



News at First

Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church | May 2021

NEW SERMON SERIES

MAY 9- JUNE 13

CALL THE CHURCH (704) 864- 4371 OR VISIT OUR RECEPTION DESK TO GET A BOOK TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE SERMON SERIES.

HALF TRUTHS

*"God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"
and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say. Coming soon from Adam Hamilton!*

GO BEYOND EVERYDAY SAYINGS AND EXPERIENCE THE FULL MESSAGE OF JESUS.

Most of us as Christians have things we believe, and tell others, and even count on, that we've not carefully examined. When these beliefs are questioned we become defensive or irritated. We may even worry that if the beliefs aren't true, the rest of our faith may crumble.

I don't think this book will make your faith crumble. But to the degree that I'm questioning something you've held deeply and repeated often, it might unnerve or irritate you.

Here's why I believe it's important to examine these particular half-truths: I think they can sometimes hurt people. I think they can lead people to conclusions about God that not only are untrue but that may push some people away from God.

Yes, there is some truth to be found in the "truths" we'll explore. I invite you, though, to consider whether these truths are as Christian or as true as you may suppose. And, if I'm right, I hope you might think twice before you say them again.

More than that, I hope that examining these and other half truths will lead you to the greater truths we find in Jesus Christ.

-From the Introduction of Half Truths by Adam Hamilton

I hope you will join each Sunday as we explore the following topics:

- Sunday, May 9** – *"Everything Happens for a Reason"*
- Sunday, May 16** – *"God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"*
- Sunday, May 30** – *"God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle"*
- Sunday, June 6** – *"God Said it, I Believe it, That Settles it"*
- Sunday, June 13** – *"Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin"*



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

May 7-9 - Matthew

May 14-16 - Avery

May 21-23 - Tripp

May 28-30 - Matthew

Sympathy to

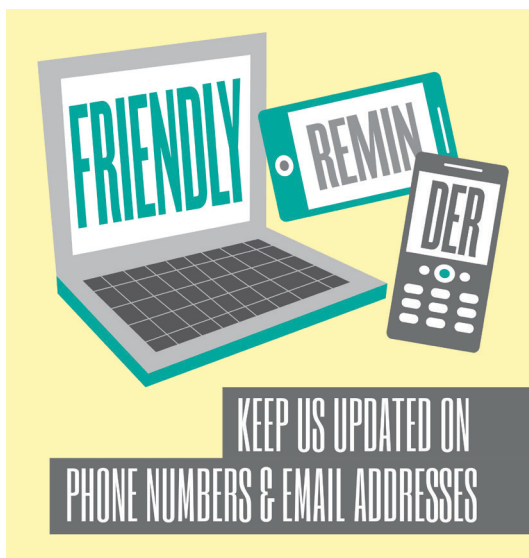
- Stephanie Jenkins and family on the death of her sister.
- Priscilla Gallogly and family on the death of Myron Gallogly.
- Penny Cathey and family on the death of her brother.
- Jenny Griffith and family on the death of her mother.
- Family and friends of Daphne Hearne.

Joy to

- Michael and Meredith Goebel on the birth of Lincoln Charles. Grandparents are Ted and Susan Lisle.

Sunday Morning Views

Date:	162 E. Online	162 E. In-person	11am Online	11am In-Person
April 4	399	30	722	172
April 11	152	22	377	76
April 18	169	28	705	102
April 25	238	46	490	140



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

Amanda@fumcgastonia.org



Worship Arts Ministry

First UMC Music Ministries has joyfully resumed in-house choral rehearsals and worship participation beginning Wednesday, April 28th. As we move forward with providing choral singing at the 11:00 Sunday service, we also extend an invitation to those who would be interested in joining us and raising a joyful sound. Rehearsals continue on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00 and child care is provided.

Please do not hesitate to email your phone number to either myself, or Associate Director Susan Lisle, and we'll gladly call you with more information on how to add your voice to this much missed and needed ministry.

Little by little the light of our lives is beginning to brighten as more opportunities become available to use our talents in ministry. Your participation, support, and willingness to serve are needed more than ever. Please give some prayerful consideration to using your talents to proclaim our risen Lord!

Jim

jaodell@fumcgastonia.org
susan@fumcgastonia.org



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



Timothy Scruggs
Organist
timothy@fumcgastonia.org



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



join us for worship

ONLINE

8:45am or 11:00am

Boxcast.tv or Boxcast App

Facebook.com/FUMCGastonia

fumcgastonia.org/worship/view-services

ON YOUR SMART TV



DOWNLOAD THE BOXCAST APP



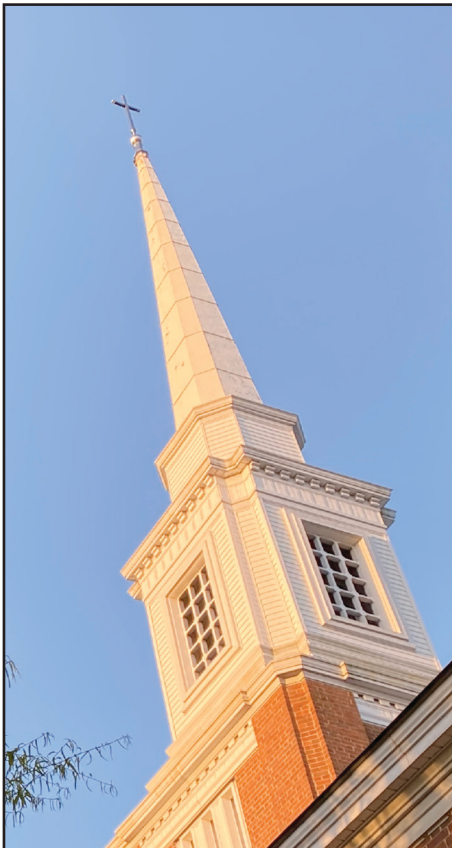
SEARCH FOR:
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IN-PERSON

8:45am Contemporary Worship at 162 East Theatre

11:00am Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

**You do not need to sign up. We just ask that you please continue to social distance and wear your mask while on campus. Thank you for helping keep our congregation and community safe.*





We are excited to announce the task force approval of a phased-in approach to **in-person Sunday School classes:**

May 9th

Joy & Crosstalk classes begin in-person.

Families are encouraged to sit near the aisles and Children are invited to come down front for the Children's Time during worship.

June 13th

All other adult, youth and children's classes begin.

Nursery is open during Worship and Sunday School.

**In order to help keep everyone safe we ask that you continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.*

United Methodist Men's Hot Dog Lunch is now Drive Thru!

**Every First Friday
12:00-1:00pm**



***Corner of Oakland & Main**





Why is the story of Jesus feeding a multitude so important? For starters, it is the only miracle of Jesus recorded in all four gospels. Any story repeated so many times must be important.

It is also significant that the entire crowd of 5,000 was invited to the meal. There is no discrimination at the Lord's table. A belief we value as United Methodist is that the rich and poor, sinner and saint, victim and bully are all welcome to the food Jesus offers.

Paying closer attention to scripture, we realize the disciples served the meal. The disciples were content to send the crowd on their way, but instead, Jesus sent them on a mission to secure food without money, food or extra clothing. When the disciples returned, they were exhausted and hungry much like the crowd. I love this part of the story because Jesus is not only teaching us about compassion, but also that we are all the same in God's eyes.

The work of FUMC requires a family table and invested disciples. Below you will read about two new outreach opportunities to feed the multitude. What is made clear in this story is the feeding was done by the disciples and that Jesus blessed the meal. May the same be true in our new ministries.

Red Rice and Beans

Thank you to Kelly Ray Shelton who felt called during Covid to find a purpose greater than herself when traditional jobs and opportunities were shut down. She and a friend began preparing meals of red beans and rice for our homeless neighbors. They are looking to expand this operation by inviting you to deliver meals. Please be in prayer for this ministry to begin in June. You will hear more from Kelly about ways to be involved.

House of Mercy

House of Mercy has a twenty year partnership with FUMC. This is a resident home for persons living with AIDS. Their recent cut in funding through HUD has left a shortage on their staff. They are in need of breakfast, lunch and dinners for the near future. They have a total of five residents and would appreciate volunteers. Please contact Revonda Tew, revondatew@gmail.com if you would be interested in helping with this outreach opportunity or you can contact HOM Volunteer Coordinator, Krystyna Sarrazin, 704-825-4711.



Becky Greene

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

Children's Ministry



Kristi McClellan

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

2021 Fifth & Sixth Grade Retreat

May 16, 2021

2:00-6:00 pm @ Natalie Tindol's

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8

Sign up at fumcgastonia.org/retreat



Stay up-to-date with
all of the FUMC Kids
happenings on Facebook.

@FUMCGNCKids



SAFE SANCTUARY
TRAINING

MAY 23 @ 10:00 AM

Camp Sunshine volunteers and
anyone needing to update their
training. Training lasts for 3 years.
Contact kristi@fumcgastonia.org

VOLUNTEER FOR VBS: AUGUST 3-5

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.



Save the Date for the
following programs
to start back on
Sunday, June 13.

-Nurseries

-Kid's Summer
Sunday School

Be on the lookout for
Special Summer
Wednesdays &
Summer events
coming soon!

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



Sunday- Join us for Sunday School on Facebook at 9 a.m. and Worship In-person or
on Facebook or Boxcast at 8:45 or 11 a.m.



Monday Mission - Mission Projects



Time-to-Talk Tuesday- Discussion questions over the dinner table with your family.



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



Thankful Thursday- What are you thankful for?



Friday Fun & Fellowship- Fun activities to do with your family!

Youth Ministry



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



May 2 Family Day @ Tekoa Foothills
May 9 Mother's Day—**NO UMYF**
May 16 5th & 6th Grade Retreat 2-6pm
May 23 GRADUATE SUNDAY!
Worship & Lunch
May 30 Memorial Day Weekend
- **NO UMYF**

May 16 - 5th & 6th Grade Retreat

2-6pm @ Natalie Tindol's House



Wear clothes you don't mind ruining/getting messy
Bring the following: your Bible, food to share with 20 people
(guys—drink & dessert, gals—apps & snacks), comfy swim
wear, change of clothes, beach towel & sunscreen

SIGN UP:

www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4eaba72daafdc07-5th6th



May 23 - Graduate Sunday

The 2021 Graduates will be recognized during worship. A meal will be served to the graduates & their families in the FLC gym following the 11:00 Worship Service. Each student will have their own table spaced 8 ft apart from the other tables.

2021



2021 Summer Mission Trips

Cost per person: \$300

Second \$150 Deposit Due June 7
(Scholarships are available upon request)

Check with Stephanie Jenkins
regarding spots available



Sr-Hi Mission Trip

July 11-17 (Sun-Sat)

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

Mid-Hi Mission Trip

July 25-31 (Sun-Sat)

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

Check us out via Social Media



@FUMCGastoniaYouth



@fumcumyf

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

WE
DEMAND
JUSTICE
+
CHANGE

Let the mountains
bring peace to
the people;
let the hills bring
righteousness.
Let the king
bring justice.

PSALM 72:3-4, CEB

PEACE
WITH JUSTICE
SUNDAY

Through your generous gift today, you encourage living
a gospel of peace.

Please make check payable to your local church or give online at UMC.org/SSGive.



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

SPECIAL OFFERING

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

MAY 30, 2021

GIVE ONLINE:

FUMCGASTONIA.ORG/GIVE-PAY
CHOOSE "OTHER" & TYPE IN
"PEACE WITH JUSTICE"
IN MEMO LINE

GIVE AT CHURCH:

USE THE SPECIAL ENVELOPE ON
MAY 30 THAT WILL BE IN YOUR
BULLETIN.

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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