Ecclesia June/July 2023

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In This Issue...



THE HIGHLIGHTS

On the Covers

Front: Praying for our seniors at the Summer Kickoff Back: Cheering for Nate & Austin at their track meet

Page 8-9

Find out how you can be part of & support children's ministry this summer with Camp & Simply Summer!

Page 13 The trustees have conducted a parking analysis

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Courtney Bost, Child Development Center

The Rev. Garry Cook, MDiv, LCSW, Pastoral Counselor FUMC Counseling Center (Sanctuary Counseling Group)

Summer Day Camp Program

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LIGHTHOUSE ongregat

Kelly Austin, Preschool

Page 18 Celebrating our recent concert & graduate recognition

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Website www.fumcsalisbury.org







Sermon Podcast Salisbury Sermons on Anchor; Apple Podcasts; Google Podcasts; Pocket Casts; RadioPublic; and Spotify



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704.636.3121 | 217 South Church Street Salisbury, NC 28144

Re:Marks

Most church members get around to asking, "How can I support my church?" The question may be pondered quietly, or out loud in a conversation. The response is usually bland: pray to God & be nice to people. Yes, of course we should pray. And yes, we ought to be nice. Yet thoughtful & purposeful church members yearn for more traction.

A recent presentation from Jason McNeal, PhD impacted me, and I'd like to share more with you. Dr. McNeal is a professional fundraiser with Gonser Gerber. His remarks on "The 5 A's of Positive Impact" are pertinent to any group, including a congregation with church members wondering, "How can I support my church?" These "5 A's" are real actions. You can track yourself. Over the long haul, when you consistently follow these "5 A's" then you will make a positive impact for God's glory through First United Methodist Church.

Below I will note all five parts, and add some commentary:

1. Advocate on behalf of the church

a.Your voice matters. Speak up, so that people clearly hear you & see you. Examples of advocating on behalf of the church include telling inspiring stories about how FUMC is making a difference. Gossiping, being negative about decisions, and questioning a person's character – all of these things run contrary to advocating on behalf of the church.

2. Align your efforts with the church's goals

a. Let the church's goals provide focus. Just a simple example, if we are receiving school supply donations for one particular school, then bring your donations to bolster that effort. Don't do a rogue project. Instead, get on board and align your efforts with whatever the church sees during a window on the calendar. Putting effort elsewhere, even if the gesture is seemingly good-hearted, could detract from the church's goals.

3. Advise on strategy development

a.Again, your voice matters. God gives the vision to many people, and we need to listen to one another in order to discern God's calling for our next faithful step. In light of the Visioning Team's ongoing work, the Wesley Community Development assessment, and our church participating in Bishop Carter's "First Church Cohort," we are frequently needing to develop strategy – to see the future and figure out how we get from here to there. You can make a positive impact by taking part.

4. Assist with implementation of strategies

a. Talking is one thing; doing is another. It's one thing to talk about church strategy, and it's another thing to put a sustained effort into implementing the strategy. Stop waiting for someone else to take action. You can step up! Realize that mistakes will be made, and taking the long-view is a blessing. Many people are needed; some to work behind the scenes, and others to be out in front. This effort requires connecting the dots from one level to the next, from small goals to large goals, all with a unified vision for implementation.

5. Arrange for new relationships to grow

- a.Along the way, something noteworthy happens: new people are drawn to the energy and drive of the church. They want to be part of it! In the church, we credit the Holy Spirit with making this happen. So do not be surprised when new relationships grow, with new
- b.people beginning the cycle again with they themselves advocating on behalf c.of the church. Now, imagine what happens when those new people align d.their efforts with the church's goals, when they begin working on strategy, e.and then begin to draw even more new people!

See what a positive impact you can make?!

Blessings,

Mark Conforti

Pastor Mark



Community Meal

COMMUNITY MEAL

Our free fellowship meal for church members and the wider community is scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month. We are committed to keeping this meal free for all who attend, it is funded by donations from generous church members.

JUNE Menu: Burgers & Hot Dogs

JUNE Program: BINGO! (we still have prizes to give away!)

Wednesday, June 7, 6:00pm

NEXT TIME: WEDNESDAY, JULY 5



Music Ministry: Summer Choir

Summer Choir will run June 06 – August 27. Join us in the Music Suite 30 minutes prior to the worship service (at 08:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., respectively) for a brief rehearsal of a simple anthem to sing at the 08:30/11:00 a.m. services!

All ages and abilities are invited to participate – bring your children and grandchildren!

- No long-term commitment just join us as you are able!
- No robes you will be able to sit together and worship with your family and loved ones during the service!

Christmas in July

"Christmas in July" Sunday is July 23 – be sure to join us as we sing about Christ's Incarnation and the joy of the season! Please submit your favorite Christmas carols to josh@fumcsalisbury.org by July 09!







SIMPLY SUMPLY JULY 16 - 19, 2023 5:30PM - 7:30PM

PAN

ENGAGING KIDS' CURIOSITY ABOUT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS – AND THE GOD WHO CREATED IT ALL!

FOR CHILDREN AGED 3 – 5TH GRADE SIGN YOUR CHILD/GRANDCHILD/NEIGHBOR KID UP USING THE QR CODE OR CONTACT BAILEE WEISENSEL, BAILEE@FUMCSALISBURY.ORG

A LIST OF DONATIONS NEEDED CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 9

Sustainability Task Force

On March 28, the Church Council received a Task Force report based upon extensive brainstorming, research, and discernment. All of it was done in light of an asset analysis of our church & campus, with an aim toward long-term sustainability. The Church Council approved the recommendations by a vote of 14-1. Below is an abbreviated list of the recommendations along with updates:

RECOMMENDATION

UPDATE

Eliminate staff overtime	Staff members are adjusting their work schedule to take "comp time" on the same week when they put in extra hours. In 2023, no staff member has been paid overtime yet.
School programs to help cover classroom utility costs	The Preschool will adjust tuition rates beginning in January of 2024. Fundraising ideas are being pursued. The CDC, After-School, and Summer Camp programs are also considering rate increases.
Modify the current "Facility Use Form" for non-church groups	The Trustees will now be asking outside groups using church facilities to contribute toward the cost of utilities and cleaning for some more commonly used rooms in the building: Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Chapel, & the Stanback Room
Continue relationship with Wesley Community Development (WCD)	Trustees Chair, and Pastor signed a "letter of engagement" with WCD to further possibilities with a Shared Use Agreement for office suite & other ideas. On May 22, a group from WCD did a site visit & has started formulating ideas for the Trustees to consider.
Consider utilizing a portion of the lawn for additional parking	Not feasible at this time. Pastor Mark Conforti met with Jim Greene, City Manager for of Salisbury, to discuss parking options. The Trustees affirmed that there are 277 parking spots less than a one block walking distance.
Consider sale of the parsonage at time of next Pastor appointment	The Trustees consulted with Laura Shaffer, the Parsonage Committee Chair (who is also a Realtor), and together determined that this idea is currently not feasible.
Conduct an Energy Audit of our facility	Energy for Purpose (EFP) conducted an audit, funded by a grant. Their executive summary lists four parts to reduce our annual energy costs by approximately \$30,000/year.
Review maintenance and insurance contracts for all current vendors	Not yet begun.
Special appeals to raise funds in addition to Stewardship Campaign.	2nd annual "First Methodist Day" is coming up on June 9. This is a digital campaign, inviting everyone in the church to make a bonus gift to support the church's buildings and grounds.
Investigate available grants	This is in process, including whether or not our church is now eligible for grants from The Duke Endowment (in light of their criteria changing several years ago).
Investigate community fundraisers	This is in process, including having Bazaar in the fall. Look for more information soon!
Move some endowment funds to a more conservative investment	No funds have been moved, however more research is being conducted regarding investment options.
Investigate conversion of the pipe organ to a digital organ	Savings potential in lower maintenance/repair costs, & utility savings for the Sanctuary. Current pipes would remain as they appear. Church members heard a demonstration of a the digital organs at Sacred Heart and Catawba. Decision has not yet been made; further research is being done.
Market the Endowment concept to be included in estate planning.	Given the national economy's recent challenges, this has been put on hold. However, there are ideas coming together about doing this.
Remind congregation of best handling of RMD donations	Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's) can be donated directly to the church to avoid tax implications. This has not been done on a broad scale.
Consider an evening Farmer's Market on the church lawn	This is a small opportunity for revenue but a bigger impact on community engagement. Preliminary plans are coming together. Next 1) meet with city & county officials, and 2) build a team of church members.

Church History

"looking back... moving forward"

LIGHTHOUSE

Recently, my wife and I visited the tiny island of Malta. It sits between Sicily and Tanzania at the narrowest point of the Mediterranean Sea. For the ancient world, it occupied a strategic location for any nation wishing to control international trade.

Malta also played an important role in first century Christianity. Saint Paul was on his way to Rome under military escort when disaster struck. His ship fell behind schedule. Winter was fast approaching. Paul urged everyone to remain in a safe harbor until spring. Polling the crew, a majority favored pressing on in spite of the danger. Paul lost that vote. The ship encountered a violent storm and sank along with its massive cargo. Clinging to floating debris, everyone on board miraculously survived. They ended up on Malta's sandy beach. (*This story is found in Acts 27-28*).

It is the only time the Bible records a democratically made decision. Most Biblical issues were settled after an honest effort to discern God's will. Individual voting does not always produce positive results. The majority is not always right.

Sometimes voting is necessary. Robert's Rules of Order serves well in large meetings such as an annual conference session. But The Book of Discipline ¶252.3b recommends that local churches use a consensus/discernment model of decision-making. Consensus-building means prayerfully working together to find a solution everyone can support.

Sadly, the 2019 session of the United Methodist General Conference abandoned consensusbuilding when it approved a petition known as ¶2553. This Book of Discipline paragraph allows unhappy congregations after a two-thirds majority vote to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. Every church member listed on the church roll can cast a ballot. If the two thirds super majority is met along with all other requirements of ¶2553, the church can leave our denomination with its property.

Some congregations have already voted to disaffiliate. Others voted and chose to remain United Methodists. Either way, churches that voted often experienced pain and broken community. The act of voting can tear churches apart. It creates winners and losers. Even with a two-thirds majority, a vote leaves part of the congregation feeling wounded. In too many churches, old friends in Christ have become political enemies.

Consensus-building provides a better alternative. The consensus process begins with prayer. The first and only relevant question is what does God want for the church? Next, objections and concerns are introduced openly and honestly. Each issue is freely and lovingly examined. Listening is key. Members search for common ground. New and better possibilities usually emerge.

Consensus-building is a slow process. A successful conclusion comes when everyone involved contributes to and agrees with the final solution.

As a United Methodist pastor, I had very few congregational votes in churches I served. Each one concerned a major building project. The church council worked hard to craft a proposal everyone could enthusiastically support. Only when we had close to 100% congregational support did we proceed with confidence.

Consensus-building might have saved those ancient mariners from a terrible disaster. It might also save modern Methodists from making similar mistakes today.

Fred Jordan, Church Historian



First United Methodist Church



FUNDRAISING FOR CAMP DISCOVERY

Did you know fundraising for Camp Discovery each year allows all of our campers attend free of charge? Campers are recommended to us by their guidance counselors as a child who would greatly benefit from a week at camp, making new friends, and spending time with a one-on-one mentor. Many of the children who attend Camp Discovery have faced significant challenges or trauma in their lives. Camp is a chance for us to show them God's love and care! This year it will <u>cost \$340</u> to send each camper and mentor to camp.



Consider making a gift to Camp Discovery today! Use the sponsorship form on the church website, or submit a check to the church office with "Camp Discovery" in the memo line by June 21st. Visit fumcsalisbury.org/camp-discovery for more information.

Children's Ministry

7 - Community Meal at 6PM 18 - Donuts w/ Special Friends - 10:30AM 25 - Children & Youth Ministry Pool Party 6PM - 8PM

onder...

SIMPLY SUMMER THEME:



SIGN UP

Support Children's Ministry!

We need your support to make Simply Summer happen. Consider how you can help – volunteering, donating items/funds, or inviting the children in your life to register.

DONATIONS NEEDED

- Christmas lights *white.4 strands*
- 200 brown lunch bags
- Egg Cartons *as many as possible*
- 4 Plastic Buckets
- 2 rolls of contact paper

- Toilet paper/paper towel rolls
- 100 white paper plates
 - wavy edge
- Packing material (brown paper, air filled plastic bubble wrap, packing peanuts)
- 16 oz. clear soda bottles

Please bring donations to the church by Sunday, July 2. A sign-up sheet is located outside of the volunteer office. *Thank you!*

Youth Ministry





Children's & Youth Ministry Family Pool Party Sunday, June 25 6:00-8:00pm bring a picnic dinner

There are lots of ways for our youth to get involved this summer! Several are serving as mentors at Camp Discovery. We also need volunteers for Simply Summer, youth are invited to come sing with the summer choir, and we'll be adding more Summer fun day activities as we go. Make sure you're signed up for the youth group newsletter to stay informed!



Summer Bible Study 5:00-6:00pm Thursdays in June (beginning June 8 at Sweet Frog)



Scouting at FUMC

In April and May the scouts have been on the go. First we helped Catawba College remove collars from Chestnut saplings at the Chestnut Restoration property. Then both the Cub Pack and Troop traveled to Wilmington to visit the USS North Carolina battleship. The ship was staffed with veterans who were experts on each station during World War II. Rocco manned the antiaircraft gun. It took hours to go through each station below decks. Afterwards we all camped on the Lumber River where we paddled our canoes. In May we will paddle 50 miles on the New River. Summer Camp is in June.



Ecclesia: Newsletter

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First Methodist Day (noun): A day to make a bonus gift toward upkeep of the building and grounds of the church.

has been designated June First 9 as Methodist Day because it's the day in 1966 when FUMC was recognized as the oldest Methodist congregation in Rowan County! This is our second year marking the occasion with a day of giving. Our building and grounds require extensive maintenance. Thank you for helping make it possible!

To give, visit fumcsalisbury.org/donate

Western North alonging of methoding individual socie The Methodist Church

Lake Junalyska, North Catolina the Ninth Day of June we

FIGTATURE WORK AND WELLANE THE FIGT Methodist Reverend Di Ralph H. Toytol,

in the Salisbury



Youth & Club 45 Summer Kickoff



After School Child Care

Wow, this school year has flown by! Our students were able to finish the school year strong. During the last few weeks, we had special trips and visitors in addition to all of the work we complete each week.

We were able to visit Ellis Park for a special day of fun. The students loved the playground and open areas to run. You would not have believed how helpful our students were when playing with younger students they met at the park for the first time.

We also had a visit from Miss Stanley County Outstanding Teen, Emilee Potts. After sharing a great book, she taught us how to do some amazing dance moves and then took pictures with all of us. We wish her the best in the state elections!

Thank you again for all of your support! Scotty Adcock, *Director, ASCC & SDC*





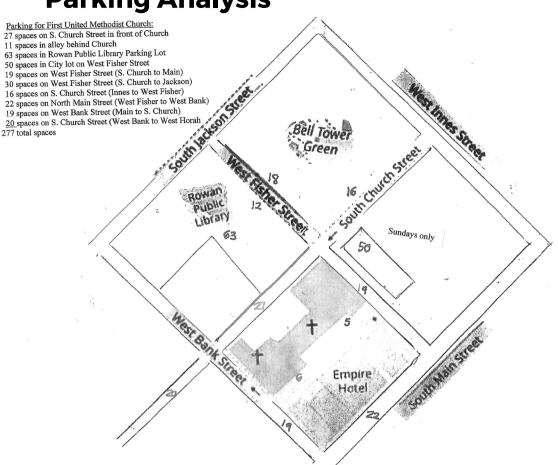


Parking Analysis

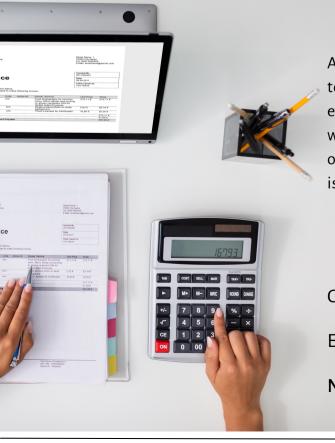
Many would agree, downtown Salisbury has parking challenges. Recognizing fellow church members have often asked questions about parking availability, Trustees Board member Rick Eldridge, identified the number of parking spaces within a block of FUMC's building.

<u>There are 277 parking</u>

<u>spaces</u> near our church, including 50 spaces in the former bank parking lot on West Fisher. These spaces *are* available on Sundays.



FUMC Financial Update

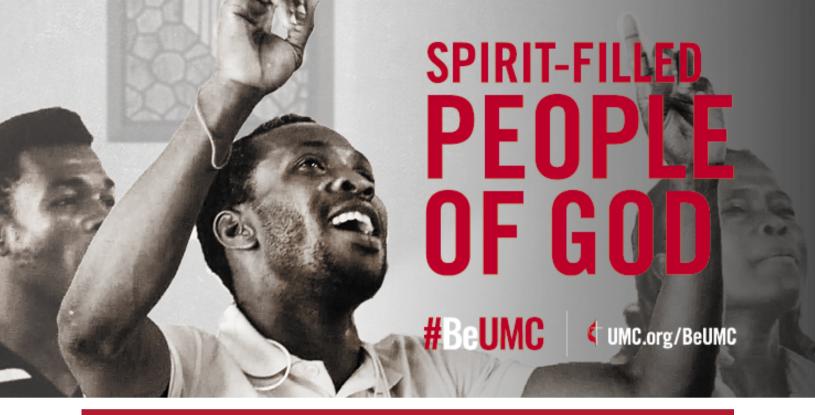


FUMC Financial Update

A special thanks to all who have pledged for keeping your gifts up to date. Also, I want to thank our staff for working hard to keep our expenses under budget through the end of April. We ended April with a positive balance; however, we are negative for the year. In order to keep our budget in balance, more gifts are needed. Below is a chart of the gifts vs. expenses for April and also year-to-date.

-Ben Weisensel, Finance Chair

	April 2023	YTD
Gifts Received	\$ 74,052.76	\$ 180,130.51
Expenses:	<u>\$ 68,991.72</u>	<u>\$ 299,924.88</u>
Net Total:	\$ 5,061.04	(\$ 61,018.56)



Core Value: Spirit-Filled

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

John 20.21-23

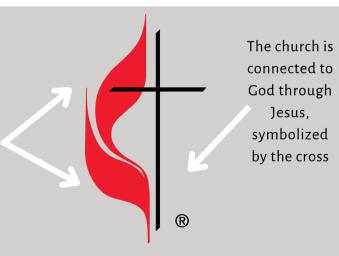
The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Baptismal Covenant I, United Methodist Hymnal p. 37

The Holy Spirit works within us, transforming our hearts and lives.

A single flame with dual tongues of fire, serves as a reminder of Pentecost (Acts 2);

and the transforming moment in the life of John Wesley, when he sensed God's presence and felt his heart "strangely warmed."



Prayer

Fill me, O God, with Your Holy Spirit, that I might be strengthened to participate in the ministries of sharing Your Good News with the world. May every day be one where I become more and more filled with Your love and Spirit. In Jesus' name I pray. *Amen*.

THE UNITED METHODIST OFFICIAL LOGO, ADOPTED 1968

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The #BeUMC campaign reminds us of who we are at our best. As people of God called The United Methodist Church, we're faithful followers of Jesus seeking to make the world a better place.

Church Women United Award



Jen Fogt was one of three recipients of the Young Church Women Award at the CWU's "May Friendship Day." She was nominated by Brenda Loflin. In order to keep the recognition award a surprise, Brenda conspired with several other church women to be there on the day, and with Pastor Mark to write a wonderful biography for the recognition book that concluded with the words "First United Methodist is proud of Jen Fogt!"

So, in my own words, "Thank you so much to Brenda, and to all who were involved with this surprise. It's an honor to be recognized along with the other recipients who are doing wonderful work in their own churches. I'm blessed to have the opportunity to serve at FUMC, and do what I can to 'make and nurture Christian disciples through the presence and power of God' as our mission statement says."

> Grace and peace, Jen

Coming Soon

Grace Fest September 17

A celebration of what it means to be United Methodist! This event is in collaboration with other United Methodist churches in Salisbury/Rowan County.

Sherri Barnes Visits September 16

The United Women in Faith are looking forward to welcoming The Rev. Sherri Barnes back to FUMC for the day as a guest speaker! Sherri served on staff at FUMC in the early 2000s!

2023 Stewardship Campaign We Gather Together

The theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign will be "We Gather Together." Each year's Stewardship Campaign is an opportunity to examine what it means to be faithful to God and to the church through our prayers, presence, gifts, witness, and service.

Do you have an article for the *Ecclesia*?

Send them to Jenni@fumcsalisbury.org with "(Month to be printed) Ecclesia" in the subject line.

Articles should be submitted by the first Friday of the month prior to when you would like it printed.

Access the Church Calendar Any Time

Access the church calendar any time! Just go to fumcsalisbury.org and look under the "Connect" tab. There you can also find a digital version of the *Ecclesia*.



- Hank Webb Courtney Williams Alex Wimmer
- 2 Cathy Carter Joyce Goodwin Carol Hylton Joanne Johnson

3 Jean Rentz

- 4 Joan Nash
- 5 Joy Kelly Addison Park Sandra Roakes Brad West
- 6 Linda Bready Heidi Cross Jackalyn Phillips Mary Seifert John Zerger
- 7 Nicholas Foote
- 8
- 9
- 10 Staton Carter Joe Fowler Parker Johnson Patty Paffrath Amy Wimmer

- Evan Barber
 Pierce Durham Shannon McCoy
- 13 Maggie Cross John Webb
- 14 Ken Cease

15

16 Brian Fazia Andrew Langford Jimmy Robinson

17

18 Ann Coggin Micah Cross

- 19 Jan Brooks Rob Roakes
- 20 Jo Cease Sarah Roakes

21

22 Olivia Burke Elle Wimmer

23 Summie Carter Jace Durham

- 24
- 25 Kristen Barber Patrick Daye Bob Poole
- 26 Michael Hedrick Alice Stanback Marna Steinman
- 27 Erica Branson Carl Brown Kathryn Busby Bill Clark
- 28
- 29 Corrie Fogt Beverly Poole Donna Smith Sandy Yon

30



1 Susan Cooley Kathi Welborn

- 2 KC Culler Grace Douglas Bess Johnson
- Ralph Baker
 Bob Slife
 Jason Walser
- 4 Lisa Clark Lindsey Conrad
- 5
- 6 Tim Nussman
- Lori Burke
 Joel Goodwin
 Kathryn Johnson
 Peggy Lutz
- 8 Luke Grenoble
- Linda Adams
 Benton Kribbs
 Peggy McDaniel
- 10 Wayne Koontz Will Webb
- 11 12
 - Charlotte Cherry John McCoy Beth Stout

13

- 14 Bill Shaffer Betty-Bonner Steele
- 15 Alan Burke Jacob Grenoble
- 16 Andrea Cordts-Bassinger Giles Goodman Larry Gouge Cindy Noell
- 17 Carol Bachl Parker Cox Kirk Durham

18

19 Sarah Seifert

- 20 Declan Fisher Anne Goodman
- 21 Niven Bayer Richard Hodgin
- $\mathbf{22}_{\text{Nancy Holshouser}}$
- 23
- 24 John Hudson Steve Schoch
- 25 Lauren Cook

- 26 Chelsea Franzese Andrew Howe Melanie Miller
- 27 Susan Eldridge Tonya Huffman Joyce Miner Carmen Shepler
- 28 Caroline Johnsen Brenda Loflin
- 29 Elizabeth Dole Laura Johnson Pam Leonard Connor Price Darry Rimmer
- 30
- **31** Amy Foote Kim Howard Jeanne Maynard



Vivaldi's Gloria & Missa Festiva by John Leavit May 07, 2023



45 musicians from First UMC, First Presbyterian, the Salisbury and Charlotte Symphony Orchestras, and soloists performed Vivaldi's *Gloria* and John Leavitt's *Missa Festiva*. A freewill offering totaling \$1,000 was collected to benefit Rowan Helping Ministries.



(Left-Right) Teresa Moore-Mitchell, soloist Sharon Wellington-Wilkins, cellist Jen Fogt, soprano

Graduate Recognition

We celebrated with the Class of 2023 during worship on May 21. Six high school seniors were recognized, along with four college graduates. All six high school seniors applied for, and received, the Roy & Lula Goodman Scholarship! Thank you to Betsy Fazia and the rest of the church's scholarship committee for reading through their applications, encouraging them during their interviews, and presenting them with their scholarship awards!

Thank you, also, to the team of church members who created Chrismons in honor of each graduate. They received these along with an engraved Bible from the church.





Our 2023 High School Seniors (left to right) Nate Shaffer, Austin Hedrick, Connor Conforti Corbin Barber, Meg Bivens, Alfreda Chea

Our 2023 College Graduates Alfreda Chea (AA), Luke Grenoble (BS), Skye Mowery (BS), Sarah Roakes (BA)



Summer Day Camp

We're excited to have Summer Camp child care again this summer. Thanks to After School & Summer Camp director Scotty Adcock for all his work putting a wonderful plan together for the summer!

Parents can find more information in the brochure on the church

website by going to fumcsalisbury.org/sdc





Thank You!

Your kindness means so much at this difficult time. I just wanted you to know how much Chelsea's family appreciated you, your staff, and members' great love, comfort, and hospitality during this time. We wish you and the ministry of this church all of God's best!

> -The Family of Chelsea Rhae Childers (May 10, 1983 - March 21, 2023)

Dear Church Staff, Danny Hunt, Jean West,

Mary Heather Steinman, Youth, and All who helped with the Legacy Lunch,

What a lovely occasion the Legacy Lunch was for all who attended! The food was delicious, especially the chicken pot pie. The lilies adorning the tables were beautiful. The youth were so friendly and did an outstanding job serving and cleaning!! What a joy to have them so pleasantly participating! Mary Heather and her team did an outstanding job helping to prepare and serve everything! The joy of Christian fellowship cannot be equaled and having our great staff having an active part of service just completed the joy of the day. Many thanks to all!

- Henry & Missy Brown

Directory Updates



Access the online directory anytime by going to **fumcsalisbury.ctrn.co**, following the link on our website (under 'Connect'), or downloading the Online Member Directory app on your smartphone or tablet. Enter the access code **fumcsalisbury** and your unique username and password.

You can update your information at any time, if you would like assistance in updating your information please contact the church office.

ECCLESIA

NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





making and nurturing Christian disciples through the presence and power of God



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