

# 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

### TRANSITIONS AND MUCH TO CELEBRATE . . .

A message from Reverend Lara "Willis" Greene

Dear Church Family and Friends,

I once heard someone say, "Behind every hello there is a good-bye." Eighteen months ago First Church said hello to Kristi Spencer when she took on the newly created position of Director of Communications. Kristi came in with a wealth of experience and expertise and took this church's communications to a whole new level. And now, while it is bittersweet, we will be saying 'goodbye' to Kristi as she has accepted a full time position at Duke Divinity School beginning October 1. Kristi's husband, Ken, a united Methodist pastor serving Asbury UMC in Lincolnton, has also accepted a position with Duke Divinity School that begin January 1. We are thrilled for both Kristi and Ken as they begin this new season of ministry!

Kristi did a phenomenal job launching our new website. She consistently produced quality weekly bulletins, E-newsletters, monthly church newsletters, and created communications for special events such as VBS, Stewardship Campaigns, Pre-school and Kids for Christ. Kristi also partnered with Ann Cook to cover the office this Summer during a critical time of transition at First Church. Kristi has graciously agreed to continue serving First Church until a new Communications Director is hired. Her responsibilities will be scaled back with her main focus being on the worship bulletins and weekly E-news. Monthly newsletters will only contain key information that is not included in the weekly communication pieces.

During this time of transition, I am reminded that churches are like families - always evolving and changing. The two changes we are facing now are the search for a Praise Team Director and Communications Director. Both job ads are included in this newsletter on page 4. Please share the job descriptions with anyone you think may be a good fit for First Church.

And even in the midst of transition, there is much to celebrate . . .

- Music Ministry - there has been growth in the Chancel Choir under the leadership of Ron Sinclair. How blessed we are to have the beautiful sounds of the Chancel Choir at our 10:30 worship service.
- Children's Ministry - Kids for Christ is in full swing! Deacon Shannon and a strong group of ministry servants share God's love each Wednesday with over 20 children as they learn about the fruit of the Spirit.
- Youth Ministry - A confirmation class with 10 amazing youth now meets on Sunday afternoons, learning about the Bible, Methodism & church history.
- Fall Festival - make plans to attend this church wide event as we gather for fun, food and fellowship at the Coley Barn on Sunday, October 6.

First Church is a blessed congregation! I give God thanks and praise for each of you, and look forward to the fall and sharing in all that the new season brings.

With joy,

IT'S A **WONDER-FULL** LIFE  
— a New Outlook for 2020 —

### NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS OCTOBER 6

Serenity, harmony, truth, compassion, gratitude, love and joy are all things we seek as we grow in spiritual maturity. But these are not always words we use to describe the role of money in our lives. In the classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life," a crisis of money creates vastly diverse reactions from several characters that can hold up a mirror to our own relationships with money. Beginning Sunday, October 6, we will look at our relationship to money and discover compassionate ways that can offer more depth of meaning, healing, and wholeness and a whole new "outlook" on what constitutes a Wonder-FULL life.

## FALL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 4 P.M.



We hope you will attend our Fall Festival at The Barn at Coley Creek (747 W C St. in Newton) on Sunday, October 6. We'll gather at 4 p.m. and plan to have dinner at 5. We'll have games, food, fun and lots of fellowship. Reserved parking will be available for anyone with mobility issues. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please let us know if you will attend by contacting the Church Office at [office@firstnewton.org](mailto:office@firstnewton.org) or call 828-464-8422.



**Confirmation is off to a great start! We have ten confirmands this year, and are enjoying getting to know one another better as we learn about the Church.**

## FIRST NEWTON WELCOMES DR. J AS SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE



First Newton is providing office space, to Dr. Jonathan LeMaster-Smith (Dr. J as his students call him). In exchange, Jonathan is teaching, preaching, and offering other relevant resources to the church and community, including short term studies, special events, and other information.

There are two upcoming Learning Opportunities. The schedule for each 2-day course is listed below. The cost of the courses will be \$35 each, which covers the cost of refreshments and lunches. There are also books that are required. Register on-line at: <https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/LayServantCoursesFall2019>

- **United Methodist Doctrine:**  
Friday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and  
Saturday, Oct. 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **United Methodist Polity:**  
Friday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and  
Saturday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



## ENJOY A GOURMET HOT DOG AND SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE

The Corner Table Soup Kitchen invites you to come out for their Gourmet Hot Dog Fundraiser on Saturday, October 5 during the Foothills Folk Art Festival in downtown Newton. They will be serving dogs from 11a.m. - 2 p.m. AND not just any hot dog . . . Choices include: Southern Comfort, Dog on Fire, Pimento Cheese Dog, Philly Cheese Dog, Carolina Dog, and The New Yorker. Satisfy your hot dog craving and support The Corner Table Soup Kitchen at the same time. For more info, contact Deacon Shannon.

## NEXT JOY GATHERING IS OCTOBER 10

JOY meets the 2nd Thursday of every month in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and refreshments are available at 9:30 a.m., and the program begins at 10 a.m. with a time of devotion followed by a program. The September devotion will be led by Deacon Shannon LeMaster-Smith. The program for October will feature Andrea Sherrill from the NC Cooperative Extension. She will be discussing holiday entertaining. Come learn about tips on safely preparing food for gatherings, baking your favorite treats and preparing food as gifts. The Lunch Menu: Pintos, Slaw, Livermush, Cornbread, Assorted Desserts. For questions or to RSVP, contact the Church Office at 828-464-8422 by noon on Tuesday, Oct. 8. Reservations are recommended.



## METHODIST WOMEN MEETING

All women of the church (and friends) are invited to join the Methodist Women for their monthly meeting on Monday, October 7 at 2 p.m. in the Gomedela Room. For more information about the group, please contact Martha Sowers at 828-464-6954.

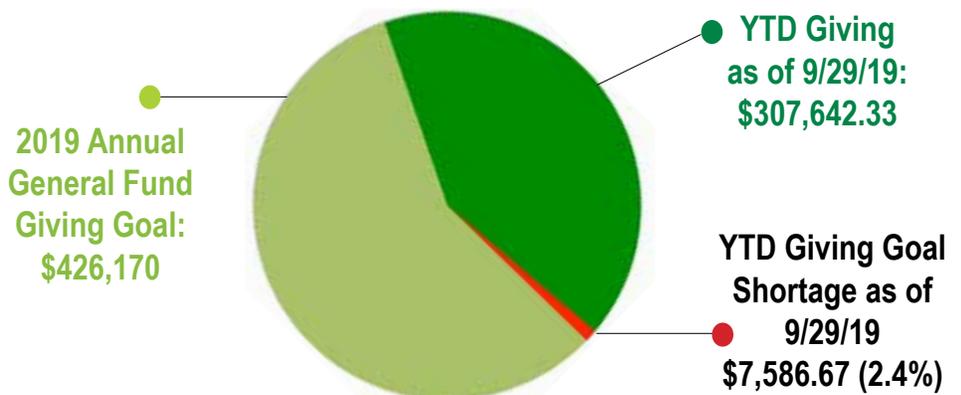


## INVITATION TO ECCCM 50TH CELEBRATION

ECCCM (Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry) is hosting a 50th Anniversary Celebration on their birthday: October 12, 2019 from 2-4 p.m.! There will be refreshments, and an open house with agency tours. First Newton was one of the founding churches for ECCCM and you're invited to help celebrate 50 years of their ministry.

## AN UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Team has provided a snapshot of our year-to-date giving (shown below) to keep us up to speed on our church finances. These numbers reflect offerings received through 9/29/19. Additional income may be received for the month of August. Detailed financial updates (with month-end final data) are shared at the monthly Church Council meetings and notes are made available in the Welcome Center. The next Church Council meeting will be held Tuesday, October 8 at 7 p.m. in the Gomedela Room. Meetings are open for anyone to attend. You may also contact George Wilkinson with questions at [gwilkinson0228@gmail.com](mailto:gwilkinson0228@gmail.com)



**NURSERY:** For children up to 4 years is available from 8:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on Level 1 (PLEASE NOTE: Kim Boston needs nursery workers for Nov. 3, 10, & 17 (for the 10:30 service) If you are available to assist, please call the Church Office.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Children 3 years - 5th Grade on Level 1. Our 1st-5th graders are exploring **BIBLE CHARACTERS**. Every two weeks we will learn about a character and how God used them to make a difference. October 6 & 13: Joseph & his Brothers. October 20 & 27: Esther.

**Youth Sunday School** (6th-12th grade) will continue to meet in the Activity Room, on the basement level.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH RETURNS:** Children's Church will be offered each Sunday except Communion Sundays (1st Sundays), for **KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 2ND GRADERS**. We will leave service after the Time for All Ages and meet in the Chapel (**NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!**)

**CONFIRMATION:** At Confirmation last month we learned about Christian History and United Methodist History. During the month of October, middle and high school youth will be participating in fellowship (Fall Festival 10/6), missions (Hunger Walk 10/20 & Spooktacular on 10/26), and fun (Escape Room on 10/13)! Confirmation Sessions will pick back up in November.

During the month of October, middle and high school youth will enjoy fellowship, missions, and fun!

- Sunday, October 6: Church Fall Festival (4-7 p.m. at The Barn at Coley Creek)
- Sunday, October 13 (4:15 - 6:30 p.m.): Escape Room Youth Outing (\$25 per person RSVP to Deacon Shannon by 10/2)
- Sunday, October 20: Hunger Walk (great for families!) We'll meet at the square at 1 p.m.; walk is from 2-4 p.m.
- Saturday, October 26: Spooktacular in downtown Newton. First Newton is doing a cupcake walk - need volunteers to help setup & host booth from 3pm-5pm; and host/cleanup from 5pm-7pm; need LOTS of mini cupcakes! see Deacon Shannon to sign up!

**NEWTON**  
METHODIST PRESCHOOL



*Newton Methodist Preschool has kicked off a new school year of learning, making new friends and loving Jesus. We are excited to have 66 students enrolled this school year! For information about the preschool, Contact Kristi Harvell at: 828-465-6397 or newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com.*



## KIDS FOR CHRIST UPDATE

k4C is an after school ministry for children in Kindergarten - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. k4C meets Wednesdays 3:00-5:30 p.m. during the school year. Our theme this year is Fruits of the Spirit. Each month we will explore a fruit through story, music, art, drama, and missions. Special thanks to our amazing helpers: Terri Strickland, Conner Baker, Elizabeth Branton (and friend Rachel), Bev Underwood, and Joe Colletta!

Contact Deacon Shannon at 336-460-1769 or [deaconshannon@firstnewton.org](mailto:deaconshannon@firstnewton.org) for more information or to sign up to serve.

## SEPTEMBER MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

### MEMORIALS

Joe Goble .....	Capital Building Fund
Joe Goble .....	Maintenance Fund
Joe Goble .....	Garden Fund
Joe Goble .....	General Fund

### HONORARIUMS

Treva Sweezy .....	General Fund
--------------------	--------------

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	SEPTEMBER 2018	SEPTEMBER 2019
Sunday School	38	34
8:30 Contemporary Worship Service	54	43
10:30 Traditional Worship Service	110	95
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP AVERAGE</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>138</b>

### ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone or celebrate a special birthday or anniversary with flowers for the altar in the Sanctuary, please contact Bev Underwood in the Church Office at 828-464-8422 or email [office@firstnewton.org](mailto:office@firstnewton.org).

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST CHURCH

**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:** First Church is seeking a creative and organized professional to oversee all aspects of communication. The Director is responsible for visioning, planning, and coordinating both internal and external communication. Responsibilities include ensuring the website is current & relevant, managing and maintaining social media outlets, publishing and producing weekly electronic newsletters, monthly newsletters and weekly worship bulletins. This part time position (12 hours) offers a flexible schedule with mandatory attendance at staff meetings. Qualifications for this position: detail management, strong written communication skills, multi-faceted computer understanding including design software, internet / website design, Facebook and other social media outlets.

**PRAISE TEAM LEADER:** The purpose of this position is to provide oversight, spiritual leadership and creative support to the music and media of the Praise Service. This person will lead the worship service, guide the praise team, create media presentations and recruit musical volunteers in order to present a high quality and energetic worship experience each week. This is a position that requires someone with a passion for music and a heart for Jesus Christ.

If you or someone you know is interested, please submit a cover letter, with resume and references to [office@firstnewton.org](mailto:office@firstnewton.org).

## Celebrations!

### BIRTHDAYS

Steve Arndt.....	10/1	Megan Childs.....	10/17
Brian Mayberry .....	10/1	Maddy Clontz.....	10/20
Frances Petree .....	10/5	Clarence Hood Jr. ....	10/20
Owen Sims .....	10/5	Cole Poovey .....	10/20
Melissa Ervin .....	10/6	Brenda Reynolds .....	10/20
Riggins Burnette .....	10/8	Anna White .....	10/20
Jimmy Newsome .....	10/9	Anita Bollinger .....	10/21
Diane Smith .....	10/9	Edna Davidson .....	10/21
Greg Cranford.....	10/10	Jennifer Stiver .....	10/21
Joel McCombs.....	10/10	Kim Whitener .....	10/21
Kristi Harvell .....	10/11	Keith Mayberry .....	10/28
Nancy Burgess .....	10/13	Penelope Jade Stephens	10/28
Regina Copeland ...	10/13	Jimmy Burnette.....	10/29
Jeff Carter.....	10/16	Jane Clark .....	10/30
Ashley Lamb.....	10/16	Matthew Fletcher .....	10/30
Larry Gregory .....	10/17		

### ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Elizabeth Mauney.....	10/7
Bobby & Carol Brown.....	10/8
George & Sarah Johnson.....	10/17
Joe & Diane Coletta.....	10/20
Randy & Bev Underwood.....	10/21
David & Sandra Hardin .....	10/23

### FIRST CHURCH STAFF

**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)

**Beverly Underwood, Church Administrator**

P: 828-464-8422 | E: [office@firstnewton.org](mailto:office@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)

**Kim Boston, Nursery Coordinator**

**Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director**

P: 828-465-6397 | E: [newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com)

**FACILITIES EMAIL:** [fumcproperty@gmail.com](mailto:fumcproperty@gmail.com)

Please use this email address to raise any property concerns and building repair requests.