

Being Overheated

I grew up in Charlotte. Although traffic in that city is notorious, I had never quite understood how people could be so rude in their manner of driving. I cringed when I heard someone blow their horn; after all, where is their southern hospitality? Or, when people weaved in and out of traffic, I would just shake my head in disbelief. Often when I was caught in one of the incessantly long traffic jams, I would amuse myself by watching my fellow commuters ranting and raving at the traffic lights, which always seemed to allow one, maybe two cars, through before turning red again. However, I never understood how people would become mad at other drivers. That was until recently when I had to navigate through...Atlanta. Thinking that I may have to double up on my blood pressure medicine and buy a gallon of industrial strength Maalox, I finally resigned myself to expunge myself from that infernal city. Take the worst traffic jam imaginable and propel it, bumper-to-bumper, along a ten-lane interstate at 80mph and that was just a glimpse of my nightmare. If just one person had sneezed while driving, the devastation that would have resulted would have been of biblical proportions. Yet, this trip through Dante's Inferno made me understand why road rage is a growing problem in our country. At the same time, this experience also enlightened me to how easy it is to become riled about circumstances that are beyond our control.

As the days are getting hotter for the summer and we are constantly looking and scouring for ways to cool down, I believe it may well behoove us to consider how we should cool our frustrations as well. Is it really worth the havoc that we subject our bodies to when we lose our tempers? Is "flying off the handle" really going to solve our problems?

I am reminded of a passage from a letter in the Bible written by a man, only known to us as James, as he offered some real practical advice about how we should orient our lives. He said, "My dear brothers [and sisters], take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." (NIV). For the most part, this tidbit infers the proper manner of our speaking to each other. But if we would truly ponder it, it really relates to what's at our core, how we control our emotions. Our words and wrath are only symptoms of the disease that seeks to destroy our souls. So, James seems to be urging us to slow down, take our time, think through our predicament, and remain calm.

Then again, I dare say that James never drove through Atlanta.

Godspeed,



In Service this month:

Greeters

- 4 Mike & Letha Owen
- 11 Jerry & Gail Park
- 18 Page & Mitch Abernethy
- 25 Phillip & Cheryl Cole

Time (mostly)

For Children

- 4 Robbie Combs
 - 11 OPEN
 - 18 Whitney King
 - 25 Kathy Douglas
- (If you feel called to offer one of our weekly children's messages, please contact the church office.)

Pew Keepers

- 4 Elvie Cranford
- 11 Vickie Andrews
- 18 Beverly Beal
- 25 Kathy Valentine

Parking Valets

- 4 Mike Owen
- 11 Daniel Jovaneli
- 18 Jeff Noles
- 25 Jerry Park

Opportunities for service abound!

Contact the church office to put your time and talent to work!



Celebrate July!

Birthdays

- 1 Teresa Shives
3 Luke Burleson, Roger Helms, John Lantz, and Tony Matthews
4 Cheryl Cole, Lauren Hawkins, Cameron Johnson, and Laurel Johnson
6 Jaden Angle
July 7 Linda Graham, Kara Lawing, Mike Price, Aspen Swengros, and Atley Swengros
8 Susan Burleson, Andy Horvat, and Drew Kirksey
9 Jackie Dellinger, Jr. and Suzanne Mauney
12 Andrew Mauney, and Michael Mauney
13 Whitney King and Donna Noles
14 Calvin Blackwell, Emmett Eagle, and Lola Wiseman
15 Linda Smith
16 Jake Cochrane
18 Mary Lee Campbell and Nancy Rhyne
19 Jane Finger and Bunny Nantz
20 Chip Collins, III
21 Paul Cochrane and Kenna Maltba
21 Alex Owen and Susan Wigley
22 Johnny Anderson, Sam Ferris, Verna Rufini
24 Jerry Owen
25 Tres Abernethy III, Linda Church, Maggie Church, Elvie Cranford, and Alice Rhinehardt
26 Gerald Park
27 Barbara Rushing, and Ann Setzer
28 Randolph Shives Jr
30 Beth McCraw and Mike Owen
31 William Abernethy, Nancy Price, Kathryn Sledzewski, and Kaye Waters

Anniversaries

- 9 Kenny and Jane Finger
13 C.B. and Linda Wolfe
14 Andy and Susan Horvat
17 Charles and Wanda Lutz



Dear Church Family –
Thank you for my blanket. I love it and will use it often. Thank you for your continued prayers
William Abernethy



FUMC, Thank you so much for the Visa gift card for my grad gift! It'll be used to supply my classroom.
Thanks, Kaitlyn Wilt

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. - Mark 11:24

In our Prayers Today

Annette Johnson (Mark Johnson's mother), Ginger Lowe, David & Kay Lowe, Lucy Thompson, Elliott Beal, Benjamin Brown (Page Abernethy's brother), Kelly Edwards, Ed Hatley

In Nursing Facilities: Nancy Boulware (Abernethy Laurels), Carolyn Dellinger (Brian Center), Mary Heavner (Abernethy Laurels), Judy Komas (The Addition), Ken Marks (TerraBella Lake Norman), Mary Jean Rollins (Summit Place - Mooresville)

Homebound: Ron and Brenda Ballard, Winnon Cashion, Phyllis Hoffman, Jo Huss, Donna Connor Morris, Marie Nichols, Queeta Ramseur, Mary Robinson, Verna Rufini, Shirley Smith

Weekly Wednesday Prayer

The Wednesday Morning Prayer and Study group meets each week at 10 a.m. in the Annex. Michelle Johnson leads a lively discussion on various topics and inspirational books, as well as a time for lifting up prayer concerns and requests. All are invited to take part in the meaningful time of meditation and devotion.



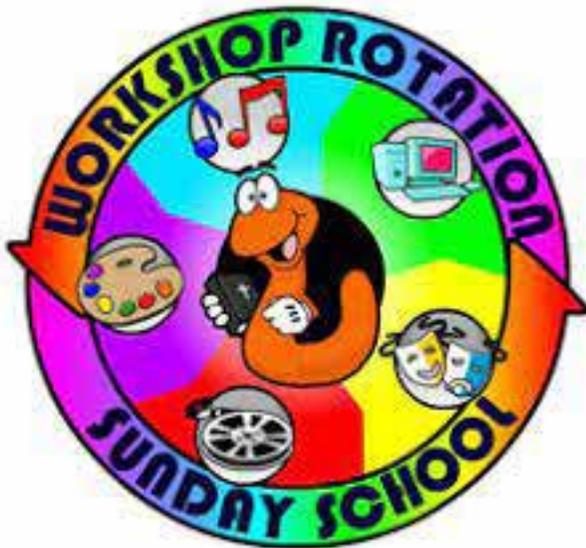
News & Updates

Financial Update, May 2021

YTD revenue \$ 141,727

YTD expense \$ 140,673

YTD surplus \$ 1,054



Discover W.o.R.M.

As we begin to get ready for the Fall Kick-off of ministries, you are invited to join us as we take a look at an innovative and exciting way to do Children's Sunday School called Workshop on Rotation Model, aka WoRM. If you have a heart and passion for children learning about God and the Bible but are a bit wary about sitting down to teach them as most Sunday Schools are taught, you will definitely want to attend this session. The Rev. Renee Easter will lead us in discovering how to engage all the children's senses and imagination while finding yourself having fun teaching, by doing things you probably already love doing.

We will have a one-afternoon session on Sunday, July 11th at 12:30 p.m. We will even feed you!

Please sign up by using the registration form in the bulletin or by calling the church office.

Music News

The Chancel Choir will be taking the month of July off from weekly rehearsals, BUT are still needed on Sunday mornings. We will meet each Sunday morning at 10:30 to go over our morning anthems. We will resume weekly rehearsals in August.

United Methodist Men Breakfast

Wakey, wakey! The United Methodist Men will meet for their monthly breakfast meeting on Sunday, July 25th at 8 a.m. All men of the church are invited to attend for a time of good food and fellowship.

Parish Nurse News

Betty Parker, our Parish Nurse, is seeking someone to assist her as a Medical Scribe when we resume our monthly blood pressure checks in September. If you are able to help, please contact Betty and she will instruct you on what to do.

Boy Scout News

Jaden Rhyne and Evan Reed recently completed their Eagle projects. Jaden's work was at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Evan's project was at Lincolnton High School.

The Troop took part in the annual Memorial Day event on May 31st. They also assisted the local VFW port in preparing luminaries for the veteran's memorial service.

Flag Day, June 14th, troop members and Boger City Fire Department conducted a ceremony, using the United States Code as a guide, to destroy worn and retired American flags. The Code gives preference to destroying these flags by burning in a dignified manner.

The scouts will take part in the city's July 4th Celebration.

The Cub Scouts held their annual Pinewood Derby on July 19th in the Fellowship Hall. The Derby Winners in order of 1,2,3 finish: Jagger Beatenhead, Braylon Kiser, Leighton Hutchins

The Pack will not meet on Mondays again until September. Leaders have tentatively arranged for 3 summer day camps.

The Troop will maintain their regular Monday meetings through the summer. Their summer camp is July 11-17.

Amy's Closet Needs You

The Jill Owen Circle continues to collect items for Amy's Closet, an arm of Amy's House, Lincolnton's battered women's shelter.

These items will be delivered in mid-July. If you wish to donate, please leave requested items in one of the three white baskets located in the Education Building, Middle Building and Fellowship Hall. Items needed include: seasonal items (sunscreen, insect repellent, hats for outdoor time), over the counter medications for pain relief, colds and allergies, as well as first aid supplies, toiletries and personal care items, and household/cleaning items. Please note these items are needed for both adults and children.

Prison Ministry

All volunteer activity at the local prison unit has been suspended since March, 2020 and our Prison Ministry Outreach has been on hold as a result. Officials at the state agencies which regulate this are being cautious and our volunteers, although missing our sharing and learning times with the inmates, are supportive of the effort and while there were a few cases of Covid at the unit, there was never an outbreak and all cases recovered.

As the easing of restrictions spreads we expect to have some news of when we might resume but have no idea as to when. The required annual training for all volunteers (usually done in March of each year) was not done this year, either, so getting back into our prison work will be a process.

Here's a huge "Thank You!" to all who have donated and continue supporting our outreach even if only to inquire. Please pray for prison officials, correction officers, inmates, and volunteers who will be continuing this important work as soon as possible.

– Gordon Hubbell, *Lead Volunteer, FUMC Prison Ministry Outreach*

Grounds Committee

Some members of the Grounds team braved the heat to tame some very healthy bushes around the sanctuary. If your spirit comes alive in the outdoors and you would be willing to share this gift with the Church, please contact Carol or Bo King (csking0919@gmail.com; boking@bellsouth.net) This group accomplishes seasonal grooming as needed around the church grounds, such as putting out pine needles before Easter, pulling weeds and keeping the shrubbery in

line. Do you have a green thumb? A brown thumb? It doesn't matter. Come join us! We would love and welcome your help!

Ways to Give

"Electronic" donations to the church have increased significantly in number as we've been through the Covid 19 induced limitations on gathering and contacts. Appreciation is lovingly extended to all who have used the giving portal on our website (fumclinton.com) and all who have set up automated or facilitated gifts using their banks' bill payment systems.

Please remember that plain, old fashioned, contribution envelopes still work, too and are welcome in the plates every Sunday whether they are passed around or not. All the caring funding counts and "how" isn't important as long as we keep supporting our ministry. Plain, old fashioned, U.S. mail still works, as does just dropping off one's gift at the church office Monday through Thursday.

– Gordon Hubbell, *Stewardship Chair*

United Methodist Women

Did you know that ALL ladies of First United Methodist Church are members of our chapter of United Methodist Women? We want to encourage you to share your strengths, voice, and spirit with others.



U.M.W. is active in many community projects, we read and discuss books together, and most importantly we cover each other in prayer.

If you would like to learn more or actively participate in one of our circles or outreach projects please reach out to me. I will happily put you in touch with the right folks. As for now, know that we treasure all the ladies of our church and count it as a privilege to serve and worship alongside you all.

May the Lord's blessings brighten your day today and everyday,

– Page Brown Abernethy, *U.M.W. President*,
pbabernethy@me.com / 704-473-6732

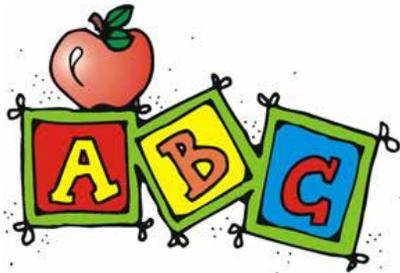
How Do You Like Your Newsletter?

We distribute the monthly newsletter in two ways: Many of our members receive it digitally by email, and others prefer a paper copy mailed to their homes.

How would you like to have your newsletter delivered? If you already receive your newsletter via email, that's great. If you would like to begin receiving your newsletter digitally, simply email Robbie at ministries@fumclincolnton.com, and he will take care of it.

Preschool News

The preschool finished our first academic year at FUMC on May 20 with an end of year programs



and graduation in person in the fellowship hall. The kids sang songs and recited Bible verses and The Lord's Prayer which they learned during the year.

The year was challenging with the presence of COVID and all the restrictions. We are proud to say we were able to keep the school open the entire year without having to close due to the virus! We did our very best to make it as normal of an experience as possible for our students and families. Our 2s class learned their colors, shapes and numbers and *how* to get along with one another. The 3s worked on the alphabet, numbers and much more. They participated in Chapel and music each week alongside the 4s class.

Our 4 year old students worked hard to prepare for kindergarten and all students scored high on their kindergarten screenings. We are currently running a summer camp on Monday and Wednesday mornings in June and July for current, past and future students.

Registration is open for the next school year. We currently have openings in the 2s and 3s classes. The 4 year old class is full with a waitlist. You can email the preschool at preschool@fumclincolnton.com or check out our Facebook page, First United Methodist Church Preschool, Lincolnton for more information. Thanks for the support!

– Kristen Willis, Director

LINC Meals

First United Methodist Church, Lincolnton has had a long term commitment to LINC Home Delivered Meals operated by Christian Ministry of Lincoln County. Our church members deliver meals to Lincoln County residents every Monday through Friday except holidays.

Drivers that deliver meals for LINC are often the only contact some of these people have with the outside world, so in addition to nourishing food, LINC provides a check-in of sorts to those who are shut in due to illness, disability, or other reason.”

LINC meals celebrates this year's drivers and meal packers from our church and community. They are Beverly Beal, Lou Ann and Steve Cain, Sherry Cloninger, Kathy Dedmond, Kathy Douglas, Patsy Herman, Whitney King, Kathy Kirksey, Wanda Lutz, Ron Metzger, Faye Morris, Peggie Shuford, Gayle Park, Suzanne Peeler, Randy Ramsey, Nancy Rhyne, Allison Thompson, Gene and Charlotte Weaver, Carl Henline and Rosalind Welder, and Beth Wiseman.

This year Christian Ministry is also celebrating the long term service of Suzanne Peeler who has delivered meals for 15 years. Thank you Suzanne for your commitment to our community!

Delivering meals takes about an hour. We have drivers who deliver weekly, monthly and as needed. We can fit you in on a regular schedule or as a substitute. We have five unassigned days a month so you are needed! Also, Christian Ministries needs others who will pack meals that are to be delivered.

Anyone interested in this ministry should contact the church office or Rosalind at 704-472-0128.





201 East Main Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Service is at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.: Mon.-Thur.

Office: 704.735.7489

Email: fumc_office@bellsouth.net

Website: fumclincolnton.com



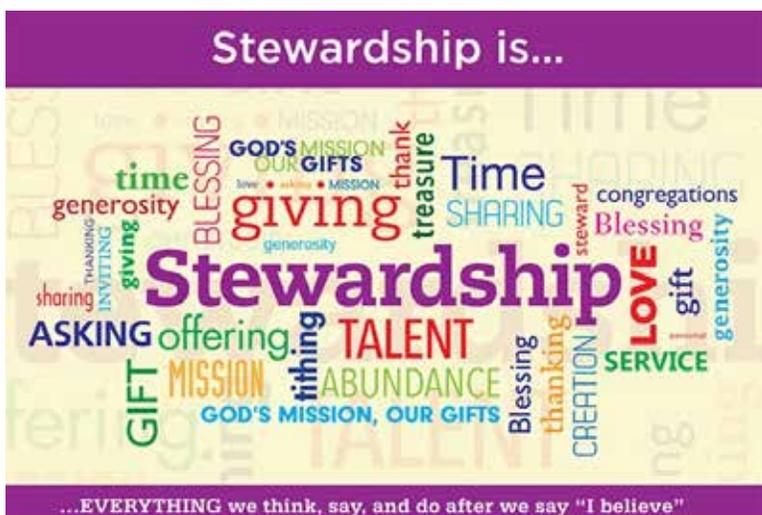
Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

Events this coming month

July 11, 12:30 p.m. Workshop on Rotation Model, aka WoRM. Lunch provided. To register, use the registration form in the bulletin or call the church office.

July 25, 8 a.m. FUMC Men's Breakfast.

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. The Wednesday Morning Prayer and Study group meets in the Annex for prayer and study. Everyone welcome.



Where do *you* fit?