

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 Minds,
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.

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).



HOPE OF LANCASTER

Hope of Lancaster needs the following items: canned sweet peas; canned corn; canned tuna; canned pastas, such as beef ravioli, spaghetti and meatballs, etc.; 1 lb. bags of rice; and jiffy mix. These along with other food items can be dropped off in the HOPE chest outside Shelly's office.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Cynthia Craig |
| 2 | Phyllis Bunkley |
| 5 | Jonah Page |
| 6 | Ken Hudson |
| 7 | Linda Snyder |
| 8 | Dixie Roberts |
| 10 | Susan Riggins |
| 11 | Robyn Small |
| 12 | Bill Balch |
| | Erica Crews |
| 13 | Bill Hutchinson, Jr. |
| | Adair Higgins |
| 14 | Jimmy Walters |
| 15 | Art Collier |
| | Sarah Ellen Ghent |
| 16 | Jimmy Talbert, Jr. |
| 20 | Angie Jackson |
| 21 | Edith Talbert |
| 24 | Coulter Jackson |
| 25 | Jay White |
| 27 | Mike Wells |
| | Ethan Emory |
| 28 | Peg Hoover |

February 2019

“No good
tree bears bad
fruit, nor again
does a bad
tree bear good
fruit; for each
tree is known
by its own fruit.
Figs are not
gathered from
thorns, nor are
grapes picked
from a bramble
bush. The
good person
out of the
good treasure
of the heart
produces
good,... Luke
6:43-45a

PLANNING FOR THE OUTCOME

Some time ago, our resident bishop, Bishop Johnathan Holston, encouraged every pastor to read the book entitled, *Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results*, by Lovett Weems and Tom Berlin. The authors of the book are United Methodists who have a vision for the Church where transformation in ministry is brought about by the cultivation of fruitfulness in every activity and program. The concept of transformation through fruitfulness is based on the Biblical principles that transcend mere human endeavor. Fruitfulness is where God takes our planning to a new and unimaginable level. Here are a few of their points:

“We believe that the Bible begins and ends with an image of fruitfulness and that Scripture throughout leads us to conclude that churches, as the body of Christ on earth, are intended by God to be fruitful.

“In Exodus, when the covenant is presented to Moses on Mount Sinai, God restates the intention that Israel is to have a unique role in the world as a nation of priests. The idea is that a people made holy through their covenant with God will enable all the nations of the world to be blessed in like fashion. This type of fruitfulness, first found in the covenant with Abraham and Sarah, is a thread that runs throughout the Bible. The hope of God is clearly that the covenant people will widen the circle by inviting others to know the Lord as they do.

Many of the ministries and programs in the Church are achieving great results. Great results, however, does not always mean “fruitful” results. I do not mean that we are not achieving what we believe God is calling us to, I simply mean that we are not always focused on the outcomes or results when we engage in the ministry planning process. Here's what it means for me as a church leader:

“Success is not the goal of pastoral leadership, but fruitfulness is... Fruitfulness is vastly different from what the world regards as success. Fruitfulness has as its goal not personal advancement or acclaim but the advancement of God's reign on earth. It seeks to shape the life and work of the congregation through a shared passion for its mission. Fruitful leaders care about results because results are ways to go beyond merely filling a pastoral role to active participation in seeking results that we are convinced emerge from the gospel we preach.

That changes everything for me. Our measures of success may, in fact, be misleading. If I believe that I am successful as a church leader by the number of sermons I preach or by the number of programs that I initiate, I may be missing the mark. If, however, I begin to see ministry as a means of achieving a God-desired outcome, I will be more intentional and deliberate in my planning for the future of the Church. But this idea is not just for the pastor. We each have a role in leading toward results for the future. That's why I want to make the book, *Bearing Fruit*, available to every person in the Church.

The book will be making its way throughout the church. If you would rather not wait for the book to come your way, please let me know and I will see that you have a copy of the book right away. That's how much I believe that the message of fruitfulness can change the way we relate to each other and to the community around us.

Grace,

Charles

FIRST UNITED METHODIST STAFF

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

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Telephone: 803-283-8406 **Fax**: 803-286-8680
Website: www.firstumclancaster.com

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 3 "Reaching Out in Love" Luke 4:21-30
February 10 "Out in Deep Water" Luke 5:1-11
February 17 "The Power of Touch" Luke 6:17-26
February 24 "The Rule of Life" Luke 6:27-38

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our Members

Greg Crolley, Jane Carroll, Pierce Horton, Gertrude Denise, Sarah Dotson, Travis Berry, Vivian Ferguson, Becky Stevenson, Bill Bradley, Eleanor Brouwer, Rob Crews, Marita Eden, Peggy Heath, Bill Murphy, Dixie Roberts

Our Community

Libby Doster, Church Administrative Assistant
Marvin Baker, father of Mica Edwards
Willis Bethea, brother of Lisa Pettit
Shannon Threatt, daughter of Roberta Whitaker
Vaughn Miller, father of Andrea Ghent

Our Sympathy

The Sympathy of the pastor and congregation is extended to Margaret and Charlie Bundy on the death of her sister-in-law, Barbara Ritch Jackson.

THE UPPER ROOMS

The Upper Rooms are located in the Connector and Narthex. Please stop by and pick up a copy. We have both the small-print and large-print editions.

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 Flower Calendar is in the church office. Please call the office at 283-8406 to reserve a date for flowers in the church for a Sunday in memory or honor of a loved one.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Sunday, February 3rd is "Souper Bowl" Sunday, and your generous gift of food on this day will help support the Lancaster County Warming Shelter. We need items that do not require refrigeration, can opener or required to be cooked or microwaved. Individual serving sizes or snack size items work best: individual packs of peanut butter, canned tuna, canned meats, cookies, crackers, pretzels, peanuts, trail mix, breakfast bars, granola bars, canned pasta with pop tops, fruit chews, etc..., If you have questions, contact Shelly.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, February 5th in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a side dish to share and invite a friend.

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

The United Methodist Men's Breakfast will be Sunday, February 10th at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we share food, fellowship and faith.

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY/CHURCH MEAL

Please join us Monday, February 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for our February Community/Church Meal. The Hannah/Mary Circle will be our host. The menu will be soup and cornbread.

STITCH AND PRAY

The Stitch and Pray Group will meet Wednesday, February 20th, at 10:00 a.m. in the church Library.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

AN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH GAME NIGHT!!!

Sponsored by UMW

February 21st

6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Bring your own refreshments

More Information: Peg Hoover 803-804-7592

UMW UPDATES

The December meeting of the Ruth Circle was a Period Packing Party. Did you know that the circle packaged over 1,500 sanitary items for the Lancaster County area schools? The supplies were delivered to the Lancaster County School nurse to be distributed to area high schools, middle schools and elementary schools. Thank you for your response in gathering supplies for those young students in need.

Thank you to the Elizabeth Circle and their generosity for gathering supplies for the nursing staff at North Elementary. They gathered and provided toiletry items, panties, underwear, socks and wash cloths to be used to help students whose families may not have the means to provide grooming needs.

A word of thank you to the Hannah/Mary Circle for organizing and facilitating the entire UMW in the kitchen clean up and reorganization. That is such a vital part of ministry that often gets forgotten.

THE CHILI COOK-OFF IS BACK

It's BACK! Please join us for great food, music and great fellowship on Tuesday, February 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for the FUMC Chili Cook-off. We need Chefs, judges, and plenty of eaters. There will be a sign up sheet in the Connector beginning Feb. 1st for chefs to sign up to bring their best chili game. Also, please sign up to attend this great event. If you have any questions, please contact Robyn Small at (803) 804-5452.

UMVIM TEAM

The Rock Hill District UMVIM Team is planning a mission in Panama at the end of February. The team will work with missionaries there in projects chosen for the team. Cost of the mission is \$1,800.00 and includes all costs except personal spending money.

Missions are also planned for North Carolina or Florida to work in areas impacted by the recent hurricanes. Dates are March 24th-30th. Cost for the team will be determined when specifics are available.

No specific skills are required except a willingness to serve and cooperate with team members.

If interested in either of these, contact Ken Hudson at kenrhudson@yahoo.com.

Please continue to pray for those recovering and those that are assisting.

CHURCH FAMILY

Our official UMC web site offers the following: "During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally 'turn around' and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ."

I am asking all our church to think about your past when you have "turned around" and realigned your life. It can also be your spiritual remembrance when you connected to your bond with Christ at Easter. Think about it. Please send your written Lent experience to the church for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.

In His service,
Sam Wood, Jr.
Education Committee Chair

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

The Men of First UMC are pleased to announce our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 5th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We will begin serving at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. So come hungry! Meantime, contact Donnie Little or Willis Ballard if you will volunteer to help with set up, food prep, and clean up.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

CREED: What Christians Believe and Why - Exploring the Apostles' Creed by Adam Hamilton is a six week study we will use to enhance our Lenten Journey. The study will be facilitated by Shelly Holder. We will meet in the conference room with two study opportunities. First will be Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. beginning March 11th through April 15th. The second will be Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. beginning March 12th through April 16th. Books are \$10 each and there is a sign-up sheet in the Connector.

GIFTS IN MEMORY

Barbara Ritch Jackson

Phyllis and Bill Jarvis

Betty Turner

Dottie and Allan Blankenship

Charlie Blankenship

Dottie and Allan Blankenship

Foxie Plyler

Mary H. Plyler

Robert English

Volina English

GIFT IN HONOR

George Garner

Ann Garner

IN GRATITUDE

From Hope in Lancaster

Thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00 and for the contribution of 77 lbs. of food on November 8th, 2018.