

Ecclesia

March 2024




**FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**
SALISBURY, NC
EST. 1783

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CDC teacher celebrates 35 years & counting of
caring for little ones at FUMC!

Pages 15

Welcoming our new business admin, Kat

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Season of the Church Year

March 3

March 10

March 17

March 24

Holy Week services -
Palm Sunday, Mar 24
Maundy Thursday, Mar 28
Good Friday, Mar 29

March 31

Lent

Easter Day

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gcook@scgnc.org | 980.296.0991



Website

www.fumcsalisbury.org



YouTube Channel
FUMC Salisbury



Sermon Podcast
Salisbury Sermons



Facebook
@fumcsalisbury
Instagram
@fumcsalisbury

704.636.3121 | 217 South Church Street Salisbury, NC 28144

Re:Marks

As we journey through the sacred season of Lent, we are called to introspection and spiritual renewal. Lent is a season of preparation, a time for us to reflect on the suffering of Jesus Christ, and to discern how we might more closely align our lives with Him.

This year, I'm inviting us to consider closely the "seven deadly sins." These are not simply a list of moral infractions, but rather they represent attitudes and behaviors that can separate us from God and from one another. These sins represent, as I like to put it, "the contorted condition of our humanity." To remind you, the Seven Deadly Sins are:

Pride
Envy
Anger
Sloth
Greed
Gluttony
Lust

From a broad view, each of these sins potentially disrupts our lives, our families, and our community. By recognizing these sins, we can better understand our own lives. This includes identifying the common traps that frequently overwhelm us. For example, the trap of comparison (e.g. comparing our car to our neighbor's car, or comparing our summer vacation to a friend's vacation) leads to envy.

One sin leads to another vice. In this way, each one is indeed deadly. Our own lives become diminished, and our relationships suffer demise. Pride, for example, can lead us to believe that we are better than others, while envy can cause us to resent the good fortune of others. Anger can lead to violence and division, while sloth can prevent us from fulfilling our responsibilities. Greed can cause us to hoard resources at the expense of others, while gluttony can lead to overindulging. And lust can cause us to objectify others and even to prioritize our own desires over their well-being.

During this Lenten season, the Sunday sermons will focus on these first five. In this way, we look inward to examine ourselves & repent. Then as we approach Holy Week, when we witness Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, when we look again upon Christ on the cross, we can potentially encounter the world's sin.

I encourage you to reflect on these "seven deadly sins" and to consider how they may be present in your own life. And as we do...

May we honestly assess the presence and impact of these sins on us.
May we be open to God's grace at work within us,
so that these sins do not devastate us.

May this Lenten season be a time of deep spiritual growth
and renewal for all of us.

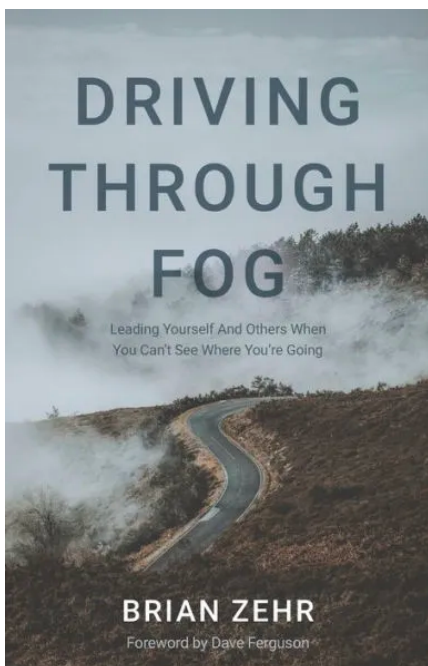
Lenten blessings,

Mark Conforti

Pastor Mark



Book Study



Join Pastor Mark Wednesdays in March to discuss Brian Zehr's book Driving Through Fog: Leading Yourself And Others When You Can't See Where You're Going.

Book Description...

HAVE YOU EVER FOUND YOURSELF DRIVING IN THE THICKEST OF FOG?

You grip the steering wheel and more often than not slow down just a bit. It is natural to become hesitant, and easy to get lost. Visibility is taken for granted until it is limited or worse, gone. It can make the fastest mover among us freeze in our tracks.

Life is filled with seasons of fog, often coming unexpectedly. Leaders are used to looking into the future and planning for success but things have changed. Fog can be personal and life shattering like a loss of relationship or job. It can be health related. It can even be spiritual as the answers we found in previous seasons of life ring hollow amid social disruption.

Such is life for many in a post-pandemic, chaotic landscape. What used to bring clarity is now just a haze. Perhaps more than any other time, we cannot see what is up ahead.

How do we move forward in the face of so much uncertainty?

Driving Through Fog shows us how to lead ourselves and others with proven and personal lessons coming to us in the form of principles that allow us to move forward with intentionality and hope.

**Book Discussion Group
with Pastor Mark**

**Wednesdays in March
10:30 - 11:30 am**



Community Meals

connect with the
community around us
(returning APRIL 3)

MARCH 6

Pot Luck Covered Dish Meal

participate in feeding people in body & spirit

Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

(Next: Community Meal on April 3)

MARCH 20

Fellowship Meal

foster fellowship among church members

Fellowship Hall - 6:00pm

(Next: April 17)

Fellowship Meal Reservations

\$8 per adult, (children & youth eat free)

reservation required by Monday, March 18

*reservations and payment can be made
online or reserve your spot by calling the
church office volunteers, 9am - 3pm (Mon-Fri).*



EASTER DAY

MARCH 31, 2024

Sunrise Service
6:30am, Bell Tower Green

Worship Service
8:30am, Sanctuary

Breakfast
9:30am, Fellowship Hall

Easter Egg Hunt
10:30am, Front Lawn

Worship Service
11:00am, Sanctuary

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

worship at 8:30 & 11:00am

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday

worship at 6:00pm

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

worship at noon



DONATIONS NEEDED

*Individually wrapped
candy needed for the
Easter Egg Hunt*

AND

*Egg My Yard fundraiser,
benefitting Camp Discovery*

*Donations can be dropped off
in the Fisher Street Lobby
until March 17*

Church History

You can't be a Christian by yourself. Spiritual beliefs are personal and private. Religion is communal. We need each other. Faithful discipleship involves working and worshiping together. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them (NRSV)." To know Jesus is to know him in community.

Methodism's founder, John Wesley, believed in faith sharing conferences. As early as June 25, 1744, his diary records Methodism's first religious conference. He called together a few of the movement's preachers to explore three questions: What to teach, how to teach, and what to do.

Until his death in 1791, John Wesley was the movement's undisputed leader. He personally appointed lay preachers and supervised all aspects of their ministry. He also sought the wisdom of others through conferences.

By 1784, two issues threatened Methodism's future. Conferences resolved both challenges. First, mortality threatened Wesley's leadership. He was over 80 years old. He reluctantly agreed to a DEED OF DECLARATION that legally established institutional Methodism. The deed created self-perpetuating conferences with the authority to appoint pastors and deal with all legal and religious matters.

The second challenge came from America. The Revolutionary War ended. United States citizens refused to follow Wesley's pro-British leadership. They needed a church in America with ordained clergy who could administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. Wesley personally ordained Thomas Coke, Richard Whatcoat, and Tomas Vasey before sending them to America to ordain the lay preachers.

In 1784, Methodist circuit riding preachers covered all thirteen original states. At John Wesley's written request, Freeborn Garrettson summoned them to Baltimore for what became known as the Christmas Conference. At this meeting, the delegates unanimously and enthusiastically voted to create the Methodist Episcopal Church. John Wesley's representatives ordained the lay preachers. The conference elected Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke as their superintendents or bishops. It also established a college called Cokesbury, a book concern to publish the new church's literature, and allowed "worn out preachers" to retire.

Only clergy attended those early conferences. As the church grew, laity insisted on having both voice and vote in church affairs. In 1830, one predecessor denomination of the UMC approved having an equal number of lay and clergy conference delegates. Other branches of Methodism followed their example though that change in one branch took over a hundred years.

The Methodist Episcopal Church expanded rapidly and needed additional conferences. Local churches held quarterly conferences conducted by a presiding elder (later district superintendent). There were District, Annual, and Jurisdictional conferences for specific purposes and geographical areas. Every four years, a General Conference of the entire denomination still meets. It is the only body authorized to speak for the whole denomination. Our next General Conference will convene on April 23rd in Charlotte, NC.

The idea of holy conferencing goes all the way back to Jesus. In conferences, Methodists listen to and learn from each other. We believe Christ joins us when we gather in his name. Simply put, we are better together.

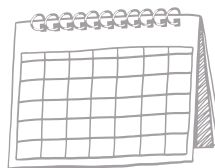
Fred Jordan, *Church Historian*



Youth Ministry

Salisbury Youth 6-12 GRADE MINISTRY

Newsletter



YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

2023-2024

Confirmation Camp

We had a wonderful weekend at Confirmation Camp! We gathered with 7 other United Methodist Churches at Mount Shepherd Retreat Center. We talked about some of the vows taken to be a United Methodist, and about our Identity, Belonging, and Purpose as people of God. We also got outside and participated in team building and free time activities like high ropes and axe throwing.



MARCH

3 - no youth group
(RSS spring break)

11 - YOUTH GROUP

17 - YOUTH GROUP

24 - YOUTH GROUP

31 - no youth group
(Easter Day)

APRIL

7 - YOUTH GROUP

14 - YOUTH GROUP

21 - YOUTH GROUP

28 - no youth group
(long wknd, RSS/GS)



Pray for our Confirmands

Join me in praying for the youth in our Confirmation Class as they explore and grow in their faith. May 19 is Confirmation Sunday where we will celebrate this growth with them!

**Mia, Declan, Dudley, Mason, Gracie,
Mason, Raleigh, & Lucas**



Care Kits

One of the projects from Confirmation Camp was finished at youth group - packing hygiene, comfort & feminine hygiene kits for our neighbors in need!



Confirmation

Confirmation Classes will be hosted at FUMC in March and at Milford Hills UMC in April.

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Egg My Yard

BENEFITTING CAMP DISCOVERY

Let us do the work for your egg hunt

2 DOZEN EGGS/ \$35.00

4 DOZEN EGGS/ \$60.00

DELIVERED THE EVENING OF
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024

(LAST DAY TO ORDER, MARCH 17)

**FIND MORE INFORMATION OR ORDER
TODAY AT [FUMCSALISBURY.ORG/EGGS](https://fumcsalisbury.org/eggs)**

*Candy Donations can be dropped
off in the lobby by March 17*



Camp Discovery

VOLUNTEER AT CAMP DISCOVERY

*Can't serve a full week of Camp?
We have just the right job for you.*



JOIN US
**JUNE
9-14**



Camper applications are being delivered to guidance counselors & fundraising has begun!

APPLY TO BE A MENTOR

contact Claire at
campdiscoveryfumc@gmail.com

WE NEED HELP WITH:

- Morning Activities
 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Snack Time
 - 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
- Evening Activities
 - 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**WANT TO SERVE THE
WHOLE DAY? WE HAVE
A SPOT FOR YOU.**

For more information on how to serve, please email:

CampDiscoveryFUMC@gmail.com

COMING SOON
CAMP FUNDRAISER
CHEERWINE BROWNIES @
THE CHEERWINE FESTIVAL



SWIM IN
THE LAKE

\$ 500



ONE CAMPER

HIGH ROPES
COURSE

\$ 1,000



TWO CAMPERS

CLIMB THE
FIRE TOWER

\$ 2,500



FIVE CAMPERS

GIVE THE GIFT OF CAMP

DETAILS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL & CORPORATE
SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS AVAILABLE AT
FUMCSALISBURY.ORG/CAMP-DISCOVERY



CAMP DISCOVERY 2024

JUNE 9-14

Rowan Helping Ministries This Month

PASS THE PLATE

Tickets \$70

Benefitting Rowan Helping Ministries

Dinner, Drinks, Entertainment, Silent Auction

APRIL 6, 2024
6:00-9:00PM
F&M TROLLEY BARN

Presented by **FOOD LION FEEDS**
*Missie & Greg Alcorn
Alice & Fred Stanback*



One of our church's community partners is Rowan Helping Ministries. Their mission statement is "Putting God's Love Into Action." Throughout the year, church members like you lovingly pack shelf-stable foods for students, and prepare and serve meals for those who are hungry.

Did you know...

The recent Christmas Eve offering was \$1,598, and 650 pounds of food was received on Scout Sunday... all to care for our neighbors in need through Rowan Helping Ministries!

Serving Meals in Jeannie's Kitchen

March: Seekers/Adam & Eve classes
Dinner, March 14 & Breakfast, March 15

April: Taffy Jordan & Volunteers

Interested in your group serving a meal? Contact Taffy Jordan!

Food Packing


Fourth Wednesdays, during the school year

Next Packing Party:

March 27, 2:00-3:00pm

Interested in coming to a packing party? Contact Jen Fogt!

Lenten Sermon Series



Seven Deadly Sins

A sermon series through Lent
& continuing after Easter

<p><i>Pride</i> February 18</p>	<p><i>Sloth</i> March 10 <i>Rev. David Hollis preaching</i></p>
<p><i>Envy</i> February 25 <i>Rev. Beth Crissman preaching</i></p>	<p><i>Greed</i> March 17</p>
<p><i>Anger</i> March 3</p>	<p><i>Gluttony</i> April 7 <i>Whitney Cassell preaching</i></p>
	<p><i>Lust</i> April 14</p>

EASTER FLOWERS

Donations toward floral arrangements in the chancel for Easter Day can be made in honor, or in memory, of a loved one.

After Easter, arrangements will be recreated into smaller arrangements to be delivered to our homebound members.

*please make donations by March 17
fumcsalisbury.org/easter*



*to make donations by cash or check,
look for the form in the worship guide March 10 & 17*



Children's Ministry



Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Day, March 31

10:30am, on the front lawn

*candy donations can be dropped
off in the lobby through March 17*



Child Care Programs

After School Child Care & Child Development Center

35 Years of Excellence

Every successful business prides themselves on the dedication of their employees. The Child Development Center of First United Methodist Church is no different. We value our employees for their dedication, work ethic, positive attitude, and their love of children. It takes a special person to work with three, four, and five year olds daily. We are blessed to have one such person who has worked for thirty-five years - 250 days per year for a total of 8,750 days (and counting!). Such a remarkable achievement!

She is always smiling, kind-hearted, wise, full of energy, smart, and has a servant's heart. Patricia Diane Sturdivant is a joy to work with everyday. She brings wisdom, wit, and joy to all. Coworkers, parents, and children love Mrs. Sturdivant.

March 15, 2024 marks thirty-five years that she has worked at the Child Development Center. We would like to extend our gratitude to Mrs. Sturdivant for your many years of service to our young children!

Touching the Hearts



Of Our Young Children!

*You're Invited to a
Reception Honoring
Patricia Sturdivant*

March 15, 2024 at 4:00 pm

Fellowship Hall
First United Methodist Church

217 South Church Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

Spring's Renewal

They came just as they always have
Right on time.

Yellow daffodils stretching skyward.
They came in spite of a foreign virus.

They pushed themselves upward just
as they always have

As if they knew the exact month
Pink and red peonies almost too
heavy to bear.

They came in spite of our masks and
social distancing.

They worked their way out of
the cold earth

A new resurrection.

Purple and bearded and stately iris.

They came in spite of an economic downturn.

They emerged from winter's sleep

Without coaching or pleading

Lenten roses nodding their heads as if in prayer.

They came in spite of a warming earth.

They crept slowly through the soil to
reach the light

Returning year after year

Day lilies in a rainbow of colors. shapes. sizes.

They came in spite of political conflict.

They came as I knew they would.

Because they are nature's faithful.

These spring miracles.

They came once more to give us hope.

by Mitchell Hagler

Preparing for General Conference



Mark your calendar

General Conference info session April 15, 6:00pm

The next General Conference, rescheduled to meet Apr 23-May 3 in Charlotte, NC, will have 862 delegates. Half of these delegates are clergy, and half are laity. Each has been elected by their peers at Annual Conferences. Clergy elect clergy delegates, and laity elect laity delegates who must be professing members of a United Methodist church for at least two years, and active in their church for at least the last four years.

Where are Delegates coming from?

56% of the delegates are from the United States

~44% of the delegates will come from outside the United States.

(32% from Africa, 6% percent from the Philippines and 4.5% from Europe.)

Early Methodist Trivia

Practically all United Methodists have heard the name John Wesley. *Test how much you know about John & the founding of the Methodist movement!*

(Answers on page 15)

1. What is the name of John Wesley's brother who was a hymn writer and also instrumental (pun intended) in Methodism's founding?

- A. Samuel Wesley
- B. Charles Wesley
- C. Fred Wesley
- D. Paul Wesley

2. Name the woman who is considered the Mother of Methodism, who gave birth to John, Charles and 17 other children.

- A. Sally Wesley
- B. Mary Wesley
- C. Sarah Wesley
- D. Susanna Wesley

3. In what country did the Wesleys live?

- A. England
- B. Ireland
- C. Scotland
- D. America

4. What Georgia city did John Wesley visit in 1735?

- A. Athens
- B. Atlanta
- C. Tybee Island
- D. Savannah

5. What catastrophic event happened to John Wesley when he was 5 years old?

- A. He was bitten by a snake while playing outside in the fields.
- B. He ran away from home and was lost for days.
- C. His home caught fire and he was saved from the flames.
- D. He fell into a nearby lake and almost drowned.

6. What happened to John Wesley's heart on May 24, 1738?

- A. It was strangely warmed by the understanding of God's love and grace for him
- B. He had a heart attack while riding his horse to a church
- C. His heart was broken when the love of his life rejected him
- D. During open heart surgery, his heart stopped and he had a near death experience.

7. What university were the Wesley brothers attending when they started the Holy Club?

- A. Cambridge
- B. University of Georgia
- C. Yale
- D. Oxford

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Nancy Rudd

2 David Austin
Joseph Clark

3 Jill Duggan
Bob Johnsen

4 Walter Maxwell

5 Mark Beymer
Kelly Fisher

6 Casey Gouge

7 Will Douglas

8 Sarah Hensley
Kerry Kribbs
Jeff Lineberry
Katherine Miller

9 Linda Bowman
Don Carter
Shelley Cross
John Ellis II

10 Jarrett Bradshaw
Rohan Joseph

11

12 Taffy Jordan

13 Julia Baker
Ed Lutz

14 Nettie Noble
Gabriel Walker

15 JoAnn Smith
Susan Whitaker

16 Andy Lineberger

17 Norman Clark
Gary Price
Camille Robinson
Jamie Webb

18 Van Kelly

19 Robbie Ladd
Jessica Watson

20 Linda Brown

21 Nancy Haines
Dudley Johnsen

22 Martha Miller

23

24 Alex Grenoble
Carolyn Peck

25 Lacey Mastro
Billie Moore
Shulley Storey

26 Arabelle Hutton
Charleigh Weisensel

27 Brooke Busby
Glenn Moore
Allison Robinson

28 Midjii Bost
Howard Douglas
Kay McCartney
Boyd Watts

29 Holland Bradshaw
Adrienne Howe

30 Barbara Senter

31 Kate Goodman



MARCH

Welcome, Kat!

New Business Administrator

We would like to extend a warm welcome to FUMC's new business administrator - Kat Schneider-Meneely! Kat comes to us with years of experience in the hospitality business and finance. We are excited to welcome Kat on board, and look forward to getting to know her.



Meet Kat!

Sunday, March 17

Look for details in an upcoming E-Blast

Corrections Corner

Our apologies for leaving Bill Linn & Pete Stout's names on the birthday list for February 24. Both gentlemen have passed away, and we keep their families in our prayers as they mourn.

Early Methodist Trivia

Answers: 1-B. Charles **2-D.** Susanna
3-A. England **4-D.** Savannah
5-C. His home caught fire and he was saved from the flames
6-A. It was strangely warmed by the understanding of God's love and grace for him **7-D.** Oxford

Stay Connected

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 10th day of each month for the month following -

(Example: March articles should be submitted by February 10).

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*.



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.

ECCLÉSIA

NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



CONFIRMATION CAMP DESIGN TEAM (LEFT-RIGHT)
Austin Wood Hadden, Mount Shepherd;
Shannon LeMaster-Smith, WNCC;
Jen Fogt, First UMC Salisbury;
Vera Smith, Milford Hills UMC

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

