with the new building lit from the inside and landscape lighting shining on the outside:

From the main parking lot on the west side of the Sanctuary (near Franklin Blvd) you can really see the new entrance and drop off! The church has worked with the City of Gastonia to provide additional parking lot lights, too, for added safety and security.



A closer view of 1900 Facade and drop off lane at the new west entrance.



On the east side of the campus, the new entrance looks awesome with the interior lights on. We intend to keep the new gathering space partially lit at night, as the LED lights use so little electricity and provide additional security and a nice visual element for passersby. You may notice the steeple is better-lit since the building project concluded...the flood lights on top of the education/office wing of the main building were repaired and upgraded to LEDs.



Worship Arts Ministry



Worship Online
WITH US
SUNDAY!

**JOIN US ON OUR WEBSITE
OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

**162 EAST- 8:45AM
TRADITIONAL- 11:00AM**

TUNE IN 10 MINUTES BEFORE EACH SERVICE
FOR A TIME OF INTERACTIVE FELLOWSHIP.

Prayer Requests

Email prayers to:
amanda@fumcgastonia.org

Please specify if it is a private prayer for clergy/ staff only, or if you would like it to be added to the weekly prayer list sent out in the e-blast.

Giving & Tithing

Give Online:
www.fumcgastonia.org/givepay

Give by Mail:
P.O. Box 218 Gastonia, NC 28053

Sunday worship online:
Facebook.com/FUMCGastonia | Facebook.com/162East | Fumcgastonia.org



10 BEFORE

Join us ten minutes before each Sunday service for a time of interactive fellowship. With special guests each week, this will be a fun way to “catch up” with your FUMC friends!

8:35- 162 East & 10:50- Traditional

ON YOUR SMART TV



DOWNLOAD THE BOXCAST APP



SEARCH FOR:
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Rev. Saxon Scarborough
Minister of Music
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Aaron Prillaman
162 East Worship Leader
aaron@fumcgastonia.org



Timothy Scruggs
Organist
timothy@fumcgastonia.org

Fall Smallgroups



Join us after
worship on
August 30th
for a virtual kickoff
to our Fall
Small Groups!

Join us from
12:30-1:30 PM
as we hear from our
staff and
leaders about the
offerings for
discipleship through
Digital Ministry. You
will be able to sign
up online for the
small group that
meets your needs.

John 3:8 "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it's going."

This pandemic is presenting innumerable opportunities to trust the wind and let life unfold. It is not easy to trust the wind; we prefer control and visible assurance.

Emily P. Freeman hosts a podcast "The Next Right Thing". One of my favorite lines from her is "God's word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path, not a football field." Isn't that so true of us - we want to see the entire picture or the finished product. We want to get to the other side NOW!

For the near future, I believe we are meant to take baby steps. We need to wait for the wind and our path will unfold in God's timing. This is true in our personal life, but also for our church.

Small groups will look different this fall, but there will be a spiritual renewal for such a time as this. Even though we cannot gather in person during this virus, we are committed to continuing to live out our mission to see Christ in every person we encounter (via Zoom), and demonstrate to them the love of God and the teachings of Jesus

Becky Greene
Director of Spiritual Formation



Becky Greene
Director of Spiritual Formation
becky@fumcgastonia.org

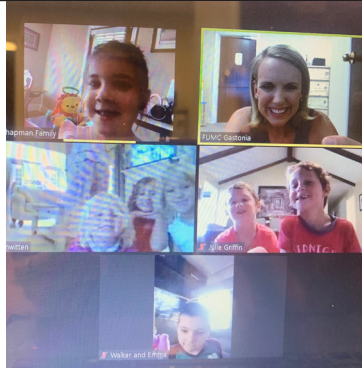
Children's Ministry



Kristi McClellan

Director of Children's Ministries
& Weekday Preschool
kristi@fumcgastonia.org

**Be on the lookout
for *Summer Virtual
Interest Camp* and
Parks & Prayers
information in your
weekly emails.**



**Take Flat Jesus with you on
your summer activities and
share your pictures. FUMC
Kids is doing this as a
reminder that Jesus is always
with us and we are
connected in Christ.
Tag us on social media
& have fun!**

Blessings, Mrs. Kristi

Enter this number

81010 ?

Text this message

@9bdc72k ?

Follow the
instructions to join
the "Remind App"
to get all of the
updates from the
Children's ministry.



**Join us for an AT-HOME VBS
August 3rd-7th**

Videos will be posted on our Facebook page
and website during the week to go along with
the booklet that was mailed to your home. If
you didn't receive one, find it online at:

fumcgastonia.org/ministries/childrens

Something for Everyday!

Below are activities and ideas for your family to do together to grow in your faith. We pray that you make time for a daily family devotional. These are just options, they do not all have to be done or completed on a specific day. Also, videos are posted on the children's Facebook page,

<https://www.facebook.com/FUMCGNCKids/>, so that we still gather and grow from our Wednesday Bible stories and Sunday morning Sunday school.

Monday Mission & Memo- Get your weekly Children's ministry email to know what's coming up & mission project!

Time-to-Talk Tuesday- Discussion questions for your family.

Wacky games and Wonder Wednesday- Games to play as a family and thoughts about this week's lesson.

Thankful Thursday- What are you thankful for? Spend time discussing with your family.

Friday Fun & Fellowship- We've been playing the Quarantine Olympics. Join us!

Sunday- Join us for Sunday School on Facebook at 9am and Worship at 10am.



For bible stories, Sunday School lessons, and more, like us on facebook!

Youth Ministry



Stephanie Jenkins

Director of Student Ministries

980-292-3182

sjenkins@fumcgastonia.org

August Means Moving Up!

August 16th Promotion Sunday

- 6th graders join Mid-Hi Youth
- 9th graders move up to Sr-Hi Youth

More details to come via email & Remind



Meet your Sunday School Teachers Aug 16th

6th Grade—Lee Jenkins

7th-8th Grade—Renee Long & Wes Styers

9th-12th Grade—Rich Wyatt

*After this Sunday, brief Sunday School devos will be on Instagram & YouTube

**Confirmation Class will be postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19*

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/fumcgrhi

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/fumcmihi

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

Senior-Hi

Join Senior High Youth

Full Name
First and Last Name

Phone Number or Email Address
(555) 555-5555

Mid-Hi

Join Mid High Youth

Full Name
First and Last Name

Phone Number or Email Address
(555) 555-5555

remind

YOUTH SURVEY



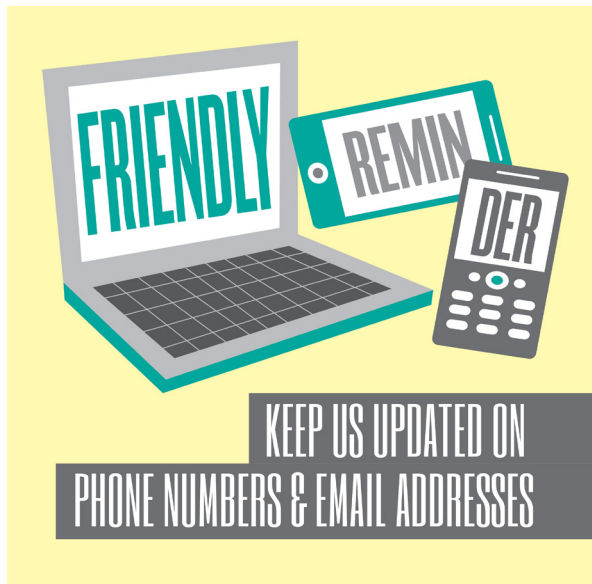
Your input is vital for our youth leaders to plan for the fall. For school, are you virtual only or doing the A/B schedule? What is the best time for UMYF to meet for you? We will take your survey answers and use that to help guide us for the start of the 2020-21 school year, while also realizing that things change at a rapid pace, and feelings can change too.

Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BH7XNFX>

**UMYF continues to be online only.
Updates will be sent out via remind & email.**

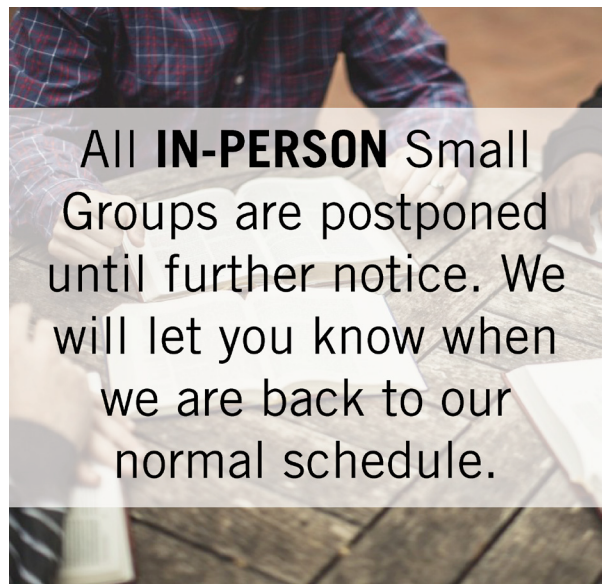


@fumcumyf



Email Amanda to update any of your contact information in our systems.

Amanda@fumcgastonia.org



Check our social media and weekly E-blast for more updates.

[Facebook.com/FUMCGastonia](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCGastonia)

Our mission is to see Christ in every person we *encounter* and *demonstrate* to them the love of God and the *teachings* of Jesus.

Connect with us...

Website: www.fumcgastonia.org

Phone: 704.864.4371

Email: contact@fumcgastonia.org



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Church of
Gastonia, NC



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@FUMCGastonia



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Published Monthly
at 190 East Franklin
Blvd. Gastonia, NC
(USPS 198-720)
Periodicals postage
paid at Gastonia, NC.
POSTMASTER: Send
address changes to
Newsletter of First
United Methodist
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