

First United Methodist Church

A Church that Loves All People into a Relationship with Jesus Christ

Becoming one diverse community passionately worshipping Jesus & practicing unprecedented acts of hospitality.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL SEND OFF FOR JULIE BRASWELL

After five years of ministry at First Church, Julie Braswell our Church Administrator is moving back to South Carolina. Julie joined the staff of First Church in March of 2013 as Director of Christian Education. Pastor Willis commented, "Julie is a faithful servant in ministry. We are grateful for her time with us, and just as the Apostle Paul said to the Philippians, 'We will thank our God every time we remember her.' With her gracious spirit and willing heart, people have come to know the love of God."



On Sunday, August 5, we will hold a church wide ice cream social send off to celebrate Julie and say "Thank You!" We hope you will join us in expressing deep gratitude for the many ways Julie has touched our lives and the life of the church. Julie's last day in the office will be August 9.

Here is an excerpt from Julie's letter announcing her departure . . .

"I have loved my time and the people of First Newton. You were and continue to be a blessing to me and my family. I will keep you and First Church in my prayers, God has great things planned here to grow HIS community and I know the servants of this church will make that happen."

COUNCIL UPDATE ON ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

At a called meeting held on July 26, the Church Council discussed how to best move forward into God's vision with the recent opening up of the Church Administrator position. The Council took this opportunity to review the position's roles & responsibilities in light of God's vision for us to, "become one diverse community passionately worshipping Jesus and practicing unprecedented acts of hospitality." It was a consensus among the Council members that in order to keep our focus on the vision, the financial bookkeeping will now be outsourced to a local CPA. This will create a more efficient operation; streamline processes and create continuity with the church's financial records. Please be assured that your financial gifts will continue to be processed in a timely and efficient manner.

The Church Administrator position will be restructured with two key focus areas: Administration & Hospitality. The position will give oversight to the daily operations of the church and create a welcoming environment for guests and the church family. In order to live into the vision of "unprecedented acts of hospitality," one of the main job functions will be to guide & resource the newly formed Hospitality Team. To accommodate the newly defined roles of the Church Administrator position that will include hours on Sunday morning, the church office hours will change to Monday –Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. beginning on August 13.

This continues to be an exciting time in the life of First Church. With God's vision clearly before us, we can move forward with hopeful expectation!

Very BIG SATURDAY

WHEN:
Saturday, August 4

TIME:
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WHERE:
Pin Station (Expo Center)

AGES:
3 years - 6th Grade

FACEBOOK.COM/VERYBIGSATURDAY

A graphic for 'Very Big Saturday' featuring a young girl in a blue superhero costume with a red cape and a blue mask. She is pointing her right hand towards the right. The background is a bright blue sky. The text 'Very BIG SATURDAY' is at the top in large, bold letters. Below it, the event details are listed in red and blue text. At the bottom, the Facebook link is displayed in yellow text on a blue background.

We welcome the Coffee family who recently joined the church during the Praise service. From left to right: Baby Dennis, mom Jennifer, dad Dennis, Emma, Addison, and Cynthia Lemons (Jennifer's mother).



ECCCM WORKDAY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

The first Wednesday of each month has been designated as the day for First Church to volunteer at ECCCM (Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry). Merv McGee volunteers regularly at ECCCM and said, "Most folks don't realize how many people are in need in our area. ECCCM is a blessing to a lot of people." You can work a couple of hours or the whole day depending on what your schedule allows. For more info, contact 828-465-1702.



CELEBRATING 2 YEAR OF JOY

Join us Thursday, August 9 as we celebrate 2 Years of JOY! We'll meet at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will begin at 10 a.m. Rev. Willis will lead our devotion time. The lunch menu is an egg salad plate with cottage cheese, peaches, sliced tomatoes and cake and ice cream for dessert. RSVP to the church office (828-464-8422) by noon on Tuesday, August 7.

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Anyone interested in purchasing a space (Niche) in the Columbarium will save \$500 if purchased by August 31, 2018. The rate will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500 on September 1, 2018. The construction of the Meditation Area, within the Garden, and the delivery of the Columbarium is scheduled for August. Information packets are available in the church office. For more information, please contact one of the members of the Columbarium Committee: Dot Hoage (828.464.6588), Betty Newsom (828.464.3837), Betty McGee (828.466.8253), Gail McRee (828.466.6279) or Janet Byrd (828.381.2688).

HOSPITALITY HELPERS NEEDED FOR SOLDIER'S REUNION PARADE

We have an opportunity to extend hospitality to our neighbors and visitors attending the Soldier's Reunion Parade on Thursday, August 16. We would once again like to offer the use of our restrooms in the administrative building to the public and hand out bottled water on Reunion Day from 3-6 p.m. If you can smile and welcome people, you can do this ministry! There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center with the times listed in 30 minute increments. We would like to have at least two people for each time slot. You may call the church office with any questions at 828-464-8422. **Please note, due to the new route for this year's Soldier's Reunion parade, we will not be selling reserved parking spaces.** The parking lot will be open for guests, but may have limited access with the road closures.



COLOR ME SALLY RUN HONORS SALLY SOWERS

On Saturday, August 11 at 10 a.m. the inaugural Color Me SALLY Run will be held in Conover to raise funds for the University Christian High School's Building Fund. This event is named for Sally Sower's, granddaughter of Martha Sowers who passed away in July 2016 at the age of 16. A Post-Color Run celebration will be held immediately following the run, so make plans to enjoy the music, food, fun, and more. For more information and to register, visit: runtimeraces.com and click on the Color Me Sally Run link.



**FREE 12 WEEK
COMBAT RECOVERY
COURSE COMING**

REBOOT is a free course – not a support group – providing practical help for service members and families dealing with the after effects of combat. There are no shortcuts or easy answers, but instead solutions that last. This FREE 12 week course focuses on the spiritual aspects of combat recovery and will meet on Monday evenings beginning September 10 from 6-8 p.m. here at First Church. Register at REBOOTRECOVERY.COM. Dinner and childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Lynn Marilla at 704-650-5353 or email: lmarella@eaglerockcamp.org.



GRIEFSHARE SESSION AT FIRST CHURCH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

GriefShare is a support group for people grieving the death of a loved one or friend. It is a safe place to express emotions or to sit quietly and listen. We will offer a "Surviving the Holidays" session on Sunday, October 28 here at First Church from 3-5 p.m. in the Gomedela Room. This session is for anyone who feels the holidays may be difficult because of his/her loss. This event is open to the public. For more information, please contact Harriett Wyatt at hwyatt221@gmail.com or 828-413-0059.



Eight of our youth along with Deacon Shannon just returned from a week-long adventure at Wilderness Trail. College students, youth, and adults came together to experience and embody the love of Jesus and celebrate the wondrous beauty of creation.



Join the Youth of First Church for worship and fun on designated Sundays from 4 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All 6th -12th graders are welcome to join us.

Here's a list of our upcoming Youth events:

- Sunday, August 5 - Game Night from 5-7 p.m. in the Activity Room
Bring your favorite game and we'll provide the snacks.
- August 10-12 SpiritUS youth conference at Fort Caswell on Oak Island
- August 19 - End of Summer Lake Party from 3-7 p.m.



NURSERY is available during worship services and Sunday School.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL is available for children ages 3- 5 in our Preschool Class and for Children K- 5th grade. These groups meet on the level below the Sanctuary from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. The K-5th grade class will be using Psalm 23 as our focus for the month of August. Please join us. We learn through art, science, games, cooking and videos.

UP IN OUT - Our last session for this Summer will take place August 15 from 9 a.m. to Noon. Children (Kindergarten - 5th Grade) are invited to bring their swim suits and a towel for a morning of water fun outside on the lawn (weather permitting).



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS SERVICE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

All students and teachers are invited to bring their school backpacks/bags for a special blessing during the 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. worship services.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLING FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Our preschool offers quality childcare in a safe, happy, Christian environment for ages One Year through Pre-K. We are open to all children regardless of race, religion, or special needs. We operate Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Our schedule for the school year starts the Tuesday after Labor Day and runs until the Friday before Memorial Day. For more info contact Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director at: newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com or call 828-465-6397.




MINISTRY TEAMS FORMING

Jesus called (at least) twelve disciples to work with him in carrying out God's mission. Moses' father-in-law, Jethro told Moses, you can't (and shouldn't) do this ministry on your own - call together people to work with you to carry out God's will.

Now, I'm certainly not Jesus (or Moses), but I do love working with others to co-create ministry. We are stronger together, as we each share our unique gifts and passions to create our ministry together. I'm looking for eight to twelve people to serve on a Youth Ministry Team, and eight to twelve people to serve on a Children's Ministry Team. Both teams will meet quarterly to evaluate and dream, and discern how God is calling us to be in ministry with children and youth. I'll be contacting some of you individually in the near future.

Please be in prayer about whether God is calling you to serve on one of these ministry teams. If you're feeling the call to serve or if you have any questions, please contact me. May the Spirit stir all of your hearts to pray for these ministries as we co-create the kingdom of God together.

 ~Deacon Shannon



Sunday	Attendance	Tithes & Offerings	Capital Building Fund
July 1, 2018	129	\$6,844.22	\$70.00
July 8, 2018	166	\$7,001.25	\$140.00
July 15, 2018	171	\$8,907.49	\$80.00
July 22, 2018	173	\$7,229.00	\$120.00
July 29, 2018	175	\$5,634.04	\$100.00

MEMORIALS

Wanda Sue Rudisill Abernathy	Garden Fund
John Tate	Capital Building Fund
John Tate	Current Expense Fund
Donnie Holbrook	Capital Building Fund
Donnie Holbrook	Current Expense Fund
Merle Smith	Capital Building Fund
Merle Smith	Current Expense Fund
Merle Smith	Youth Fund
Sherrill & Mary Anne Cranford	Music Fund

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Lara "Willis" Greene, Pastor

Cell: 828-461-5918 | E: willis.fumcnewton@gmail.com

Shannon LeMaster-Smith, Deacon

Minister of Discipleship - Children, Youth & Outreach

E: DeaconShannon324@gmail.com

Julie Braswell, Church Administrator

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

Sarah Luhrs, Choir Director

E: fumcnewtonchoir@gmail.com

John Coffey, Organist

E: johnnyjava@earthlink.net

Michael Roberts, Praise Team Director

E: jasper.angeline@gmail.com

Kristi Spencer, Communications Director

P: 704-607-3280 | E: kristispencer1@gmail.com

Melissa Ervin, Nursery Director

E: melervin06@gmail.com

Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director

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



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[instagram.com/firstumc_newton](https://www.instagram.com/firstumc_newton)

FIRST CHURCH IS SEEKING A CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

The purpose of this position is two-fold: 1) to administer the life of the congregation and 2) create a welcoming environment by giving oversight to hospitality ministries. This position will best be filled by an active participant in the life of the congregation who will connect the daily operations of the office to the program ministries of the church. This is a 30hr/week position with hours on Sunday morning. Salary is negotiable depending on experience & credentials. Contact Rev. Lara "Willis" Greene (willis.fumcnewton@gmail.com) for more information and a complete job description.



BIRTHDAYS

Madison Binkley8/1	Vickie Burgess8/19
Blake Gates8/1	Dot Hoage8/19
Cooper Hayes8/2	Neil Harvell8/20
Beth Isenhour8/5	Larry Hollar Sr.8/20
Polly Pearson8/5	Jamie Richard8/20
Becky Stiver8/5	Leida Stewart8/20
Benjamin Martin8/6	Gaye Hood8/21
Todd Rhyne8/7	Jason Lamb8/22
Lynne Gantt8/8	Brian White8/22
Ashley Bandy8/9	Suzanne Yoder8/22
Ron Lindler8/10	Eric Hefner8/24
Judy Ikerd8/11	Christine Fay8/25
Meg Miller8/11	Marcus Forsyth8/25
Paul Wade8/12	Beth Foss8/25
Lisa Wade8/13	Jayne Bailes8/26
Brigette DeArman8/14	Quinn Hunter8/27
Tim Hayes8/15	Joey Rhyne8/27
Michael Rhyne8/15	Chris Cadwallader8/28
Todd White8/15	Allyson Ervin8/29
Lauren Wade8/16	Bebe Roland8/29
Trilby Stockner8/17	Todd Clark8/30
Brett Butler8/18	Marie Pope8/30
Nick Cadwallader8/18	Damion Setzer8/30
John Hewins8/18	Randy Faucette8/31
Cindy Boger8/19	

ANNIVERSARIES

Scott & Teresa Coley8/2
Nink & Jane Harvell Jr.8/3
Walter & Cathy Stone8/4
Quint & Melissa Ervin8/5
Todd & Jessica Rhyne8/6
Fred & Kathleen Cook Jr.8/12
Bill & Rhonda Noel8/15
Dwayne & Beth Morgan8/17
Don & Marie Pope8/17
Brian & Michelle White8/24