

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.firstumclanaster.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@firstumclanaster.com with any updates to contact information (address, phone numbers, email address).

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Volina English
Lana Geiger
Keirsten Crews
8 Andy Caudill
9 Tony Gilreath
Jim Talbert, III
15 Ellen Schonberg
17 Ginger Cook
18 Gary McWhirter
Donna Williamson
20 Mary Blackham
22 Jubin Jackson
Patrick Sullivan
23 Katie Balch
24 Reb Bunkley
25 Bill Dunn
Debbie Sowell
Namath Emory
26 Roberta Whitaker
29 Harriett Ann Williams
31 Elaine Walters

Jesus said,
"When you pray,
say:
Our Father, who
art in heaven,
hallowed be thy
name. Thy
kingdom come, thy
will be done on
earth as it is in
heaven.
Give us this
day our daily
bread. And
forgive us our
trespasses, as we
forgive those who
trespass against
us.

And lead us
not into
temptation, but
deliver us from evil.

For thine is
the kingdom, and
the power, and the
glory, forever.
Amen.

BEGIN AGAIN

There have been times in my own life when it seemed difficult for me to pray. Even when I desired to pray and pour out my heart, often the words didn't seem to come freely. It is like feeling stifled and out of breath when it is hard to pray. It's only in looking back that I realize that there were several things going on at once that seemed to conspire to keep me silent in prayer.

First, there are those times when I was so full of feelings and emotions that it seemed nearly impossible to sort through them all. Pain has a way of doing that. Whether it is physical pain or the most debilitating of all; spiritual pain. I know it's true that, "when one of us is in pain, we are all in pain." But, spiritual pain is a lonely place. Have you ever felt that no one else could possibly understand what you're going through? Have you ever been terrified to utter how bad you are hurting for fear of being ridiculed or not understood? You and I must remember that we are not alone in our pain.

Second, there are times when prayer is hard when you're not sure if you are being heard at all. Sometimes prayer seems to hang in midair then the words fall to the floor at your feet. Imagine what it is like to stand in the middle of a hurricane and scream to be heard over the rush of a deafening wind. There are times in life when prayer seems unheard because of the noises that are loud and incessant. You and I must remember that no prayer is uttered that goes unheard.

Third, there are times when prayer seems to words pile up on words. Though it is sometimes necessary to speak what is going on the human heart, there are times when it is more necessary simply to "be" in prayer. What I mean by that is the grace of letting go of the words and just rest in prayer as a child reclines in a mother's arms. When we let go of the words and sit in silence before God instead, we find that God will embrace us gently and lovingly even when there are no words to describe it.

Finally, even though it may be difficult to pray at times, stay in love with God and continue to pray. Pray without ceasing. Pray when you are in great agony. Pray when there are no words to say. Most of all pray when it's most difficult to pray. Even when you are unable to pray on your own others are praying for you. Yes, there are others who are praying for you by name today. You have been thought of and prayed for by someone you may not even know by name. When one of us is in prayer we are all in prayer.

May you know how much you are loved and how dearly you are prayed for today.

Blessings,

Charles

FIRST UNITED METHODIST STAFF

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

caphillips@umcsc.org
coxjh@appstate.edu
libby@firstumclanaster.com
novice@firstumclanaster.com

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

AUGUST, 2020 SCRIPTURE

9 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 2, 2020
First Lesson	Romans 9:1-5
Second Lesson	Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 14:13-21
“A Deserted Place”	
10 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 9, 2020
First Lesson	Romans 10:5-15
Second Lesson	Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 14:22-33
“Do Not Be Afraid”	
11 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 16, 2020
First Lesson	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Second Lesson	Psalm 133
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 15:21-28
“Lord, Help Me”	
12 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 23, 2020
First Lesson	Romans 12:1-8
Second Lesson	Psalm 124
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 16:13-20
“The Church’s One Foundation”	
13 th Sunday after Pentecost	August 30, 2020
First Lesson	Romans 12:9-21
Second Lesson	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 16:21-28
“The Cross and Self-Denial”	

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our Members

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

Our Community

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
 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
 Joan Fleming, mother of Steve Fleming

Our Sympathy

The Sympathy of the pastor and congregation is extended to Peggy Little and family on the death of her brother Donnie Turner.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office is closed until we are able to safely resume. If you require assistance, or are 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 MEAL

Currently, the community meal sign-up is on hold until we are safe to resume this ministry. Thank you for your patience and for your willingness to serve.

THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT MEET THE MONTH OF JULY AND AUGUST

The Lunch Bunch
 The Hannah/Mary Circle
 The Elizabeth Circle
 The Stitch and Pray
 The Girls Scouts
 The Jubilant Ringers
 The Chancel Choir
 The UMM Breakfast

EPWORTH MOTHER’S DAY OFFERING

We will observe the Epworth Children’s Home offering when we resume in-person worship.

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 any questions about the VANCO online giving procedures, please contact Pastor Charles or Cynthia Craig for details.

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: FirstUMCLancaster.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.

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

NEWS FROM SHELLY

To my dear FUMC Family,
 I will be continuing my rehab in Tyler, Texas at my sister's home as I still have a long road of recovery ahead of me. I have much transition ahead of me being in a new location with many adjustments in my routine. I look forward to being reunited with my mom and my dog, Bella, as well as with my sister, Shelby and her family. I cannot even begin to express my gratitude for the countless ways you have loved on me and supported me with your cards and gifts, thoughts and prayers as I have been on this journey. I know things are certainly unusual these days. In the meantime, I covet your continued prayers.
 Grace and Peace, Shelly

Our new address is...

Shelly Holder 15165 Northwood Drive Tyler, Texas 75703	Sharon Holder 15165 Northwood Drive Tyler, Texas 75703
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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 at 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.

FUMC PRESCHOOL

Registration is open for the 3-yr. old, and 4-yr. old classes. Applications are available in the church office or contact Novice Baker at 283-8406 if you have any questions.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Vivian Ferguson
 White Oak Manor
 253 Craig Manor Rd.
 Lancaster, SC 29720

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To Betty Vassey who recently celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, July 19th.

GIFTS IN MEMORY

Anita Palmer

Nancy Westmoreland

Al and Anita Palmer

Mim and Ken Boucher

Charlaine Simpson

Nancy and Jim Bradley
 Mim and Ken Boucher

Henry Wilson

Mary and Bob Collins

Donnie Turner

Debbie and Sam Wood, Jr,
 Amelia and Ken Davis
 Mary and Bob Collins
 Caroline Collins

Charlaine Simpson

Kitty Jackson

Mary H. Plyler Gamble

Mary and Bob Collins
 Caroline Collins

Julia Hagins

Caroline Collins

Walker and Mildred McWaters

Bobby McWaters

Mary Ann Wade

Jimmy McWaters

Nancy Crolley

Lou Bundy

Nancy Crolley

THANK YOU

From HOPE in Lancaster
 Thank you so much for the contribution gift of \$500.00 .
 Date of contribution June 24th 2020.