

First United Methodist Church
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return service requested

The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church
Every Member, Ministers - Rev. Brian Elwell, Pastor

March 19, 2025 No. 3
Church Website: www.fumcstanley.org

Grow in Christ and share the goodness of God to all people

Prayer is a gift. We are called to pray without ceasing. And yet, that seems almost impossible—how can we do that? Sometimes we think that prayer needs to be beautiful. There are moments where it should be beautiful. There is beauty found in prayers during weddings, baptisms, funerals. And yet, prayer can sometimes feel clunky; where we just can't get the words right and it feels as if we are mumbling under our breath. We pray for all sorts of things like: good health, end of war, for folks to find Jesus, and others to find hope. We pray over our meals and before we fall asleep.

I have had some people ask, "Pastor, why do we pray? If God knows everything then why pray?" It is a good question. My answer is this: prayer is the key to faith. Prayer helps us know God, trust God, and find God. When we are in our worst states the only thing we can do is pray.

My hope is that this month you will focus on prayer. Your prayers do not need to be beautiful, sometimes they don't even need words; instead, all they need is your authenticity. Do not try to sugar coat it; rather give it all to God, and I promise God will answer.

Prayer is words, poetry, song

Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer
For I am poor and needy.
Show me, Lord, your way,
So that I may walk in thy truth
Guide my heart to fear your name. (Psalm 86)

Often it contains a shout, a cry, and a groan of anguish.

Lord my God, I call for help by day;
I cry at night before you.
Let my prayer come into your presence.
O turn your ear to my cry. (Psalm 88)

And sometimes an explosion of joy:

I love you, Lord, my strength,
My rock, my fortress, my savior.
My God is the rock where I take refuge. (Psalm 18)

Or the impassioned praise of God's providence:

The Lord is my shepherd;
There is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where He give me repose.
He guides me along the right path;
He is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are with me your crook and your staff;
And with these you give me comfort. (Psalm 23)



James 1:19 New International Version

19 *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.*

Frequently, I have been cautioned by an internal voice saying, "Do not say it. Do not say it!" However, on numerous occasions, I have disregarded this advice, leading to utterances that have often caused reactions ranging from mild annoyance to significant relational discord.

Many individuals are familiar with the different communication styles: passive, aggressive, and passive aggressive. These styles are typically viewed negatively and are not considered healthy methods of communication. Why do we persist in adopting one of these three approaches when a superior alternative exists?

Fear often underlies our choice of communication style. We may fear the truth, our emotions, our needs, or the possibility of abandonment or rejection. This fear prompts us to hide, resulting in ineffective, confusing, and sometimes inaccurate communication.

Unless we confront our fears and examine their origins in our lives, we will continue to communicate in ways that harm our relationships. Danny Silk, in his book *Keep Your Love On*, asserts, "Only people who value and understand themselves can value and understand others. Only people who can communicate honestly with themselves can communicate honestly with each other."

If communication styles such as aggressive, passive, and passive-aggressive are unhealthy, what constitutes healthy communication? The answer lies in **assertive communication**. When you and your partner communicate assertively, both parties recognize that each individual has power, a voice, and that their thoughts, feelings, and needs are equally important. Assertive communication allows for mutual understanding and respect.

Exploring the reasons behind unhealthy communication styles and adopting assertive communication does not occur overnight. Nevertheless, with consistent effort, these changes can profoundly and positively impact your marriage and various other relationships.

The teachings of Jesus encourage us to communicate with others in a manner that fosters love, honesty, reconciliation, and understanding, thereby promoting healthy and supportive interpersonal relationships.

May Jesus always walk with you, my friends.

Pastor Johnny Norton



**Bath rooms, kitchen & pantry
floors will be done**

Thursday, April 3

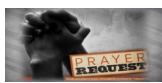
The office will be open remotely

only on April 3

Gym Closed for Floor Maintenance

March 24—28

Thanksgiving & Praises- Tell us your praise reports so we can share God's goodness



Prayer Requests

Margaret Robbins, Audrey Henley (Susan's mom), Kim Holdren (Phylis Burton's daughter), Carol Dow, Michael Capurso, Janet Kaufman, Mark West, Teresa West, Jeaniene & Paul Bibble, Judy & Danny Graves, Lance & Sheila Blocker, Eddie Stewart, Christine Rudisill, Angela Henderson, Kevin Woods (friend of Karen Smith), Cindy Trobaugh, Johnny Norton, Jackie Rimmer, Kenneth Burton, Blair Lackey (Julia Norton's brother), Lisa Murray, Larry Birchfield, Dwight Saunders (TLC 145), Mike White (Phylis Burton's brother), Jane Summey, Nicole Tyson, Susan Henley, Gerald & Cornelia Sweezy, Susan Burris (Macrae's mother), Chris Jones (friend of Pastor Brian), Frances Hambright (Maria's friend), Richard & Judy McDaniel, Gary Plattenberger, Billy Brandon (friend of Maria), Mark Calwell, Laura Ballard (heart issues), Wayne Stamey (Maria's brother-in law's brother), Ms. Terri Coleman

Extended Requests

<u>Church</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Friends</u>
Laura Ballard	Margaret Boyd	Mike Bradshaw
Macy Ballard	Adam Davis	Weeta Garner
Scott Ballard	Linda Goble	Mike Gilbert
Ken Burton	Chuck Love	Brenda Goins
Phylis Burton	Wayne Lowery	Quinn Jones
Jim Cantrell	Bill Mason Jr.	Judy Jones
Sherry Causey	Jennie Mason	Reed Jones
Kim Holdren	Judy McDaniel	Amanda Lay
Donnie Hough	Richard McDaniel	Kera McManus
Rudy Mastro	Rosie Nanney	Kelli Newton
Joan Morris	Rachel Nokes	Drew Pearson
Melissa Mudd	Buck Quinn	Walter Prescott
Pat Ramey	Gail Quinn	Carolyn Sanford
Christine Rudisill	Kim Stewart	Ernest Smith
Ronnie Shelton	Andrew Summey	
Yvonne Smith	Miles Summey	
Jane Summey	Joann Summey	
Mark West		

Our Military

Hunter M. Bumgarner
RAAF Williamtown APO
AP 96523-1023
Australia

Major Matthew King
112 Cedar Ave.
Fort Knox, KY 40121NC
Air national Guard and Our Troops

Home Bound /Assisted Living/Out of Town

@ Home -Margaret Robbins, Becky Hovis
In a facility- Jane Summey #42b c/o Belaire Health Care Center
2065 Lyon St. Gastonia, NC 28052
Dwight Saunders TLC #145

With Family-Pat Ramey,804 Park Road, Dallas, NC 28034
Crae Carroll, 109 Isabella Ct., Mt Holly, NC 28120 704-240-1291

Out of Town-Laura McGuire, 143 Waters Rd., Taylors, SC 29687,
704-460-0365
Joanna Carangelo, 1938 Powells Landing Circle, Woodbridge, VA 22191

Worship Attendance

Date	YouTube	10 am	Total
2/23	16	62	78
3/2	20	98	118
9/9	33	89	122
3/16	20	56	76

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, March 23

9:00 am-Sunday School
10:00 am-Worship
2:30 pm-Basketball
4:30 pm-Kids Kconnect & Youth

Monday, March 24

10:00 am-Senior Stretch & More
11:00 am-Staff Meeting

Tuesday, March 25

10:00 am-Food Pantry
6:00 pm-Scouts

Wednesday, March 26

7:00 pm-Pastor Brian's Wednesday Night Bible Study

Thursday, March 27

10:00 am-Senior Stretch & More

Friday, March 28

Saturday, March 29

5:00 pm-Amen's Outing

**Special Gifts
Help Fund**

To the Glory of God and in Memory of Don Bumgarner by Carolyn Clippard

Food Pantry

To the Glory of God and in Memory of Janie Dunsmore by Reba Rhyne, Jim & Sharon Cantrell, Patty Cloninger, Shirley Gunn, Chris & Wendy Ham

To the Glory of God and in Memory of Carolyn Caldwell by Shirley Gunn

To the Glory of God and in Honor of Steve Ross by Shirley Gunn
General Pantry

To the Glory of God and in Memory of Janie Dunsmore by Teresa West

Weekly Report for February 23, 2025

General Budget Rec'd.....	\$3,221.00
Designated Fund Rec'd.....	\$283.00
Building Fund Rec'd.....	\$000.00
Total Tithes & Offerings 2/23/2025.....	\$3,504.00

Weekly Report for March 2, 2025

General Budget Rec'd.....	\$4,233.00
Designated Fund Rec'd.....	\$668.00
Building Fund Rec'd.....	\$125.00
Total Tithes & Offerings 3/2/2025.....	\$5,026.00

Weekly Report for March 9, 2025

General Budget Rec'd.....	\$2,546.75
Designated Fund Rec'd.....	\$1,095.00
Building Fund Rec'd.....	\$00.00
Total Tithes & Offerings 3/9/2025.....	\$3,641.75

Weekly Report for March 16, 2025

General Budget Rec'd.....	\$2,821.73
Designated Fund Rec'd.....	\$1,187.76
Building Fund Rec'd.....	\$100.00
Total Tithes & Offerings 3/16/2025.....	\$4,109.49

Electronic Offerings for February 2025

ACCOUNT	GROSS	PAYPAL FEES	NET AMOUNT
GENERAL FUND	200.00	-7.89	192.11
DEDICATED	465.00	-17.12	447.88

ACCOUNT	GROSS	WIX FEES	NET AMOUNT
GENERAL FUND	10.00	-0.59	9.41

**Our Mission "Taking the Church to the People"
February Monthly Outreach Report**

Calls	Meals	Visits	Cards/Text/Letters
219	28	90	49

Thursday Morning Bible Study is taking a break until May 8th

Johnny will be going over the last profit in Sunday School on March 23



April Birthdays!

Mary Daniel	1-Apr
Kamdyn Young	1-Apr
Jamie Cantrell	2-Apr
Elizabeth Spivey	2-Apr
Nash Young	2-Apr
Laura McGuire	3-Apr
Johnny Norton	4-Apr
Tommy Bumgarner	10-Apr
Madison Tyson	10-Apr
Lyn Griffith	10-Apr

Julie Rimmer	11-Apr
Joan Morris	14-Apr
Kevin Brittain	15-Apr
Jeanne Young	16-Apr
Donnie Hough	17-Apr
Mitch Johnson	17-Apr
Collin Bloom	18-Apr
Phillip Abernathy	21-Apr
Katrina Hough	21-Apr
Madeline Tyson	21-Apr
Cindy Gibson	23-Apr
Nancy Clemmer	24-Apr
Geraldine Green	25-Apr
Kenzie Burton	25-Apr
Nicholas Price	27-Apr
Susan Beaty	29-Apr



Jeffrey and Nicole Tyson	9-Apr
Todd and Tommie Mullen	9-Apr
Dave and Lisa Thrams	13-Apr
Ken and Phylis Burton	16-Apr
Johnny and Julia Norton	16-Apr
Phillip and Melissa Abernathy	17-Apr
Bill and Carole Howell	17-Apr



Young at Heart April 9, 2025

12-noon to 2:00 pm

Please RSVP to the Church Office
@ 704-263-2691

by April 6, if you plan to attend or see a greeter

For all the 55 & up in the
community



AMENS OUTING FOR MARCH 29, 2024



Green Room Community
Theater in Newton

Tickets are \$16 each

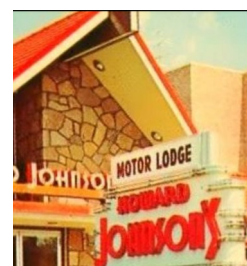
We will meet at CommonGround at 5:00pm to carpool. We will eat at an Italian place in Newton and then see the play at 7:30 pm

If you plan to attend

please RSVP to the church office 704-263-2691

or Rita Koehler 704-616-5509 by

March 22nd so tickets can be pre-ordered



COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Lunch is provided at all noon services

Date	Time	Event	Location	Speaker
3/26	12:00 pm	Noon Service	Maylo UMC	Pastor Scott Rudisill
4/2	12:00 pm	Noon Service	Mt Pleasant UMC	Pastor Eddie McGinnis
4/9	12:00 pm	Noon Service	Springfield Mem. Baptist	Pastor Shannon Williams
4/13	6:00 pm	Palm Sunday	Frontline Worship Center	Pastor Ritchie Doss
4/17	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday	FUMC –CommonGround	
4/18	12:00 pm	Cross Walk	Begin Stanley Pentecostal Holiness	
4/18	6:30 pm	Tenebrae Service	FUMC-Commonground	



Church Family -

Thank you all for the love and support you have shown our family during mom's illness and loss. We were so touched by the cards, prayers, texts & visits. We appreciate the nice reception & flowers after mom's service.

Your kindness means so much to our family during this time. She will be missed!
Kim, Buddy, Jessie Claire & Katie Smith

Brian & Randy
Thank you so much for the candy bars. It means a lot to our teachers. May God continue to bless your church and ministry to others!

EGHS
Faculty & Staff



April 20th

Please join us

**7:00 am SonRise Service @
Mt Pleasant UMC
Breakfast will follow**

**11:00 am Easter Worship
here**

FUMC at Common Ground

Church Council Meeting

March 16, 2025

1. Meeting convened at 3:30 p.m. with a prayer by Pastor Brian Elwell
 - a. Pastor Brian led the group in a Hope Study based on 2 Corinthians 6:1-3
 - b. Moment of reflection on the study
2. Finance Committee
 - a. Report on January's budget
 - b. Finance Committee will be scheduled to meet
 - c. No new business
3. Trustees
 - a. Football lights
 - i. Football program has approached the church about upgrading the existing lights to install brighter lights
 - ii. Estimated cost is at least \$2400
 - iii. Trustees Committee recommended that the church contribute \$1200, and the football program would be responsible for the remainder
 - iv. Members engaged in discussion about the type of lighting
 - v. Council approved by vote
 - b. Flooring
 - i. Gym floor is scheduled to be refinished the week of March 24
 - ii. Kitchen, bathrooms, and food pantry is scheduled to be refinished on Thursday, April 3
 - iii. Already a budgeted item, no vote needed
 - c. Picnic Shelter
 - i. Church members have expressed interest in an outdoor space with a shelter
 - ii. Council engaged in discussion about the type of shelter and where it would be located
 - iii. Nancy Cozart made a motion to create an exploratory committee on the picnic shelter, with a second by Jamie Griffith
 - iv. Motion was approved by majority vote of the council
 - d. Building Committee Update
 - i. Council discussed the need for the committee to update the congregation on the status of the project and the plan
 - ii. Building Committee will be meeting, with the goal to provide an update to the church
 - e. New business - Construction equipment land lease
 - i. Construction company (Matt Butler's) is currently bidding on a local project and may need to use a portion of the gravel lot at the walking track; estimated that the project would require half of the lot for 365 days, with an unknown start date
 - ii. Lot would be re-graveled and the entrance closest to Springfield would be widened, if leased
 - iii. Motion by Cindy Burton with a second by Wendy Davis to approve a lease term of 365 days for \$12,000; approved by majority vote of council
4. Staff Parish
 - a. Pastor Brian shared that staff evaluations are currently in progress
 - b. No new business
5. Additional business
 - a. No new business was introduced
6. Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.