

First United Methodist Church  
264 North Main Street  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139  
www.fumcrutherfordton.org  
Vol. 7, No. 1

# The First Word

## WELCOME TABLE

September 10 & 17

Volunteer help is needed. **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.



## Save the Dates!



### Consecration Sunday

September 30, 2018 at 11:00 am

Our church family will gather for a combined worship service on that date (11:00 am), followed immediately by a congregational meal in the church Fellowship Center. Please plan on joining us for this special Stewardship worship service where we will be asked to make our estimate of giving for the coming year. Thank you for your faithful support of our church and it's ministries!



### The Logan Preaching Mission

Dr. Jody Seymour

*The Journey of Faith:  
Transforming the Rat Race into a Pilgrimage*

October 14, 2018 at 11:00am & 7:00pm  
October 15, 2018 at 7:00pm

## UMW BAZAAR

November 10, 2018

Please call Zana Whitmire at 287-9618 to get involved!

## **THINGS TOO WONDERFUL FOR ME** **— A Pastoral Word from Sydnor**

There is much joy in life. But life also inevitably brings us pain, doesn't it? I remember years ago looking through a hospital window at my newborn daughter in Dallas, Texas, my heart overflowing with joy. I turned to the man standing next to me and exclaimed, "Isn't life wonderful!" He looked me dead in the eye and answered gloomily, "Enjoy it while it lasts. Soon enough she'll break your heart!"

Fortunately, I found he was not much a prophet—both my daughters continue to bring me much joy in life. But I think back and realize that his comment must have come out of an experience of deep pain and disappointment as a parent.

Inevitably we face pain in life. Perhaps the question is not how we can avoid pain but rather, how can we best relate it to it? In Mark 8:34, Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." What does it mean to take up our cross? In part, I believe Jesus invites us to face our pain, even learn to embrace it.

To accept or embrace our pain means, at least in part, gaining a perspective greater than the little "me." To accept the pain we encounter in life, we must find a connection to a greater Self, a Higher Power, in which our pain is somehow transcended or transformed. Is this not part of what we mean when we speak of God's resurrection power revealed in Jesus Christ? The pain is still real, but our connection with God gives us a vantage point where we are not overcome by it. Indeed, we are more than conquerors through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a pastor, I am regularly inspired by members of our congregation whose faith carries them through tremendous difficulties that I can hardly imagine enduring myself. But they are not victims—on the contrary, they would tell you they are richly blessed.

May we draw strength from each other as we face the adversities of life. May we remember that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, and that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessings and peace,



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### **MUSIC NOTES**

Summer raced by with a turn of the head. Suddenly, members of the choir, having taken a break from rehearsals, are back and will soon begin working on a Christmas cantata including music for the weekly services and special Sundays. As in the past, we are asking for others who enjoy singing and being a part of the Christmas music to come join us on Wednesday evenings. More information will be forthcoming concerning the cantata. However, we would welcome you to sing with us anytime not just for Christmas music. In addition to healthy eating and exercise, singing is one of the healthiest things one can do—fact not fiction.

Handbell rehearsals will resume in September. What a blessing when we can come together to learn music for the worship services! We play—not for personal praise—but to praise and glorify God. We have fun! Playing the bells is a great mental exercise and very rewarding. If you would like to be a part of the bell choir, please let one of us in the group know. At this time, we are needing at least one player, and substitutes are always needed to fill in when a regular player must be away.

Our **2018 CHARGE CONFERENCE** for the purpose of discussing and accepting Charge Conference materials, pastor's compensation, lay servant applications and approving our Church Officers has been scheduled for Sunday, October 21, 2018 in the Fellowship Center at 6pm.

**THE FOLLOWING MONETARY GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED:**

In memory of S. G. Gabriel, by the Fellowship Sunday school class, Anne Oakman, Joann Underwood, Catherine Davis, Gene Booth & Hazel Crook, Ed & Jeanette Bosgra, Pat Moss, Norma Richardson, Debbie, Tommy & Tiffany, Harold "ASU Duggins Boy" & Janet Lakey, Shirley Koone, Gary & Sharon Shipley, Douglas & Elizabeth Owens, Joyce Davis, Alice Logan, John Greene, designated for the Audio Visual Fund; by Bill & Ann Deviney, A. C. Larrimore, the family and descendants of uncle William Gilbert Gabriel, designated for the General Fund; by Peter & Ginger Dannemiller, designated for Soul Food.

In honor of John & Dottie Kinlaw, by the Garmon-Yelton Sunday school class, designated for Welcome Table.

In memory of Virginia Lewis, mother of John Lewis, by Jeep & Johnnie Martin, designated for the Fellowship Center Roof Fund.

In honor of Emily Yelton's birthday, by Margaret Britt, designated for Friendship Club.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU** to everyone who donated school supplies for the Back to School Backpack of Blessing Celebration. We distributed 49 backpacks FULL of supplies!

Angela Forney and Bud Deck

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

September 18 at 12:00 noon

**SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE**

Every Monday at Noon

Send information for Newsletter & Bulletin to [pcraft@fumcrutherfordton.org](mailto:pcraft@fumcrutherfordton.org)

**SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Greeters (8:45)**

1st Sunday Eric & Terri Wells  
2nd Sunday Sandra Turner & Mabel Satrape  
3rd Sunday Rory & Jeannie Kiser  
4th Sunday Russ & Linda Armentrout  
5th Sunday Jim & Sheila Cuthbertson

**Greeters (11:00)**

1st Sunday Odean & Barbara Kever  
2nd Sunday Jane Waters & Zana Whitmire  
3rd Sunday Robbie Deese & Todd Snaith  
4th Sunday Russ & Gilda Hester  
5th Sunday Alan & Sherry Henderson

**Sound System**

1st Sunday Mike Fields  
2nd Sunday Don Suttles  
3rd Sunday Steve & Alice Wright  
4th Sunday Ralph Hier  
5th Sunday Eric Wells

**Ushers (8:45)**

Ken Sanford, Eric Gibson,  
Doug Melton

**Ushers (11:00)**

Joe Carson, Odean Kever,  
Todd Snaith, Steve Wright,  
Grant McRorie, Rick Ensley,  
Mike Fields

**Bread Makers**

1st Sunday Margaret Britt  
2nd Sunday Jennifer Carver  
3rd Sunday Helen Rogers  
4th Sunday Becky Wright  
5th Sunday Soul Food Ministry

**Acolytes**

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

**Communion Stewards**

1st Sunday VerAnn Kimbrough &  
Bobbie Tedford

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed on Monday, September 3.

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We're on the Web!  
[www.fumcrutherfordton.weebly.com](http://www.fumcrutherfordton.weebly.com)



Find us on Facebook!

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

Phone: (828) 287-3704

Sydnor Thompson, Ext. 102  
Pastor

[sydnor@fumcrutherfordton.org](mailto:sydnor@fumcrutherfordton.org)

Kathy Watson, Ext. 103  
TLC Preschool Director

[kwatson@fumcrutherfordton.org](mailto:kwatson@fumcrutherfordton.org)

Pam Craft, Ext. 100  
Administrative Assistant

[pcraft@fumcrutherfordton.org](mailto:pcraft@fumcrutherfordton.org)

Patricia Harrelson, Ext. 114  
Director of Music

[pharrelson@fumcrutherfordton.org](mailto:pharrelson@fumcrutherfordton.org)

Glenda Fuhrmann, Ext. 115  
Organist

[gfuhrmann@fumcrutherfordton.org](mailto:gfuhrmann@fumcrutherfordton.org)

Sandra Turner, Ext. 101  
Receptionist

[sturner@fumcrutherfordton.org](mailto:sturner@fumcrutherfordton.org)