



First United Methodist Church Lincoln

January 2021

Going Beyond the Trivial

A few years back, my daughters were about to get their driver's license. Such a prospect strikes fear in just about any parent, because at that point moms and dads move into a new stage of worry. We worry about if our child has been adequately prepared to take on this new level of responsibility. We worry if their intrinsic sense of direction is capable of bringing them home when their GPS fails them. We worry about other drivers, who seem to be too aggressive around our fledgling drivers. We worry about...well, let it suffice to say, we just worry.

But, over a two-year period, it was time for the babies to start wandering from the nest, hopefully in something that's safe. So that got me to scrolling the used cars ads. Trying to be a thrifty and frugal person with money now (it's about time), when I look to buy or trade, I usually prefer to get something pre-owned. That, however, leads to the possibility of buying someone else's troubles. With me, it's more likely to be a given rather than a possibility though. For whatever reason, I still think you should be able to get a decent car for under \$2K, even if it is approaching the "Million-Mile Club." Of course, I wouldn't buy one like that for my children, but maybe for me so that I could afford to get something newer and more reliable for them.

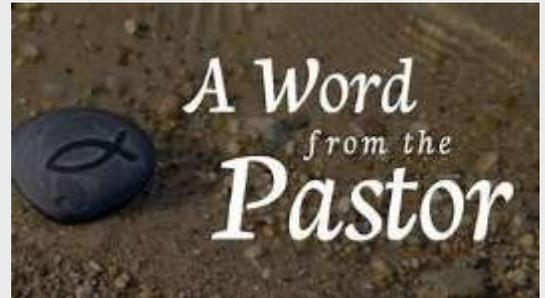
It was about this time that I called about a car that sounded great and for a pretty decent price - fairly low miles, new tires, no body damage, nice interior, and a good running engine. So what was the problem? Nothing according to the ad. It was only after I called the fellow that I found out that one problem; it didn't have a transmission! Now call me silly, but that seems to be a significant bit of information that was left out. But, the seller still tried to sell me the car based on all of the other things, like he cleans the inside with Armor-all each month to keep the leather from splitting. I'm sure it is nice and shiny sitting there in his driveway, but still, it's unable to move unless you push it!

I am beginning to think that it is just human nature to perpetuate the trivial rather than the meaningful, especially if we haven't really grasped what's really important. I also wonder if maybe that's a systemic problem among a large percentage of church people and many churches too. Too often, when we try to go out and tell the Good News, it becomes more about what goes on in our church rather than about Jesus. Seekers of Jesus aren't hungering for Bazaars and committee meetings; they hunger and thirst for Jesus.

The Evangelist named John kind of alludes to a similar situation in his gospel. In the twelfth chapter of John we can find these verses:

20 Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem to attend the Passover 21 paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus." 22 Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus

(continued)



The Greeks in this passage came searching for Jesus. They weren't looking for theories or postulations. They weren't at all interested in the "fan club" meeting, the Jesus t-shirts, or "I [HEART] Jesus" coffee mugs. They were looking for the real McCoy - they wanted Jesus.

Now, I'm not down on church programs and events or on our "feel good" expressions of faith. All of these have their place. I just hope that we make sure that, in the midst of all the hoopla, we don't forget that what the world is really seeking.

As we begin another new year, maybe it's time to begin to resolve to become less enamored with the trivial things we do in Jesus' name and become more excited about his essence and his presence. After all, Jesus was trivialized hope or love.

Godspeed,
Tim

December Birthdays

1	Linda Dedmon	19	Mitch Heavner
2	Kathy Dedmond	20	Joby Rhyne
2	Ginger Lowe	22	Bobbie Robinson
3	Tim Valentine	22	Lucy Thompson
3	Kathy Valentine	23	Dorea Drum
5	Carol Howell	23	Jackson Sibert
5	Curt Moore	24	Daniel Jovanelli
6	Karen Eakins	24	Jim Lail
7	Millie Richard	25	Cory Cronland
8	Betsy Sorrell	26	Lois Lineberger
9	Jennifer Travis	26	Angela Neill
10	Jane Goodson	27	Mary Cagle
10	Reed King	27	Kay Herman
13	Joe Wigley	28	Joseph Morton
15	Keelan Childers	29	Bob Lineberger
17	Mark Hames	29	Kelly Wilt
18	Gordon Crowell	30	Carl Henline
19	Jennifer Carroll	30	Joey Lockman



I would like to thank the United Methodist Women for the Mission Recognition honor announced Sunday, November 22nd. I am humbled by this award but grateful to be a part of and in fellowship with the wonderful and hardworking women in the UMW. Individually and collectively, they are an inspiration to me.
-Carol King



UMW Reading Program

A list of UMW Books for the 2021-2022 year is on the UMW bookshelf in a blue binder. Feel free to peruse the book list and make suggestions for purchases. You may sign up for the reading program on the bulletin board in the middle building. See Gayle Park for more information.



Food Pantry - Help Needed

It is our church's time to help stock the Christian Ministry Food Pantry. We need volunteers to work a few hours (or ideally one day) from 9 until 1 on January 20- 22 (Wednesday - Friday). Nobody but the small number of volunteers will be working in that area, and masks are required. If you can volunteer for an hour or day, please contact Rosalind at 704-472-0128 or rosalind.welder@yahoo.com.

*UMM schedule for 2021

January 24
February 28
March 28 (Palm Sunday)
April 25 (Easter 4th)
May 23 (Memorial Day 31st)
June 27
July 25
August 22
September 26
October 24
November 28 (Thanksgiving 25th)
December 26

*These are the dates for our breakfast meetings when it is deemed safe to meet in groups.



Neil Underwood has been inducted to the NC Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame.

Megan Carroll received her Girl Scout Silver Awards—Troop 2305

“Megan partnered with her church and Lincolnton Middle School to make her idea come to life. With her love of music, she had the idea to create a portable music stand for the adaptive classes to share at LMS”

∞ In Memory ∞

My grandparents, Walter and Lizzy Hines
My parents, Ed and Katie Johnson
My sister, Barbara Lee Johnson Carter
Kay Johnson Mann

Bob Rankin
Kay and Jim Herman
Ed and Cindy Hatley
Bo and Carol King
Nancy Sherrill
Frances and Charles Hupfer
Kathy and Keith Dedmond
Jerry and Gayle Park
Rosalind Welder and Carl Henline
Kay and David Lowe
Sherry Garner
Guy and Christol Cline
Charles Beck
Don and Miriam Cline
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Ellis
Susie and Scotty Bradshaw
Lou and Elliott Beal
Brad and Carole Wilson
Sam and Chris Ausband
The Jill Owen Circle

Joan Fink
Bo and Carol King
Rosalind Welder and Carl Henline
Kathy and Keith Dedmond

Linda Ashbrenner
Kay and David Lowe
Kelly and Bucky Kinard

Pris Mauney
Kelly and Bucky Kinard
Kay and David Lowe
Hal and Joann Parker

Chris Byrd
Hal and Joann Parker
Kay and David Lowe
Kelly and Bucky Kinard

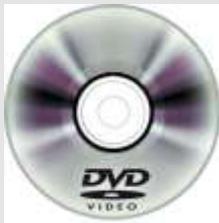
John Goodson
Kay and David Lowe
Hal and Joann Parker

Sarah Lantz
Kay and David Lowe
Hal and Joann Parker

Kay Polhill
Kay and David Lowe
Hal and Joann Parker

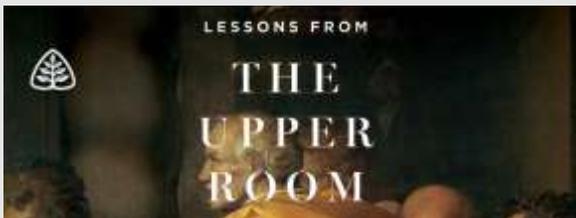
Tanya Matthews
Hal and Joann Parker
Kay and David Lowe

Worship Service DVD



If you would like to have a DVD of the worship services, please call the office and leave your name. We will mail the DVD's each week.

Upper Room



We are also happy to mail you an Upper Room.

Just give us a call if you are interested and don't forget to leave a message if we are not available!

good to know

Offering envelope boxes are now available in the church library next to the office. You are invited to either pick them up, or if you would like them mailed or otherwise delivered, please contact the church office.

We are offering video DVD's of our services that we will send out for those who are unable to view us on Facebook or You Tube. If you know someone who would like to receive these DVD's, contact the church office with name and address and we will get those sent out. Also, if someone needs a DVD player, contact us and we will see what we can do to help supply that.

Thank you to all who made donations to our Backpack ministry this year. Because of your generosity, the Backpack Fund was able to give a \$100 Food Lion Gift Cards to all the backpack families for Christmas, as well as being able to shop and provide Christmas presents for all the backpack kids who were on the Angel Tree.

Early Announcement for Souper Bowl of Caring SOUPER SUNDAY! SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

Help us tackle hunger by collecting cans of soup or financial donations. More information coming soon about how you can help make a difference in our community.



Children's Sermons for January:

- Jan 3 – Robbie Combs
- Jan 10 – Mary Cagle
- Jan 17 – Suzanne Peeler
- Jan 24 – Lucy Thompson
- Jan 31 – Kathy Douglas

FUMC Columbarium And Memorial Garden

The Columbarium and Memorial Garden are moving right along. The Cross and Flame have been placed. Thank you to Carl Henline, Don Smith, Steve Herman and Jerry Park for securing the Cross and Flame. If you would like more information, please contact the church office.



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Website: fumclincolnton.com | Follow us on Facebook

Pastor: Reverend Tim Roberts