

# ECCLESIA

*September 2020*



# IN THIS ISSUE

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## **On the cover: Acolytes Preparing for Worship**

When the church transitioned to live-streaming worship, we were able to welcome the acolytes back to serve! Acolytes hold the responsibility of leading the congregation into worship, then back into the world.

We have a fantastic team of youth who lead us in worship every week. In this photo Corbin and Evan Barber practice the new acolyte protocols. They helped film an instructional video that was sent to all of our acolytes to help them lead while following some added measures to help keep everyone safe.

## **Page 10: Meet Joshua**

Get to know our Music Director! Visit page 10 to learn more about Joshua, and welcome him by driving by to say hello on Sunday September 6!

## **Page 16: Mums for Missions**

The United Methodist Women are selling mums again this year! They are available in purple, yellow, and rust. Each plant is \$7.00, and all proceeds go toward local mission projects chosen by the UMW. These beautiful flowers are available for pre-order until September 13.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Reverend Doctor Mark Conforti, *Senior Pastor*  
The Reverend Stacey Lundy, *Associate Pastor*  
Mrs. Becca Blackmon, *Business Administrator*  
Mr. Mike Fansler, *Building Superintendent*  
Ms. Jen Fogt, *Director of Youth Ministries*  
Mrs. Christine Maloney, *Administrative Assistant*  
Mr. Joshua Starnes, *Director of Music & Organist*  
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Mrs. Courtney Bost  
*Lead Teacher/Director of Child Development Center*

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## REMARKS

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In the “reMarks” articles from the past two editions of the ECCLESIA, I wrote about worship. Let’s keep thinking about worship. Only this time, instead of peering into the technical terms, which are certainly helpful for a common language, let’s ponder the human experience during the worshipping moment.

The late Dr. J. Wallace Hamilton, who for many years preached at the Methodist Pasadena Community Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, referenced a physician, Dr. Richard Hoffman, in one of his sermons. Dr. Hoffman would say that civilization’s three major killers are not heart disease, cancer, and accidents, but calendars, telephones, and clocks. He called this “the tyranny of the accelerated life.” Guess when Dr. Hamilton preached this. The year was 1960! Sixty years have passed. In due time, we have sadly settled too well into “the tyranny of the accelerated life.” Some might even call it *typical*.

Is there such thing as a *typical worship service*? How about a *typical person*? I suspect not. A worship service may feature regular elements from one Sunday to the next. When this happens, the worshipping community builds an identity and tradition over time. This can be quite a lovely thing, so long as worship happens with authenticity and purpose. When people start to look at each other and ask, “why are we doing this?” then some deeper questions need to be asked. The despondent pew-sitter who looks around the sanctuary making the afternoon’s grocery list may very well describe every worship service as *typical*.

I pray that you do not. Even more so, I hope that you do not see yourself as a *typical* person. You are created in God’s holy image, complete with unique talents, interests, and passions. What would it look like if we, truly knowing ourselves, offered ourselves to Almighty God in worship? For starters, no worship service would ever be called *typical*. What’s more, we would stand a chance of being transformed by the Holy Spirit. Whether we arrive to worship with sheer joy or unbearable agony, when we encounter the Good News of Jesus Christ we receive what only God can provide. And it makes all the difference!

In recent months, we have found ourselves confused, disheartened, and fearful. The human experience can bear only so much. It seems that some can hold more than others. Nonetheless, recently our threshold for dread has likely been matched or surpassed at least once. Can you think of when that time may have been for you? St. John of the Cross described this as “the dark night of the soul.” When bone-weary exhaustion overwhelms us, when our unreasonable thoughts spiral out of control, when fatigue erases the possibility for emotional equilibrium, then we are likely there.

I believe that the COVID-19 pandemic reveals how “the accelerated life” as Dr. Huffman put it sixty years ago, ultimately does not deliver. What’s more, it leaves us utterly depleted. As such, many approach worship asking God for help with a newfound desperation. Good news – that is the heartbeat of the Psalmist:

*“I lift up my eyes to the hills -- from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”  
(Psalm 121:1-2, NRSV)*

As we worship, from home or gathered together on church property, let’s look to God together, trusting that God provides the help we need.

May God bless you and keep you,  
*Pastor Mark*



# CONNECT AND REACH OUT

# CONNECT & Reach Out

## CONNECT

**Ice Cream Social**  
*September 27, 4:00pm*

**Fall Festival**  
*October 28, 4:00pm at the church*

**Church Picnic**  
*November 8, 1:00pm*

## REACH OUT

**Care Packages**  
*Collecting donations September 8-20*

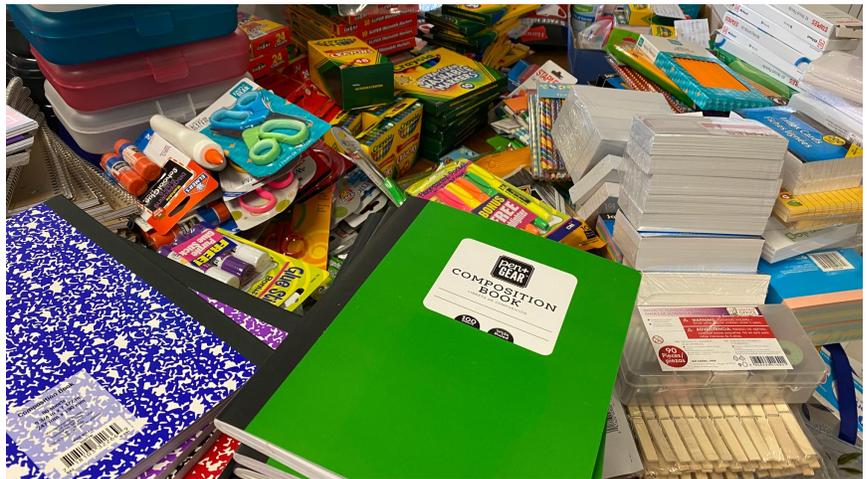
**Day of Service**  
*October 3, 10:00am*

**Harvest Processional**  
*November 22, during worship (drop off groceries in advance)*

*Join us for worship, livestreaming Sundays at 11!*

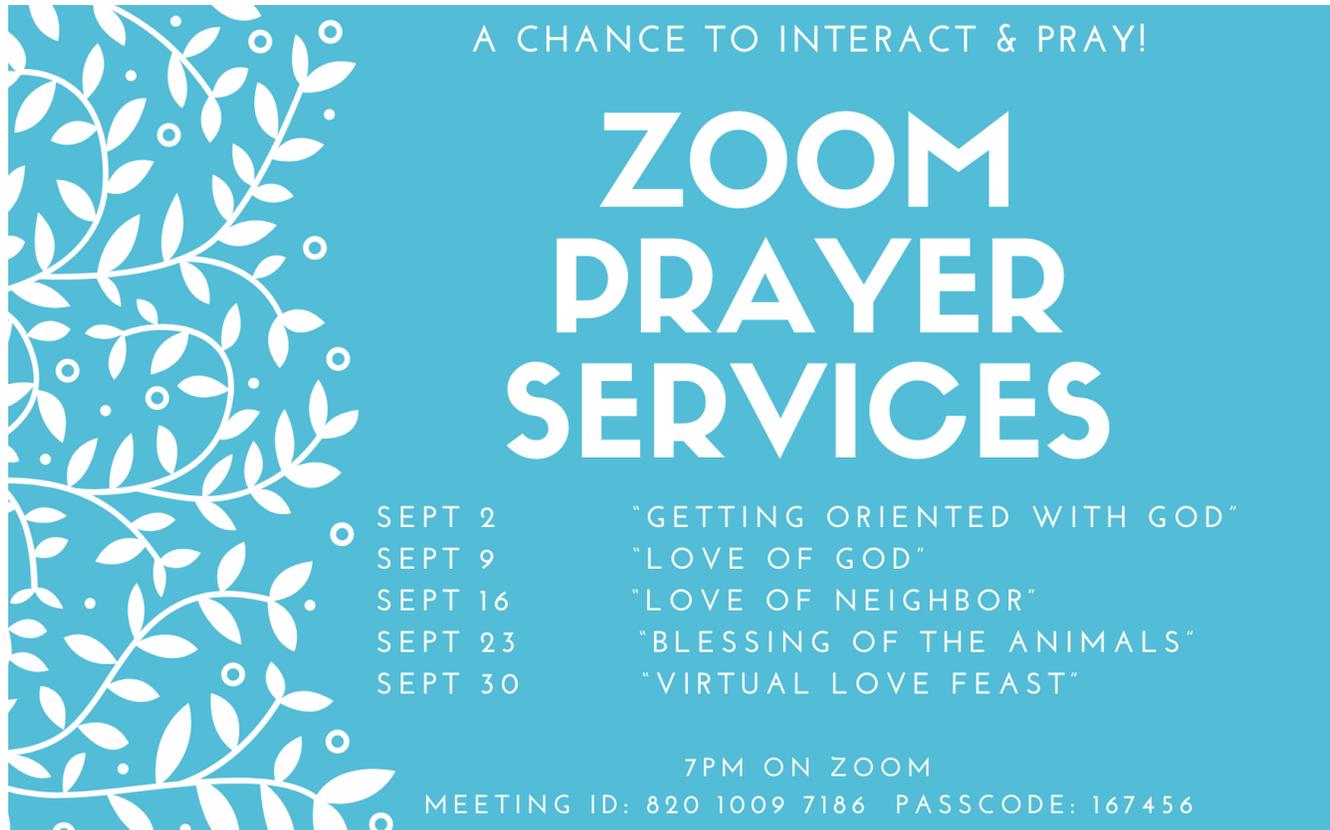


## SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR ISENBERG



## VIRTUAL PRAYER SERVICE

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A CHANCE TO INTERACT & PRAY!

# ZOOM PRAYER SERVICES

SEPT 2	"GETTING ORIENTED WITH GOD"
SEPT 9	"LOVE OF GOD"
SEPT 16	"LOVE OF NEIGHBOR"
SEPT 23	"BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS"
SEPT 30	"VIRTUAL LOVE FEAST"

7PM ON ZOOM  
MEETING ID: 820 1009 7186 PASSCODE: 167456

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENT

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### **"Blessed be the tie that binds..."**

We are living the reality that the Church is the people of God at work within the world. The work of God's kingdom continues - in the building, on the lawn, within our community - even virtually! We are grateful that the Spirit and love of God bind us together in this community of faith.

Look for a stewardship mailing at the end of September to include a letter, a pledge card, and return envelope.

*This year's theme "Blessed be the tie that binds" comes from the hymn text of the same name, hymn 557 in the United Methodist Hymnal.*

# CHURCH HISTORY

*"Looking back, moving forward"*

Methodism began in England as a lay led small group ministry. It gave men and women with little education and no prior leadership experience significant responsibilities. Yet thanks to the organizational genius of John Wesley they did not proceed without supervision. From its conception, Methodism was a connectional movement with strict religious standards and clear lines of accountability. It fell to Wesley through a series of conferences to watch over the lay leadership in love.



When Francis Asbury arrived on the American continent in 1771, he brought with him a firm commitment to Wesley's connectional system. As one of the two first church bishops or superintendents, he created a modern managerial system that no 19th century merchant could match. There were class leaders, circuit stewards, book stewards, exhorters, local preachers, circuit riders, and presiding elders. They were bound together in class meetings, circuit preaching, quarterly meetings, annual conferences, and a quadrennial general conference. All these groups churned out detailed statistical reports that were consolidated and published on a regular basis.

All Christian churches are organized in one of two ways. Some churches, like the Baptists, exist as free standing independent congregations. They make their own rules, call and ordain their own clergy, and establish their own statement of beliefs. However, connectional churches like Methodists are organically bound to each other under a clear set of commonly accepted rules and procedures. The great majority of America's churches are congregational. The United Methodist Church, however, has always been connectional.

Each summer The United Methodist Churches of Western North Carolina meet at Lake Junaluska to ordain clergy, approve mutual ministries, and establish a budget to pay for our work together. Expressed as a program performance budget it does three things. First, it provides funds to select, support, assign, and supervise competent ministerial leadership for each local church. Second, it supports the local church's vital ministry through resources and training. And third, it allows the churches to be in ministries together that no single church could undertake on their own. Each church's portion of that budget is apportioned based on a fair and equitable formula. Paying the apportionment is the first mission responsibility of every local Methodist church.

The 2020 pandemic has forced many changes to our conference schedule. The elders (i.e. ordained clergy) met electronically in June and approved the ordination of new pastors like Stacey Lundy. The business of the conference was conducted in a one day August Zoom session with an equal number of lay and clergy delegates voting. Stacey's ordination will occur in a worship service with limited attendance in October.

Over the years the structure of the Methodist connection has changed to meet the evolving needs of a modern world. We now have district superintendents instead of presiding elders, and the class leader is now called the Sunday school superintendent. However, what has not changed is Methodism's commitment to work with each other in the common cause of Jesus Christ. Methodists believe we are stronger together when every congregation assumes its shares of the larger church's world-wide ministry. That is what it means to be a connectional church.

Fred Jordan, Church Historian

# CARE PACKAGE PROJECT

DROP OFF SEPTEMBER 8-20 | PORTE COCHERE ON FISHER ST

## Care Package Project

### • ITEMS OF CARE & COMFORT FOR SENIORS •

*such as...*

- Lip balm
- Cleaning supplies
- Tea, Coffee, Cider
- Jigsaw puzzle
- Lotion
- Hand soap
- New deck of cards
- Candy
- Stamps
- Travel size toiletries
- Warm socks
- Chocolate
- Blank cards
- Small hand sanitizer
- Word search & Crossword puzzles
- Individually-packaged snacks
- Pens
- Household paper products
- Fall decorations

## FOOD PACKING AT ROWAN HELPING MINISTRIES

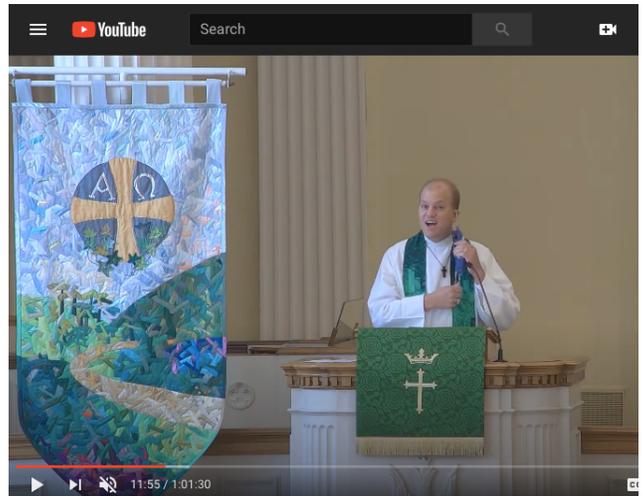
We have continued to have a great response for our weekly food packing parties at Rowan Helping Ministries! If you're interested in helping, contact Jen in the church office.



# LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

Plans have been in motion to move to livestreaming FUMC's worship services for some time now. After researching the equipment needed, waiting for that equipment on back order, installing, and training - we made the switch in August!

Livestreaming has allowed us to add more elements of worship back into the service. What addition has been the most meaningful to you? Have you loved the addition of more music, or incorporating more prayer? Did you miss seeing our acolytes lead us into worship? We would love to hear from you!



**Call 1-704-378-8581**  
to hear our latest sermon

sermonbyphone.com

## Sermons By Phone

We know live-streaming is not easily accessible for everyone. If you would rather listen to the pastors on the phone, you can call 1-704-378-8581 to listen to Pastors Mark and Stacey's latest sermons.

# STORIES OF GENEROSITY

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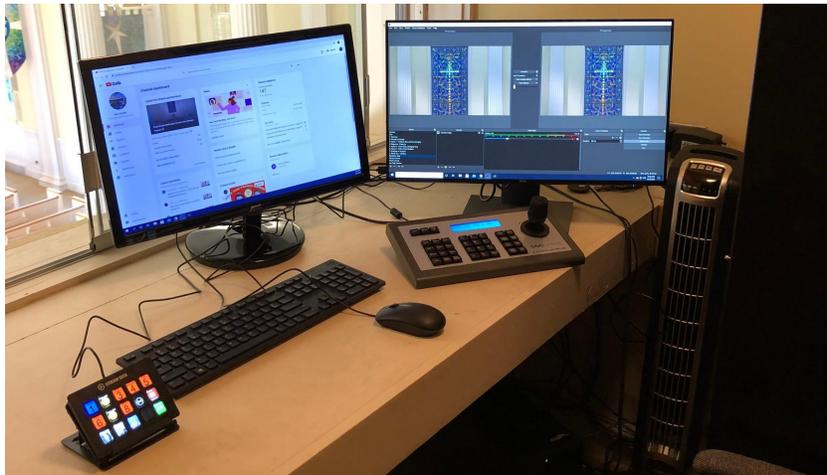
## Celebrating Technology Upgrade Giving

THANK YOU to the following people for contributing to the technology upgrades in the sanctuary to make the Livestream Worship Service possible:

Henry Buck  
Phillip & Karen Floyd  
Joel & Joyce Goodwin  
Bruce Greenland  
Robert Gresham  
Carol & Don Hylton

Joanne Johnson  
Marie Leonard-Hampton  
Jeff & Gloria Matthews  
Eddie Nicholson & Susan Shumaker  
Richard & Pat Paschall  
Neil & Sue Pierce

Gary & Peggy Price  
Betsy Rich  
Bob & Mary Roakes  
Charles & Marna Steinman  
Barbara White



## Celebrating Apportionment Giving

With deep gratitude, we celebrate Betsy Rich's generous gift of funding four months' worth of our Church's 2020 apportionments!

What are apportionments? The United Methodist Church is a connectional denomination, meaning all of the local congregations share in ministries together. By ourselves, First UMC of Salisbury could not financially sustain a college, a seminary, a hospital, an orphanage, or missionaries spread throughout the world. No single congregation could. But together, by God's grace, we can! This is represented in our apportionments, the fair percentage given from our church to support shared ministries. This is our first priority in benevolent giving. For every dollar United Methodists in the United States give, \$0.09 goes to apportionments.

Throughout the years, First United Methodist Church of Salisbury has consistently paid 100% of our apportionments. You should be proud of this! It's part of our tradition and identity, and one of the ways we are "First Church." With our church's recent financial challenges, keeping this commitment has been difficult. Betsy Rich's gift is an inspirational step forward in faith! And now the time has come for us all to step forward and complete the final eight months of apportionment giving.



Thank you to Betsy for supporting ministries across our connectional denomination!

# MEET JOSHUA

FUMC welcomed our new Music Director, Joshua Starnes, in early August. Josh comes to us most recently from Roanoke, VA where he has been serving for the last 5 years. We are so excited to have Josh with us, and we've included this interview in the Ecclesia as a way for more church members to begin getting to know Josh right away!

**Q: How did you find your way to Salisbury?**

**A:** I grew up in Monroe, NC and my parents still live there today. Prior to moving to Salisbury, I have served churches in Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Kansas. A colleague in Roanoke heard about the position open here and encouraged me to apply. I'm humbled and ecstatic to be serving at FUMC!

**Q: Tell us about your music and education background.**

**A:** I've always sensed God's leading to use my gifts in service to God and ministry in the Church. To follow this leading I've earned my Bachelor of Music & Worship Studies and Master of Divinity, as well as completing other post-graduate studies in church music at Shenandoah Conservatory, The Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, and the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. I've served as a conductor and accompanist for several ensembles and am a member of the American Guild of Organists.



**Q: What are your favorite things about music ministry?**

**A:** I believe that everything the church does should be to bring glory to God, and I enjoy bringing that mindset to church music. Inter-generational worship is a passion of mine, preparing people of all ages to worship as we will be doing for all eternity. And of course, the hymns!

**Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** I love kayaking, biking, hiking - being outdoors. I love to cook (and eat!), my favorite thing to make is chicken basil pesto. I enjoy watching movies, and love musical scores. Some of the best movie scores of all time is the music from Shindler's List and Across the Universe. I like to listen to a wide variety of music - everything from 'Bach to Rock,' especially the Beatles.

**Q: What message would you like to share with the church?**

**A:** Thank you so much for the warm welcome I have received already! Many church members have sent cards and introduced themselves to me. I am grateful for the church's hospitality, and look forward to meeting everyone as soon as possible. I would also like to welcome everyone who is interested in being part of creating church music to come to the church on September 12 for the Music Ministry Gathering!



## Drive Through Meet-N-Greet



Come say hello to Josh!

6:00-7:00pm Sunday September 6

Along South Church Street

## MUSIC MINISTRY GATHERING

# Music Ministry Gathering

- SEPTEMBER 12. 10:00AM
- IN THE SANCTUARY
- EVERYONE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN MUSIC
- MINISTRY IS INVITED TO GATHER, TALK, AND PRAY AS
- WE MAKE PLANS FOR MUSIC MINISTRY AT FUMC!



## INTERGENERATIONAL FAMILY CAMPOUT

### Family Camping

What says 'fall' more than a campfire and s'mores? We're excited to offer this camping opportunity to families of all ages across the church. The inter-generational camp out will be a chance for families to have fun and sleep under the stars.

Every family will need to be in their own tent to allow for social distancing. If your family does not have a tent to use, please let us know - we can help you find one! Masks will also be required indoors and when social distancing is not possible.

We will be making dinner on Friday, and breakfast on Saturday. Mt. Shepherd will be providing us with access to canoes, the climbing wall and zipline.

Camping is \$30 per family, plus \$15 per person for anyone who wants to use the climbing wall and zipline.

**JOIN US  
OCT.  
16-17  
AT  
MT. SHEPHERD**



**FOOD**

**CAMP FIRE &  
SMORES**

**HIKING**

**CANOEING**

**SOCIALLY  
DISTANT FUN**

**FAMILY CAMPOUT**

## BACK TO SCHOOL POOL PARTY

Club 45 and Youth came together on August 9th to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. Students and parents alike enjoyed a cookout, swimming, a beachball volleyball game and even visited the "ice cream shoppe." Social distancing was practiced and fun was still had by all! It was a wonderful time to cool off and connect with one another before the Summer days come to an end.



## BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

The night before Rowan Salisbury Schools students returned to class, the church set aside time to pray for students, parents, and teachers. This new school year comes with more uncertainties than normal, so we invite you to continue to pray for peace and safety for all those who are going back into schools this fall.



# DEVOTIONS FROM PASTOR STACEY

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*In a time of disrupted rhythms & routines, we must be intentional about forging a rhythm of Sabbath. We encourage you to keep joining in worship on Sunday at 11 via livestream as an intentional, central Sabbath practice. We must be intentional to create Sabbath space, rest, and practice to anchor our day, our week, and our life in God.*

## Week 1: Take a break

READ: Genesis 2:1-3

Isn't it fascinating that the Creator of all the universe that "neither slumbers nor sleeps (Psalm 121:4)" takes a break on the seventh day of creation? God sets a model & a rhythm in this act for we who are created in God's holy image. Holy means "set apart." We are to set apart a day that we might rest, renew, delight, create- a whole host of things besides work!

This week, PLAN for how your week might culminate and begin anew during a time of Sabbath. How do you need to arrange your work, your chores, your responsibilities so that you might actually take a break? Is there a new way of resting that you need to engage in? The graphic here gives some ideas (but is not comprehensive).

God can handle the Rest- all that goes on while you *rest*.

### Nine Types of Rest

- 1 time away
- 2 permission to not be helpful
- 3 something "unproductive"
- 4 connection to art and nature
- 5 solitude to recharge
- 6 a break from responsibility
- 7 stillness to decompress
- 8 safe space
- 9 alone time at home

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## Week 2: It's a commandment, y'all

READ: Exodus 20:8-9, Deuteronomy 5:15

The story of God's people being delivered from captivity in Egypt is a beautiful one. One of the features of God's deliverance is the time in the wilderness. The people wander together in this in-between place. They learned to trust God would continue to provide for them with the gifts of manna and quail and water- and rested from even the simple work of gathering food on the Sabbath. Only after God's people learn this rhythm does God share the commandments with them, including the commandment of sabbath. There's freedom in how we shape it- we're just supposed to *not work*. Why? Because God has delivered us, God set the example, and God has invited us to be holy in this way.

*Rest* requires trust.

~Marilyn McEntyre



www.sandraheskaking.com

Sabbath is good for us, but it invites us to affirm the goodness and trustworthiness of God. When we do that- we invite others (family, friends, restaurant workers, the vulnerable...) into sabbath rest also. Reflect on how the practice of Sabbath helps you to trust God. How can you invite others into the delight of Sabbath? Perhaps it is simply by sharing a meal or a phone call. Perhaps God is calling you further.

# DEVOTIONS FROM PASTOR STACEY

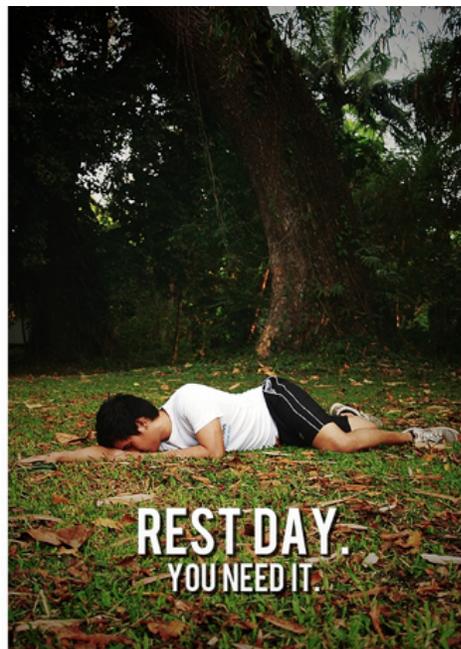
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## Week 3: Boundaries

READ: Jeremiah 17:27

Human brains are *excellent* at seeing patterns but *terrible* at recognizing what is missing. In our working, we plow ahead, our eyes fixed on the goal. How quickly we let simple and vital things like drinking enough water, getting enough sleep, exercise, savoring our food, and delighting in beauty escape us. The toll is terrible... something will eventually cause you to crash and burn in such a way that you are forced to rest.

Reflect this week on times that you have been forced to rest, and times where the stroke of inspiration or clarity came to you when you took a break. Are there any basics of life that you have been ignoring?



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## Week 4: Gift

READ: Mark 2:27

Joe Rutledge was known in our church and around Salisbury for being a generous man. If you had a conversation with him, you'd probably come away with a dollar. Imagine the grace of God in this way. Every time we deliberately set aside time with God, we come away with grace. Frankly, sometimes our regular practices may feel mundane or chafe at our sense of needing to feel productive or in control- but they still are opportunities for God to give grace to us. Maybe one week's interaction doesn't feel like you're placing much in the bank; a lifetime of grace received looks like stumbling onto a pile of treasure- hidden and waiting for you! While there are boundaries to Sabbath, and it is a commandment, ultimately Sabbath is a time to live into God's gift for us. Let us open our gifts from God- every week!



How can you incorporate gratitude into your Sabbath practice this week?

*Some ideas:*

- Create a gratitude jar. Every time you are thankful, jot a note and place it in the jar. Review them on Sabbath, or some other interval you decide.
- Have a Sabbath journal: reflect each week where you see God at work, and all for which you are grateful!
- Write a card or make a phone call to someone - calling to mind all you're grateful for in the person and your relationship as you do.

# DEVOTIONS FROM PASTOR STACEY

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## Week 5: Healing

There are seven miracles Jesus performs on the Sabbath. This is a clear violation of the way Sabbath practice was understood in Jesus' day. The number seven in scripture often conveys a sense of completeness and perfection.

Dive deeper into these accounts:

1. Matthew 12:9-14 – healing the man with the withered hand
2. Mark 1:21-28 – healing the man with the unclean spirit
3. Mark 1:29-31 – the healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law
4. Luke 13:10 – the healing of the woman crippled for 18 years
5. Luke 14:2 – healing of the man with dropsy
6. John 5:1-18 – healing of the man who had been sick for 38 years by the pool of Bethesda
7. John 9:13 – healing of a man blind from birth

Sabbath is for HEALING! Between the Sabbath practice extreme mistakes of not taking into account human need and non-observance, there Jesus waits for us with the gift of healing on Sabbath. Don't have it all figured out? That's ok- the grace is new and available each week. Sabbath practices leaving you feeling 'worked up'? Jesus is inviting you into some new and healing practices. It is a day of healing, rest, delight, and resurrection.

## BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

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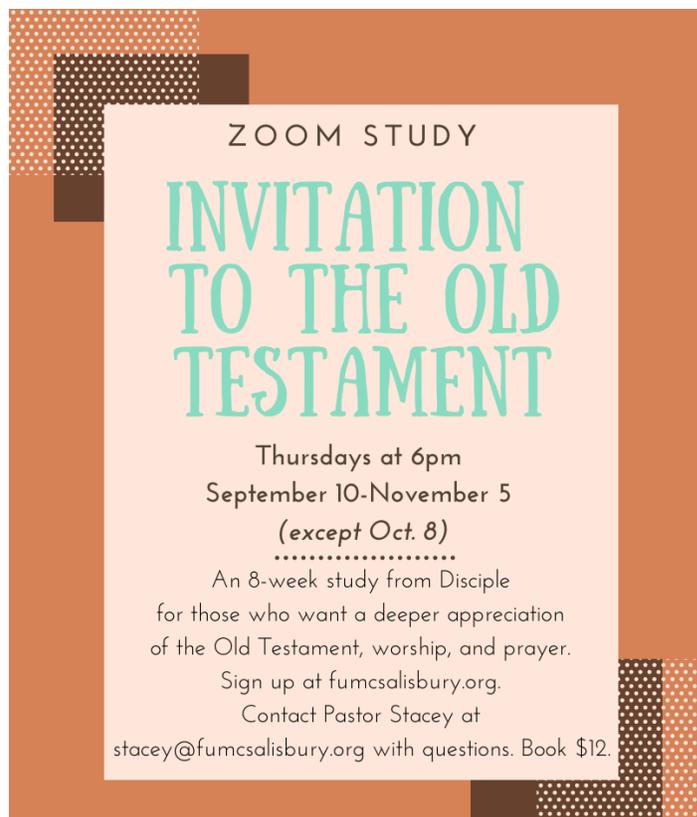


**POP-UP  
BIBLE STUDY**

**BRING YOUR BIBLE AND A CHAIR  
AND WE'LL MEET ON THE LAWN!**

**MON., SEPT. 14 10AM**  
**MON., SEPT. 28 5PM**

**SESSIONS ARE NOT 'CONNECTED'- COME TO ONE OR BOTH!**



ZOOM STUDY

**INVITATION  
TO THE OLD  
TESTAMENT**

Thursdays at 6pm  
September 10-November 5  
(except Oct. 8)

.....  
An 8-week study from Disciple  
for those who want a deeper appreciation  
of the Old Testament, worship, and prayer.  
Sign up at [fumcsalisbury.org](http://fumcsalisbury.org).  
Contact Pastor Stacey at  
[stacey@fumcsalisbury.org](mailto:stacey@fumcsalisbury.org) with questions. Book \$12.

## MUMS FOR MISSIONS



### Mums for Missions Fundraiser

Mums for Mission is the United Methodist Women's fall fundraiser to support local missions-- Rowan Helping Ministries, One Church, One Child, ARC.

Mums are available in yellow, rust, and purple for \$7.00 each. Orders can be placed between Sunday, August 16th and Sunday, September 13th.

Pick up your mums on Saturday, September 19th between 8:30am and noon on the church's front lawn.

**To order mums call Nancy Schoch 704-279-0198, Ginny Champion 704-797-8912, or use the UMW email - [umw.firstunited@gmail.com](mailto:umw.firstunited@gmail.com). We thank you for your support of our mission project.**

## AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE

### After School Child Care This Year

After School will be operating on the same schedule as Rowan Salisbury Schools. Students who are in person on 'A Days' will be picked up from school and at FUMC on Mondays and Tuesdays. Children on the 'B Day' schedule will come to After School on Thursdays and Fridays.

After School runs from 3:00-6:00pm with experienced staff in a safe and secure facility. They engage children in age appropriate activities, play on a state of the art playground, and provide healthy snacks. Transportation from school to FUMC is provided.

Register now! Call 704-433-6679. Cost for A/B day schedule is \$30.00 per week.



# CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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## Introducing our new CDC Director - Mrs. Courtney Bost

The Executive Board of the Child Development Center is happy to announce Courtney Bost as the Lead Teacher and Director of our Five Star licensed Center. Mrs. Bost received an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Early Childhood from Rowan Cabarrus Community College and a Bachelor of Arts in Education in Birth through Kindergarten from Catawba College. She holds a Level III North Carolina Early Childhood and Administration Credentials. Mrs. Bost has 18 years of experience in the child care profession as a Director, Assistant Director, Program Coordinator, and Teacher. She is certified in Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environment, and CPR and First Aid.

Courtney resides in Salisbury with her husband, Ron and three children Chanse, 11, Courtlyn, 8 and Cade, 3. She is excited to be joining our dedicated staff and working with our wonderful children ages 3, 4, and 5. Please join the board in welcoming Courtney to our Five Star Licensed Child Development Center.

Mrs. Bost is happy to provide a tour with parents and children to see our high quality child care center. Our program provides: Low child/teacher ratios, small group size, positive teacher/child interactions, age appropriate activities, two meals daily and a afternoon snack. Contact [cdc@fumcsalisbury.org](mailto:cdc@fumcsalisbury.org) or call (704)636-3121 extension 110.

## THE COVID BUSTERS

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### Making Posters to Raise Awareness

Like many of us, our children and youth have been disappointed that Covid has prevented all of us from doing many of the things we love to do since March. One of our 5th graders, Rohan Joseph, created a plan for how to spread awareness and encourage people to follow CDC protocols for limiting the spread of the virus. With encouragement and guidance from his mom, Rohan put together a team of 'Covid Busters.'

The Covid Busters met throughout the summer to plan and complete a poster contest to remind people of guidelines - washing hands, wearing masks, waiting six feet apart. Rising 4th and 5th grade students throughout Rowan County were encouraged to make a poster. The team was made up of fellow 4th and 5th graders; and were supported by coaching from Rohan's mom (Nalini), Bailee and Jen.

It was a joy to work with the Covid Busters and see all their hard work pay off. In August the winners received their prizes at a socially distanced ceremony with the mayor at City Hall! Several students from FUMC were able to participate in the poster making contest. Several from the summer team have been able to continue on as Covid Busters makes new plans to encourage good decisions during the pandemic!



# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**1** Lori Egloff  
Michael Egloff

**2** Cory Menees

**3** Susan Fraley  
John Philpott

**4** Warren Reynolds

**5** Jeanmarie Burton

**6** Spencer Scarvey  
Frank Shafer  
Charles White

**7** Mia Conforti

**8** Monty Carmichael  
Mandy Deadwyler  
Clark Moore

**9** Kelsey Bradshaw  
Morgan Rollins

**10** Zach Johnson  
Joel Smeltzer

**11** Joe Vaughn

**12** Gary Cox

**13** Christian Lewis

**14**

**15** Susan Mills

**16** Sharon Smith  
Timothy Wyrick

**17** Don Hylton  
'Rusty' Pipes  
Bill Menees

**18** Daniel Coutu  
Robert McGee

**19** Jen Fogt  
Christopher Fowler  
Elisse Lentz  
Brent Seifert

**20**

**21** Alfred Chea  
Michael Hughes  
Bill Rentz

**22** Jacob Daye  
Mary Jo Maphis  
Carolyn Sadler

**23** Brianne Lentz  
Harriete Watson

**24** Christopher McCoy

**25** Janice Applewhite  
Braxton Whitaker

**26** Johnathan Hunter

**27** Andy Basinger  
Sara Nussman

**28** John Carnes  
Betty Smyth  
James Whittington

**29** Corbin Barber  
Sophia Buchanan

**30** Beverly Gobble  
Jason Gainer  
Anne Marie Hendrick  
Fred Jordan  
Karla Swanson



## FUMC FAMILY AND EXTENDED FAMILY TRANSITIONS

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### *In Remembrance*

*Please keep these families in your prayers,*

**SARAH ELIZABETH DEVEREUX SHULER**  
Mother of James E., George B., Charles F.,  
and John R. Shuler

*October 30, 1917 - August 3, 2020*

**NANCY LOIS JOHNSTON ZIMMERMAN**  
Mother of Robert and Nancy Zimmerman

*January 1, 1922 - August 6, 2020*

**TELITHA GOINS CLARK**  
Mother of Tonya Huffman

*August 28, 1952 - August 16, 2020*

**TONY EUGENE TREXLER**  
Father of Molly Alexander

*October 23, 1957 - August 16, 2020*

**BETTY JANE WILHELM**  
Mother of Russel, Bryan, & Patrick Wilhelm

*January 22, 1934 - August 21, 2020*

**CLIFTON HARDING MATTHEWS**  
Father of Jeff Matthews

*September 27, 1921 - August 28, 2020*

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



## THANK YOU NOTES TO THE CHURCH

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I want to thank the scholarship committee for the scholarship I have been awarded! It was so generous, and it will help me out so much. Thank you for the personalized leather Bible as well, and all the support I have been given.

Sincerely, Will Bivens

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for the scholarship and study Bible.

Sincerely, Ethan Mastro

Dear Scholarship Committee,  
I wanted to thank you all for selecting me to receive the church scholarship this year. It will help me our greatly in school. My family and I appreciate it very much. I look forward to starting at Catawba soon.

Thanks again very much, Jackson Price

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

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*Please note the following changes in your directory:*

**Carole & Larry Schall**  
llschall964@gmail.com

# ECCLESIA

NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

