



Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church | May 2020

A Note From David

Dear Fellow Ministers,

Life is certainly different now, but aren't we lucky to be "in this" together?! There are lots of very real difficulties as we come through this pandemic, but The Church is here – offering love and support. We have been blessed to offer online worship and hundreds of Zoom calls and write letters and make phone calls. We have had to become more intentional in our outreach – and that is a good thing!

Everyone wants to know when we will worship together again. Your Church Council and staff is aware of the myriad of questions that must be answered before we open (How do we safely social distance; what about bathrooms; how can we possibly offer a nursery; how can we pass the plate; do we hand out masks; the list could go on and on). We are waiting to see the Governor's Plan and heed the advice of the CDC. We are hoping that we will be able to reopen in June, but we will have to wait and see. However, the good news is that we are still able to worship! We have averaged over 1,500 views of our services during this time. Please invite others to watch online (on our website OR Facebook Live) each Sunday at 10 a.m. I want to share with you the upcoming worship opportunities in May and then say a word about your new senior pastor.

May 10 – John 14:1-14 (I Peter 2:2-10)

May 17 – Youth Led Worship!

May 24 – Luke 24:44-53 (Psalm 47)

May 31 – John 7:37-39 (I Corinthians 12:3b-13)

Many of you know that we had planned May 31 to be our 150 Year Celebration, but we want to be able to have a BIG celebration, so we are postponing that until later in the year. Your new senior pastor can lead that celebration! And speaking of your new senior pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Burton has been a friend for over 20 years. He is one the best pastors in the Western NC Conference and I could not be more excited that he and Beverly are coming to be with you all! Matthew is exactly who is needed to move this church into the future.

I will be able to say a lot more in next month's newsletter – but suffice it to say that the eight years we have shared together have mean so much to me and my family. You all have loved us through graduations of our children, Luke's marriage, Pam's cancer surgery, moving my mother here, and her death. The friendships we have established are real, and we are so very thankful to you. Let's keep at it! I look forward to being in ministry with you in the month of May!

In Christ's Service,
David



Rev. David Christy
Senior Minister
704-864-4371 ext. 222
dchristy@fumcgastonia.org

Take Note

Minister on Call Schedule

David: 828-400-4552

Tripp: 704-477-7715

Avery: 704-559-9942

May 1-3: David

May 8-10: Tripp

May 15-17: Avery

May 22-24: David

May 29-31: Tripp

Sunday Morning Views

Date:	FUMC views:	162 Views:
April 5	1,073	190
April 12	Sunrise: 1,173 10am: 1,914	162: 321
April 19	1,200	399
April 26	1,101	212

Sympathy to

- Foy Culp and Family on the death of her sister.
- Jeanie Ruff and Family on the death of her son, David Ruff.
- The Family and Friends of Ann Ballard.
- Don Saine and Family on the death of Mary Saine .
- Beth Choplin on the death of her mother.

Joy to

- Maddie and James Hargrove on the birth of John Curtis.
- Cady & Austin Hester on the birth of Elliot Gray.



**Meet your new Senior Minister,
Rev. Dr. Matthew Burton.
He will begin his ministry at FUMC
July 1, 2020. Please send him a
note to welcome him. His email is
m.burtonjr3@gmail.com.**



All **IN-PERSON** Small Groups are postponed until further notice. We will let you know when we are back to our normal schedule.



While we have not been able to worship in person, we have enjoyed worshipping online with you all. Please continue to join us online until further notice.

Prayer Requests

Text prayers to: (these are public)
(704) 802-1156

Email prayers to: (these are private)
amanda@fumcgastonia.org



Until further notice, all of our dinners, small groups, and classes will be postponed.

Our Prayer II Pause class, Youth Group, Choirs and other small groups are meeting via ZOOM on Wednesday Evenings.

Giving & Tithing

Give Online:
www.fumcgastonia.org/givepay

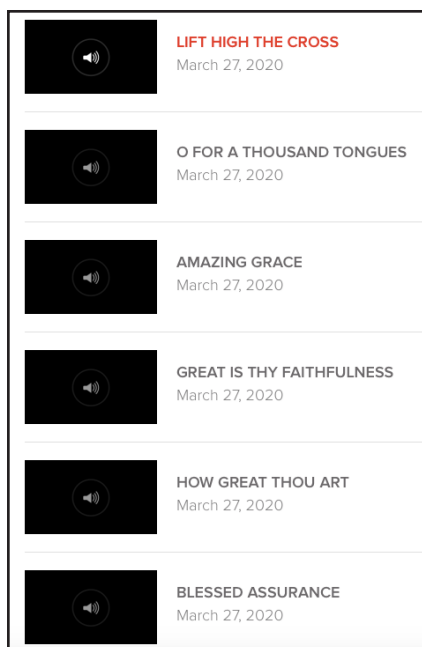
Give by Mail:
P.O. Box 218 Gastonia, NC 28053

Worship Arts Ministry



Sunday worship online:

Facebook.com/FUMCgastonia | Facebook.com/162East | Fumcgastonia.org



Various recordings, such as Hymn Sing 2019, are posted on our website under the Music Ministry tab.

Post a video of you singing or playing a instrument on your personal Facebook page or Instagram and use the hashtag **#fumcsings**. We'd love to see you worshiping our Lord in your homes.

#FUMCSINGS



Rev. Saxon Scarborough
Minister of Music
704-864-4371 ext. 233
saxon@fumcgastonia.org



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



Aaron Prillaman
162 East Worship Leader
aaron@fumcgastonia.org



Timothy Scruggs
Organist
timothy@fumcgastonia.org

Parish Nurse Ministry



Lisa Marisiddaiah
Parish Nurse
nurse@fumcgastonia.org

Free cloth masks: "A group of volunteers that include Betsy Keith, Barbara Yarborough, and Ibbby Page from First Presbyterian Church, along with Kimm Santa from First Methodist Church have been working with The Gastonia Parish Nurse Ministry to sew face masks for those in need in our community. This group has already donated 500+ masks, including 200 for the homeless population in the area, and continues to receive requests from other agencies, facilities, and individuals who have a great need. We are seeking additional volunteers to help sew two-ply cloth face masks for this purpose. If you like to sew, we would love for you to share your talents with this ministry at a time when protective equipment can be hard to find.

If you are in need of a face mask, pick up/drop off can be arranged.

Contact Lisa Marisiddaiah at nurse@fpcgastonia.org or nurse@fumcgastonia.org



"Navigating the Path to Emotional Wellness has been changed to an ONLINE format. The LIVE event is May 13 from 9am-3pm....people can pick & choose which parts they want to listen to. No need to make a full-day commitment. And... people who are not able to watch it on May 13, can view it afterwards (but would not be able to text questions to the speakers)

We hope you will join us for this informative webinar on mental health and emotional wellness! During the COVID-19 crisis, it is especially important to pay attention to your mental and emotional wellbeing. Our speakers will give insight into areas of counseling, behavioral health, telehealth, grief, and self-care. Register today @ www.fpcgastonia.org/emotionalwellness

WE'VE MOVED ONLINE!

PRESENTED BY THE GASTONIA PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

NAVIGATING THE PATH TO EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

ESPECIALLY DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS • May 13, 2020



SPEAKERS AND SESSIONS

Join us virtually for this important webinar about mental health and emotional wellness.

Each session will be available for viewing via Livestream at www.fpcgastonia.org.

We encourage you to participate through a live Q&A. Text your questions to (704) 610-2331.

Participants may choose which sessions to view based on their interest, and are not required to attend the entire seminar.

8:45 - 9:00 a.m.	Sign In and Welcome
9:00 - 9:45 a.m.	Jay Ostrowski - "Behavioral Health 101 and Intro to Telehealth"
10:00 - 10:45 a.m.	Rev. Eddie Ingram - "Understanding the Life Impact of Grief"
11:00 - 12:00 a.m.	Russ Keeney - "Secondary Trauma: PTSD"
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 - 1:45p.m.	Dr. Trish Murray - "Self-care: learning to practice calm in a chaotic world"
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.	Dr. Steve Lemons - "A Spiritual and Compassionate Response to Suicide"
3:00 - 3:45 p.m.	Kim Leppert - "A Conversation about Sexual Addictions"
3:45 - 4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks

We hope that you will join us for this free educational seminar!

Registration is open to all, and community members are encouraged to attend.

A general certificate of continuing education will be provided for those who pre-register.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT WWW.FPCGASTONIA.ORG/EMOTIONALWELLNESS

Free Continuing Education for those who pre-register!



Children's Ministry



Kristi McClellan

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



Daily Devotional Ideas

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!

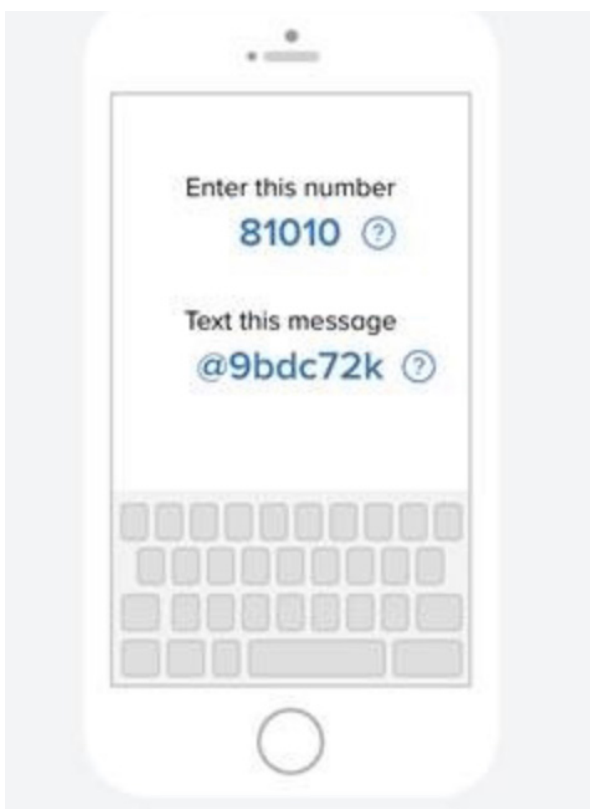
Time-to-Talk Tuesday- Discussion questions for your family.

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.



Follow the above instruction to join Remind to get all of the updates from the Children's ministry.



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

Youth Ministry

UMYF



Stephanie Jenkins

Director of Student Ministries

980-292-3182

sjenkins@fumcgastonia.org

Youth
Sunday
May 17

**CHOOSE
WISELY**

Youth will lead all
worship services:

10 am- FUMC & 162 East
Facebook pages

www.fumcgastonia.org/worship/view-services

The Youth are working hard to bring a fun, moving and memorable worship service to you May 17th. Each worship service will feature different youth serving in different roles. Music, scripture and more are led by the youth. Kyla Farmer, Clark Styers and Sophie Jurs will be delivering the message on "Choosing Wisely."



2020 Senior High Graduates

20 FUMC Graduates will be recognized in worship June 7th

Class of 2020 Dinner is May 31st Due to gathering size restrictions, dinner will be delivered to graduates' homes by special messengers along with surprises. The graduates & their parents/guardians will join on a zoom grad party at 6:30, where more surprises are in store.



Summer Mission Trip Update

Mid-Hi Mission Trip

July 13-17 (M-F)
Current 6th-8th grade

Sr-Hi Mission Trip

July 20-24 (M-F)
Current 8th-12th grade



What: We will be partnering with Carolina Cross Connection in serving the greatest need. This may include home repair, urban outreach & more.

Where: Due to Covid-19, All mission trips will now be local and we will serve in Gaston County.

Cost: \$150 (Scholarships are available upon request)

Deadline to Sign Up: May 31st

According to the Western North Carolina Conference, no mission trips are allowed this summer. This instead is a mission week and will comply with CDC, state & conference guidelines.

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



@fumcumyf



**FUMC Staff
Devotionals
Monday-
Saturday
@ 4pm**

**Lessons from
our Sunday
School Teachers
Wednesdays
@ 4pm**

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



First United
Methodist
Church of
Gastonia, NC



FUMCGastonia



@FUMCGastonia



Sign up to receive
Newsletters online



Give Online!

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Gastonia, NC 28053

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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
Church, PO Box 218
Gastonia, NC 28053