

ECCLESIA

February 2022



FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
Est. 1783

FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
SALISBURY, NC
EST. 1783

IN THIS ISSUE



On the Cover: Fisher Street Entrance We experienced more than one snow storm in January this year, giving us a fun opportunity to take pictures of the church covered in snow.

Page 6: Creation Museum Trip A 3-day trip to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Kentucky is in the works for April through Burke Christian Tours. Deposits are due March 1.

Page 8: Women's Prayer Group & Young Adults Group Two new groups have been recently formed and begun meeting. One is a women's prayer group meeting over breakfast at Hendrix BBQ, and the other is a young adult group meeting over Zoom in the month of February.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Reverend Doctor Mark Conforti, Pastor
Mrs. Becca Blackmon, Business Administrator
Mr. Aaron Cameron, Production Director
Mr. Mike Fansler, Building Superintendent
Ms. Jen Fogt, Director of Youth Ministry
Mr. Joshua Starnes, Director of Music Ministry
Mrs. Bailee Weisensel, Director of Children's Ministry

Mark@fumcsalisbury.org
Becca@fumcsalisbury.org
Aaron@fumcsalisbury.org
Mike@fumcsalisbury.org
Jenni@fumcsalisbury.org
Josh@fumcsalisbury.org
Bailee@fumcsalisbury.org

Ms. Molly Alexander
Lead Teacher of Summer Day Camp
Mrs. Kelly Austin,
Director of Preschool
Mrs. Courtney Bost
Lead Teacher/Director of Child Development Center
Rev. Garry Cook M.Div. LCSW,
Pastoral Counseling, Sanctuary Counseling Group
Mrs. Donna Frederick,
Lead Teacher of After-School Child Care Program

Summercamp@fumcsalisbury.org
Kellyhaustin@gmail.com
CDC@fumcsalisbury.org
Gdcook@triad.rr.com
Afterschool@fumcsalisbury.org



Website www.fumcsalisbury.org



YouTube Channel FUMC Salisbury



Sermon Podcast
Salisbury Sermons on
Apple Podcasts and Spotify
Sermon by Phone
Call 1(704)378-8581



Facebook @fumcsalisbury
Instagram @fumcsalisbury



REMARKS

You are not alone. Yes, God is with you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the resurrected Jesus Christ brings you God's powerful presence every day. However, there's another way in which you are not alone: it's the story of your life.

To begin the year 2022, we are emphasizing "emotionally healthy spirituality." In many ways, this is a terrific way to build upon "The Story," our discipleship emphasis for 2021, which looked at the entirety of Scripture. Empowered with the story of God's love, perhaps we can more courageously and humbly look at our own personal stories. With an honest assessment, we can know ourselves better. Even more: we can love ourselves more genuinely.

Peter Scazzero's work in "emotionally healthy spirituality" draws upon family systems theory. This unified approach to understanding people draws on psychology, sociology, and therapeutic personal growth strategies. Murray Bowen, a psychologist from the mid-twentieth century, first articulated family systems theory. Then Edwin Friedman, a Bowen devotee, translated the ideas for churches and synagogues in his classic book, *Generation to Generation*.

Are you willing to think deeper about the challenges that riddle you? The stress, the hard decisions, the uneasy conversations – they impact us deeply. The resources drawn from family systems theory can help you experience a more emotionally healthy spiritual life. Think deeper, and you may notice that your conflicts and anxieties are not so much about your personality. Think deeper, and perhaps you'll see how your conflicts and anxieties are actually more about your relationships, other people's personalities, and how you navigate those relational systems. By "relational systems," we specifically mean the marital bond and parent-child dynamics, whether it's the parent caring for the child or the child caring for the parent. These relational systems shift over time. Sometimes they are nourishing, giving us security, confidence, and optimism. At other times, they are downright draining.

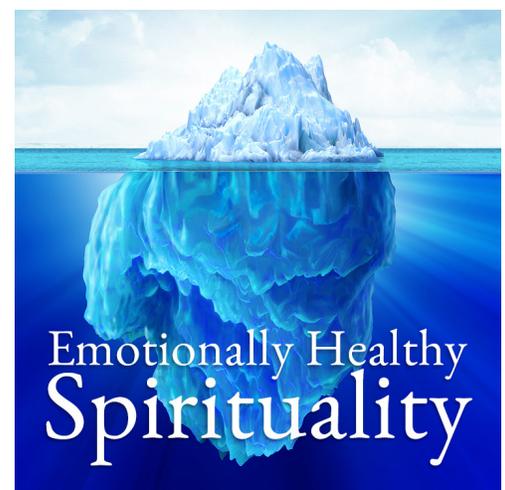
It's the story of your life!

We need emotionally healthy spiritual lives, because the challenges of this world threaten to undermine us. We face important social matters, noticing how people carry different perspectives. We face the raging COVID-19 pandemic, wondering when life we reach a more stable equilibrium. We face the institutional challenges of church, hopeful for the future. In order to do this faithfully, we must look in the mirror – at our own face – and know who we are.

Let me give you a warning and some good news.

***Warning:** all of this may prompt you to speak with a counselor. If so, please know that you have my strong encouragement. A certified therapist, like Garry Cooke, can help us get "un-stuck" and move forward in life. In the same way that you may need to see a dentist for your teeth or a cardiologist for your heart, you may need to spend time with a therapist to work through your story.*

Good news: God loves you! God loves your story; after all, God has been a part of your story already. If we can humbly open up more of ourselves to God, then we can live more fully, more healthy, and more lovingly.



Blessings,

Pastor Mark

SCOUTING FOR FOOD, SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS



Scouting for Food 2022

Troop 442 invites you to bring non-perishable items for the annual 'Scouting for Food' Drive. Items can be delivered to the church...

Saturday, February 5

8:00am - Noon

outdoors, Fisher Street entrance

Sunday, February 6

drop off donations in the lobby before or after worship services

Current needs list from Rowan Helping Ministries includes the following:

Canned fruit & vegetables, soup, lower sodium options of canned goods, travel size toiletries (shampoo, lotion, body wash), wash cloths, pillowcases, facial tissue

Donations will be taken to Rowan Helping Ministries on Monday morning.

CARING FOR CAREGIVERS SEMINAR

Elizabeth Shulman

author, guest speaker



★ **all are invited**
sign up; wear face masks

🕒 **20 February, 2022**
2 pm - 4 pm

☎ **704-636-3121**

FINDING SANCTUARY

practical tools to help with the physical, emotional and spiritual challenges of dementia caregiving

SIGN UP ONLINE

CHURCH HISTORY

"Looking back, moving forward"

The Life of James Aggrey

At the top of the hill in Salisbury's Oakdale Cemetery off Brenner Avenue, lies the body of a Methodist saint. Dr. James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey was born in the Gold Coast Colony of West Africa (now Ghana) on October 18, 1875. At age 7 he entered a Zion Methodist school where he received the sacrament of baptism and fell in love with learning. For the rest of his life he soaked up knowledge like water to a sponge.

In 1898 he sailed to America, and enrolled at Livingston College. His first semester curriculum included Greek, Latin, English, Geometry, and Geography. He graduated in 1902 at the head of his class and delivered a Latin salutatory at Commencement. When a professor became ill, Aggrey assumed the vacant teaching post and held it for two decades. In addition to undergraduate instruction, he taught Greek, Christian sociology, and economics at Hood Seminary. During this same period he pastored two small AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Zion congregations near Salisbury where he both preached the Gospel and taught parishioners modern agriculture. In 1903, he married Rosebud Douglas of Virginia, and they had four children.

In the 1920s Aggrey joined the Phelps-Stokes Commission on education. Their mission was to survey Africa and make recommendations for improving its educational system. He was the only African member of the commission and repeatedly confronted and confounded the racial prejudices of Europeans. They were amazed at the depth of his learning. What may have been originally meant as a token ethnic minority assignment soon elevated Aggrey to the commission's leadership. He could speak with Europeans as an equal and relate to native Africans as one of them.

While sailing to Africa, Aggrey used humor to deflect racial prejudice. Some Europeans objected to his presence in the dining room. Aggrey laughed off the insult saying, "The joke is on my side. [They] are packed like sardines in a tin; I have a cabin to myself, a table to myself, a whole steward to myself."^[1]

He was proud of his skin color and never apologized for being black. He even said that if he ever got to heaven and God offered him the opportunity to return to life as a white man, he would refuse. He said, "I have work to do that no white man can do."

He stood for racial equality but not racial amalgamation. He used a piano keyboard to illustrate his vision of harmony. He argued that you can play a tune only on the white keys or the black keys, but real harmony requires both. He wanted Africans to remain good Africans and not become poor copies of Europeans.

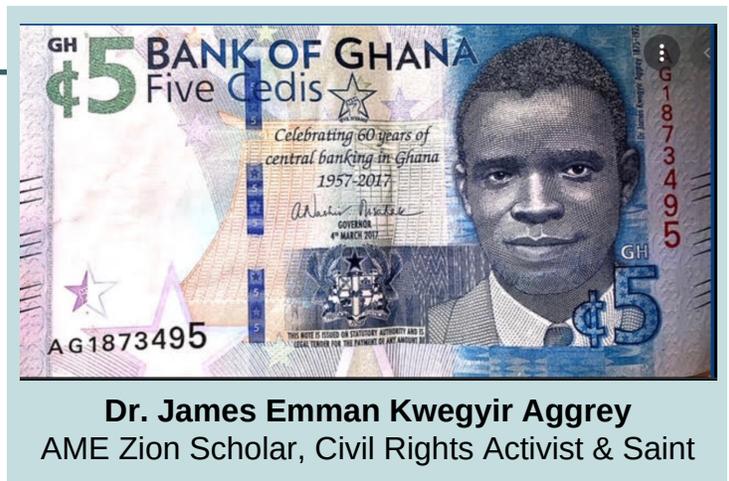
During a second Phelps-Stokes Commission trip to Africa, he founded the Achimota School in Ghana and served as vice principal from 1925 to 1927. He then returned to New York to complete a Ph.D. at Columbia University. Sadly, he died on July 30, 1927, at age 52 of meningitis. His body was returned to his family in Salisbury.

He received many accolades in appreciation for his educational work. Some even called him the Booker T. Washington of Africa. If you visit Ghana today you might spot his picture on a 5 Cedis currency note or see a piano keyboard image on the Achimota school crest. As one white settler in Africa said while still struggling with his own racial prejudice, "The man's a saint; damn his colour."^[2]

Fred Jordan, *church historian*

[1] Edwin W. Smith *Aggrey of Africa*, New York: Richard R. Smith, Inc., 1930, p.4

[2] *Ibid.*, p. 3



Dr. James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey
AME Zion Scholar, Civil Rights Activist & Saint

CREATION MUSEUM & ARK ENCOUNTER TRIP

3 Day Trip with Christian Tours

Join us for a trip to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter with Christian Tours, April 27 – 29, 2022. Reserve your spot with a \$200 non-refundable deposit per person. Deadline for deposit is March 01.

Total trip cost is: \$670 (single occupancy) | \$565 (double) | \$529 (triple) | \$509 (quad). Optional travel insurance is available at an additional cost of \$65 per person, due with deposit.

For more information and itinerary, please contact Josh Starnes at josh@fumcsalisbury.org.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE & COMMUNITY MEAL

LENT BEGINS MARCH 2



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
MARCH 2, 7:00PM

*our next
Community Meal*

*Wednesday
March 2
5:30pm*



Free meal
All are welcome

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Save the Date

COMPASSION CAMP
NOURISHING THE WORLD WITH LOVE AND KINDNESS

JULY 17-20 2022

5:30PM - 7:30PM

217 South Church St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Compassion Camp is a program where kids and families explore what it means to have compassion for others, ourselves, and the world.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

0-4 YRS
Nursery
Crossover Hall rooms B-106 & B-108

K-5TH
Sunday School
Sundays 10:00-10:45am

MONTHLY



PRE-K

K-3RD



4TH-5TH



Children's Ministry needs volunteers to serve in the nursery! Get in touch with Bailee to discuss opportunities! She can be reached at Bailee@fumcsalisbury.org or 704-754-0436

YOUTH MINISTRY

Salisbury Youth 6-12 GRADE MINISTRY

CONFIRMATION
SUNDAYS 10:00-10:45AM

YOUTH GROUP
SUNDAYS 4:00-5:30PM

Newsletter



WINTER RETREAT
6th-12th grade

Boone, NC
FEBRUARY 18-20

Attention: High School Seniors!

The Scholarship Committee meets in February. Expect to receive information from them soon.



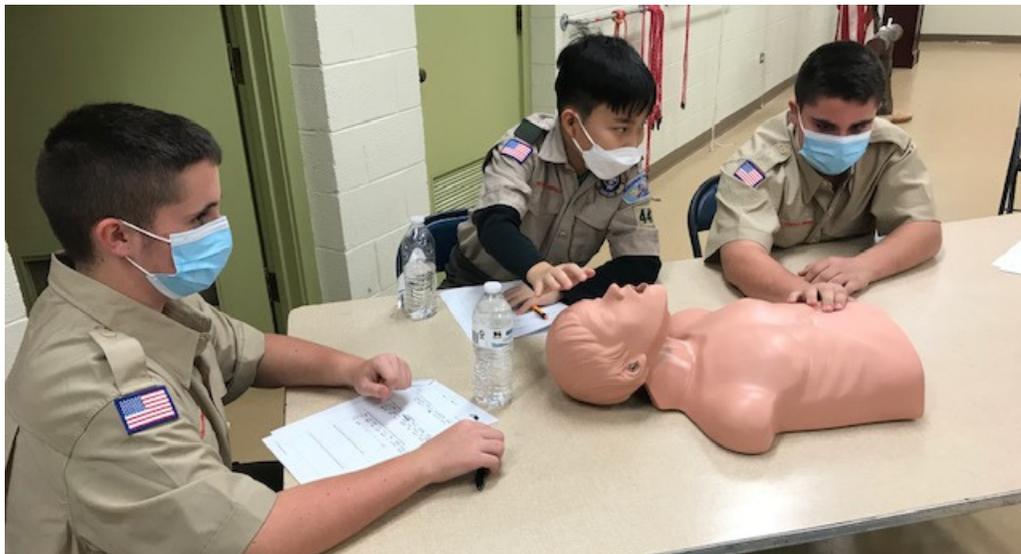
Sign Up For Winter Retreat!

All youth are invited to join us on our Winter Retreat. Youth retreats are an opportunity to get out of our day-to-day routines, which can free us to better hear God's voice. They're also a great time to have fun and bond as a group. Sign up by February 6.



SCOUTS AT FUMC

In January the Troop has been working on First Aid training with Rick Parker. This is an intense program that will prepare our scouts for most anything. Cub Scouts started back up January 10th and are preparing for the Pinewood Derby in February. All of the scouts will be collecting food on February 5th so we can have them for our Scout Sunday Service February 6th.



Scout Troop 442 (6-12)
Mondays at 7:00pm

Contact Bruce Kolkebeck (BK)
(704)433-8151 bkolback@gmail.com

Cub Pack 442 (k-5)
Mondays at 6:00pm

Contact Bill Shaffer
(678)641-3513 shaffb31@yahoo.com

**SCOUT
SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 6**

WOMENS PRAYER GROUP



New women's prayer group began meeting at Hendrix Barbecue (on W. Innes) in early January. They meet for breakfast on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 8:30am.

Lay leader Brenda Loflin and UMW President Barbara Senter shared a prayer and devotion at the first meeting, and encouraged all the ladies of the group to take a week to share.

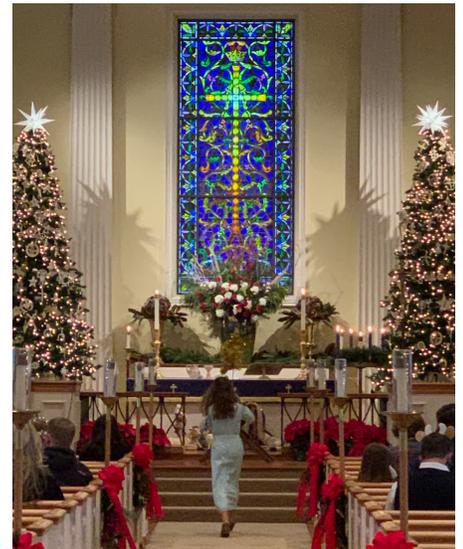
YOUNG ADULTS



Join Pastor Mark Conforti & other First UMC young adults for a weekly 30 minute discussion, drawing inspiration from TV's best sitcoms. Wednesdays in February, 9:00 - 9:30 pm
SIGN UP TODAY!



CHRISTMAS EVE



AFTER-SCHOOL CHILD CARE

We have started our new year and are excited to see what 2022 brings!

We will make a winter craft, have a Valentine's Day party, read some books and enjoy playing outside whenever the weather is suitable. It's always a busy time!

We will send out some Valentine cards to shut-ins to let them know someone is thinking of them. The children enjoy decorating the cards, writing a greeting; and it's a good time to talk to them about brightening someone's day they do not even know.

"The greatest legacy we can leave our children is happy memories."



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 James Johnson

2

3 Andy Swanson
Sutton Webb

4 Caroline Clark
Carolyn Elgin

5 Rachel Buchanan
Mo Culler
Ken Hollar

6 Samuel Howe
Earle Koontz
Garrett Miller

7 Court Drake

8 Connor Conforti

9 Regina Faggart

10 Michael Anderson
Glener Gilland
Carole Young

11 Mary Sue Leonard
Betsy Mowery

12

13 Ryan Anderson

14

15 Scotti Webb

16 Barry Gainer
Jerry Jackson Jr.
Nicholas Peltz
Amelia Steinman
Will Steinman

17 Lauren Williams

18

19 Spencer West

20 Barbara White

21 William Clark
Kaleb Robinson
Mel Smith

22 Bill Linn

23

24 Jeff Matthews

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

In Remembrance

Please keep these families in your prayers

DEWEY EUGENE RAYNOR, SR.
Brother of Faye Cline

August 16, 1947 - December 11, 2021

ADRIENNE ELIZABETH JONES
Daughter of Bobby Jones

May 31, 1982 - January 13, 2022

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

THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the wonderful care package! It means so much that you all thought of me at such a difficult time in the semester! I am excited to say that I ended the year strong. Thank you all again so much! Happy Holidays!

- Leah Wyrick



COMING UP...

Lent Begins

MARCH 2

Ash Wednesday is on March 2 this year, and Easter Day will be on April 17

Community Easter Egg Hunt

DATE TBD

We're collaborating with other downtown churches to host a community Easter Egg Hunt this spring! More info to come

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

APRIL 17

FUMC along with several other churches are coming together for a combined Easter Sunrise Service at Bell Tower Green Park

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.



DIRECTORY UPDATES



Access the online directory anytime by going to fumcsalisbury.ctrn.co, following the link on our website (under 'Connect'), or downloading the CTRN 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

217 SOUTH CHURCH STREET SALISBURY, NC 28144 | FUMCSALISBURY.ORG