



First United Methodist Church

Newton, North Carolina

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

We hope you will make note of the special worship events taking place throughout March and April. Our vision is “to love all people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.” Holy Week, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter, is a wonderful time to invite a friend or neighbor to join you for one (or all) of our services!



OUR LENTEN SERMON SERIES “JOURNEY OF STONES” continues to guide us toward Easter. We invite you to pick up a stone as you enter worship each week. Hold the stone as you sing, as you pray, as you receive communion, as you give, as you listen to the Word and the message. We hope you will continue to walk with us every step of the way leading us to Easter Sunday.

- March 4:** “On This Rock” Matthew 16:13-20
- March 11:** “The Rejected Cornerstone” Mark 21:1-13
- March 18:** “Hearts of Stone” Luke 11:37-53
- March 25:** “Crying Stones” Luke 19:29-40
- April 1:** “The Stone that was Rolled Back” Mark 16:1-8



PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 25, 2018

We invite those who are able and want to join us for a congregational procession with palms. We will meet at 10:50 a.m. outside the front steps of the sanctuary. The choir will lead us into worship following the Cross and Hosanna banner as we wave our palm branches. Our procession represents the palm branches scattered by the crowd in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, acknowledging the final seven days of Jesus’ earthly ministry.



MAUNDY THURSDAY - MARCH 29, 2018

Maundy Thursday, also known as “Holy Thursday,” is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper. Our special service of music and Holy Communion begins at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The musical performance titled “*His Last Days*” written by Dallas Holm, will feature solo, trio and group selections including: “*What Will You Do?*”, “*Hosanna*,” “*Mary’s Song*,” “*What Kind of Man is This?*” and “*Rise Again*.” Join us as we recount and reflect on the last day’s of Jesus’ life on earth through music.



EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 1, 2018

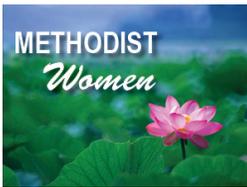
Our Lenten journey will culminate on Easter Sunday, as we celebrate the day of Resurrection, when the stone was rolled away. We will have two special worship opportunities. Join us at 9 a.m. in the Garden or 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We also invite you to bring fresh flowers to place on the Easter cross. This provides a wonderful opportunity to take pictures with your family and friends at the cross.



FROM THE STEEPLE TO THE STREETS

Reverend Greene and pastors from three other Methodist Churches in Newton celebrated Ash Wednesday on the Court Square on February 14. They offered the imposition of ashes and gave each recipient a Valentine's Card as a reminder of God's love for them. The card included John 3:16 and a listing of the services for our church and the other area Methodist churches with an invitation to worship with us.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET PLUGGED IN AT FIRST CHURCH? HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH . . .



METHODIST WOMEN - MONDAY, MARCH 5

You're invited to join the Methodist Women for their monthly meeting on March 5 at 2:00 p.m. in the Gomedela Room. Julie Braswell will present a program on hospitality. For more information, contact Martha Sowers at 828-464-6954.



ECCCM WORKDAY ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

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, March 7. Work a couple of hours or the whole day depending on what your schedule allows.



JOY GROUP MEETS MARCH 8 IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and cookies. Our program starts at 10:00 a.m. Our devotion will be led by Helen Bledsoe from Covenant Christian Church. Our program is "Senior Safety" presented by John Helton of the Catawba County Sheriff's Office. Lunch is available immediately following the program and this month features tomato basil soup, grilled cheese & homemade desserts. Please call the church office by noon on Monday, March 5 to RSVP for lunch (828-464-8422).



JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM ON SUNDAY, MARCH 25

The prayer team will meet Sunday, March 25 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service in the Chapel. We will then head over for Prayer on the Square at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is invited! For more information, contact the church office at 828-464-8422.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Church Council Meetings take place the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Gomedela Room. As a reminder these 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!

Sunday	Attendance	Tithes & Offerings	Capital Building Fund
February 4	64 (icc)	\$13,669.89	\$55.00
February 11	136	\$9,230.70	\$1,020.00
February 18	178	\$8,202.31	\$60.00
February 25	243	\$9,157.50	\$1,550.00

MEMORIALS

Bill Flake	Garden Fund
Anna Cook	Capital Building Fund
Tim Wykes	Capital Building Fund
Margie Christopher	Capital Building Fund
Vera Arndt	Current Expense Fund

IN MEMORIAM

“Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord for they cease from their labor and their works do follow them.”

Timothy S. Wykes

July 1, 1948 - January 24, 2018

IN MEMORIAM

“Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord for they cease from their labor and their works do follow them.”

Louise Bowen Barkley

July 31, 1922 - February 19, 2018

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Based on the feedback we received from the congregation, plans are underway for a Columbarium to be placed in our Memorial Garden here at First Church. A Columbarium is a repository structure containing niches for the ashes (cremains) of persons who have chosen cremation at death.

If you are interested in learning more about the Columbarium, 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

Janet Byrd - 828.381.2688



WANT TO HONOR A SPECIAL LOVED ONE WITH FLOWERS?

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone or celebrate a special anniversary or birthday with flowers for the altar in the Sanctuary, please contact Julie Braswell in the church office at 828-464-8422 or email office@fumcnewtonnc.org to reserve the Sunday of your choice.

ONLINE GIVING

NOW AVAILABLE • www.fumcnewtonnc.org



Nursery – Available Sundays from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Children’s Sunday School (10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., 1st)
Preschool Class 3 years - 5 years | K-5th Grade Class

March’s theme for Sunday School is “Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday” please join us as we learn through art, games, video and cooking lessons.

Kids 4 Christ (Wednesdays 3-5:30 p.m., Activity Rm)

Children ages K-6th grade are invited to join us in some late afternoon fun. We enjoy snacks, mission projects, arts & crafts, outside play and homework time. You are welcome to join anytime during the school year.

During the month of March we will celebrate all that God has given us with lessons, games, crafts and food. During the month of March we will also have fun with St. Patrick’s Day, the start of Spring and the season of Easter.

** Please mark your calendar: Kids 4 Christ will not meet on Wednesday, April 4th- Enjoy your Spring Break! **



We have a lot of exciting Youth service and fellowship opportunities coming up:

- March 4, 4-6 p.m. Pizza and Game night in the Fellowship Hall
- March 11, 4-6 p.m. Youth will meet in the Fellowship Hall
- March 18, 12 noon Lunch at Blue Moon
- March 18, 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth & Parent Meeting at the parsonage (23 West I Ave., Newton)
- March 25, 3:00 p.m. Community Service at the Mission Resource Center in Sherrills Ford. We will meet at the church at 3 p.m., work from 3:30-5:30, eat dinner out and return to church.
- March 29, 6:00 p.m. The youth are sponsoring the fellowship diner prior to the Maundy Thursday service. Dinner will include lasagna, bread, salad, and desserts. Donations will go to supplement the cost of the youth mission trip this summer.

The youth mission trip will be in Pennsylvania this summer from June 24- 30. March 25 is the deadline to register with a \$75 deposit. The total cost is \$275.

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY - MARCH 18

Every Monday evening from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. the Activity Room here at First Church is filled with Girl Scouts ages 1st - 3rd grade. On Sunday, March 18 our Girl Scouts will take part in our 11 a.m. worship service. Join us for this special Sunday, as we honor the Girl Scouts and their support volunteers.

VBS
Very BIG Saturday

Community Easter Egg Hunt

This family-friendly event is for children of all ages!

Saturday, March 24 @ 10 a.m.
Hosted by First United Methodist Church

Refreshments • Face Painting
Entertainment • Fun for the Whole Family!



Photos from our Youth trip tubing at Crowder's Ridge.



For more info about the Youth Group, contact Lisa Johnson at lisajohnson71@gmail.com or 828-381-9337.

PRESCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The Preschool invites church members to participate in our Spring Community Service Project. We will be collecting items for the Catawba County Backpack Program on Sunday, March 4.

The Backpack Program works with local elementary, middle and high schools throughout the county to provide children with a backpack filled with food every Friday during the school year. The Program provides nourishment to students in Catawba County who are hungry on the weekends. The greatest needs at this time are:

- Canned soup
- Kid friendly snacks
- Dry pasta dinners (like rice a roni/pasta roni)
- Canned veggies

There will be a grocery cart located near the Welcome Center to place your items. Thank you for helping us fill the grocery cart full to help kids in need in Catawba County!

NEWTON

METHODIST PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS

On Sunday, February 25 children from the Newton Methodist Preschool participated in our 11 a.m. worship service singing several songs and leading the congregation in the reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

Photos courtesy of Wayne Swofford.



BOOK FAIR A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Preschool held its first Scholastic Book Fair during their Winter Open House. The theme was Winter Wonderland "Warm Up to a Good Book." The Book Fair was a huge success with over \$1000 of items sold, which in turn gave the Preschool \$515 worth of free books! How awesome!

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Newton Methodist Preschool will begin our 2018-2019 Enrollment on March 1. Our preschool offers quality child-care in a safe, happy, Christian environment for ages One Year through Pre-K. For more details or to take a tour, contact Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director at 828-465-6397 or email newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com.

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Judith Bolick	3/1	Kelly Hollar	3/18
Julie Branton	3/1	Lillie Sims	3/18
Janet Byrd	3/1	Nat Simpson	3/19
Kellie Brown	3/2	Faye Swofford	3/19
Tammy Smith	3/2	Trent Driscoll	3/21
Sherrill Cranford	3/4	Adam Hardin	3/21
Chloe Killian	3/5	Lisa Johnson	3/21
Ken Lawing	3/6	John Brooks	3/22
Charles Foster II	3/7	Andrew Hollingsworth	3/22
Benjamin Elledge	3/8	Rachel Pritchard	3/22
Erin Eller	3/8	Sara Copeland	3/24
Randy Pritchard	3/9	Jordan Pawlik	3/24
Evelyne Bevan	3/10	Dianne Tilley	3/24
Michael Gantt	3/10	Kelsie Yoder	3/24
Dylan Martin	3/11	Theo Elliott	3/26
Barbara Whitener	3/11	Michael Hollar	3/26
Hope Cable	3/12	Wayne Swofford	3/26
Deanna Kelly	3/12	Susan Holbrook	3/27
Roy Lewis	3/12	Frances Moose	3/27
Caroline Sitzer	3/12	Quint Ervin	3/29
Frank Cloninger	3/13	Vickey Jones	3/29
Nikki Cavin	3/14	Norris McRee	3/29
Wadine Smith	3/14	Bob Saunders	3/29
John David Hardin	3/15	Ryan Rights	3/30
Alex White	3/16	Tyler Smith	3/30
Cheryce Gregory	3/17	Billy Griffis	3/31



ANNIVERSARIES

Scott & Gina King	3/1
Jerry & Laura DeVos	3/6
David & Doris White	3/10
Wes & Natalie Nguyen	3/12
Chris & Suzy Cadwallader	3/13
Matt & Erica Isenhour	3/13
Martin & Corinna Driscoll	3/20
Brandon & Nikki Cavin	3/24
Phillip & Susan Buckbee	3/25
Mark & Caroline Sitzer	3/25
Sam & Sonia Foster	3/28
Joel & Mary Alice McCombs	3/28
John & JoAnne Hewins	3/30

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Lara "Willis" Greene, Pastor
Cell: 828-461-5918 | E: willis.fumcnewton@gmail.com

Julie Braswell, Church Administrator
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Sarah Luhrs, Choir Director
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John Coffey, Organist
E: johnnyjava@earthlink.net

Michael Roberts, Praise Team Director
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Kristi Spencer, Communications Director
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Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director
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spring *forward*

March 11, 2018

IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER

Changes to the church schedule will be communicated via Email, Facebook and the following stations:

Television -
WBTV, WCNC, WSOC

Radio - WNNC



WEATHER ALERT