

First United Methodist Church
 264 North Main Street
 Rutherfordton, NC 28139
www.fumcrutherfordton.org
 Vol. 7, No. 6

The First Word

Sharing Christ's Light

...on Main Street & beyond

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INVITATION

Ladies, you are invited to join the United Methodist Women (UMW) for fellowship, food, and fun on Tuesday, February 12. The Betty Wolfe Circle will meet at 11:30 am at a to-be-announced restaurant in Rutherfordton for a Dutch-treat lunch. The Agape Circle will meet at 6:30 pm in the Perry Moore House next door to the sanctuary for refreshments and a brief program. Please call either Zana Whitmire (Betty Wolfe Circle) at 287-9618, or Brenda Gibson (Agape Circle) at 429-4770, if you have questions. We need your support and feel sure you will benefit by joining the UMW. If unable to attend either of these meetings, you can still participate as a Unit member and attend the luncheon meeting on Sunday, March 3, immediately following worship in the Fellowship Center. Call Shelia Cuthbertson (UMW President) at 289-1281 for more information. Thanks!

The Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of Mission through participation in the Global Ministries of the church. (*Discipline 256.4, Art. 3*)



United
 Methodist
 Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

THINGS TOO WONDERFUL FOR ME — A Pastoral Word from Sydnor

As I look to my upcoming retirement in July, I've wondered what I'll be doing with my time (not just me but Kelly too!). After all, I've served the church as an ordained minister for most of my adult life. Living into that vocation has become part of me. I will never really retire from that I suppose. As Jesus said in John 15, "...the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning (vv. 26-27)." Or as Jeremiah 20:9 puts it, "If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot."

But one thing, I suspect, will happen is that retirement will free me up to spend more time in nature. I certainly hope so anyway. Connecting with nature is an important way we connect with our bodies—and that seems to be one of the great challenges for me right now in fighting cancer. I realize, so late in life, that I've pretty much taken my body for granted. It has real needs which must be met—or I must face the consequences.

For much of my life I didn't associate God and the divine with body or with nature. But frankly, I think, such an attitude cuts us off from one of the major ways God reveals himself in our lives.

We lost a truly unique voice, recently, with the death of the poet, Mary Oliver. Her poetry weaves the divine with the body and the natural world in a way that I find healing and soulful. The pastoral role I have spent much of my life in emphasizes how God comes to us in Word and Sacrament. Ms. Oliver understood that God's voice cannot be so limited or contained. Through humble and careful observation of nature, she conveyed a deep sense of God's presence in the natural world—and called us to perceive and honor it.

One of my favorite poems of Mary Oliver is "When I Am Among The Trees."

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

Blessings and peace,



TOT LEARNING CENTER FALL REGISTRATION

TLC Fall 2019 Registration for **Church Members**, In School Students, and Siblings of In School Students Begins **Sunday, Feb 10**.

TLC Fall 2019 Registration for **Public** Begins Monday, **Feb 18** at 8 am in the Preschool Office.

Registration forms are available on the FUMC web page, and in the Church and TLC Offices.

Kathy Watson is available to answer questions or to schedule a tour of the facility.

Tell friends and family of these important dates to become be a part of this ministry of First United Methodist Church of Rutherfordton!

THE FOLLOWING MONETARY GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED:

In memory of Ed Bosgra's mother, by Alan & Sherry Henderson, designated for the General Fund.

In memory of S. G. Gabriel and in honor of Betty Gabriel, by Jane Agee, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund.

In memory of Gladys Henderson, mother of Alan Henderson, by David & Debbie Best, designated for Soul Food.

In memory of Robert Kiesel, father of Angel King, by Alan & Sherry Henderson, designated for the General Fund.

In memory of Wanda Winecoff, mother of Beth Enloe, by the Handbell Choir, Patricia & Harry Harrelson, designated for the General Fund.

THANK YOU from the Henry Edwards family for your prayers, thoughts and love during and aftertime of Henry's illness and passing. He truly missed not being able to attend services. Gratefully, Edith Edwards

PRESCHOOL DIRECTORS POSITION

The Tot Learning Center Preschool is seeking a Director to start on April 1, 2019. This is a 12 month position and will consist of approximately 30 hours per week, year round. Please pick up the job description in the Preschool Office or the Church office. Resumes may be sent to Nancy Carson at carson132@bellsouth.net by February 27, 2019.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 6, 2019

6:30pm

YOKEFELLOW

Each month churches in the county including First Church are assigned a food item. When these food items are combined they create a meal bag for a family in need.

First Church has been asked to donate **CANNED GREENS** for the months of January, February, March and April.

You may bring your donations to the church and place them in the bin marked "Yokefellow" in the Donation Station outside the Front Room. If you have questions, please contact our Yokefellow Representative, Andrea Harmon.



YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Throughout the month of January our theme for the youth was Change. We went through a series on prayer entitled "Change." Throughout this series we discussed the ways in which we pray, and the different kinds of prayer. Through this series we learned that sometimes prayer is more of a way to change ourselves. It can be a way to take a step back a reset, or look at situations from a new perspective.

Throughout the month of February, we will be working through a series titled, "Meant To Be." In this series we will be diving into the topic of relationships. We will look at what makes a healthy relationship, both with others, and with God.

We have recently finished some important updates in the Neon youth room, and we are extremely excited about the future of this ministry. We are planning ahead now for a lot of growth, and trying to provide an environment that will facilitate this growth. The new environment is very welcome and our youth are very excited about what the future will bring. Whenever you get a chance come by and check out the progress that the Neon youth ministry is making!

Blessings,
Gary Williams



We need volunteers to help with Neon on Sunday nights as well as volunteers to help with upcoming youth trips. If you are interested please contact me at gwilliams@fumcrutherfordton.org.



We have been very busy in First Kids, as we are coming out of the Advent season. Throughout the month of January we covered the topic of Self-Control. During this series we read passages from the book of Proverbs. The kids learned that Solomon was responsible for writing much of the book of Proverbs, and also learned that this was considered wisdom literature. The kids learned how we can learn from the wise saying of Solomon. Most of what we covered included, having self-control, and controlling our emotions when things make us angry. The children had many crafts and activities to reinforce these ideas, as well as take-home sheets that their families could go over with them at home through the week.

Through the month of February, we will be covering a series titled, "Always Open." This series will be covering service, and how we should always be open to serving others in need in the way Jesus did.

We are also very excited about the direction of the children's ministry, and are preparing for growth, but we cannot do it without you! If you would like to be a part of this amazing program please send me an email and we can talk!

Blessings,
Gary Williams



VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers for First Kids! If you are interested in volunteering to help out with Sunday School or Children's church, please send me an email at gwilliams@fumcrutherfordton.org.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters (8:45)

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

Greeters (11:00)

1st Sunday Van & Susie King, Ann Almond
2nd Sunday Joyce Gray & Margaret Britt
3rd Sunday Connie Hicks & Ginny Moore
4th Sunday Scott & Stacey Griffith

Sound System

1st Sunday Eric Wells
2nd Sunday Don Suttles
3rd Sunday Pete Pryor
4th Sunday Ed Bosgra

Ushers (8:45)

Ken Sanford, Jim Cuthbertson,
Doug Melton, Hugh McMahon

Ushers (11:00)

Alan Henderson,
United Methodist Women

Bread Makers

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

Acolytes

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

Communion Stewards

1st Sunday Ron & Dorothy Parker

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

February 15 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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