



News at First

Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church | July 2021

Philippians 2:1-4 (MSG)

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

One of the things that makes God's church work is unconditional love. That means I love you and you love me realizing that none of us are saints or paragons of perfection. We must accept the fact that we are very much alike and at the same time very different. In many ways we will always be mysteries to one another. You act and think from motives and perceptions I do not always understand and I behave and believe in ways that sometimes baffle. And, yet, we are here for one reason and one reason only, to learn about and share the love of Christ.



I cannot help but think of the young boy who defined a net as a bunch of holes tied together with a string. The key is tied together. When a net is tied together, it has functions and abilities that it does not have when the string is on its own. When we are tied together as God's people—The Body of Christ—the congregation of First United Methodist has the power and effectiveness that members do not have alone.

The bottom line is that our effectiveness is in our unified allegiance and submission to the living Christ who calls us to live for Him. We need to remember that together with Christ we can achieve unity and community which so many desperately seek. Think about it.

Matthew



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

Take Note

Minister on Call Schedule

Matthew: 704-750-9126

Tripp: 704-477-7715

Avery: 704-559-9942

July 2-4 - Tripp

July 9-11 - Avery

July 16-18 - Matthew

July 23-25 - Tripp

July 30-August 1 - Matthew

Sympathy to

- Royce and May Robinson and Family on the death of their son, Royce William (Tres) Robinson, III.
- Doris Hancock and Family on the death of her brother.
- Stuart and Robert Albright and Families on the death of their mother, Nancy Albright.
- Ashley Westmoreland and Family on the death of her grandmother.
- Sherry Robinson and Family on the death of her brother.
- Eddie Dellinger and Family on the death of his mother.

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
(beginning July 18)

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

Sunday Morning Views

Date:	162 E. Online	162 E. In-person	11am Online	11am In-Person
May 30	182	36	410	130
June 6	142	22	334	108
June 13	129	43	447	123
June 20	250	22	235	86
June 27	165		346	

United Methodist Men's

Hot Dog Lunch

Indoor @ Family Life Center

Take-outs will also be available

Every First Friday

12:00-1:00 pm



KEEP US UPDATED ON
PHONE NUMBERS & EMAIL ADDRESSES

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

Amanda@fumcgastonia.org

**Wear Your
Badge!**

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, amanda@fumcgastonia.org**

Because of your generosity and willingness to adapt and grow your church, we were able to mount screens in the sanctuary, balcony, and choir lofts.



5 WAYS TO GIVE

To First United Methodist Church



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.



Our "early" service is coming back! In order to run 3 services on Sundays to the best of our abilities, we will be having our early traditional service in the Chapel at 9:00 am. It will be finished by 9:45 to give you plenty of time to get to Sunday School. We are excited to be able to offer this worship service beginning July 18!

Sunday Worship
in the Chapel
9:00-9:45 AM

BEGINNING JULY 18, 2021

Children's Ministry

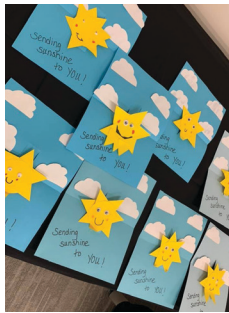


Kristi McClellan
Director of Children's Ministries
& Weekday Preschool
kristi@fumcgastonia.org

PARKS, PRAYER & popsicles

July 15 @ Ranlo Splash Pad
1:30-2:30PM

Children and Parents, join us at local parks to play and pray.



MISSION MONDAYS

JULY 26 @ 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Age 6+ can be dropped off with a packed Lunch or \$3 and help with a service activity.

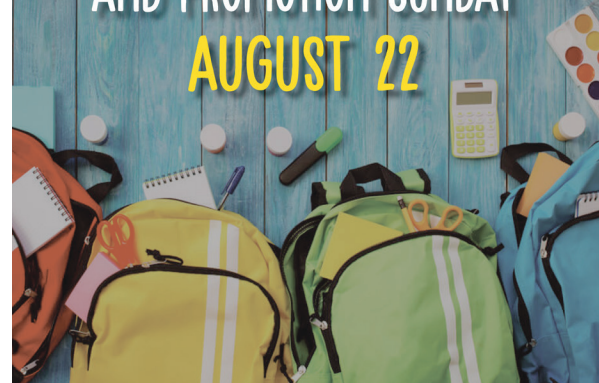
Please sign-up a week in advance, email kristi@fumcgastonia.org

FUMC Kids SUMMER Wednesday Nights

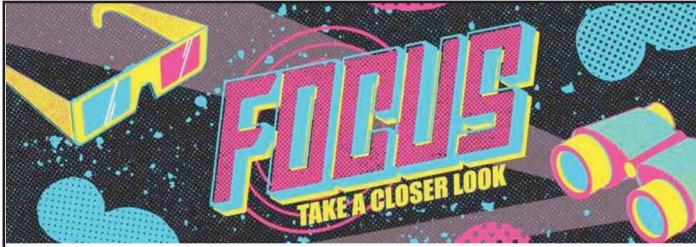
July 21, August 18

Our summer Wednesday night sessions will be from 5:45-7:15 PM at FUMC with dinner. The adults will meet in the FLC and the children downstairs. Adult dinner is \$6 and the children's is \$3. Please sign up at fumcgastonia.org/WEF to reserve a spot for children so that we can have a meal count.

SAVE THE DATE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND PROMOTION SUNDAY AUGUST 22



JOIN US FOR VBS



AUGUST 3-5, 2021

**VBS THIS YEAR WILL BE
INTEREST CAMPS.**

LET'S KEEP FOCUSING ON JESUS!

**USE YOUR INTERESTS FOR
THE GLORY OF GOD.**

What are your talents and interests that you can share? Sports, Sewing, Painting, Singing, Etc...

We need leaders to share their talents with
FUMC Kids in a small group setting.
Contact kristi@fumcgastonia.org if you would
like to **VOLUNTEER.**



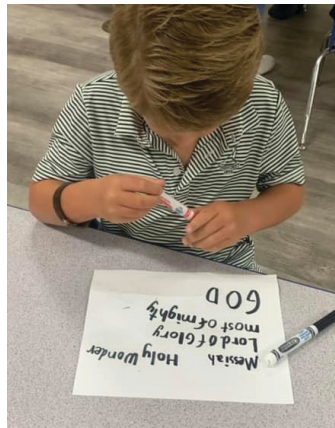
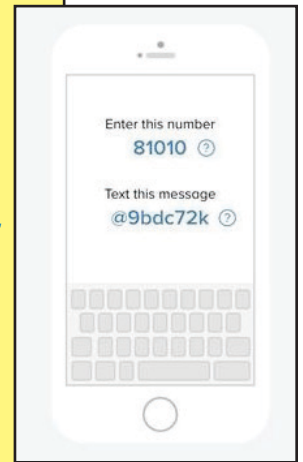
DONATIONS NEEDED

We are in need of **colored slinkys & cheap bright colored sunglasses** for Vacation Bible School. Please drop donations off at Kristi's office or the front desk in the main lobby by **July 26th.**



***We have something
for everyday!***

Make sure to sign up for the Children's weekly email.
Email Kristi to sign up!
kristi@fumcgastonia.org
Text "**@9bdc72k**" to **81010** to sign up for the text messages reminders from the Children's Ministry.



Sunday School is BACK!

Join us Sundays @ 10AM on the First Floor

Youth Ministry



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



July 4 No UMYF * Holiday*

July 11 Mid-Hi UMYF Only @ Adventure Landing

July 18 4:50pm FUMC @ Honey Hunters Game

July 21 *Wed Night!* 5:45-7:15pm @ Greene House

Friendly Neighbor Bags & Painting Corn hole boards

July 25 Sr-Hi UMYF Only—Pool Night!



2021 Mission Trips

Sr-Hi Mission Trip July 11-17

Current 8th-12th grade + Class of 2020
Central Wilkes MS—Moravian Falls, NC

Mid-Hi Mission Trip July 25-31

Current 6th-8th grade
West Wilkes MS—Wilkesboro, NC

We deeply appreciate your prayers and support for those youth and adults on the mission trips this summer. We look forward to serving communities in need and growing in Christ together.

A look back at June



July 11 UMYF
MID-HI ONLY

@ Adventure Landing
6-7:30pm
Mini Golf & Arcade



July 25th
UMYF
SR-HI ONLY
6-7:30pm

FUMC YOUTH Summer Wednesday Nights

July 21, August 18

Youth Wednesday night sessions will be from 5:45pm-7:15pm including dinner.

Adults will meet in the FLC, while youth are in the Greene House.

Dinner is \$6, or you can opt to bring your own.

Please sign up at fumcgastonia.org/WEF or call 704-864-4371 if you plan to purchase dinner.

Wednesday July 21

Pack "Friendly Neighbor Bags" for those surrounding our church who may be in need of some assistance. Bags include a bottle of water, crackers, lip balm, mask, travel tissues, wet wipes, and note card with a prayer & list of resources.



Check us out on Social Media



@FUMCGastoniaYouth



@fumcumyf

Bessemer City & Bethesda UMC



Rev. Trip Hord

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

GOOD NEWS!

As many of you know, the partnership is growing! Starting July 4th, we will welcome Bethesda United Methodist Church to the partnership! We have enjoyed much success in Bessemer City and I look forward to where God will lead this group of churches.

My roll at FUMCG will remain the same. I will continue to serve as your visitation pastor and pastor at FUMCBC. I look forward to the challenge that lies ahead and I ask that we all pray for God's will during this exciting time.

When change happens in my life, I'm always reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:1, "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." This is great opportunity for us to say thank you for a new season in the life of our partnership and the United Methodist Church in Gaston County and to grow God's Kingdom!

I think what I am most excited about is that it gives us two more opportunities for worship! FUMCBC will begin worship service at 9:45 on Sunday mornings and Bethesda will begin at 11:00. I realize this will be a work in progress, and both churches are excited about the opportunities that will be shared between our three super awesome churches.

During the month of June as things have begun to open up again and we were able to fellowship in and outside the church, FUMCBC on June 6th held an Ice Cream social in the front yard of Grady and Phyliss Herman's home. And we enjoyed the musical talents of Matthew and Jim. It was a great afternoon as the members of FUMCBC were able to meet Matthew, Jim, Beverly and Avery. The afternoon of music and fellowship was enjoyed by all!

I'm always grateful for the love and support of the staff and members of FUMCG and can't wait to see what God has in store for us all! Can I get a Amen!

Love God, Love Neighbor!

Tripp



Parish Nurse Ministry



Lisa Marisiddaiah
Parish Nurse
nurse@fumcgastonia.org

This past month we had a great gathering at Covenant Village! Because of the pandemic, the ministers who came last Spring have not had the opportunity to get to know church members very well. Now that things are opening up, the FUMC ministerial team and some staff gathered with residents for a social planned by Susanne Whitesides and the Gastonia Parish Nurse Ministry. The attendance was great, and the fellowship was wonderful! Dave Davis discussed options for transportation by church bus, Angie Hollar discussed upcoming Bible Studies that she & Mark will lead at CV, and Amy Plowden invited residents to a "circle" that she leads. Everyone seemed to really enjoy this opportunity to gather!



Sports Ministry

PICKLEBALL
MONDAY EVENINGS @ 6:30-8:30 PM

IN THE FUMC GYM
BEGINNING

JULY 12.

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT DAVE CRAMP
DCRAMP@AOL.COM

FUMC currently has a Sand Volleyball team that plays in Charlotte on Tuesday Nights.



Discipleship/Missions Ministry

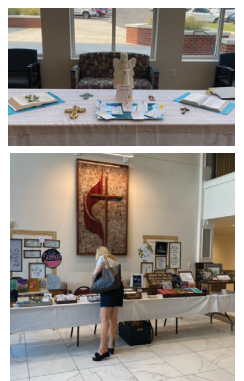
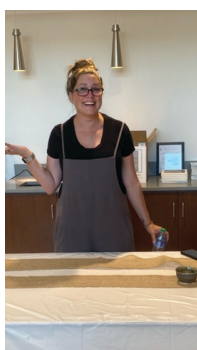
Thank you for making our First Summer Wednesday Nights a success!

"Tonight I did a thing to raise money for a local ministry that works with women in our community who are victims of human trafficking and/or involved in prostitution. I went out of my comfort zone to put my lot of imperfect pottery out for sale, unsure of its worth or want. Last night, I already felt the pull to not just give a portion of the proceeds but all to this incredible ministry. I confessed to my sweetheart that I wasn't sure I had enough to put out; i wasn't sure it would sell or bring anything to the cause. He told me, "Put it on the table and see what God does with it." I put out 35 pieces and came home with 3, raising over \$250 to support this ministry which lives out the love of Jesus every day to these women in our community. My heart is so full after experiencing what a little faith and fired clay can do!!! God is SO GOOD! Tonight has re-imprinted on my heart the importance to answer His call and keep faith in His plan. Thank you FUMC for this opportunity to serve!"



-Caroline Todd Haney
Recentered Pottery

Thank you to all the vendors and participants. Because of you we were able to raise \$730 to give to Stable Resources for their ministry to women in our community.



Growing at the Greene House

For Kelly Ray Shelton, the pandemic gave her an opportunity to find a new purpose in life. She wanted to find ways to help and for her that meant opening mind and heart to those experiencing houselessness. Kelly and her friend, Laura Bates have been funding and preparing meals in their homes for the past 6 months. Seeds for this ministry are slowly being planted on Wednesday mornings in the Greene House.

They begin at 10 am and are finished and out the door to serve a hot meal by 1pm. The name of this ministry is called F.E.E.D.- Feeding, Educating, Enriching, and Developing.....not only the houseless population, but also the housed. By telling and listening to stories, we get to know and understand one another better. That understanding allows hearts to open as well as minds. Hearts and minds opening allow us all to realize we are all in this together. Togetherness is community and community is Christ.

If you want to be involved, here is a grocery wish list: Cans of diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste, pasta, rice, black beans, mild salsa, dried kidney beans

Amazon Wish List link:

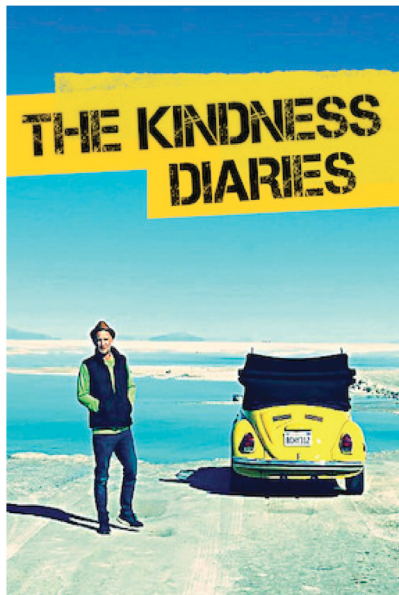
<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1XGURVMUXBUOO/?ref=ol ov le&fbclid=IwAR2k2an-sYXIHQ82wRWSpKefiW BxSsgpl4cUnW0rKHtfwkm-ometqD9JQH8>

Or you can contact Kelly Ray Shelton, thekellyray@gmail.com.



A TABLE OF KINDNESS

A FUMC SUMMER WEDNESDAY NIGHT



JULY 21, 2021

**FESTIVAL OF
TABLES,
DINNER, AND
MOVIE NIGHT!**

Join us for a Festival of Tables, tours of the new facilities, a meal prepared by Bruce, followed by an episode showing of the Netflix series "The Kindness Diaries," and a time of devotion.

5 or 5:30 PM- Tours of Facilities Available

5:45-6:15 PM- Festival of Tables (display of place settings and sample appetizers for the entire calendar year) in the Gym.

6:15-7:15 Dinner, Movie & Devotion, FLC Fellowship Hall

Bring a gift of kindness to share with the F.E.E.D ministry (Feeding, Educating, Enriching, and Developing): *Cans of diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste, pasta, rice, black beans, mild salsa, dried kidney beans, or grocery store gift cards.*

Visit fumcgastonia.org/WEF or call
704-864-4371 to sign up.

*Hosted by Embrace
Small Group*

Welcome New Staff Member:



We'd like to welcome to our custodial staff, Robin Boyce. She will be working part-time as our evening custodian. Please be sure to say hello to her as you see her!

Connect with us...

Website: www.fumcgastonia.org

Phone: 704.864.4371

Email: contact@fumcgastonia.org



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FUMCGastonia



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