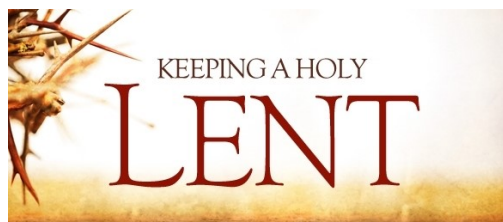


First United Methodist Church  
264 North Main Street  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139  
www.fumcrutherfordton.org  
Vol. 7, No. 7

# The First Word



## Community Services for Rutherfordton

### Wednesday - Noon

Join with your friends and neighbors at 12:00 noon each Wednesday during Lent for a brief time of music, prayer, scripture and a brief message. Wednesday dates are as follows, location and speaker will be announced as they are available.

March 13

March 20

March 27

April 3

April 10

### Good Friday Services - April 19th

Noon	St. Francis Episcopal Church
7:00 pm	First United Methodist Church

### Easter Sunrise Service - April 21st at 7:00 am

Rutherfordton Town Cemetery

### Easter Worship Service - April 21st at 11:00 am (no early service)

First United Methodist Church – Dr. Sydnor Thompson

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

Today I am receiving my last chemotherapy treatment here in Forest City before entering an immunotherapy trial at MD Anderson in Houston. So be warned, I am writing this under the influence of chemotherapy and I may or may not make any sense!

The LCI clinic here in Forest City is packed with patients receiving chemo, some of whom are obviously very sick. As we undergo chemotherapy together, I am aware of how richly I have been blessed. Things could be so much worse. I found out in my recent visit to Houston that the tiny spots in my right lung are not cancerous—which means that I'm only dealing with the metastases in my liver. I'm entering an immunotherapy trial at MD Anderson that is quite promising and will soon have surgery to resect the two, possibly three, cancerous nodules that have been identified in my liver.

As I receive what I hope is my last chemo here in Forest City, surrounded by so much human suffering, my heart goes out to these my neighbors who journey with me, and others in our church and community struggling with illness.

And I count the blessings God has given me. I will soon be receiving cutting edge treatment at the top cancer facility in America. How many cancer patients are given such an opportunity? I give thanks for the assurance that Kelly and I are not alone in this journey. We are so richly blessed by the prayers of so many, including a church family who has embraced us with a love that continues to sustain us. And most of all we give thanks for the many reminders of God's presence with us on this journey. With the apostle Paul we can affirm that God's grace is sufficient for us—that his power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12). For indeed it is when we are at our weakest that God comes to us, filling us with his strength.

And so, we face our future with great confidence; we journey forward together in the assurance of our shared faith. With Paul, let us "rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

In faith, hope and much love,



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**CELEBRATE THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB**  
**FUMC Rutherfordton After School Program for Grades 1 & 2**

For 24 years, this program has served the community by providing Christian love, homework assistance, open hearts, enrichment, and lots of fun! This ministry invites you to be involved so that children can become the best they can be and for the betterment of their families.

You are invited to offer your support in any of the following ways:

Serve as a Study Buddy to help with homework, improve reading skills, math skills, writing skills.

**Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4 – 5 PM.**

Serve as a floater to help us comply with our Safe Sanctuary policy. **Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30 – 5:30 PM.**

Share your hobbies or special interests with our friends to enrich their experiences.

Share donations of healthy snacks for the children. Friendship Club provides a healthy snack for the children when they arrive from school. Donations of fruits, healthy individually packed snacks are appreciated.

Most importantly, you are invited to pray for this program. Please pray for the children, their families, the leadership and the volunteers.

# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 6, 2019

6:30pm

## MUSIC OPPORTUNITY

The Chancel Choir will present a program of music and scripture readings on Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019. We are asking those who would like to sing with us to meet on Wednesday evenings in the choir room, 8:00-8:30 PM. PLEASE COME. Yes, we work hard but we have fun. 🎵

## INTRODUCTORY TAI CHI CLASSES

### BEGINNING MARCH 7TH

New church members Preston and Barbara Barden are offering free Tai Chi classes every Thursday in March from 10 to 11 am in the church Youth Center. Tai Chi is a graceful form of exercise designed to improve balance, increase energy and promote circulation. This introductory class is open to people of all ages and physical condition—the Tai Chi movements can be performed standing or sitting. Please call the church office or sign up on the church bulletin board to register for these free classes scheduled for every Thursday morning in March. Come for the Tai Chi and stay for some free hot herbal tea as well!



**Daylight Savings Time**  
Begins on March 10, 2019



**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Operation Inasmuch**  
**Saturday, May 18, 2019**

## MISSION EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

We have the opportunity to give the designated amount of \$10.00 in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend. The list will be shared in the Sunday morning bulletin on Easter, April 21st and it will also be attached to the church e-mail on April 18th and April 25th. Monies collected will be used for local missions.

I (we) would like to be a part of the Easter Mission.

In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

All donations must be received **NO LATER** than Sunday, April 14th.

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SPECIAL MISSION PIN RECOGNITION**

On February 24th the UMW was pleased to recognize two persons whose activities in 2018 go 'over and above' the normal giving of time and talents. Their sustained efforts in mission activities in our church and community are deeply appreciated.

Zana Whitmire receives a Special Mission Pin which includes a donation in her honor to the UMW District. In 2018 she led the very successful planning and implementation of the UMW Annual Bazaar. She took on this project with her gracious nature and determination. She accomplished the many calls, trips and hours of effort while maintaining a smile on her face. Zana also gave many hours as President of the Betty Wolfe Circle, working on the beautiful new Crismon ornaments. These actions in 2018 have ripple effects throughout our community and we gratefully acknowledge her heart for serving others through the giving of this Special Mission Pin.

Angela Forney receives a Special Mission Pin for her actions in 2018. A donation in her honor goes to the Blue Ridge District of the United Methodist Women. She is recognized for her outstanding accomplishment to prepare and organize many book bags and supplies for school children. In the summer she recognized the need via the Welcome Table and NetworX and approached Rev. Thompson and Bud Deck. With assistance from the Garmon-Yelton class and others, she obtained funding; she contacted school personnel to determine the requirements and made many store trips for supplies. The bags were prayed over prior to being given to the children. While Angela takes excellent care of our church buildings, we are pleased to recognize her with this Special Mission Pin: for her compassion when seeing a need, and her taking action to make these children's lives better.

## **MAYFEST: UMW ANNUAL YARD SALE FOR MISSIONS**

**Saturday, May 4th**

May 4th is just around the corner! We will start collecting your gently used items on Mondays in March from 10 am to 2 pm in the Perry-Moore House basement.

Un-cluttering using the Kondo method? Yokefellow takes clothing, we'll take just about anything else! Small furniture sells very well, hint hint...

For questions or to volunteer, call Joy McCraw at 828-289-0943. Thank you!

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMENT IN ACTION**

The Spring Yard Sale, Fall Bazaar and Nut Sales were all very successful last year. The UMW has dispersed funds from these sales to the following missions:

New Bern Mission Trip -\$1500

Newt & Susan Hamlin, Missionaries - \$1000

Friendship Club - \$3000

Welcome Table - \$3000

Soul Food - \$2000

NetworX - \$500

Thanks to all in our church family and community, for your continued support!

Sheila Cuthbertson, UMW President

## **HAPPY 150th ANNIVERSARY to UMW March 23, 2019**

Let's celebrate by attending the Blue Ridge District Prayer Breakfast at Central United Methodist Church in Asheville. Cost is \$8.00 per person. Please let me know if you would like to attend. We plan to carpool or take the church van. You will also have an opportunity to contribute to the Legacy Fund.

UMW President, Shelia Cuthbertson

## MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR MARCH BIRTHDAYS

We will be including a listing of our Methodist Missionaries Birthdays each month. We would like you to include them in your prayers for that day. These come from the UMW Prayer Calendar Book for the year. Missionaries say they feel the prayers and even often plan "big things" for their birthdays because they know a lot of people are praying for them. Please join us in these prayers. Thank you, UMW

- Mar 1 Kim Hea Sun
- Mar 2 Wai Au Yu Joel Ncahoruri
- Mar 3 Daniel Gabler Laura Kirby FuXia Wang
- Mar 4 Gloria Braithwaite Jose Roberto Pena
- Mar 6 Evelyn Banks Esther Hunter Finda  
Quiwa Sook Hee Yoo
- Mar 9 Marsha Gail Alexander Velda  
Dhanoolal
- Mar 11 Juliet Choi Pat Hoerth
- Mar 12 Martha Knight Pierre Diamba Manya  
Elizabeth McCormick Russell Rusike
- Mar 13 Tatiana Dwyer Janet Horman Marilia  
Alves Schuller Kendrick Sullivan Julian  
Uzemefune
- Mar 14 Valeria Destreggia Glen Kellum
- Mar 15 Osias Segura-Guzman
- Mar 16 Nan McCurdy
- Mar 17 Joanne Davis David Fanning Ricardo  
Ramos-Diaz
- Mar 18 Debbie Aylmer Uma Jones Lillian Valle
- Mar 20 Debbie Byrd
- Mar 21 Young Cho Freddie Cooks Princess  
Jusu
- Mar 23 Jeffery B. Murrell
- Mar 25 Evelyn Erbele Gayle McCreery  
Elizabeth A. Nichols
- Mar 26 Belinda Forbes Jaques Akasa  
Umembudi
- Mar 27 Rhonda Gardner
- Mar 29 Christie House Liz Shadbolt
- Mar 30 Erin Frey James Keech Jerome  
Nedderman
- Mar 31 Brenda Brown Geraldine Garbutt  
Whitney Stovall

## WELCOME TABLE

Volunteer help is needed. We serve the first three Mondays of every other month; March, May, July, September, November, and January. 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.

**March 4 ~ ~ March 11 ~ ~ March 18**

## UMCOR Sunday

**March 31, 2019**

UMCOR Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. This Sunday calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. When we give on UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing), we empower the United Methodist Committee on Relief to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church. Our giving helps the most vulnerable in their darkest days. We believe that all people have God-given worth and dignity — without regard to race, religion or gender. On UMCOR Sunday, we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Giving materials and more information will be in the March 31st bulletin.



# YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Throughout the month of February, we dove into the topic of relationships. This included discovering what makes up healthy relationships, as well as what makes unhealthy ones. We learned during this time that the most important relationship in our lives, is our relationship with God.

In this same line of thinking, as we begin March we are starting our confirmation classes. I am pleased to announce that we have four youth at this time who are prepared to begin this journey.

Also, as we begin March, we are beginning a new series. This series is called "Sincerely, God." Through this series we will be discovering the overall message that God wants us to receive from the scriptures. This is a message of love, and hope. We are also beginning to undertake a few projects in Neon. The youth will soon be forming a Dance/Drama team, as well as a worship team. This will help the youth to find their voice in the church. Through this they will have an opportunity to minister in the church as well as abroad. We are so excited for the future, and cannot wait to see what the next few months will bring.

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](mailto:gwilliams@fumcrutherfordton.org).



In First Kids, we are quickly approaching a few big events. Our Father Daughter Dance is coming up on March 8th. There is a sign up sheet on the First Kids webpage if you would like to register. I am also pleased to announce that we will be preparing for Vacation Bible School very soon, and will be looking for volunteers. This will be a big event, and we cannot do it without you. Our theme for this year is, "Roar." This will be an African Safari theme VBS in which we will discover that life can be wild, but God is still Good. We look forward to an amazing Summer VBS.

In March, we will be starting a new series with our kids called, "Made." Through this series we will be teaching the kids, who God has made them to be. Through this series we will discover our purpose, as well as what God thinks about us.

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](mailto:gwilliams@fumcrutherfordton.org).

## CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, March 22nd. Thank you

### THE FOLLOWING MONETARY GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED:

In memory of Henry Edwards, by Jane Waters, designated for the General Fund.

In honor of Chris Gabriel, by Betty Gabriel, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund.

In honor of Ed Lyerly & Donna Harrison, by Betty Gabriel, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund.

### AMAZONSMILE IS A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH!

Did you know the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to our church?

All you have to do is make your Amazon purchase through the website: [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and enter First United Methodist Church Rutherfordton, NC as your charity of choice. Then, whenever you purchase from [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), our church will receive .5% of your purchase price. What a great and easy way to make a big difference for our church!

**Update: We received a \$17.24 donation from AmazonSmile for the December, 2018 quarter!**

Thank you!

#### NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

March 15 at 12:00 noon

#### SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Every Monday at Noon

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

## MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Greeters (8:45)

1st Sunday	Bobbie Tedford & Cheryl Waddingham
2nd Sunday	Rory & Jeannie Kiser
3rd Sunday	Russ & Linda Armentrout
4th Sunday	Jim & Sheila Cuthbertson
5th Sunday	Dan Smith & Earl Furbish

### Greeters (11:00)

1st Sunday	Jean Schuck & Betsy Woolridge
2nd Sunday	Pete & Pam Pryor
3rd Sunday	Dillard & Carolyn Morrow
4th Sunday	Grant & B. J. McRorie
5th Sunday	Craton & Teresa Stephens

### Sound System

1st Sunday	Mike Fields
2nd Sunday	Don Harris
3rd Sunday	Stephen Wright
4th Sunday	Ralph Hier
5th Sunday	Eric Wells

### Ushers (8:45)

Rory Kiser, Earl Furbish,  
Russ & Linda Armentrout

### Ushers (11:00)

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

### Bread Makers

1st Sunday	Soul Food Ministry
2nd Sunday	Cheryl Waddingham
3rd Sunday	Jane Shuford
4th Sunday	Brenda Gibson
5th Sunday	Bobbie Tedford

### Acolytes

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

### Communion Stewards

1st Sunday	Ron & Dorothy Parker
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First United Methodist Church  
264 North Main Street  
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We're on the Web!  
[www.fumcrutherfordton.weebly.com](http://www.fumcrutherfordton.weebly.com)



Find us on Facebook!

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