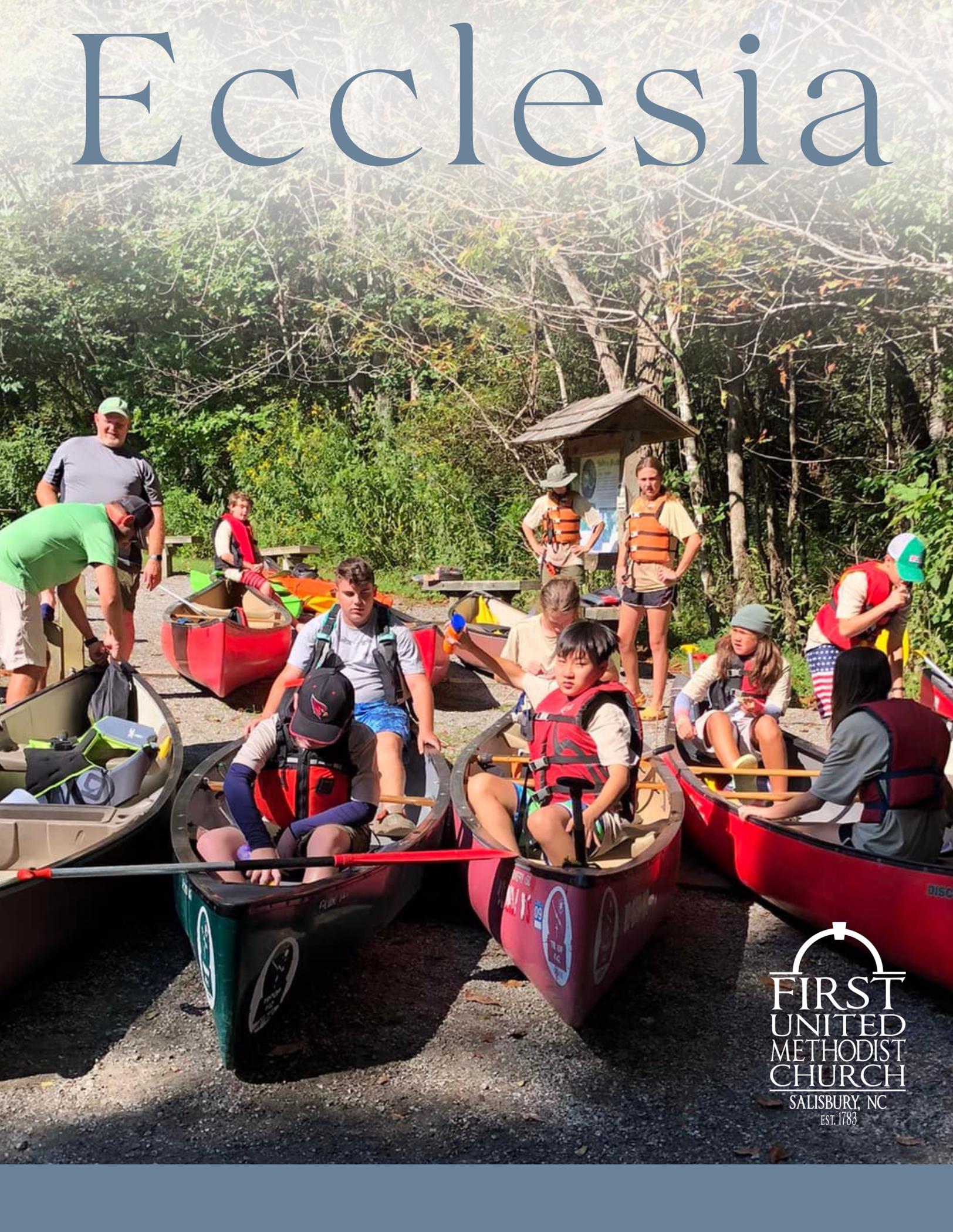


Ecclesia




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

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CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti, *Pastor*
mark@fumcsalisbury.org | x.103

Becca Blackmon, *Administrator*
becca@fumcsalisbury.org | x.102

Aaron Cameron, *A/V Production*
aaron@fumcsalisbury.org | x.101

Mike Fansler, *Building Superintendent*
mike@fumcsalisbury.org | x.119

Jen Fogt, *Youth Ministry*
jen@fumcsalisbury.org | x.107

Joshua Starnes, *Music Ministry*
josh@fumcsalisbury.org | x.106

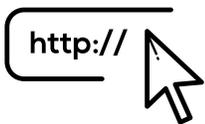
Bailee Weisensel, *Children's Ministry*
bailee@fumcsalisbury.org | x.108

Scotty Adcock, *Afterschool Childcare & Summer Day Camp Program*
afterschool@fumcsalisbury.org | x.116

Kelly Austin, *Preschool*
kellyhaustin@gmail.com | x.115

Courtney Bost, *Child Development Center*
cdc@fumcsalisbury.org | x.110

The Rev. Garry Cook, MDiv, LCSW, *Pastoral Counselor FUMC Counseling Center (Sanctuary Counseling Group)*
gdcook@triad.rr.com | 980.296.0991



Website

www.fumcsalisbury.org



YouTube Channel

FUMC Salisbury



Sermon Podcast
Salisbury Sermons

on Anchor; Apple Podcasts;
Google Podcasts;
Pocket Casts;
RadioPublic; and Spotify



Facebook

@fumcsalisbury

Instagram

@fumcsalisbury



AN AFTERNOON OF

JAZZ

WITH THE GEOFF CLAPP TRIO

FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
SALISBURY, NC
EST. 1783

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

2:00 PM

FREE CONCERT

217 S. Church Street
Salisbury, NC



REMARKS

For nearly three years, Jesus traveled the countryside, going visiting towns near the sea of Galilee and Judea, and even to the holy city of Jerusalem. The twelve apostles traveled with him, along with a growing crowd of women and men eager to listen and watch this enigmatic leader. They would often stay in private homes, relying on the hospitality of others. Along these meandering journeys, Jesus became known as a healer and a teacher. The two roles are inextricably connected: when Jesus was healing he was teaching, and through his teaching he brought healing.

As a teacher, Jesus was simultaneously within the tradition of ancient Judaism, while also bringing a radical approach. Jesus read from the Torah in the synagogue and engaged in dialogue with the learned rabbis. Woven through out his teachings were references to the Old Testament. Many references were quite overt. For example, twice Jesus references Hosea 6:6: "For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." Both times (Matthew 9:13, in talking with tax collectors, and Matthew 12:7, regarding the Sabbath) Jesus is bringing a renewed understanding to an old teaching. He is casting new light on an old, forgotten truth. In this way, Jesus' teaching pieces together broken fragments to bring about something new for God's Kingdom.

The theme of "God's Kingdom" or "the Kingdom of Heaven" (the gospel writers Matthew and Luke have their linguistic preferences) is unmistakably a theme in Jesus' teaching ministry. We hear it over and over again, thanks to tangible illustrations and parables. But what does it mean? What it does not mean is evident: not moralistic understandings of ethics, not a legalistic interpretation of the Law, and not a sense of "holiness" defined by supposed purity. Rather, the Kingdom (or "reign") was already present in Jesus himself and ready to be experienced by his followers.

Being Jesus' followers today means that we still learn from Jesus, the ultimate Teacher. We must keep reading those Bible stories. When we do, let's approach those lessons with an honest curiosity. Ask yourself, "What was/is Jesus teaching here?" When you bring those questions to the biblical text, you will likely come away with more questions. As author Tom Hughes puts it: "Jesus does not have Q and A sessions. He has Q and Q sessions."

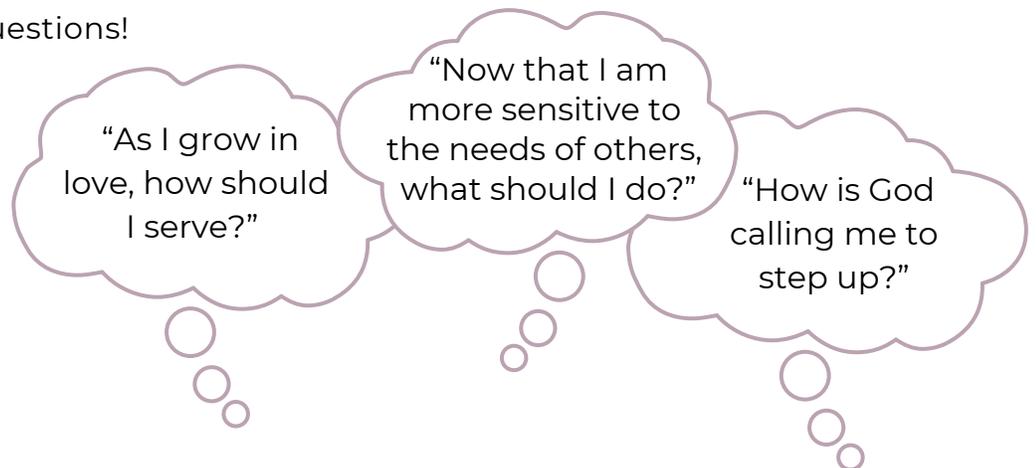
While reading Jesus' teachings, when we come away with more curiosity, we recognize our need for more faith. By contrast, suppose your faucet is dripping water, and you want to fix it yourself. You look up a video on YouTube, realize that you have the tools for the job, and you give it a try. After watching the video, you get to work, because that dripping faucet must stop. And, amazingly, you figure it out! In short order, you go from ask "how do I fix this dripping faucet" to getting the job done. Now everyone in the house is grateful for you: your own ability answered the question. In this scenario, you are not dependent on anyone else. Q and A.

But with Jesus, we get more questions!

Q and Q. After all, our faith is dependent on Jesus to know what's next. And with your faithfulness, God brings healing to this hurting world.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mark



LOVE THY NEIGHBOR RECAP

41 People, 6 Projects, 1 Week

Thank you to all those who participated in Love Thy Neighbor week this summer. During the first week of August, 41 church members tackled 6 projects that met a particular need in our community. We repaired a ramp and began building another to make homes more accessible, did some landscaping to make spaces more beautiful and comfortable to live in, and provided meals for first responders as a way to express our gratitude for their work. This work doesn't end though, there are so many ways we can show our love for our neighbors year round!



One way to continue loving your neighbor... Keep an eye out for information on how you can participate in Block Work this October



ANN COGGIN DAY CELEBRATED IN SALISBURY



Recognizing a Notable Citizen

Tuesday August 2, 2022 was declared Ann Coggin day by the City of Salisbury. City Council and Mayor Alexander recognized Ann for her love and support for so many young people in Salisbury, and her work as a life-long humanitarian and preservationist.

The proclamation adopted by City Council listed her many contributions to the community including saying, "Ann Coggin has been a surrogate mother to hundreds of young people for her work as Administrative Assistant, Devoted Listener, Swim Instructor, Chaperone and 'Chief Cook and Bottle Washer' at the Salisbury YMCA for 25 years."

We celebrate with the city in honoring our friend Ann!



SERVING MEALS AT ROWAN HELPING MINISTRIES

Each December on her birthday, my sister volunteers to ring a Salvation Army bell. It's her special gift of sharing. During our church's August "Love your neighbor" campaign, many of you had the same rewarding experience.

Our church provides supper on the second Thursday, and breakfast the following Friday each month, we cook and serve a hot meal for the homeless. The Discovery Class, Adam and Eve Class, Seekers Class, Choir, and Youth all regularly serve. If no group volunteers, I organize a crew to fill the gap.

Currently we are serving up to eighty guests through Jeannie's Kitchen (the shelter). To protect your health we carefully observe strict Covid-19 protocols and Rowan Helping Ministry guidelines. Cooks for the evening meals generally arrive at 5:00 p.m. and leave by 8:00 p.m. Breakfast crews start at 5:30 a.m. and finish by 7:00 a.m. Volunteers can also show up later than the cooks to serve.



In Matthew 25 Jesus asks "when did you feed the hungry?" Providing meals for our neighbors is a core ministry of God's people. You can help...

- If you are members of a group that regularly serves meals, volunteer to be on their team.
- Volunteer to be a server.
- Organize a new team to cook or serve.
- Make a donation to cover the expense of a meal. Mark you donation "Rowan Helping Ministries Meals."
- If you don't belong to any group that already helps, call me.

This summer our church emphasized loving our neighbors by completing projects to meet needs over the course of a week. But loving your neighbor is more than a week long emphasis. It is a year round ministry of our church. Whether it is on your birthday or some other occasion, consider volunteering to feed Rowan Helping Ministries to celebrate. It is a gift that keeps on giving. I would love to help you get involved!

Taffy Jordan

Cell: 336-467-0752, Home: 704-633-4514, Email: taffyjordan@bellsouth.net

COLLEGE NIGHT OUT



Cookies for College Students

August 18 at Bell Tower Green

Brenda Loflin, Phil Conrad, Ben Weisensel, and Pastor Mark Conforti greeted students from Livingstone College, Catawba College, and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. A big THANK YOU to the following people for providing homemade cookies: Joy Clement, Nancy Haines, Tish Hatley, Mary Jo Maphis, Frances Miller, and Peggy Price.





CHRIST-CENTERED PEOPLE OF GOD

#BeUMC

UMC.org/BeUMC

Our Foundation: Living the Gospel

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)

The United Methodist Church is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture, and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit. We use three simple rules, first expressed by John Wesley, as a filter through which to make decisions and live our lives in God honoring ways.

Living Out Our Faith, a How-To Guide

FIRST

By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind

SECONDLY

By doing good; ...doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men

THIRDLY

By attending upon all the ordinances of God (nurturing spiritual growth)



#BeUMC

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The #BeUMC campaign reminds us of who we are at our best. As people of God called The United Methodist Church, we're faithful followers of Jesus seeking to make the world a better place.

COMMUNITY MEAL, FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

COMMUNITY MEAL SEPTEMBER 7

Menu:

*Pulled pork, slaw,
mac & cheese,
baked beans, and
oatmeal cakes*

Program:

Trivia Night



**NEXT FREE
COMMUNITY
MEAL**

**Wednesday, October 7
6:00pm
All are welcome!**

SCOUTS

Scouts prep for National Public Lands Day & year ahead

As summer comes to an end we are looking forward to a new year of adventure. Although we have not yet entirely planned out our year we will start off with a canoe and camping trip down the New River. We will also return to Falls Reservoir to clean up the remote campsites on islands and inaccessible areas for the United States Forest Service in late September as part of National Public Lands Day. Plans on the horizon include a 50 Miler Award canoe trip and another trek at Philmont Scout Ranch next year.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



SUNDAY MORNINGS

MONTHLY

0-4 YRS
Nursery
Rooms B-106
& B-108

K-5TH

Kids Connection
Sundays 10:30-10:50am



4TH-5TH

Coming this fall:

On Sunday, September 18th we will kick off our new Sunday School concept. We will meet in the Carter Lobby from 10:30 - 10:50. Parents can grab coffee and pastries/breakfast items and have fellowship with one another in the Stanback room.



Celebrating the baptism of **DYLAN MAIA DAVIS**
Daughter of Grayson & Sara Davis
Granddaughter of Tony & Jenny Nussman

Fall Calendar of events

SEPTEMBER

- 17 - Preschool Playdate @ 11AM
- 18 - Kids Connection Kickoff @ 10:30AM (Carter Lobby)
- 25 - Club 45/ Youth @ 5PM - 7PM



OCTOBER

- 15 - Preschool Playdate @ 11AM
- 26 - Fall Festival @ 5:30PM
- 30 - Club 45/ Youth @ 5PM - 7PM



YOUTH MINISTRY

Salisbury Youth
6-12 GRADE MINISTRY



YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

FALL 2022

SEPTEMBER

- 4 - no youth group (Labor Day wknd)
- 11 - YOUTH GROUP
- 18 - YOUTH GROUP
- 25 - YOUTH GROUP

OCTOBER

- 2 - YOUTH GROUP
- 9 - YOUTH GROUP
- 13-16 - Learn & Serve Trip
- 23 - YOUTH GROUP
- 26 - Fall Festival (volunteer)
- 30 - YOUTH GROUP



Youth Group at FUMC

Sunday Nights 5:00-7:00pm, all middle & high school youth invited. Typically we start in the fellowship hall, use door C1.

Also coming up this fall

Confirmation classes, grades 7+ & Acolyte training, all youth

HYMN OF THE MONTH: AND CAN IT BE?

According to the editor of The Oxford Edition of the Works of John Wesley, "And Can It Be" was written immediately after Charles Wesley's conversion (May 21, 1738). Wesley knew his Bible well prior to this time, but had not yet experienced assurance of new birth or the fullness of grace in his life.

The editor also wrote that it was probably this hymn, or "Where Should My Wond'ring Soul Begin?" that was sung late on the evening of his brother John's Aldersgate Street conversion just three days later on May 24.

John Lawson, in *A Thousand Tongues: The Wesley Hymns as a Guide to Scriptural Teaching*, says this "is perhaps the best known and best loved of all the Methodist hymns associated with the conversion experience."

Wesley explores themes of the incomprehensible love expressed by God the Son dying for him, and the freedom he found in Christ. He recounts the infinite grace and mercy of Christ's love, and calls for all the earth to express our adoration.

In the final stanza, he explores the results of Christ's amazing and merciful work: there is no condemnation for those made alive in Christ and clothed in his righteousness; rather, there is bold access to the throne as we have the right to claim the eschatological crown.

eschatology

(noun)

the part of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind.

*No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own!*

- Joshua Starnes, Director of Music Ministry

For more information about this hymn's history, please visit:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-and-can-it-be-that-i-should-gain>

References

The Oxford Edition of the Works of John Wesley (Oxford: Clarendon, 1975-1983, vol. 7)

A Thousand Tongues: The Wesley Hymns as a Guide to Scriptural Teaching (London: Paternoster, 1987)

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & JEWELRY SALE

Ice cream and shopping were a winning combination of fun, fellowship, and fundraising in August. Families with young children made ice cream in a bag together, and church members of all ages brought & enjoyed ice cream. Funds raised from the jewelry sale are going toward new choir robes!



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2023



*Making and nurturing
Christian disciples through the
presence and power of God*

Kickoff Breakfast September 25

Commitment Sunday October 9

Stewardship 2023

Introducing the 2023 Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to all FUMC members for your faithful stewardship in 2022. Your financial contributions this year have certainly been an inspiration. This is because you understand that without your financial support our church would not be able to fund our mission “to make and nurture Christian Disciples through the presence and power of God.”

This year’s stewardship campaign – “The Gift of Love” – will begin with a kickoff breakfast on September 25th in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am. We will have a short, upbeat presentation for the proposed 2023 budget.

Church members will receive a stewardship letter mid-September. A committee will make phone calls to members inviting everyone to the Stewardship Breakfast. If you are interested in helping with these calls, please contact Larry Cordts (704-639-4095).

Commitment Sunday will be October 9, 2022. We will bring our pledge cards to the altar table to represent our sacrifice to God for His many blessings. The Gift of Love theme comes from the hymn of the same name. It will be our hymn of the month for October.

I know you all love our church as much as I do. Please pray for our Church and your financial commitment for 2023.

May God Bless All,
Larry Cordts, Stewardship Chair



2023 Commitment Card Design
Commitment Cards will be mailed to church members, and a digital form will be available online.

First United Methodist Church
2023 Stewardship Commitment Card

Name: _____
Phone: _____

\$ _____
UNDESIGNATED

\$ _____
OPERATING FUND

\$ _____
CAPITAL FUND

*This is a (check one) Weekly Monthly Yearly figure

I/We desire to enroll in online giving I/We desire to use a credit card for our commitment this year

Our Business Administrator will contact you for the necessary information.

the GIFT of LOVE
Stewardship 2023

PRESCHOOL

We are excited about the upcoming year at FUMC Preschool; and we are pleased to announce the hiring of Ashley Illiano, for our 4's class, and Ashley Overcash for our 2's class. We are excited to have them join our team - both ladies meet and exceed the standards we desire in our teaching staff. Dena Oldham will be moving from the 4's class to our 2's class.

We would also like to thank two outgoing teachers for their time with us. Melissa Kelly has accepted a full time teaching assistant position in the Rowan-Salisbury school system! Mary Krawiec, will not be returning in order to focus on her health and her family. They will be missed!

Our teachers are focused on learning about their new students and their personalities. The children are exploring new classrooms, making new friends, and learning new routines. We are off to a great start! If you would like more information about the preschool program, please reach out to Kelly Austin 336-722-9260.



AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE



Welcome New Director - Scotty Adcock

Please join the Executive Board in welcoming Scotty Adcock, M.Ed, as the new Director of the After-School Childcare and Summer Day Camp Programs. Mr. Adcock has successful experience as an elementary teacher, curriculum specialist, and administrator. He has focused his career at the elementary level and compassion for working with young children.

He holds a Master of Education in Administration and Curriculum and Instruction from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. "Scotty brings a wealth of experience and background in working with young children from varied backgrounds by providing age appropriate activities for children in grades K through 5," said Board Chair Dr. Sarah Hensley. "We are looking forward to his leadership as we continue to provide quality programs for our young children."

- Executive Board of the Child Development Center

SEPTMEBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | | 13 | Christian Lewis
Lloyd Mowery | 23 | Bri Lentz |
| 2 | Frankie Ritch | 14 | | 24 | Christopher McCoy
Rocco Franzese |
| 3 | Amanda Bosch
Susan Fraley | 15 | | 25 | Janice Applewhite |
| 4 | | 16 | Tim Wyrick | 26 | |
| 5 | Jeanmarie Burton | 17 | Don Hylton | 27 | |
| 6 | Frank Shafer
Denny White | 18 | Danny Coutu
Liam McGee | 28 | Betty Smyth
John Carnes |
| 7 | Mia Conforti | 19 | Brent Seifert
Hill Fowler
Jen Fogt
Ellie Lentz | 29 | Corbin Barber
Sophia Buchanan |
| 8 | Monty Carmichael
Clark Moore | 20 | | 30 | Fred Jordan
Karla Swanson
Anne Hedrick
Beverly Gobble |
| 9 | Kelsey Bradshaw | 21 | Mike Hughes
Alfred Chea | | |
| 10 | Zach Johnson
Joel Smeltzer | 22 | Mary Jo Maphis
Jacob Daye | | |
| 11 | Joe Vaughn | | | | |
| 12 | Gary Cox | | | | |

HELLO  
September

STAFF SPOTLIGHT ON AARON CAMERON

PRESENTED BY STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

What is your role on staff? Production Director

How long have you served at FUMC? One year, I joined the team on July 18, 2021. (On my birthday!)

Tell us about your family: I married my wonderful wife Reverend Tangela Cameron in front of God, Family, and Friends at my home church, Shiloh UMC in Granite Quarry on November 1, 2014. Tangela is a United Methodist Deacon working as a chaplain at Hospice and Palliative Care of Iredell County. I was born and raised in Granite Quarry. I am the younger child of my parents Doug and Terry (my older brother's name is Adam). My family is still in Rowan County.



Tell us about your call to ministry: My wife and I attended First UMC in 2015 and 2016 as she was the ministry intern of the church. It was then that I came to love the people and culture at First UMC. When I saw that the church was looking for a production director, I immediately knew that I needed to apply.

Where were you before you came to FUMC? I work part time for the church. In my full time work I teach Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. I am starting my ninth academic year this August 2022.

Tell us a little more about what you do: I am responsible for the Sunday Livestream and various video projects. I am also happy to work on the ministry team and assist them in other projects. This is truly a team effort.

COMING UP...

Tragedy & Grief

OCTOBER 17

Presentation led by
Pastoral Counselor, Gary
Cook

Music Rehearsals

WEDNESDAYS

Resume after Labor Day.
Handbells at 5:30pm
Chancel Choir at 7:00pm

Hoedown & Chili Cook-Off

OCTOBER 9

Sloan Park, 4PM - 6PM
Sign-up online!

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.



FUMC FAMILY & EXTENDED FAMILY TRANSITIONS

IN REMEMBRANCE

Please keep these families in your prayers

FRANK RANDALL (RANDY) FAZIA

Brother of Brian Fazia

1959 - August 5, 2022

VADA GRAY BOGER BECK

Mother of Sherry Beck

July 31, 1925 - August 13, 2022

HARRY RANDOLPH COOKE, JR.

Husband of Patricia Cooke

April 30, 1935 - August 18, 2022

ETHAN SHAUN MASTRO

Son of Ben & Alisha Mastro

December 28, 2001 - August 24, 2022

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted..." ~ Psalm 34:18

IN CELEBRATION

We rejoice with these families in these moments of new beginnings

CAMERON SLOANE GLEASON

Great-granddaughter of Bobby & Deneen Jones

Born July 16, 2022

THANK YOU!



**THANK YOU
SO MUCH**

A sincere thank you to everyone who donated to the back to school drive for Isenberg Elementary! We filled two full shopping carts with supplies that will be put to good use and were much needed.

- Bailee Weisensel

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*