

NEWS AT *first*

Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church *July 2022*

*Welcome our new Co-Pastors,
Rev. Melissa & Rev. Justin Lowe
and their family!*



**In Lieu of Sunday
School, Please join
us for a reception to
welcome the
Lowe family.**

*July 10 at 10 AM in
Gunter Hall*

In mid-April, Justin & Melissa received the news from the District Superintendents that they would be Co-Pastors here at First United Methodist Church. Andrew (their six-year-old) & Esther (their four-year-old) were excited as long as we had a playground. The whole family is excited to worship together as a family in one church after serving in separate churches for the past 9 years.

Justin is a graduate of NC State University with an undergraduate degree in Agricultural Education focused on Horticulture Science and Agribusiness Management. Melissa graduated from Lee University with a double major in Computer Information Systems and Business Administration. They met at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, where they received their Masters of Divinity. They were married on January 1st, 2010 and began to grow their family: Joshua (member of the Church Triumphant), Andrew, Esther, and Chloe (their seven-month-old Miniature Schnauzer.)

We are grateful for their service and devotion to their family and churches throughout their ministry and cannot wait to welcome them with open arms to our church family. Please continue to join us in prayer as they make the move and transition to Gaston County and FUMC.

Their first day with us will be Sunday, July 10 in all 3 services. We will get to hear Melissa preach on our new sermon series (more details on next page) and will welcome them with a **reception at during the sunday school hour at 10 am in Gunter Hall.**



We all love a good story. We are captivated by stories from our earliest childhood storybooks to the latest novels, plays, and movies. They take us on a journey of transformative experiences through the deep valleys to the majestic mountain peaks.

Hear the stories of our new Co-Pastors, Justin and Melissa, while reflecting on your encounters with God's life-changing love personally and at First United Methodist Church.

July 10, 2022 | July 17, 2022 | July 24, 2022 | July 31, 2022 | August 7, 2022



Take Note

Minister on Call Schedule

Starting in July, to reach a Pastor on nights or weekends, please call the church office **704-864-4371**, it will direct you to the ext. 229 and you will be forwarded to the minister on call.

July 1-3: Rev. Tripp Hord

July 8-10: Rev. Justin Lowe

July 15-17: Rev. Melissa Lowe

July 22-23: Rev. Justin Lowe

(The Lowe's will be out of town July 24-30)

July 24-31: Rev. Tripp Hord

Sunday Morning Views & Attendance

Date:	162 E. Online	162 E. In-person	9am	11am Online	11am In-Person
June 5-	70	26	46	260	118
June 12-	75	33	42	246	103
June 19-	118	29	47	239	98
June 26-	One Service at 10:30- 210 in person, 596 online				



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

lisawise@fumcgastonia.org

Sympathy to

- The family of Jim Williams
- The family of Jo Woody
- The family of Billie Barnes
- John Wixson & Family on the death of his brother.
- Kathryn Styers & Family on the death of her mother.
- The family of Myrtle Grinstead

Join us for Worship on Sundays

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

9:00- Traditional Worship in the Chapel

10:00- Sunday School for all ages

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

Joy to

- Matt and Emily Williams Stankus on the birth of Henry Brice. Grandmother is Novelyn Williams.



- New Members Matthew & Amanda Skeen and Baptism of Caroline & Sullivan Skeen



We had a great turn out for HOPE FEST on June 30th. The Next First Friday Hot Dog lunch will be on **Friday, August 5.**

Children's Ministry



Kristi McClellan

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

SO much is happening in FUMC Kids this SUMMER!

We have so many camps and special days planned this summer. We've already had Camp Vista, VBS: Very Big Sports Camp, and looking forward to more camps and park days this summer. Check out some photos from our fun on the next page!

Parables ON THE Playground

JULY 11 AT 11:00 AM
FOR ALL AGES | MEET AT THE PLAYGROUND



First United Methodist Church
Gastonia, North Carolina



August 2- August 4
9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Register by July 28 at
fumcgastonia.org/cooking-camp

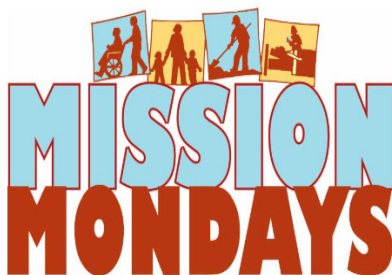
Parks & Praise

play, praise, and prayer for all ages at various parks

July 14 @ 1:00pm at Lineberger Park,
Splash Pad & Train Rides



Mission Monday decorating and praying
over Camp Sunshine Water Bottles.



Mission Monday July 18th
11:00-1:00 Rising 1st-5th

We are excited to welcome
Andrew & Esther Lowe
to our Children's Ministry!



Thank you to UMW and all the others that donated snacks for camps!



Camp Visa



VBS

VERY BIG SPORTS
CAMP





Youth Ministry



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



July 3 NO UMYF (Holiday Weekend)
July 10 NO UMYF
July 10-16 Sr-Hi Mission Trip
July 17 Adventure Landing Outing
July 20 Wednesday Evening Fellowship
July 24 UMYF 5:30-8pm Outreach Event
Waterpalooza With Friends
July 31 UMYF 6-7:30pm Meet the Pastors
** check remind & emails for more details*



August



Aug 7 UMYF Pool Party @ Conrad's
Aug 14 **Promotion Sunday**
& Fall Kick-Off Bash 6-7:30pm
Aug 21 Mid-Hi Gaming Party
Sr-Hi Chicken Bog @ Natalie's
Aug 28 Main Event @ Pavilion —NO UMYF
Sept 4 NO UMYF (Labor Day Weekend)



July 17 UMYF
MID-HI ONLY
@ Adventure Landing
6-7:30pm

Mini Golf & Arcade

Waterpalooza



July 24 5:30-8pm
Outreach Event
Dinner & Games @ With Friends



Justin & Melissa Lowe

July 31
6-7:30pm
@ The Greene House

Youth
Meet
The Pastors!



Sunday August 7
6-7:30pm

POOL PARTY

@ Conrad House
3021 Southampton Cir.

August 14

PROMOTION SUNDAY

TIME TO MOVE UP

Welcome new 6th graders to Mid-Hi
Welcome new 9th graders to Sr-Hi



August 14

BACK TO SCHOOL

BASH

6-7:30 PM @ The Greene House

Check us out on Social Media



@FUMCGastoniaYouth



@fumcumyf

2022 Mid-Hi Summer Mission Trip with Carolina Cross Connection June 19-25

The Mid-Hi Mission Team had a great week serving in Blowing Rock, NC and surrounding areas.



THANK
YOU
★ ★ ★

We deeply appreciate your prayers and support for these youth & adults on the mission trips this summer. We continue to pray for the communities we've experienced. We pray for a safe journey for the Sr-Hi Mission Team as they leave later in July.

2022 Sr-Hi Summer Mission Trip with YouthWorks Coming up... July 10—16

Location: Harrisburg, PA



Mission: Walk alongside development organizations as they seek to break the cycle of generational poverty.

Attending: Colby Conrad, Cooper Haynes, Jackson Haynes, Stephanie Jenkins, Will Kampmeyer, Marie Matsik, Grey Radford, Jack Smith, Will Washington, Autumn Woods, Archie Yavelak, Joe Yavelak

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

The glorious week that was the 2022 Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts Embracing God's Vision - Music and Worship Arts Week at Lake Junaluska Assembly began Sunday (6/19), and ended on Friday morning (6/24) with a communion service in Stuart auditorium. There were 26 registered musicians from First UMC, Gastonia and they were the second largest group to attend the event. The event was a wonderful time to strengthen our faith, make new friends, and strengthen our ties to our God and each other. God's blessings were abundant as our singers, ringers, and instrumentalists combined our talents with like minded Christian musicians from all over the country (even as far as Boulder, Colorado) to lift our hearts and voices through beautiful worship, and stirring performances.

Thank you so very much to Susan Lisle, who single handedly pushed the registration process through, designed a two concert piano recital to provide scholarships to help defray the cost of the event, arranged, ordered and coordinated the folders and sheet music, housing and travel arrangements, driving the church bus to and from Lake Junaluska, and ferrying everyone to where they needed to be for rehearsals and performances. It all ran like a well-designed machine. She is truly a blessing to us and this church!

Thank you, also, to Don Turner, our in house chef for three square meals each day and to Bobbie Altman for getting our 5 ½ octave collection of handbells to Lake Junaluska and back.

Becky Beatty, Laura Beatty, Les Davis, Meredith Harris, Susan Lisle, Rachel Long, Karalynn McClellan, James O'Dell, Lillie O'Neill, Bethe Rogers, Bobbie Altman, Ashley Bradley, Autumn Bradley, Mary Massey, Robin Perlman, Annabelle Radford, Grey Radford, Jack Smith, James Smith, Jane Smith, Becki Lowder, Clara Harris, Bob Lowder, Bee Poston, Loren Radford, Don Turner

Camp Vista



Music Week, Lake Junaluska



Discipleship/Missions Ministry



"I love the mountains; I love the rolling hills". We sang this song as a family on our way to Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska. "Boom de ade, Boom de ade, Boom de ade...."

The tradition of going to Annual Conference evokes many good memories.

This year is no exception. While joining thousands of voices singing sacred hymns for worship in Stuart Auditorium or sitting quietly being at peace with God and nature, my heart is strangely warmed. With a slight gaze to my left, the Junaluska cross dots the mountain ranges. The refurbishment of this cross was provided by the late Alfred Bohanan and Carolyn, members of FUMC-Gastonia. To hike to the lighted cross at night with family, friends, music week or others assembled brings about a rededication to God, my faith and all things holy.

Rocking on the back porch of the Harrell Center is as much a part of the Western North Carolina Conference as being a delegate in a plenary session!

The most important aspect of the rocking is the provision for rhythm and renewal. It is a measured meditation of unending prayer concerns and celebrations of people. I somehow feel closer to God on the mountain side. I have rocked away my challenges and everyone else's just by swaying in silence on the mountain.

I am forever grateful for the many opportunities to attend the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church as a delegate.

Each year I look forward to the sacred moments of the Lake Junaluska mountains.



Fellowship by the pool with us this summer!

POOLSIDE CHATS

Prayer Pause
monthly meet-ups
by the pool.
An opportunity for
connection and
conversation
during the summer.
Come if you are in
town!

JULY 6 & AUGUST 10

For more info contact:
katiegrayconner@gmail.com



Christmas in



Meal, Makers Market, and Mission.

Wednesday, July 20

MEAL- 5:30, SHOPPING- 6:15

MEAL COST: \$8

190 EAST FRANKLIN BLVD, GASTONIA

Join us for a delicious meal by Bruce, followed by an opportunity to shop with local makers for early Christmas gifts and a chance to raise money for House of Mercy, a local non-profit.

Sign up at www.fumcgastonia.org/WEF



And more.....



Come As You Are

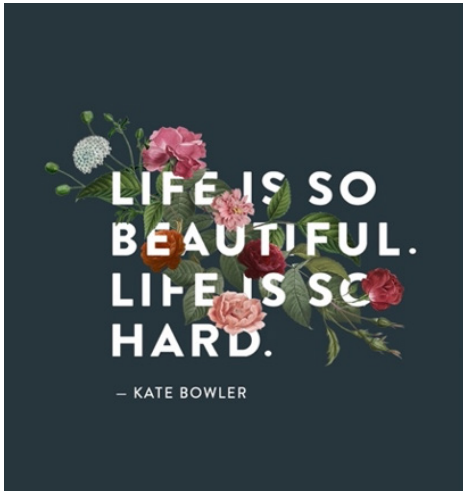
To the Main Event

August 28, 2022

ONE Service @ 10:00 AM
Rotary Pavillion in Downtown Gastonia
followed by Lunch

Main Event T-Shirts

These shirts are being sold leading up to the Main Event in August.
They will be \$10, all youth sizes are available.



SAVE THE DATE!

FUMC Gastonia Women's Retreat

Friday evening, September 9th - Saturday afternoon, September 10th

Our retreat leader is Ashley Anne Sipe , Former Associate Pastor at FUMC Gastonia
Current Senior Pastor at Vista Ridge United Methodist Church in Lewisville, TX

We will discover how we need to take care of ourselves, to tend to our souls, and have a strong faith to deal with life's difficulties.

Watch this clip for a glimpse of author and Ashley Anne's friend Kate Bowler's view of "Life is so beautiful. Life is so hard": <https://youtu.be/S3WzLfbmtoM>

The retreat will be held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC

More information to come!

We had a great farewell service and reception for Matthew and Avery on Sunday, June 26. We will miss them and wish Avery the best at her new appointment and Matthew a wonderful retirement.



Dear FUMC Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful time of celebration and your generous gifts of support. I am grateful for you and for the years of ministry we have shared together. May God continue to bless and guide you.

In Christ's Love,
Avery

Connect with us...

Website: www.fumcgastonia.org

Phone: 704.864.4371

Email: contact@fumcgastonia.org



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