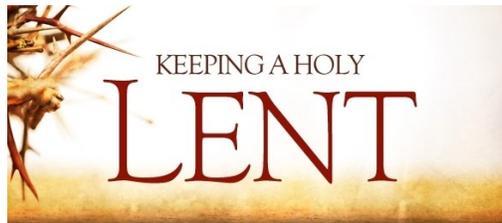


First United Methodist Church
264 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
www.fumcrutherfordton.org
Vol. 8, No. 7

The First Word



Community Services for Rutherfordton

Wednesday Lenten Services - 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.

Date	Host Church	Invited Speaker
March 4	First Baptist Church, Rutherfordton	Rev. Sam Burleson
March 11	2nd Baptist Church, Rutherfordton	Rev. Erin Burleson
March 18	Russell Tabernacle CME, Spindale	Rev. Keys Pendleton
March 25	First United Methodist, Rutherfordton	Rev. Bruce Walker
April 1	Rutherfordton Presbyterian Church	Rev. Arrie Melvin

Good Friday Services - April 10th

Noon St. Francis Episcopal Church

Easter Sunrise Service - April 12th at 7:00 am

Rutherfordton City Cemetery

Dr. In-Yong Lee

Rain Plan: First United Methodist Church, Rutherfordton

Breakfast at First United Methodist Church, Rutherfordton following service.



From the Pastor

I came back home on Thursday, Feb. 20 after three days of intense work of interviewing candidates for ordination in Gastonia. One more time, I realized how sacred this work was. During the interview season, for weeks before the interviews, the Board of Ordained Ministry members stay very close to God and the candidates. As we pray for the candidates, read their papers, view their videos of preaching and Bible study, we immerse ourselves in their lives and ministries deeply. When we gather for interviews, each discernment team with eight members in it formulates questions for the 1 hour 30 minutes that is allotted to each candidate in order to maximize the interview and to examine the readiness of the candidate for the ordained ministry as thoroughly as we can.

When I came back feeling truly blessed and fulfilled, other things were waiting. After unpacking the suitcase, I sat down, checked mail, returned a phone call from a friend, and prepared the Sunday sermon. It dawned on me that it had been a while since I last sorted things out and filed them. Some of you may be able to relate to what I am sharing. I have so much to do for the church, for the family, and for other responsibilities, that I don't have time to adequately store things that I bring in from outside. Weeks and months of Sunday bulletins and sermon manuscripts, agendas and information sheets from various conferences and meetings, ordination papers and handouts at the BOM, are neatly stacked up in several piles, waiting to be filed properly.

As I felt the desire to have it done in the near future, quiet joy filled my heart. I thought, "We will soon go into the season of Lent, during which we examine ourselves and experience lack and want voluntarily, so that we may restore our relationships with God and get closer to God. My Lenten discipline this year will include decluttering my study at home and my office at church of these piles of documents. Yeah!"

What are you planning to do as a Lenten exercise? Fast on something? Restrain yourself from a certain habit? Pray and read Scripture more regularly? Do hands-on work of ministry for the poor? Whichever you choose, may God open your hearts and minds to God's will, so that decluttering of your life and your being may happen and you may lead more deeply fulfilling spiritual life. That way, we will all be better prepared for Easter. Blessings on your Lenten journey!

In-Yong



Safe Sanctuary Training will take place on March 15th from 12:30pm to 2pm in the Youth Center. People attending will need to bring a bagged lunch. This training is for those who could not attend the training in January that participate with youth, children, or nursery in any capacity.

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 2 ~ March 9 ~ March 16 ~ March 23

UMCOR Sunday

March 22, 2020

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, 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 available on March 22nd.



**Daylight Savings Time
Begins on March 8, 2020**

Meetings for Ministry

Sunday, March 29th the **Finance Committee** will meet at **4:30 pm** in the Dillard Morrow classroom, the **Board of Trustees** will meet at **6:00 pm** in the Front Room, and the **Church Council** will meet at **7:00 pm** in the Fellowship Center. Anyone interested in attending the Church Council meeting is welcome.

Easter Mission 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 12th and it will also be attached to the church e-mail on April 9th and April 16th. 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 5th.

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

- 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 Many, 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

UMW News

UMW Unit luncheon meeting will be March 1, after the 11:00 am service in the Fellowship Center. All women are invited to attend.

UMW District Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, March 21, at Marion FUMC. We will take the van if there is enough interest. Please let me know if you'd like to go.

Thank you, Shelia Cuthbertson

The Agape Circle will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 10th, at the Perry-Moore House. Joy Deck will have the program and Jeannie Kiser will have a light refreshment. All ladies of the church are invited to join us.

Support Domestic Violence

To honor or remember a loved one, or to show your support...Purchase a paver for the Domestic Violence Healing Garden at the Purple Martin Greenway.

Cost: \$19

To place orders or for more information call Sally at 828-245-1390, ext. 104 or Johnnie at 704-473-4275. Order deadline: March 31, 2020.

Sponsored by: Domestic Violence Education and Support Group.

Funded by: Rutherford County Endowment of The Community Foundation of Western NC.

Mission Trip

Please remember the mission team in your prayers. They will be in New Bern, NC from March 3 to March 7. Members going are: Bob & Teresa Bourne, Jeff & Sonja Stobie, Fred & Jackie Dennis, Skip Logan, Russ Armentrout, Shelia Cuthbertson.



TLC News

TLC had a very busy February and gearing up for a fun filled March.

In February we had lots of fun talking about Friendships and spreading LOVE!

One of our biggest events in February was our Sweetheart Ball that was held on Friday, February 14! TLC would like to thank all the parents that helped and contributed to our Sweetheart Ball. We had lots of fun! The children were able to enjoy a snack together and play lot of fun games and dancing!

Our 2020-2021 School Year Registration is NOW OPEN for EVERYONE. If you have a child or grandchild that will be 15 months-4 years old by August 31st please let Johnathan know. Registration forms are available outside of Pam's Office. Please remember registration is on a first come, first serve basis! We are filling up fast!

Upcoming Events for March include:

March 8 - Daylight Savings Begins

March 13 - Dr. Miller visits to talk about dental health

March 16 - Muffins with Mom's for our 3's & 4's

March 25 - KidSenses Schoolwide Field Trip 9-11:30 (Parents encouraged to stay and play with us)

March 27 - 4's Walking Field Trip to Library

TLC would like to thank everyone for your continued support of our program!

Johnathan Dillon

TLC Director

Fifth Sunday Celebration Sunday, March 29, 2020

We will have only one worship service at 11:00 am on Sunday, March 29th in the Fellowship Center. It is to help the congregation to worship together all at once at least quarterly on a fifth Sunday and enjoy the full fellowship in a more relaxed setting. Youth members will prepare coffee, water, and cookies for their fundraising that day. Enjoy the refreshments and support our youth with your donations.

District Connect Conference - Pathway to Peace

March 22, 2020 at 2-5 pm

Covenant Community Church in Asheville

Due to increased interest and request on behalf of congregations across the district, our focus for the March District Connect conference will be to better prepare us for the upcoming General Conference. Join congregations and leaders across the district as we come together to receive up to date information and learn to lead peaceful conversations in the midst of discerning our path forward.

Agenda:

Registration begins at 1:30

Worship and Prayer

Information and Q & A providing anticipatory guidance

Teaching and Hands-On Learning for engaging in Holy Conversations within your congregation

Closing Communion

Dismissal at 5:00 pm



YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Throughout the month of February we went through a series titled, "Choose Your Own Adventure!" This was a series about our spiritual journeys, and how they should feel like an adventure rather than a formula. We talked about ways that we can connect to God through worship that may be unconventional. We also talked about how we should not go on these journeys alone. We discussed ways that we can choose good friends that help to promote our spiritual journeys. We discovered that this does not just mean we are only friends with people who believe the same as us, sometimes we can grow spiritually by befriending people of different spiritual backgrounds. Finally, through all of this we discovered that we are never alone on this journey. Even when we feel that we have no one to rely on we always have God who promises to never leave us!

Next month in March we will be starting our lessons on Lent. Through this month we will look at the history of Lent and why we observe it. We will also talk about the meaning behind Lent and how giving things up for a period of time can help us grow closer to God!

We have had an amazing start to this new year, and we are looking forward to the growth taking place in our young people's lives. Please contact me if you would like to come and be a part of this growing ministry.

Blessings,
Gary Williams



Throughout the month of February, we went through a series titled "Playlist: Put Love in the Mix." This series was all about how we could love God and others better! In our first week we discovered that we can love others, because Jesus loves us. It is the love that Jesus has displayed for us that gives us the ability to love others. Next we discovered that we can love others with our time. We found that sometimes the greatest way we can show love to others is not by giving them a gift, but giving them our time. Sometimes people just need someone to be there for them, and we have the ability to provide that! In our third week we discussed one of the hardest things for us to do. We found that Jesus taught we should love our enemies. We talked about ways we can love others that we don't get along with very well. We discussed that sometimes people treat us wrong because of things going on in their lives that they don't like. We should have compassion for people like this and love them, because even though they may not be nice all the time, they still matter to God. Finally, we discovered that we should love God with everything we've got!

Next month we will be starting a series titled, "DIY: Forgiveness Is Up To You." We will be talking about how even though we get hurt sometimes we can still choose to forgive others and move forward. Make sure to attend every Sunday in February so that you don't miss anything that we cover!

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 memory of Ken Flack, by Joe & Ginny Wells, Doug & Kay Sheets, designated for the Fellowship Center Roof Fund.

In memory of Virginia Hodge, by Stephen & Gin Hodge, designated for the General Fund.

In honor of Jimmy & Ginger Dancy's 50th Wedding Anniversary, by Craton & Teresa Stephens, designated for TLC Scholarships.

In memory of Helen Rogers, by Ken & Diane Sanford, designated for Soul Food.

In memory of Don Suttles, by Friends from Life Styles, Jane Waters, Gene Booth, Hazel Crook, John & Ann Porter Family, designated for the General Fund; by Ken & Diane Sanford, designated for Soul Food.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Operation Inasmuch
Saturday, April 25, 2020**

Next Newsletter Deadline

March 17th at 12:00 noon

Sunday Bulletin Deadline

Every Monday at Noon

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

March Worship Assistants

Greeters (9:00)

1st Sunday Rory & Jeannie Kiser
2nd Sunday Skip & Dib Logan
3rd Sunday Sandra Turner & Mabel Satrape
4th Sunday Bobbie Tedford & Cheryl Waddingham

Greeters (11:00)

1st Sunday Shirley Koone & Wanda Davis
2nd Sunday Wayne & Susan Keever
3rd Sunday Jeff & Sonja Stobie
4th Sunday Charles & Becky Wright
5th Sunday Jeep & Johnnie Martin

Sound System (9:00)

Jay Ostrander, Stephen Wright

Sound System (11:00)

Ed Bosgra, Mike Fields

Ushers (9:00)

Gene Shuford, Russ & Linda Armentrout,
Jennifer Carver

Ushers (11:00)

Joe Carson, Joy Deck, Don Harris, John Lewis,
Charles Wright, Wayne Keever, Randy Enloe

Bread Makers

1st Sunday Sandra Turner
2nd Sunday Jane Shuford
3rd Sunday Debbie Best
4th Sunday Bobbie Tedford
5th Sunday Laurie Furse

Acolytes

1st Sunday Charity Deese
2nd Sunday Evie Pienkos
3rd Sunday
4th Sunday AC Myslinski
5th Sunday Dakota Deese

Communion Stewards

1st Sunday Bobbie Tedford & VerAnn Kimbrough

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We're on the Web!
www.fumcrutherfordton.org



Find us on Facebook!

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