

First United Methodist Church
264 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
www.fumcrutherfordton.org
Vol. 7, No. 10

The First Word

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



Vacation Bible School June 25-28, 2019

Dinner will be served each night from 5:30-6:00 pm;
VBS 6:00-8:00 pm

Dinner starts at 5:30 in the Fellowship Center and Opening Ceremonies always starts right at 6:00! You won't want to miss **The MANE Event**. Travel with your small group to Games, Missions, and Crafts in an evening of non-stop fun!

Children in preschool - 5th Grade are invited from 5:30-8:00 pm each night. (Children under 4 years old must come with an adult.)



THINGS TOO WONDERFUL FOR ME — A Pastoral Word from Sydnor

As I write these words, we have movers taking my daughter Adaire's belongings to her new residence in Fletcher. It has been such a blessing for Kelly and me to have Adaire residing with us this past year. Thank you for providing us this beautiful parsonage where there is room not only for Adaire, but also for our fur-babies, Jack and Luke! It is exciting to see Adaire launching out on this new chapter in her life's journey—but there is something sad about it too. The parsonage just won't be the same with her gone! We will miss her!

Adaire's moving out of the parsonage is a kind of prelude, I guess, to Kelly's and my departure on June 25th. Like Adaire's move to Fletcher, my move into retirement is somewhat exciting—what new thing does God have in store for me in ministry? But as I reflect on what lies ahead, I feel a similar sadness. Life just won't be the same for Kelly and me after June 25th. We will miss our church family here in Rutherfordton. As I've thought about our leaving, I've come to understand that the sadness we feel in departing is a reflection of the deep love we have come to share with you. God has blessed us richly here in Rutherfordton—so much so that it is difficult to imagine our lives without you.

So, we won't imagine that! Instead, we will imagine the love we share with you as continuing to bind us together in the years ahead, even though we may be physically apart. Someone reminded me recently of how the hymn "Blessed Be the Tie" was written. The Rev. John Fawcett and his wife Mary had served a small English church of meager means, where his salary was often little more than produce provided by his parishioners. The Rev. Fawcett was called to a larger church in London, with a much bigger salary—but as he and his wife Mary were preparing to move, Mary told her husband John she didn't think she could leave the congregation they had come to love so dearly. So, they unpacked their wagon and wrote the church in London that they wouldn't be coming after all! John then sat down and penned the words to the classic hymn,

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

I don't imagine the Bishop and District Superintendent would take it too well if Kelly and I unpacked our wagon and remained in the parsonage during my retirement. Your new pastor, the Rev. Dr. In-Yong Lee, and her husband Hee-Soo Kim, might also raise an objection or two. But still, the words of John Fawcett's hymn ring true for us as we prepare to leave this church family we have grown to love.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Much love in Christ,
Sydnor and Kelly

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY, If you need to use the Fellowship Center or Kitchen, please see Pam in the church office to make a reservation and to complete an Application For Use of Facility form. There will be NO reservations made on Mondays due to Welcome Table.

Thank you,
Joan King, Chairperson
Kitchen Committee

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

- June 3, Jonathan Baker Virginia Baker Deborah Anne UmipigJulian
- June 4, Francisco Canas Amanda Howe Florence Kaying Kanyimb Jerrie E. Lindsey
- June 5, Veronica Apecena Helen De Leon Camarce
- June 6, Donna Serwaah Akuamoah Umba Iliunga Kalagwa
- June 7, Ann Farris Jennifer Schumacher- Kocik Fita Tulu
- June 8, Richard Chauvin Ullas Tankler
- June 9, Donna Baker Sarah Capers Judy Chung Robin Johnson M. Cameron Kempson
- June 10, Benny Druilhet
- June 11, Betsy Jack Becky Warnock
- June 12, Jennifer Henneman Shirley Knepp Yvette Moore Helen Roberts-Evans
- June 13, Joy Kitanga
- June 14, Brenda Thompson
- June 15, Dong Min Seo
- June 16, Connie Lynn Di Leo Jorge Alberto Rodrigues Flores Jane Wakerman
- June 17, Taleah Edmonds Alejandra Padilla
- June 19, Rey Fabros Kandi Mount Nancy Robinson Javed Sheikh Yovanna Troansky David C. Warden
- June 20, Catherine Earl Mary Mwambay Carol Van Gorp
- June 21, Jennifer Boydston John Calhoun Mark Stransky
- June 22, Christina M. Meyer Cindy Moon
- June 23, Hector Laporta
- June 24, Ebony Diaz Wendy Putka
- June 25, Ellen Dizon Juan Gattinoni
- June 26, Kerri-Ann Broussard
- June 27, Lilian Cotto Walter Erbele
- June 28, Marcelo Gomes Gail Quigg, Gladis I. Lobato Ana Morais
- June 30, Tresor Selenga Kimugo

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES

Carolina Archer
Olivet Nazarene University

William Beam
NC State University



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!

Morning Celebration - 9:00 am
Sunday School - 10:00 am
Traditional Service - 11:00 am

BACKPACK OF BLESSINGS

The Backpack of Blessings was such a huge success that we have decided to continue the blessing in 2019. Our goal is 60 children which will include backpacks for Friendship Club children. If you would like to donate school supplies, please place your donations in the bins marked "BACKPACK DONATIONS" in the Donation Station outside the church offices. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Angela Forney.





YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Throughout the month of May we have been going through a series titled, "Family Feud." Throughout this series we learned the importance of family, and how we should treat each other. All families feud, but it is important to remember that we should treat each other with love and respect, the same as Jesus treats us. We have learned about topics like forgiveness, patience, and how to honor our parents and others.

Through the month of June we will be diving into a new series titled, "More Than A Hashtag." Throughout this series we will be talking about the importance of justice. We will talk about loving mercy, acting justly, and walking humbly. The goal by the end of this series will be to discover that we should do more than just talk about justice, we should walk this out in our lives.

Also, in June we would like to congratulate the youth who have gone through our confirmation class: David Griffith, Amanda Griffith, Taylor Wright, Lauren Ruupe, and Barrett Thompson! They all have done an amazing job throughout confirmation. Make sure to encourage them any chance that you get!

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.



In the month of May we covered a series titled, "Mud Run." Throughout this series we learned the importance of keeping our joy in the tough times. Throughout life there are many obstacles we encounter. It is important for us to remember to keep our joy through the difficulty that comes with life. We learned this through many stories in scripture such as Paul and Silas. Even though they found themselves in some pretty tough situations they continued to have joy.

In the month of June we will be starting a new series titled, "Power Up: Raise Your Game." During this series we will discover the importance of realizing who we are created to be. We will learn about being created in the image of God, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the ministry of Jesus on the Earth. This should be a very fun series for the kids as they can learn about Jesus with a theme that excites them.

Also, we are currently in the planning, and preparation process for VBS 2019. Registration has opened for kids and volunteers. The link for registration is vbspro.events/p/fumcrutherfordton!

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.

THE FOLLOWING MONETARY GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED:

In memory of Peggy McBrayer, by Bill & Ann Deviney, Doc & Midge Yelton, designated for Soul Food.

In memory of Ellyn Tanner, by Bill & Ann Deviney, designated for Welcome Table.

In memory of Ken Turner, by David & Peggy Truscott, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund; by Bill & Ann Deviney, Shirley Koone, Eddie & Lisa Price, designated for the Music Fund.

In memory of Lib Young, by Bill & Maggie Young, Molly & Miette Fox, Jae Berry & Seon Joon Young, designated for the Dillard Morrow Sunday School Class.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB NEWS

Friendship Club will soon be coming to an end for the 2018 - 2019 school year. It has been a great spring semester with our 10 1st and 2nd graders. Our last Friendship Club for this semester is June 11. The plan is for the children to have a fun filled afternoon.

This semester would not have been possible without the support of First United Methodist Church. Friendship Club is grateful to all those adults and high school students who have volunteered on Tuesdays and Thursdays as a Study Buddy. The relationships you have built with these students has been priceless! So many of the children have improved in their socialization skills and their reading. The last day for Study Buddies is June 4 for those who volunteer on Tuesdays; the last day for Study Buddies is June 6 for those who volunteer on both Tuesdays & Thursdays or only on Thursdays.

I invite the entire congregation to begin NOW to think about serving with Friendship Club for the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Blessings,
Becky Peeler
Director, Friendship Club

JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters (9:00)

1st Sunday Jim & Shelia Cuthbertson
2nd Sunday Ken & Diane Sanford
3rd Sunday Sandra Turner
4th Sunday Rory & Jeannie Kiser
5th Sunday Eric & Terri Wells

Greeters (11:00)

1st Sunday Lewis & Frances Hamrick
2nd Sunday David & Debbie Best
3rd Sunday Charles & Becky Wright
4th Sunday Jeep & Johnnie Martin
5th Sunday Van & Susie King, Ann Almond

Sound System

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

Ushers (9:00)

Ken Sanford, Jim Cuthbertson, Doug Melton, Hugh McMahan

Ushers (11:00)

Alan Henderson, Jimmy Dancy, Mel Bunch, Greg Hodge, David Rogers, Jeff Powell, Ralph Hier

Bread Makers

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

Acolytes

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

Communion Stewards

1st Sunday Bobbie Tedford & VerAnn Kimbrough

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
June 17 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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