

# ECCLESIA

*February 2021*



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

## IN THIS ISSUE

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### **On the cover: Icon of Jesus, Cappadocia**

This photo of a ceiling inside a cave in Cappadocia, was taken by friends of Jen Fogt on a trip to Turkey. Cappadocia, a region mentioned in the books of Acts and 1 Peter, is hill country in modern day Turkey. Christians first settled in the area beginning in the 3rd century, and the area gained in popularity well into the 9th century. It's many caves became homes and churches. When Rome banned use of religious icons, many who valued the beauty of icons in worship painted the beautiful works of art found in these caves today.

### **Page 5: Serving our Neighbors**

FUMC continues to send a group to pack food at Rowan Helping Ministries weekly. We also provide meals at the shelter (contact Taffy Jordan to help, 336-467-0793), and collect donations for our neighbors in need. A list of requests from RHM can be found on page 5.

### **Page 7: Lent Begins on February 17th**

This year's Ash Wednesday service will be available online, and all are invited to drive through the portico to receive the imposition of ashes. While driving through, families with young children and youth will receive their 'Lent at Home' kits.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Reverend Doctor Mark Conforti, *Senior Pastor*  
The Reverend Stacey Lundy, *Associate Pastor*  
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# RESTACEYS

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How are you doing with The Story?

This is our church's discipleship focus for the year: reading scripture together.

My guess is that many who have started the plan with us in January have run into a day or week where things have just been tough: motivation and time are in short supply. We are feeling our limitations in an extra measure these days, but when all else is burned to ash, what remains but God? What can make us better disciples aside from scripture?

We won't encounter the book of Lamentations yet in our readings for February, but it has some encouragement to offer to us in this moment:

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.*

*"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."*

*~Lamentations 3:22-24*

We begin the season of Lent this month with Ash Wednesday: a reminder of our limits, our sin, and our mortality. But this is not the end of The Story. Instead, we travel the road to the cross with our God who goes far past our limits for the sake of our salvation. See pages 7-8 for more about the Lenten season.

When things get tough, when you don't manage to do what you're "supposed to," remember the words of Lamentations 3: the steadfast love and mercies of God never end. Guilt isn't helpful or productive. Instead, God offers a new chance to begin again today.

The plan for February is on page 4. Join in- or keep going!

Grace & peace,  
*Pastor Stacey*





# FEBRUARY

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17! If you haven't already begun reading or listening to the scriptures daily, now is a perfect season to begin. Remember: No guilt if you have missed or do miss some readings. Simply ask the Holy Spirit to give you space, reminder, and the opportunity to enter into this spiritual discipline along with others in the congregation.

## Week of January 31-February 6

5	GENESIS 42-44 DANIEL 5 PSALM 59	GENESIS 45-47 DANIEL 6-7	GENESIS 48-50 DANIEL 8-9	PSALM 129 EXODUS 1-2 DANIEL 10	EXODUS 3-5 DANIEL 11
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## Week of February 7-13

6	EXODUS 6-8 DANIEL 12	EXODUS 9-11 PSALM 135 MATTHEW 1	EXODUS 12-14 PSALM 105 MATTHEW 2	EXODUS 15-17 PSALM 114 MATTHEW 3	EXODUS 18-20 MATTHEW 4 PSALM 95
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## Week of February 14-20

7	EXODUS 21-22 MATTHEW 5 PSALM 5	EXODUS 23-24 MATTHEW 6-7	EXODUS 25-26 MATTHEW 8-9	EXODUS 27-28 MATTHEW 10-11	EXODUS 29-30 PSALM 133 MATTHEW 12
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## Week of February 21-27

8	EXODUS 31 PSALM 49 MATTHEW 13	EXODUS 32-33 MATTHEW 14	PSALM 86 EXODUS 34-35 MATTHEW 15	EXODUS 36-37 MATTHEW 16-17	EXODUS 38-39 PSALM 131 MATTHEW 18
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## Week of February 28-March 6

9	EXODUS 40 PSALM 99 MATTHEW 19	LEVITICUS 1-2 MATTHEW 20-22	LEVITICUS 3-5 MATTHEW 23	PSALM 116 LEVITICUS 6 MATTHEW 24	LEVITICUS 7-10 MATTHEW 25
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***DON'T FORGET! You can download a free app to your smartphone or device called 'Bible' by YouVersion- you can read or LISTEN to scripture from anywhere!***

# ROWAN HELPING MINISTRIES



## Serving our Neighbors

We have continued to send a small team to pack food at Rowan Helping Ministries each week! If you would like to join this group, we serve on Wednesday afternoons - contact Nancy Schoch for details (704)798-0528. RHM's donation request list is below for those who might want to make a donation.



## "WARMTH TREE" AT THE LIBRARY



"Matthew Owen and Noah Holshouser installed the roughly 6-foot tall metal "tree" behind the Rowan Public Library's main branch in downtown Salisbury. The shiny black tree may look almost like a sculpture, but it's intended to do more than just add to the library's aesthetics.

Constructed by Owen, Holshouser and other students and faculty involved with the agricultural mechanics program at West Rowan High School, the new warmth tree will replace the old one — an actual tree located behind the library where people leave cold-weather clothing such as hats, scarves and gloves hanging in its branches for anyone in need....

The tradition of filling the tree with much-needed winter apparel was at least five years ago by an anonymous person. People have continued to hang donations in its branches each winter."  
 - Excerpt from Salisbury Post 1/14/21

### SHELTER SERVICES

- SUGAR PACKETS
- KETCHUP (BOTTLES OR PACKETS)
- COOKING OIL
- LARGE VEGETABLES & BEANS (#10 CANS)
- ADULT FLIP FLOPS/SHOWER SHOES
- ZIPLOC GALLON STORAGE BAGS
- NEW PILLOWS NEW BATH TOWELS
- NEW TWIN OR FULL BED SHEETS
- CHAPSTICK/LIP BALM

### CRISIS ASSISTANCE

- CANNED MEATS
- BREAKFAST ITEMS
- CANNED FRUIT MAYONNAISE
- PEANUT BUTTER
- LIQUID LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- DISHWASHING LIQUID
- NEW UNDERWEAR - ALL SIZES
- DISPOSABLE DISINFECTING WIPES

# CHURCH HISTORY

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*"Looking back, moving forward"*

The arrival of multiple coronavirus vaccines has brought hope that our pandemic ordeal may soon end. For almost a year, we have seen church doors closed, local businesses go bankrupt, and citizens hibernate in their own homes. A common wish for our world is to return to what we once called "normal."

It reminds me of another season of dislocation when things never returned to normal. In the 1860s 1/7th of Rowan County's population died fighting for the Confederacy. The local prisoner of war camp experienced an epidemic of dysentery and smallpox among those incarcerated. On April 12, 1865, Major General George Stoneman's raiders marched across the Shoeber's railroad bridge on North Ellis and took control of the city. All Confederate property was put to the torch.

From 1866 onward, Salisbury's First Methodist Episcopal Church South, entered its own period of reconstruction. A new church rose from the ashes, and its new identity has persisted for over 150 years. We know very little about life in the ante-bellum church. Earlier records are scarce. After 1866, careful records of the church's business were kept, financial stability returned, and new efforts were made to educate and nurture a new generation of members.

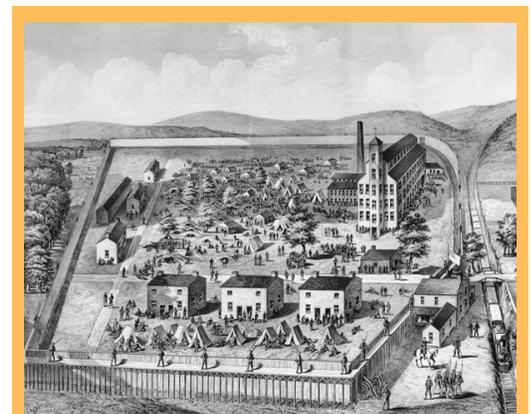
The General Conference of 1866 inaugurated a system of local church business meetings. The first was held at our church on June 26, 1866. Being methodical Methodists, they continued to meet on the first Monday after the fourth Sunday of each month.

The old membership rolls were filled with errors or missing. A committee was appointed with the goal of establishing an accurate register of members after what it called "the late convulsions of this country." At the following church business meeting a committee of three ladies was tasked with identifying any members in need of relief. They created a Poor Fund controlled and directed by a committee of eight women. The 1875 communion Sunday offering was directed to this fund. This practice continued well into the 20th century. It had a meager beginning with a balance of \$6.00. By the later part of the year, church minutes indicate \$17.50 was spent from the Poor Fund containing \$21.55. When you remember the property lot on which the church was built cost \$100, these figures are not as modest as they might at first appear.

The church that emerged in the 1870s and beyond looked very little like its predecessor. It was stronger, better organized, and more intentional about its ministry to the poor. It also took up the fight for moral issues such as alcohol abuse. It never returned to what had once been considered "normal." The church rebranded itself to effectively serve the emerging post-war world.

We would do well to learn a lesson from our reconstruction past. It is not likely our church or our world will ever return to what we once considered a pre-pandemic "normal." Some things will endure but other changes are permanent. It is not our job to rebuild the past. We can learn from the past so we can effectively serve the people and the new world emerging all around us. It is the only way to be part of what God is doing in our time.

Fred Jordan, Church Historian



**Confederate POW Camp**



# reLent

ASH WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 17

**WORSHIP ONLINE**  
SERVICE AVAILABLE ON THE  
CHURCH WEBSITE AND  
YOUTUBE ANY TIME AFTER  
8:00AM ON FEB. 17

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**  
DRIVE THROUGH THE PORTE  
COCHERÉ ON FEB. 17  
2:00-6:00PM

## reLent

The impact of the pandemic hit us in Lent of 2020. Maybe we feel like we never left the lean season, living with the weight of our collective sacrifice and awareness of life's fragility.

In a world that is relentless, let us reLent:

*v. 1. to soften in feeling, temper, or determination; to become more compassionate, forgiving*

*2. to become less severe; slacken*

*syn.: abate, yield, relinquish, forbear, soften in temperament*

Join us this Lenten season beginning on Ash Wednesday, traveling through Holy Week, and celebrating on Easter Day! Easter flowers and butterflies can be ordered in March.

### Upcoming dates in Lent & Easter:

Stations of the Cross - March 24

Palm Sunday - March 28

Maundy Thursday - April 1

Good Friday - April 2

Easter Day - April 4

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### Lent at Home: Resources for Families

As we look ahead toward the season of Lent, we anticipate our families needing to continue staying close to home.

We've created an interactive and fun way to experience Lent with our own families. Filled with devotions, activities, and many of the supplies you will need - we will be distributing our 'Lent at Home' kits on Ash Wednesday from 2-6pm under the porte cochere where you will also have the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes on your foreheads.

We look forward to sharing in this time with you and your families!

## SCOUTS SUNDAY



### Scout Sunday: Feb 7

Tune in to worship on February 7 as we celebrate Scout Sunday. Scouts will be leading throughout the service, and we will be recognizing one of FUMC's Troop 442, Khai Huynh, becoming an Eagle Scout!

## YOUTH GAME NIGHT



Salisbury Youth met on Zoom for a game night in January - we had fun playing Among Us - a game where there are imposters among you and your goal is to find them out! It was so much fun we plan to host another game night soon. The youth are also planning to pack food for our neighbors through Rowan Helping Ministries. When the weather is warmer we will return to meeting on the lawn.



CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH FAMILIES

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# Lent at Home

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PICK-UP ON ASH  
WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 17TH  
2:00-6:00PM

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DEVOTIONS | ACTIVITIES | SUPPLIES

# PRESCHOOL

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We are busy playing and learning! Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open. If you, or someone you know, are interested in registering for the upcoming school year, our forms can be found on the church's website. Completed forms can be mailed to the church or emailed to [kellyhaustin@gmail.com](mailto:kellyhaustin@gmail.com).



# AFTER-SCHOOL CHILD CARE

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The new year is here and we are getting back into our routine. We have some winter/snow books to read and crafts to do. We will have a Valentine's Day party and send some cards to some of the church's seniors to brighten their day by letting them know someone is thinking of them! It will be a busy month!

We have openings in our program and would love to tell you about it! We may be reached at 704 433-6679.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and happy 2021.

*"When little people are overwhelmed by big emotions, it's our job to share our calm, not to join their chaos."*



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1** James Johnson
- 2**
- 3** Andy Swanson  
Sutton Webb
- 4** Caroline Clark  
Starling Johnson
- 5** Rachel Buchanan  
Mo Culler  
Ken Hollar
- 6** Sierra Braun  
Samuel Howe  
Earle Koontz  
Garrett Miller
- 7** Court Drake  
Roger Malone
- 8** Connor Conforti
- 9** Regina Faggart
- 10** Michael Anderson  
Justin Faggart  
Glener Gilland  
Debbie Insley  
Carole Young
- 11** Mary Sue Leonard  
Betsy Mowery

- 12**
- 13** Ryan Anderson  
Erma Scarlette
- 14**
- 15** Scotti Webb
- 16** Barry Gainer  
Nicholas Peltz  
Amelia Steinman  
Will Steinman
- 17** Lauren Williams
- 18**
- 19** Tommy Lewis  
Spencer West
- 20** Jordan Alexander  
Dorothy Malone  
Barbara White
- 21** William Clark  
Kaleb Robinson  
Mel Smith
- 22** Bill Linn
- 23** Hannah Smith

- 24** Jeff Matthews  
Ruthann Melvin
- 25** Ben Weisensel
- 26** Barbara Saleeby  
Pete Stout
- 27** Molly Alexander  
Laura Koontz  
Hannah Lineberry  
Robert McGee
- 28** Faye Cline  
Debbie Kolkebeck  
Will Koontz



## FUMC FAMILY AND EXTENDED FAMILY TRANSITIONS

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### *In Remembrance*

*Please keep these families in your prayers,*

**NED ALTON STOREY**

Husband of Shully Storey

**WILLIAM JOSEPH "BILL" PHIFER**

Father of Betsy Fazia

**HELEN GRAHAM RUSHER**

Mother of Ed Rusher and Julia Howard

**STEVAN LEE RICH**

Son of Betsy Rich

*October 30, 1937 - December 29, 2020*

*November 8, 1935 - December 28, 2020*

*August 27, 1925 - January 6, 2021*

*July 19, 1957 - January 18, 2021*

*"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." - Psalm 46:1*

### *In Celebration*

*We rejoice with these families celebrating new beginnings*

**CAROLINE RUTH MORTON**

Granddaughter of Lizz Johnson

**LEVI THEODORE DURHAM**

Son of Kirk & Katie Durham

*Born December 17, 2020*

*Born January 11, 2021*

## THANK YOU NOTES TO THE CHURCH

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We enjoy so much getting information with love and inspiration from our church. Thank you so much. I look forward to returning to 'normal', whatever that might be.

- Sam & Joan Nash

Thanking each of you for "keeping us afloat" - we will always be grateful and wishing you all the best of the holiday.

Sincerely and with love,

The Buchanan Family (Harold & Rachel, David and Sophia)

*Thank!  
You!*

Thank you so much for the sub sandwiches and cookies you sent during our time of bereavement. Your kindness and thoughtfulness meant so much to us.

- The Clement Family

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

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*Please note the following changes in your directory:*

**Berlinda Glaylue**

bglaylue@gmail.com

**Kirk & Katie Durham**

402 Candlewick Drive

Salisbury, NC 28147

**Jean Corpening**

The Kempton at Brightmore

2298 S. 41st Street

Wilmington, NC 28403

**Chuck Bowman**

crbowman3@outlook.com

# ECCLESIA

NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

