

LOVING ALL PEOPLE INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST



REBOOT GRADUATION CELEBRATION

First Newton hosted a REBOOT Combat Recovery course this Fall on Monday nights in the Fellowship Hall led by Lynn Marilla, course facilitator and Chief Executive Camper at Eagle Rock Camp. The faith-based trauma healing course is designed to address the spiritual and moral wounds of war.



"The twelve weeks that our military families shared REBOOT Combat Recovery gave them ways to rethink about their military service, especially the time spent in combat and away from their families," said Lynn. "They shared meals, learning, struggles, laughter and tears. They learned that they are not alone on their journey." REBOOT uses Biblical and Christian curriculum to provide new perspectives and tools to help families heal from the moral injuries of war. One veteran shared with Lynn through his tears, "This program and my new REBOOT Family has changed my life. I will be grateful forever!"



Lynn added, "The most important take away from the course is that these military families no longer feel alone. They feel heard. They all had the opportunity to tell their story - some for the very first time. Thank you First Newton for your support!"



NEW BIBLE STUDY STARTS FEB. 4

Have you ever wondered how and when the Bible was written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it? Is the Bible ever wrong? If so, "Making Sense of the Bible" is for you. Join Rev. Willis for this new study beginning Monday, February 4. The study will be offered Monday evenings at 7 p.m., Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m., and Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour at 9:30 a.m. Our goal for this 7- week study is a deeper appreciation of the Bible, so that we might hear God speak through it and find His Word to be life-changing and life-giving. You can sign up on-line at firstnewton.org/study

DINNERS FOR 8 - REGISTRATION STARTS IN JANUARY

Dinners for 8 is not a Bible Study, but instead is a fun way to get to meet people from the church you may not know. Dinners for 8 groups get together once a month for three consecutive months (the Spring session is February, March, April) and share meals at participants' homes, at local restaurants, the church or wherever the group decides. Groups will be put together by the Dinners for 8 Coordinator in conjunction with church staff. If you are interested in serving as a group host, please email brandyburnette@firstnewton.org or contact the Church Office for more information. Registration cards will be included in the bulletin in January or you may sign up on-line at firstnewton.org/d48



RADIO BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS REACHES OUT TO ABERNETHY LAURELS FOR BROADCAST

On Sunday, December 2 at 10 a.m. the first remote broadcast of the Radio Bible Sunday School Class took place in the Game Room at Abernethy Laurels. The lesson was led by First Newton's Bill Shillito with 12 people in attendance, in addition to the many listeners tuned in to WNNC Radio 1230 AM. This year marks 70 years of continuous broadcasts -- the longest continuous Christian Sunday School Broadcast in the world. Back in October, Bill began looking for projects or a process to extend and grow the broadcast's audience, especially in the Classroom. This is when his thoughts turned to Abernethy Laurels, knowing that First Newton has quite a few members residing there. "In preparation for the Sunday School Class, Dr. Susan Roddy and staff (at Abernethy Laurels) placed an announcement on each resident's door the night before." said Bill. "I believe that the potential for growth of this class is highly possible. I am prepared to do the Remote Broadcast next on Sunday January 6, 2019." If you would like more information about the Radio Bible Sunday School Class, please contact Bill at bill@lightleap.com.

A Message from Pastor Willis

Dear Friends,

As we head into the new year, it brings me great peace and comfort to know that we are headed toward making God's vision a reality. We are becoming ... one diverse community, passionately worshipping Jesus and practicing unprecedented acts of hospitality.

Over 100 people accepted the 90 Day Hospitality Challenge currently underway. We have teams established to welcome and greet guests, provide refreshments, show them the way to the nursery, or Sunday School classrooms and so much more. This entire effort is simply our church extending the love and grace of Jesus Christ to All. We are living out our mission to love ALL people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

In February, the United Methodist Church will convene a special General Conference to settle the United Methodist Church's 40 plus year debate on the subject of the church and human sexuality. An equal number of laity and clergy delegates from across the globe will gather in St. Louis, February 23-26, 2019. The Commission on a Way Forward will present three options to the General Conference. You may learn more about the three options outlined at: www.wnccumc.org/commissiononawayforwardresources

On Tuesday, January 29 at 6 p.m. we will have an **Information Session at First Newton** led by Rev. Lory Beth Huffman. I encourage you to come learn about what the General Conference will be considering. Depending upon what General Conference decides, there may be follow-up action that local congregations must take. There will be a time line for that action and there will be plenty of time for churches to adequately discuss the ramifications and implications of the decision made. Our time on January 29 will be focused on education and awareness.

In addition to our church's information session, the Western North Carolina Conference Delegation to the 2019 Called Session of the General Conference will be available at two sessions in early January for United Methodist clergy and laity to learn more about the upcoming conference and share their perspectives. Participants will have the opportunity to make their voice heard during directed table conversations and brief presentations. The sessions will be identical. Registration is required. The dates, times, and locations for the sessions are:

- Saturday, January 5 at First UMC in Morganton from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Sunday, January 6 at First UMC in Salisbury from 3-6 p.m.

Register at: <https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/make-your-voice-heard-delegation-listening-sessions-12483050>

As you read, reflect, and make plans to attend one of these sessions, please pray for our denomination and our church on a regular basis. If you're uncertain how to pray, I invite you to join me in a few of the words which Jesus taught his followers ... simply pray, Lord, thy will be done.

As we await all these decisions, we will not quietly sit back. We will continue to be the church that God has called us to be. God's vision will remain steadfast as we do all we can through the power of the Holy Spirit to become one diverse community passionately worshipping Jesus and practicing unprecedented acts of hospitality. Friends, First Newton is moving toward a positive, hope filled future!

Moving toward God's vision with you,

Rev. Lara "Willis" Greene



FIRST NEWTON HAS A LOT TO OFFER

Are you interested in learning more about the ministries at First Newton? Are you looking to get plugged into a small group? Stop by the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 27 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and visit folks involved in our various ministries and small groups.

If you are a small group or ministry leader and want to have space at the Ministry Fair to share about your group, please contact Brandy in the Church Office (brandyburnette@firstnewton.org or 828-464-8422) to reserve your space.

TOWN HALL MEETING JANUARY 27

When First Newton made the switch to a one board governing model, the newly formed Church Council made the commitment to hold an annual "state of the church" event. The Church Council invites the congregation to this fun evening on Sunday, January 27 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we share dinner together and celebrate the ministries of First Newton. Together we will:

- Give Thanks for 2018
- Hear an update from our Next Step Team
- Receive a Capital Campaign Update
- Have a Q&A for the 2019 Budget

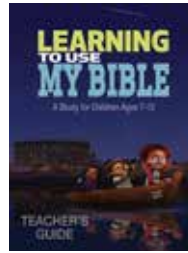
Please bring your favorite covered dish to share and come ready to hear from our Church Council.

PRESERVE, PROTECT AND MODERNIZE: CHURCH RENOVATION UPDATE

The Church Council has chosen to work with Wesley Development Corporation, a non-profit that helps NC churches develop or repurpose real estate to best meet church and community needs. Joel Gilland, with WDC, has extensive experience working with churches and is very knowledgeable with the Book of Discipline and funding options. Joel recently toured the church with architect Ginger Moore of Carlos Moore Associates, and general contractor Don Harris with Ratzlaff Construction. Ginger will be developing preliminary drawings and other materials to present to the Church Council. Congregation wide listening sessions will be held to solicit input and answer questions regarding the renovation plan. The Renovation Team will keep the congregation informed each step of the way as we move toward the vision God has for First Newton.



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 begin our new lesson series: "learning to use my Bible." Children are encouraged to bring their Bibles to Sunday School as we will be making bookmarks and other fun things for our Bibles to help children become more familiar with the Bible.



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. Our theme this year at Kids for Christ is "Journey with Jesus." Each week we will engage stories in the Bible using drama, music, service projects, and art to reflect on the story. For more information, contact Deacon Shannon at deaconshannon@firstnewton.org



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

- **Sunday, January 6** - Parent Appreciation Night 5-7 p.m.
Parents of Youth — WE APPRECIATE YOU! Come be treated to dinner, served by the youth in honor of you. Following the meal, the youth will play games while the parents meet to share ideas and hear about our plans for Youth Ministry in 2019. For more info, contact Deacon Shannon.
- **January 19-21** - Youth Winter Retreat
- **Sunday, January 27** - Town Hall Meeting

NEWTON

METHODIST PRESCHOOL



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Over 200 preschool family members and friends attended this year's Christmas program. December was a busy time of learning & fun for the children.



RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH JOY

The first JOY gathering of 2019 will be Thursday, January 10. Refreshments are served at 9:30 a.m., and the program begins at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Jesse Salwen is a photographer who will share his slideshow as we "travel" to India through his personal photos. The lunch menu is pinto beans, marinated slaw, cornbread & assorted pies for dessert. RSVP to the Church Office (828-464-8422) by noon on Tuesday, Jan. 8. For more info, contact Bev @ 828-465-0481.



ALEX WHITE TO SHARE MISSION EXPERIENCE

Alex White will be at both services on January 20 sharing about his recent mission in South Africa. The project coordinated through Athletes in Action (a ministry of Cru - Campus Crusade for Christ), provided a tutoring program for a town in South Africa ravaged by HIV/AIDS.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS CELEBRATED FOR THREE YEARS OF SERVICE

At the December Church Council meeting, we celebrated our members who have completed their three year term. Thank you to Jim Stockner, Jim Mauney and Tammy Smith (pictured to the left) and to Janet Byrd and Steve Arndt (not pictured). Our first Church Council meeting for 2019 will be Tuesday, January 8 at 7 p.m. in the Gomedela Room. All meetings are open for anyone to attend and meeting notes are available in the Welcome Center. **REMINDER:** Church Council will have a training session with John Dyer on Saturday, January 13 from 2-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (dinner provided).

Sunday	Attendance	Tithes & Offerings	Capital Building Fund
December 2, 2018	166	\$10,632.00	\$60
December 9, 2018	No Services Due to Snow		
December 16, 2018	212	\$17,278.98	\$1,245

*December 23 & 30 information was not available at time of printing.

DECEMBER MEMORIALS

Melba Nichols	General Fund, Garden Fund, Music Fund & Capital Building Fund
Pat Britt	General Fund, Garden Fund, Music Fund
Donnie Holbrook	Garden Fund & Capital Building Fund
Burt Hoage	General Fund, Music Fund, Garden Fund & Capital Building Fund
Frank Cloninger	Capital Building Fund
Sherrill Cranford	Capital Building Fund
Mac Welborn	Capital Building Fund
Jackie Bandy	Music Fund
Anna Lee Cook	Music Fund
Louise Barkley	Music Fund
Merle Smith	Music Fund
Debbie Dixon Cloninger	Helping Hands
Abi Butterfield	Garden Fund

DECEMBER HONORARIUMS

First Newton UMC	Ladies Wednesday Bible Study
Harriett Wyatt, Gaye Keener, Martha Sowers, Joe & Judy Beaman	Capital Building 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

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Sarah Luhrs, Choir Director | E: fmcnewtonchoir@gmail.com

John Coffey, Organist | 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 | E: melervin06@gmail.com

Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director

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

MLK CELEBRATION EVENT ON JANUARY 19

The Western NC Conference is hosting a Martin Luther King Celebration event "Living in the Dream: All of God's Children!" on Saturday, January 19 at University City UMC (3825 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269). The event will feature keynote speaker Bill Curry, motivational speaker, author, former Super Bowl champion, NCAA football coach, and ESPN Commentator. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the celebration begins at 10 a.m. Deadline to register is January 15. Visit: wnc-reg.brtpapp.com/MLKCelebration2019



BIRTHDAYS

Fred Cook1/1	John Trivette1/13
Mary Killian1/1	Bray Hunter1/14
Lukas Yoder1/1	Wilson Hasty.....1/17
Mason Driscoll1/2	Jackie Sigmon 1/18
Brandy Burnette..... 1/3	Kathy Boylan 1/20
Jerry DeVos1/3	Caleb Miller1/20
Janet Cloninger1/4	Railey White 1/21
Laurel Phillips1/4	Conner Baker1/22
Bradley Bollinger1/5	Walter Stone.....1/22
William Shillito1/5	David Lewis1/23
C. Ray Shrum1/5	Elizabeth Rights1/23
Frankie Cooke1/6	Madyson Fair.....1/24
Tracie Loyzelle1/6	Robert Fowler 1/24
Staci Miller..... 1/7	Teresa Coley..... 1/25
Bradley Byrd1/8	Linda Kosar 1/25
Vance Ervin1/9	Brenda Saunders1/25
Jamie Gantt1/9	Beverly Underwood 1/25
Donna Mull1/10	Emma Burnette.....1/26
Sandra Hardin1/12	Diane Hadley1/26
Matthew Miller1/12	Jennifer Coffey1/26
W. Harold Lynch1/13	Faith Couture.....1/30
	Thomas Dixon1/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Mike Jenkins & Tricia Hayes 1/1
Hank & Monica Weddington 1/1
Rob & Debbie Rights Jr. 1/21
Tony & Jill Philmon 1/30

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: Sign up to receive a text alert.**
Simply text: @1stnewton to 81010.