



*A Church that Loves People into a Relationship with Christ as we  
Worship, Grow, and Serve*

# First United Methodist Church

Newton, North Carolina

January 2018

## YOU want ME to do WHAT?

# JONAH

## January Sermon Series

What is God calling you to do in 2018? How will you respond? If a challenge or crisis rises up, what will you do? And what does God promise us as we move into a New Year? These are just a few of the questions we will examine together as we study the story of Jonah. It's more than just a story about a huge fish. It's a tale that holds deep truths for our life today. Join First Church on Sunday mornings in January for a whale of a good time!



## NEXT STEP RETREAT

Saturday, January 6

*Vision without action is a daydream.  
Action without vision is a nightmare.*

The Church Council along with other leaders will gather at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory for a Next Step Retreat. God is calling us to act. What are the next steps to take in order to make God's vision a reality? The Vision Team spent a year discerning what God is calling us to BE – now the Next Step Team will decide on what we need to DO to become ... ***One diverse community passionately worshiping Jesus and practicing unprecedented acts of hospitality.*** The Team will be setting two to three priorities that the church will focus on over the next 6 to 9 months and action plans on how we will accomplish them together. Please be in prayer for their work on behalf of the whole congregation. They will share their work at the Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 28. This is an exciting time in the life of First Church as we are moving with God into a hope filled future.

*“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*

## THANK YOU TO ANN COOK & A NOTE ABOUT UPCOMING CHANGES IN THE CHURCH TEAM

*Behind every hello, there is a good bye.* In April of 2002, First Church said “Hello” to Ann Cook as Church Administrator and on January 31, 2018 we will face the good bye behind that hello. The 2 simple words, “Thank you” seem inadequate to express our deep appreciation for the significant impact which Ann has had on all of our lives. Every bulletin we have held, each e-mail we’ve received, every newsletter we have read and every friendly “hello” on the telephone have been Ann’s selfless gifts of ministry. She has enriched the life of this church. Her patience and generosity have made the church office a place of warmth and hospitality while her intellect and wisdom have kept the administration of the church running effectively and efficiently. As we celebrate Ann’s upcoming retirement, we will miss her and the spirit she brings to the office. I know you will want to join me and the whole congregation on Sunday, January 28 when we commemorate Ann’s retirement and thank her for her ministry.

Ann’s retirement brings the following changes to the church ministry team.

Julie Braswell will move into the Church Administrator role. This position will focus on administrating the daily life of the church, coordinating volunteer servants, membership care, hospitality and finance.

A part-time Communications Director will be hired to expand and strengthen the church’s print and digital communication.

A Children and Youth Director(s) will be hired. This position will focus solely on the discipleship formation of children & youth. The Human Relations (HR) Team is open to various options for staffing this ministry should the right persons present themselves.

In order to provide appropriate funding for the Children & Youth Director(s), the Children’s Music position has been eliminated. We are grateful to Rose Bibeau and her faithful work with Kids for Christ.

There is no doubt that this is a season of transition. And while staffing the church’s team is important, let me take this opportunity to remind each of us that when we were baptized, we all became ministers, ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ. You and I are called to fulfill God’s mission ***to love all people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.*** It is our privilege & responsibility to share in the ministry of the church. The church ministry team (the staff) helps to order and lead us in fulfilling our calling from God. Thank you for the ways that you live out **your** baptism!

## **Job Opportunities**

*Please take a look at the following job postings and share with someone you believe God could be calling into these ministries. For more information, please contact Tammy Smith, Chairperson of HR at 828.455.5248.*

### **Director of Communication**

First UMC, a downtown church in Newton, NC just east of Hickory is seeking a creative and organized professional to oversee all aspects of communication. The Director is responsible for visioning, planning, and coordinating both internal and external communication. Responsibilities include ensuring the website is current & relevant, managing and maintaining social media outlets, publishing and producing weekly electronic newsletters, monthly newsletters and weekly worship bulletins. This part time position (12 hours) offers a flexible schedule with mandatory attendance at staff meetings. Qualifications for this position: detail management, strong written communication skills, multi-faceted computer understanding including MS Office, internet / website design, Facebook and other social media outlets.

Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. To apply for this position, send a cover letter and resume to: [annmcook@gmail.com](mailto:annmcook@gmail.com).

### **Director(s) of Children and Youth Ministries**

First UMC is seeking an energetic and committed Director(s) of Children and Youth. First Church's mission is to love all people into a relationship with Christ. If you're passionate about Jesus and are called to lead children and youth into a relationship with Him – then this is the position for you!

This is an incredible opportunity for a leader(s) who loves children & youth and wants to see them develop into life-long disciples that participate in the life of the church. The Director(s) would organize and attend children and youth events, retreats, and mission trips, in addition to weekly Sunday and Wednesday programs. The purpose of the Director(s) is to create relationships and enthusiasm so that discipleship growth and ministry engagement can happen for children and youth. The Director(s) would also equip and empower laity and delegate responsibilities as a shared effort for leading the programs.

This is a part time position(s), a great opportunity for someone who needs part-time flexibility but has a deep desire to engage in life-changing ministry and be part of a solid congregation. We are open to alternative options for staffing should the right persons present themselves. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. To apply for this position, send a cover letter and resume to: [annmcook@gmail.com](mailto:annmcook@gmail.com).

# TOWN HALL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

## A CHURCHWIDE DINNER & CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

When First Church 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 is honored to invite the congregation to this fun evening as we share dinner together and celebrate the ministries of First Church. Together we will ...

Give Thanks for 2017: A Year of Faithful Ministry  
Listen to the Next Step Team’s Report for Future Ministries  
Hear a Capital Campaign Update  
Have a Q & A for the 2018 Budget

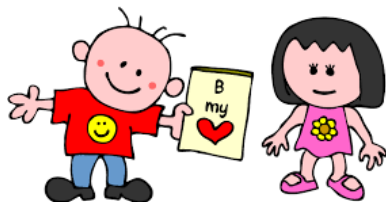
And most importantly .... We will honor Ann Cook, Church Administrator, and her fifteen years of service at First Church. Please read below for how you can be a part of this special recognition of Ann’s retirement.

### Celebrating Ann Cook

You are invited to attend a special celebration honoring Ann Cook and her ministry here at First Church on Sunday, January 28 at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Ann is retiring from her position of our church Administrative Assistant. She and her husband Fred enjoy camping, so they plan to travel and spend more time with their family.

### Share the Love with Valentine Cards

Showing our loved ones how much we care is easy at Valentine’s Day. There are all sorts of cards and goodies to share. When thinking of Valentine’s Day, don’t forget our church members who are not able to attend church. The Care Ministry will have a table set up in the upper breezeway with a list of names and bags for those members. Simply pick up the list with the member’s names, address your cards, and then drop them back into the bags by **Sunday, February 4th.**



**Prayer on the Square  
Sunday, January 28  
12:30pm**

### Methodist Women

Please join the Methodist Women for their monthly meeting on Monday, January 8th at 2:00pm in the Gomedela Room. Julie Braswell will present a program on hospitality.



## January 11

*in the Fellowship Hall*

Refreshments available at 9:30am

**Program begins at 10:00am**

Music by Beacon:

Bob Fowler and Doris McManus

### Devotion

Debbie Rights, First UMC, Newton

### Lunch at noon

Chicken/Rice Soup, Sandwich, and Homemade Desserts

Lunch Reservations are **required. Donations accepted.**

Please call the FUMC office at (828)464-8422 by 12:00 noon the Monday before each meeting.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

|                   |      |                    |      |
|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Fred Cook         | 1/1  | Matthew Miller     | 1/12 |
| Mary Killian      | 1/1  | Harrison Jones III | 1/13 |
| Lukas Yoder       | 1/1  | W. Harold Lynch    | 1/13 |
| Mason Driscoll    | 1/2  | John Trivette      | 1/13 |
| Brandy Burnette   | 1/3  | Jackie Sigmon      | 1/18 |
| Jerry DeVos       | 1/3  | Kathy Boylan       | 1/20 |
| Laurel Phillips   | 1/4  | Caleb Miller       | 1/20 |
| Bradley Bollinger | 1/5  | Railey White       | 1/21 |
| James Pawlik      | 1/5  | Conner Baker       | 1/22 |
| William Shillito  | 1/5  | David Lewis        | 1/23 |
| C. Ray Shrum      | 1/5  | Elizabeth Rights   | 1/23 |
| Frankie Cooke     | 1/6  | Robert Fowler      | 1/24 |
| Tracie Kelley     | 1/6  | Marion Kelly       | 1/24 |
| Lori Mayberry     | 1/7  | Teresa Coley       | 1/25 |
| Staci Miller      | 1/7  | Linda Kosar        | 1/25 |
| Bradley Byrd      | 1/8  | Brenda Saunders    | 1/25 |
| Rebecca Campbell  | 1/8  | Beverly Underwood  | 1/25 |
| Patricia Britt    | 1/9  | Diane Hadley       | 1/26 |
| Vance Ervin       | 1/9  | Christopher White  | 1/28 |
| Donna Mull        | 1/10 | Thomas Dixon       | 1/31 |

### PB & J Sunday

On the first Sunday of every month, First Church will celebrate **PB & J Sunday**, a day for everyone to bring a plastic container of peanut butter or jelly for school Backpack programs.

### ECCCM Workday

The first Wednesday of each month has been designated as the day for our church to volunteer at ECCCM. No registration or sign-up is required, just show up! Don't feel obligated for an 8 hour day; a couple of hours will be appreciated.

## JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Mike Jenkins & Tricia Hayes | 1/1  |
| Hank & Monica Weddington    | 1/1  |
| Rob & Debbie Rights Jr.     | 1/21 |

### Thank-You

The staff of First United Methodist Church wish to thank you for remembering us at Christmas with holiday treats and beautiful cards. We are truly grateful!

### Sharing Our Gifts

| Sunday | Attendance | Tithes and Offerings | Capital Bldg. Fund |
|--------|------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Dec 3  | 200        | 10,569.40            | 160.00             |
| Dec 10 | 192        | 8,372.70             | 465.00             |
| Dec 17 | 252        | 8,230.00             | 1,680.00           |
| Dec 24 | 157        | 35,848.35            | 1,345.00           |
| Dec 31 | 132        | 9,439.20             | 245.00             |

### Memorials

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Doris Elliott     | Current Expense Fund  |
| Doris Elliott     | Garden Fund           |
| Doris Elliott     | Capital Building Fund |
| Vera Arndt        | Garden Fund           |
| Vera Arndt        | Current Expense Fund  |
| Vera Arndt        | Capital Building Fund |
| Ken Keener        | Capital Building Fund |
| Inez Drum         | Capital Building Fund |
| Jackie Bandy      | Capital Building Fund |
| Jackie Bandy      | Garden Fund           |
| Jackie Bandy      | Current Expense Fund  |
| Jackie Bandy      | UMW Scholarship Fund  |
| Jackie Bandy      | Music Fund            |
| Dr. Al Bandy, Sr. | Current Expense Fund  |
| WM Howard Kelly   | Current Expense Fund  |
| Niven Kelly       | Current Expense Fund  |
| Ray Hansmann      | Current Expense Fund  |
| Helen Clapp       | Current Expense Fund  |
| Doris Elliott     | Current Expense Fund  |
| Clark Fletcher    | Music Fund            |
| Dr. Jerry Sowers  | Capital Building Fund |
| Sally Sowers      | Capital Building Fund |
| Harper Cilley     | Music Fund            |
| Bill Flake        | Garden Fund           |

### Honorariums

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Joe & Judy Beaman | Current Expense Fund |
| Martha Sowers     | Current Expense Fund |
| Harriett Wyatt    | Current Expense Fund |
| Ken Martin        | Love Labor Fund      |
| Willis Greene     | Current Expense Fund |

### IN TOUCH



300 N. Main Ave.  
PO Box 926  
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828-464-8422



[www.fumcnewtonnc.org](http://www.fumcnewtonnc.org)



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You can now give electronically at  
[www.fumcnewtonnc.org](http://www.fumcnewtonnc.org)

#### First United Methodist Church Staff:

Lara "Willis" Greene, Pastor  
cell: 828-461-5918  
Julie Braswell, Children and Youth  
Ann Cook, Administrative Assistant  
Sarah Luhrs, Choir Director  
John Coffey, Organist  
Michael Roberts, Praise Service  
Kayla Sigmon, Nursery Ministry  
Kristi Harvell, Preschool

A calendar is being prepared for those wishing to furnish altar flowers in 2018. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office to reserve the Sunday of your choice. I will furnish altar flowers in 2018 as follows:

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of

In Honor of

By \_\_\_\_\_