



First United Methodist Church

Lincolnton, NC

June 2021

COVID-19 UPDATE

UPDATED GUIDANCE REGARDING IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND OTHER CHURCH MEETINGS AND EVENTS

In light of the revised guidance from the CDC and the Western NC Conference, we provide the following updates to our church's COVID-19 response policy:

- The wearing of face coverings will be optional for those who have been fully vaccinated, which is defined as being two weeks after the last dose of the vaccine. However, we do recommend the continued use of face coverings for congregational singing or other spoken parts of worship.
- For small group gatherings, such as Sunday school classes, meetings, Bible studies or music rehearsals, you may use your best judgment regarding masking as dictated by the attendance of your group.
- If you have not been vaccinated against COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that the wearing of face coverings will continue.
- Food, snacks and drinks should be served by **masked and gloved** individuals. Until the vaccination percentage increases, buffet lines are discouraged.
- To promote proper ventilation in the sanctuary, we will continue to keep the side doors and street level doors open during the worship service.

Thank you for your assistance and patience as we continue to ascertain the best practices for First UMC-Lincolnton to ensure the safety and well-being of our congregation.

WAYS WE SERVE



Sound Techs for June

June 6 – Charlie Cagle
June 13 – Charlie King
June 20 – Charlie Cagle
June 27 – Charlie Cagle



Children's Sermons for June

June 6—Mary Cagle
June 13—Page Abernethy
June 20—Suzanne Peeler
June 27—Lucy Thompson



Valets for June

June 6—Steve Cain
June 13—Charlie King
June 20—Mike Owen
June 27—Paul Douglas

June Birthdays

June 1 Hammett Hames	June 18 John Lineberger Jr.
June 1 Mary Anna Rankin	June 20 John Schrum
June 2 Allie Demofonte	June 21 Jennings Benfield
June 2 Micah Exoo	June 23 Susie Huffstetler
June 4 Mitch Abernethy, Sr.	June 24 Ed Hatley
June 5 Charlie Cagle	June 25 Beverly Beal
June 6 Ronnie Lawing	June 25 Neil Underwood
June 7 Rhonda Carter	June 26 Kathy Beal
June 8 Faye Morris	June 26 Logan Lawing
June 12 Sherry Garner	June 26 Shelly Rhyne
June 14 Molly U. Blair	June 28 Lisa Cherry
June 16 Ellery Edwards	June 29 Rick Blackwell
June 16 Randi Kolseth	June 30 Adam Bolch
June 17 Mark Johnson	June 30 Steve Valentine





Oberammergau Passion Play and Holy Land Tour 2022

August 23-September 4, 2022

Join Dr. Roberts and his wife, Rev. Karen Roberts on an almost once in lifetime trip to see the world-renowned Oberammergau Passion Play and then on for a tour of the Holy Land, which is often called, *The Fifth Gospel*. While more information will be forth-coming, here is briefly what to expect:

The Passion Play

Since 1634, the most famous Passion Play in the world has been presented every ten years in Oberammergau, Germany. The worldwide virus pandemic of 2020 forced the play organizers to move the production to 2022 – only the fourth time in almost 400 years that the play has been cancelled or postponed. We invite you to join us, in the small village of Oberammergau for this special play season. You will experience the world’s largest dramatic and musical Passion Play in the beautiful Bavaria and Tyrol regions of Germany and Austria.

The Holy Land

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to witness events of the Gospels? Imagine being in the boat with the disciples on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus spoke to the storm or standing on the Mount of Olives beside a weeping Jesus. Although going back in time is not possible, you can go where the events of the Bible took place – the Holy Land.

We will be travelling with Wilkesboro UMC and through Educational Opportunities Tours, which has been faithfully and exceptionally serving churches throughout our conference for years. EO is preparing specialized itineraries and details for us. While you are keeping watch for this information, please be in prayer about being a part of this life-changing experience.

United Methodist Women's Reading Group

The 5th Wednesday UMW Readers will meet Wednesday, June 30th at 12:00 noon in the church library. Mask wearing guidelines are relaxed so if everyone has been vaccinated, I see no reason to wear a mask; however, if you are more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so.

We welcome new readers to join our group and check out the books on the UMW shelf. There are some great reads available.



Gum Moon (Cantonese for “Gold Door” or “Golden Gate” is the remarkable coming of age story of a Chinese-American girl, Mei Chun Lai, who is sold in 1898 at the age of three to a cruel brothel keeper. A sympathetic prostitute befriends Chun, but two years later, at the height of a plague quarantine, Chun is thrust into a bewildering new world. A young Methodist woman rescues her and places her in a Home for abused and trafficked girls. The Home is destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire, but Chun (AKA Maud) survives. In an attempt to raise funds to rebuild the Home, Maud and a group of seven other Chinese children embark on a six-month cross country singing tour. Performing for President Theodore Roosevelt in the White House is the highlight of the journey, but when the matron of the Home suffers a breakdown, thirteen year-old Maud must find within herself the strength and resolve to lead the band of children home. The novel is based on the events in the life of the author’s wife’s grandmother.

This selection is included in the Education for Mission section of the UMW Reading section of our church library.



Boy Scout News

Boy Scout Troop 75 and Cub Pack 75 had a busy month of May

Cub highlights include:

- A visit to the City of Lincolnton Water Treatment plant for an environmental study
- A meeting at the YMCA to work on their swimming skills
- An overnight camping trip

On May 2nd, they honored one of their own, Braydon Gilbro, as he crossed over to the Boy Scout troop. On June 19th, the Pack will run their annual Pinewood Derby in our Fellowship Hall. This will end their scheduled meetings until September.

Troop activities will continue through the summer, with regular meetings on Monday evenings at 6:00 pm.

A Court of Honor was conducted in the Fellowship Hall on May 17th. Eleven scouts were awarded rank advancements. Seven scouts were recognized for earning merit badges.

Over the weekend of May 21-23, our troop, along with eleven other troops, participated in the Heartland District Camporee at Camp Bud Schiele. A patrol from Troop 75 received the top award, and Troop 75 was named “Most Spirited Troop.”

For the year 2020, Boy Scouts of America designated Troop 75 as a “Journey to Excellence” Gold Troop.



United Methodist Men will meet on Sunday, June 27th at 8:00 am for their regular breakfast meeting. All men of the church are invited to attend.

GIRL SCOUT NEWS



In February, the Girl Scouts of Lincoln County celebrated World Thinking Day virtually with guest speakers Sandy Thomas, who has travelled the world with Girl Scouts USA, and Audra Ellis, who has worked with scouts in Lincoln County for many years. World Thinking Day 2021 celebrates what it means to be a peacebuilder.

In March, we celebrated our mothers with a Mother/Daughter Tea Party in the FUMC Fellowship Hall.



On April 24th, as a part of our Earth Day Celebration, we took flowers and made 72 birdhouses for the windows at Lincoln Rehabilitation Center, at their request. Our troop and 4 other troops provided these for the residents to enjoy. We were able to create a lot of happy, despite the rain that came as we put out the birdhouses.



On May 15th, the troop took a field trip to South Mountain with one our scouts, Claire Stewart, who is working on obtaining her GS Gold Award. Her project involved learning and teaching about the importance of saving and protecting the Eastern Box Turtle.



On May 23, We had a class for the older girl scouts of Lincoln County, discussing the sensitive subject on human trafficking, as well as learning some self-defense moves.



The Good News Sunday school class planned, prepared and served a hamburger dinner to the residents at Hased House on May 31, 2021. In addition to the meal, the servers were given a tour of the updated Hased House facility. It was the first time we were able to serve the meal to the residents instead of dropping it off since the beginning of the pandemic.

Parish Nurse Notes

Generally, I do not wish my life away, but I did not cry to see the end of 2020. I guess I am not alone in this attitude. What has made the difference in June of 2021 vs June of 2020? I would way it is the development of the COVID-19 vaccine. That is why I cannot understand the high rate of resistance to getting “the shot”. Of course, there are some people who have a medical concern – lowered natural immunity, allergies to certain substances and pregnancy to name a few. There are negative reactions or side effects to the vaccine for some people. Young women (under 50) should not take the Johnson & Johnson vaccine because of a rare, but serious blood clot possibility. I had 2 days after my 2nd Moderna shot when I felt like I had a mild case of flu. Other people have had a variety of irritating side effects, but serious reactions are very rare.

Some people have said, “I will wait until a lot of people have the shot to decide whether to get it or not.” Well, that excuse has run out since nationally, 50% of adults have been vaccinated. Because of this rate of vaccination, our lives are beginning to return to many normal activities. If everyone had refused the vaccine, life would still be in 2020 lockdown mode. Some people say, “it is my personal right to refuse the shot.” If you want to stay in your own home away from everyone else, maybe you have that right. But if you want to be out in public places, that excuse does not apply. I believe sometimes people should be what is best for the masses unless they have a realistic exception. In my lifetime, I have seen the eradication of smallpox, very limited polio, measles and many other communicable diseases all due to vaccines. Vaccine is the ONLY way to control COVID-19! Please contact your doctor or me if you have concern about getting the shot.

Betty Parker
A.P.R.N., BC

Memorials and Honorariums

Sherry Noles

The Seek and Find Bible Study for the Girl Scout Troop

Don & Linda Smith

Betty Ann Oppelt

Elvie Cranford

Robert J. & Carolyn Heafner Williams

Bart Craig

Hal & Joann Parker

Ruth Quinton Circle

Ed & Cindy Hatley

Judy Tutherow

Hal & Joann Parker

Bo & Carol King

Anna Land

Bo & Carol King

**AN HONORARIUM GIVEN WITH GRATITUDE FOR
MIKE & LETHA OWEN, EMILY KRECH, AND
STEVE & LOU ANN CAIN**

By

Robert J. & Carolyn Heafner Williams



*Condolences are extended to the family
of Anna Land*

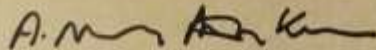
"Generous persons will prosper; those who
refresh others will themselves be refreshed."
PROVERBS 11:25, CEB

Thank you

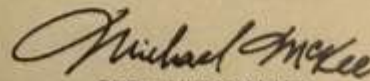
First
Lincolnton, NC
293761

THANK YOU for Giving 100%
to the Apportionemnt Covenant in 2020

Bishop Paul Leeland
Western North Carolina Conference



A. Moses Rathan Kumar
General Secretary and Treasurer
General Council on Finance and Administration



Bishop Michael McKee
President, General Council on
Finance and Administration



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church*



First United Methodist Church PreSchool News



We are proud to congratulate the first class of 4 year-olds to graduate from the First United Methodist Church Preschool: Bryce Ferson, Griffin Heavner, Waylon Hopkins, Maddox Hovis, Jack Lawing, Georgina Rhodes, Harper Rowe, Harper White and Josiah White

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