



First United Methodist Church
Lincolnton

March 2021

Happy Easter



The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

Matthew 28:5-6

DailyVerses.net

In the absence of our weekly Lenten Services, we invite you to set a time each Wednesday to devote a few moments to independent prayer and meditation. We will post a weekly scripture and devotional to our Facebook page and share via email. For those who wish to receive this information by regular mail, please contact the church office.

March Birthdays

7 Bethany Demofonte	20 Betty Thompson
9 Libby Cline	21 Matthew Lowe
10 Nancy Boulware	22 Sonny Abernethy
12 Linda Wolfe	23 Jody Cronland
14 Ken Marks	26 Susie Bradshaw
15 Debbie Cochrane	26 LouAnn Cain
15 Randy Sorrell	26 Ernie Parker
16 Elizabeth Noles	27 Carol Conner
18 Doug Ballard	29 Brenda Ballard
19 Allison Thompson	29 Jason Blackwell
20 Jewel Brawley	31 Becca Pomeroy
20 Billy Howell	31 David Sibert



☞ ☞ United Methodist Men

*UMM schedule for 2021

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.***

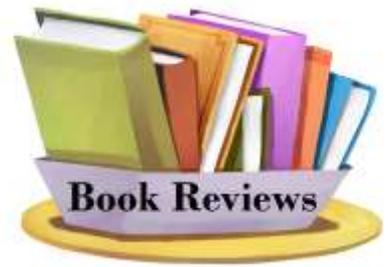


Full year 2020 revenue	\$	377,134
Full year 2020 expense	\$	384,968
Full year 2020 deficit	\$	(7,834)
Jan 2021 year-to-date revenue	\$	13,370
Jan 2021 year-to-date expense	\$	23,830
Jan 2021 year-to-date deficit	\$	(10,460)

“Dangling” by Amy Carr

An easy and uplifting read. The story of one amazing woman’s journey through diagnosis, treatment, ups and downs, victories and set backs of breast cancer. The book is inspiring and provides a very positive outlook for anyone, patient or family, with any type of cancer – not just breast cancer. Her use of scripture throughout the book provided comfort, support and peace for me as I reflected on those I know and love who have suffered or are suffering with cancer. The scriptures are ‘catalogued’ at the end of the book in categories of “Faith; Rest, Peace and True Trust; Healing; Help; Fear; and Victory”. A great resource!

As she says “I may have cancer, but cancer doesn’t have me!” This was her mantra as she and her family faced her diagnosis. She never ‘owned’ the cancer – never referred to it as ‘my cancer’. And she persevered through all the treatments knowing God was with her.



“Women Rise Up” by Katey Zeh

So many of the UMW Reading Program Books are about the oppression of women. This book is no exception. The difference in this book is that the author parallels women in scripture with the experiences that women of today are facing. Very enlightening. She reveals truths about the scriptures of Hagar, Rachel, Mary, Ruth, Martha, and more. A book that opens up the possibility of discussion – too bad we can’t get together, talk and learn from each other.

“The Unstoppable Garrett Morgan” by Joan Diccico

Although this book is on the Youth book list it is approved for the adult reading program. If you read it you may understand why. It is the story of a black “inventor, entrepreneur, hero”, and I might add, a gifted, talented and kind man. Garrett rose from the background of sharecroppers to be an industrialist in Cleveland, Ohio. Inventing several things to make life better for all people including a safety hood for firefighters which became the gas masks in WWI. His desire to “help people was a lifelong pursuit”. He was a remarkable man who I had never heard of before but am glad that I now know about him.

5th Wednesday Reading Program

The UMW Reading group will resume their 5th Wednesday meetings on Wednesday, March 31, at noon in the church library. Remember to wear a mask and we will social distance as much as possible. It will be acceptable to bring your own lunch.

Several members have donated new books; Cheryl has provided us with some excellent book reviews; time to end our hiatus. Please come join the 5th Wednesday UMW reading program for discussion and fellowship.

For more information, contact Gayle Park at gaylepark@att.net.





While we are not meeting at this time, these vital ministries of our church are continuing to thrive. We invite you to be in prayer for these ongoing ministries of First UMC:

- ◆ Our Backpack Ministry is going strong. We continue to serve around 25 children and youth of the community, but there are some items that we need to replenish. There will be a Backpack Ministry Food Drop-Off on Tuesday, March 2 from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Simply pull through the portico on Academy Street outside the church office and volunteers will meet you to receive your donations (masked and contactless for your protection!) Items needed are: Hormel Compleat Meals, Microwavable meals (Chef Boyardee/Spaghetti-O's/Mac & Cheese), individually wrapped snacks, fruit cups, cereal cups, oatmeal and peanut butter.
- ◆ Our various Boy and Girl Scout troops are continuing to meet, and we hope to be able to provide you with updates from these groups and all their activities in the coming weeks.
- ◆ Our new FUMC Preschool is continuing to shine in its ministry to some of the youngest of the community. We have around 20+ students in our preschool, and they are bringing much joy into the Educational Building. Watch this space for more information from this newest and vital program of our church.
- ◆ Our Wednesday Morning Prayer and Meditation Group meets every Wednesday in the Annex at 10:00 am under the leadership of Michelle Johnson. This group has a weekly book discussion, as well as dedicated prayer time, lifting up church members as well as others in the community.
- ◆ Our Lay Visitation Team is doing a wonderful job in reaching out to our homebound members, as well as those in nursing facilities, as they can with the current COVID restrictions.
- ◆ We continue to reach out to our children and youth during this time as well. Robbie is sending out weekly Bible lessons and activities to the children of the church, as well as providing seasonal craft packs that the kids are able to work on at home with their parents. He is also sending out weekly youth devotionals to the youth of the church to keep them engaged until we return for in-person gatherings.

We can all agree that the last year has been difficult, and that we all look forward to when we can gather again in our beautiful sanctuary for worship together. But seeing that our church is still active and vital to our local downtown community is such a blessing. It is a testament to the people of First UMC and your prayerful support that these ministries can continue, even in the midst of adversity.

EARLY EASTER ANNOUNCEMENT

in conjunction with the City of Lincoln and other downtown businesses, we are working on a Children's Easter Drive-Thru Activity. This will be similar to the Halloween Drive Thru Trick-or-Treat from last fall. The date of this event will be April 3rd from 10:00 am til 12:00 pm, and further details will be forthcoming.

Easter plans are being made to resume in-person, outdoor worship for Easter Sunday, which will fall on April 4th. These plans are subject to weather and any lingering COVID concerns, we will keep you updated as plans are finalized.

Children's Sermons for February

- March 7 - Page Abernethy
- March 14 - Robbie Combs
- March 21 - Mary Cagle
- March 28 - Kathy Douglas



 In Memory 

Bob Rankin

*The Lovill Ladies
John Lantz
Jody Cronland
Robert and Carolyn Heafner-Williams
Rodney and Mary Robinson*

Hazel Robinson

*Jody Cronland
Roger Williams*

Doris Lail Leonhardt

*Mike and Jodie Reinhardt
Barbara Austell
Go-Go Club
Norman and Charlotte Pierson
Duke and Myrl Peeler
Don and Stacy Revels
Jane Hinson Lail
Lee Goodwin Lail
The Girls
Mark Carswell
Jim Lail
Brenda Porter
Danny and Kim Fitzpatrick
Scott and Bonnie Kischer
Charles and Wanda Lutz
Jerry and Gayle Park
Amy Brown and family
Sisters of Wayne Goins
Linda Moore
Dianna and James Alexander
Roger Williams
Tim and Sheila Starnes
Lincoln County Republicans
John Lantz
James Fleming
Cindy Sherrill and family
Turlington and Co.
American Power Pull
Jody Cronland
Ernie and Betty Parker
Kathy and Keith Dedmond
Steve and Kathy Eaker
Carol and Bo King*

Troop 75 News

Service project at Hart Square



COVID, a full blood moon, a snowstorm, and a mud bowl is not going to stop a local Scout Troop from enjoying a wonderful experience at Hart Square. After almost a year of being delayed the experience due to COVID restrictions and other factors, Troop 75 of Lincolnnton braved the weather elements and, in their opinion, had the best camping experience ever!!!

Teddy Reed, Scoutmaster of Troop 75, had been coordinating the trip for almost a year with Rebecca Hart from the Hart Foundation. He had recalled a previous camping experience in 2019 at Hart Square and a personal tour of the cabins/buildings providing by Dr. Hart as one of the most memorable trips and he wanted the opportunity for new youth and adults of the Scout Troop. Ten Scouts and three adults met at BI-LO parking lot on Friday afternoon, performed COVID temperature and mask checks for everyone and then headed toward Vale. Due to COVID restrictions, the Scouts would not be able to sleep in an old wooden cabin as previously done, rather, would camp in individual tents. Within a short duration of arrival, the sunlight had faded, and the temperature began to drop quickly. But, off in the distance was the most remarkable looking red glow.....it was a full blood moon rising. Although the Troop members were chilly and it would eventually drop to 21 degrees, the brightness of the moon, the glow of the stars, the silence of cars and the city was simply spectacular.

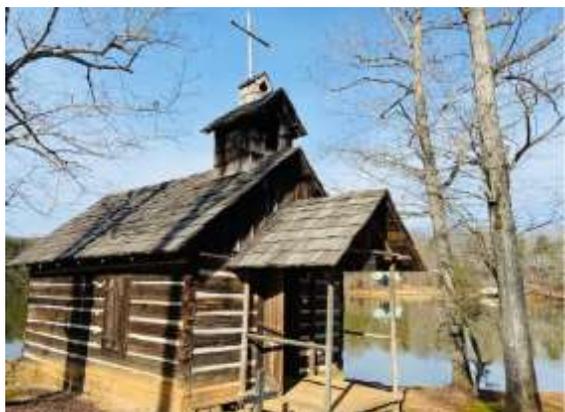


Waking Saturday morning at 0530 was met with a crunchy frozen ground and frost on the tents however, the view of the full moon still present in the distance was so peaceful. Soon, there was water boiling for coffee and hot chocolate. It was amazing.....all four cups ☐



Scouts made an amazing breakfast. Although we had to take additional precautions for food prep and social distancing, there were several Scouts working on First Class rank who needed to demonstrate they could prepare, cook, and clean-up. Scouts had a flag ceremony (as we do on every outing) and then got ready for the main event...an education tour of the Hart Village conducted by Zan. The history and artifacts found in Hart Village mirror those found in a museum located in Washington DC or New York. Enjoying the sights of the 200-acre village was spectacular, however, it was the knowledge and the way that Zan told the stories that made it so enjoyable. It's not often that you can entertain young boys without an X-box or some gaming device, but they were captured by the past and kept asking so many inquiring questions. For those not familiar with Hart Square, Dr. Hart would find these cabins and buildings throughout North Carolina, many locally. He would take pictures and then he would disassemble every board and nail with the help of others to relocate them to the village. These are the real structures, and some dated for than 215 years old!

The Troop was able to see a Doctor's office with all the "non-electronic" medical tools, a Schoolhouse, Gristmill, 2 iconic and beautiful Churches, General Store, a Smokehouse, Tavern, a working Cotton Gin, and many other structures to include their favorite...the Jail & Stockade !





Once the amazing tour was over, the Scouts filled their bellies with some grilled sandwiches and hot soup. It was time to fulfill one of the primary roles of Scouting...Service and a commitment to develop character. Teddy had discussed with Rebecca Hart ways the Scouts could give back to the Community and Hart Square. Each member of the Troop brought working gloves and tools to help work on projects needed at the Village. They uncovered and removed layers of dirt & mud that had collected over several draining grates in the Village. Once that was completed, attention was shifted to the Lake Trail which is a walking path surrounding the lake and Village. They removed fallen trees, raked the leaves, cleared the bridges, removed some debris, and tried to restore the path to an eco-friendlier environment for individuals to enjoy.



Tired and exhausted, however, feeling good about what they had accomplished, it was time to allow them some free time before dinner preps. We had about an hour or so of daylight left and just as we began to unwind..... someone yelled.....ITS SNOWING!!!

Well, what started as a few flakes soon began to be a downright blizzard. Well, maybe not what is accustomed to falling in New Jersey or Canada, however, for Lincolnton.... It was a snowstorm. Within minutes it was sticking to the ground, the tents, and the chairs. "Frosty the Snowman" was being sung around the fire and the occasional sound of a passing snowball flying. Although it was mighty cold.... there was laughter, singing, shaking of the heads by the Leaders), but....so many smiles as we were truly witnessing a great camping. experience.



An awesome dinner was had by all but, we made sure to save room for some warm Dutch oven cobbler which in Troop 75, is always a special treat prepared by the Assistant Scoutmaster Doug Hancock. In all my years of Scouting, I have not enjoyed cobbler, a hot cup of coffee, sitting by the fire, all while snow was falling at the same time. Now this was truly Scout Camping at its finest! However, snow turned to a steady downpour of rain throughout the night.



When the Leaders woke and began to boil water to make coffee, we knew this was going to be an interesting morning and eventual departure. What started as a full blood moon less than 36hrs ago had now migrated into a mud bowl. I am not speaking of a few drops of mud on the top of your boots.....of no, this was full all out sinking into the Earth kind of mud. Scouts began crawling out of the tent one by one like zombies praying for the warmth of some hot chocolate and dreading breaking down camp.

Let's just say that upon our return to town, the Scout trailers had to be power washed, the tents needed to be set back up and cleaned, and I'm quite certain that multiple loads of laundry may have been performed at Family locations.



Over the next few days, Scout parents and grandparents would call or text me and state their son had the BEST time ever. Although a few Scouts were unable to attend due to other commitments, the 10 Scouts and 3 Adults who attended the weekend at Hart Square will have countless memories and stories to share for a lifetime. We hope and pray the next experience at Hart Square will be as eventful.....as there will definitely be another time, we will go back to this amazing place that is so rich in history and lore!!!

Hart Square is located in Vale, NC and info can be found at <https://www.hartsquare.com>

Troop 75 is located in downtown Lincolnton and the sponsor is First United Methodist Church.

Leaders who attended the camping experience was Teddy Reed (SM), Doug Hancock and Travis Tweed (ASMs).

Scouts: Wade Hancock (Sr. Patrol Leader), Evan Reed (Asst Sr. Patrol Leader), Tony Griffin, Rylee Wesson, Will Hancock, Blake Leonard, Jake Tweed, Marcus Coffie, Axel Beatenhead, and Riley Hendershot.