

Ecclesia

MAY 2023



FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
SALISBURY, NC
EST. 1783

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Summer Day Camp childcare returns this summer

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Website

www.fumcsalisbury.org



YouTube Channel
FUMC Salisbury



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



Facebook
@fumcsalisbury
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Re:Marks

With the month of May, we welcome the spring season in full swing. Along with this, we also welcome fresh starts and new opportunities. The world around us is coming back to life, with the trees budding and the flowers blooming. It's a time of growth and renewal, and we can take inspiration from the beauty of nature as we seek to make positive changes in our own lives.

One of the great things about the spring season is that it's a chance for us to hit the reset button. Maybe we had some goals that we set at the beginning of 2023 that we haven't quite been able to achieve yet. Or maybe we've just been feeling stuck or stagnant in our personal or professional lives. The spring season gives us an opportunity to reassess & appreciate anew the things that matter most to us.

As Christians, we can take particular inspiration from the idea of new beginnings. The Bible is full of stories of people who were given second chances and who were able to start over and make positive changes in their lives. One of the great examples is related to Easter, and it involves Peter. Think back to when Peter denied Jesus three times, but was later reinstated as a leader of the early Christian church.

No matter how far we may have strayed from the path, we always have the opportunity to turn back and make things right. It's never too late to start over and to pursue the things that we know deep down are important to us.

So, as we look forward to the spring season and all of the new opportunities it brings, let's take some time to reflect on our lives and what changes we might want to make. Maybe it's committing to a healthier lifestyle, or setting a goal to read the Bible more consistently. Maybe it's reaching out to someone we've been estranged from, or forgiving someone who has wronged us. Whatever it is, let's remember that we don't have to do it alone. We can rely on the love and support of our church community, and we can seek guidance and strength from God.

As we make these changes and pursue these new opportunities, let's also remember to be patient and gentle with ourselves. Change can be hard, and it often takes time to see results. But as long as we keep moving forward and staying true to ourselves and our faith, we can be confident that we are on the right path.

So, let's embrace the spring season and all of the new beginnings it represents. Let's take inspiration from the beauty of nature around us and from the stories of second chances in the Bible. And let's commit to making positive changes in our lives, knowing that we have the support of our church community and the love of God guiding us every step of the way.

Mark Conforti

Pastor Mark



Welcoming New Members

This year on Easter Sunday, we rejoiced in welcoming new members

Helen Leonovich (left)

Helen's husband Paul was unable to attend on Easter Day. We look forward to him joining the church soon as well.

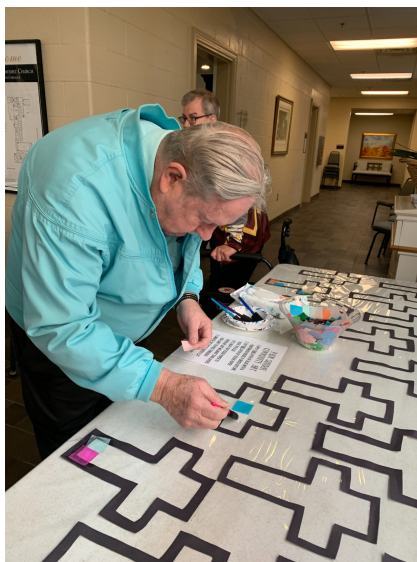
and

Casey and Anton Joubert (right)

The Joubert's are pictured with their baby boy Jacob!



Palm Sunday



Easter at First





Vivaldi's Gloria & Missa Festiva by John Leavitt

featuring soloists

Mary Endsley Foil & Theresa Moore-Mitchell
with guest musicians from the Salisbury Symphony
and the choirs of the First Presbyterian Church &
First United Methodist Church of Salisbury

Sunday, May 07, 3:00pm | First United Methodist Church
FREE CONCERT | 217 South Church Street

light reception to follow

freewill offering collected will benefit Rowan Helping Ministries

Community Meal

COMMUNITY MEAL, MAY 3

Our free fellowship meal for church members and the wider community to gather is set for the first Wednesday in May.

Menu: Breakfast for Dinner

Program: BINGO!

WEDNESDAY MAY 3, 6:00PM

NEXT TIME: WEDNESDAY JUNE 7

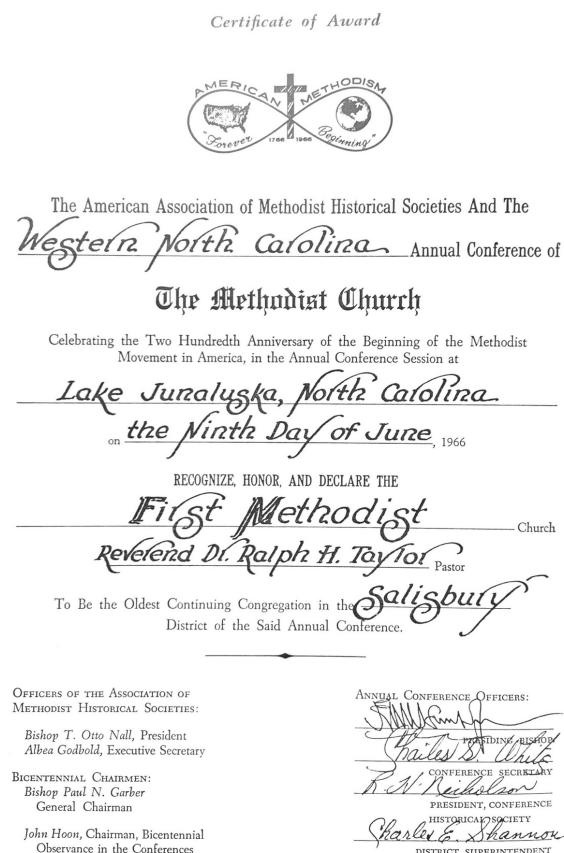


June 9 is First Methodist Day!



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

June 9 was chosen as First Methodist Day because it's the day in 1966 when FUMC was recognized as the oldest Methodist congregation in Rowan County!





WORLD-CHANGING PEOPLE OF GOD

#BeUMC

UMC.org/BeUMC

Core Value: World-Changing

Again he said, "To what can I compare God's kingdom? It's like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through the whole."

Luke 13:20-21

I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that, in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation... 'As I have opportunity, doing good unto all men'; and His providence clearly concurs with his Word; which has disengaged me from all things else, that I might singly attend on this very thing, 'and go about doing good.'

- From the journal of John Wesley

We strive to make the world a better place for all people.



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.

One of the markers of the early Methodist societies was their outreach to their communities and to the world. The first Methodist society meetinghouse in Bristol, England—known as the New Room—did not have pews fixed to the floor. Instead, the seats were removable, so that the room could be used for educating children or offering food and home remedies to the community.

#BeUMC

Church History

"looking back... moving forward"

Families stick together, and The United Methodist Church is a living expression of God's family. We are the body of Christ. We follow Jesus. We look to him for direction in every decision we make. We draw missional strength from his spiritual presence.

We are also lovingly and legally connected to every other United Methodist throughout the world. We are united by our theology and our practice. That historic tie goes all the way back to our founding in 1784 as the Methodist Episcopal Church. The word episcopal is our link to every other Methodist. We derive at least three key benefits from these ties.

First, The United Methodist Church annually provides each local congregation with an unending supply of academically trained and carefully vetted pastors. No church is ever without a pastor and no pastor in good standing is ever denied a place to serve. Independent churches in "called" systems may search months or even years for a new pastor. United Methodists receive a new pastor the same day the previous pastor leaves. If the current pastor becomes ill or temporarily cannot fulfill his or her duties, our denomination immediately supplies a new or interim pastor.

A number of conference agencies work together to make this possible. They include the district committee on ordained ministry, conference board of ordained ministry, bishop, district superintendents, board of pension, ministerial education fund, joint review committee, and medical insurance committee. This does not mean every clergy/church match proves successful. It does mean that if personnel problems occur, there is an orderly way to provide supervision and correction.

Secondly, The United Methodist Church helps each local church fulfill its ministry. It sponsors lay and clergy training events and maintains a free media resource center for local churches. We have a publishing house producing literature suitable for congregational use. We have United Methodist camps for youth and retreat centers for adults. And our denomination provides well qualified consultants to assist local congregations with any church related issue. When you are a United Methodist, you never face life's challenges alone.

Finally, our denominational ties allow us to be in ministries which no single congregation could attempt on its own. Our annual conference gave birth to three homes for the elderly: Charlotte's Aldersgate, Asheville's Givens Estates, and Winston-Salem's Arbor Acres. Methodists started Pfeiffer University, High Point University, Brevard College, Greensboro College, and Bennett College. We launched a children's home in Winston-Salem. We send missionaries all over the world. Closer to home, when tornadoes recently hit the deep south and mid-west, the United Methodist Committee on Relief quickly responded. United Methodists are seldom the first agency to arrive on a disaster scene, but we are usually among the last to leave. Working together we accomplish great things with God's help.

None of this happens without years of preparation. That is our history. Some of these ministries have matured to the point of self-sufficiency. We celebrate their growth and move on to develop new ministries and launch new congregations.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we stick together. We belong to each other. It is what it means to be part of The United Methodist family.

Fred Jordan,
Church Historian



Global Ministries

The United Methodist Church

Legacy Luncheon





A MOTHER IS ALWAYS A MOTHER

*Her child, her perfect sacred gift,
fills her, deliciously completes her.
She is now and forever divinely touched;
by God's hand, she is chosen,
she becomes.*

*Her heart now beats with a motherly love,
her words are gentle and kind.
Her eyes see only beauty and grace
in a precious face shining before her.
Her arms are full
with her most cherished joy,
held with love and her greatest thanksgiving.*

*Her very life is so beautifully, ever sweetly transformed,
how at last she is made gloriously whole.
Now on earth and in heaven
so blessed is she, for all of holy eternity,
for a mother is always a mother.*

by Mary Jo Bradford Maphis, 2023



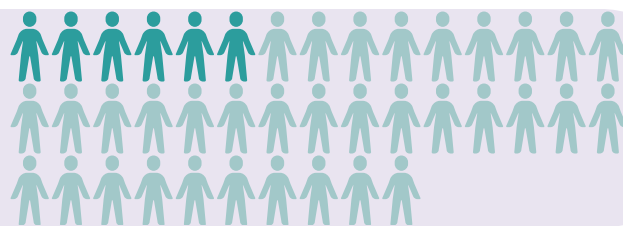
DATES:
JULY 2ND - 7TH

THEME:
YOU ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Fundraising for Camp Discovery

Did you know our fundraising for Camp Discovery each year means that 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! It costs \$300 to send each camper and mentor to camp.

fundraising goal: \$20,000



Your sponsorship gift toward Camp Discovery will provide campers with experiences like...

- Swimming in a lake for the first time
- Working as a team through the ropes course
- Overcoming challenges at the climbing wall
- Listening to stories of faith during morning and evening devotions
- Singing camp songs
- Meals around the table with new friends
- Building relationships with mentors

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.



Bunny Squad

Fundraising for Camp Discovery
Teams of church members and friends donated candy, filled eggs, and "egged" the yards of families to fundraise for Camp Discovery.

This was our second year for the Egg My Yard fundraiser. Last year we had multiple families ask if we planned to do it again, because they and their kids both loved the visits from the 'Easter Bunny!'

We learned a lot from our first experience last year; and, despite some rainy weather, this year's "Bunny Squad" had fun making some Easter magic.



Scouting at FUMC

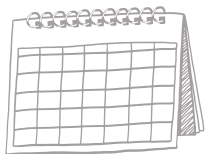
In March our Cubs spent the weekend in the woods near the Yadkin River where they hiked, sat around the campfire and fished. Rocco caught a huge bass! During the rainy night they came in for movies and a birthday party. The Scouts paddled 13 miles on the Roanoke River to platforms in the middle of the swamp where they camped. Thunderstorms skirted the area but left us alone as we enjoyed a low country boil. Bear tracks reminded us that we weren't the only ones out there. In April the Troop will work with Catawba College maintaining a grove of American Chestnut Trees that will be used to repopulate this historically important tree throughout the mountains. On April 22 both the Troop and Pack will visit the USS North Carolina, Camp at Lumber River State Park and then paddle the Lumber River.



Youth Ministry

Salisbury Youth 6-12 GRADE MINISTRY

Newsletter



YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR
SPRING 2023

MAY

7 - YOUTH GROUP

14 - no youth group
(*Mothers' Day*)

**21 - SUMMER
KICKOFF**

28 - no youth group
(*summer*)



Meg, senior, helping
give away free
popsicles at the park

**SUPER
SUMMER
KICKOFF**

**Youth & Club45
Event at FUMC**

**May 21st
5:00 - 7:30PM**

**FOOD, GAMES,
IRL MARIO KART RACES**

Summer Day Camp RETURNS!!

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Students in K-5th grades
(Must have completed Kindergarten)

7 weeks of camp -
You can sign up for
1 week or more

Weekly Field trips

Breakfast, lunch and
2 snacks provided

\$125 per week

Contact Scotty Adcock,
704-433-6679

Director of ASCC & SDC

After three years without Summer Day Camp, we are thrilled to say Day Camp at FUMC is back! Our After School Child Care director, Mr. Scotty Adcock, will be leading seven weeks of summer fun for kindergarten through 5th grade students.

Parents can find more information in the brochure on the church website by going to fumcsalisbury.org/sdc



Children's Ministry

MAY

**3 - Community Meal
at 6PM**

**14 - Muffins w/ Special
Friends - 10:30AM -
10:55AM**

**21 - Club 45/ Youth
Summer Kickoff
5PM - 7:30PM**

27 - Playdate at 11AM





SIMPLY SUMMER 2023

JULY 16TH - 19TH
5:30PM - 7:30PM

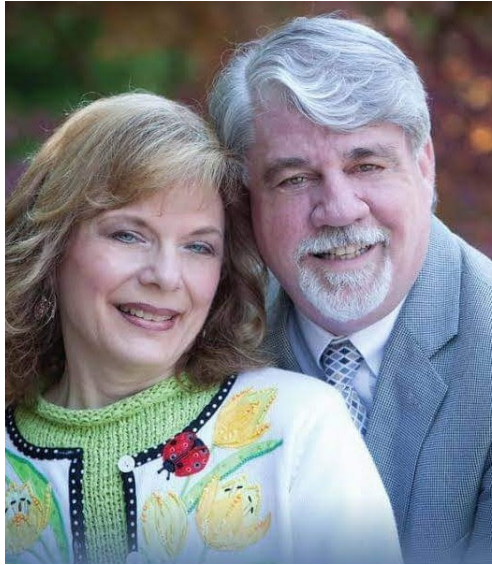
ALL CHILDREN AGE 4 -
5TH GRADE ARE INVITED
TO JOIN US!

THIS SUMMER WE'RE GOING TO ENGAGE KIDS' IMAGINATIONS! KIDS WILL NOT ONLY GET CURIOUS ABOUT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS — BUT ALSO ABOUT THE GOD WHO CREATED IT ALL!

A SMALL MEAL IS SERVED NIGHTLY.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.



Forever, Together



My wife and I met in 1964 in high school. Later in life we got together and married. We talked about growing old together and spending our end days on the front porch in our rocking chairs. We are retired now and in the twilight days of our lives. We understand that fact and try to live each day loving and honoring our golden years. One challenge of growing old is where to place our remains after death. We feel like God brought us together and we have shared many heartfelt moments with each other.

While working as a church volunteer, I ran across a pamphlet about the FUMC Columbarium. This was an answer and a solution to our final resting place. The love of Christ and our church, where we shared faith and fellowship, has always been a large part of our life. To be buried together and share eternity until Jesus comes will be the perfect answer for us.

The beautiful Courtyard Columbarium at First United Methodist Church is a place of eternal rest for our church members, their spouses and dependent children who choose cremation.

The Columbarium is a permanent structure where urns are placed. It occupies a courtyard setting and provides a dignified place of peace and beauty for loved ones to meditate and pray.

Each niche is covered with a granite plate, which engraved with the name(s) and dates of birth and death of the deceased.

This may not be a choice for everyone but for our family we feel secure knowing that we will dwell in the house of the Lord with our earthly remains forever, together.

In Christ,
Larry and Dena Oldham



Another Year in Salisbury!



As many of you know, Methodist pastors are appointed to a church for one year at a time. The Western North Carolina Cabinet have made their decisions for pastor appointments, and I am pleased to announce that the Reverend Mark Conforti will again be appointed to First United Methodist Church (Salisbury) in the Uwharrie District, effective July 1, 2023.

TEN **10** YEARS

I believe this to be a positive announcement that strengthens the existing collaboration and teamwork of our current church staff as well as provide continuity through a season of change for our congregation.

Mark will begin his 10th year with FUMC, the longest tenure in the history of the church. Please join me and the SPRC Committee, in offering our congratulations to Mark. Please keep Mark, Mary Allen, Connor, Tyler, and Mia in your prayers for this reappointment.

Deneen Jones, Chair of Staff Parish Relations

Let's Keep in Contact

One method of regular communication for our church is the monthly newsletter you're reading right now - the Ecclesia!

Another way communication happens regularly. If you are not receiving church emails, please visit the website to sign up.

2 ways to sign up for church emails

1. Visit the website and add your email to the pop-up banner that appears
2. Go directly to the sign up form at fumcsalisbury.org/fumcinfo

KEEP IN TOUCH!

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES!

Get news from First United Methodist Church-Salisbury in your inbox.

* Email

First Name

Last Name

By submitting this form, you are consenting to receive marketing emails from: First United Methodist Church-Salisbury, 217 S. Church Street, Salisbury, NC, 28644, US. <http://www.fumcsalisbury.org>. You can revoke your consent to receive emails at any time by using the [SafeUnsubscribe®](#) link, found at the bottom of every email. Emails are serviced by Constant Contact.

Constant Contact

TEXT COMMUNICATIONS

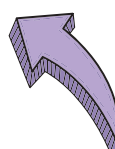
Welcome to "FUMCinfo," the texting and voicemail service for First United Methodist Church of Salisbury.

Phone Number

First Name

Last Name

MegaData rates may apply. To unsubscribe, text STOP to 313131 (899393) in Ca. For help text HELP anytime. Available in USA & Canada. Up to 5 msg/mo. Your info is always protected and your information will not be shared. Powered by Ez Texting




Sign up at
fumcsalisbury.org/fumcinfo

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 can 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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Trish Brinkley
Parker Williams

2 Grace Fazia

3 Susan Barker Fowler
Jean Hill

4 Katie Scarvey

5 Gary Applewhite
Kathy Duke

6 Connie Sheehan

7

8 Bryan Hutton
Laurie Zerger

9 Sondra Shuler
Millie Stout
Ian Walworth

10

11 Kurt Kolkebeck
George Shuler
Betty Slife

12 Lori Moore
Henry Brown

13 Lugene Cox

14 Carrie Carter

15 Steve Haines
Joyce Ingram
Dakeita Kluttz
Meredith Williams

16 Jean Corpening
Jerry Dymond
Benjamin Hutton

17 Dennis Barber
Allison Lineberry

18

19 Ron Cherry
John Conrad
Gregg Williams
Nancy Wyrick

20

21

22 Dinah Carpenter
Alexander Whitaker

23 Anne Ellis

24

25 Chuck Bowman

26

27 Janet McCoy
Susan McLain

28 Larry Schall

29

30 Billy Webb

31 Harry Warren



FUMC Family & Extended Family Transitions

IN REMEMBRANCE

Please keep these families in your prayers.

RICHARD "DICK" EDWARD SHUPING

Brother of Susan Linn

March 10, 1945 - March 17, 2023

JEFFREY GLENN STOUT

Husband of Beth Stout

September 04, 1963 - March 30, 2023

DOROTHY LOUISE ELLIOT LOWDERMILK

Mother-in-Law of Scotty Adcock

December 12, 1934 - April 14, 2023

MELVIN IRA SHUMATE

Father of Belinda Musso, Lisa Vaughn, and Susan Brooks

June 26, 1938 - April 22, 2023

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted..." ~ Psalm 34:18

IN CELEBRATION

We rejoice with these families as they welcome new life!

MAXWELL JAMES FAZIA

Parents - West and Madison Fazia

Grandparents - Brian and Betsy Fazia

Born March 23, 2023

Thank You!



Thank you to the individuals who gave designated gifts toward the purchase of new robes and stoles for our music ministry! The new robes we began wearing on Easter are machine washable and feature a zipper that makes them easier and more comfortable to wear.



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



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

