

Sacrifice

I was watching an old television program last night that recalled a life skill that is now often forgotten: the ability to sacrifice something that makes us happy so we can bring joy to someone else. We see brokenness everywhere: broken marriages, families, communities, churches, and dysfunction in our governing bodies.

In the television program the two children were unhappy with their father and mother for putting family obligations over their desire to be driven to the local carnival where they planned to rendezvous with their friends. The children fulfilled their obligation to the family and later were sulking about losing their chance to attend the carnival. Wisely, the father reminded them that spending time with their extended family brought much joy to their elderly relatives. He went on to say, "You know, sometimes we have to make ourselves a little unhappy in order to make others happy."

Of course, I am not advocating letting others take advantage of us or mistreat us. Boundaries are important. So is accountability. However, when it is appropriate, it never hurts to think of others and consider their needs before our own. Sacrifices can be small or large. In any relationship this kind of behavior fosters deeper love for one another.

It is hard, for instance, in this political season to respond gracefully or, not at all, to some of the bitter, vengeful, comments and news stories that we hear. The recent disaffiliations in the United Methodist Church have brought much strife among the membership. Sadly, this has meant the world sees Christian people arguing, name calling, and fighting. Now, I hope the church will model a season of healing, grace, and hope as we bless each other and move forward. Wouldn't that be wonderful!

From a Biblical perspective, sacrifice may be understood in many ways. In some definitions it can mean to surrender our wishes, desires, and plans for the benefit of another. This can also include dying to one's passions and living in a way that pleases God. For example, Romans 12:1 says, "*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*"

Psalms 51:17 helps us understand how we can please God through humility. There we read "*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, Oh God, you will not despise.*"

Of course, the greatest sacrifice of all is reflected in the life of Jesus. In Ephesians 5:2 we read, "*And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*"

May it be so for all of us,

Pastor Sarah

Ways We Serve

Greeters

- 1 Tim & Rosemary Leonard
- 8 Bill & Karen Leonhardt
- 15 Jason & Jennifer Ellis
- 22 Dianne Putnam & Joanne Parker
- 29 Chase & Katie Hardin

Acolytes

- 1 Owen Krech
- 8 Noah Hardin
- 15 Lucas Demofonte
- 22 Karson Shrum
- 29 Brooks Hardin

Time For All God's Children

- 1 Robbie Combs
- 8 Jan Duncan
- 15 Cale Thornburg
- 22 Beverly Beal
- 29 Suzanne Peeler

Liturgists

- 1 Sheila Beeker
- 8 Bo King
- 15 Suzanne Peeler
- 22 Doug Ballard
- 29 Katie Hardin

Pew Keepers

- 1 Peggie Shuford
- 8 Joe & Susan Wigley
- 15 Jason & Jennifer Ellis
- 22 Steve & Jane Morton
- 29 Vickie Andrews

Parking Valets

- 1 John Lantz
- 8 Paul Strachan
- 15 Mike Owen
- 22 Steve Morton
- 29 Steve Kirksey

Safe Sanctuary Rover

- 1 Letha Owen
- 8 Gayle Park
- 15 Mike Owen
- 22 Liz Strachan
- 29 Rosalind Welder

Altar Guild

Amy Lockman

Communion Assistants

Mike & Letha Owen; Jennifer Ellis



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:

NEW: Caylor Brinkley, Beulah Cannon, Billy Harkey, Larry Papetti, Luke Rainwater, Randy Ramsey, Artie and Linda Shields, those who wish to remain unnamed

CONTINUING: Thomas Allen, Deanie Auton, Arlen & Sue Belk, Laurie Anne Beyer, Jeremiah Buff, Les Canupe, Greg Clarke, Rob Coles (son of Lynn Campbell), Elvie Cranford, Kathy Douglas, Jane Finger, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Kim Fitzpatrick, Rev. Keiko Foster, Donald Hartsell (brother-in-law of Kathy Dellinger), Ed Hatley, Betty Jo Helms, Jayce Heff, Susan Henthorn, Denise Hobbs, LoisMary Hoehne, Dolly Jones, Jack Jones, Danny Kirkpatrick, Randi Kolseth, Pat Lawing, Karen Leonhardt, Jim Love, Judy Lowe, Jerry McClure, Pat Maddox, Thurman Melton, Faye Morris, Danny Nicholson, Patsy Nicholsøn, Suzy Otterman, Hal and Joann Parker, Mae Reasoner, Dr. Tim Roberts, Linda H Rudisill, Gracie Sceascea, Randolph Shives, Laura Smallwood, Linda Smith, Rhonda Swafford, Rev. Sarah Underwood, David Wyant, First UMC, Peace in Europe, Prayers for the homeless, United States of America-

NURSING FACILITIES: Ann Ford (The Addison), Mary Heavner (Abernethy Laurels), Judy Komas (The Addison), Verna Rufini (Abernethy Laurels)

HOMEBOUND: Lou Beal, Winnon Cashion, Jo Huss, Donna Connor Morris, Mary Robinson

Please take a few moments to look over the prayer list, and let us know if here are any updates or deletions that need to be made. You may contact the church office with any changes.

Birthdays

- 1 Owen Krech & Molly Tweed
- 3 Katherine Kinard & Jeff Noles
- 4 Lori Benfield
- 7 Jason Ellis
- 8 Morgan Houser & Jeremy Krech
- 9 Joey Demofonte, Pat Lawing, Judy Lowe & Kaitlyn Wilt
- 10 Sheila Bailey
- 13 Charles Lutz
- 15 Susannah Kinard and Kay Lowe
- 16 Pat Stevens & Anna Wiseman
- 18 Carson Kirksey, Kelly Kinard & Carolyn Heafner Williams
- 19 Patty Ferris & Carol King
- 20 Robert Fox
- 22 JoAnn McCullough
- 23 Kenny Finger
- 24 Andy Underwood
- 25 Margaret Schrum
- 26 Suzette Holbrooks
- 28 Susan Horvat & Julia Moore

Anniversaries

- 1 Bill & Karen Leonhardt
- 3 Curt & Julia Moore
- 13 Matthew & Lauren Eagle
- 15 Brian & Kris Dedmond
- 16 Michael & Bridget Dedmond
- 29 Charlie & Whitney King
- 30 Klay & Katie Shrum

FUMC News & Updates

Blood Drive

Our next blood drive is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept 11 from 2:30 til 7 p.m.. Please visit redcrossblood.org and register to donate, as there are still some open appointments. We are registering regular donors as well as Power Red donors. Encourage a family member or friend to come and donate with you. Contact Pat Stevens, Tim or Rosemary Leonard, Bo King, Ron Metzger or Molly Tweed with any questions.



First Church Cohort

Our Bishop has invited us to participate in a gathering of churches who are considered leaders in their respective communities. This will be an opportunity to diagnose and address the needs of our church in cooperation with other churches who are in a similar situation. I will need a team of 7 to 7 people, of which one will be the chairperson, or "Laity Champion." There will be a series of Zoom meetings and one or two in person meetings which will take place through the fall. Please let Pastor Sarah know if you are interested. More specific information will be shared at a later date.

Say Cheese! Church Photos

During Coffee and Conversation, we will be signing up church members for an appointment time for your photo for the new church directory. Also, sign up will continue under the portico before/after Sunday School and worship. Bring your calendars so you can schedule a time. You can also schedule your appointment online by visiting www.ucdir.com (user – nc499; password – photos). You are welcome to call the church office if you have any problems with online registrations.

Thursday, September 12 from 2:00 - 8:36 PM

Friday, September 13 from 2:00 - 8:36 PM

Saturday, September 14 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Times are filling up quickly, and we want to make sure you all are included in the directory!

College Student Addresses

If you have a college student is heading to school, or a returning student, please send us their college address to Robbie in the church office. We like to send things to them throughout the year to let them know that we are keeping them in our prayers as they are away at school.



Apple Festival Barbecue is Back!

The Lincoln County Apple Festival will be held on Saturday, October 19th, and we will again be offering "The Best BBQ of the Festival"! We will be asking for volunteers to help in the coming weeks as we prepare for this year's BBQ. Mark your calendars NOW!!

Online Giving

We are excited to introduce our new online giving platform! Using Vanco online, you can support ongoing missions, make one time gifts, or set up recurring donations. You can access Vanco online giving in a few different ways: through our "Give" page on our church website, or the direct link at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZMXD>

Christian Ministries Update

- Soup Kitchen – Most Needed Items for Pantry:

Crackers, Peanut butter, breakfast foods, detergent, bar soap, pop top canned foods

- Wish List for Soup Kitchen:

55 gallon trash bags, butter, Olive Oil

- Emergency Services is asking for:

Tennis shoes ALL sizes MEN'S, women's boys & girls; Women's undergarments new (underwear and bras) any size



Backpack Ministry

Our church has supported for years a backpack program at GE Massey Elementary School. This year's program will support 24 children by sending home with them each week nutritious, easy to prepare meals and snacks. There are 12 church members involved buying, packing and delivering to the school for weekly home delivery. In addition, many church members regularly support this program through financial contributions. Checks with the word "backpack" on subject line or cash in an appropriately labeled envelope can be put in the collection plate or at the church office. The FUMC's backpack program is a success because of YOU! Thank you for all you do!

Feeding the G.E. Massey Teachers

The Kaye Waters SS Class provided a delicious back to school luncheon for the staff of GEM on Wednesday, August 7. Other projects the class will do this school year include providing monthly funds so children can have an ice cream treat and allowing all children the opportunity to participate in the fall and spring book fairs. If you are looking for a ladies Sunday School class, visit us in the church library.



Congratulations, Emily!

Emily Krech was selected as a Great 100 Nurse of North Carolina for 2024. This is a once-in-a-lifetime award that is a testament to her outstanding professionalism and dedication to her patients, their families, her colleagues, and community.



Griefshare Returns in October

A new session of our Griefshare Ministry will start up on Monday morning, October 7th at 10:00 in the Annex. If you'd like to register, or if you have any questions, please contact Joey Lockman.

Highlights from the August CLC Meeting

The Church Leadership Council met on August 12th, and the following items are highlighted points of discussion during that meeting.

- Finance - We are doing okay within our yearly budget, despite still operating under an approximate \$10,000 deficit. Giving did improve through June giving than in the previous months. Another area where there was some improvement in expenses came during the months of March thru June when we were not paying the full pastoral compensation.
- Outreach – We continue to support GE Massey

Elementary School in a number of ways, including providing meals through our Backpack Ministry, providing school supplies, and feeding the teachers at various occasions throughout the year.

- After a 2-year journey of sponsorship, the Ivanenko Family arrived in the US on August 12, and are getting settled into their new surroundings. Once they get fully settled, we will invite them to an event at the church so we may get to know them.
- We have received quotes from two different roofing companies to replace roofs on the education building, the fellowship hall and the sanctuary. We intend to start with the education building roof repair in the coming weeks, with the sanctuary to follow later this fall. Thanks to Steve Herman for working with the two companies to secure the quotes.
- We are looking at ways to improve security concerns and fire monitoring service, especially in the sanctuary with the new piano and improvements on the organ. Helms Security was brought in to do a walkthrough of the campus, and to provide recommendations for what type of monitoring and keyless entry devices would work best with our facilities.

- Special Worship events coming up:
World Communion Sunday on October 6
Children's Sabbath on October 20, with the young people of the church presenting the skit, "The Day the Crayons Quit"

All Saint's Day on November 3rd, remembering those members who have passed away over the past year.

Advent begins on Dec 1, the Advent Lunch will be on Dec 8th following morning worship, the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir will provide special anthems on Dec 15 and Dec 22. The Lovefeast will be held on Dec 15th at 7 p.m. . A Service of Lessons and Carols will be presented on Wednesday, Dec 18th at 7 p.m., featuring the choirs of First UMC and Boger City UMC, as well as handbell choirs from both churches. Christmas Eve Communion/Paper Bag Christmas will be on Dec 24th at 5:00 pm.

- Our annual Charge Conference has been set for Wednesday, November 6th at 6 p.m.

- Music Updates:

A new octave of handbells has been ordered, and will arrive within the new few weeks. Organ repairs and refurbishment are continuing, with the hope that the repairs will be completed by late October.

- Discussions are ongoing with Artisan Church, St. Lukes Episcopal Church and Emmanuel Lutheran church regarding our potential cooperative Program Director to create programming for children and youth of our four churches, as well as reaching out to the community. We are creating a job description and expectations for this position, that will responsible to all four churches, as well as researching grants and other sources to help cover salary, insurance, living expenses, etc.

Financial Update

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| July 2024 YTD Revenue | \$202,710 |
| July 2024 YTD Expense | \$215,911 |
| July 2024 YTD Deficit | \$(13,201) |



**FIRST UMC is a
Lighthouse Congregation
of the
Western North Carolina
Conference of the
United Methodist Church.**



THANK YOU!

We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon on Sunday, August 18th, as we benefited from a French cooking class. Thank you to our teacher, our coordinator, the parents and students who participated. We had a wonderful time. We hope to offer another cooking class to our youth and children in the future.



Our next planned event will be on Saturday, September 21st and is a movie and pizza outing. Time and show TBD. Location: State Cinema located at 117 N. College Ave. Newton, NC.



Lay Servant Ministries

Fall 2024 Training Opportunities

An excellent way for laity to grow in their discipleship and as leaders is through participation in our Conference's Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) program. LSM training helps laity discover and employ their personal spiritual gifts and equips laity to be leaders in caring, communicating, and serving ministries in their local churches and beyond.

A variety of LSM Training courses are being offered this fall, with some being offered online via Zoom and others being offered in-person. Regardless of which district is offering a course, courses are open to participants from any district. However, some classes have limited enrollment size, so those interested in participating should enroll as early as possible. You can view the full list of classes at <https://www.wnccumc.org/news>.

Those interested in learning more about Lay Servant Ministries are encouraged to complete Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries: the Basic Course, which is the prerequisite course for taking other Lay Servant Ministry courses.

Those who have completed the Basic Course and are interested in becoming a Certified Lay Servant may take an Advance Lay Servant Ministries course. Those who are already a Certified Lay Servant must take at least one Advanced Lay Servant Ministry Course every three years to retain their certification status.

For more information, please contact the church office or Gordon Hubbell.

Catawba Valley District

- Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries: The Basic Course
In-person (First UMC, Lincolnton)
Sundays, Sept. 9th – September 29th 2 – 4:30 p.m.
Registration Deadline: Tuesday, September 3, 2024
[Click here for registration information](#)
- Adv. LSM Course: Mission Possible 3: Lay Servants Leading and Governing
Congregations with Simplified Accountability Structure
In-person (Messiah UMC, Vale)
Fridays, Sept. 27th – Nov. 1st, 6 - 8 p.m.
Registration Deadline: Tuesday, September 24, 2024
- Adv. LSM Course: The Color of Compromise
Online via Zoom
Sundays, Oct. 13th – Nov. 3rd, 2 - 4:30 p.m.
Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Each course is \$20 per person.



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

Events this coming month

- Sept. 1 – **Blood pressure checks** - Education Building 10:30-11 a.m. and following worship in the Breezeway 11 a.m. **Holy Communion** during morning worship
- Sept. 2 – LABOR DAY The church office will be CLOSED
- Sept. 3 – First day of Preschool for the 2024-25 school year
- Sept. 9 – 6 p.m. Church Leadership Council in the Annex. Church members are invited to attend all church council meetings, however Staff Parish/Executive Board sessions are for CLC members only
- Sept. 11 – **BLOOD DRIVE** in the Fellowship Hall, 2 - 7 p.m.
- Sept 12 – 2 - 8:30 p.m. – Photo Appointments for new church directory – Education Bldg
- Sept 13 – 2 - 8:30 p.m. – Photo Appointments for new church directory – Education Bldg
- Sept 14 – 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. – Photo Appointments for new church directory – Education Bldg
- Sept 21 – **Movie and Pizza** outing for Young People of the Church – State Cinema, Newton, NC – Time and show to be determined
- Sept 22 – 8:00 am – **UM Men's Breakfast** – Fellowship Hall

ONGOING EVENTS

- **Coffee & Conversation** – 9 a.m. each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall
- **Quilting Ministry** Monday mornings at 9:30 in the Quilting Room on the 2nd floor of the Middle building.
- **Handbell Choir** meets at 6 p.m. every Wednesday in the Choir Room
- The **Chancel Choir** meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday in the Choir Room