



First United Methodist Church

Newton, North Carolina

A Church that Loves People into a Relationship with Jesus Christ

journey of stones

a NEW Lenten Sermon Series starting February 18, 2018

The imagery of rocks and stones is used throughout scripture. Our Lenten Sermon Series "Journey of Stones" will use biblical stones to guide us toward Easter. We will explore prayer, repentance, grace, the miracle of the empty tomb and the promise of life everlasting. We will examine both Old and New Testament passages, while also drawing from own memories. Each week you will receive a stone as you enter worship. Hold the stone as you sing, as you pray, as you receive communion, as you give, as you listen to the Word read and the message proclaimed. We hope you will walk with us every step of the way on our Lenten journey beginning February 18 and culminating on Easter Sunday, April 1.

REV. BOB SILBER PREACHING FEBRUARY 11

Have you ever heard of the Sankofa Bird? Join us on Sunday, February 11 as Rev. Bob Silber, Executive Director of Easter Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry (ECCCM), introduces us to the mythic Sankofa bird and the symbolism it represents with regard to change and uncertainty. Rev. Silber will share how we can move forward into the future while still holding onto the great parts of our past.



February 14, 2018

- Join us from 12 noon until 1:30pm for Imposition of Ashes on the Courthouse Square. Several local United Methodist pastors will be serving including Rev. Greene.
- We will have an Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary here at First Church.



YOUTH RETREAT

“Better Together” was the theme for this year’s Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Cedar Cliff at the Cove in Asheville. Seventeen of our youth along with three chaperons attended the weekend event January 13-15.



FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

On Sunday, February 11, the youth will meet at church at 4 p.m., travel to Gastonia for dinner then go tubing at Crowders Ridge from 6-7 p.m. Cost is \$13 per person plus money to eat. We will return to church by 8 p.m. for pick up. Sunday, February 25, the youth will meet from 4-6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Nursery – Available Sundays from 8:45am to 12:30pm

Children’s Sunday School
(10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., 1st Floor)

- Preschool Class 3 years - 5 years
- K-5th Grade – February’s lessons will be on Daniel and the Lions

Kids 4 Christ
(Wednesdays 3:00-5:30 p.m., Activity Room)

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.

For more information, contact Julie Braswell at 828-464-8422 or juliebraswell@gmail.com.



PRESCHOOL ENROLLING

Newton Methodist Preschool will begin our 2018-2019 Enrollment for the community on March 1. Our preschool offers quality childcare 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.

BAPTISM

On Sunday, January 28 we celebrated the Baptism of Gordon Daniel Kerley during the 9:00am Praise service. Gordon is the son of Phillip and Emily Kerley.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 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!



IMAGINE MORE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 28. Jim Richard (JR), Chair of the Property Team prepared a presentation update that we did not have time to share with the group. We have included the information below to get everyone up to date on the Capital Campaign.

ORIGINAL BUDGET SUMMARY

- Original Total Estimate \$315,000
 - HVAC \$130,000
 - Roofing/gutters/exterior \$65,000
 - General Refresh \$120,000

WHERE WE STAND NOW

- \$9,900 in bank account
 - \$0 outstanding loan balance
 - \$275,000 spent to date on project
- All HVAC & Roofing exterior repairs completed
- General Refresh work done (with the exception of 3rd floor and some lighting on other floors)
- Work stopped to sync with Vision

NEXT STEPS

- The Imagine More Capital Campaign runs through May. If you are not sure about the status of your pledge or to fulfill your pledge, you may contact Julie Braswell at juliebraswell@gmail.com or call her at 828-464-8422.
- Going forward any money spent will be decided based on Vision Next Steps
- Church Council will approve any spending of Imagine More funds

THE PRAYER TEAM

will meet Sunday, February 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 Susan Reinhardt.



Sunday	Attendance	Tithes & Offerings	Capital Building Fund
January 7	160	\$6,576.88	\$710.00
January 14	168	\$9,127.50	\$400.00
January 21	214	\$6,678.50	\$225.00
January 28	182	\$6,318.50	\$205.00

MEMORIALS

Michi Hayhurst	Garden Fund
Michi Hayhurst	Capital Building Fund
Michi Hayhurst	Music Fund
Michi Hayhurst	Current Expense Fund
Jackie Bandy	Capital Building Fund
Sara Caldwell	Capital Building Fund
Ken Keener	Capital Building Fund
Vera Arndt	Capital Building Fund

HONORARIUMS

Wayne Swofford	Music Fund
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ONLINE GIVING

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FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Jamey Sias	2/1	Paulette Moss	2/12	Flo Williams	2/20
Cara Cadwallader	2/2	Lori Wray	2/12	Bobby Carter	2/21
Gaye Keener	2/2	Andrew Boylan	2/14	Anne Hunsucker	2/22
Natalie Nguyen	2/2	Carol Brown	2/14	James Buckalew Sr.	2/27
Wes Nguyen	2/2	Gabe Ervin	2/14	Sydney Templeton	2/27
Jeff Hewins	2/3	Vicki Yount	2/14	Katie Brown	2/28
Thomas Hollingsworth	2/3	Christian Cambra	2/16	Erin Killian	2/28
Lee Inthavong	2/3	Ken Moss	2/16	George Wilkinson Jr.	2/28
Greg Bailes	2/7	Ken Simmons	2/17		
Adrienne Binkley	2/7	Jean Carter	2/18		
Frank Reinhardt	2/7	Pahton Fair	2/18		
Brandon Cox	2/8	Patricia Howard	2/18		
Coye Kidd	2/8	Joseph Beaman	2/19		
Brooks Nichols Jr.	2/8	Jim Byrd Jr.	2/19		
Vance Sigmon	2/9	Anna Cook	2/19		
Erin Kelley	2/12	Priscilla Faucette	2/19		
		Lorene Martin	2/20		

ANNIVERSARIES

Rick & Ann Faust	2/10
Reid & Judy Ikerd	2/10
Donnie & Susan Holbrook	2/14
Wayne & Jackie Dellinger	2/20
Donald & Carolyn Scronce	2/20
Jimmy & Brandy Burnette Jr.	2/23
Bobby & Leslie Benson Jr.	2/26



February 8, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall

Coffee and cookies available at 9:30 a.m. | **Program begins at 10:00 a.m.**
Living Wills & Health Care Power of Attorney - Julie Packer (Catawba Regional Hospice)

Devotion: Pastor Marcus Ollis, Beth Eden Lutheran Church

Lunch at Noon: Baked potato with fixings, tossed salad, and homemade desserts.
Please RSVP to Julie Braswell at 828-464-8422. (Donations are accepted.)



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 and Radio - WNNC

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

WELCOME KRISTI SPENCER



Kristi Spencer has joined the staff at First Church as Director of Communication. Kristi graduated from the University of North Carolina at Asheville with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication. She works as a freelance graphic

designer and has worked with a number of churches in the Western North Carolina Conference. Kristi and her husband Ken have one fur-baby Kaydee, a chocolate Cocker Spaniel who they enjoy spoiling.

If you would like to reach Kristi with news items, announcements, photos or just to say hello, she can be reached via email kristispencer1@gmail.com or by phone 704-607-3280.