

News at First

Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church | August 2021

Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-16 (NRSV)

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. 7 But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. 11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. 14 We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. 15 But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

As many of you probably know, a mule is a cross between horse and a donkey. The reason people cross these two animals is because a horse is smart and a donkey is strong. Cross breeding a horse and a donkey delivers the perfect work animal, smart and strong.

Mules are also stubborn and sterile. They cannot reproduce. In many ways, this describes the 21st century church especially when we fail to recognize people's gifts and equip them for ministry. Doing the same thing that we have done for years and taking care of our own at the expense of being externally focused develops a membership mentality rather than a discipleship/mission-oriented Body of Christ. In other words, too many of our churches have become stubborn and sterile.

When churches acknowledge the work of the Holy Spirit, they become vibrant and the Body of Christ is expanded and reproduced over and over again. Vibrant Christians equip others who in turn produce new believers and on and on it goes. Equipping churches become catalysts for an apostolic movement that can change communities and the world.

Paul's vision for the church wasn't just for the people of Ephesus, it was for all of God's people. Paul wanted the followers of Jesus to grow up and be mature Christians making a difference in their communities and the world. He wanted them to use their gifts to change people's lives and make disciples.

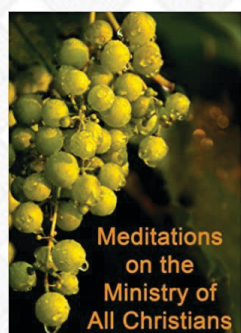
God is giving us a chance to grow up. He is asking us to be really good at one thing, making disciples. We are at a turning point in the life of the church. Will we make disciples or will we be stubborn and sterile. The future of the church is dependent on our choice.

I hope you will participate in our discipleship series, Gifted and Called for Ministry, beginning Sunday, August 22. In the series, we will guide and help you discern your passion and gifts for ministry. We also have SS, small group materials and a book, Meditations on the Ministry of All Christians, authored by Rev. Dr. J. Matthew Burton, and others that you can use as a devotional guide during the preaching series. Please contact the church office or see the receptionist for your copy. They are \$6 each.

Matthew



Rev. Dr. J. Matthew Burton
Senior Minister
704-864-4371 ext. 229
mburton@fumcgastonia.org



DISCIPLESHIP SERIES: GIFTED AND CALLED FOR MINISTRY

August 22	Gifted for Ministry: Faith and Leadership	Dr. Matthew Burton
August 29	Gifted for Ministry: Evangelism	Dr. Matthew Burton
September 12	Gifted for Ministry: Helps and Administration	Dr. Matthew Burton
September 19	Gifted for Ministry: Mercy and Healing	Dr. Matthew Burton
September 26	Gifted for Ministry: Knowledge and Teaching	Dr. Matthew Burton
October 3	Gifted for Ministry: Communication & Craftmanship	Rev. Avery White
October 10	Gifted for Ministry: Discernment & Wisdom	Dr. Matthew Burton
October 17	Gifted for Ministry: Apostleship & Tongues	Dr. Matthew Burton
October 24	Gifted for Ministry: Prophecy and Intercession	Rev. Avery White
October 31	Gifted for Ministry: Hospitality and Generosity	Dr. Matthew Burton
November 7	Gifted for Ministry: Shepherding and Encouragement	Dr. Matthew Burton
November 14	Bearing Fruit for Ministry	Dr. Matthew Burton

Take Note

Minister on Call Schedule

Matthew: 704-750-9126

Tripp: 704-477-7715

Avery: 704-559-9942

August 6-8 - Avery

August 13-15 - Tripp

August 20-22 - Matthew

August 27-29 - Avery

Sympathy to

- Daniel Gudelunas and family on the death of his father.
- Eric Kinstler and family on the death of his mother.
- Rev. Dr. J. Matthew Burton and family on the death of his mother.
- The family and friends of Lenna "Lyn" Houck.

Joy to

- Jeff and Beth Cobb on the birth of their granddaughter, Eve Elizabeth who was born to Britt and Kristen Cobb.
- Katy and Austin Windell on the birth of Spencer Orr.
- Chris and Hannah Skillestad on the birth of Waker Wright. Grandparents are Mark and Denise Skillestad.
- Seth and Merritt Crawley on the birth of Anderson Wells. Grandparents are Robert and Melissa Anderson.

Save
the Date

October 31

GRAND
REOPENING

Celebrating 150 years Plus +

Join us for 1 service at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. Lunch and fall games, fun to follow. More details to come.



Sunday, August 29
10:00 AM in Room 218

You are invited to meet the Pastors in an informal setting to learn more about them and to ask questions about FUMC. New member classes will follow in the fall.

Join us for Worship on Sunday's

8:45- Contemporary Worship in the Theatre
(162 East) *Live-streamed

9:00- Traditional Worship in the Chapel

11:00- Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
*Live-streamed

Sunday Morning Views & Attendance

Date:	162 E. Online	162 E. In-person	9am	11am Online	11am In-Person
July 4	159	26		274	88
July 11	145	28		375	153
July 18	200	21	38	429	110
July 25	188	44	56	364	130



It's been so long since we've seen each other! If you have your FUMC name tag, wear it on Sundays so we can greet you by name! ***If you'd like a name tag, please email Amanda at, amanda@fumcgastonia.org***



Mail Checks to:
P.O. Box 218



Text:
"GIVE" to
704-389-3862



Online:
www.fumcgastonia.org/give-pay



Drop-boxes
located in
Sanctuary &
Theatre



Scan QR
Code by using
Smartphone.

PICKLEBALL

MONDAY EVENINGS @ 6:30-8:30 PM



QUESTIONS?
CONTACT DAVE CRAMP
DCRAMP@AOL.COM



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

Amanda@fumcgastonia.org

United Methodist Men's Hot Dog Lunch

in the Family Life Center

Every First Friday
12:00-1:00 pm

*Take-outs will also be available



Morning Breakfast Group

Tuesday, August 10
at 7:00 AM
Firestone Grill
on Franklin Blvd.

Worship Arts Ministry



Jim O'Dell
Director of Music Ministries
704-864-4371 ext. 233
jaodell@fumcgastonia.org



Susan Lisle
Music Associate
704-864-4371 ext. 237
susan@fumcgastonia.org

Group / Leader	Description	Time & Location	Start Date
Morning Song Susan & Timothy	Sings for 9:00 worship All are invited.	8:15 1 st & 2 nd Sundays Room 112	September 5
Youth Handbells Susan & Jim	Music reading ability and/or experience in bells is helpful.	4:30 – 5:15 Sundays Room 113	September 19
First Brass Jim	All ages, 2 nd year +, youth and adults	5:15 – 6:00 Sundays Room 112	September 19
Youth Vocal Ensemble Susan & Melanie	6 th – 12 th grades All invited. Sings monthly.	5:15 – 6:00 Sundays Chapel	September 19
CrossFire Jim & Michele	162 East worship band Plays weekly.	7:30 Thursdays Theatre	
Chancel Handbells Jim & Susan	Adults Rings monthly.	6:30 – 7:30 Wednesdays Room 113	September 15
Chancel Choir Jim & Timothy	Adults Sings weekly.	7:30 – 9:00 Wednesdays Room 112	August 4
Ready Ringers Laura	Beginning handbells 2 nd grade +	4:30 – 5:00 Wednesdays Room 119	September 15
Asbury Ringers Susan	Intermediate handbells	4:30 – 5:00 Wednesdays Room 113	September 15
Music Makers Lisa & Julie	3 – 4 year olds	5:15 – 5:45 Wednesdays FLC	September 15
Carol Choir Rosa & Charlene	K – 1 st grades	5:00 – 5:45 Wednesdays FLC	September 15
Wesley Choir Laura & Melanie	2 nd – 3 rd grades	5:00 – 5:45 Wednesdays Room 119	September 15
Asbury Choir Susan & Katie	4 th – 5 th grades	5:00 – 5:45 Wednesdays Room 112	September 15



Timothy Scruggs
Organist



Lisa Jurs
Music Makers



Laura Beatty
Ready Ringer &
Wesley Chior



Rosa Marsh
Carol Choir

Children's Ministry



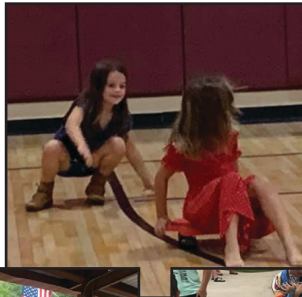
Kristi McClellan

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



Sunday School is BACK!
Join us Sundays @ 10AM
on the First Floor

ONE service
OCT. 31 @ 10:30 AM
LUNCH & FALL FEST
TO FOLLOW



**we've had
so much
fun this
summer!**

Youth Ministry



Stephanie Jenkins
Director of Youth Ministries
980-292-3182
sjenkins@fumcgastonia.org

Wrapping Up Summer

FOCUS



First United Methodist Church
Gastonia, North Carolina

wow
week of welcome
2021

**August 3rd-5th
6:30pm-8pm**

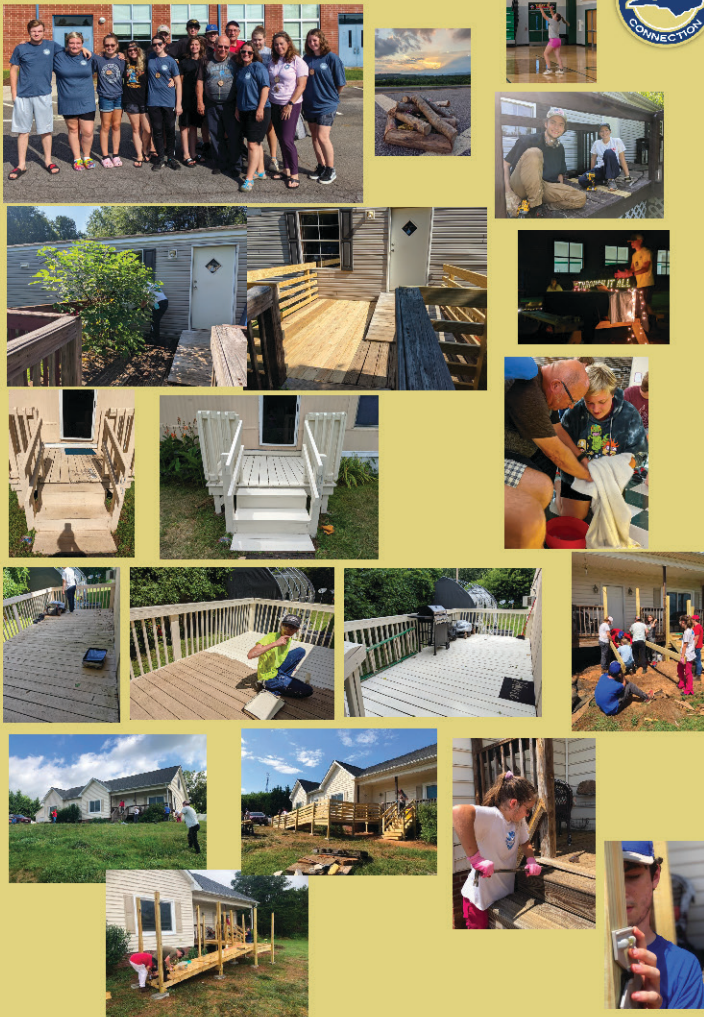
A special time for rising 6th graders
during VBS with Clint West &
Stephanie Jenkins in the Greene
House.



Reminder:
FUMC Scholarship Recipients
need to email
sbridges@fumcgastonia.org
with information for scholarship
distribution

2021 Summer Mission Trips with Carolina Cross Connection

Senior Hi



Mid-Hi



Kicking off the Fall

August Kicks off a New Year for Youth!!



Welcome New Youth!!

**August 22nd is
Promotion Sunday**

**New Confirmation
Class!**

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/fumcgmihi

rmd.at/fumcgsrhi

Be sure to sign up for texts for UMYF!



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

**Sunday August 22nd @ 6pm
KICK OFF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR
WITH A CONCERT & PARTY
@ The Greene House
Food, Music, Fun & More! Bring a friend!**



Senior-Hi 20th Annual
Chicken Bog

August 29

6:00-7:30pm

Natalie & Ty's House
8260 Catawba Cove Belmont, NC

Swimming, Food &
Fellowship



**Mid-Hi
Game
Truck
Night**

Sunday Aug 29th
4-5:30pm
@ The Greene
House

AUGUST UMYF CALENDAR

Sun Aug 1 6pm UMYF Olympics
Sun Aug 8 Mid-Hi Planning Retreat
Sun Aug 15 Sr-Hi Planning Retreat
Wed Aug 14 WEF @ Bessemer City
Sun Aug 22 6pm UMYF Kick Off Party & Concert
Sun Aug 29 4-5:30pm Mid Hi Game Truck Party
6pm Senior High Chicken Bog



August

Fall Retreats
Are Coming Up!

Save the Dates:

Sr-Hi @ Valle Crucis Oct 1-3

Mid-Hi @ Blowing Rock Oct 8-10

Check us out on Social Media



@FUMCGastoniaYouth



@fumcumyf

Parish Nurse Ministry



Park Hop is a free, summer long scavenger hunt that explores Gaston County's local parks, trails and greenways.

How Do I Participate?

1. Scan the QR code below or visit gastongov.com/parkhop to get a copy of your passport.
2. Register your Park Hop Passport.
3. Visit parks and answer clues.
4. Submit your answers by September 6, 2021.

Prizes include Whitewater Center gift cards, t-shirts, and games for the whole family.



Scan here for more information



Healthy Gaston

LUNCH & LEARN

A Summer Series

Tuesday, August 31
12:00 PM
"Tools to Help Pivot from Covid"

- Destress through Yoga, *Ney Hartwick*, YMCA
- Financial Survival Tips, *Kevin Spaulding*
- Importance of Self Care & Resilience, *Lisa Marisiddaiah*

Contact Gaston Together for further details:
dlckett@gastontogether.org

Purses for a Purpose

TO BENEFIT THE
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S
alzheimer's association



CHOOSE YOUR DATE AND LOCATION AND COME SHOP 10:00-2:00 EACH DAY

BROOKDALE SHELBY – AUGUST 26TH/27TH
 BROOKDALE FOREST CITY – SEPTEMBER 9TH/10TH
 GASTONIA ADULT REC CENTER – SEPTEMBER 16TH/17TH
 LINCOLN COUNTY SENIOR CENTER – SEPTEMBER 23RD/24TH







DROP PURSE DONATIONS OFF AT ANY
BROOKDALE, SENIOR TLC OR HOSPICE CLEVELAND COUNTY LOCATION

Durable Medical Equipment

If you have equipment you no longer need (wheelchairs, shower chairs/benches, rollator walkers with seat, knee scooters, etc) and would like to donate to the parish nurse ministry, please contact Lisa Marisiddaiah at nurse@fumcgastonia.org. If you are no longer using a piece of equipment that you've borrowed, please return to either FPC or FUMC.





Lisa Marisiddaiah
Parish Nurse
nurse@fumcgastonia.org

Gastonia Parish Nurse Ministry

Fall 2021



Fall into Good Health

Check out the Gastonia Parish Nurse Fall Booklet for resources and upcoming events to help you "Fall Into Good Health".

Fumcgastonia.org/ministries/parish-nurse

A Table of Kindness

Becky Greene is a visionary! She had a vision of bringing our church family back together again after months and months of being isolated from each other. She envisioned us gathering around “tables of kindness,” eating, fellowshiping, and imagining how we could expand our tables and our lives and include others in our circles of kindness. And so , along with the help of Clara Harris, she made this vision a reality on Wednesday, July 21!

There are many folks to thank for all their work and help! Eleven women and their helpers decorated beautiful tables celebrating various seasonal themes. Husbands and wives, sisters, mothers and daughters, friends old and new came together and laughed and shared and complimented each other as they worked hard to make their vision come alive on their gorgeous tables. There was a tribute to a World War II veteran, 50 year old wedding china, a hand made rose blanket, vintage school supplies, and even a saddle on display that had been graciously given by Tres Robinson to Neal Burton. Thank you to all the ladies and their helpers!! It was truly a festival of tables of kindness!

We heard from Laura and Sean Bates and Kelly Ray Shelton about the new F.E.E.D ministry which cooks hot meals in The Greene House on Wednesdays and gives them to the houseless as they build relationships and spread love throughout our community. Many donations of food and money were collected to help this ministry continue. Thank you to F.E.E.D group and to all those who made contributions.

Great big thanks to Chef Bruce and Juanita and their helpers for the delicious appetizers and dinner!! And heartfelt thanks to all of our amazing, dedicated staff who went above and beyond to make sure everything about this evening ran smoothly!”

We watched an episode of The Kindness Diaries and were inspired thanks to Bee and David Poston. While we watched, we enjoyed a tray full of delicious movie candy and goodies lovingly prepared by Jutta Carpenter. Thank you, Jutta, for these treats!!!

Each person who was there received a lovely red plate with the words A PLATE OF KINDNESS hand lettered around them. Thank you , Angie Huggins, for that act of kindness!! What a labor of love!!

A great big THANK YOU to all of the women of the small group Embrace Women’s Bible study for hosting this evening! You put in much planning and hard work to make all the details of this evening come alive smoothly. Thank you for making Becky’s vision come alive!

Jesus asked, “Do you love me? Then feed my sheep. “ May we all find ways in the days ahead to feed His sheep.

Mary Massey
Embrace Small Group



Bessemer City & Bethesda UMC



Rev. Trip Hord

Pastor at First UMC Bessemer
City & Bethesda UMC
tripp@fumcgastonia.org

I hope your summer is going well. One month into the partnership with Bethesda United Methodist, besides the issues I have on I-85 on Sundays that involve the police, locking my keys in my car, and receiving messages through 80's music, all is well. I appreciate the flexibility and understanding of First United Methodist Church, Bessemer City and Bethesda for making small changes in order to coordinate both services.

I recently attended the Davidson Clergy Program where I spent time journaling, doing yoga, and hanging out with llamas. With a focus on reflection and renewal, it reminded me that in order to grow spiritually, we all have to be willing to come out of our comfort zone. When was the last time you had to come out of your comfort zone in order to grow in your spirituality?

If you need help, let me know and we will go pet llamas! My prayer is that our three churches are willing to step out of our respective, cozy comfort zones in order to let God lead us through our conjoined spiritual growth.



Discipleship/Missions Ministry



A Plate of Kindness

Our tables looked different at home, at restaurants, at schools and at church during COVID. So the question we ask as we begin to gather again, is what will our tables look like now? Priya Parker in her book *The Art of Gathering* suggests "the best gatherings transport us to a temporary alternative world."

So I ask you to think about who will you invite to share in a plate of kindness? Perhaps it's a friend for dinner, cookies to a new mom, an invitation to church, Wednesday Evening Fellowship or a small group this fall.

We give thanks to God for embracing us so we can embrace one another.

We have a few red plates of kindness available at the reception desk if you were unable to attend our July Wednesday Evening Fellowship. For more information on *The Kindness Diaries*, check out *Discovery Plus* and let us know how your Plate of Kindness was shared.



Becky Greene

Director of Spiritual Formation
704-864-4371 ext. 227
becky@fumcgastonia.org

FUMC's Summer Wednesday Night Series Continues:

A Night of Partnerships

Join us at our partner Church to help support our partner schools.

Bethesda United Methodist

3714 S. New Hope Rd. Gastonia 28056

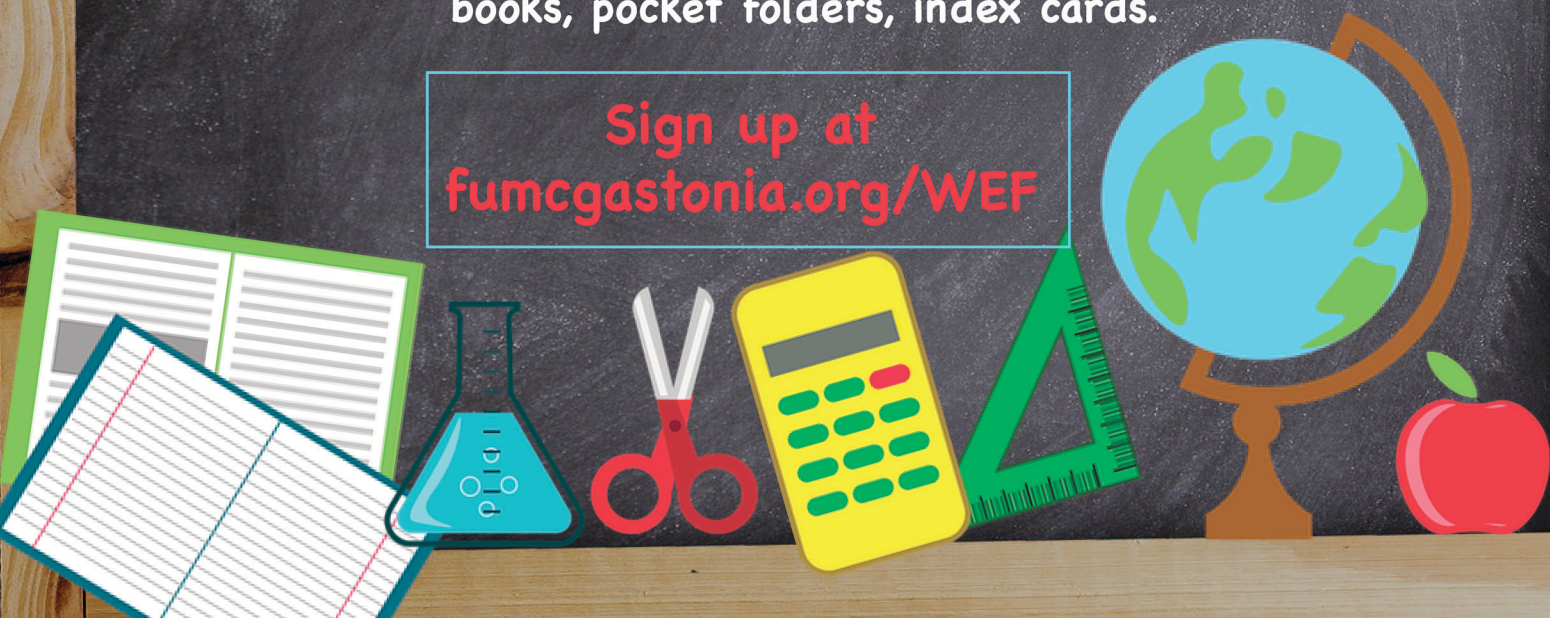
Wednesday, August 18
5:30-7:00 PM

This event is for children, youth, and adults. We will gather with Rev. Tripp Hord and his congregation for fellowship, games for children and youth, meal provided by Bruce in Fellowship Hall, and packing school bags for children at Pleasant Ridge Elementary.

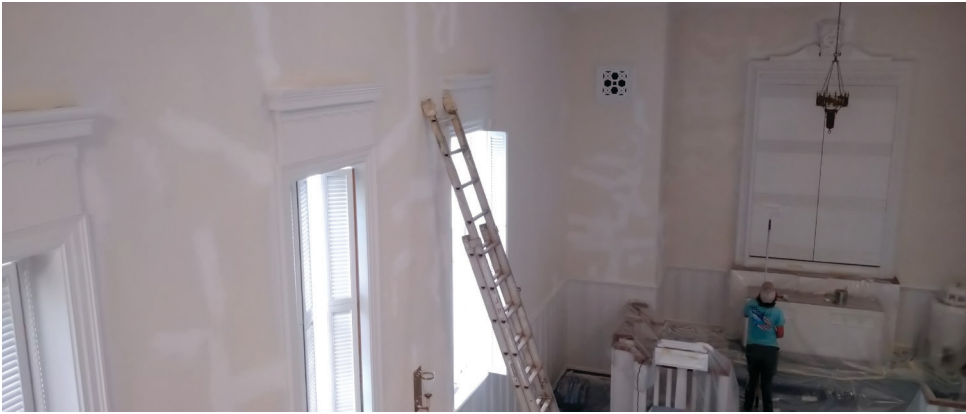
You are asked to bring school supplies to share:

Water bottles, glue sticks, pencils, colored pencils, highlighters, personal pencil sharpeners with catchers, pencil boxes or pouches, packs of loose leaf notebook papers, 24 count crayons, composition books, pocket folders, index cards.

Sign up at
fumcgastonia.org/WEF



The chapel received a much needed fresh coat of paint (ceiling, walls, all wood trim including end caps of pews) in preparation for our Chapel Services. You now have a third option for Worship on Sundays! Join us at 9:00am in the Chapel for an intimate worship service.



Connect with us...

Website: www.fumcgastonia.org

Phone: 704.864.4371

Email: contact@fumcgastonia.org



First United
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Church of
Gastonia, NC



FUMCGastonia



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