

ECCLIESIA

January 2020

fumcsalisbury.org

FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

SALISBURY, NC
EST. 1783

IN THIS ISSUE



On the cover: Guiding the Way

Collage on canvas created by FUMC youth, torn pieces of Christmas magazines and advertisements. During Epiphany we celebrate Jesus the Son of God beginning with the visit of the wise men, and ending with the Transfiguration where Jesus' divinity is on full display.

2020, The Year of Prayer: Pages 3-4

In the coming year at FUMC we look to God for clear vision! Look for ways that this theme of prayer will be a focal point and source of energy for the church in 2020.

Advent with our Children and Youth: Pages 10-13

Our children and youth participated in Advent in a myriad of ways. We are thankful for their leadership, and for the adorable pictures we took during events in December. Please enjoy the pages of some of our best pictures of the season.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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REMARKS

The year 2020 will be “The Year of Prayer” at First United Methodist Church of Salisbury. Why? How will this impact us? And what will this mean?

We need clear vision to see the preferred future God has for us, so that we can take our next steps together. By now you have likely heard different schools, agencies, and institutions using the play on words of “2020” and “clear vision.” Yes, we all long for clear vision.

It helps! Moreover, it’s needed. Think about this example: planning a party.

If we’re planning a party, then it helps to have a clear vision about why we’re having the party. Is it a birthday party? A Super Bowl party? A clear vision informs how you decorate, the food & beverages you select, and also who you invite. The vision also keeps you motivated when life gets busy. When initial plans fall apart, and you’re exhausted from all of the cleaning, preparing, and communicating, the vision of the party will keep you moving forward. The party is worth it!

Isn’t this true regarding the church’s ministry? We need to have a clear vision about why we are the church, how to go about being the church, and what we will do. Otherwise, when life gets busy, initial plans fall apart, and we’re exhausted, it’s too easy for false – even idolatrous – ideas masquerading as vision to seem appealing. But we must not fall for it. The church is worth it!

As faithful Christians, we believe that clear vision comes through a life of prayer. We need to be about prayer, even more than usual. Within Salisbury, we have unique opportunities (e.g. the new Bell Tower Green Park) and challenges (e.g. decisions facing Rowan-Salisbury Schools) that significantly impact us. Coming up in 2020, our region, state and country will go through another election cycle. Also, our denomination will have another General Conference in May, when weighty matters will be considered. Yes indeed – we need to pray!

Throughout the year ahead, look for prayer playing an even more significant part in everything at church. So don’t be surprised when our meetings seem to focus more on prayer. Don’t be shocked during worship when we pray & reflect on the value of prayer. Look for more lessons, writings, and workshops on prayer, so that we can re-discover prayer as the heartbeat of faith.

A story from the Bible captures beautifully how this heartbeat gives us life. It involves Moses, the man known as God’s friend (James 2:23). According to Exodus, Moses talked regularly with God. These holy conversations – listening to God, talking to God, and essentially being with God – were prayer personified. In one particular scene, Moses asked God for a blessing, namely that God’s holy presence would guide the Israelite people as they traveled. Moses persisted with God, saying: “Now show me your glory (Exodus 33:18).” Then God placed Moses into a cleft of the rock at Mount Sinai. Soon thereafter, Moses caught a brief glimpse of God. And it radically impacted Moses!

Imagine what will happen when we, like Moses, earnestly pray to see God’s glory. This seems straightforward, right? Sadly, however, we often have it backwards. Instead of praying to see God’s glory, we long for others to see our glory. As our church commits this next year to a life of prayer, we will see more clearly why we are the church, how to be the church, and what we should do.

May God bless you in 2020,
Pastor Mark



PRAYER CALENDAR

Rowan Missional Network

POVERTY

January 5- 26

RACIAL HEALING

February 2-23

LENT

March 1-April 12 (Easter Sunday)

GENERAL CONFERENCE

April 19-May 3

SAINTS OF THE CHURCH

May 10-July 5

JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

July 12-July 19

Election of Bishops

SCHOOLS

July 26-August 30

RECOVERY

September 6-27

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 4

FOR OUR NATION & ELECTIONS

October 11-October 25

FAMILIES

November 1- November 22

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON

November 29-December 27



**Praying in the
Trinity**

February 23



**Lenten Prayer
Stations**

March 29



**Prayer Walk
Downtown
Salisbury**

May 31



**Prayer Drive
for Schools**

August 30



**Election Night
Communion
Service**

November 3

CHURCH HISTORY

"Looking back, moving forward."

Methodism began as a religious society within the Church of England. Following the Revolutionary War, lay Methodist preachers met in Baltimore on December 25, 1784, to form The Methodist Episcopal Church. The Christmas Conference delegates elected Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury as their first general superintendents. Three years later Methodists started calling these men bishops.



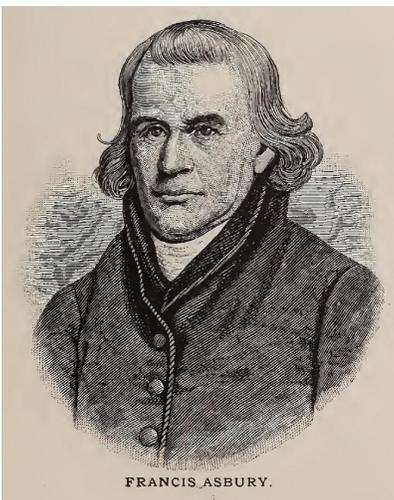
Diminutive and often overweight, Thomas Coke was born in South Wales to a well-to-do family. He studied at Jesus College, Oxford, and earned the Doctor of Civil Law degree. An ordained priest in the Church of England, he also became a devout member of the Methodist Societies. Often referred to by contemporaries as Dr. Coke, he returned to England a year after the Christmas Conference and promoted Methodism's world-wide evangelistic mission. John Wesley called him "the flea" because Coke constantly hopped from one place to another. In addition to other countries, he made eight more trips to America.

Francis Asbury was in many ways Coke's opposite. He was born to a working class family near Birmingham, England. He only completed the eighth grade. Asbury worked briefly as a metalworker's apprentice before becoming one of John Wesley's lay preachers. In 1771 at age twenty-six, he volunteered to meet the growing need for Methodist lay preachers in America. He never returned to England.

At the conclusion of the 1784 Christmas Conference, Francis Asbury headed south on horseback to visit the newly formed churches. He reached Salisbury, NC, on February 10, 1785, and spoke to a small congregation whose size was diminished due to it also being a court day. His sermon challenged Salisbury's citizens to seek holiness through disciplined lives. Methodists then as now believe religion involves more than a one-time conversion. Methodists are expected continually to use the means of grace to grow spiritually.

On February 14th the following year, Asbury returned to Salisbury in a drenching rain. He had to swim a flooded Grant's Creek before reaching town "wet and weary." He remained three days and conducted a conference for a surprisingly large number of preachers who showed up in spite of the bad weather. He returned in later years for two additional Salisbury conferences.

In March of 1791 Asbury again traveled to Salisbury along with Thomas Coke. Asbury felt unwell and Bishop Coke delivered the message. Many churches claim that Asbury once preached there. Salisbury's congregation has the rarer distinction of having heard sermons from both of Methodism's first bishops.



On January 13, 1808, Asbury's made a final Salisbury visit that required negotiating frozen roads. Asbury noted in his journal, "on the once [sic] side I may put down cold, hunger, rain, floods, frost, bad roads, and a lame horse; on the other, prayer, patience, peace, love; the balance is greatly in my favor."

Asbury never married. Until his death in 1816 he remained completely devoted to God's work. He traveled at least 130,000 miles by horse, preached more than ten thousand sermons, and ordained from two to three thousand preachers. He was both a man of the people and the organizational genius behind Methodism's rapid growth. Asbury was passionate about the Gospel and diligent in his personal discipline. He committed his life to being made perfect in love and exemplifies the spiritual zeal badly needed today if Methodism is once again to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land.

Fred Jordan, Church Historian



Building Team in Action

Plans are underway to build an accessibility ramp for Ann Coggins. We would like to do this with donated funds rather than as a church budget item. We hope to begin construction as soon as the weather clears this spring.

You can help in two ways. First, see Gary Cox (704.279.4777) to make a pledge toward this project. We anticipate the cost will be about \$1200 for materials. Second, notify Fred Jordan (704.633.4514) of your willingness to be part of the construction crew. Working together we can make this happen for a wonderful lady in our church.

The picture above is of our most recently completed ramp project.



Cuba 2020: An Update

The team is preparing for our trip to Cuba in the summer. We are planning some fundraising opportunities to help team members meet their goals and earn money toward their trip or toward ministry money we will be able to use.

We are excited to return to the same town as 2018. This time we will have the opportunity to reconnect with our friends as we continue the work we began. Cuba is an incredibly unique country. Despite their numerous challenges they are some of the most faithful and joyful people. When we were in Cuba last our host church displayed such a love for God throughout the whole week. It was moving to see. On our last night we had the opportunity to share words of testimony and encouragement. Several of our group shared with tears in our eyes. One team member, Cathy who spoke Spanish and helped with translating, explained to our Cuban friends where the tears came from.

When we witness so many examples of people living their faith genuinely, every day, depending on God for survival; it changes ones perspective on our own lives. When we learn more about how other people live, our compassion increases and all are encouraged.

WORSHIP: ACOLYTES



FUMC has a wonderful team of dedicated acolytes - youth in 6th - 12th grade who take part in leading worship every week. These acolytes carry the light that reminds us of God's presence into worship, and carry the light of Christ back out into the world. We will be training new acolytes again on January 12!

We also give thanks for the new processional cross and candlelighters that were recently given for our acolytes to use for the Glory of God.

YOUTH MINISTRY

6 Ways to Help Your Middle Schooler Develop Positive Body Image

by Ashley Bohinc

Middle schoolers are already self-conscious about all the changes happening in their bodies. Add to that the messages they're receiving and the pressures they're getting in regards to body image, and you've got the potential for some major body image issues. And let's be clear: This is an issue for middle school girls and boys alike!... How can you as a parent step in to guide them through so many changes and help them build a more positive body image? Well, here are 6 tips!

1. Consider your language when talking about food, exercise, and appearance. Words are powerful so choose yours carefully when it comes to this topic. Use words like "healthy" and "unhealthy" rather than "good" and "bad" or "fat" and "thin." Be careful not to shame your kids for what they are or aren't eating. Avoid making jokes or comments about the appearance of others in front of your kid. And even more so, avoid making those kinds of comments directly to your kid.

2. Shift your focus. Take the focus away from their appearance alone. Instead of talking about what they look like, talk about your middle schooler as a whole person. This takes the focus off their appearance and puts it on celebrating all of who they are. Choose positive words that will build your middle schooler's self-esteem about who they are as people, not just how they look.

3. Talk about the media messages you see. You can't shelter your middle schooler from unhealthy messages about body image in the media. They're literally everywhere! But by talking about the messages they may see on TV, the Internet, in magazines, through social media, and more, you can help them build a filter for what's real and healthy and what isn't. Encourage your middle schooler to talk to you about the messages they receive and the questions they have about them. This will help them better distinguish what's healthy and what isn't...

Find the rest of this article, and more encouragement for parents at ParentCue.org

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Childrens Church

Each week on Sunday mornings, children ages 5-3rd grade will have the opportunity to participate in Children's Church. The purpose of Children's Church is to assist in teaching our children how to worship.

Our goal is to help our children transition from being in the nursery to participating in worship. Children will become familiar with hymns, praise songs, creeds, scripture verses and prayers. Children's church also provides an age appropriate sermon.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan Approved at November Church Council Meeting

A new strategic plan was approved by Church Council at their November meeting. We are thrilled to begin putting this plan into place! Some of the things in this plan that we're looking forward to implementing include:

- Increasing opportunities for children and youth to lead in worship
- Build on the children's choir program
- Support our auxiliary ministries with renewed energy

The Strategic Plan casts a vision into 2023. We encourage you to pray for these efforts, and look for a way to get involved! Words that continued to come up in our conversations throughout the process included 'intergenerational' 'warm' and 'welcoming.' These words could paint a beautiful picture of ministry for the next season of FUMC's life! If you would like to see a full copy you can contact the church office, or email jenni@fumcsalisbury.org

Thank you to all who participated in the many discussions that helped create this plan! This includes those who attended the Children & Youth Ministries Summit in June, to those who served on Task Forces, parents who provided feedback, and all those who helped carry the conversation before the formal process began. Your passion for the church, and love for children will be the key to turning the goals this Strategic Plan contains into a reality!



ARC Festival of Trees

The Hannah circle of the United Methodist Women decorated the ARC Tree for the annual Festival of Trees!

This year's tree theme was 'Now I lay me down to sleep' and the tree was decorated with pajamas, slippers, socks, and stuffed animal toys.

After the Festival of Trees all items were donated to Families First. The UMW would like to thank everyone who donated items for the tree.

Thank you!

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Covenant Groups Forming

January brings a new opportunity to join a Covenant Group!

These groups are organized around the question, 'How is it with your soul?' These groups will 'watch over one another with love' (John Wesley's phrase), 'grow in grace' together, and together become deeper disciples.

These Covenant Groups will be a means of grace to you, and will become an anchor in your life. They do not displace Sunday Schools or other study and fellowship opportunities, but are a place to form deep, abiding, stable relationships in the midst of a demanding and chaotic world.

Sign up at fumcsalisbury.org, contact Pastor Stacey (stacey@fumcsalisbury.org), or fill out a blue form in the narthex.

Group meetings will begin mid-January, and continue through April.



COVENANT GROUPS
Grow deeper.

What do Covenant Groups look like?

- Covenant groups are typically 5-7 persons, to allow for authentic relationships and time for each person to share
- Typically, these meet for one hour per week
- Covenant groups are guided by a covenant, which each group will consider. These include things like:
 - Confidentiality: what happens in the group stays with your group... this is a place of trust. Attend regularly
 - We will pray for one another
 - We will be accountable to one another
 - The central goal of our group is 'soul-tending'- to answer 'How is it (Really) with my soul?'
 - Together, we will be in mission together by:

How do I become part of a Covenant Group?

- Fill out a sign-up form on the church website
- Or contact Pastor Stacey

ADVENT WITH OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Our Children's Choirs represented our church beautifully at the 46th annual Tree of Hope lighting at the hospital. They sang "This Little Light of Mine," "Away in a Manger," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas!" Below the children enjoy a cookie party after rehearsal.



ADVENT WITH OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



The children led us in worship during the Service of Joy, and we enjoyed making gingerbread houses following the service.

This year's first Community Christmas Festival created some new memories as we learned about Christmas traditions in countries around the world!

ADVENT WITH OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



After the annual Thanksgiving Potluck our youth and club 45 students helped decorate the church for Advent. We especially loved hanging Crismons on the lobby tree.

Club 45 and the youth took time to serve others at Rowan Helping Ministries and One Church One Child, and had fun together at their Christmas parties!



ADVENT WITH OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Did you notice all the ways that our children and youth helped lead worship during Advent and Christmas Eve?

The church is blessed to have so many dedicated acolytes. During Advent the acolytes also lit the advent wreath; and our children were adorable in their roles at the Paper Bag Pageant!



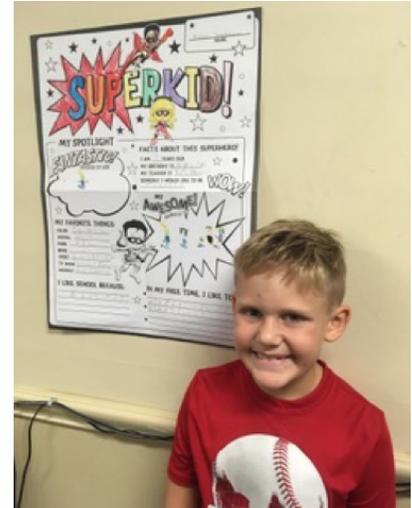
AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE

Learning is not a race for information, it's a walk of discovery.

Happy New Year from all of us at After-School Child Care. It seems like we just started the new school year and 2020 is here! In the last month, we have enjoyed holiday crafts, books, a party and some fun activities. We sent cards to shut-ins and talked about the true meaning of Christmas.

Our year is going well and we look forward to 2020 to learn, play and grow together. We have some openings in our program, so please share the word if you or anyone you know may be interested in child care after school in grades K – 5. We offer a faith-based program with daily snacks, free play, homework assistance and more! Please call (704) 433-6679 for more information.

“While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about.”Angela Schwindt



Welcome Mrs. Brenda!

The After-School Child Care Program would like to welcome Mrs. Brenda Williams. She is a van driver and assistant working Monday through Friday from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM. She is getting to know the children as we work, learn and play together.

From Mrs. Brenda:

“Hello! I am the mother of three children whom all attended Rowan Salisbury Schools. I am a retired tutor from the school system after working for over seventeen years. My passion and purpose in life is to serve children. I have found much joy and motivation serving children of all ages. I would like to thank you for entrusting me with your precious jewels in this phenomenal program. God Bless!”



PRESCHOOL

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. We had a bumper crop of coins (and bills) for our Penny Harvest which was donated to the Salisbury Post's Christmas Happiness Fund. All totaled, the children from our preschool donated \$441.08. Special thanks to all the preschool families and church friends that contributed to our successful Penney Harvest this year.

With the new year starting, it's also time to start thinking about the next school year as well. Preschool registration for currently enrolled students, siblings of currently or previously enrolled students, and FUMC members will begin on Tuesday January 21. Open registration for the public will start on Monday, January 27. If you have any friends with preschool-aged children, please spread the word about our program. If you have any questions about our program contact Patsy Langlais at 704-754-0443.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



We have been very busy at the First United Methodist Child Development Center! We have finished our unit on learning all about trees! The children were very excited to have a Volunteer Reader from Smart Start Rowan come read and donate a book to our class! In January we will learn all about clothes: How do people make clothes? What are features about clothes? How is cloth made? What special clothes do people wear to work? How do we take care of clothes?

The children will continue to attend Chapel, sing and learn all about God's Love, as we say our blessing throughout the day! *The First United Methodist Child Development center is now accepting registration for enrollment for full time care, Monday-Friday 6:30am- 6:00pm serving ages 3-5 years of age. For more information please contact the Director, Carey Swanner at cdc@fumcsalisbury.org or 704-636-3121, ext. 110.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Robert Anderson, III
Amber Conrad
Thomas Paffrath
Andy Storey
Nancy Zimmerman

2
3

4 Chad Cross
Beth Yelvington

5 Ellis Hartsell
Jenny Nussman

6 Britni Branson
Maude DeGrotte
Spencer Storey

7

8 Lainey Cook
Andrew Goodwin
Laura Johnson

9

10 Shirley Disseler
Wendy Douglas

11 Hazel Kirk
Alisha Mastro
Lois Poteat
Russ Snyder
Cecelia Strickland

12 Christie Chea
Skye Mowery
Nancy Sherriff
Jean West

13 Kim Grenoble
Rikki Spencer
Katelyn Storey

14 Joel Goodwin, II
Scott Johnson

15

16 Coleman Bready
Evan Koontz
Suzanna Maxwell

17 Noelle Cross
Wayne Hager

18 Betsy Crowell
Jim Molitor

19 Dan Sullivan

20 Norman Clark, Jr.
Eli Robinson

21 Olive Robinson

22 Kathi Allen
Betty Wilhelm

23 Liz Snyder

24 Jim Martin

25 Tim Bivens
Rhoda Calloway

26 Fred Bachl
Cress Goodnight
Gracie Lineberry
Sara Jean Maness

27 Roland Fowler
Wesley Ludwig
Andrew Newman

28 Betty Dan Spencer
Wayne Cline

29 Corey Basinger

30 Jeff Insley
Mike Jordan
Susan Maxwell
Teague Rowland

31 Bruton Allen
Mike Fansler



JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	30 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - Scout Room	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 10:00 AM Staff Meeting-Harter Office Suite 2:00 PM Chrismon Class-B104 (Christian Forum)	1 New Year's Day - Office Closed	2 7:00 PM AA-B112 (Golden Rule Room) 7:00 PM Alanon-B110 (Conference Room)	3 8:00 AM Intergenerational trip to Cary NC Chinese laterns-buses 12:00 PM Deadline for Ecclesia articles 7:00 PM AA-B112 (Golden Rule Room)	4 9:45 AM Calendar Planning Meeting-Fellowship Hall
5 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Open Arms Ministry-offsite 5:30 PM Salisbury Youth-Fellowship Hall	6 10:00 AM "With these hands"-Fellowship Hall 10:00 AM Naomi Circle - B107 (Parlor) & Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Cub Scouts Pack 442-Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Hannah Circle-B104 (Seekers Room) 6:30 PM Susanne Circle-offsite 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - Scout Room	7 10:00 AM Staff Meeting-Harter Office Suite 2:00 PM Chrismon Class-B104 (Christian Forum) 6:00 PM SPRC-B110 (Conference Room)	8 2:00 PM Deadline for Bulletin announcements 5:15 PM Children's Choirs-Music Suite 5:30 PM Midweek@FIRST-Fellowship Hall 6:15 PM Kids Connection-B101 6:15 PM The Casting Queens-B110 (Conference Room) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir-Music Suite	9 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00 AM Rowan Missional Network-B107 6:30 PM RHM Supper 7:00 PM AA-B112 (Golden Rule Room) 7:00 PM Alanon-B110 (Conference Room)	10 6:00 AM RHM Breakfast 7:00 PM AA-B112 (Golden Rule Room)	11
12 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Salisbury Youth-Fellowship Hall	13 Naomi Circle- Parlor & Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Cub Scouts Pack 442-Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - Scout Room	14 10:00 AM Methodist Connection-Fellowship Hall 10:00 AM Staff Meeting-Harter Office Suite 2:00 PM Chrismon Class-B104 (Christian Forum)	15 2:00 PM Deadline for Bulletin announcements 5:15 PM Children's Choirs-Music Suite 5:30 PM Midweek@FIRST-Fellowship Hall 6:15 PM Kids Connection-B101 6:15 PM The Casting Queens-B110 (Conference Room) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir-Music Suite	16 7:00 PM AA-B112 (Golden Rule Room) 7:00 PM Alanon-B110 (Conference Room)	17 7:00 PM AA-B112 (Golden Rule Room) 7:00 PM Mission Bridge Club-B107 (Parlor)	18 10:00 AM Children's Ministry Play Date-Williams Playground
19 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Salisbury Youth-Fellowship Hall	20 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - Scout Room	21 10:00 AM Staff Meeting-Harter Office Suite 2:00 PM Chrismon Class-B104 (Christian Forum) 6:00 PM Autism Society Meeting-rooms B110 (Christian Forum) & B104 6:00 PM Trustees Meeting-Harter Office Suite	22 2:00 PM Deadline for Bulletin announcements 5:15 PM Children's Choirs-Music Suite 5:30 PM Midweek@First resumes-Fellowship Hall 5:30 PM Midweek@FIRST-Fellowship Hall 6:15 PM Kids Connection-B101 6:15 PM The Casting Queens-B110 (Conference Room) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir-Music Suite	23 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 PM AA-B112 (Golden Rule Room) 7:00 PM Alanon-B110 (Conference Room)	24 7:00 PM AA-B112 (Golden Rule Room)	25
26 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Salisbury Youth-Fellowship Hall	27 6:00 PM Cub Scouts Pack 442-Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - Scout Room	28 10:00 AM Staff Meeting-Harter Office Suite 2:00 PM Chrismon Class-B104 (Christian Forum) 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting-C206	29 2:00 PM Deadline for Bulletin announcements 5:15 PM Children's Choirs-Music Suite 5:30 PM Midweek@FIRST-Fellowship Hall 6:15 PM Kids Connection-B101 6:15 PM The Casting Queens-B110 (Conference Room) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir-Music Suite	30 7:00 PM AA-B112 (Golden Rule Room) 7:00 PM Alanon-B110 (Conference Room)	31 7:00 PM AA-B112 (Golden Rule Room)	1

FUMC FAMILY AND EXTENDED FAMILY TRANSITIONS

In Remembrance

Please keep these families in your prayers

BARBARA LANGFORD

Wife of Tom Langford

November 19, 2019

JAKE SHARPE

December 1, 2019

HOWELL LEE DAVIS

*Husband of Mary Kathleen Forbes,
Mother of Mary Heather Steinman*

December 2, 2019

JOHN ANTHONY SHEEHAN JR.

Husband of Connie Sheehan

December 18, 2019

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

THANK YOU!

A huge heartfelt THANK YOU for your donations, time and efforts in making our first Community Christmas Festival a success! We had a nice turnout and a wonderful time in sharing Christmas Around the World with our community! Many requested that we do it again next year – so I will be looking for your support in 2020!

Many thanks!

Bailee Weisensel, Childrens Director

*Thank
you*



Our staff enjoyed a lovely Christmas luncheon provided by Staff Parish Relations Committee in December. We're grateful to serve together and to serve here at FUMC!

The staff would also like to say thank you to our congregation for your generosity and outpouring of love in the form of the Christmas love offering that was given this year. We thank you for your love and appreciation!

With Love,
FUMC Church Staff

SAVE THE DATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Gaining Momentum

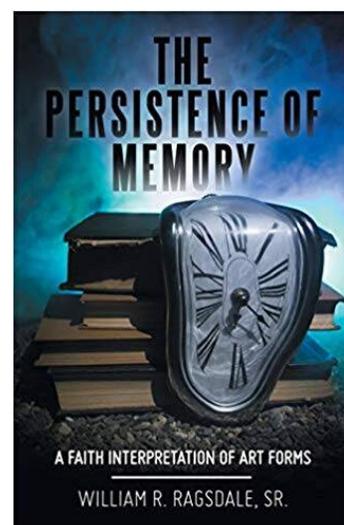
Capital Campaign

Coming in February 2020 there will be a capital campaign to raise money for much needed renovations. There will be several ways for you to get involved!

Methodist Connection

Valentines Party

Older adults are invited to join in the fun at Methodist Connection! On February 11 join the group for a Valentines Day celebration in the Fellowship Hall. 12:00pm.



Midweek @ First:

Author Rev. Bill Ragsdale

Rev. Bill Ragsdale has written a book and will be conducting a book signing after the Wednesday night meal on January 15.

His book The Persistence of Memory: A Faith Interpretation of Art Forms, will be available to purchase for \$8

A promotional graphic for a 'Women's Beach Retreat'. The background is a soft-focus image of a beach with an open book and a piece of driftwood in the foreground. The text is centered and reads: 'HOLDEN BEACH' in small white capital letters, followed by 'Women's Beach Retreat' in a large, white, cursive font. Below that, it says 'MARCH 13-15' in small white capital letters, 'RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY! COST: \$135 FOR LODGING' in white capital letters, and 'CONTACT PASTOR STACEY (STACEY@FUMCSALISBURY.ORG | 704.636.3121) OR SIGN UP AT FUMCSALISBURY.ORG' in white capital letters.

ECCLESIA

NEWLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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