

First United Methodist Church
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Stanley, NC 28164

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

October 15, 2025 No. 10
Church Website: www.fumcstanley.org

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

return service requested

The Grace of an Ordinary Morning

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:18



It happened on a morning that could have easily slipped past unnoticed. The coffee pot gurgled its familiar song, the sun stretched its first golden fingers across the kitchen table, and a sparrow tapped at the window as if to say, *Look. Look again.*

I almost missed it. My mind was already three steps ahead—emails, errands, the sermon I hadn’t quite finished. But in that small, quiet moment, grace found a crack to slip through. The coffee smelled richer than usual, the light softer, the world—somehow—more alive.

Gratitude often arrives this way. Not with trumpets and hallelujahs, but with a whisper. Henri Nouwen once wrote that gratitude is not just a spontaneous feeling we have when good things happen; it is a *discipline*. It’s the spiritual practice of paying attention, of trusting that God is present in what is, not just what we wish would be.

Similarly, Richard Rohr reminds us that everything belongs—that life itself is grace. Gratitude isn’t the reward for a perfect life; it’s the lens through which we discover that God has already been here, in the ordinary and the overlooked.

That morning, I whispered a thank you—not for something spectacular, but for the sacredness of a simple day beginning. And in that moment, something shifted. Gratitude turned the kitchen into a cathedral, the coffee into communion, and the sparrow into a preacher.

This is the invitation for us as the church: to let gratitude be more than a seasonal sentiment. Let it become the rhythm of our hearts, the language of our prayers, the posture of our community. Not because life is always easy, but because God is always present.

May we become people who notice. People who bless the ordinary. People who whisper *thank you* before we fully understand why.

November 2
@ 10am *All Saints*
SUNDAY

**Brunch will follow. Please bring breakfast
casserole or brunch food of your choice**

Lamentations 3:22–23
“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”
— Spoken during sorrow, this affirms mercy as a daily renewal.

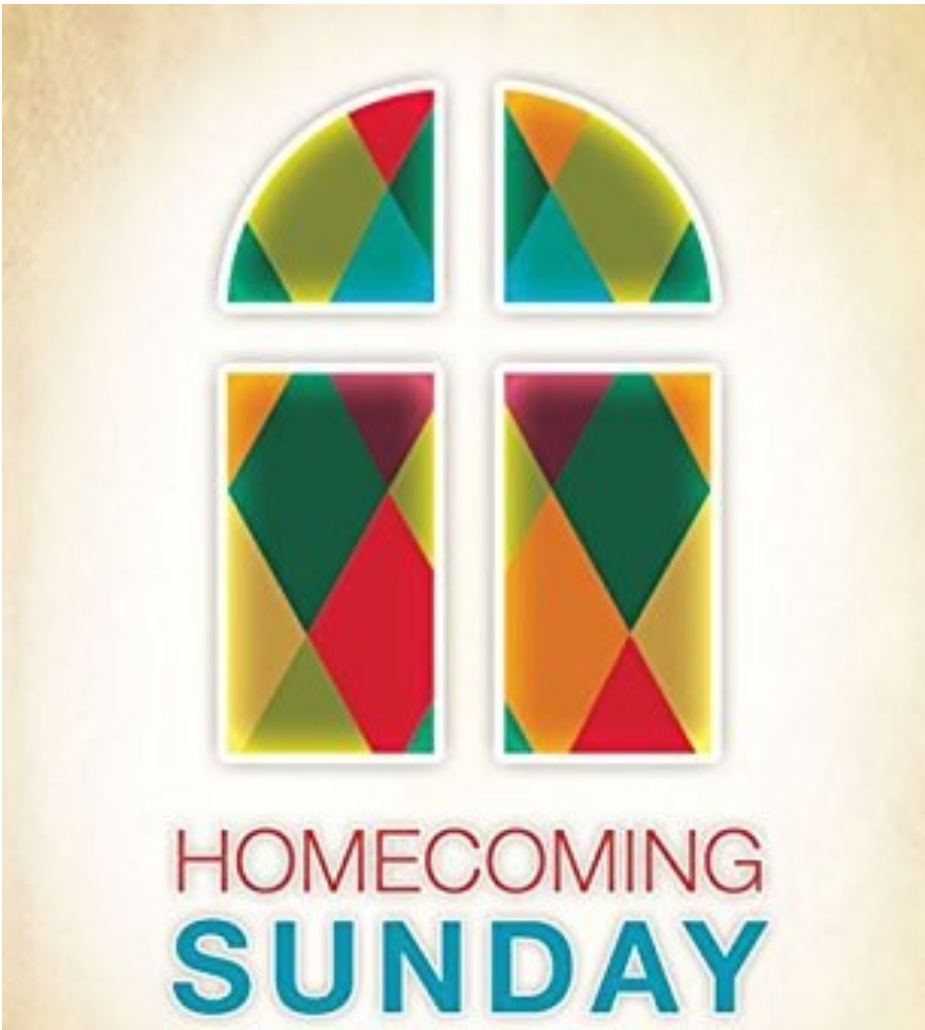


We are all familiar with the story of the Prodigal Son. After he had wasted his inheritance, he came to his senses and returned home, hoping he could just be a servant to his father. His father would not even consider it. He put the best robe on him, put a ring on his finger, sandals on his feet, and then had the fatted calf killed for a party. The father delighted in showing mercy to his son! But what about the older brother? He stood outside the party and would not come in to celebrate. He was so angry! He had never messed up and yet his father had never thrown him a party! Sometimes, if we are not careful, we can have the attitude of that older son. We can look at the lives of others and think, "That is not fair. I know he has been messing up, and God is blessing him. What is up with that? I have not been as bad as him!"

We need to remember that God delights in showing mercy to the guilty when, from a sincere heart, they seek that mercy. He delights when you and I ask for His mercy when we have blown it. **God invites you to pursue the abundant life in Him every day!**

May Jesus always walk with you, my friends.
Pastor Johnny Norton

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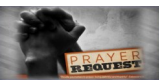
October 26
At 10 am

Pastor Mark Etchison will be preaching

Invite all your friends and family

Bring a side or dessert the church is supplying the meat

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



Prayer Requests

Brenda Moore, Teresa West, Christian Boland in the loss of his father, Kathy Basso, Diane Overman, Reid Evans, Miles Ivey Summey, Andrew Summey, Colton Parfitt, Johnny Norton, Gail Morris (Steve Ross’s sister), Lou’s sister Susan in Texas, Joan Morris, Bill & Sandy Mason, Jennie Ma-son, Shirley Gunn, Taylor Vidito, Thomas & Beverly Mauld-in, Susan Henley, Tabitha Owens, Jackie Rimmer, Sean Bloom, Laura McGuire, Ashley Austin, Sandy Hartsell, Lace Fredell, Patrick Breslin (Cindy Trobaugh’s nephew), Ronald Carcova (cancer), Steve Lineberger, Audrey Henley (Susan’s mom), Carol Dow, Janet Kaufman, Mark West, Jeaniene & Paul Bibble, Judy & Danny Graves, Christine Rudisill, Angela Henderson, Kevin Woods (friend of Karen Smith), Larry Birchfield, Mike White (Phylis Burton’s brother), Jane Summey, Nicole Tyson, Chris Jones (friend of Pastor Brian), Frances Hambright (Maria’s friend), Richard & Judy McDaniel, Gary Plattenberger, Ms. Terri Coleman, Gage (Abbie Clark’s student), Harry Caldwell (Martha Ross’ uncle), Amelia Prescott, Chuck Love (Maria’s brother-in-law)

Extended Requests

<u>Church</u>		<u>Family</u>		<u>Friends</u>	
Laura	Ballard	Margaret	Boyd	Mike	Bradshaw
Macy	Ballard	Jennie	Mason	Weeta	Garner
Scott	Ballard	Judy	McDaniel	Quinn	Jones
Ken	Burton	Richard	McDaniel	Judy	Jones
Phylis	Burton	Rosie	Nanney	Reed	Jones
Jim	Cantrell	Rachel	Nokes	Willy	Jones
Sherry	Causey	Buck	Quinn	Amanda	Lay
Kim	Holdren	Gail	Quinn	Kera	McManus
Donnie	Hough	Kim	Stewart	Drew	Pearson
Rudy	Mastro	Andrew	Summey	Walter	Prescott
Joan	Morris	Miles	Summey	Carolyn	Sanford
Melissa	Mudd	Janice	Summey	Ernest	Smith
Pat	Ramey	Joann	Summey		
Christine	Rudisill	Terry	Summey		
Ronnie	Shelton				
Jane	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, Reba Rhyne, Rudy Mastro

In a facility- Jane Summey #42b c/o Belaire Health Care Center
2065 Lyon St. Gastonia, NC 28052 , Phyllis Abernathy, 1251 E.
Hudson Blvd, Room #102, Gastonia, NC 28054

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

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, October 19

9:00 am—Sunday School

10:00 am-Worship

4:00 pm– Seeds, Sprouts & The Vine –Caring for Animals

Monday, October 20

10:00 am-Senior Stretch & More

11:00 am-Staff Meeting

7:00 pm-Church Council meeting room #4

7:00 pm-South Fork HOA –gym

Tuesday, October 21

10:00 am-Food Pantry

6:00 pm-Scouts

7:00 pm– Community Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm-Finance & Staff Parish Meeting #4

Wednesday, October 22

7:00 pm–Bible Study in the Lobby

7:00 pm– Band Rehearsal

Thursday, October 23

10:00 am-Senior Stretch & More

6:00pm-Pickel Ball

Friday, October 24

Troop 49 campout in gym overnight

Saturday, October 25

9:00 am– Basketball

Sunday, October 26

10:00 am-Homecoming Sunday

Special Gifts

Food Pantry

To the Glory of God and in Memory of Vonne Smith. by Linda Sherrill

General Fund

To the Glory of God and in Memory of Vonne Smith. by Ronnie Shelton

Wesley Class

To the Glory of God and in Honor of The Wesley Class -I Love You All! by Wendy Davis

Susan G. Komen Foundation

To the Glory of God and in Honor of Nicole Tyson by Wendy Davis

To the Glory of God and in Honor of Nicole Tyson & Freda Burch by Tabitha Owens

To the Glory of God and in Honor of Tabitha Owens & Wendy Davis and everyone that has dealt with cancer by Maria Morgan

Weekly Report for September 21, 2025

General Budget Rec’d.....\$2,629.26
Designated Fund Rec’d.....\$148.00
Pickel Ball Grant.....\$2,500.00
Building Fund Rec’d.....\$000.00
Total Tithes & Offerings 9/21/2025.....\$5,277.26

Weekly Report for September 28, 2025

General Budget Rec’d.....\$2,471.48
Designated Fund Rec’d.....\$460.52
Building Fund Rec’d.....\$10.00
Total Tithes & Offerings 9/28/2025.....\$2,942.00

10/4/2025 Youth/Children Lemonade Sale gross \$422.00

Weekly Report for October 5, 2025

General Budget Rec’d.....\$6,793.00
Designated Fund Rec’d.....\$641.62
Building Fund Rec’d.....\$10.00
Total Tithes & Offerings 10/5/2025.....\$7,444.62

Weekly Report for October 12, 2025

General Budget Rec’d.....\$2,376.50
Designated Fund Rec’d.....\$289.00
Building Fund Rec’d.....\$377.50
Total Tithes & Offerings 10/12/2025.....\$3,043.00



The Family of

Gracie Mangum

Celebration of Life will be
Wednesday, October 22nd at
11am @ Mt Pleasant UMC

Electronic Offerings for September 2025

ACCOUNT	GROSS	PAYPAL FEES	NET AMOUNT
GENERAL FUND	\$200.00	-\$7.89	\$192.11
DEDICATED	\$65.00	-\$3.16	\$61..84

ACCOUNT	GROSS	WIX FEES	NET AMOUNT
GENERAL FUND	\$1,525.00	-\$46.93	\$1,478.07
DEDICATED	\$770.00	-\$28.93	\$741.07



Young at Heart

For all the 55 & up in the
community

FUN
FOOD
&
Fellowship

November 12 from 12-2pm

RSVP by November 9

Sign-up sheets in the lobby or call

704-263-2691



Start Bringing Candy for Trunk or Treat

A collection bin is in the lobby

Trunk or Treat will be October 31,

from 5:30pm – 8pm

**See greeter for signup sheet to let us know if you
are bringing your trunk or want to do a booth**

Worship Attendance

Date	YouTube	9am	10am	11am	Total
9/21	12		117		129
9/28	21		62		83
10/5	21		82		103
10/12	94		28		122

Our Mission “Taking the Church to the People” September Monthly Outreach Report

Calls	Meals	Visits	Letters/Texts	Cards
99	41	51	21	46

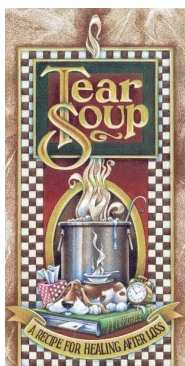
Saturday, November 1 @ 1:30 pm –room #4

Mental Health First Aid Training for 1st Responders with -Jonathan Marr

Learn how to help when someone is having a mental issue.

Not just for 1st responders anyone interested may attend

Description for Grief 101



Tear Soup is a story centered around an old and somewhat wise woman, Grandy. She has suffered a big loss in her life and so Grandy heads to the kitchen to make a special batch of Tear Soup. It is a compassionate story that validates the grieving process and its impact on you- physically, emotionally, cognitively, spiritually and socially. Learn how Tear Soup is a recipe for healing after a loss.

Carolina Caring will be presenting a Grief 101 class, using the story of Tear Soup.

Next Class- Sunday, November 23

from 2:00 to 3:30 pm.

Location:

First United Methodist Church -CommonGround

No registration is required.

The Youth will be making blessing bags for the un-homed. If you would like to help with this, please drop your items off in the nursery.

See supply List for items needed.



- Tissue/wet wipes
- Feminine pads
- Travel shampoo
- Tooth brush
- Comb
- Hand towel
- Bar soap
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Gallon bag
- Alcohol wipes
- Band aid
- Nail clippers



MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID

Saturday, November 1st @ 1:30 pm –3:30 pm

Mental Health First Aid Training for

1st Responders

with -Jonathan Marr

Learn how to help when someone is having a mental issue.

Not just for 1st responders anyone interested may attend



Trunk or Treat will be October 31,
from 5:30pm – 8pm



Bradley Smith	3-Nov
Myra Walsburger	4-Nov
Crae Carroll	4-Nov
Glenda Bumgarner	8-Nov
Cooper Williams	8-Nov
Betsy Robinson	9-Nov
Sarah Haney	9-Nov
Sonja Johnson	9-Nov
Carolyn Hovis	10-Nov
Brian Pettus	10-Nov
Cindie Sanchez	11-Nov
Clifton Messer	14-Nov
Lynn Nichols	18-Nov
Joanna Nicholson	23-Nov
Amanda Alberding	24-Nov
Laura Ballard	24-Nov
Jackie Rimmer	26-Nov
Ryan Goodman	27-Nov
Lynn Smith	29-Nov



James and Jamie Griffith	17-Nov
Brian and Jen Medici	27-Nov



Please Join us for a baby shower honoring
Catherine Fleming

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH AT 200PM
106 GEN. JOSEPH WHEELER ST
STANLEY, NC 28164

RSVP:
SONJA 704-263-9447



BOOKS FOR BABY



One small request that won't be too hard.
Please bring a book instead of a card.
Your book can be cherished, well-loved, or brand new.
And it will remind baby of you!

