

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



A MESSAGE FROM JOSH

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

“Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.”

As we head into the holiest of times in the Church year, this scripture from Philippians 2 that is often referred to as the Christ Hymn reminds us perfectly what this season is all about. It is a reminder that God loves us so much that God was willing to not just endure but also embrace the fragileness and brokenness of the world and turn it upside down so that life and love might again be the victor! This is my hope and prayer for us at First UMC Newton – that we live into this promise and hope in our own flesh or, to use a Christmastime word, incarnate the life, death, and resurrection of Christ in our own living.

We must also acknowledge that what should be a joyful, boisterous, and communal existence is tempered by the current reality. What we are experiencing is not normal; it is abnormal. It is important to claim this reality and name it for what it is and the power it exerts on us. By naming it, we take the power back. So when abnormal is the new normal, what do we do? Quite simply, we do the best we can with what we are given, all the while giving thanks to our Father in heaven.

So, that is what we will do over this holy season and beyond until we can meet together again. We will worship online virtually. We will communicate via Facebook, email, Zoom, and phone. We will take care of one another by staying healthy and reaching out from a distance. My campus minister from college sent a text of a sign that reads, "And then the whole world walked inside and shut their doors and said, 'We will stop it all. Everything. To protect our weaker ones, our sicker ones, our older ones. And nothing, nothing in the history of humankind ever felt more like love than this.'" Well said. But in order for it to be made real, we must do exactly that.

To that end, the church office will be officially closed until April 30. Church staff will be working remotely. All church activities and communication will be done digitally from a distance. We will still have worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 via Facebook Live and we are working to make it more accessible to folks who are not on Facebook. Continue to check your email and snail mail. If the church office does not have your current email address or you are not on the email list, please email your current contact info to Gina at communications@firstnewton.org. We will also begin virtual Sunday School for classes and other small groups like the choir and UMW. The hospitality group is working to set up a telephone call schedule to check in on folks.

You have been extremely faithful in your financial giving during this time and we ask that you continue to do so to the best of your ability and situation. We also acknowledge this may not be possible for some and completely understand. In fact, if you need assistance, financial or otherwise, please let Bev know at office@firstnewton.org. The church is ready to help.

Again, while we will celebrate Easter on the date, our first service back...whenever that may be...will be Easter with all the trimmings! We will get through this time and God is with us. I close with the words of a hymn that is a favorite of my mom's, an oldie but a goodie. I think it captures where we are perfectly.

Be not dismayed whate'er betide
God will take care of you
Beneath His wings of love abide
God will take care of you

God will take care of you
Through every day, o'er all the way
He will take care of you
God will take care of you

No matter what may be the test
God will take care of you
Lean, weary one, upon His breast
God will take care of you

God will take care of you
Through every day, o'er all the way
He will take care of you
God will take care of you

God will indeed take care of us and let us care for one another as best as possible in this time.

Peace be to you all,
Josh

Holy Week Devotions

Holy Week in this uncertain time looks different than we've ever experienced before. Know that we are in prayer for you and your family, friends, and neighbors, as well as the whole world. God is with us in this time. We invite you to aside time to remember our story, our faith story. This story reminds us that God is faithful, and even when times are bleak, there is hope.

Each devotion for Holy Week is meant to be simple. You can do this alone or with your family. You could even meet online with others and share this together. Our hope and prayer is that this is a meaningful way for you to remember and experience the story that binds us all together – God's story. Each devotion includes indoor/outdoor options, and:

- **item(s) to gather**
- **simple action/activity**
- **scripture story**
- **reflection questions**



Palm Sunday

- **item(s) to gather**
Outside: gather a branch or large leaves from a tree; Inside: find a jacket or rag
- **simple action/activity**
Wave the item around and shout "Hosanna!" If possible, walk down the street as you do this.
- **scripture story:** Matthew 21:1-11
- **reflection questions**
 - How do you think the people felt when Jesus was walking through Jerusalem?
 - Hosanna means "God save us." What do you hope God can save us from?

Maundy Thursday

- **item(s) to gather**
a simple meal; a bowl of water, towels
- **simple action/activity**
Eat a meal together as a family.
- **scripture story:** John 13:1-17
- **simple action/activity**
Wash each other's feet (or hands).
- **reflection questions**
 - What was that experience like?
 - What do you imagine it was like for the disciples to have Jesus wash their feet?



Made for First UMC Newton by Shannon LeMaster-Smith

Good Friday

- **item(s) to gather**
something heavy that you can carry
- **simple action/activity**
Carry something heavy on a short walk.
- **scripture story:** John 19:1-37
Light a candle. Read the scripture story. Blow out the candle.
- **simple action/activity**
Sit in silence for five minutes. (adapt time frame as needed)
- **reflection questions**
 - What images come to mind when hearing this story?
 - How do you imagine Jesus' disciples felt as this happened?



Holy Saturday

- **item(s) to gather:** none
- **simple action/activity**
Sit outside, weather permitting. If you can't sit outside, sit in your favorite room of the house. Simply sit still. Try five minutes. Maybe twenty minutes. Maybe an hour. Sit in silence.
- **scripture story:** John 19: 38-42
- **reflection questions**
 - What do you notice? What do you hear? What do you see?
 - What do you imagine Jesus' disciples were thinking/feeling?



Prayers to use for each time

Opening Prayer:

God, we are here to embrace your presence.
Meet us here. Show us your love.
Open our hearts and minds to experience you. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for being here with us.
Comfort us in this time of abnormalcy.
Strengthen us for the journey you have called us on.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

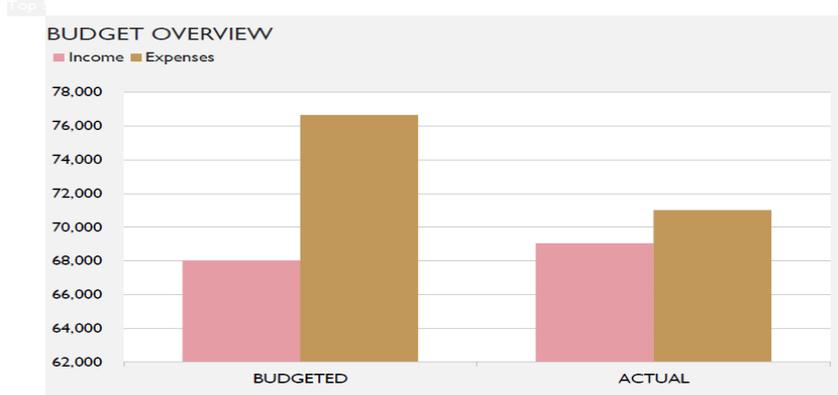
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AN UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWTON 2020 FEBRUARY BUDGET



BUDGET TOTALS	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Income	68,026.00	69,045.00	1,019.00
Expenses	76,653.00	71,012.00	5,641.00



An incredible “THANK YOU” to all of you who have continued to contribute financially during this tumultuous time. The church staff continues to work hard to bring the love of Christ to our congregation and the community at large. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will make it through this difficult time and emerge strongere and more centered on God our creator.

Thank you!

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Josh Sherfey, Pastor

P: 704-881-2488 | E: josh@firstnewton.org

Shannon LeMaster-Smith, Deacon,

Minister of Discipleship - Children, Youth & Outreach

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

Beverly Underwood, Church Administrator

P: 828-464-8422 | E: office@firstnewton.org

Ron Sinclair, Director of Music | E: ronsinclair@firstnewton.org

John Coffey, Organist | E: johnnyjava@earthlink.net

Gina King, Dir. of Communications | communications@firstnewton.org

Hank Weddington, Praise Team Leader

Kim Boston, Nursery Coordinator

Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director

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



**Ken Simmons, Bernice Allen & Family,
Rowe Bollinger, Family of Howard Smith,
Family of Beth Isenhour, Merv McGee,
Richard McGee, Karen Morgan,
Heather & Brian McKnight,
Dianne Moose, Corinna Driscoll,
Family of Mildred Cochran,
All military men and women and their
families, our government officials, and the
global pandemic of Covid-19.**



SUNDAY
10:30AM

First Newton
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Worshipping Jesus passionately
Practicing unprecedented acts of hospitality

LOVING ALL PEOPLE INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

@fumcnewtonnc

<http://www.facebook.com/fumcnewtonnc/live/>



By Mail:

300 North Main Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

Online:

<http://firstnewton.org/give/>



<https://www.ecccm.org/donate/>



<http://www.thecornertable.org/donate>

FEBRUARY MEMORIALS

Sara Caldwell

- Garden Fund
- General Fund
- Brandy Burnette Fund
- Capital Building Fund
- Columbarium Fund
- Caring Fund

Nancy Killian

- Music Ministry
- General Fund
- Columbarium Fund
- Caring Fund
- Capital Building Fund
- Garden Fund

Vicki Yount

- Capital Building Fund

Tommy Howard

- General Fund
- Garden Fund



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Judith Bolick3/1	Lillie Sims3/18
Julie Branton.....3/1	Faye Swofford3/19
Janet Byrd3/1	Trent Driscoll3/21
Tammy Smith.....3/2	Adam Hardin.....3/21
Douglas Webb3/2	Sara Copeland.....3/24
Will Autry.....3/5	Dianne Tilley3/24
Chloe Killian.....3/5	Diana Wilson3/24
Mark Willard.....3/5	Kelsie Yoder.....3/24
Ken Lawing.....3/6	Shannon LeMaster-Smith.....3/24
Charles Foster3/7	Wilson Caldwell.....3/26
Russell Hunsucker.....3/7	Theo Elliott.....3/26
Erin Eller.....3/8	Jeremy Lane.....3/26
Michael Gantt3/10	Wayne Swofford.....3/26
Barbara Whitener3/11	Susan Holbrook.....3/27
Deanna Kelly3/12	Frances Moose.....3/27
Roy Lewis.....3/12	Laura Martin.....3/28
Wadine Smith3/14	Quint Ervin.....3/29
Dennis Coffey3/15	Norris McRee.....3/29
John David Hardin3/15	Bob Saunders.....3/29
Jean Childs.....3/16	Ryan Rights.....3/30
Sawyer Moss3/16	Tyler Smith.....3/30
Alex White3/16	Billy Griffis.....3/31
Cheryce Gregory3/17	

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Cara Cadwallader.....2/2	Paiton Fair.2/18
Gaye Keener2/2	Pat Howard.....2/18
Jeff Hewins2/3	Jim Byrd, Jr.....2/19
Greg Bailes.....2/7	Joseph Beaman.....2/19
Adrienne Binkley.....2/7	Anna Cook.....2/19
Frank Reinhardt.....2/7	Lorene Martin2/20
Brooks Nichols, Jr.....2/8	Flo Williams2/20
Vance Sigmon2/9	Bobby Carter2/21
Paulette Moss.....2/12	Anne Hunsucker2/22
Lori Wray2/12	Ivey Ervin.....2/23
Andrew Boylan2/14	Sydney Templeton2/27
Carol Brown.....2/14	Katie Brown2/28
Gabe Ervin.....2/14	Erin Killian.....2/28
Ken Moss.....2/16	George Wilkinson, Jr2/28
Ken Simmons2/17	
Jean Carter.....2/18	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Scott & Gina King	3/1
Bert & Mary Miller	3/1
Jerry & Laura DeVos.....	3/6
David & Doris White.....	3/10
Chris & Suzi Cadwallader.....	3/13
Sam & Sonia Foster.....	3/28
Joel & Mary Alice McCombs.....	3/28
John & JoAnne Hewins.....	3/30