

LOVING ALL PEOPLE INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

UNPRECEDENTED ACTS OF HOSPITALITY

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Thank you to everyone who accepted our 90 Day Hospitality Challenge and returned a service card (almost 100 PEOPLE . . . 99 to be exact). If you were unable to participate, there's still time to get involved. On Sunday, December 2 we will have a Lunch and Learn session beginning at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Come meet your fellow team members and learn how and what to do to provide unprecedented hospitality! The 90 Day Challenge starts December 9! Don't forget to share one of our First Newton cups with a friend or neighbor and invite them to church.

CHURCH COUNCIL / LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to the Church Council for their faithful service and leadership at First Newton. December will be the final meeting for our Class of 2018 representatives. Please join us in thanking these folks for their service:

- Janet Byrd
- Jim Stockner
- Jim Mauney
- Tammy Smith
- Steve Arndt

In January, we will welcome the following new members to our church leadership team as part of the Class of 2021:

- Brian White
- Mike Jenkins
- Joe Beaman
- Beverly Underwood
- Wayne Swofford
- Debbie Rights

Our final Church Council meeting of 2018 will be held Tuesday, December 11 at 7 p.m. in the Gomedela Room. As a reminder meetings are open for anyone to attend and meeting notes are available on the shelves in the Welcome Center. Please join us.



The Advent Season is upon us and the anticipation and excitement of Christmas has begun. We hope you and your family will make plans to join us in worship and for the special events we have planned to celebrate the birth of Christ. This is also a great time of year to invite a friend or neighbor to join you! Here's a look at what's happening in December.

DECEMBER 2 (First Sunday in Advent) Rev. Willis will kick-off a new sermon series "Christmas through the Eyes of . . ." as we explore the story of Jesus' birth from different perspectives starting with Joseph.

DECEMBER 9 (Second Sunday in Advent) We will look at "Christmas through the Eyes of a Shepherd". Join us from 1-3 p.m. to go caroling in the community. No singing experience required. We'll be making a joyful noise as we share the love of Christ with our neighbors!

DECEMBER 16 (Third Sunday in Advent) We will have **ONE** combined service at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary featuring the Christmas Cantata "Follow the Star, Follow the King."

DECEMBER 23 (Fourth Sunday in Advent) We will look at "Christmas through the Eyes of Mary."

- DECEMBER 24** (Christmas Eve)
- 4 p.m. - Children's Candlelight Service
 - 6-7 p.m. - Come and Go Communion
 - 9 p.m. - Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

REBOOT COMBAT RECOVERY

IT'S GRADUATION TIME FOR OUR REBOOT CLASS The families who participated in the 12 week course have extended an invitation for First Newton, especially all veterans in the church, to attend their Graduation Ceremony **MONDAY, DECEMBER 3 IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FROM 6:30 - 8:00 P.M.** Come celebrate our veteran families who are solidly on the road to healing! RSVP to Lynn Marilla at Lmarilla@eaglerockcamp.org so she will have a head count for refreshments. **THANK YOU!**



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS JOY ON DECEMBER 13

The next J.O.Y. event is Thursday, December 13. Refreshments are served at 9:30 a.m., and the program begins at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our devotion will be led by Rev. Dr. David Greene from Salem UMC, and this month's program will feature entertainment by Melanie Elrod. The lunch menu is turkey, dressing, green beans, cranberry sauce & homemade desserts. *RSVP to the Church Office (828-464-8422) by noon on Tuesday, December 11.* For more info, contact Bev @ 828-465-0481.



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SHUT-INS

Exchanging Christmas cards is a time-honored tradition and wonderful way to remember our homebound members during the holidays. There are cards with a list of names on a table in the breezeway. Simply pick up a list, label your cards, and **return them to the church by Sunday, December 16.** If you would like to assist in the delivery of the bags to our members, please contact Brandy in the Church Office.

*Follow the Star,
Follow the King*

A CHRISTMAS CANTATA PRESENTED BY THE CHANCEL CHOIR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018
One Combined Worship Service @ **10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

**METHODIST WOMEN
LUNCH MEETING**

Friday, December 7
at 11:30 a.m.
Catawba County Country Club
**RSVP to Martha Sowers
at 828-464-6954 by December 3.**
All women are invited!

IMPORTANT YEAR-END GIVING INFORMATION

According to the IRS, individuals are allowed to deduct charitable contributions from their income during the year in which the donation was delivered. This means that we will need to receive your contribution for 2018 in the church office by 3 p.m. on December 31. If a donation is mailed, we will use the postmark date on the envelope to determine whether it will be applied to 2018 or 2019. As a reminder, Online Giving is also available. If the transaction is made by December 31, it will count toward your contributions for 2018. Visit: www.firstnewton.org/give

IRA Required Minimum Distribution Information - Per the IRS, persons 70½ and older are required to take a minimum distribution from their IRA or be faced with a tax penalty. If you must take a required minimum distribution, but don't need the funds and don't want to pay income taxes on it, please consider gifting it to the Church as part of your annual support. If you have questions about how to execute this gift transaction, please contact Susan Cothorn at the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina at (888) 450-1956 ext. 1507 or email scothorn@umfwncc.org. The foundation can also assist with gifts of stock at no cost. More information is also available in the Church Office.



NURSERY is available during worship services and Sunday School.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL is available for children ages 3 – 5th grade. These groups meet on the level below the Sanctuary from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Our 1st-5th graders will be learning about Advent through music, stories, and games during the month of December. In January we begin our new lesson series: "learning to use my Bible."

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP

We welcome children of all ages and the sounds & activity that accompany them! The Pray-Ground is an area located near the Praise Café during the 8:30 service, that offers children 5 & under a space to quietly engage in age appropriate activities while experiencing worship with their families. There are also activity bags available at the entrances to the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS
(VERY BIG SATURDAY)
JULY 20, 2019**



All 6th -12th graders are welcome to join the Youth of First Newton for worship and fun. Here's a look at our December schedule:

- December 2 - Youth Group 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- December 9 - Christmas Caroling 1 - 3 p.m.; 11:30 a.m. lunch option
- December 16 - Youth Christmas Party 5 - 8:30 p.m. bring \$5 dirty santa gift
This is also the deadline to sign up for the Youth Winter Retreat (January 19-21, 2019). Cost is \$130, \$80 deposit due 12/16/18.
Register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/3TpjaFnuriDgyWgC3>
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Parent Meeting January 6, 2019 from 5 - 7 p.m.

ALEX WHITE MISSION SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

(The following is an excerpt from a letter from Alex detailing his upcoming mission trip. You can view the complete letter on our website at firstnewton.org/Alex.)

I'm a senior at Harvard, and I am currently finishing up my fifth-year and final football season for the Crimson. I've been studying biomedical engineering, and I am in the process of applying to medical school. For my January term, I will be part of a mission project in South Africa through an organization called Athletes in Action (the athletic ministry of Cru - Campus Crusade for Christ). I am joining a team of faculty and students from Boston who will lead a tutoring program in a township outside Pretoria, South Africa that has been ravaged by HIV/AIDS. I would really appreciate your prayers for this mission, and I would also be extremely grateful for any financial support. Donations will be accepted through <https://give.cru.org/1021645> and also via check, which can be made out to Cru and mailed to 1626 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA 02138. Thank you so much for considering supporting God's work in South Africa.

Alex White



Mission projects are an important part of our Kids for Christ (k4C) program. k4C served at the Corner Table on November 7 packing cookies, candy bags, making peanut butter crackers, wrapping utensil packets and more. The kids had fun while serving our community.

k4C is an after school ministry for children in Kindergarten - 6th Grade and meets Wednesdays from 3:00-5:30 p.m. during the school year. For more info, contact Deacon Shannon.



NEWTON

METHODIST PRESCHOOL



BLESSING BAGS FOR HOMELESS

The Preschool completed 60 Blessing Bags that were given to the Corner Table for the homeless in our community. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Blessing Bags!

| Sunday | Attendance | Tithes & Offerings | Capital Building Fund |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| November 4, 2018 | 177 | \$7,507 | \$115 |
| November 11, 2018 | 169 | \$9,949 | \$75 |
| November 18, 2018 | 173 | \$7,914 | \$80 |
| November 25, 2018 | 164 | \$5,967.50 | \$80 |

NOVEMBER MEMORIALS

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Frank Cloninger | General Fund |
| Pat Britt | General Fund |
| Pat Britt | JOY Fund |
| Pat Britt | Capital Building Fund |
| Donnie Holbrook | General Fund |
| Burt Hoage | Capital Building Fund |
| Barrett Lynch, Lana Lynch & Son | Garden Fund |
| Dean McGee | Columbarium Fund |

NOVEMBER HONORARIUMS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| The Columbarium Committee <i>(Dot Hoage, Betty McGee, Betty Newsome, Janet Byrd, Ken & Paulette Moss)</i> | Garden Fund |
| Janet Byrd & the Ladies of the Hickory Tavern Chapter NSDAR | General Fund |
| Gail & Norris McRee | Garden Fund |

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Lara "Willis" Greene, Pastor

P: 828-461-5918 | E: willisgreene@firstnewton.org

Shannon LeMaster-Smith, Deacon

Minister of Discipleship - Children, Youth & Outreach

P: 336-460-1769 | E: DeaconShannon@firstnewton.org

Brandy Burnette, Church Administrator

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E: johnnyjava@earthlink.net

Michael Roberts, Praise Team Director

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Kristi Spencer, Communications Director

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Melissa Ervin, Nursery Director

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Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director

P: 828-465-6397 | E: newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com



Celebrations!

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bill Noel 12/1 | Jean Hasty..... 12/15 |
| Anne Richard..... 12/1 | Ken Martin 12/15 |
| Dwayne Morgan 12/2 | Jim Mauney II 12/16 |
| Ruth Richardson..... 12/2 | Robert Drum Jr. 12/17 |
| Billye Roland..... 12/2 | Zoe Kelley..... 12/18 |
| Terra Butler 12/3 | Jason Yount..... 12/18 |
| Chris Speagle 12/3 | Mary Cilley..... 12/20 |
| Christian Underwood 12/3 | Rowe Bollinger 12/21 |
| Anne Brooks..... 12/4 | Tucker Clark 12/21 |
| Debbie Lindler 12/4 | Gary Kale..... 12/21 |
| Amy White 12/4 | Tiffany Smyre 12/21 |
| Ken Campbell Jr. 12/5 | Erick Yoder 12/21 |
| Sara Fletcher 12/8 | Margaret Reitzel 12/23 |
| Evaleene Fowler..... 12/9 | Wayne Dellinger 12/24 |
| Sylvia Hansmann..... 12/9 | Howard Smith..... 12/24 |
| Thomas Lowder..... 12/9 | Danny Wilson 12/25 |
| Alvin Thornburg II 12/9 | Jacob Smith Jr. 12/26 |
| Logan Cox 12/10 | Mike Jenkins..... 12/28 |
| Brent Roland..... 12/11 | Rhonda Noel..... 12/28 |
| Lucy Cook..... 12/12 | Dennis Coffey 12/30 |
| Billie Shrum 12/12 | Mark Killian..... 12/30 |
| Merv McGee Jr. 12/14 | Rob Rights Jr. 12/30 |
| Ashley Dennie 12/15 | Shera Waller-Smith 12/31 |

ANNIVERSARIES

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Tim & Leah Hayes 12/4 |
| Brooks & Melba Nichols Jr. 12/12 |
| Jim & Wendy Hildebran..... 12/18 |
| Frank & Susan Reinhardt..... 12/18 |
| Wayne & Audrey Smith 12/19 |
| Johnny & Beth Isenhour..... 12/21 |
| Brent & Billye Roland..... 12/21 |
| Moe & Susan Peacock..... 12/23 |
| Rowe & Anita Bollinger 12/28 |

WEATHER ALERTS: We will communicate any changes to our church schedule via local TV (WBTV, WCNC, & WSOC), in addition to email, Facebook, and website postings. **NEW for 2018:** Sign up to receive a text alert. Simply text: @1stnewton to 81010.