

First United Methodist Church
264 North Main Street
Rutherfordon, NC 28139
www.fumcrutherfordon.org
Vol. 6, No. 9

The First Word

Sharing Christ's Light
...on Main Street & beyond



Saturday, May 5, 2018
8 am until 2 pm

Have you finished your Spring cleaning? Drop off your "treasures" on Friday, May 5th at the Perry-Moore House from 4 to 6 pm. Thank you for contributing to our annual sale.



Saturday, May 19

7:30—Breakfast
8:00—Program, Group Photo
(everybody come), and
Sending Forth to Work Sites

Sunday, May 20

9:30—Fellowship Time with Coffee and
Juice
10:30—Joint Worship Service in the
Fellowship Center

THINGS TOO WONDERFUL FOR ME

— A Pastoral Word from Sydnor

It snowed early last December, and the weight of the wet snow caused a large limb to break off the American holly tree in the parsonage yard. Kelly and I managed to drag the limb to the street—but the limb left behind a carpet of red berries on the parsonage driveway. Later, to our delight, we discovered bluebirds gathering to consume the dried holly berries—at times we would walk outside and find a whole flock of bluebirds out on the drive, fluttering and chittering away.

As I recovered from my cancer surgery last February, I enjoyed looking out at the bluebirds on our doorstep. They brought a sense of hope and the promise of life to my heart. Knowing how much I was enjoying the bluebirds, Kelly bought me a bluebird house as an early birthday present last month. We set it up on a pole in the open yard, carefully screwing the pole into the ground so that the house was 5 feet from the ground, just as Google recommends.

I know bluebirds can be skittish, so I did my best to keep my distance from the bird house after we set it up. One day, though, Kelly told me that she saw some grass sticking out of one of its crevices. We thought, “terrific, maybe there is a nest inside!” It was only a couple of days later that Kelly came home from work and said, “did you see? The bird house has been knocked over!” Apparently, when I screwed the pole into the ground, I should have been less concerned about the height of the bird house and more concerned about the stability of the pole! We went out and together we righted the pole, this time screwing it firmly into the earth. I couldn’t resist looking inside. Sure enough, there was a beautiful bluebird nest sitting inside. How stupid I was, I thought, not to screw the pole in deeper. Now I was sure I had messed up any chance of that bird house being used this spring.

Sure enough, in the days afterward, Kelly and I saw no sign of any bird activity. I even hazarded a peek inside the house to find that nothing had changed—the nest was empty, just as before. It felt like I had not only lost the bluebird family, but something of the hope and promise they had come to represent for me.

Then last week, while Kelly was out working in the yard, for some reason I decided to look again. Lo and behold, when I opened the bird house I found four tiny blue-tinged eggs in the nest inside! I wish you could have seen the joy on Kelly’s face when I told her of my discovery. It felt like grace. We hadn’t scared the birds away—they had stayed with us, trusting our bird house with the precious treasure of their future family.

So today, I’m thankful for second chances and for the way God is at work in the parsonage yard. Truly, even in the smallest of things, we can see the wonders of his grace—if we will but open our eyes and behold the many ways he comes to us in the miracles of life and love.

Blessings and peace,



WELCOME CHRIS KISER—

Summer Intern

Chris graduated from McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. He majored in Religion with minors in Greek and Philosophy.

For ten weeks beginning June 3, Chris gets to experience life as a pastor from the leadership side. Pastor Thompson will serve as Chris' Supervising Pastor.

Alan & Sherry Henderson have graciously volunteered to house Chris.

Gift cards to local restaurants would be a great way to help us welcome Chris to First Church.

Please be in prayer for Chris as he prepares to join us.

WELCOME TABLE

Volunteer help is needed. We serve the first three Mondays of every other month; September, November, January, March, May and July. If there is a month with 5 Mondays, we usually serve the fourth Monday as well.

You could volunteer to cook, serve, or help clean up. The hours of cooking are 11:00 until 4:00, serving 4:00 until 6:30, and clean up from 6:00 until 7:30. Some individuals cook, serve, and clean up, so any extra help is appreciated. You can get with Bud Deck when you arrive and let him know where you are willing to serve.

If you are unable to volunteer, please join us for a delicious meal and make friends with our Welcome Table neighbors.

May 7 ~ ~ May 14 ~ ~ May 21

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The office will be closed Monday, May 28th. The cut off for the June 3rd bulletin will be on Thursday, May 24th. Thank you



Come and be a part of something special!

OPERATION INASMUCH 2018

Saturday, May 19th

On Saturday, May 19th, a light breakfast will be available at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Center, followed by a brief program, team instructions, and a group photograph at 8:00am.

On Sunday, May 20th, we will have a fellowship time with coffee and juice at 9:30am in the Fellowship Center and one worship service at 10:30am, also in the Fellowship Center. The worship service will be testimony time as members of the teams share how God used them.

Make your plans to be part of this great day of blessing: for others and for yourself.

UNION METHODIST CHURCH

MEMORIAL SERVICE

MAY 20, 2018

You are invited to attend the annual Memorial Service at Union Methodist Church on Sunday, May 20th, 2018 at 3:00 pm. Come and honor history and worship with the families who gather to remember their loved ones buried in the Union Methodist Cemetery. Union Church is on Union Rd., and is near the intersection of Pleasant Hill Rd. & Baber Rd.

YOUTH NEWS



NEON meets on Sunday Nights from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Youth Center! Come shine Christ's light through Bible study, games, food, and fellowship! Doors open at 4:30 and dinner begins at 5:00!

THIS MONTH



With so many incredible stories to explore in the Bible, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that God has been telling one singular story since the beginning of time, from **His creation**, to **our sin**, to the **good news of Jesus**, to our **mission today**. In this 4-week "RESTORED" series, you'll help students discover the big story of God, their place in that story, and how they can share that story with others.

The Last NEON of the school year will be May 13th

Keep up with everything happening in FUMC's Youth Ministry! Sign up for our Text Updates!



WANT THE CHANCE TO HAVE LUNCH BROUGHT TO YOU AT SCHOOL? Every time you come to a youth event, you can enter for the chance to have lunch brought to you by Beau! You can get information forms directly from Beau or you can find it on the church website.

YOUTH COUNCIL

MAY 6TH @ 12:15 IN THE YOUTH CENTER

HEBREWS MORNING DEVOTION



HeBrews meets before school from 6:30-7:15 am at the Boy Scout Hut. Come start your day off right and enjoy a mid-week pick-me-up of coffee, breakfast, and a youth-led devotion!

The Last HeBrews of the school year will be May 16th



Graduation Sunday is on May 13th during the 11:00 am service. Graduates and graduate's immediate family are invited a breakfast in the parlor above the Fellowship Center at 9:45 am.

If you have a graduate to be recognized, please email blunceford@fumcrutherfordton.org or pcraft@fumcrutherfordton.org.

Thunder Road Clean Up May 13th 5-7

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 26-29TH

& FAMILY EXPERIENCE ON JULY 1ST
Register to volunteer online!

**Worship Team Practices from 9-12 on
May 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23**

Summer Bible Study

June 19, July 10, 17, 24, 31

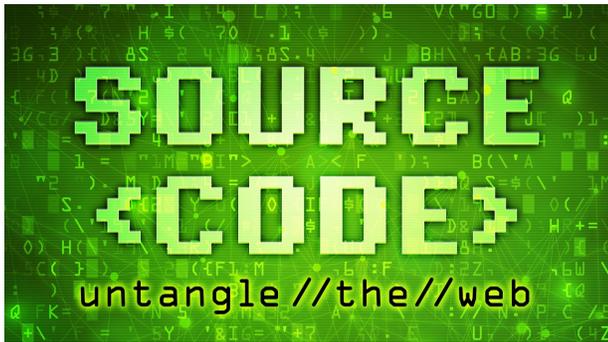
Locations TBA

Be sure to check our website and Facebook page, Instagram, & Twitter to stay up on what's happening in our ministry!

CHILDREN'S CORNER

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school starts at 9:45 in the SHINE Room on the 1st Floor for games, music, and our week's Bible Story. Lots of fun things happening each week - crafts, games, and most importantly, Jesus!



This month our 252 Basics theme is "Source Code: Untangle the Web" where our children will learn that "Honesty is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do." Kids will hear stories like Beware of Scam (Naaman and Elisha's Servant, Gehazi; 2 Kings 5), Logic Error (David and Ahimelek; 1 Samuel 21-22), Planting a Virus (Haman's Plot Against the Jews; Esther 3-9), and Clean Your Hard Drive (Confession/Being Honest with God; 1 John 1:9).



During the 11:00 am service, all children are invited to come to sit at the altar for Children's Time with Rufus the Rabbit to hear a kid-geared Bible lesson! After Children's Time, all children ages 4 through 2nd Grade will be invited to go with our adult volunteers to the SHINE Room for the duration of the service for activities, crafts, storytelling, games and more as children learn on their level about Jesus and the church.



Be sure to check our website and Facebook page to see what's happening in our ministries!

Children's Council

May 27th @ 12:15 in the Youth Center

VOLUNTEER

Interested in volunteering on Sunday mornings in our Children's Ministry? There are SO many ways that you can be a part of this growing ministry. **You can still volunteer without giving up your Sunday School class or service experiences every Sunday.** YOU can make a difference in our church and ministry by serving our children! Let us know how you might like to serve: <https://www.jotform.com/beaulunceford/fumc-ministry-volunteer-submission>

OR email blunceford@fumcrutherfordton.org



Wednesdays 3:30-5:00

The fun continues this Spring for our children ages 4-5th grade. Through fun, storytelling, music, and much more, this program will encourage a rock-solid spiritual foundation that will equip kids to go out into the world to shine Christ's Light!

Our RockStars will be performing during the 11:00 am service on June 3rd!

It's never too late to join in the concert! Come hang out with us on Wednesday afternoons!

AMPED

LIVE FULLY ALIVE!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 26-29TH

& FAMILY EXPERIENCE ON JULY 1ST

Register online!

MEGA MM MONDAY

Mega Mondays are back this Summer!

Register online!

Watch fumcrutherfordton.org and First Kids on Facebook and Instagram for more information!

STORIES OF CHRIST'S LIGHT SHINING

The moon was full and I was in awe at how bright and how beautiful it was!

The leaves had not yet grown out on the trees so the view from my bedroom window was truly spectacular. I found myself stopping several nights in a row just to enjoy this sight.

As I contemplated the moon's bright winter light, it occurred to me that the moon really has no light of its own. It can only reflect the sun's light. It's true that the moon influences us with its gravitational pull, but creating light is not one of its attributes.

Jesus calls us to reflect His light to the world. In this space we attempt to recount some of the positive ways that you are doing just that. **Tell us your stories of Christ Light. Where have you experienced it? Where have you seen it in someone else? When were you surprised by it? When were you in awe of it?**

This month's story comes from one of our members who asks this question, "Why do people I don't even know bare their hurts to me?" (I suspect the way she handled this situation probably answers her question.)

She was in Walmart when a stranger noticed her cane. "I'm trying to learn to use one of those, she said. I have back issues." The stranger continued to talk a bit about her back, but suddenly changed the subject. It seems that her father had died earlier in the year and then her mother had suddenly passed away, 3 months later.

She felt that she had been dealing with her father's death, but could not seem to cope with her mother's. "It was so sudden. I arrived home to see flashing lights and an ambulance. She was suddenly gone and I had no chance to say goodbye."

This person had stopped to ask about getting used to using a cane, but her real need was to talk about her parent's deaths. Our member recognized this and listened with her heart.

She listened with an attitude of caring, of openness, and of interest. In so doing she reflected the light of Christ to someone who was hurting. Like the light that is reflected from the moon, someone's darkness became a little lighter.

(Share your stories of Christ Light Shining by calling Shirley Koone: 287-3730 or email: shirleykoone@gmail.com)

CHRISMON ORNAMENTS

It was easy and fun and we could see the beads!! Please join us for the creation of our next Chrismon ornament on Wednesday, May 9, at 10:00, at **Off the Beaded Path** shop beside the theatre in Forest City. We work from 1-2 hours and you do not have to commit to every meeting. We try to finish an ornament each time. We will meet every other Wednesday. Please call Zana Whitmire at 828-447-4597 if you plan to attend. Our teacher, Kelly Dale, has the beads set up for each person, so we need to know how many will attend. Remember, ALL are invited-men, women, old, young, talented or not!

THE BETTY WOLFE CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, May 8, at The Olive Tree Restaurant at 11:30. We would love to have new members!

THE AGAPE CIRCLE will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 8th, at the Perry-Moore House. The speaker will be Dana Bradley, who has recently relocated to Rutherfordton and will speak on her activities since arriving. Jeannie Kiser will provide a light refreshment. The mission project for May will be the Yard Sale. All women of the church are invited to join us.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Team leaders recently met to discuss and improve the guidelines and procedures of providing family meals or receptions for our members. We have 8 rotating teams who set up, prepare food items and clean up before or after funeral services. We are in need of additional members to help on these teams. If you are willing to help, please contact Pam in the church office to volunteer.

We appreciate all those who serve to support this important ministry and hope others will consider giving their time and talents.

Thank you!

THE FOLLOWING MONETARY GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED:

In memory of Bill Hartley, by Jane Waters, designated for the General Fund; by Doc & Midge Yelton, designated for Soul Food.

In memory of Lee Demby, brother of Phyllis Deese, by Eric & Brenda Gibson, designated for Friendship Club.

HOSPICE HAPPENINGS

Have you ever thought about being a volunteer at Hospice but don't think you have any skills to become one? At Hospice of the Carolina Foothills, your skills will be put to good use! You can help support the patients' needs in many ways. For example, volunteers are needed to support patients in such roles as visiting, reading, taking walks, writing letters, bringing in music, and therapeutic visits with pets and massage therapy. Why not give Hospice a call today (800-218-2273) or go online at www.hocf.org to submit a volunteer application form? You will be glad you did!

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters (8:45)

1st Sunday Sandra Turner & Mabel Satrape
2nd Sunday Bobbie Tedford & Cheryl Waddingham
3rd Sunday Russ & Linda Armentrout
4th Sunday John & Dottie Kinlaw

Greeters (11:00)

1st Sunday Russ & Gilda Hester
2nd Sunday Alan & Sherry Henderson
3rd Sunday Wayne & Susan Keever
4th Sunday Lewis & Frances Hamrick

Sound System

1st Sunday J. R. Davis
2nd Sunday Steve & Alice Wright
3rd Sunday Ralph Hier
4th Sunday Eric Wells

Ushers (8:45)

Ken Sanford, Eric Gibson,
Pete Russell, Doug Melton

Ushers (11:00)

Joe Carson, Charles Wright,
Gene Shuford, Don Harris,
Wayne Keever, John Lewis,
David McMillan

Bread Makers

1st Sunday Naomi Yelton
2nd Sunday Nancy Smith
3rd Sunday Margaret Britt
4th Sunday Jennifer Carver

Acolytes

1st Sunday Maris Rogers
2nd Sunday Meg Prevatt
3rd Sunday Dee Dee Majors
4th Sunday Campbell Powell

Communion Stewards

1st Sunday Ron & Dorothy Parker

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

May 17 at 12:00 noon

SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Every Monday at Noon

Send information for Newsletter & Bulletin
to pcraft@fumcrutherfordton.org

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264 North Main Street
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We're on the Web!
www.fumcrutherfordton.weebly.com



Find us on Facebook!

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