

First United
Methodist Church
200 W. Gay Street
Lancaster, SC 29720
P.O. Box 608
Lancaster, SC 29721
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The Connector

First United Methodist Church Lancaster, SC
www.firstumclancaster.com

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors,
The People of the United Methodist Church



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Open Doors,
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SAFE SANCTUARY

FUMC provides a Safe Sanctuary for children, youth, and vulnerable adults. We require a background check of all adult volunteers and training on our Safe Sanctuary policy.



HOPE OF LANCASTER

Hope of Lancaster needs the following items:

Grits, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce (plastic containers), canned potatoes, fruit juice (plastic containers), pasta (various shapes)

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Please submit any information to the church office by *noon on Tuesday* for the following Sunday's bulletin. Information for the newsletter is due on the 25th of the month for the following month's newsletter.

HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH!

Please notify the Church Office at 283-8406 or email libby@firstumclancaster.com with any updates to contact information (address, phone numbers, email address).

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Martha Swain |
| 2 | Toby Holland |
| 3 | Jane Carroll |
| 4 | Dickson Whitesides |
| 5 | Jo Ann Hunter |
| 12 | Creighton Carter
Ryan Bunkley |
| 14 | Betsy Steele
Kay Dotson |
| 16 | Carolyn Plyler |
| 17 | Rob Crews |
| 18 | Bryan Pettit |
| 20 | Debbie Wood
Sonny Rushing |
| 21 | Caryl Rehrig
Sis Parker |
| 22 | Nathan Palmer |
| 25 | Charlaine Simpson
Bob Rose |
| 26 | Michael Clancy |
| 27 | Lou Collier |
| 29 | Cameron Carter |

FIRST UNITED METHODIST STAFF

Charles Phillips, Senior Pastor
Shelly Holder, Minister of Youth and Children
Hunter Cox, Organist and Director of Music Ministries
Libby Doster, Administrative Assistant
Novice Baker, Director of Preschool

caphillips@umcsc.org
saholder@umcsc.org
coxjh@appstate.edu
libby@firstumclancaster.com
novice@firstumclancaster.com

Office Hours : 8:30 – 4:30 (Monday–Thursday)
Telephone: 803-283-8406 **Fax**: 803-286-8680
Website: www.firstumclancaster.com

Bishop Holston extends call to suspend in-person worship through April

My friends, I have been awed by the creative ways the churches of the South Carolina Conference have responded to the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. The remarkable work you are doing in service to your congregations and your communities and your outside-the-box approaches to ministry illustrate both your commitment to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and your care for one another.

Each of these innovations shows that South Carolina United Methodists understand the importance of continuing to do our part to tamp down the spread of COVID-19.

After consulting with The Cabinet, and in light of the latest information shared by public health officials, I am strongly recommending that leaders of each local church continue to suspend in-person worship services and all gatherings, meetings and events, through April 30, 2020. Recommendations about events planned for May will be communicated in the coming weeks.

My heart aches at the notion of not coming together to celebrate the seminal moment of our Christian faith – the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Though our celebration of Easter Sunday will look different this year, we are assured that God's presence will be made known to all in real and tangible ways as we rejoice in our risen Savior, in whom victory over death is achieved.

Sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion has always been a central act of Christian community. It is the meal that marks the members of the Body of Christ. Questions have been raised about sharing in this holy meal during these days when we cannot meet together physically.

"This Holy Mystery" is the United Methodist document that explains communion. It says, "Holy Communion is the communion of the church – the gathered community of the faithful, both local and universal. While deeply meaningful to the individuals participating, the sacrament is much more than a personal event. The first-person pronouns throughout the ritual are consistently plural – we, us, our. First Corinthians 10:17 explains that 'because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.'"

Communion is an act that we all take part in together – as part of the gathered Christian body. During communion, we share food – both spiritual and physical. COVID-19 can be passed from one person to another even before either person shows any signs of illness. This makes the intimate contact involved in the sharing of food and blessings inherently risky.

Because of the theological nature of communion as something that the body of believers does together in the sharing of one loaf, and because of the practical dangers currently involved in close physical contact, it is strongly recommended that we should not take part in communion until it is safe for us to all come together again to worship as one body.

We must take care to do no harm to each other, even as we assume our shared responsibility to do all we can to bring this new disease under control. I invite all South Carolina United Methodists to a season of prayer and preparation, so that on the day we can once again share in this holy mystery, we may come with joyful hearts.

Please remember that ongoing and new forms of ministry only happen through members who faithfully participate in the life of their local congregation through their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Please continue your participation in whatever ways you safely can.

I am confident that the clergy and laity of our churches will persevere in finding ways to remain in community with our sisters and brothers in Christ this month. You can find an ever-growing collection of resources to help local churches continue in ministry through this turbulent time at umcsc.org/coronavirus.

I also invite you to join me in a video prayer each morning on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and at umcsc.org. Pray without ceasing for those affected by this illness, for those experiencing stress and anxiety, for those facing financial uncertainty, for the medical professionals treating and caring for patients, and for those working to ensure a healthier future for all of us.

Grace and peace,

L. Jonathan Holston
Resident Bishop

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

Palm/Passion Sunday April 5
LITURGY OF THE PALMS

First Lesson Psalm 118
Gospel Lesson Matthew 21:1-11

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

First Lesson Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel Lesson Matthew 27:11-54

Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00pm April 9

First Lesson 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Second Lesson Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Gospel Lesson John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday Worship 7:00pm April 10

First Lesson Isaiah 52:1-3-53:12
Psalm Psalm 22
Second Lesson Hebrews 10:16-25
Gospel Lesson John 18:1-19:42

EASTER SUNDAY 10:30am April 12

First Lesson Colossians 3:1-4
Second Lesson Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Gospel Lesson John 20:1-18

2nd Sunday of Easter April 19

First Lesson 1 Peter 1:3-9
Second Lesson Psalm 16
Gospel Lesson John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter April 26

First Lesson 1 Peter 1:17-23
Second Lesson Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Gospel Lesson Luke 24:13-35

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

We invite you to enrich your observance of Holy Week and Easter as we worship together on our First United Methodist Church Group Facebook Page as we broadcast Live and at any time on our church website at: firstumclancaster.com. Simply follow the link under the tab "Video Messages."

Holy Week begins Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5th with worship online on Facebook Live at 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 9th, Maundy Thursday worship online on Facebook Live at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 10th, Good Friday worship online on Facebook Live at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship, April 12th, online on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m.

If you have any questions about these worship services or about online access, please contact Pastor Charles by phone or text at: 843-708-5696 or by email at: caphillips@umcsc.org

Until then, the LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Keep the faith, Pastor Charles

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our Members

Erica Crews, Shelly Holder, Sharon Holder, Zeddie Williams, Adrian Pettit, Betty Vassey, Charlene Simpson, Lorraine Harper, Steve Rothrock, DeLee Ballard, Lou Collier, Art Collier, Pam Vaughn, Betsy Sims Gardner, Travis Berry, Bill Bradley, Dixie Roberts

Our Community

Ralph and Barbara Turner, friends of George Arnold and family
Forrest Sellars, brother of Nancy Fleming
Glenn Garner, brother of George Garner
George Gottier, brother-in-law of Beverly and Bill Bradley
Louise Hayes, aunt of Debra Rowell

Sherry Stalvey, Wilkins family, Robinson family
friends of Erica Crews

Eric Hough, friend of Kay Stewart
Ashley Thomasson, niece of Sis and Bob Yoder
Hal Plyler, son of Carolyn Plyler
Marvin Baker, father of Mica Edwards
Shannon Threatt, daughter of Roberta Whitaker

Our Sympathy

The Sympathy of the pastor and congregation is extended to the following families:
Peggy Little and family on the death of her sister, Carol Parker.

Jan Baskins and family on the death of her husband, Larry Baskins.

The Williams Family on the recent death of Lathan Williams (Uncle of Erica Crews)

Due to the COVID-19 considerations, all in-person gatherings and committee meetings are cancelled including the following April events:

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

MEALS ON WHEELS

HANNAH/MARY CIRCLE AND LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed until further notice. If you require assistance, or in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Charles by phone and text at: 843-708-5696 or by email at: caphillips@umcsc.org

COMMUNITY/CHURCH SIGN UP FOR 2020

Please sign up for a month...or two, to sponsor a Community/Church Meal in 2020. If you are a part of a small group, Sunday School Class, UMW, Youth Group, or church committee; consider sponsoring a meal! Let's fill up the whole year soon! The sign-up sheet is in the Connector. Thank you.

FORTY DAYS-FORTY ITEMS

Wednesday, February 26th was the first day of Lent. Accept this Challenge. Each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet and/or chest of drawers that you no longer need or wear and donate these items to someone who truly needs them!

SUNSHINE FOR SHELLY

Feel free to take a Yellow Sunshine Band available in the Connector. Send a picture to Shelly to show our support and brighten her day.

Shelly's New Address

Shelly Holder
Noland Hospital
Room 856
50 Medical Park East
8th Floor
Birmingham, AL 35235

SUNDAYS: WORSHIP LIVE ON FACEBOOK

We hope you will join our friends on Facebook Live each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. EST to worship together on our First United Methodist Church Group Facebook Page as we broadcast Live. If you are unable to join us live, but you are able to worship at a later time, you may enjoy the worship service video at any time on our church website at: FirstUMC.Lancaster.com. Simply follow the link under the tab "Video Messages."

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Charles by phone or text at: 843-708-5696 or by email at: caphillips@umcsc.org.

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FAITHFUL GIVING

Please continue to be faithful in your giving toward the ministries of First UMC by mailing your tithes and contributions to the church address. If you prefer to make your contributions online, full information complete with a link is on our church website at: www.firstumclancaster.com
If you have questions about the VANCO online giving procedures, please contact Pastor Charles or Cynthia Craig for details.

GIFTS IN MEMORY

Mary Ann Wade
Margaret and Charlie Bundy
Mildred Taylor
Nancy and Jimmy Bradley
Marilyn Rainwater

Tommy Grier

Mary and Bob Collins
Janice and Mike Heath
Gaston, Marion and Stubbs P.A.
Marion Grier, Jr.
Thomas Arrington
Becky and Carlisle Stevenson
Rick and Kim Hyclak
Wynona Cox
Debbie and Bill Dunn

Mark Brunsvold

Debbie and Sam Wood, Jr.

Paul Van Riper

Debbie and Sam Wood, Jr.

James Robb Estep

Gail and Joe Estep

Carol Parker

Marilyn Rainwater
Wynona Cox
Debbie and Bill Dunn

THANK YOU

From Nancy Crolley

Dear Church Family, Thank you for remembering me in your thoughts, prayers, calls and cards in the loss of my sister, Mary Ann Wade. No life passes without a purpose and no sorrow goes uncomforted, I am so blessed to be a member of First United Methodist Church and our caring members. Thank you again, Much Love.

A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Please report any needed church repairs to a member of the Trustees Committee. Members are: Jane Michels, Joyce Morin, Alan Blankenship, Neil Couch, Mike Lindsay, Frank Robertson, Eric Sullivan. You may call Neil Couch at 803-320-0800 or email him @ neilc@hoopaughgrading.com. We also have forms in the Trustees box outside the church office that you may fill out and leave in the Trustees box.