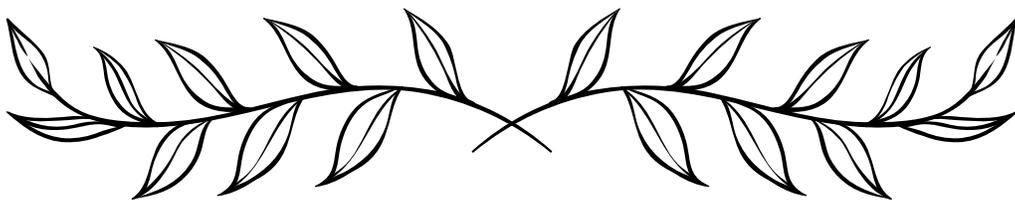
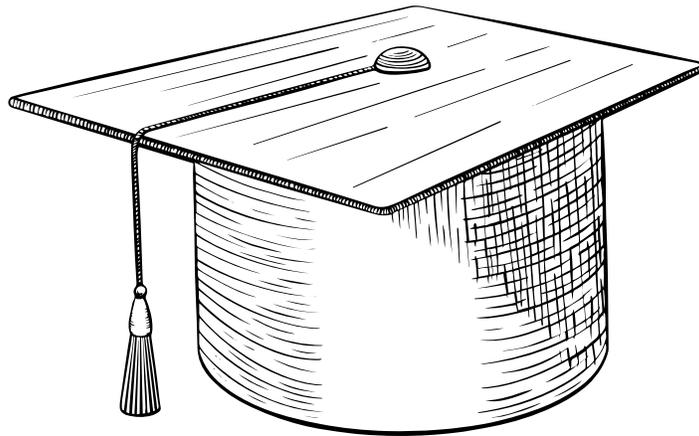


The Class of
2022



*In celebration with the graduates
of First United Methodist Church*

MAY 22, 2022

A blessing for our graduates

So you know some things.
You've also noticed
how much there still is to discover.

You are both humbled and emboldened
by this gain and ground.
What's next?

Do not be fooled by the trite questions,
the expectations about pressing forward.
There is no right answer to how you
keep becoming.
There is no degree or title that can
fulfill all of who you are.

Delight in the wisdom
and those who share it.

Invest in the service
and those who need it.

Be thankful for the support
and those who gave it.

You are being sent
to speak what is true
to do what is kind
to give what is necessary
so that your knowledge and mystery
are alive in the world
for all to share.

from *Ordinary Blessings* by Meta Harrick Carlson

College Graduates

WES FAZIA

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT
GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

PARKER WILLIAMS HASSARD

DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE
GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL SCHOOL OF LAW

KATELYN LEE

DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE
GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF
LECOM SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE BRADENTON

JOE STEINMAN

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT WITH A
CONCENTRATION IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
GRADUATING FROM APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
MEMBER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

SPENCER STOREY

MASTER OF ACCOUNTING
GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
MASTER OF MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (DECEMBER 2020)

LEAH WYRICK

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BUSINESS &
ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT
GRADUATING CUM LAUDE FROM WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

High School Graduates

EMILY RUTH BOSCH

DAUGHTER OF AMANDA & SCOTT BOSCH

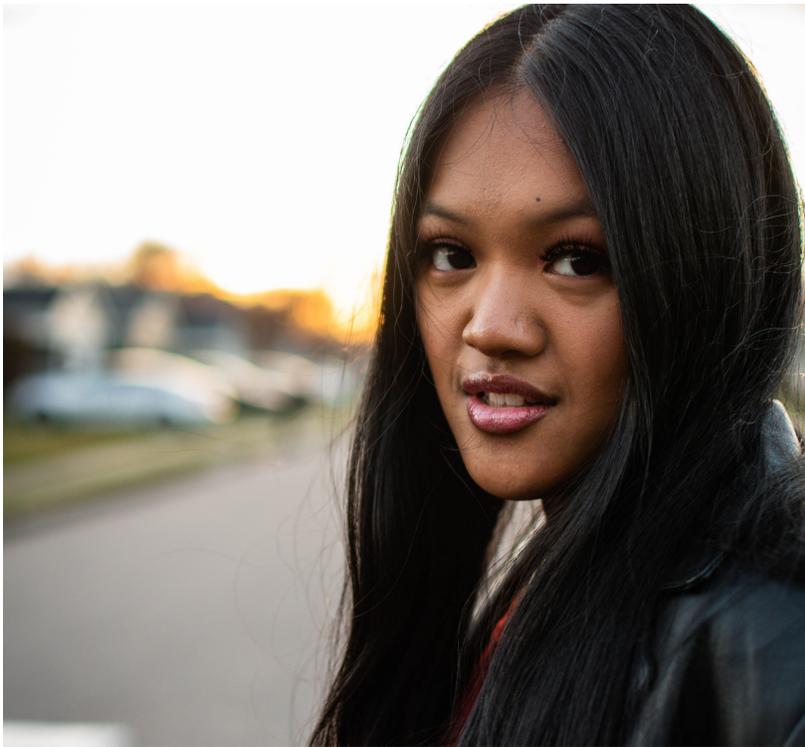
GRADUATING FROM NORTH CAROLINA VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Emily has been part of the ministry of FUMC since she attended preschool at our church, and has continued to be part of children's ministry and youth group over the years. She was confirmed in the church in 2017, and attended retreats with the youth group.

AFTER GRADUATION

After high school, Emily plans to take a gap year, then pursue a career in cosmetology.



KAHLIL NOELLE CROSS

DAUGHTER OF SHELLEY & CHAD CROSS

GRADUATING FROM JESSE CARSON HIGH SCHOOL

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Kahlil served as an acolyte for several years. While in high school she enjoyed volunteering with our church at Rowan Helping Ministries and helped with summer activities like Simply Summer with the children's ministry at FUMC.

AFTER GRADUATION

After graduation she will be attending Catawba College, majoring in Elementary Education, pursuing a career in speech pathology.

WHAT THE CHURCH MEANS TO ME

The church means more to me than just a place of worship. The church is a place I get to enter the doors and feel safe and reassured. A place to come and be united once again in the Body of Christ and home to everyone in the fellowship. The church is a place I get to be part of a support system that helps us live as Christ would have us live. I feel so lucky and loved being able to lay my heart out to the Lord and going to not only Him but my church as well with any struggles I am having. I love being a part of this family and feeling welcomed every Sunday. Attending camps and being able to volunteer through the church, I love having the ability to show the love of God through my words and actions. The church is not just salvation but it is my home.



NICHOLAS JACKSON FOOTE

SON OF CHRISTOPHER & AMY FOOTE

GRADUATING FROM GRAY STONE DAY SCHOOL

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Nicholas has been part of the youth group at FUMC while in middle and high school, and served as an acolyte for several years. Last summer he had a great time serving as a mentor at Camp Discovery! At Gray Stone, Nicholas has competed as part of the Cross Country and Swim teams.

AFTER GRADUATION

He will be attending Appalachian State University in the fall.

WHAT THE CHURCH MEANS TO ME

First United Church has been a major part of my life for the past decade. Many of my earliest memories within the walls of that church were through things like the choir program, and constant attendance (that as a kid I was not happy with). As I matured though, I found myself liking FUMC more and more as a respite from the outside world, as a constant sanctuary, that did a monumental job of easing my troubles. This was at first through the variety of youth programs, and the weekly youth meetings remain a bright spot in my view of my middle and high school years.

The strength of the Church that I found was maintaining an incredibly formal church service, while still managing to have casual events like the youth group and dinner on Wednesdays, which is something I have fond memories of. In the past few years, COVID has made it such that the Church has had less of a physical impact; I'm no longer attending sometimes even once a month, but through new options presented to me, such as things like Camp Discovery, I intend for the constant positive presence of the church to be my reinforcement on my summers at home, through Camp Discovery in particular, which I believe to be our church's best form of outreach.



CASEY MYERS GOUGE

SON OF LARRY & MARY JO GOUGE

GRADUATING FROM WEST ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Casey and his family have been attending First Methodist since they moved to Salisbury in 2007. He has enjoyed serving with our church as a volunteer with Rowan Helping Ministries. He is a member of the National Honor Society and a Crosby Scholar. He participated as a Wreaths Across America Volunteer, was involved in West Rowan's Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and played baseball for West Rowan, Five Star travel ball (formerly known as the Copperheads), and Rowan County's American Legion team.

AFTER GRADUATION

In the fall he will be attending Catawba College where he will also be playing baseball.

WHAT THE CHURCH MEANS TO ME

FUMC is more than just a church to me, it's like having a second family. I love going to church and speaking with other members of the congregation. It gives me a group of great people that I can talk to and helps me start off every Sunday right. Church is also a commitment I cannot be more thankful for. I am committed to getting up every Sunday, and going to worship the Lord for all the great things He has done for me - it encourages me weekly to be the best person I can be, and do all the things the Lord asks of me.

FUMC has taught me that God is always present in my life. No matter what I am doing or where I am, God is always watching over me. I will take what I have learned into my adult life by always trying to do the right thing, even when I know the only person watching is God. FUMC will always hold a special place in my heart, no matter where I go or what I do. I'll always remember Sunday mornings at church with my mom and dad.



WILLIAM PARRISH KOONTZ

SON OF EARLE & LAURA KOONTZ

GRADUATING FROM SALISBURY HIGH SCHOOL

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Will has been an active member of the youth group at FUMC, and served as an acolyte all through middle and high school. Will was the founder and captain of our high school basketball team in the YMCA's church league, and been youth representative on church council for the past two years.

He has been a member of Salisbury High's tennis and cross country team freshman through senior year. Will was named county player of the year for tennis both junior and senior year and conference player of the year during his senior year. He is a member of National Honor Society, Key club, and Junior Civitans. He has enjoyed volunteering at Rowan Helping Ministries.

Will works at Romano's Italian Cuisine, and as an assistant tennis instructor at the Country Club.

AFTER GRADUATION

After graduation, Will plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

WHAT THE CHURCH MEANS TO ME

Growing up as a member of First United Methodist Church of Salisbury has greatly impacted my faith as a Christian as well as the person that I am today. What I love most about FUMC is the family dynamic that is present and the continuous support I have from my fellow members. My church is always a place I can fall back on and has an atmosphere where I know the members have my best interest at heart. I felt this support since I was a child going to events such as breakfast with Santa, vacation bible school, and the fall carnival. The love and support that I felt never stopped as I continued to grow within the church. The same people that cared about me when I was a kid continue to do so now that I'm a young adult.

Being raised in the church has allowed me to grow in my faith and become a better Christian throughout my life. My church has taught me valuable lessons about being a good Christian, loving God, and serving others. Being involved in activities such as Sunday school, youth group, and confirmation have helped to positively shape me in my faith. I've also had many mentors who have guided me through the years and taught me about Christianity and God. First United Methodist Church has been a home for me all of my life. I am forever grateful for what my church has done for me, as well as who it will make me in the future.



RILEY KATHERINE PELTZ

DAUGHTER OF KEVIN & LAURA PELTZ
GRADUATING FROM SALISBURY HIGH SCHOOL
WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Riley has served as an acolyte through middle and high school, and been part children's & youth ministry, having been part of First Methodist for her whole life.

She will be graduating with Special Honors. Riley was the grant winner for COVID Relief Fund, received the United Way Citizenship award, Service Above Self award, and served as a Junior Marshal. She played Varsity Volleyball all four years, served as JV Assistant Coach junior and senior year, and played Varsity Softball freshman through senior year. She has been a member of the Junior Civitans Club, Environmental Club, Green Team, Sheroes Club, Key Club, Crosby Scholars, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

AFTER GRADUATION

Riley plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.

WHAT THE CHURCH MEANS TO ME

I will never be able to accurately put into words what the First United Methodist Church means to me. It is the place I have grown up, and has been with me through all of my major milestones. I was so lucky to have been born into a warm and loving congregation. I was baptized and confirmed in the same church as many of my family members. This church has become part of my family, and makes up some of my fondest memories. Christmas Eve would not be Christmas Eve without racing my brother into the paper bag pageant so I could get the coolest costume. Discovering one of my favorite games of all time in youth group - underground church. Some of my best friends and I still talk about how much fun our confirmation retreat was, where we really started to grow into the best friends we are today.

Although, all these memories are just a plus to how perfect our church is to me. First United Methodist Church is the place where I learned about my love for God and how important religion is to me. I strengthened my relationship with Christ, whether it was learning about Noah's ark sitting on the alphabet rug in Sunday school, or how to truly love your neighbor through listening to a sermon. First United Methodist Church has been a rock for me, where I know I can always turn to and be met with open arms. All in all, what our church really means to me is home.



CAROLINE SUMMERS POWELL

DAUGHTER OF NEAL & SANDY POWELL

GRADUATING FROM EAST ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Caroline has been an active member of the FUMC Youth Group through middle and high school. She served as an acolyte and assisted in serving communion at many services. She enjoyed helping with Stations of the Cross and volunteering to pack food at Rowan Helping Ministries with USDA Food Packing.

AFTER GRADUATION

In fall Caroline will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, studying Exercise and Sports Science with a focus in Sports Administration.

WHAT THE CHURCH MEANS TO ME

First Methodist has been a strong influence throughout my life as this is the church in

which I grew up in. I was baptized and confirmed here. I was a member of the children's choir, served as an acolyte, and was a part of the youth group at the church. Growing up at First, I was influenced and taught by so many wonderful members of this church. I owe a lot of my strength in the faith to those who guided me to this point.

When I leave for Chapel Hill, I will continue to value my friendships with those of the church and know that there will be many praying for my health and success.

I would like to thank my Sunday School and Youth Group leaders, along with all the other members who were mentors through my faith and life that helped me become the person I am today.



BROOK ALEXIS CAROL RIGGS

DAUGHTER OF JAMES (DECEASED) & ROSE RIGGS
GRADUATING FROM ROWAN CABBARUS EARLY COLLEGE
VALEDICTORIAN OF HER CLASS

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Brook's family has been connected to FUMC for many years through her beloved grandmother Barbara. She was involved in Sunday School as a child, and created artwork for Stations of the Cross in middle school. Brook was confirmed at FUMC.

AFTER GRADUATION

In the fall, Brook will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, majoring in studio design.

She graduated as valedictorian of her class, and earned her high school diploma as well as an associate degree as part of the Early College curriculum.



REGAN TALLEY ROAKES

DAUGHTER OF ROB & SUZANNE ROAKES
GRADUATING FROM WEST ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL
VALEDICTORIAN OF HER CLASS

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Regan has attended First UMC with her family her whole life. She has served as an acolyte all through middle and high school. She was part of the 2017 confirmation class and part of the youth group. Regan is a Rowan All County Scholar, served as a Junior Marshal, a member of the National Honor Society. She was on Homecoming Court at West Rowan, and participated in Tar Heel Girls State. Regan played Varsity Softball and Varsity Volleyball at West Rowan.



AFTER GRADUATION

In fall Regan will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

WHAT THE CHURCH MEANS TO ME

I have been a part of First United Methodist Church since I was born. I was baptized here and have grown up coming to church here since. This church has brought me endless amounts of friendships and opportunities through Sunday School, Bible school, confirmation, and youth group. I remember being in the Christmas play as a child and making gingerbread houses at breakfast with Santa. I have also enjoyed volunteering with the youth group and being an acolyte since I was in 6th grade.

Looking back, I have shared so many memories from preschool until now that have shaped me into the person I am today. The church allowed me to form relationships with people from all ages, and gain supporters and mentors throughout my years. I am so thankful for everything First United Methodist Church has done for me, and I am so lucky to call it my home.

AUTUMN ANN WALSER

DAUGHTER OF TRACY & JASON WALSER
GRADUATING FROM SALISBURY HIGH SCHOOL

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Autumn has been involved in Key Club and National Honors Society while at Salisbury High School. She was the president of the Junior Civitans Club her senior year. She has been a member of Salisbury High's tennis team, cross country team, and softball team, in addition to being captain of the swim team. Outside of school, she is an avid volunteer at Faithful Friends Animal Sanctuary, and occasionally volunteers at Rowan Helping Ministries.

AFTER GRADUATION

In the fall Autumn plans to attend North Carolina State University and major in International Politics. She then plans to pursue a master's in Political Science.

WHAT THE CHURCH MEANS TO ME

Throughout my time at FUMC, I have learned the importance of community and fellowship. FUMC has continuously shown me love, even when I did not reciprocate it.

The people at this church have been the embodiment of "unconditional support", and have helped shape me into the person I am today. It is because of this community that I learned how to be reliant upon others in my times of need, and I will always be grateful for this family of people who constantly uplift me.



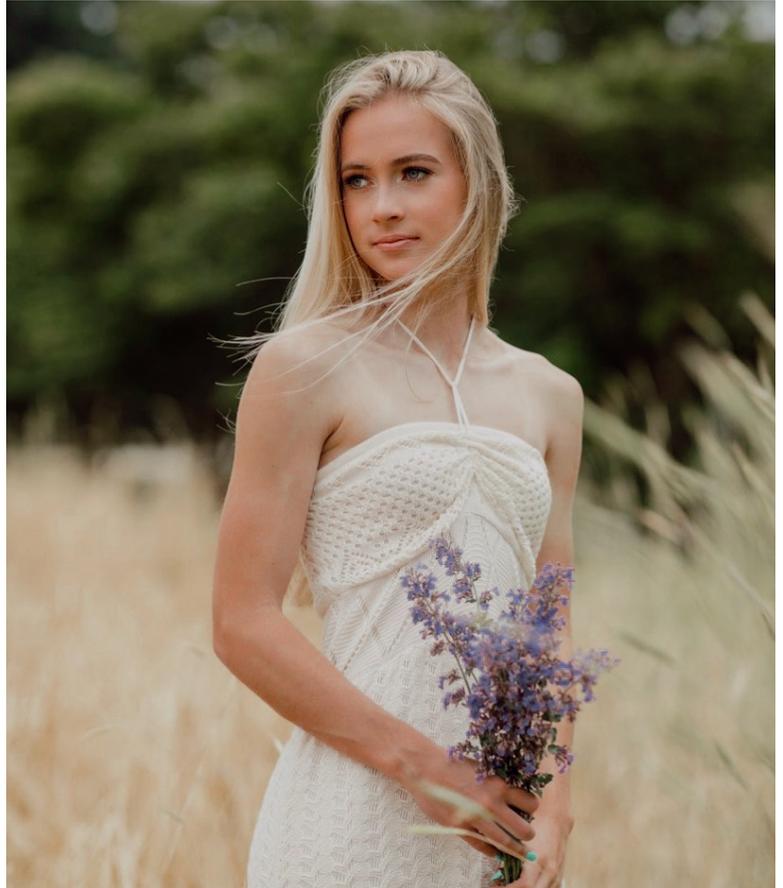
REBECCA SUTTON WEBB

DAUGHTER OF JOHN & JAMIE WEBB
GRADUATING FROM SALISBURY HIGH SCHOOL

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Sutton has enjoyed being part of Club 45 and Youth Group while growing up at FUMC. She has served as an acolyte since 6th grade. Sutton has also enjoyed volunteering with our church at Rowan Helping Ministries.

She was named Rowan County Distance Runner of the Year 2022 Track and Field and Rowan County Athlete of the Year 2021. Sutton holds Rowan County's Scoring Record in soccer with 132 goals scored currently. She was the Conference and County Cross Country Runner of the Year 2022, Central Carolina Conference Athlete of the Year 2022, and Indoor Track and Field State Runner-Up in 1000 meter. She is a Junior Rotarian, served as a Junior Marshall, is a STEM scholar, and a member of the National Honor Society.



AFTER GRADUATION

This fall Sutton will be attending the University of Georgia on an athletic scholarship to play soccer.

WHAT THE CHURCH MEANS TO ME

First United Methodist Church has meant many things to me over the years. As a child I remember going to Sunday School in my best clothes (laid out by my mom of course), and asking my dad for a dollar to put in the offering basket. I listened to stories from the Bible, and learned about God's love. In my preschool class, Mrs. Edwards taught me how to kick a soccer ball! FUMC has been part of many of my holiday memories.

As I entered middle school, I admit coming to church seemed less 'fun,' and I was reluctant to attend. However, in the sixth grade I became an acolyte and have always enjoyed serving as an acolyte in worship. Confirmation was the beginning of a new chapter in my development as a Christian. I could engage in spiritual conversations which helped strengthen my faith. My journey of faith has not always been easy, and sometimes left me questioning God's plan for me. Now, as I am close to graduation, I realize that FUMC has given me a sure foundation. Whether it be through fun, leadership, service, or the development of my faith, I will forever cherish the FUMC family and all they have done to help shape me into the best version of myself.

EMILY WAKEFIELD BUSBY

DAUGHTER OF BRET & SARAH BUSBY
GRADUATING FROM CANNON SCHOOL

TIMOTHY JACOB HOWARD

SON OF TIM & KIM HOWARD
GRADUATING FROM EAST ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL

WILLIAM WHITAKER WEBB

SON OF BILLY & SCOTTI WEBB
GRADUATING FROM SALISBURY HIGH SCHOOL



May the Lord...





BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU, MAY THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE
TO SHINE UPON YOU, AND BE GRACIOUS UNTO YOU.
MAY THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON YOU,
AND GIVE YOU PEACE. AMEN!

YOUTH GROUP BENECTION (NUMBERS 6:24-26)



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2017



OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE GOD IS -
CREATIVE, CREATOR OF THE WORLD;
A GOOD FATHER WHO CARES FOR US;
THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF ALL THINGS (OUTSIDE OF TIME);
LOVING, AND POWERFUL, AND REAL.

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD IS THREE PERSONS IN ONE,
THAT THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT ARE ALL EQUALLY GOD.
WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS CAME TO EARTH TO FORGIVE OUR SINS.
GOD'S GRACE MEANS THAT GOD IS WITH US,
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALIVE IN OUR SOULS.

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD IS OUR BEST FRIEND,
AND WHEN WE PRAY GOD ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS.

To our graduates...

Dear Class of 2022,

I've known you since you were entering the seventh grade, and it's been an honor to watch you grow up. You were the first class of confirmands I taught when I arrived in Salisbury, and our retreat was the first time most of us visited Lake Junaluska, myself included.

I've watched you serve as acolytes, and take on leadership roles both at church and at school. We've served meals and packed food together at Rowan Helping Ministries. I've had the privilege to see you play the sport you love at swim meets, volleyball games, and tennis matches; and I've never cheered louder at any sporting event than when our church league basketball team won a hard fought game.

I know you won't remember most of the youth group lessons I've taught, but I hope you will always carry with you the knowledge of how deeply you are loved - by God, by your church, and by me. I hope you will choose to make your faith a priority. Stay engaged with a faith community, because life is hard and we all need one another. You were created to be part of something bigger than yourselves. And whatever you do in life, I pray you will (*to paraphrase John Wesley*) do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.

Congratulations, friends. You did it!

With Love,
Jen Fogt
Your youth director

