

First United Methodist Church  
264 North Main Street  
Rutherfordon, NC 28139  
www.fumcrutherfordon.org  
Vol. 7, No. 9

# The First Word

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



**Saturday, May 4, 2019**  
**8 am until 2 pm**

Have you finished your Spring cleaning? On FRIDAY May 3rd, bring items from 2-6 pm, pre-priced. Then JOIN US to help out on Saturday, 6 am to 2 pm. For questions or to volunteer, call Joy McCraw at 828)289-0943.



## **Saturday, May 18**

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

## **Sunday, May 19**

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

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

It's early April and I'm writing this well in advance of your reading it. I want to make sure Pam has something for the May newsletter and I don't know how I'll be feeling after my surgery this coming Friday.

As my surgery approaches, my heart is full to overflowing from the many expressions of love and support Kelly and I have received from our church family. I made sure I saved room in my luggage for the beautiful quilt you presented me a few Sundays back. It will be with me in my MD Anderson hospital room, reminding me that I am wrapped in the love and prayers of my church family at home in Rutherfordton. Cancer is no fun, but I've found my illness has been a doorway to great blessing—for it has been the occasion for Kelly and me to receive a wondrous outpouring of love and support from so many.

Isn't it amazing how reminders of our mortality can open us to the nearness of God and the power of his love?

Angeles Arrien wrote soon before her death in 2014: "In the last few decades, I've faced my own mortality on several occasions through cancer and a heart attack. Each time I've experienced an outpouring of love and care from others and from God. The sky and the whole world take on a nostalgic and fleeting tone. God seems inside, closer than my own skin. I hope I can hear the messages: listen to your body, slow down, live in the precious now, love all that is. How can I not believe in the Incarnation of God in the compassion of so many, in a pattern of discovery, waiting, and healing that all feels like mercy? Facing my death has helped me live more fully" (Rohr's Daily Meditation, April 3, 2019).

I thank God today for all the ways you continue to remind Kelly and me that God is with us. We experience God's nearness in your prayers and in all the ways you continue to love us. Thank you for loving your pastor and his family so very well. We are indeed blessed beyond imagining.

Yours in faith,



## Morning Celebration

### **Worship - Music – Fellowship**

Our Early service is changing! Come check it out

A relaxed service with a mix of music - favorite hymns plus newer songs  
Casual attire - come as you are & invite your family, friends & neighbors!

**Starts Sunday May 12, 2019 at 9:00am** *(please note the time change)*



Friendship Club kids want to go to Camp! With your help sponsoring a child, they will be able to attend the YMCA Summer Day Camp program, June 17-21. This year the YMCA Summer Day camp programs will be held at First Baptist Church, Rutherfordton, NC. There are 10 children enrolled in the Friendship Club program. The cost for the week is \$90.00. The total cost for all 10 children to participate is \$900.00. You may donate a whole or partial scholarship. Any amount is appreciated. Make your checks payable to First United Methodist Church and indicate for "Friendship Club Day camp" on the bottom of the check. Please make your donations by May 6, 2019 so we can get the children registered before all the slots are taken.

We will also need to pack lunches for 2 days (Tues. & Thurs) of the week. Volunteers will need to help prepare the lunches. There is also a need to have a person to meet Becky Peeler at the Perry-Moore House each morning at 7 AM to meet the children and walk the children to First Baptist Church.

First United Methodist Church has generously answered the call to help send Friendship Club children to camp for years. The Friendship Club is grateful for your support and helping to make a difference in the lives of children.

Becky Peeler  
Director, Friendship Club

## UNION METHODIST CHURCH

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

**MAY 19, 2019**

You are invited to attend the annual Memorial Service at Union Methodist Church on Sunday, May 19, 2019 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 Road and is near the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road & Baber Road.

### MUSIC NOTES

For all who were unable to attend one of the church services on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14, I feel it is worthy to note that our program of scripture readings and music was dedicated first to the Glory of God and, then, to the most loyal and dedicated member of the choir I have ever come across—Dr. Ken Turner. As I have been told, he served many hats in this church as well as the community. Ken was dearly loved and respected by all members of the choir and is greatly missed. He is home with the God he served so faithfully.

A great big THANK YOU to the lovely dancers, the children, the readers, Karen Johnson, Glenda and the choir for your participation in the service. Our prayer was that this would be a worship experience, not a performance. May it always be first and foremost in our endeavors.

On a different note, some of you may have noticed a "new" piano in the Fellowship Center. The piano was given by Mrs. Winnie Elliott. It had belonged to her husband whose request was that it be given to a church. We are grateful to Mrs. Elliott for contacting us. The piano will need tuning and a humidifier. A date has been set for this work to be done.

## MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR 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

May 1, Tara Barnes Mae Griner Shirley Townsend  
-Jones

May 2, Kathy Kuhn Choong-Hee Lee

May 3, Amanda Cherry

May 4, Rosa Melbourne Saory Pon

May 5, Harriett Olson

May 6, Noe Cenal Margaret Fenton

May 7, Pamela Johnson

May 8, Manuel Padilla Larry Schmitz Carla  
Warnock

May 9, Vincent Chaeruka Lisa Katzenstein  
Cheryl Robinson

May 10, Sherlette Lee Erica Oliveira Daniel Yang

May 11, Stephen Quigg Joseph Russ

May 12, Quest Hunter Leslie Nedderman  
Cynthia Rodriguez

May 13, Kathleen Masters

May 14, Kristen Brown

May 15, Gad Maiga

May 16, Hikari Chang Bernice Keech

May 17, Annamarie Reed

May 18, Nora Marker

May 19, Angela Moore

May 20, Nandona Chikomb

May 21, Rashida Craddock John Elmore

May 22, Thomas Gates German Gomez Jeanne  
R. Smith

May 23, Melisa Abdool Elize Chin

May 24, Robin R. Minick

May 25, Elizabeth Lee Kayla Pless

May 26, Ronald Julian Charles Owusu

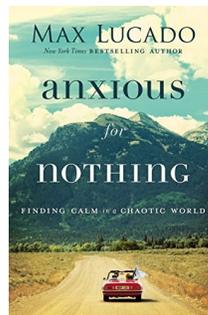
May 27, Kathi Edwards Joanne Finley

May 28, Donna Pewo Wanda Spencer

May 29, Aurelio Gomes LeKisha Reed

## OFFICE SCHEDULE

The office will be closed Monday, May 27th. The cut off for the June 2nd bulletin will be on Thursday, May 23rd. Thank you



### NEW ADULT STUDY

*Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night?*

*Is irrational worry your constant companion?*

*Could you use some calm?*

A new adult study group began on Sunday, 4/28 at 10 o'clock in the Fellowship Center parlor. We will use Max Lucado's book called "Anxious for Nothing" as our guide for this 11-week small group experience. Max writes in a very clear style that is full of real world examples and scripture-based discussion questions that are easy to understand.

Max writes: "The news about our anxiety is enough to make us anxious." He knows what it feels like to be overcome by the worries and fear of life, which is why he is dedicated to helping millions of readers take back control of their minds and, as a result, their lives.

"Anxious for Nothing" invites readers to delve into Philippians 4:6-7:

**"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."**

Stop letting anxiety rule the day. Join us on the journey to true freedom and experience more joy, clarity, physical renewal, and contentment by the power of the Holy Spirit. Anxiety comes with life. But it doesn't have to dominate your life.

Come join us on Sunday, 4/28 for this new study! Questions? Call or text Rick Furse at 828-447-2781.

## INFORMATION ON GRADUATES NEEDED

Sunday, June 2nd is High School Graduate Recognition Day at First Church. If you have a high school (or college) graduate in your family, please e-mail their name and their school's name to the Church office ([pcraft@fumcrutherfordton.org](mailto:pcraft@fumcrutherfordton.org)) by May 17th.

College graduates information will be printed in the June Newsletter.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

The Domestic Violence Education and Support Group, facilitated by Johnnie Martin and Sally Claroni, invite you to a Ribbon Cutting for their Healing Garden, Friday, May 17, 2019, 3:00 pm on the Purple Martin Greenway. Gardens, whether creating them, working in them, or simply enjoying them are therapeutic. This garden is a place where one can sit and enjoy the moment or picnic/celebrate with friends and family. Please join us to thank those who have made this project possible for our group and for the community. Together, as we choose to learn more about Domestic Violence and its impact on families and our community, we can find ways to stop it. Be a part of the solution, please.

If you have never walked the Purple Martin Greenway, this is an excellent time to walk a portion of the trail to the Healing Garden site! From the parking area of the Greenway, located on Skyline Drive across from Cowan Tire, park and walk in front of the cottage (toward Rutherfordton) for approximately 12 minutes; cross Industrial Drive and walk another 5 minutes to our site. Or you can join Don Harris and ride our church bus from the parking area behind our Fellowship Building. Bethany Baptist Church is also providing a bus too. Buses will leave at 2:30. For questions or to let us know you will be riding the bus, call Johnnie at 704-473-4275 or Sally at 828-245-1390 Ext 104.

## TOT LEARNING CENTER NEWS

Kathy Watson, our Tot Learning Center Director for the past 10 years will be retiring on May 22, 2019. She has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically for 25 years, 15 of those years as a teacher and 6 of those years included being an Assistant Director under Nanette Edwards. During Ms. Kathy's leadership, TLC has grown, with optimal enrollment and all areas of the preschool are thriving. Kathy will leave knowing she has changed the lives of the TLC children in a positive way, with seeds planted for a lifetime love of learning and she will be missed.

We are happy for Kathy, wishing her the very best, as she enters her retirement years. She plans to spend more time with her family and hopefully, we will continue to see her smiling face as a substitute, volunteer and consultant.

A reception honoring Kathy, will be held on May 22, 2019 from 11:30 - 12:30 in the Fellowship Center. Please join us in thanking Ms. Kathy for a job well done.

## 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 6 ~ ~ May 13 ~ ~ May 20**



# YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Throughout the Month of April we have been covering a series, Jesus Loves \_\_\_\_\_. This has been a very impactful series. Together as a group we have discovered that Jesus cared for and loved all people. In our society today it can be so easy to get caught up in the business of life, and forget to take the time to simply love others. Throughout this series we learned that we should follow the example of Jesus, and love others the way he did.

During the month of May we will be diving into a new series titled, "Family Feud." During this series we will be learning the importance of getting along within our family units. Some of the main themes from this series will include, being more patient, forgiving more often, being more honoring, and showing love for frequently. Our hope is that this series will help to strengthen the family as a whole, and bring our youth closer together with their families.

Also, our confirmands are working hard, and are passing the midway point of their confirmation class. Be sure if you see them to encourage them, as they continue on this important milestone in their lives.

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 the month of April, we covered a series titled, "Bright Side: Find the Light in the Darkness." Throughout this series we learned, that even when times can seem dark, God is still with us. God will always be there to help us along the way during life's toughest moments, we just have to learn to trust and rely on Him.

Following this line of thought as we come into May we will be starting a new series titled, "Mud Run: Make It Through The Mayhem." In this series we will be learning that life can be difficult and messy. It can throw curveballs our way that we are not expecting, and sometimes it can feel like it is almost impossible to make it through, but with God all things are possible. We will also learn the importance of perseverance through the hard times. We will discover that sometimes we simply need to persevere, and have faith, through our messy and difficult experiences. When we do make it through these experiences we will be amazed at how much growth takes place during these times.

Also, we are currently in the planning, and preparation process for VBS 2019. There will be more announcements on this as we get closer, but for now keep it in mind, and be on the lookout for when registration opens!

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).

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

In memory of Betty Arnold, by Jane Waters, Joe & Delores Jones, designated for the General Fund; by Betty Gabriel, Chris Gabriel, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund.

In memory of S. G. Gabriel, by Betty Gabriel, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund.

In memory of Gladys Henderson, mother of Alan Henderson, by Betty Gabriel, Chris Gabriel, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund.

In memory of Peggy McBrayer, by Lu Hamlin, David & Peggy Truscott, Betty Gabriel, Chris Gabriel, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund; by Joe & Gretchen Erwin, Jackie Davis, Truman & Linda Harris, Odean & Barbara Keever, designated for the General Fund; by Joyce Gray, designated for Soul Food.

In memory of Charles McClure, by Betty Gabriel, Chris Gabriel, Lu Hamlin, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund.

In honor of the Soul Food Cooks, by Edith Edwards, designated for Soul Food.

In memory of Ken Turner, by Ed & Jeanette Edwards, Joyce Gray, Truman & Linda Harris, Thompson Contractors, Inc., designated for the Music Fund.

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

**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 Jim & Shelia Cuthbertson

**Greeters (11:00)**

1st Sunday Russ & Gilda Hester  
2nd Sunday Alan & Sherry Henderson  
3rd Sunday Shirley Koone & Wanda Davis  
4th Sunday Wayne & Susan Keever

**Sound System**

1st Sunday Mike Fields  
2nd Sunday Steve Wright  
3rd Sunday Ralph Hier  
4th Sunday Eric Wells

**Ushers (8:45)**

Ken Sanford, Jim Cuthbertson,  
Doug Melton, Hugh McMahon

**Ushers (11:00)**

David Best, Odean Keever,  
Todd Snaith, Steve Wright,  
Grant McRorie, Rick Ensley,  
Mike Fields

**Bread Makers**

1st Sunday Nancy Smith  
2nd Sunday Margaret Britt  
3rd Sunday Jennifer Carver  
4th Sunday Debbie Best

**Acolytes**

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

**Communion Stewards**

1st Sunday Bobbie Tedford &  
VerAnn Kimbrough

First United Methodist Church  
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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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