

# 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.*



## **NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

On July 1, the Rev. Shannon LeMaster-Smith, will join the First Church staff as Director of Children, Youth & Community Outreach. Shannon is an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church. She received her BA in Christian Education and BA in Music, piano from Pfeiffer University and a Masters in Conflict Resolution from UNC-Greensboro. She currently works at Oak Hill UMC in Morganton and has 12 years experience in a local church setting.

Shannon is married to Dr. Jonathan LeMaster-Smith, who is graduating on May 11 with his PhD in Christian Education and Congregational Studies. He is an Adjunct Professor at several schools (including Lenoir-Rhyne), teaching United Methodist History & Doctrine, Youth and Family Ministries, and Evangelism. They have two fluffy beagapoos, Jupiter and Biscuit.

Shannon shared that she, aspires to use the gifts God has given her to serve boldly and passionately. She enjoys helping others explore their gifts and passions and empowering others to “be on fire in the Spirit as they serve God (Romans 12:11).”

## **CHURCH COUNCIL TO TOUR ECCCM ON MAY 8**

You are invited to join us for a special May 8 Church Council Meeting. We will begin at 4 p.m. at ECCCM (Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry) with the Council taking a tour of the facility. ECCCM’s Mission is “to bring together the resources of the Christian community to serve the people in need of crisis assistance, support and education, in response to God’s call.” The leadership team at First Church is looking for ways to strengthen our partnership with ECCCM to better serve our community.



After the tour at ECCCM, the Council will meet at 5:15 p.m. in the Gomedela Room for our business portion of the meeting. As a reminder ALL Church Council Meetings are OPEN to the whole congregation. First Church made the switch to a one board governing model to minimize the number of meetings we schedule, and maximize our time passionately worshipping Jesus and practicing unprecedented acts of hospitality. We hope you will join us!

## **VERY BIG SATURDAY PLANNING MEETING**

If you would like to learn more about this year’s Very Big Saturday (VBS) event, please join us for a volunteer luncheon on Sunday, May 20 in the Gomedela Room immediately following the 11 a.m. service (RSVP to the Church Office by May 16). Our VBS event is planned for Saturday, August 4.



## **HOSPITALITY IN ACTION**

Thank you Wayne Dellinger for serving as an usher each week at First Church. We appreciate the hospitality you extend each week to visitors and members alike, living out the mission of our church.

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY . . .



## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

**FRIDAY MAY 11 @ 7 P.M.**

Hickory Crawdads vs Columbia Fireflies

First Church has reserved 75 seats to enjoy a night of baseball together. Tickets are \$6 per person. To reserve tickets, call the church office at 828-464-8422.

**Reservation DEADLINE is Monday, May 7 at noon.**

*Special thanks to Quint Ervin for arranging this church outing!*

## VIOLIN AND PIANO RECITAL

Sunday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m here at First Church featuring Diana Stone, violin, John Coffey, piano, and Stone's Throw, a Celtic group from Hickory.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THIS EVENING OF MUSIC!



The Faith Builder's Sunday School Class is sponsoring a special Mother's Day bulletin. Honor or remember a mother, grandmother, or that person who is special to you by filling out the envelope in your bulletin and returning it to the church office along with \$1 for each person. The deadline is May 6.



## ECCCM WORKDAY WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

The first Wednesday of each month has been designated as the day for First Church to volunteer at ECCCM (Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry). No registration or sign-up is required, just show up! Join us on Wednesday, May 2. Work a couple of hours or the whole day depending on what your schedule allows. For more information, contact 828-465-1702.

## METHODIST WOMEN MEETING

You're invited to join Methodist Women for their monthly meeting on Monday, May 7 at 2 p.m. in the Gomedela Room. John Smith will lead the program discussing the history of Catawba County. For more info, contact Martha Sowers at 828-464-6954.

## J.O.Y. GATHERING THURSDAY, MAY 10

9:30 a.m. Refreshments

10 a.m. Program



**Lunch Menu:** Hamburgers, Potato Salad, Chips, Homemade Desserts. RSVP to the church office (828-464-8422) by noon on Tuesday, May 8.

**Devotion/Program:** Gail McRee will discuss the many hats we wear through life - from birth to our crown of glory. Don't forget to wear or bring your favorite hat (men and women). You don't want to miss this fun and inspirational program!

## NEW SAFETY TEAMS FORMING

The church will be creating Safety Teams for each Sunday service time. Anyone interested in serving may contact Tim Hayes at [Thayesnpd@gmail.com](mailto:Thayesnpd@gmail.com) or 828-850-9504 for more information.



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:

**May 6 (4-6 p.m.)**

Shopping for food to make bags for Corner Table

**May 20 (4-6 p.m.)**

Youth meeting in Fellowship Hall

**June 2**

Rock the Park at Carowinds (\$40 ticket) - RSVP by May 12

**June 24-30**

Youth summer mission trip to Pennsylvania

**July 22-28**

Wilderness Trail - \$75 deposit is due by June 2

**For more info about the Youth Program contact**

**Lisa at lisadjohnson71@gmail.com or 828-381-9337.**



*Our youth completed a 30 hour famine to raise awareness about world hunger. They slept in boxes on the church lawn and worked on food bags for the Corner Table.*



*Our Preschoolers had a great time celebrating Easter with egg hunts, parties and special treats.*

**NEWTON**  
**METHODIST PRESCHOOL**

**ENROLLING  
FOR FALL**

May is an exciting month at the Newton Methodist Preschool as we wrap up the school year. Our graduation will take place on Thursday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m.

As a reminder, we are now 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. For more info or to schedule a tour of the preschool, contact Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director at: newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com or call 828-465-6397.



On May 16, Kids for Christ will be completing military care kits to celebrate Armed Forces Week. You're invited to make a donation to help cover shipping costs, or donate items for the kits. Here is the wish list for the care kits:

- AA or AAA batteries (4 ct or less)
- Mini flashlights
- Small plush toys
- Mints and candy that won't melt
- Paracord bracelets
- Earbuds (small earbuds only)
- Chapstick
- Floss
- Toothbrushes
- Solid deodorant (3 oz or less)
- Disposable razors (5 ct or less)
- Non-aerosol shaving gel (travel size tube)
- Moist towelettes (30 ct or less)
- Hand/foot warmers (individual packets)
- Foot powder (travel size)
- Cotton swabs (50 ct or less/ travel size pk)
- Facial tissue

Donations can be dropped off in the grocery buggy outside the Gomedela Room now through Sunday, May 13.

Sunday	Attendance	Tithes & Offerings	Capital Building Fund
April 1, 2018	274	\$8,758.65	\$150.00
April 8, 2018	166	\$9,839.55	\$135.00
April 15, 2018	174	\$7,383.15	\$95.00
April 22, 2018	184	\$6,808.50	\$40.00
April 29, 2018	165	\$7,742.44	\$200.00

## MEMORIALS

George Petree	Methodist Women
George Petree	Current Expense Fund
Louise Barkely	Methodist Women
Suzanne Turney	Capital Building Fund

## HONORARIUMS

Rev. Willis Greene	Current Expense Fund
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**The Church Office will be closed on  
Monday, May 28 for Memorial Day.**

## FIRST CHURCH STAFF

**Lara "Willis" Greene**, Pastor

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

**Kristi Harvell**, Preschool Director

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

**Have a story idea or info you would like to include  
in the June Newsletter? Contact Kristi Spencer at  
704-607-3280 or email: kristispencer1@gmail.com.**



## BIRTHDAYS

Claire Boger	5/1	Lynsey Wayne	5/15
Ethan Branton	5/1	Jake Coley	5/16
Evan Branton	5/1	Julie Braswell	5/18
Elizabeth Greene	5/1	Reid Ikerd	5/18
Libby Mauney	5/2	Alex Butler	5/19
Anney White	5/2	Mike Kosar	5/19
John Coffey	5/3	Joe Beaman Jr.	5/20
Kaye Lewis	5/4	Don Lemons	5/20
Camryn Gantt	5/5	Luke Sias	5/20
Carter Greene	5/7	Teena Branton	5/22
Rebecca Saunders	5/7	Ashley Kale	5/22
Nicky Smyre	5/7	Scott Coley	5/23
Charlie Smith IV	5/8	Ashley Benson	5/24
Betsy Roland	5/9	Ken Hollar	5/24
Bob Brown	5/10	Pat Lawing	5/24
Chandler Setzer	5/10	Jim Richard	5/24
Matt Foss	5/11	Abigail Driscoll	5/25
Nick Foss	5/11	Marty Burrows	5/26
Sonia Foster	5/11	Jill Sias	5/26
Aidan Hefner	5/11	Laura Bailes	5/27
Jessie Pannell	5/11	AB Lamb	5/27
Sherry Pritchard	5/11	Mary Grace Martin	5/27
Tommy Howard	5/12	Parker Kelley	5/28
David Kilby	5/12	Kristy Speagle	5/28
Rolen Benson	5/13	Ayla Rand	5/29
Jessica Harkins	5/13	Steven Watson	5/29
Layla Isenhour	5/13	Peter Erickson	5/30
Reece Peacock	5/13	Arizona Roland	5/30
Vickie Lytton	5/15	Corinna Driscoll	5/31

## ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Linda Kosar	5/10
Eddie & Regina Copeland Jr.	5/12
George & Becky Wilkinson Jr.	5/12
Jamey & Jill Sias	5/17
Paul & Lisa Wade	5/18
Mike Smith & Shera Waller-Smith	5/19
Roger & Lisa Johnson	5/21
Stephen & Christie Sims Jr.	5/21
Jamie & Rhonda Pawlik	5/23
Steve & Karen Arndt	5/24