

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

We write today with important news: we will re-open for in-person worship beginning Sunday, September 13 at 11:00 a.m. Please don't rush ahead to First UMC just yet, **please read this message in its entirety.** This message includes very important information that you will want to know before returning to FUMC for worship.

Service Schedule and What to Expect

Beginning Sunday, September 13:

- In-Person Sunday Morning Worship will be in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m.
- In-Person Sunday Morning Worship will be an abbreviated service with organ/piano music and guest musicians and/or vocalists, but NO congregational singing or choir.
- The Sanctuary space, the Connector and surrounding areas will be properly and professionally cleaned weekly, as directed by CDC and the SC Annual Conference guidelines.
- A touchless offering box will be in the Connector for you to drop in your tithe and offering when you arrive for worship.
- When the service concludes, you will be guided by greeter/usher to depart row-by-row. We ask that you refrain from extended fellowship after the service at this time.

Worship Logistics: Registration, Seating, and Number of People in Attendance

- There will be 48 physically-distanced seating areas available in the Sanctuary; 3 seats every other row. Family members who live in the same household may sit side-by-side. However, total seating in the Sanctuary remains at 48 individuals.
- Registration: An online registration link will be circulated on Wednesdays prior to the following Sunday's service (so, for Sunday, September 13, expect to receive a sign-up link in your inbox on Wednesday, September 9 in the afternoon). You may only sign up those who live in your household, *please do not sign up anyone who does not live in your home.*
- Once registration is at 48 individuals the sign-up will close. If registration does not fill registration will close on Friday at noon.
- For those who do not use computers, please call the church office at: 803-283-8406 to record your registration for the upcoming Sunday. Information regarding this registration method will be sent via postal mail to the individuals who do not use computers.
- Greeters/Ushers will be on-hand to guide you to your seating. Signs will be placed both inside the Connector and outside in the breezeway as well. Please observe directions given by greeters/ushers as well as all signage while at FUMC.
- We apologize, but the elevator will not be available until further notice. If you need access to the Sanctuary and cannot use steps, please let us know ahead of time to make arrangements.
- Access to bathroom facilities will also be restricted during this time.

Reasons Not to Attend In-Person Worship

In order for in-person worship to work and for it to continue to be a possibility even after this first Sunday, we each must take personal responsibility for our health and the health of others. That means not coming to FUMC if:

- You have tested positive for COVID-19, or have recently been exposed to someone who has tested positive.
- You have symptoms of COVID-19 (please see the CDC website for a list of symptoms).
- You have existing health conditions that make you more susceptible to or at a heightened risk of complications if you contract COVID-19.

While You're at FUMC for Worship

Masks that cover both your nose and mouth must be worn at all times, both indoors and outside. Observing a social distance of six feet or greater between yourself and others is mandatory at all times. We know it's exciting to see people after we have been apart for so long, but please refrain from hugging, embracing, touching others.

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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).

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@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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Glenn Threatt |
| 6 | George Parker |
| 7 | Don Brouwer |
| 9 | Margaret Parker |
| 9 | Jeff Riggins |
| 12 | Nancy Crolley |
| 14 | Abby Bunkley |
| 15 | Sara Hagins |
| 16 | Jennifer Burwell |
| 17 | Samuel Page |
| 23 | Furman Marshall |
| 23 | Jean Goldsmith |
| 26 | Susan Davis Smith |
| 26 | Lillian Tolson |
| 28 | Drew Pettit |
| 30 | Sue Cauthen |

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Childcare, Nursery and Sunday School

Until further notice, we will not have childcare/nursery available. If you bring your children with you for worship, they will be seated with you during the service. Also, there will no in-person Sunday School (children, youth, or adult) at this time. This may change at a later date, but for now, we will have only 11:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship.

If You're Not Ready to Worship In-Person

We understand. Please know we will continue livestreaming Morning Worship on Facebook and on our website at www.firstumclancaster.com

Final Thoughts

This is our initial re-opening plan. We may add services at a later time as COVID-19 infection rates decline. We know this is a lot of information to digest at once. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Charles. We look forward to worshipping with you in-person at FUMC soon.

SEPTEMBER, 2020 SCRIPTURE

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| 14 th Sunday after Pentecost | September 6, 2020 |
| First Lesson | Romans 13:8-14 |
| Second Lesson | Psalms 148 |
| Gospel Lesson | Matthew 18:15-20 |
| "Where Two Are Gathered" | |
| 15 th Sunday after Pentecost | September 13, 2020 |
| First Lesson | Romans 14:1-12 |
| Second Lesson | Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 |
| Gospel Lesson | Matthew 18:21-35 |
| "Lord, Have Mercy" | |
| 16 th Sunday after Pentecost | September 20, 2020 |
| First Lesson | Philippians 1:21-30 |
| Second Lesson | Psalms 78 |
| Gospel Lesson | Matthew 20:1-16 |
| "The Daily Wage" | |
| 17 th Sunday after Pentecost | September 27, 2020 |
| First Lesson | Philippians 2:1-13 |
| Second Lesson | Psalms 137 |
| Gospel Lesson | Matthew 21:23-32 |
| "As He Was Teaching" | |

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our Members

Andy Caudill, Lib Hutchinson, Vivian Ferguson, Bill Bradley, MeKaila and Hunter Cox, Mary Blackham, Gary Blackham, Zeddie Williams, Adrian Pettit, Betty Vassey, Lorraine Harper, Steve Rothrock, DeLee Ballard, Willis Ballard, Lou Collier, Art Collier, Betsy Sims Gardner, Travis Berry, Bill Bradley, Dixie Roberts

Our Community

Matthew Sweatt, grandson of Butch and Robyn Small
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
Shelly Holder, Sharon Holder

OUR SYMPATHY

The Sympathy of the pastor and congregation is extended to the following families:
George Heinzerling and family on the death of his wife Elena Evelyn Brown Heinzerling.
Sissy Gardner and family on the death of her father James Taylor.
John Rhodes and family on the recent death of his father, John Wylie Rhodes.

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2020

Attention all First UMC Leaders, First UMC will hold Charge Conference on Sunday, October 18th at 12:00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Anthony Hodge, our new District Superintendent, will preside. The Charge Conference will be either a "Virtual" Charge Conference on the Zoom Meeting platform or an In-Person Conference in the Sanctuary. This will be determined in the next few weeks.

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. 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

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 803-283-8406 if you have any questions.

FAREWELL TO SHELLY

Friends, it's with heart-felt appreciation and deep love that we bid farewell to Rev. Shelly Holder as she leaves First UMC and continues her journey toward health in her native State of Texas. Since April 2013, Shelly served as Minister to Children and Youth. Her gifts for ministry were evident as she organized and led Vacation Bible School, Trunk or Treat, United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Youth Sunday School, and countless other gatherings. She served as the FUMC Preschool liaison and led several seasonal Bible Studies. Her laughter and sweet spirit, her friendship and kindness, and her heart for the Lord will truly be missed, and our prayers will continue to uphold and keep her. On her behalf, thank you to each of you for your love, prayers and friendship. May God continue to bless her and keep her. Her new mailing address is:

Shelly Holder
15165 Northwood Drive
Tyler, Texas 75703

GIFTS IN MEMORY

PAUL VAN RIPER
Mary and Bob Collins

LARRY BASKINS
Mary and Bob Collins

CHARLAINE SIMPSON
Mary and Bob Collins
Dottie and Alan Blankenship

ANITA PALMER
Mary and Bob Collins
Eleanor and Don Brouwer

ROBERT DAVIS
Joanna Davis

JULIA HAGINS
Nancy and Jim Bradley

EVELYN HEINZERLING
Nancy and James Bradley
Dianne and Stanley Johnson

THANK YOU

From Carolyn Plyler
I wish to thank you for the many calls, cards, visits, food and most of all the prayers that I received during the encounter with the dog attack, he really did a number on my hand. It has healed but I still have a long way to go with therapy and feeling in it. Please continue to remember me in prayer.
Love to all, Carolyn Plyler