

# First Newton

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Becoming one diverse community  
Worshipping Jesus passionately  
Practicing unprecedented acts of hospitality

## LOVING ALL PEOPLE INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

### FIRST NEWTON WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS ON EASTER

On Easter Sunday, April 21 we received two new members into the life & ministry of First Newton UMC. Robin Holman (left) and Dylan Landis (right) joined the church during the 10:30 worship service. Welcome Robin & Dylan!



### AN INVITATION TO SING FROM RON SINCLAIR

One of the most common responses I hear when asking someone to join the choir is “I can’t sing!” Of course you can. God made us all to sing his praises. But when we don’t do it often enough, we usually feel embarrassed when called upon, and so sing too softly to be heard. And in so doing, our worship becomes as timid as our voices. Congregational song is an important part of worship! The Wesleys built the Methodist faith through their hymn texts, set to mostly familiar, singable tunes. They usually didn’t have fine accompaniment from organs or pianos, and certainly did not have praise bands amplified as we do today. But they sang. Purely, sweetly, from the heart and from deep in their souls, they sang! You... We... can do the same. And yes. You belong in the choir.

“My life flows on in endless song above earth’s lamentations.  
I hear the real, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?”

~ Robert Lowry, 1869



### GIRL SCOUTS PROJECT HONORS BRANDY BURNETTE

On Sunday, March 31 we celebrated Girl Scout Troop #02013. The Troop announced they would be doing a service project in honor of Brandy Burnette. During April and May, they have been collecting new and used books. Their collection has been so successful, they have decided to go a step further by creating a “Mini-Library Center” at an assisted living/senior facility for residents and their families to have a place to borrow books and share the joy of reading.

## Worship @ FIRST NEWTON

We have an exciting worship plan in place for the next few months. We hope you’ll make plans to be present each Sunday as welcome guest preachers, celebrate Kids4Christ Sunday, Graduation Sunday, a special music Sunday and a new Brunch Worship experience. Here’s a sneak peak:

**MAY 5:** Rev. Bob Silber preaching and we’ll celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry (ECCCM).

**MAY 12:** Director of Music Ministries, Ron Sinclair will preach and we’ll celebrate Mother’s Day.

**MAY 19:** Kids for Christ Sunday! Children who have participated in the program this year will help lead worship and share their “Journey with Jesus.”

**MAY 26:** Jonathan LeMaster-Smith, Adjunct Professor in United Methodist Studies, will be our guest preacher for the Memorial Day Weekend.

**JUNE 2:** Graduation Sunday - We’ll celebrate our high school graduates and have scholarship presentations. Rev. Bob Silber will be preaching.

**JUNE 9:** Pentecost Sunday - Rev. Shannon LeMaster-Smith will be preaching.

**JUNE 16:** Rev. Eddie Ingram, Pastoral Counselor with the Methodist Counseling Center will be our guest preacher and we’ll celebrate Father’s Day.

**JUNE 23:** Music Celebration Sunday!  
One combined service at 10:30 a.m.

**JUNE 30:** One combined BRUNCH WORSHIP service in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. as our Youth will help lead the service.

*Please keep Rev. Willis in your prayers while she is on Renewal Leave. This is a time of continuing education for ministry, professional development, & spiritual formation. She will return July 1.*



**THURSDAY  
MAY 9**



The next JOY gathering will be Thursday, May 9. Refreshments are served at 9:30 a.m., and the program begins at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This month's program features Dick Pohar and his certified therapy dog. Dick will explain what therapy dogs do and even demonstrate a few tricks! The lunch menu is chicken salad plate, sliced tomatoes, peaches/cottage cheese and assorted desserts. RSVP for lunch by calling the Church Office (828-464-8422) by Tuesday, May 7. For more info, contact Bev Underwood @ 828-465-0481.  
**NOTE: JOY volunteers will meet on Tuesday, May 7 at 2 p.m.**

**DO GOOD CAMPAIGN COMING THIS SUMMER**

In preparation for our "Do Good" summer campaign, Deacon Shannon is ordering special "Do Good" t-shirts. You may pre-order your t-shirts one for \$15 or two for \$25 in Teal or Gold in sizes X-small to XXXL. The t-shirts are from Seed Apparel, a living wage and profit sharing organization in Haiti. We'll not only get a unique and really cool t-shirt, we're also supporting workers in Haiti! Order forms are available in the Church Office or you may order on-line: [firstnewton.org/tshirt](http://firstnewton.org/tshirt)



**METHODIST WOMEN MEETING MAY 6**

The Methodist Women will be meeting on Monday, May 6 at 2 p.m. in the Gomedela to hear a presentation by John Smith titled: "From May 6 to June 6, 1944: 75 Years Ago at First Methodist Church, Newton." Come join the women of FUMC as they learn what was going on in Newton and the church in the month before D-Day 1944.

**HOSPITALITY TEAM LEADERS' MEETING**

There will be a Hospitality Team Leaders' Meeting in the Gomedela Room on Monday, May 6 at 6 p.m. A light supper will be provided. This meeting is for all Hospitality team leaders. If you are unable to attend, please make sure someone from your team is present. Thank you!



**ECCCM — CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS**

The Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, ECCCM, is a Christian ministry, born of local supportive churches in 1969. For fifty years, with guidance by God through the Holy Spirit, ECCCM has remained faithful to the founding vision. First Newton UMC is one of the original 15 founding churches. If you would like to volunteer at ECCCM, just show up! No registration or sign-up is required. Work a couple of hours or the whole day depending on what your schedule allows. For more information, call 828-465-1702.

**ON-LINE GIVING AVAILABLE**

You can support the work of the church by giving in a variety of ways. Many find that online giving meets their needs. For more information visit: [firstnewton.org/give](http://firstnewton.org/give)



**SIGN UP FOR THE EMAIL PRAYER LIST**

Would you like to receive the pray requests each week by email so that you may include them in your daily prayers? If so, please email [kristispencer@firstnewton.org](mailto:kristispencer@firstnewton.org). You'll be added to a weekly email sent out each Monday.



**Mother's Day  
Special Bulletin**

The Faith Builder's Sunday School Class is sponsoring a special Mother's Day bulletin. You may honor or remember a mother, grandmother, or a special woman by filling out the enclosed envelope and returning it to the church office along with \$1 for each person honored or remembered. Please use a separate envelope for each name.  
**The deadline for submission is May 5.**



Photo by  
Wayne Swofford

We had a wonderful turnout for our Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 14. While the weather moved the festivities indoors, it did not dampen the fun-filled festivities. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make the event possible and to our youth for helping with the event!



**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** is available for children ages 3 – 5th grade. These groups meet on the level below the Sanctuary from 9:30-10:15 a.m. Our 1st-5th graders curriculum "Learning to Use My Bible," explores the book of Acts & Paul's letters.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** is back. All kiddos K-2nd grade are invited to go with Deacon Shannon to experience worship in the children's church room near the nursery. We will learn about rituals and songs used in the traditional service and follow the liturgical calendar. On Communion Sundays children will stay in worship to celebrate communion with their families. If you are interested in helping with Children's Church, contact Deacon Shannon.



k4C is an after school ministry for children in Kindergarten - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and meets Wednesdays from 3:00-5:30 p.m. during the school year. The program will wrap-up on May 22. For more info, contact Shannon at [deaconshannon@firstnewton.org](mailto:deaconshannon@firstnewton.org). **Here's a look at our May schedule:**

- May 1: Journey with Jesus - Post-Resurrection Appearances
- May 8: Journey with Jesus - The Great Commission & Ascension
- May 15: Review what we've learned and prepare for K4C Sunday.
- May 19: Kids for Christ Sunday at First Newton UMC  
**10 a.m. - meet in Sanctuary to practice / 10:30 a.m. - share in worship**
- May 22: Last day - Party with games and a bounce house!



All 6th -12th graders are welcome to join the Youth of First Newton for worship and fun. Please contact Deacon Shannon for details. Here's an overview of what is planned for May & June:

- **May 3-5:** IgniteUs Jr. High Retreat
- **Sunday, May 19:** Hiking & Pizza (noon - 4 p.m.)
- **Sunday, June 2:** Graduation Breakfast & Celebration
- **Sunday, June 9:** Pentecost Party / Bonfire
- **Sunday, June 30:** Help lead brunch worship (10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall)



Senior High Youth enjoyed worship, fellowship & growing closer together and to God on their retreat March 29-31 in Waynesville.

## NEWTON

METHODIST PRESCHOOL

On Sunday, April 7, we celebrated the Preschool during our 10:30 worship service. Thank you to all of the children, parents and teachers who joined us! As a reminder, the Preschool is enrolling for Fall 2019. Contact Kristi Harvell at 828-465-6397 or [newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com).





## BIRTHDAYS . . . . .

Ethan Branton ..... 5/1  
 Evan Branton..... 5/1  
 Elizabeth Greene ..... 5/1  
 Libby Mauney ..... 5/2  
 Annecy White ..... 5/2  
 John Coffey ..... 5/3  
 Kaye Lewis ..... 5/4  
 Camryn Gantt ..... 5/5

Carter Greene ..... 5/7  
 Rebecca Saunders ..... 5/7  
 Nicky Smyre ..... 5/7  
 Betsy Roland ..... 5/9  
 Bob Brown ..... 5/10  
 Chandler Setzer ..... 5/10  
 Sonia Foster ..... 5/11  
 Aidan Hefner ..... 5/11  
 Jessie Pannell ..... 5/11  
 Tommy Howard..... 5/12  
 David Kilby ..... 5/12  
 Rolen Benson ..... 5/13  
 Jessica Harkins ..... 5/13  
 Layla Isenhour ..... 5/13  
 Reece Peacock ..... 5/13  
 Vickie Lytton ..... 5/15  
 Lynsey Wayne ..... 5/15  
 Jake Coley..... 5/16  
 Reid Ikerd ..... 5/18  
 Alex Butler ..... 5/19  
 Mike Kosar ..... 5/19  
 Joe Beaman Jr. .... 5/20  
 Don Lemons ..... 5/20  
 Teena Branton ..... 5/22  
 Ashley Kale ..... 5/22  
 Scott Coley ..... 5/23  
 Ashley Benson ..... 5/24  
 Pat Lawing ..... 5/24  
 Jim Richard ..... 5/24  
 Abigail Driscoll ..... 5/25

Laura Bailes ..... 5/27  
 AB Lamb ..... 5/27  
 Kristy Speagle ..... 5/28  
 Peter Erickson ..... 5/30  
 Arizona Roland ..... 5/30  
 Corinna Driscoll ..... 5/31

## ANNIVERSARIES . . . . .

Mike & Linda Kosar ..... 5/10  
 Eddie & Regina Copeland Jr. .... 5/12  
 George & Becky Wilkinson Jr. ... 5/12  
 Roger & Lisa Johnson ..... 5/21  
 Stephen & Christie Sims Jr. .... 5/21  
 Steve & Karen Arndt ..... 5/24  
 Jonathan & Shannon LeMaster-Smith .5/24

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	APRIL 2018	APRIL 2019
Sunday School	57	51
8:30 Contemporary Worship Service	69	60
10:30 Traditional Worship Service	128	152
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP AVERAGE</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>212</b>

*\*Attendance from the former 8:30 a.m. service in the Sanctuary is counted in the Traditional Worship Service for the 2018 average.*

## APRIL UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

We do not have final numbers through April 30, 2019 to share at the time of printing. A year-to-date financial recap will be included in June's newsletter. As a reminder, detailed financial updates are shared at the monthly Church Council meetings and notes are made available in the Welcome Center. You may also contact George Wilkinson with questions: [gwilkinson0228@gmail.com](mailto:gwilkinson0228@gmail.com).

## FIRST CHURCH STAFF

**Church Office** | P: 828-464-8422 | E: [office@firstnewton.org](mailto:office@firstnewton.org) | Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-3  
**Lara "Willis" Greene**, Pastor | P: 828-461-5918 | E: [willisgreene@firstnewton.org](mailto:willisgreene@firstnewton.org)  
**Shannon LeMaster-Smith**, Deacon, Minister of Discipleship - Children, Youth & Outreach  
 P: 336-460-1769 | E: [DeaconShannon@firstnewton.org](mailto:DeaconShannon@firstnewton.org)  
**Ron Sinclair**, Director of Music | E: [ronsinclair@firstnewton.org](mailto:ronsinclair@firstnewton.org)  
**John Coffey**, Organist | E: [johnnyjava@earthlink.net](mailto:johnnyjava@earthlink.net)  
**Michael Roberts**, Praise Team Director | E: [jasper.angeline@gmail.com](mailto:jasper.angeline@gmail.com)  
**Kristi Spencer**, Communications Director | P: 704-607-3280 | E: [kristispencer@firstnewton.org](mailto:kristispencer@firstnewton.org)  
**Megan Johnson**, Nursery Coordinator | E: [meganlj1997@gmail.com](mailto:meganlj1997@gmail.com)  
**Kristi Harvell**, Preschool Director | P: 828-465-6397 | E: [newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com)

## NEW FACILITIES EMAIL:

A new email address has been established for direct contact with the Property Sub Team of Church Council (formerly known as Trustees) – [fumcproperty@gmail.com](mailto:fumcproperty@gmail.com). Please use this email address to raise any property concerns and building repair requests.

## APRIL MEMORIALS

Brandy Burnette  
 Brandy Burnette Fund  
  
 Margaret Reitzel  
 Capitol Expense Fund

## MEMORIAL STONES

If you would like to purchase a Memorial Stone, please stop by the Church Office to pick up the order form. The cost is \$150. You may provide information about the person and include a picture that will be added to a Memory Book (like our Veterans Book) for our church archives.

## NOTIFICATIONS:

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