

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.

Q & A WITH OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Rev. Shannon LeMaster-Smith, will join the First Church staff in July. We wanted to get to know Shannon a little better. So, we asked her to participate in a question and answer session.

Where were you born and raised? I moved around a lot growing up, so I usually answer this question with, I was born and raised in the SEC. My family LOVES Alabama football. We lived in Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

What are you most excited about in your work at First Church? I'm so excited to work with First Church to discern how God is calling us to live into the vision to be welcoming to all people and have dynamic worship experiences for all ages. When Willis first shared the vision statements with me and the beautiful Sankofa and explained what it meant, my heart leapt for joy!

What is a Deacon? In the United Methodist Church we have two clergy orders, Elders and Deacons. Elders are ordained to Word, Service, Sacrament, and Order; Deacons are ordained to Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice. Deacons serve in specialized ministries with a special emphasis of bridging the gap between the church and the world.

What are your favorite books, movies, songs, tv shows? I love mysteries and thought provoking stories that challenge my way of thinking or that have interesting plot twists. I love music that's easy to dance or sing along to.

If you weren't working in the church, what would your profession be? If I didn't work in the church I'd be a math teacher!

What two people have most influenced you? My dad; he encouraged me to work hard and to make the best of any situation; and Dr. Patty Meyers, my Christian Education professor at Pfeiffer University. She taught me how to build a ministry from scratch and challenged my whole worldview.



Our VBS (Very Big Saturday) theme this year is Super Heroes.

Who is your Super Hero? From the Bible: Queen Esther - because she was willing to risk her life for the sake of others and she wasn't afraid to stand up for what she believed in. In real life: my grandmother who passed away in January. She endured many hardships in life and overcame many obstacles. She loved helping strangers and showing love to people when no one else would. She was colorful, curious, and sassy.

What do you like to do in your free time? I like playing board/card games, watching movies, singing, being in nature, taking pictures of beautiful things, going on long walks, spending time with family and friends, and meeting new people.

What's your favorite food? Pizza and cheesecake. I love farm to table restaurants with local ingredients and regional flavors that spice up something simple.

What's your dream car? a bright purple VW Beetle Convertible

What do you order when you go to a coffee shop?
an iced caramel macchiato



Stepping into God's Vision

8:30 | CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP (Fellowship Hall)

9:30 | SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

10:30 | TRADITIONAL WORSHIP (Sanctuary)

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE . . .



ECCCM WORKDAY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

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, June 6. 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 AT O'CHARLEY'S IN JUNE

All women of the church (and friends) are invited to meet for lunch at O'Charley's on Wednesday, June 6 at 11:30 a.m. Please call Martha Sowers at 828-464-6954 to make your reservation. You do not want to miss this fun lunch or the FREE PIE!



VBS PLANNING LUNCH SUNDAY, JUNE 10

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, June 10 at 11:30 a.m. in the Gomedela Room. (RSVP to the Church Office by June 6). Our VBS event is planned for Saturday, August 4. For more information, contact 828-464-8422.

CHARGE CONFERENCE ON JUNE 12

A Charge Conference will take place on Tuesday, June 12 at 7 p.m. in order to approve the salary for our newly appointed Deacon Shannon LeMaster-Smith. This meeting will take place during the regularly scheduled Church Council meeting in the Gomedela Room. Notes from the meetings are always available on the shelves in the welcome center.



J.O.Y. GATHERING THURSDAY, JUNE 14

9:30 a.m. Refreshments | 10 a.m. Program

Lunch Menu: Chicken salad cold plate and homemade desserts. RSVP to the church office (828-464-8422) by noon on Tuesday, June 12.

Devotion: Bishop Don Bledsoe, Covenant Christian Church

Program: Acappella Fellas — this quartet has been entertaining area audiences since 1994. They placed third in the Senior's Division of the District Barbershop Quartet Competition. In 2017 they won small ensemble category in the Silver Arts competition of the Unifour Senior Games and Best in Show for the overall performing arts category.



Do you have a
"life verse" or
favorite passage
from the Bible?

If so, please share it
with Pastor Willis!



STARTS JUNE 10, 2018

Email your scripture passage with a brief explanation of why the scripture is important to you to Pastor Willis: willis.fumcnewton@gmail.com.



SPECIAL FATHER'S DAY BULLETIN INSERT

Our Youth will sponsor a special Father's Day Bulletin on Sunday, June 17. You may honor or remember a father, grandfather or that special man by filling out the envelope enclosed in your weekly bulletin and returning it to the church office along with \$1 for each person honored or remembered. The deadline is Monday, June 11.



Would you like to receive the prayer requests each week by email so that you may include them in your daily prayers?

Email: kristispencer1@gmail.com
You'll be added to our weekly email list.



CONGRATULATIONS to Howard & Wadine Smith who will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on June 6. When asked what the secret to a successful marriage is, Wadine advised, "Just be kind to each other."



Conrad the Crawdad had fun with Pastor Willis and over 20 folks from First Church who enjoyed a night of baseball at the stadium on Friday, May 11. The group watched the Hickory Crawdads take on the Columbia Fireflies. Special thanks to Quint Ervin for arranging this church outing!



Our J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) fellowship group met in May and celebrated the many hats we wear throughout our lives!



CONGRATULATIONS to our Rec League Basketball Church Champs for 2018 (& 2017). The 2 fingers represent their first place finish for the 2nd year in a row. Kneeling (L to R): Jason Lamb and Hunter Davis. Standing (L to R): Tony Sigmon, Avery Stewart, Paul Hunsucker, Jonathan Tharpe, Brian Williams, Adam Hodge



On May 3, our preschoolers celebrated the National Day of Prayer by reciting the Lord's Prayer and singing songs at the cross. They also celebrated their 1st Mother's Day Tea in May with over 80 Mothers and Grandmothers. On Thursday, May 24, the sanctuary was filled with families celebrating the preschool graduation for 31 students.



NURSERY – Available Sundays during worship services and Sunday School.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL is offered for ages 3 through 5th grade. We meet on the level below the Sanctuary from 9:30 am to 10:15 am. the K-5th grade class will be using the lesson of Wandering in the Wilderness for the month of June. Please join when you can!

If you have any questions regarding Children's Ministries, please contact Julie Braswell, 828-464-8422 or email: juliebraswell@gmail.com.

UP IN OUT SUMMER SCHEDULE

Wednesdays, June 20, July 18, August 15 (9 a.m. to Noon in the Activity Room). Children Kindergarten - 5th Grade are invited to meet for a fun morning of:

UP = Glorifying God

IN = Building Strong Christian Relationships

OUT = Serving Out in the Community



K4C

Our Kids4Christ after school program wrapped up on May 30. The program could not take place without great volunteers. Thank you to our youth volunteers: Adam Wilson, Elizabeth Branton, Ashlynn Nicols, A.B. Lamb and Will Johnson. Our adult volunteers: Joe Colletta and Wayne Hadley drove the church bus to pick up children from area schools; Mary Yoder rode along on the bus, and she and Tracy Wilson helped with activities back at the church. A very special thank you to Megan Johnson who was a tremendous help. Megan joined k4C in February to lead our weekly program. She is very caring and imaginative in her planning of the children's time. We owe Megan and all of our volunteers a huge THANK YOU! We hope you will join us again next school year!

CALLING ALL SUPER HEROES!

Very BiG SATURDAY

Join us for music, crafts, games, food, fellowship & **BOWLING!**

WHERE: Pin Station (Expo Center)

WHEN: Saturday, August 4

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

AGES: 3 years (potty trained) - 6th Grade

FREE
KIDS EVENT



REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN MID-JUNE VIA FACEBOOK! STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO.



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:

- **June 3** End of Year Cookout for youth & their families in the Fellowship Hall from 4-6 p.m. bring a side or dessert to share
- **June 24-30** Youth summer mission trip to Pennsylvania
- **July 22-28** Wilderness Trail - \$75 deposit is due by June 4
- **August 10-12** SpiritUS - an annual youth conference of the Western NC United Methodist Church.
Church youth groups from all over the NC region come together at the beach for music, speakers, faith-formation, and joyful fun at Fort Caswell in Oak Island, NC! Cost is \$120 per person. Stay tuned for details & registration info.

For more info about the Youth Program contact
Lisa at lisadjohnson71@gmail.com or 828-381-9337.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2018

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Maiden High School:

Camryn Gantt
Neely Harvell

Newton-Conover High School:

Cheryce Gregory
Hannah Lowder

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Alex Butler	Appalachian State University, BSBA in Accounting
Laurin Harvey (Swink)	University of Fitchburg (Massachusetts), BS Math
Leah Byrd Hayes	High Point University, Masters of Education
Megan Johnson	Johnson & Wales University, Baking and Pastry
Alex Mull	Gaston College, AA degree in Broadcast Production Technology
Alex White	Harvard, BA in Biomedical Engineering, Minor in Global Health & Health Policy

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

METHODIST WOMEN:

Faith Bradshaw, NC State
Grant Martin, Catawba Valley Community College
Ani-Yah Shead, Western Carolina University

ODUM SCHOLARSHIP:

Camryn Gantt, Gardner Webb
Neely Harvell, Lenoir Rhyne
Hannah Lowder, University of South Carolina-Columbia

WELLBORN SCHOLARSHIP:

Ivy Eller, Undecided
Holden York, Johnson & Wales University

*For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans to
prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.*

-- Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Sunday	Attendance	Tithes & Offerings	Capital Building Fund
May 6, 2018	189	\$12,040.00	\$580.00
May 13, 2018	171	\$7,094.25	\$135.00
May 20, 2018	193	\$7,695.70	\$110.00
May 27, 2018	131	\$5,310.32	\$12,110.00

MEMORIALS

Abi McKee Butterfield	Garden Fund
Mac Welborn	Capital Building Fund
Mac Welborn	Current Expense Fund
Sherrill Cranford	Capital Building Fund
Sherrill Cranford	Current Expense Fund
Sherrill Cranford	Music Fund
Sherrill & Mary Anne Cranford	Current Expense Fund

HONORARIUMS

Sagan Hewins Raeford	Capital Building Fund
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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 Luhers, 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 July Newsletter? Contact Kristi Spencer at 704-607-3280 or email: kristispencer1@gmail.com.

Celebrations!

BIRTHDAYS

Jackie Dellinger	6/1	Kyle Drum	6/12
Alden Elliott	6/2	Andrew Stone	6/12
Sue Ingle	6/2	Jewell Wooten	6/12
Jill Philmon	6/2	Joe Colletta	6/14
Chase Boston	6/3	David Hardin	6/15
Becky Wilkinson	6/3	Michelle Gibson	6/18
Mike Smith	6/4	Robert Smith	6/18
Jim Yount	6/4	Kayla Wilson	6/18
Melissa Bean	6/5	Greg Phillips	6/20
Sara Caldwell	6/5	Madelyn Sitzler	6/22
Ann Faust	6/5	Stacey Gregory	6/23
Debbie Rights	6/5	Ryan Windham	6/24
Michelle White	6/5	Sam Foster	6/25
Michael Clontz	6/7	Sarah Johnson	6/25
Gary Fay	6/7	Debbie Chapman	6/27
Corbin Drum	6/8	Addison Hefner	6/27
Hank Weddington	6/8	Alexander Mull	6/28
Lauren Hildebran	6/9	Julia Richard	6/28
Barbara Bohler	6/10	Will Powell II	6/29
Bill Cable	6/10	Riley Templeton	6/29
Neel Dennie	6/11	Kerri Setzer	6/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Michael & Heather Clontz	6/2
Wayne & Faye Swofford	6/2
Danny & Lynn Delancey	6/4
Jacob & Tammy Smith Jr.	6/4
Howard & Wadine Smith	6/6
Robert & Diane Smith	6/6
Carl & Michelle Wayne	6/6
Chris & Kristy Speagle	6/7
Harris & Vicky Jones III	6/10
Tommy & Patricia Howard	6/12
Joe & Nancy Killian	6/12
Burt & Dot Hoage	6/15
Larry & Frances Hollar Sr.	6/15
Tom & Margaret Dixon	6/16
Joe & Judy Beaman Jr.	6/20
Ken & Pat Lawing	6/23
Ray & Billie Shrum	6/23
Gabe & Allyson Ervin	6/24
Nicky & Kay Smyre	6/27
Bob & Brenda Saunders	6/28
Ken & Pat Simmons	6/29
Jack & Anne Brooks	6/30