

Resolutions

Ah, January...another special time of year. While we may fondly look back over the recent holidays, New Year's a time to get back into a regular routine. It may be a slow process, but the decorations are all taken down and stowed away for another ten months. Well, maybe not all.



There are a few houses around that I notice that the owners obstinately refuse to take their decorations down; they simply don't light them up at night and it causes me to wonder why. Why would they want to keep the decorations up? Is it because they enjoy the Christmas season so much that they want to drain every last drop of its sweet nectar? Could it be that the weather is just too cold now to bear? Maybe they merely forget? It might be they are like me and have earned an advance degree in procrastination. One of these days, I think I will work on that.

Why wait? It's New Year's. This is a splendid time to resolve to do better. Each year, most of us partake in the time-honored tradition of making New Year's resolutions. Some people know exactly what they want to change in life, while others want to mull over the possibilities. Actually, I have been contemplating this dilemma for several weeks now, discerning what I can do in 2022 that will benefit me the most. After spending countless sleepless nights (okay, sleepless minutes), I believe this year I will resolve to utilize my time better. Of course, this does mean I have to make changes; not changes to my schedule, mind you, but to time itself. Somehow, very soon I will need to add at least three hours to each day. That would do it. That would allow me enough time to do all that I need to do each day. So, that's my resolution!

What? That's not a reasonable New Year's resolution? Well, I probably have as much luck keeping it as I did all the other resolutions I have made over the

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Ways We Serve

Greeters

- 2 Mike & Libby Cline
- 9 Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder
- 16 Keith & Kathy Dedmond
- 23 Mac & Jewel Brawley
- 30 Bill & Karen Leonhardt

Acolytes

- 2 Brinkley Dedmond
- 9 Tattyauna Peterson
- 16 Karson Shrum
- 23 Owen Krech
- 30 Brinkley Dedmond

Time (Mostly)

For Children

- 2 Whitney King
- 9 Robbie Combs
- 16 Suzanne Peeler
- 23 Mike Owen
- 30 Kathy Douglas

Pew Keepers

- 2 Jane Finger & Molly Tweed
- 9 Elvie Cranford
- 16 Vickie Andrews
- 23 Beverly Beal
- 30 Kathy Valentine

Parking Valets

- 2 John Lantz
- 9 Keith Dedmond
- 16 Jeff Noles
- 23 Jerry Park
- 30 Steve Kirksey

Altar Guild

- Mary Anna Rankin

Sunday School Rovers

- 2 Kay Hermann
- 9 Letha Owen
- 16 Carol King
- 23 Wanda Lutz
- 30 Bo King



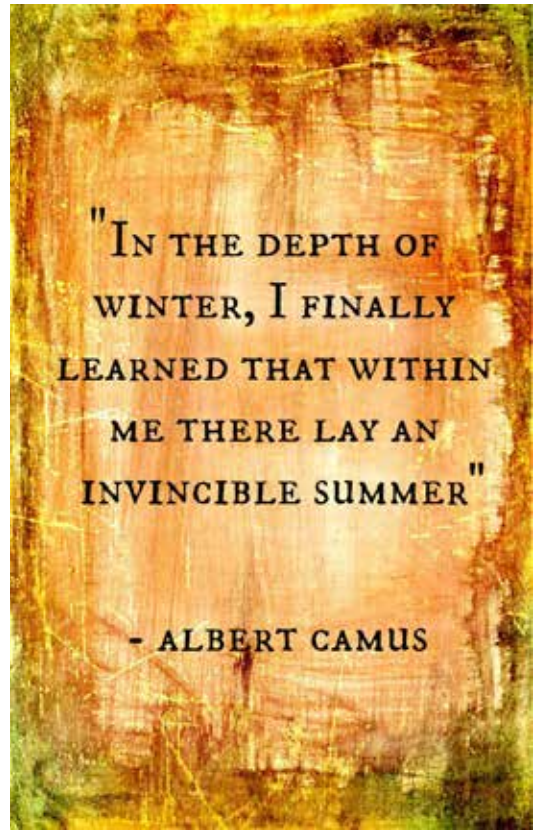
Celebrate January!

Birthdays

- 1 Linda Dedmon
- 2 Kathy Dedmond, Ginger Lowe,
Tim Valentine
- 3 Kathy Valentine
- 5 Carole Howell & Curt Moore
- 8 Betsy Sorrell
- 10 Jane Goodson & Reed King
- 13 Joe Wigley
- 17 Mark Hames
- 18 Gordon Crowell
- 19 Jennifer Carroll & Mitch Heavner
- 20 Joby Rhyne
- 22 Bobbie Robinson & Lucy Thompson
- 23 Dorea Drum & E. Jackson Sibert
- 24 Daniel Jovaneli & Jim Lail
- 25 Cory Cronland
- 26 Lois Lineberger
- 27 Mary Cagle & Kay Hermann
- 28 Joseph Morton
- 29 Bob Lineberger Jr., & Kelly Wilt
- 30 Carol Henline & Joey Lockman

Anniversaries

- 11 Mark & Michelle Johnson



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 Your Daily Prayers, Please Pray for:

Jim Barkley (relative of Jody Cronland), Elliot Beal, Benjamin Brown (Page Abernethy's brother), Lou Ann Cain, Family of Carol Conner, Carolyn Dysart (Robbie Combs' aunt), Ed Hatley, Family of Nika Henthorn (Susan Henthorn's sister-in-law), Lee & Lois May Hoehne (parents of Kathy Douglas), David Lowe, Rev. Nancy Rankin, Claudia Rose (mother of Susan Taylor), Liz Strachan

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

HOMEBOUND: Ron and Brenda Ballard, Winnon Cashion, Jo Huss, Donna Connor Morris, Queeta Ramseur, Mary Robinson, Verna Rufini, Shirley Smith

FUMC Elves Deliver Christmas to Amy's House!

With just two weeks before Christmas, the FUMC elves quickly started shopping and wrapping gifts for the families staying in Amy's House, Lincoln County's shelter for victims of domestic abuse. The shelter currently houses twelve families. Some are a family of one and others a family of four or five. Ages, sizes, and wish lists were distributed and without delay FUMC elves started on this task. A spokesman from the shelter said that our church's quick response to this last minute request "saved the day." Also, he said that gifts were given on Christmas Eve and it was overwhelming. He noted it was the best Christmas ever for some. He thanked the FUMC "elves" profusely! Also, thanks from the church to all FUMC elves - YOU know who YOU are, and you made a Merry Christmas for 12 families!

Financial Snapshot

November 2021 YTD Revenue	\$321,498
November 2021 YTD Expense	\$325,555
November 2021 YTD Deficit	(\$4,057)

Columbarium Update

The Columbarium is in the final stages of construction. The main structure currently contains 18 niches and will house 72 niches in the future.

The turf has been installed as well as a battery powered sprinkler system requiring no A/C power.

The outline of the old church has been restored with bricks, and the commemorative bricks have been installed.

The sidewalk forms a cross as one enters the cemetery. A new main gate with a code lock has been installed and the main gate has been moved toward Aspen Street.

The parking lot has been graveled, and dogwood trees and mulch complete the landscaping.

The old church sign previously in front of FUMC has been replaced with a new sign, so the old sign will be placed at the Columbarium when it is repaired.

The Columbarium project has been funded totally with donations, niches purchased, and commemorative bricks. Total expenditures to date (Dec. 31, 2021) total \$78,361.24.

Christian Ministries for January

January is our month to volunteer to pack food boxes at Christian Ministries of Lincoln County. Our assigned days are January 20-21 and Jan 24. If you are able to assist with this, please contact Rosalind Welder.



New Directional Signage

In an effort to better communicate to visitors about our campus, as well as aid in identification of our buildings, we have added two new campus directory signs: one located on Main St between the Sanctuary and the Annex and the other on Academy St. at the side entrance to the Sanctuary. We have also added new street numbers to certain entrances for additional ease of identification. These locations are:

201 E Main - front door entrance into the sanctuary on Main

108 N. Academy - choir room entrance on Academy

112 N. Academy - education building (office) entrance on Academy

210 Sycamore - Scout room(s) entrance on Sycamore

Rotate Class Update

Happy New Year from the ROTATE Class! After getting a good start this past fall with learning about Rotation Model Sunday School, we are ready to hit the ground running with new study units, new activities and a lot of fun!



Our January Unit will continue to focus on the early life of Jesus, then we will move to a three week unit on Prayer, learning how to pray the way Jesus teaches us, as well as other ways to pray. As with previous units, we will engage in a wide range of activities, so we look forward to having good participation from the kids of our church. Invite a friend to join us!! We are also seeking additional leaders and helpers as we begin the new year. If you feel called to help in the capacity, see Robbie or Beverly Beal.

Calling all Gently Used Coats!

Christian Ministry needs coats of all sizes and for all ages! Please check your closets this month and bring your gently used coats to the Education Building and in the middle building. You'll be helping to keep someone warm and making more space in your closet!

5th Wednesday Reading Group

The 5th Wednesday Readers Group met on Wednesday, December 29, at noon in the church library, where members were welcomed and a prayer for the new year was offered.

Certificates from the UMW Reading Program were awarded to the following:

Completing level 1: Carol King, Jane Finger, Kathy Dedmond, Letha Owen

Completing level 2: Cheryl Cole, Rosalind Welder, Gayle Park

Carol King, the leader for 2022, invites anyone who likes to read and discuss books to join us in the new year. The Reading Program Books are located on the UMW bookshelf and are categorized according to the five following categories: Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth, and Leadership Development. Each year new books are added.

Reading Selection for January: Glory Happening by Kaitlin B. Curtice

The search for glory will bring freedom and a fresh perspective to whatever season you happen to find yourself in. *Glory Happening* is a book of stories and prayers that remind you to take a closer look at your everyday circumstances, to find the magical beauty in everyday experiences. It is an invitation to live deeply into every moment with the expectation that something good will find you at the end of the day. And once you experience glory, you have words to speak, a prayer to pray, and a story to tell. And so glory grows from person to person, and community is created around the reality that God is truly in our midst.



This title is on the 2020 Reading list, under the category of Nurturing for Community.



That's Amore!

Members of the Jill Owen Circle, led by Debi Ballard, gathered at the Christian Ministry Soup Kitchen on New Year's Eve to serve a delicious lasagna lunch with all the trimmings! Left to right are Peggie Shuford, Patsy Herman, Carole Howell, Chris Ausband, Lois Lineberger, Beverly Beal, Vickie Andrews Wanda Lutz, Gayle Payks, MaryAnna Rankin, and Debi Ballard.

Meet the CLC (Church Leadership Council)

Have you heard about the new Church Leadership Council, aka the CLC? It is the new model for church governance which is allowed for in ¶247.2 of The 2016 Book of Discipline and adopted at our 2021 Charge Conference. All functions and membership of required committees will be maintained as required by The Discipline. The purpose of this new system of leadership is to streamline the decision-making process and help free more people to engage in ministry and mission. In this model, all administrative committees have been integrated with each other to form a team of up to nine leaders who will oversee the operations of the church as well as coordinate and lead the church in living out its God-given missions and ministries.

To best describe the structure of the CLC, consider it to be like a web, all parts integrally linked together, forming a bond that gives strength through connection. No one is on their own; all are joined together, serving its common mission. Since even before the CLC was approved by the Charge Conference, the newly elected members have been meeting to form a bond with one another, pray, and to seek God's vision for First UMC. Right off, the new council began to pray and discern exactly what the mission of First UMC is and how can it best be memorized and internalized by the church. After much prayer, a simple statement was developed to be our Mission Statement as our guiding mantra:

Love God, Love All, Be Like Jesus.

The CLC did not stop there in seeking God's vision for First Church though. Immediately, the council recognized the need to establish a statement which the members of the church will be asked use to enter into a covenant with each other as to how we will relate with each other. Again, after much prayer, A Relational Covenant emerged. It says:

As the Body of Christ at First United Methodist Church, we are committed to seek God's will and honor God and each other in all we say and do. To this end, we choose to relate to each other in the following manner:

- Show our Love for One Another by doing to others as you would have them do to you
- Pray for Each Other
- Honor and Value each other as equals
- Possess a Spirit of Joy and Kindness

- Listen to Each Other's Opinions with mutual appreciation
- Speak Clearly, Directly, and Truthfully with words and tone that reflect the love of Christ
- Seek to Understand and Be Understood
- Build Each Other Up
- Build Unity, rather than uniformity, within this community of faith
- Agree to Disagree as we reconcile our differences by using the standard Jesus gives as found in Matthew 18:15-20

The CLC begins its term in January. Much work is still to come. One of the most pressing issues is the formation of service teams in which you, the members of First UMC will have the opportunity to choose where you will be able to live out your God-given call to ministry and service. You won't need to be asked or elected, you will be free to choose how you serve God and God's people. More details on that and other areas of transformative ministry will be announced soon. Until then, please keep First Church in your daily prayers.

Members of the 2021 CLC

Gordon Hubbell – Convener, Lay Leader, Lay Member of Annual Conference
Kathy Valentine – Staff-Parish Relations Liaison
Keith Dedmond – Trustees Liaison
Bryan Beal – Finance Liaison
Whitney King – Nurture Liaison
Rosalind Welder – Outreach Liaison
Ron Metzger – Witness Liaison
Wanda Lutz – Worship Liaison
Tim Roberts - Pastor

**Staff Members*

Robbie Combs – Director of Ministries
Joanna Underwood – Music Director
Neil Underwood – Organist/Pianist
Letha Owen – Financial Assistant
Kristin Willis – Preschool Director
Steve Herman – Facilities Manager
Betty Parker – Parish Nurse

**Staff members are part of the greater discussions over ministries and missions but are without vote in matters of administration, personnel, or trustee issues*

United Methodist Women News

I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself as your new UMW president with my term beginning 2022. First, I want to thank Page and all those who have stepped in these shoes before me for their service and devotion! I have big shoes to fill!

For those who do not know me I am Kathy Douglas. My husband Paul and I have been members since moving to Lincolnton in 2016 from Mooresville where we attended Broad Street UMC. We are originally from the Richmond, VA area but have called NC home for 21 years! We have 3 grown children - Jeremy, Mary-Catherine and Morgan. Jeremy is a manager at Local Roots and lives in Lincolnton, MaryCatherine is the Outreach Education Coordinator and Volunteer Manager at the Schiele Museum and lives in Belmont with her new husband Josh, and Morgan is a high school science teacher at Langtree Charter and lives in Mooresville. We are just a little proud :)

Paul is an engineer and works at Sonoco in Hickory (yes, you may occasionally hear yelling from our house whenever Va Tech is playing.....lol). He has indured being my better half for 31 years this month.

I have had the privilege to carry the title of Social Worker for 38 years and have been blessed to be a part of many amazing things in my career. I retired from hospice in February 2020 where I served as a grief counselor and medical social worker to devote full time to my private counseling practice and make myself more available to aging parents (and hopefully grandchildren soon :))

“Turn it UP!” This is the theme for the UMW Assembly 2022. Could this be more appropriate given all we as a world and church have been through over the last 2 years!

Here is my commitment to 1st UMC-L UMW:

1. to be in continual prayer with you for God’s guid-



United Methodist Women

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ance in our next steps forward (the world it is “a’changing!”)

2. to serve for a minimum of 4 years (with of course the continued approval and blessing of members)
3. to beg your indulgence and patience as I take this first foundational year to learn the ins and outs and how to best serve you, our church and the wider community
4. and most importantly - to be, with you, a light in our oft dark world and a continual spreader of Joy, Hope and Peace!

Because I know this is not a singular task, I want to hear from all the women of our church - your thoughts, concerns, wishes, goals on how we - the women of 1st UMC-L “Turn it UP!”

I am looking forward to serving and feel honored to be asked. Please feel free to call, text or email me with any questions or thoughts you may have. kjdrumsw2008@yahoo.com, 704/339-7749.

“For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.” 1 Corinthians 16:9

Thank you for entrusting me with this great honor and privilege!

Your sister in Christ!

Kathy



Most frequently asked questions:

Do I have to be a member?

All women of 1st UMC-L are members (we are not a club).

Do I have to go to meetings?

NO! Of course, you are always welcome, and we would love your feedback and input.

How can I serve? My time is so limited!

The women of our UMW serve in many, many capacities from preparing food and serving the homeless at Hesus House, to hosting luncheons and speakers, to participation in our reading program, to trimming the bushes and many more tasks to help our church thrive, grow and most importantly be of service to our community. We are always open to new ideas and ways to serve.

The theme for UMW around the world this year is "Turn it UP!"

We invite you to see what we are all about and to share in this most important ministry in whatever capacity works for you as we at 1st UMC-L "TURN IT UP!" in glory and services to our Risen Christ!

*"She is strong and respected and not afraid of the future.
She speaks with a gentle wisdom."*

Proverbs 31:25-26

Your sister in Christ,

Kathy Douglas, 1st UMC-L, UMW President
kjdrumsw2008@yahoo.com, 704/339-7749.



What does it mean to be a United Methodist Woman?

Resolutions

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years.

In all seriousness, being a better steward of time is probably something we could all resolve to do. Time is the one gift giving that remains the same. We will never get more or less than anyone else and we will either use wisely use it or foolishly lose it. Either way, it comes and goes, just like, well, clock-work.

An 18th century theologian whom I am particularly fond of, named John Wesley, would often implore his followers to, "Never trifle away time." But what exactly is trifling? Does this mean we should fill every wakened moment with some activity, even a meaningless one, so we don't feel that we have wasted time? No, because that would be trifling.

Instead, I purpose that we should resolve this year to be more conscious of our surroundings. Take time to smell the roses (after they awaken from the wintery sleep), spend time to look people in the eyes and see who uniquely and wonderfully they were created. Invest your time in your family and friends, cultivating these eternal relationships. Finally, regularly consider how blessed you are, so that you can be a blessing to others. That, my friends, is a resolution worth the time in making and keeping.

Godspeed,

Pastor Tim



201 East Main Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Sunday School at 10 am

Service at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

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

Office: 704.735.7489

NEW Email: firstumclinc@gmail.com

Website: fumclincolnton.com



Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Events this coming month

Jan 3 – Preschool resumes its regular schedule

Jan 9 – UMW Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Jan 9 – Blood pressure checks 10:30 - 11 a.m. and following morning worship
in the Education Building

Jan 11 – Helen Combs Circle, 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Jan 23 - United Methodist Men's Breakfast – 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

GriefShare meets every Monday at 10 a.m. in the Philathea Class (behind the sanctuary)

Lincolnton Rotary Club meets every Monday at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall