

The First Word

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

Please Join Us!

Sunday, April 15, 2018

11:00 am—Children's Mini Musical

12:00 pm—Covered Dish Luncheon

The RockStars will present a Children's Mini-Musical during the 11:00 Worship Service (*see page 3 for more details*).

Followed by a Covered Dish Luncheon in the Fellowship Center. Plan to stay after church and join with your church family in a delicious luncheon. Our Fellowship Committee will provide the meat, bread and drinks and you are asked to bring to the Fellowship Center Kitchen your favorite side items: vegetables, salads, desserts.



THINGS TOO WONDERFUL FOR ME

— A Pastoral Word from Sydnor

I was recently asked why our church observes the tradition of standing for the reading of the Gospel during Sunday worship. If standing is a posture that honors the Gospel, shouldn't we also stand for Old Testament and Paul's letters? Shouldn't we honor the whole Bible and not just part of it?

Of course, there is some truth in that observation. We accept the authority of the whole Scripture, not just the part that deals specifically with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. In fact, through the eyes of faith, we see how the revelation of God's love in Jesus Christ can't be limited to the Gospels or even the New Testament. We understand all of scripture as aimed towards a goal and purpose revealed most fully and clearly in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is somehow present in it all.

Yet giving special honor to the Gospel is appropriate because in Jesus' life and teachings we find the core message that everything else points to. Standing for the Gospel is a way of saying we believe that what God was doing in the life of Jesus of Nazareth needs our clearest focus and attention. It says to the church assembled, here is the center—here is where we meet the mystery on its most profound level.

I write these words during Holy Week. I guess the same question might be asked about this week as was asked of me about standing for the Gospel. Why do we call only this week holy? Isn't God at work in every week? Shouldn't we observe the holiness of God in every week of the year? Yes, there is truth in that observation.

But if the Gospel deserves our special honor because of its focus on Jesus and his teachings, so Holy Week deserves our special focus as well. Why? Because here, during the events of this week, we see the glory of God revealed most profoundly. Here we see Jesus willingly entering Jerusalem, knowing that the hour had come for the Son of Man to lay down his life. Here we see Jesus meeting with his disciples for a Last Supper where he washed their feet and offered them a meal of bread and wine that would become a future reminder of his loving presence with them always. During this week, Jesus was persecuted by those in power and experienced the fickleness of the masses, cheering him as he entered Jerusalem, only to turn and shout, "crucify him!" a few days later. This week, we see the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world crucified on a cross. And after being laid dead in a tomb, this week we come with the women to the tomb early on Easter Sunday to discover the power of God to raise Christ from the dead. This week is holy because here we see God's purpose in Jesus' life fulfilled.

If it were possible, perhaps we should stand for this entire week. For here is the center, here is the point, here is revealed the wonder of God's love in Jesus Christ. May we honor him not only with our posture, but with every breath and every action of our lives.

Easter blessings,





Wow! The "Rockstars" program for ages four through fourth grade has grown from two bright, shining "Stars" to seven during the six-week program which meets on Wednesdays from 3:30 - 4:30. Beau has planned a variety of activities during which the children have fun, snacks, games, storytelling about Jesus, and music. Glenda and I are in charge of the music (actually Glenda does the work and I am the gofer.) We are having so much fun working with the "Stars" teaching them songs and introducing them to instruments, i.e., maracas and triangles. The principle objective during this short period has been to prepare them for a mini-musical about Easter. The musical, written by Glenda, will be presented on Sunday, April 15.

The brainstorming behind the program was to provide children additional church related activities that would allow them to grow together in their knowledge of Jesus and the Bible. The varied activities of the program interact. As in many matters of this nature, frequency is important in development. A meeting with the children during the week perhaps would serve to reinforce their Sunday church experience.

Church workers and many musicians today had their beginnings in churches. The children of the church are the future of the church.

UMW MEETING
Tuesday, April 10 at 6:30

Come and hear a woman who's been speaking 16 years for Christian Women's Club. Linda McDaniel worked as a secretary for much of her adult life, and later became a Concierge for a Day Spa. Then something happened. Bring a friend, and hear her story, "Living in the Day Spa! Is That Realistic?"

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, April 20th. Thank you

UMW MISSION YARD SALE
Saturday, May 5, 2018

It's time for our Annual Yard Sale for missions! Join us May 5th from 8am to 2pm. We welcome anyone who wants to help or donate their treasures for the sale.

Every Monday starting on April 2nd from 10am to 12pm someone will receive donations in the basement of the Perry-Moore House where we price items. Then on Friday, May 4th from 4pm to 6pm your donations may be brought to the front door of the Perry-Moore House.

Feel free to price any items you bring, always a big help.

Thank you for contributing to our annual sale for missions!

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!

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



It should only take a quick look around to realize there are no perfect families (not even in the Bible), but that doesn't stop us from comparing our families' quirks, flaws, and shortcomings to the seemingly perfect lives of other families. In this 4-week series, we'll challenge students to **give their families grace, seek resolution to their conflicts, trust God through difficult transitions, and treat more friends like family.**

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

NO NEON on April 1st to allow youth to spend Easter with their families.

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!



MOTHER & SON BOWLING BASH

April 22nd @ Autumn Lanes
5:00-7:00 pm

Don't strike out... Come join the fun! Spend the evening with your son(s) creating great memories with pizza, laughter, and bowling! Registration includes unlimited games, shoes, pizza, and drinks. Prizes for the highest score and best team outfits!

Reserve your lane now!

Reserve Your Lane: <https://goo.gl/PVwc2y>

\$20 REGISTRATION FEE (+\$5 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL SON)

YOUTH LED SERVICE

This year our youth ministry will NOT be organizing a Youth Led Service. Instead, we will be taking this time to focus on growth within our ministry. In the future, we can prepare for big things happening in 2019!

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 "Road Trip: Some Things Are Worth the Wait" where our children will learn that "Patience is waiting until later for what you want now." Kids will hear stories like "Mapped Out" (The Easter Story), "Baby on Board" (Hannah Prays for a Baby; 1 Samuel 1:6-21), "Are We There Yet?" (A Patience Proverb; Proverbs 14:29), "Watch for Livestock" (Golden Calf; Exodus 32:1-35), and "Souped Up" (Esau's Impatience; Genesis 25:24-34).

CHILDREN'S church

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.iotform.com/beaulunceford/fumc-ministry-volunteer-submission>

OR email blunceford@fumcrutherfordton.org



Wednesdays 3:30-5:00

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

April 1st our RockStars will be performing an Easter song and on the 15th their Easter program during the 11:00 am services!



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

STORIES OF CHRIST'S LIGHT SHINING

Over the last 4 years we've shared some 44 stories of Christ's Light Shining. There have been stories from individuals and from groups, stories from hospital rooms and stories from the work place, experiences during worship and experiences on ordinary days. You've shared stories of pain and of hope as well as "God stories" and "God Instances"; even a story about a rabbit named "Rufus".

But I don't think we have ever had a Christ Light story from an airplane. This is my story and it happened to me recently on an American Airlines flight.

I was seated next to a gentleman who said, "Good morning," and seemed to want to have a conversation. We began with the usual. "Are you flying for business or for pleasure?" He added that he was on a business trip to Indiana and that he lived in Simpsonville, SC. He talked a little about what he did (which didn't mean a lot to me), but then started talking about his faith and the change that it had made in his life. That's when my ears "perked up".

My seatmate was not "preachy" about his beliefs nor did he inquire as to whether I was a Christian. He simply talked about what becoming a Christian had done for him. "I had some pretty bad habits," he said. "I'm a different person now."

I confessed that my faith was very important to me and then I asked how his conversion had come about. His wife had started going to church when they moved to Simpsonville and eventually he decided to go with her. He told me that they visited several different churches before settling on a mid-sized one, and that is where his life changed. "Those people just loved us," he said. "My old life is gone."

About this time he noticed the bracelets on my wrist so I explained that one I've worn since my husband died many years ago. It claims Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to give you hope and a future." The blue one, I told my new friend, was a reminder to pray for my minister who, at that time, was facing serious cancer surgery. I also invited him to pray for Sydnor if he would like to.

The conversation then turned to his concern for his father who was not a Christian and didn't want to even talk about it. "He just brushes me off," he said. I am no spiritual counselor and all I could think to say was that none of us can really know what's in someone else's heart. "Keep praying and leave the rest to God."

This experience, for me, was a bit like meeting Christ in the air. I surely felt his presence as two strangers traveled together and talked about their faith and their love for Jesus. I've since thought of the friends walking to Emmaus and encountering the risen Jesus.

As we landed and were deplaning, he turned to me and said as a reminder, "Pray for Shirley's preacher!" So somewhere in Simpsonville there's a Christian friend praying for Sydnor. Here at home I'm praying for a father who is only known to me because Christ was present with a concerned son and me on an airplane.

It never ceases to amaze me how Christ's Light can shine when you least expect it. Praise God!

(Where have you experienced Christ's Light shining? Call Shirley Koone at 828-287-3730 or email: shirleykoone@gmail.com)



Mark your calendars for Operation Inasmuch! Plans are taking shape for this Mission Blitz of Christ's Light to our community on **Saturday, May 19**. From yard work to casseroles for our shut-ins to more extensive building and repair projects for community ministries, church members, and neighbors all over the area - your help and Christian spirit are needed. Look for a sign-up sheet in your bulletin - you don't want to miss it!

THE FOLLOWING MONETARY GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED:

In memory of Erma Benedict, by Henry & Edith Edwards, designated for Soul Food.

In honor of Norvin Clontz on his 75th Birthday, by Norv & Iva Clontz and Family, designated for the General Budget.

In memory of Ralph Hier's Mother, by Alan & Sherry Henderson, designated for Welcome Table.

In memory of Liz Turner, by the Betty Wolfe Circle, designated for the Chrismon Ornament Project.

In memory of Merrill Wood, by the Betty Wolfe Circle, designated for Soul Food.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

April 17 at 12:00 noon

SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Every Monday at Noon

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

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters (8:45)

1st Sunday Dan Smith & Earl Furbish
 2nd Sunday Ken & Diane Sanford
 3rd Sunday John & Deb Vincent
 4th Sunday Rory & Jeannie Kiser
 5th Sunday Eric & Terri Wells

Greeters (11:00)

1st Sunday Shirley Koone & Wanda Davis
 2nd Sunday Buzz & Joyce Mercer
 3rd Sunday Odean & Barbara Keever
 4th Sunday Jane Waters & Zana Whitmire
 5th Sunday Robbie Deese & Todd Snaith

Sound System

1st Sunday Don Suttles
 2nd Sunday Pete Pryor
 3rd Sunday Ed Bosgra
 4th Sunday Don Harris
 5th Sunday Mike Fields

Ushers (8:45)

Rory Kiser, Earl Furbish,
 Russ & Linda Armentrout

Ushers (11:00)

Bud Deck, Mel Bunch, Jimmy Dancy, David Rogers, Ralph Hier, Greg Hodge, Jeff Powell

Bread Makers

1st Sunday Bobbie Tedford
 2nd Sunday Donna Carver
 3rd Sunday Donna Watkins
 4th Sunday Diane McMillan
 5th Sunday Emily Yelton

Acolytes

1st Sunday Maris Rogers
 2nd Sunday Meg Prevatt
 3rd Sunday Dee Dee Majors
 4th Sunday Campbell Powell
 5th Sunday Johannah Deese

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We're on the Web!
www.fumcrutherfordton.weebly.com



Find us on Facebook!

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