



The Story

February 2020

310 S. Main Street • www.fumclex.org • 336-248-2886

A Moment with the Pastor

Daily Walking with God

"Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name: give to him glorious praise! Say to God, 'How glorious are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name'" Psalm 66:1-4.

One of the unexpected gifts of transformation is the wedding of your soul with creation. The walk gives you fresh eyes to see. It is no longer a matter of gazing at the mountains or meadows and just admiring their beauty. No, there is something else, something deeper. A deepening sense of oneness with the earth, with the Creator. The place where God cradles and grows life. Where everything is connected and nurtured.

This awareness began early in my lifetime. My journey was rekindled when I went to a seminar at Saint Francis Retreat Center near Stoneville, NC. Along this two-year journey, we were asked to take a walk and find a tree that spoke to us. Then listen to yourself. Learning the lessons as we journeyed through the four seasons: spring, summer, fall and winter. At the time, I believed it was a strange request.

This walk was a time of spiritual renewal and metamorphosis. My unnamed tree taught me many lessons. I am even thankful for those lessons on this journey called life. The type of tree I chose was a tall oak tree planted by a creek, undermining its exposed roots. I marked the places it had been wounded by unsuspected cuts. Where its arms had bled.

I remember sitting down at this live oak with its serpentine limbs traveling in the sky and its origin buried deep inside the ground. It had withstood the test of time. I remember trying to write a letter of thanks to this marvelous creation of God's.

Dear God, I love this tree. I love the filtering of sunlight through its leaves casting shadows of light and darkness. I love its earth song as the breeze rustles through the decaying leaves, the rhythm of crickets, the beating of wings, the play of squirrels on its limbs, and the flow of calming waters beneath its foundation. I love the rainy mist that bathes my face falling from the tips of its hands. I feel I'm a part of it, that it's a part of me. Here, surrounded by your creation, I feel you. I feel life is a gift. I feel connected. O God, is there anything you've created that can't pour life into me?

It was the beginning of my healing journey. It was a shout for me to come back and tend to my soul. This mighty wounded tree made me realize that as we begin to walk with God, to let go, to release the hurt and pains, we are transformed. We become more aware. We begin to respect our bodies as the container of God, we find a deep reverence for the Holy within creation itself.

Psalm 66 is a call to walk with God. A summons to return to earth and unearth the bruised, hidden caverns of our soul to find new life. The paradox of this exploration is as we explore the darkness, we find the hidden blessings within them. We find ourselves walking with God who heals us, who rebuilds and restores. It is the walk. It is then we can give thanks and praise to God. It's never too late to begin the walk with God. "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD." Psalm 150:6 (NIV)

Blessings to you!

Roger Weisner, Senior Minister

336-575-3974 or rweisner@wnccumc.net

Grief Share Sunday Afternoons (2:30pm) First Presbyterian Church (NOW through April 5) Grief Share is “help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend.”



A video will be shown each week addressing topics such as “Guilt and Anger,” “Heaven,” and “What Do I Do Now?” After the video, participants will be given the opportunity to share their experiences if they wish.

A workbook is available for \$15.00, but the workbook is not required. There is no additional cost for the program.

Please register by calling the First Presbyterian office at 336-248-2140. Let us walk with you on the pathway through grief into hope.



Operation Christmas Child 2020 Changing Lives...a quarter at a time

Did you know that \$9 in quarters will fit in a medicine bottle and that \$9 will pay for shipping for a Operation Christmas Child shoebox.

Or, 3 medicine bottles will fill a shoebox with needed items and include shipping. The collection campaign for 2020 has begun. **Currently, we have received \$93.25 in donations.** Just a reminder, we accept quarters and folding money. If you need an empty medicine bottle to fill, they are located near the workroom along with a collection bin for items that you wish to purchase to help fill shoeboxes.

Thank you for your continued support,
Judy Deal, Your "shoebox" lady

Sunday Lunch Program served at Grace Episcopal in February

1st Sunday—Adult Fellowship Class

2nd Sunday—Koinonia Class

3rd Sunday—Genesis Class

4th Sunday—Agape Class

Please arrive at 12:30 p.m. to serve and fellowship with the folks receiving lunch followed by clean up.

Shelter Meals 2020 (3rd Tuesday of Each Month)

January	21	Missions Team
February	18	Teens of Life Youth
March	17	Agape Class
April	21	Koinonia Class
May	19	First UMC Staff
June	16	Agape Class

July	21	Adult Fellowship Class
August	18	Missions Team
September	15	Genesis Class
October	20	HIS Club
November	17	UMW Group 12
December	15	UMM

The schedule with group contact information is available on our website and posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway near the water fountains.



Who: Congregation of FUMC, newcomers, visitors to our congregation, and friends

What: Dinner. The menu **will vary** each week. Salad, dessert, and decaffeinated iced tea will always be served. There will be no formal programs, however, we'll celebrate good things and pray for our community.

When: Wednesday, February 5, 12, 19
Serving starts at 5:30p and closes at 6:30p.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Why: So that we may enjoy good food and Christian fellowship!

Cost: Donate as you are able to cover the costs of the dinner. Families with children are encouraged not to give more than \$20.00.

Reservations: Not at this time. Just come! Chef Tom Norman will have prepared plenty and Glynda Smith, along with volunteers will have the table set for you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEBRUARY 2020

Worship

Early Worship

1st & 3rd Sundays at 8:30a
Sanctuary

2nd & 4th Sundays at 8:30a
Fellowship Hall

Sunday School

All Ages at 9:45a

Morning Worship

Each Sunday at 11:00a
Sanctuary

Children's Ministries

Staffed Child Care

Birth—5 years
Sunday School & both services
(Children's Ministry Area,
Ground Floor)

We Worship with the Children

Each Sunday during the 11:00a
Morning Worship Service

Children's Worship

Each Sunday following *We
Worship with the Children*.
K-3rd graders are invited to
follow the Worship Leader to
the Children's Ministry Area,
Ground Floor.

February Events

Grief Share

Sunday, February 2, 9, 16 & 23
First Presbyterian Church

Scouting for Food

Sunday, February 2, 9 & 16

Old-Time Hymn Sing

Sunday, February 9 (10a)
Fellowship Hall
Light breakfast refreshments
served at (9:45a)

Changing the World One

Community at a Time:
Training for Clergy and

Key Leaders

Sunday, February 9 (5p-7:30p)
Central UMC, Albemarle

Weekly Meetings

Teens of Life Youth Ministry

Sundays at 5p
Youth/Scout House

Boy Scouts & Venturers

Mondays at 7p
Youth/Scout House

Theology Pub

Tuesdays at 7p
Sophie's Cork & Ale

Prayer Breakfast

Wednesdays at 7:45a
Barbeque Center

Wednesday Night Dinner

February 5, 12 and 19
(5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.)
Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays at 7p
Choir Room



Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 16 (11a)

February Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 18
(2p-6:30p) Fellowship Hall

Ash Wednesday

February 26
(12p) Community Lenten
Service followed by lunch in
the Fellowship Hall
(5:30p) Pancake Supper, FH
(6:30p) Evening Worship,
Sanctuary

Churchwide Bowling

Saturday, February 29
(10a-12p)
YMCA Bowling Center

Monthly Meetings

United Methodist Women Group 2

Tuesday, February 4 (10a)
Fellowship Hall

Staff Parish Relations

Thursday, February 6 (6p)
Conference Room

Faithseekers Gathering

Thursday, February 6 (6:30p)
Home of Judy Deal

Endowment

Sunday, February 9 (4:30p)
Parlor

Trustees

Sunday, February 9 (5:30p)
Parlor

Evangelism

Monday, February 10 (6p)
Conference Room

FUMC Book Club

Tuesday, February 11 (11:30a)
Village Grill

United Methodist Women Group 12

Tuesday, February 11 (7p)
Fellowship Hall

Davidson Prison Ministry

Thursday, February 13 (12p)
Parlor

happy
Valentine's
day

Newsletter Articles Due

February 15 for February Issue

United Methodist Men

Sunday, February 16 (8:30a)
Fellowship Hall

Finance

Sunday, February 16 (7p)
Parlor

Serve meal at Crisis Ministries

Tuesday, February 18 (5:45p)

Teens of Life Youth Ministry

Contact: Lee Mabe

Amazing Grace Seekers

Tuesday, February 25 (7p)
Home of Glynda Smith

Confirmation 2020 Continues

Please remember each of our confirmands and their leaders in your prayers over the next several weeks as they continue this journey of a lifetime.

The Confirmation Experience includes:

- 15 Weekly Class Sessions (through May 3)
- Service and Mission Projects
- Field Trips

*Confirmation Sunday will be observed and
celebrated on Sunday, May 3.*

Scouting for Food Sunday February 2, 9 and 16

Bring your canned food donations to the collection site in the main hallway near the workroom. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you are asked to place cash and/or checks (*payable to First UMC with "Scouting for Food" on the memo line*) in an offering envelope, mark the envelope "Scouting for Food" and place in the offering plate. **All monies should go through the church office in a marked offering envelope.** All food and monetary donations will benefit Pastor's Pantry. Join us for **Scout Sunday** on Sunday, February 16.



Sunday, February 9 (9:45 a.m.) Fellowship Hall
Featuring the Chancel Choir, ALIVE Praise Band, special guests and congregational hymn selections. Come hear some old favorites and join in the singing. Light breakfast refreshments provided.

Changing the World One Community at a Time: Training for Clergy and Key Leaders Sunday, February 9, 2020 (5:00pm—7:30pm) —Central UMC (Albemarle) **To register for this event**, visit our website at "News & Events" and click on the link [Changing the World One Community at a Time](#).

FUMC Book Club Please consider joining us on:



Tuesday, February 11 (11:30a) Village Grill

Our reading selection: Before and After; The Real Life Sequel to Before We Were Yours by Julie Christie and Lisa Wingate

Tuesday, March 10 (11:30a) Village Grill

Our reading selection: Educated by Tara Westover

February Blood Drive Tuesday, February 18 (2p-6:30p)

Fellowship Hall - Be a SWEETHEART and GIVE! You may schedule an appointment on our website or contact the church office.



Ash Wednesday February 26

(12:00p) Community Lenten Service, Sanctuary

(12:30p) Community Lenten Lunch, Fellowship Hall—*Your kind donations are greatly appreciated*



(5:30p) Pancake Supper, Fellowship Hall—*Your kind donations are greatly appreciated*

(6:30p) Evening Worship Service, Sanctuary

Churchwide BOWLING Event Saturday, February 29 (10a-12p)



YMCA Bowling Center—Sponsored by United Methodist Men

EVERYONE (ALL AGES) is invited! **NO CHARGE** for the event.

Refreshments provided. Your kind donations are greatly appreciated and benefit the mission projects supported by the United Methodist Men.

Children's Lenten Fair Sunday, March 1st (9:45 am)

2nd Floor Classrooms Join us for a fun-filled, hands-on, Jesus focused Lenten adventure!



Homemade Chili & Potato Soup Lunch Fundraiser

sponsored by Teens of Life Youth Ministry - **Sunday, March 1st (12:00p)** in the Fellowship Hall - Join us for Homemade Chili, Potato Soup, Cornbread, & Dessert. Your kind donations are greatly appreciated and will benefit the Teens of Life mission trip to Belize this summer.

First UMC Scholarships 2020-2021

It is time to begin preparing for the 2020-2021 school year by completing applications for the First United Methodist Scholarships. The scholarship packets have been mailed out and are available on our website. Please refer to the **Scholarship Guidelines** for a complete understanding of who is eligible to apply for and receive the Scholarship.

Applications are due back to the church, to the attention of the **Scholarship Committee** at the church address, by **March 16, 2020**. The Scholarship Committee requests that the student **complete the application in its entirety**. If you need assistance in completing the application or have questions, contact Wendy Norris (336) 687-9915 or the church office 336-248-2886. In addition, **please note that applications received after the deadline will not be considered for Scholarship.**

Churchwide Lenten Study **THE WALK** by Adam Hamilton

When: Sunday Afternoons/Evenings February 23, March, 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

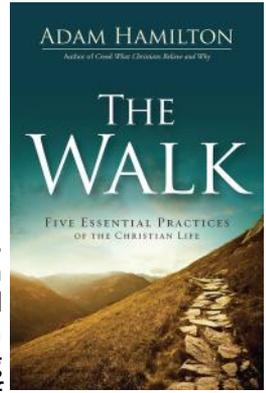
Where: Teens of Life Youth Ministry (5p)
Home of Sandra & Wayne Michael (6p)

When: Sunday Mornings March 1, 8, 15, 22, and April 5

Where: Adult Sunday School Classes (9:45a)
Children's Worship (11:30a)

Cost of Book: \$15 (Available for purchase February 12)

How do we walk with Christ—daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? This Lent and Easter, we will join together for a six-week, churchwide study in *The Walk* and discover five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God. In each chapter, Hamilton's engaging teaching style will help you explore one of these practices—each of which is intended to be a part of our daily walk with Christ—its New Testament foundation, and its potential effect on our personal lives and our lives together as the church.



March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1
12:00p) Community Lenten Service, Sanctuary
(12:30p) Community Lenten Lunch, Fellowship Hall—*Your kind donations are greatly appreciated*

GLAMA (Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association) welcomes the community to this Lenten tradition. First United Methodist Church is the host church for the weekly services and lunch. Each Wednesday during Lent, you will engage in a service provided by the different denominations in the local area. Following the service, lunch will be prepared and served by Open Hands Ministries. Donations benefit the mission of Open Hands Ministries.

Finance Team 2019 Monthly Income and Expense Report

<u>Date</u>	<u>Needed Monthly</u>	<u>Needed to Date</u>	<u>Monthly Income</u>	<u>Monthly Expenses</u>	<u>Income to Date</u>	<u>Expenses to Date</u>	<u>Net Income</u>
Jan.	\$44,682.67	\$44,682.67	\$34,506.04	\$37,921.59	\$34,506.04	\$37,921.59	-\$3,415.55
Feb.	\$44,682.67	\$89,365.34	\$40,937.01	\$41,839.19	\$75,443.05	\$79,760.78	-\$4,317.73
Mar.	\$44,682.67	\$134,048.01	\$62,008.35	\$35,998.46	\$137,451.40	\$115,759.24	\$21,692.16
Apr.	\$44,682.67	\$178,730.68	\$59,349.89	\$41,662.17	\$196,801.29	\$157,421.41	\$39,379.88
May.	\$44,682.67	\$223,413.35	\$39,059.40	\$40,933.19	\$235,860.69	\$198,354.60	\$37,506.09
Jun.	\$44,682.67	\$268,096.02	\$45,900.54	\$56,667.16	\$281,761.23	\$255,021.76	\$26,739.47
Jul.	\$44,682.67	\$312,778.69	\$29,600.03	\$23,748.01	\$311,561.26	\$278,969.77	\$32,591.49
Aug.	\$44,682.67	\$357,461.36	\$23,567.55	\$37,061.00	\$335,128.81	\$316,030.77	\$19,098.04
Sept.	\$44,682.67	\$402,144.03	\$36,670.43	\$56,159.55	\$371,799.24	\$372,190.32	-\$391.08
Oct.	\$44,682.67	\$446,826.70	\$25,080.59	\$36,541.70	\$396,879.83	\$408,732.02	-\$11,852.19
Nov.	\$44,682.67	\$491,509.37	\$44,020.75	\$37,838.43	\$440,900.58	\$446,570.45	-\$5,669.87
Dec.	\$44,682.67	\$536,192.04	\$46,803.45	\$49,487.74	\$487,704.03	\$496,058.19	-\$8,354.16

Teens of Life Youth Ministry Events & Happenings

Belize Mission Trip Planning (February 9)

Leap Year Lock-In (February 28)

Youth Sunday School (9:45a) Each Sunday

Sunday, February 2	Enjoy the Super Bowl! No meeting today.
Sunday, February 9	(5p-6p) Belize Mission Trip Planning at FBC
Sunday, February 16	(5p-6p) Games & Giving Tree 144
Tuesday, February 18	(5:45p-6:45p) Serve evening meal at Crisis Ministries
Sunday, February 23	(5p-6p) Games and The Walk
Friday, February 28	(Time to be determined) Leap Year Lock-In with FBC
Saturday, February 29	(9a) Youth Lunch set-up at FUMC

For more information about Teens of Life Youth Ministry:
Lee Mabe, Director of Youth Ministry 336-248-2886 or maestromabe@gmail.com

The Story

Published Monthly
First United Methodist Church Newsletter

We're on the web!

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Sympathy

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to the family of Betty Lou Lawrence Darr upon her death on January 1, 2020.

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to Benny (Donna) Huskins and their families upon the death of his father, Jack Huskins, on December 27, 2019.

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to the family of Alan Bagby upon his death on December 31, 2019.

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to Lee (DeLee) Mabe, Donna Josey (Lee's sister) and their families upon the death of his brother-in-law, Butch Josey, on December 31, 2019.

Prayer Requests

Andy Calvert
Kathy Baragona
Lacy Carol Belcher
Lloyd Brown
Sue Corn
June Craver
Dean Davis
Jane Cook Harris
Rachel Hendrix
Judy Hensch
Earl Hester
Creth Holman
Steve Jackson
Mary Norman
Robert Phelps
John Scarff
Ruby & Buddy Taylor
Flonnie & Jimmy Thomason
Steve Weeks
Mary Louise Wilkerson
Dare Wilson

Shut-Ins

Dot Kinsey
Caroline McCree
Evelyn Sink
Dr. Hunter Strader
Mary Williams

Piedmont Crossing

(Thomasville)

Health Care

Margaret McCrary Carver —
(hospice care)
Camille Lawrence
Barbara Proctor
Nancy Wilkinson
Residents
Jo Doris Beck
Herman Crabtree

Adrian Neal
Madeline Palmer
Ashley Park (Charleston,
SC)

Janice Bacon
Bethany Woods
(Albemarle)

Alvin Pope
Brookdale (Lexington)

Hilda Brower
Joe Sink
Brookstone (Lexington)

Albert Gobble
Genesis House (Salisbury)
Julee Smith

**The Laurels at Highland
Creek** (Charlotte)
Carolyn Briggs

Maple Grove (Greensboro)
Max Woods

Pine Ridge (Thomasville)
Miheepa Jones

Rolling Green Village
(Greenville, SC)
Peggy Trollinger

Spring Arbor (Albemarle)
Bonnie Cates

Wood Haven (Albemarle)
Louise Pope

**Extended Family &
Friends**
Tempie Almstead (Abbotts
Creek)
Lucy Huskins
Charles and Mary Lee
Bob Oates
Lynn & Rev. Doug Rowe

Maria Hilliard
Mary Sue Leonard
Mark Milligan
Louise Michael
Tracy Michael
Dana Michael
John McCutcheon
Ron & Kristie Wooten
Shirley Langley Dennis
Emily Hounshell
Gail Hill
Peggy Wegwart
Ken Hunt
Chris Hunt
Paula Brooks
Linda Barbee
Larry Stames
Bonnie Cook
Clay Jensen, his parents &
siblings
Jan Greer
Pat & Gary Leonard
Debbie Bowman
Clayton Hepler
Rusty Edwards
Norma S. Trotter
Jimmy McDermott
Shannon & Steve Ford
Sandy Balsler
Lynn Mack & family
Tami Robinson
Kelli Jones
Faye Graham
Kendall Conner
David Ogle
Kristin Harris
Claire Dowling
Anna Smathers
Pat Wilson

Jack Smith
Jane King
Breanna Wilson
Ethan Reavis
Jason & Stacy Heitman
Jenny Rains
Jimmy Davis
Bentley Leonard
John Bruce Davis
Eric Leonard
Martha Daniel
Debra Ann Leonard
Betty Jean Whitaker
Len & Dottie Harris
Jordan Beswick
Regina Chrest
Bruce Thornton

Serving in the Armed Forces

Capt. Kacie Allred
SGT John Hall
Major Jarrad Thorley
SGT Alan Ingram

Church Staff

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Lee Mabe, Director of Music and Youth
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Phyllis Jones, Organist
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Amanda Bostick, Children's Ministries Coordinator
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Alma Carlton, Financial Secretary
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Donna Huskins, Administrative Assistant
dhuskins@firstumclex.org



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The Story

Supplement
February 2020

A Letter from the Church Council January 2020

Greetings, Fellow Worshipers!

I want to let you know of a couple of important things going on in the life of our congregation. I am asking you today to support these efforts with your prayers, presence and your gifts, and to not let these items distract you from our service on behalf of God to ourselves and our community. All of the efforts of our work teams are driven by your input from our congregational survey done in late 2019.

Our Staff Parish work team is in the process of determining our staffing needs and capabilities for the future. This is critical to the direction we take when we re-launch our programs of work. There are some exciting strategies being formed and as I can share details, I will. I want to thank this work team in particular for their diligence in building consensus with several other work areas involved.

The Protocol for Separation is something we must begin to consider. Nothing is final yet. I encourage everyone to read and study the proposals as much as possible. Pray and reflect about it. It is my hope that we can prevent this issue from distracting us from God's work, and that whatever happens, we all make room in our hearts for those with whom we don't necessarily agree but are called to love, as Jesus teaches. We will have as much open dialogue about this as we can.

An immediate topic that sets our long and short term direction is our budget and finances. To follow up on the letter from Finance Committee dated December 12, we closed our budget gap to \$8,400 at the end of 2019. We have covered that with excess money we accumulated from previous years. We obviously cannot do that indefinitely, but we are ok for now.

There is concern about our "pledges and offerings" for 2020 being \$58,000 less than last year. There is much discussion about what to do about this. We can decrease spending to match this number. We have to ask ourselves what direction this takes us? Or we can invest in improved programming and staffing and on faith we can take a different direction. We will probably need to do some of both, so we will need everyone's support and help with this.

When we joined the Methodist Church, we pledged to support our church with our Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service. Please be prepared to renew and relaunch our efforts together in 2020.

More to come.....

Steve Jackson

Church Council Chair