

First United Methodist Church
 264 North Main Street
 Rutherfordton, NC 28139
www.fumcrutherfordton.org
 Vol. 7, No. 12

The First Word

BACKPACK OF BLESSINGS COLLECTION

The Backpack of Blessing Celebration will be held on Monday, August 19, 2019 in the Fellowship Center after Welcome Table for the children and the families of Welcome Table, NETworX, and Friendship Club.

If you would like to donate school supplies (including backpacks/no wheels), 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.



Sharing Christ's Light

...on Main Street & beyond

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

We will celebrate the importance of those special people who are called to the ministry of Christian nurture through teaching. The day will include:

Prayers of Blessing for all students at both worship services

Dedication of school teachers, administrators, and all church Christian educators at both morning worship services

Dedication of Friendship Club and TLC Preschool staff and leaders at the 11:00 service



Calling Rutherfordton Home

Before I moved to Rutherfordton, some people had asked me whether I was happy in Charlotte. Without missing a beat, I answered yes. And I said, "After crossing an ocean and adjusting yourself to a new environment, moving from a city to another within a state is much easier." And then, I thought about why I was happy wherever I went. It was because of people.

From the Pastor

First of all, you have a family. Loving and trustworthy family is a solid support system that shares the joy in life and that helps you withstand any possible difficulties or challenges in a new place. Also, you have old friends, who check on you from time to time, sending their blessings on your move. On top of all that, which is already very good, you make new friends. You are welcomed and loved by them and you reciprocate those feelings to them, and that new place becomes home. You don't feel alienated or isolated but at home.

That's how I feel in Rutherfordton. I learned that there are several different ways to pronounce our town's name, and I am eager to learn a shortened way, but I am actually fine with pronouncing the whole thing! To me, Rutherfordton is a warm, loving place with happy, friendly people thanks to you.

The parsonage is beautiful. We almost (not quite yet) finished settling in. The church has taken good care of the parsonage and it is such a pleasant house to live in. Mel Bunch has kindly kept the swimming pool for us and taught Hee-Soo how to maintain it. Did you know that our parsonage is the only one in our conference that has a swimming pool? Other pastors envy me for that!

My family and I are deeply thankful to the people who have helped us with the move: opening the parsonage door on our moving date, preparing refreshments in the refrigerator, checking/fixing the equipment, moving boxes of books to my office, etc. The flowers that a few of you brought to my office or for my mother have brightened our days. Thank you.

The first two home gatherings – at Don & Betty Harris' and at Alan and Sherry Henderson's – were wonderful times of getting to know one another. Thank you, hosts, for opening your houses to the groups. Thank you, participants, for taking time to come and talk with me. I hope the rest of the congregants will take part in the six other home gatherings that are scheduled, so that I may see all of you early on in my ministry at First and share our dreams for our church together.

I have been delighted to visit some of our members at home. Thank you for your warm welcome, for opening yourselves up immediately and sharing your life stories and circumstances. You took me deep in your lives, as soon as I stepped into your doors. It is a great privilege to serve you as your pastor. Thank you, First UMC, for helping me call Rutherfordton home with joy!

In-Yong

MEET THE PASTOR: Plan to attend one of our scheduled in-home meetings and get to know the Reverend Dr. In-Yong Lee. Enjoy the fellowship and share your thoughts about our church with her. Please wear your name tag. Sign up on the sheets posted outside the church office. Choose from one of the following dates/times:

August 3 at 2:00 pm, Home of Preston and Barbara Barden

August 6 at 6:00 pm, Home of Pell & Nancy Tanner

August 13 at 7:00 pm, Home of Skip and Dib Logan

TOT LEARNING CENTER NEWS

We are super excited about gearing up for our 2019-2020 School year. We have a full house this year with a total of 90 children attending as we operate on all 5 days. Due to our increased enrollment we had to hire an additional co-teacher to help with the increased enrollment.

To kick off our year we are hosting our very first ever Back to School Bash for all our families. We start the evening off with a hotdog supper, introduce all the staff and our church staff to our families. We will end the night with a tour of our school where they will get to see their classroom and do a special activity with their teacher. Our Back to School Bash is scheduled for Thursday, August 29th from 6:00-8:00pm.

We want to thank FUMC for their continued support and prayers for our TLC program as we start our 34th school year.

Johnathan Dillon
TLC Director

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

- ◆ Our Administrative Assistant, Pam Craft, will be on vacation the week of August 5-9. Sandra Turner will open the church office from 9am to 4pm, August 5-9.

The cut off for the August 11th bulletin will be on Thursday, August 1st.

- ◆ The church office will be closed on Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.

The cut off for the September 8th bulletin will be on Friday, August 30th.

Thank you,
Pam Craft

MISSION TRIP

The new dates for the mission trip to the New Bern area are October 23-26, 2019. Please be in prayer for the group going and if you're interested in going call Shelia Cuthbertson or let the church office know. Thank you!



BEACH DAY AT LAKE JAMES

Grab your swim gear and head to Lake James! The Catawba River Beach at Lake James State Park is reserved for us on Saturday, August 10, and all are invited to attend. Far from the crowds at the Paddy's Creek Beach, we'll have our own private beach for swimming, sunbathing, and picnicking.

The Travelers Sunday School class will be grilling hot dogs for a picnic lunch, and they will provide paper products, ice, and drinking water for attendees. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. A small boat dock is available for those who want to sail or paddle in.

The event starts at 10:00 am. Parking spaces are limited, so RSVP and be prepared to carpool. The Travelers look forward to sharing one of the last summer Saturdays with you! Contact Karen Johnson at 828-748-1397 or granolagirlofgod@gmail.com for more information.

WILL YOU BE COUNTED?

In the Gospel of Luke, we read that Jesus sent out 72 of his followers to preach and teach the Gospel. As Jesus was nearing his time in Jerusalem and ultimately his death, there were so many people who still needed to hear the message of love and forgiveness. So Jesus sent his disciples ahead of him to prepare the way.

Today, there is a mission field waiting for the followers of Jesus to bring a message of love and acceptance. It is called FRIENDSHIP CLUB! For those who may not be familiar with this ministry, it is the after school program that has been in existence for 25 years. Adults and high school students have the opportunity to share love and acceptance with children who need help socially, emotionally, and academically. You are being invited to be one of the people serving in this mission field that is one of the many ministries of First United Methodist Church.

Friendship Club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 1st and 2nd graders from Rutherfordton Elementary School. Volunteer Study Buddies are needed on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 4:00pm - 5:00pm. Friendship Club begins on Sept. 17 and meets in the Perry-Moore House. Sign ups begin on Aug. 11 following both worship services; 12 - 18 volunteers are being invited to participate. We prefer persons who can serve on both Tuesdays and Thursdays but will gladly accept all who can volunteer. A Study Buddy orientation is planned the end of August or the beginning of September in order that Study Buddies can learn about the many resources available to them.

Will you be counted as part of the number to share a message of love with children?

Blessings,
Becky Peeler
Director, Friendship Club

PICK-UP - TURN OFF - LOCK UP

Please leave meeting areas as you found them after your event or meeting. Return any items or furniture that have been borrowed from other rooms. Place all trash in trashcans (food should be placed in the outside containers). Make sure you clean the grill, dishes or any appliances that were used. Turn off the lights and **make sure ALL doors are locked.**

RESERVE

All meetings and events should be scheduled through the church office, please see Pam 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.

CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

An important component of our ministry to those in need in our community is our First Church food pantry. You may bring donations of non-perishable, in-date food items to the church and place them in the bin marked "FOOD PANTRY" in the donation station outside the church offices.

Thank you for supporting the church food pantry ministry.



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

August 1, Martha Lundgren

August 2, Ginny Moore

August 3, Valerie Mossman-Celestin

August 4, Amanda Mountain, David Quansah

August 5, George Howard

August 6, Nancy Augusta Carew

August 7, Laurie Felder, Jeanne Ntambo

August 8, Nkemba Ndjungu

August 9, Khia Shaw

August 10, J. Jamison Brunk

August 11, Alisha Gordon, Lilia Ramirez

August 12, Marcia Florkey

August 13, David Paye Guincha, Greg
Henneman

August 14, Fay Flanary

August 15, Alexandra Castro, Rebecca Parsons

August 16, Alethea McGarvin

August 17, Jennifer Krueger

August 18, Veronica Martinova

August 19, Angelita Broncano, Paul Kong

August 20, Beretta Dugas, Rae Grant, Ediberto
Lopez-Rodriguez

August 22, Claudette Mora, David Makobo
N'shikala

August 23, Sandra Hortmen

August 24, Thomas Kemper

August 27, Vidette Bullock-Mixon

August 30, Catherine Mudimbe Akale

August 31, Luis Cardoso, Hortense Tyrell



United
Methodist
Women

UMW NEWS

We will have the church Bazaar in the fall, the date has not been finalized yet. We will let you know ASAP. So be getting your things ready!

If you have given to the Legacy Foundation this year please let BJ know, you will be recognized at the fall Unit meeting and since many people give online, we would not have a record of this. (B. J. McRorie - 828-305-3273)

THE AGAPE CIRCLE will meet at 6:30pm on Tuesday, August 13th, at The Perry-Moore House. For August, our mini mission project will be to provide school supplies for backpacks for children. These can be placed in the bin marked "Backpack Donations" outside the church office. Tracey Owens from Brooks-Howell in Asheville will be speaking and Joy Deck will have the refreshments. All ladies of the church are invited to join us.



YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Throughout the month of July we have been working through a series titled, "Roar!." This series surrounded the topic of evangelism, and how we can take our faith to the next level, as it pertains to reaching the world around us with the unconditional love of Christ! This series came at a fitting time, as very shortly school will be starting back. We talked about the importance of being bold in not only what we believe, but how we act towards others. For example, us standing up for a particular theological belief really doesn't mean much if we cannot take the time to stand up for someone being bullied. It is important to live our faith out, and not just talk about it. If we are to be imitators of Christ, we should be the ones in the dirt prepared to take the stones with the oppressed, not the ones holding the stones.

In August we will be starting a new series titled, "Free People." We will be studying the book of Galatians, and discovering what it truly means to be free in Christ!

We are also preparing to open our Neon Coffee Shop! We hope to have this new ministry open by August. This will be a year round fundraiser for the youth, as well as an opportunity for the youth to learn a skill in making coffee. We hope that you will support this new ministry in the youth when it opens!

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.



Throughout the month of July we have been working through a series titled, "Power Up!." This series has been about how we can take our faith to new heights. We have had an amazing summer with the children, and we have learned a lot together about how we can take our faith to another level. We have discussed important figures in the Bible, such as Peter, and how he was able to help establish the early church. We have also talked about how so many of the early church founders were up against many obstacles, but still continued to persevere in their faith. Through their examples, we can learn to persevere in our faith as well, and to not give up when trials come our way!

Throughout the month of August we will be starting a new series titled, "Mission Control." This series is all about the topic of obedience. Throughout this series we will talk about how obedience can be pretty tough sometimes, but we can always trust God to lead us down the right path if we will simply be obedient to Him!

We are always looking for volunteers in our Children's ministry. As we look to the future, and grow our children's ministry we need volunteers to support this growth. If you are interested in volunteering please send me an email: gwilliams@fumcrutherfordton.org

Blessings,
Gary Williams

FIRST kids 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 honor of Angela Forney and her dedication to the Backpack Ministry, by Edith Edwards, designated for the Backpack Ministry.

In memory of S.G. Gabriel, by Ed Lyerly & Donna Harrison, Nancy Womack, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund.

In memory of Eric Gibson, by Brenda Gibson, David & Debbie Best, designated for Soul Food.

In memory of Gladys Henderson, mother of Alan Henderson, by Jane Waters, designated for the General Budget.

In memory of Rachel McKinney, mother of Cheryl Walker, by Alan & Sherry Henderson, designated for the Morning Celebration Service.

In honor of Sydnor & Kelly Thompson, by Brenda Gibson, designated for NETworX; by Rick & Laurie Furse, designated for the General Budget.

THANK YOU: Our Church has been very gracious with donations for my Eagle scout project with Troop #129. I have collected funds to purchase carbon monoxide detectors to be installed in low income housing. Thank you again for your support.

Alex Carver-Robbins
Life Scout
Troop #129, Spindale

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

August 16 at 12:00 noon

SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Every Monday at Noon

Send information for Newsletter & Bulletin to pcraft@fumcrutherfordton.org

AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters (9:00)

1st Sunday Dan Smith
2nd Sunday Ken & Diane Sanford
3rd Sunday Sandra Turner
4th Sunday Rory & Jeannie Kiser

Greeters (11:00)

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

Sound System

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

Ushers (9:00)

Gene Shuford, Russ & Linda Armentrout

Ushers (11:00)

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

Bread Makers

1st Sunday Emily Yelton
2nd Sunday Nancy Smith
3rd Sunday Margaret Britt
4th Sunday Jennifer Carver

Acolytes

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

Communion Stewards

1st Sunday Ken & Diane Sanford

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We're on the Web!
www.fumcrutherfordton.weebly.com



Find us on Facebook!

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