Ecclesia

NOVEMBER 2023



In This Issue...



THE HIGHLIGHTS

On the Covers

Front: Youth volunteers at Fall Festival Back: Some of our littlest friends at the Fall Festival

Page 4

All Saints' Sunday worship @ 11:00am. After Nov. 5 we return to 8:30 & 11:00 services. church council will continue talking about the Sunday AM schedule

Page 13

A Camp Discovery Christmas! Help us bring holiday cheer to our 2023 Campers!!

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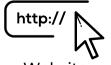
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Website

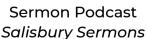
www.fumcsalisbury.org



YouTube Channel

FUMC Salisbury









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Re:Marks

Gratitude is always in style. It may not seem fashionable, however a genuine spirit of gratitude always fits and, quite frankly, looks good! Every November, as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we are reminded about this.

Surely you have heard before the multitude of reasons why you should be grateful. Let me briefly remind you, not because I presume you forgot, and certainly not to shame you into gratitude. Instead, it's helpful to have a quick and easy list. Just to name a few, here is what gratitude does: 1) makes us happier, 2) helps us observe beauty, 3) strengthens our friendships, 4) teaches us to be kind, 5) grants us perseverance through tough times, and 6) gratitude can even have health benefits!

These are all practical, sensible reasons why we should be grateful people. And I did not even reference the Bible or theological concepts! But what about when others are not grateful? How do we approach people for whom "thanksgiving" is as old-fashioned as Dickensian era clothes?

Author William George Jordan wrote on this topic in his 1902 essay, "The Courage to Face Ingratitude." For Jordan, "Ingratitude is a crime more despicable than revenge, which is only returning evil for evil, while ingratitude returns evil for good." Expecting gratitude from other people is natural, says Jordan. The reality, however, is that we frequently encounter people who are not grateful. Instead of swimming in a sea of gratitude, we are drowning in a culture of ingratitude.

Think about a time when you did something kind for another person – purchasing a gift, a kind word said, doing a favor, etc. – with no expression of gratitude in return. No "thank you" note in the mail. No quick "thx" text either. What feelings swelled up inside of you? How did you respond?

"The dignity of true living," says Jordan, shows "the courage that dares to face ingratitude calmly." This happens when a person's "good works meet with thanklessness or disdain."

We have all experienced this. When we do, it's a good opportunity to check our motives. Is the good deed done for purely altruistic reasons, for the genuine benefit of another person, without any regard for what we receive? Or did our secret desire to be appreciated drive us?

During November, when we remind ourselves to be thankful, it's awfully difficult to encounter people who are not. We keep bumping into ingratitude. Every time we do, and especially when another person's ingratitude is in response to our goodness, let us see this as opportunity to check ourselves. It's a chance to have the courage to face ingratitude calmly.

The presence of God within us provides what we need. As Charles Wesley's 1749 hymn puts it: "Thou hidden source of calm repose; Thou all-sufficient love divine; my help and refuge from my foes; secure I am, if Thou art mine..." There's no need to chase after people's gratitude when we are secure in God's love. So when we notice ingratitude in others, let's not condemn harshly; instead, let us be resolute, by God's grace,

to radiate pure gratitude from our lives.

This has the makings of a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Grace and peace,

Mark Conforti

Pastor Mark

Saints Sunday November 05, 11:00 a.m.

Maude Lee Morrison DeGrotte

January 06, 1924 — October 31, 2022

Robin Lee Agner

November 07, 1952 — November 03, 2022

Deborah Young Carter

March 26, 1951 — December 05, 2022

Jean Stafford Corpening

May 16, 1930 — December 26, 2022

Thomas Herman Langford

July 29, 1930 — January 11, 2023

Barbara Grubb White

February 20, 1941 — January 12, 2023

Julie Ann Fletcher Hughes

August 18, 1944 — February 13, 2023

Michael David Buchanan

August 19, 1968 — February 19, 2023

Steven Wayne Mueller

March 01, 1961 — February 22, 2023

Chelsea Rhae Childers

May 10, 1983 — March 21, 2023

Benjamin David McCubbins, II

March 22, 1931 — March 21, 2023

Henry Hichborn Buck, Jr.

April 27, 1930 — March 24, 2023

Jeffrey Glenn Stout

September 04, 1963 — March 30, 2023

Melvin Ira Shumate

July 26, 1938 — April 22, 2023

Julia Carolyn Mitchell Elgin

February 04, 1941 — May 26, 2023

Jimmy "Jim" Conrad Gilland

March 22, 1933 — July 01, 2023

Lois "Chris" Christina Sherrill

December 14, 1955 — August 05, 2023

Larry "Mickey" Hicks Fain

August 29, 1940 — September 13, 2023

Sarah Margaret Chandler

August 07, 1942 — October 06, 2023

Steven A. Schoch

July 24, 1952 — October 09, 2023

Peggy Gant Newsome Feezor

April 09, 1935 — October 27, 2023

A LIGHTHOUSE CONGREGATIONS EVENT

GRUCE FEST

















Around the Table

one goal: nurturing people in body & spirit

one time: all meals are at 6:00pm



Community Meals
connect with the
community

Fellowship Meals foster fellowship among church members Covered Dish Meals participate in feeding people in body & spirit

(ommunity Meal Next: November I then hiatus 'til the spring

Fellowship Meal Next: November 15 <u>January</u> 17 (overed Dish Meal coming this winter! Next: December 6

November

Community Meal, November 1 Chili Cook Off

FREE! (DONATIONS WELCOME)

Fellowship Meal, November 15 \$8 PER ADULT, (CHILDREN & YOUTH EAT FREE) RESERVATION REQUIRED BY MONDAY, NOV. 13.

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT CAN BE MADE ONLINE OR BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS, 9AM - 3PM (MON-FRI).







Celebrating Stewardship Comittment Sunday



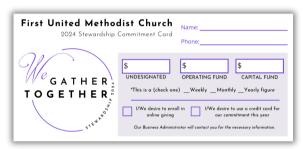


Thank you to everyone who has made a commitment to financially support the church in 2024! It was a moving experience on Stewardship Sunday, October 8, to see so many members of our church bring their commitment cards forward as a sign of our dedication to the ministry of First United Methodist Church!

The church office is still collecting commitment cards - if you have not sent yours in, it's not too late! The finance committee uses these figures to inform the budget for the coming year.

Complete the online commitment card, Mail your completed card to the church office, or see Becca to complete one in person. Complete your commitment card securely online! Visit fumcsalisbury.com/stewardship



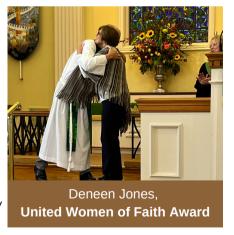


Larry Cordts, Stewardship Chair

Celebrating Laity Sunday



All persons are created to thrive and live in peace. In a world full of brokenness and injustice, the people of the United Methodist Church believe the heart of Christian ministry is Christ's ministry of unlimited love (¶126).





Ministry is the expression of the mind and mission of Christ by a community that demonstrates a life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, discipleship and celebration (¶126).

We understand that not everyone is called to be a clergy person but we believe everyone has a role in building a better world. Laity, or non clergy leaders of the church are called to be disciples who fulfill the Great Commission through acts of service that heal and liberate a broken world (¶127). This response is our ministry (¶121). (paragraph references from the Book of Discipline)

Church History

United Methodist worship changed significantly during the latter half of the 20th century. I lived through that change. This article is my story.

During Emmett McClarty's pastorate (1953-1958), our church created an 8:45 a.m. Sunday service. We met in the recently-constructed chapel. This new service appealed to "early risers" who preferred smaller and more casual worship. We were even served Holy Communion seated around a table. I received my Eagle Scout rank in 1960 at that service. Its growing popularity eventually necessitated moving it to the sanctuary.

In 1964, Methodists published a new hymnal that expanded the simple liturgy in the 1932 hymnal. It included additional congregational responses, but the basic order stayed the same. The offering still came in the middle, and the sermon remained at the end.

As a college student in the mid-1960s, our pastor, Ralph Taylor, invited me to preach on Student Recognition Sunday. I quickly enlisted my friend Frank Montgomery to help. He was a law student (later a District Judge). I preached and Frank organized everything else. Frank loved formal worship and borrowed several liturgical items including a processional cross from the Episcopal Church. That Sunday we had the first processional choir in our congregation's history. My mother almost fainted. A few years later, the processional choir became a regular part of our worship service.

The Consultation on Church Union (COCU) formed in 1962 led the development of a new unified lectionary. This three-year cycle of worship texts included four lessons for each Sunday: Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel. There were also texts for special Sundays and seasons. Many mainline churches including Methodists adopted this ecumenical calendar. It replaced the single-year lectionary in the 1964 Hymnal.

The Methodist Church and the Evangelical Brethren Church united in 1968 to form The United Methodist Church. Almost immediately, the church needed a new hymnal to unite the two traditions. After years of study and sometimes intense debate, a new hymnal received General Conference approval and was published in 1989. It included many new hymns while retaining old favorites. It is the hymnal we currently use in our sanctuary.

The 1989 hymnal introduced a new worship order. The basic pattern had four parts:

- 1) ENTRANCE, 2) PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE,
- 3) THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION; 4) SENDING FORTH.

The sermon moved to the middle of the service, and the offering became an act of commitment at the end. This hymnal also included revised services for Holy Communion and Baptism. Whenever possible, it used inclusive language. The publication of the 1992 United Methodist Book of Worship further strengthened the move to more formal worship practices.

The Catholic Folk Mass of the 1960s pointed Christian worship in a different direction. This new praise service quickly migrated to all denominations. It often included drums, guitars, and other band instruments. I served one church that even used a blue grass band. These modern services were designed to reach a largely unchurched generation. Surprisingly, churches discovered that many older adults also liked the new worship experience. Our church briefly sponsored a lay-led "Journey Service," but it was soon discontinued. Other congregations have successfully used praise worship to reach modern worshipers with the Gospel message.

Fred Jordan, Church Historian

Ecclesia: Newsletter



Hospital Visitors

"Thank you!" to the following church members who are serving as Hospital Visitors:

Jeanmarie Burton, Tom Disseler, Jill Duggan, Amy Foote, Steve Haines, Jay Hughes, Nalini Joseph, Joy & Van Kelly, Brenda Loflin, Jeff Matthews, Pat & Richard Paschall, & Linne' Wallace

Our Hospital Visitors are scheduled on a rotation, for the sake of visiting fellow church members as a supplement to the pastor's visits.



Healing for the Holidays

For those who have experienced loss, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach. The liturgy for this service provides space for prayer, contemplative reflection, and remembrance amidst the joyful preparation and anticipation of the holiday season.

This service is for you - bring your grief, your weariness, your fatigue, and allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God.

Healing for the Holidays Service Wednesday, November 8 6:00pm, Chapel

Rev. Garry Cook, Preaching

HARVEST Provession shopping list

- 2 large cans of vegetables
- large can of fruit
- box of instant mashed potatoes
- bag of rice
- gravy (can or mix, no glass jars please!)
- box of cornbread, biscuit, or muffin mix
- box of stuffing
- box of cereal or oatmeal
- box of cake mix & can of frosting

return filled bags

bring your bag to Sunday worship on November 19 at 8:30 or 11:00

or drop it off in the Carter Lobby before November 19

Blue harvest procession bags and printed shopping lists can be picked up in the Narthex & Lobby. (You're always welcome to give above and beyond the items on this list)

Questions?

Call the church office (704)636-3121

food will be delivered to Rowan Helping Ministries on November 20

11/19/2023



Youth Ministry

Salisbury South 6-12 GRADE MINISTRY

Newsletter





YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

FALL 2023





It's amazing to think that I've been serving as. the Youth Director at FUMC Salisbury for over seven years. Having been in ministry in one place for this long, I've recently experienced a very exciting milestone. Some of the people I first met as youth in our church, are now serving as adult leaders in youth ministry!

lan and Michael, both of whom graduated a few years ago, recently went with me as chaperones on the Connect retreat at Mt. Shepherd. It was a joy to serve alongside them, and I'm incredibly proud of their growth in leadership!







NOVEMBER

6 - YOUTH GROUP

13 - no youth group (veterans day wknd)

20 - Thanksgiving **Potluck**

(Advent decorating & Harvest Procession food sorting)

27 - no youth group (Thanksgiving wknd)

DECEMBER

3 - YOUTH GROUP

10 - YOUTH GROUP

17 - XMAS PARTY

24 - no youth group (Christmas Eve)

31 - no youth group (New Year's Eve)





(clockwise from top left) Youth volunteering at Fall Festival. games and crafts at Youth Group, acolyting during Worship









Confirmation

Confirmation Classes will be hosted at FUMC in November, and at Milford Hills in December.

November

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December

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| 31 | | | | | | | 10 |
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Celebrating Children's Ministry Fall Festival















Scouting at FUMC: Troop 442

On October 7th Troop and Pack 442 brought 27 volunteers to clean up the yard around FUMC. The parking barriers were painted along with the fencing around the stairwell in the backyard. Bushes were trimmed, weeds pulled and new much applied. Rotting railroad ties were replaced with river rock. All work was provided by the scouts as part of Brad Peeples Eagle project. Paint was donated by Sudden Impact Collision along with mulch and stone donated by Peeples Bark and Stone.

The Troop and Pack appreciate all the things FUMC does for our mission to the community.

We would also like to congratulate our newest Eagle Scout Jamir Tucker.









Ecclesia: Newsletter

Children's Ministry









BRING JOY TO OUR 2023 CAMP DISCOVERY CAMPERS THROUGH GIFT GIVING

This year we will be collecting coats and gifts for our Camp Discovery campers and their families! More information will be sent out regarding sizes and gift ideas for our families soon!

We will need volunteers to help make this party a success! If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Bailee Weisensel.



Childcare Programs

After School Child Care

This school year is off to a wonderful start. Our students returned to a fresh and re-organized center to begin the school year. We have a new process for our devotions, based on student request, they are completing a monthly study complete with Bible Memory Verses as well as stories centered around a common theme. Our study for September was Courage and our Memory Verse was Deuteronomy 31:6. Our study for October is Faithfulness.

We continue to work with our students on academic skills. We assist our primary students with number recognition, letter recognition and basic reading skills after completing their homework. Our upper grade students practice multiplication facts, cursive writing and reading after completing their homework.

The students have really enjoyed plush reading buddies donated by a church member for our program. They are eager to read to these "buddies" on a daily basis. The staff appreciates the donation which has encouraged our students to continue to develop their reading skills!









Welcoming Brittney Lewis

My name is Brittney Lewis. I am the new Director of the Child Development Center. At a young age, I always knew I wanted to work with children. I lived in China for three years as my parents were missionaries teaching English. I watched them create meaningful relationships with their students and quickly gained a desire to help others and work with children. I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with honors. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and spent many years as a teacher of young children. My goal is to create a safe and loving environment where children feel comfortable to learn and grow. I believe a strong connection between students, staff, and families is the foundation of a successful preschool. I'm very excited about the opportunity to prepare children for kindergarten and look forward to providing opportunities for children to learn. I hope you will take the time to drop by and see our wonderful children and program.



Ecclesia: Newsletter

Rowan Helping Ministries This Month



Fundraiser for Food Programs

On Friday, November 17, Rowan Helping Ministries will present FEED THE NEED, an exciting fundraising event for our Food Programs that will truly "feed the need" that exists in Rowan County.

You're invited to join us for music, food, and fellowship at Baker's Mill, 1360 Poole Rd in Salisbury from 5:30-9 pm.

Food Pantry Wish List

As we shop for the Harvest Procession, you're welcome to go above and beyond the Thanksgiving Meal shopping list items! Some current things needed. in the food pantry include:

Peanut Butter, Canned Meat, Jelly, Beans (dried or canned), Granola/Protein Bars, Saltine Crackers, Pasta, Tomato Products (sauce, paste, diced), and Salad Dressing

Serving Meals in Jeannie's Kitchen
October: Discovery Class
Dinner, November 9 & Breakfast, November 10
December: Adam & Eve/Seekers Class
Dinner, December 14 & Breakfast, December 15
Interested in your group serving a meal? Contact Taffy Jordan!

Food Packing
Fourth Wednesdays, during the school year
Next Packing Party:
November 22, 2:00-3:00pm
(if needed before the holiday)
Interested in coming to a packing party? Contact Jen Fogt!

Celebrating the ministry of Rev. Katie!



Rev. Katie Lineberger is now serving as the pastor at Main Street UMC in Albemarle. She started on October 15, and will likely stay at Main Street UMC until June of next year. She is also continuing her work in the Uwharrie District as the District Vitality Associate, where she equips churches and pastors to be fruitful and vital in ministry. Meanwhile, her husband, Andy, and their children, Hadley & Asher, will remain active with us at First UMC of Salisbury. Let's be in prayerful support of Rev. Lineberger & her family!



Special Events in Advent

Wednesday, December 06

Potluck/Covered Dish Meal with Caroling & Decorating

Fellowship Hall, 6:00pm

Friday, December 09

Cocoa & Carols with Downtown Churches

Bell Tower Green, 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 13

Advent Prayer Stations

Fisher Street Lobby & Sanctuary, 6:00pm

Saturday, December 16

Camp Discovery Christmas

Fellowship Hall, 4:00pm

Sunday, December 17

Youth & Kids Connection Christmas Parties

Fellowship Hall, 5:00pm

Seasonal Worship Services

Sunday, December 03, 10 & 17

Advent I, II, & III

8:30am & 11:00am

Sunday, December 24

Advent IV

8:30am & 11:00am Children's Paper Bag Pageant during 11:00 service

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

7:00pm & 11:00pm

Sunday, December 31

Covenant Renewal

8:30 & 11:00

This year, you are invited to join us as we learn to 'bless the Advent and Christmas we actually have.' Resources for the whole church - children, youth, and adults - will be made available through seasonal programming and devotional resources

NOVEMBER 5TH,4PM

CONCERT OF REMEMBRANCE FAURÉ REQUIEM



131 W. Council St. Downtown Salisbury

ALL ARE INVITED TO COME, LISTEN, PRAY, AND REMEMBER THOSE WE LOVE.

FREE ADMISSION.

4 STLUKESSALISBURY WWW.SLS.CHURCH

and anthems by Edgar Bainton, Geraint Lewis, Daniel Gawthrop

Soloists: Mark Stephenson, Baritone Caroline Stephenson, Soprano & St. Luke's Choristers

ORGANIST: MICHAEL ROWLAND

ST. Luke's Choirs and Guest singers from our neighboring churches - First Presbyterian, first United Methodist, First United Church of Christ, St. John's Lutheran & Soldier's Memorial AME Zion



Coming Soon

Charge ConferenceNovember 5

Our annual Charge Conference will be a regional gathering of several Methodist churches in our area at Milford Hills UMC on Sunday, November 5, at 2:00pm. District Superintendent Rev. Beth Crissman presiding.

Office Closed: Veteran's Day November 9 & 10

November 9 the Church Staff will be away for a 'day apart' and the church office will be closed on November 10 in observance of Veteran's Day.

Office Closed: Thanksgiving

November 22 - 24

The church office will be closed after noon on Wednesday, November 22 through Friday, November 24 for Thanksgiving. Normal hours for church members to stop by, 9am-3pm, will resume on Monday, November 27.

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.



HAPPY BIRTIDAY!

- Scott Austin
 Robin Daye
 Suzanne Roakes
- 2 David Duke Tony Yon
- 3 Phillip Conrad Danny Hunt Clay Smith
- 4
- 5 Alan Schroeder
- 6 Anisten Cook
 Nan Zimmerman
- 7 Pam Bayer
 Susan Fowler
 Matthew Langford
 Sue Pierce
- Timmy Howard
 Jim Wind
- 9 Susan Linn
- Taylor Conrad
 Bruce Phillips III
 Bill Webb

- 11
- David Collins
 Tish Hatley
 Rylee Hedrick
 Krista Watts
- 13
- Chris Cook
 Rick Costello
 Lizz Johnson
 Laura Peltz
 Callie Slife
- 15 Becca Blackmon
- 16 Laura Shaffer
- 17
- 18
- **19** Ryan McCoy
- 20
- 21 Alfreda Chea Mary Jo Gouge Bobbie Melton

- ${f 22}$ Jeff Daye
- 23 Amy Harkrader
- 24 Marissa Brinkley Linné Wallace
- 25 Pat Cooke
 Brad Walworth
- **26** Joy Clement
- 27
- Hurst Fowler
 Rachel Seifert
 Becky Spencer
- Lynn Anderson
 Revonda Crowe
 Jesse McCartney
- **30** Stella Franzese Jude Smeltzer



Senator Hanford Dole Honored

Congratulations to Senator Elizabeth Hanford Dole for be presented the 2023 Sylvanus Thayer Award, the highest honor given by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The recognition is presented to an outstanding citizen of the United States whose service and accomplishments in the national interest exemplify personal devotion to the ideals expressed in the West Point motto, "Duty, Honor, Country."



Photo Credit:

West Point Association of Graduates

Thank You!

Dear church family,

My family and I have been so blessed by your many ways of showing Christian love to us these past few years of Steve's decline. I do not know what I would have done without you. Thank you dear friends.

- Nancy Schoch



Rowan One Church One Child Coat Drive

31 coats, jackets, and hoodies were given for children and teens in need through Rowan One Church One Child Thank you!



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

