

## In this Issue...

## **Season of the Church Year**



#### **Cover Pages**

Front: Church Street Market Logo

Back: Womens Beach Retreat

#### Page 5

Church Street Market opens May 15! Tell your friends!

Pages 12 Vacation Bible School registration is open

#### Pages 19

Updates to the Safe Sanctuary policy have been approved by Trustees

## **Contact Information**

#### Main Church Phone - (704)636-3121 Volunteer Extension 1000

The Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti, Senior Pastor mark@fumcsalisbury.org | x.1002

> Aaron Cameron, A/V Production aaron@fumcsalisbury.org | x. 1006

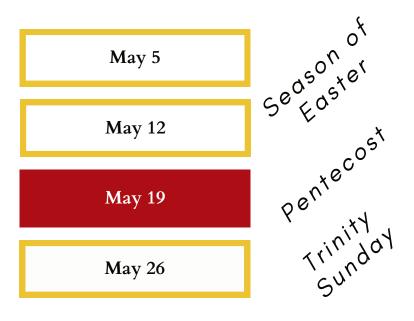
Whitney Cassell, Ministry Intern

Mike Fansler, Building Superintendent mike@fumcsalisbury.org | x. 1003

> Jen Fogt, *Discipleship Ministry* jenni@fumcsalisbury.org | x. 1004

Joshua Starnes, *Music Ministry* josh@fumcsalisbury.org | x. 1005

Kat Schneider-Meneely, Business Admin. kat@fumcsalisbury.org | x. 1001



#### Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday, 9am - 3pm

Scotty Adcock, After School Childcare & Summer Day Camp Program afterschool@fumcsalisbury.org | x. 1112 summercamp@fumcsalisbury.org

Kelly Austin, *Preschool* kellyhaustin@gmail.com | x. 1113

Brittney Lewis, Child Development Center & NC Pre-K cdc@fumcsalisbury.org | x. 1111

The Rev. Garry Cook, MDiv, LCSW, Pastoral Counselor FUMC Counseling Center (Sanctuary Counseling Group) gcook@scgnc.org | 980.296.0991





www.fumcsalisbury.org



**YouTube Channel** FUMC Salisbury



Salisbury Sermons



Facebook @fumcsalisbury Instagram @fumcsalisbury

Street Address - 217 South Church Street Salisbury, NC 28144

## **Re:Marks**

E. Stanley Jones (1884 – 1973) was a worldwide missionary-statesman. He was a profoundly influential Methodist evangelist, whose sermons and writings deeply impacted a long list of people, including Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. His name is always referenced with reverence, though I must confess that I never read much of his work until recently. I've been inspired to go back and read E. Stanley Jones – to better understand his setting and to discover what relevance he could offer today. Let me share some insight from him.

In a book chapter entitled, "The Threefold Genius of the Christian Faith," Jones named these about the Christian faith:

- 1. It creates faith in God which creates faith in people.
- 2. It re-creates people.
- 3. It reconciles and unites people.

Perhaps you can look back on your life & see all three. Let me offer three brief testimonies from mine related to my life as your pastoral leader.

The Christian faith created a capacity within my pastoral leadership to have faith in God. Instead of presuming that I need to have all the leadership answers, my faith in God prompts me to trust God. As we look ahead for our next steps, the future is oftentimes daunting to navigate. People's priorities have changed. Our culture has shifted. Technology has a way of accelerating it all. And this has a bearing on our church's context for ministry. In my leadership role, people frequently expect me to have the answer to every question, and to manage each detail according to his or her taste. My Christian faith, however, calls me to trust in God's wisdom and strength. As Jones noted, this faith also creates faith in people. You are called to lead, too! Related to my pastoral leadership, my Christian faith compels me to have confidence in people to share the joy & responsibility of leading. After all, you and others in the congregation are gifted, skilled, and passionate. I have faith in you!

The Christian faith re-creates me. During distressing times, God has been faithful to me. While others may want to quite to run away, my faith opened my eyes to God's faithfulness. This, in turn, challenged me to persevere. Through reading Scripture, prayer, and participating in church life, God let me discover the resources needed to press forward. In due time, by God's grace, I found myself thinking and speaking in ways more patient and compassionate, and with clearer perspective, too. So, I can reflect back at who I was and who I am now. Yes, the Christian faith re-creates people, including me.

The Christian faith reconciles and unites people. Remember the importance of our sins being forgiven. This can never be overly appreciated or underestimated. I've made mistakes in my leadership & received forgiveness – from God and from church members. Forgiveness has a way of bringing people onto the same plane. It also draws people, who were otherwise estranged, into closer proximity. Relationships become renewed, and fellowship is experienced in a life-giving way. The Christian faith reconciles and unites us.

It's the genius of the Christian faith at work within me and within you. Thanks be to God!

Mark Conforti

Pastor Mark

## **Community Meals - Invite a Friend!**

Around the Table nurturing people in body & spirit

# MAY 1

**Community Meal** 

connect with friends, old & new Fisher Street entrance - 6:00pm (Next: June 5) Donations welcome, but this meal is FREE!

## **Visiting Children's & Youth Choir**



The Wesley Children's Choir and Youth Choir of Davidson United Methodist Church will be leading worship on Sunday, May 05 at both the 08:30am & 11:00am services. We are excited to welcome these young musicians (from grades 3-12), under the direction of The Rev. Dr. Kevin Turner, Pastor for Music & Worship at Davidson UMC. The choir most recently toured and shared their music in Paducah, Kentucky; St. Louis, Missouri; and Knoxville, Tennessee.



## JOIN US FOR OPENING DAY!

## WEDNESDAYS 4-7PM BEGINNING MAY 15

## WHY A MARKET?

This new initiative is about we, the church, creating stronger connections with our community. We also get to support small businesses, and spend our dollars locally!

## HOW CAN I HELP?

We need <u>your</u> help to make this first season a success! Tell your friends; and come downtown to shop for local produce, flowers, meat, and more on Wednesdays at Church Street Market!

We need volunteers to make things happen! Please contact Helen Leonovich, or the church office.

VENDOR APPLICATION AVAILABLE AT FUMCSALISBURY.ORG/MARKET

organic relationships, nitritions food

## **Church History**

Growing up at First UMC Salisbury, it seemed like all churches were enjoying phenomenal growth. Financial prosperity replaced economic depression. The horror of World War faded. Peace prevailed. Families joined churches in unprecedented numbers. Communities struggled to build sanctuaries fast enough. New members and their baby boomer children flocked to worship almost every Sunday.

In that post war culture, many Christians didn't need to or forgot how to share their faith. It was unnecessary. Churches planned programs rather than revivals. We mistakenly assumed everyone was already Christian. That attitude eventually led to declines in church attendance, fewer members, and empty classrooms.

John Wesley faced a similar religious crisis in the 18th century. In England, the industrial revolution created a massive human migration. People moved from rural farms to city manufacturing jobs.Established churches missed the opportunity to share their faith with new arrivals. They focused instead on maintaining existing congregations. Churches looked inward instead of outward.

Miraculously change came. Wesley lit a spiritual fire that altered the face of Christianity. It was not accidental. He carefully and methodically planned it. People even called us Methodists.

In these Ecclesia history articles, I want to look at some of Wesley's evangelistic methods. They can be as effective today as they were in Wesley's England. They might even be the way forward for our congregation.

Evangelism principle number one is a renewed emphasis on personal prayer. Wesley believed in prayer. He devoted two hours every day to it. When I visited his London home where he died, I noticed a prayer desk by his bed. The wooden edge is worn smooth through daily use.

#### Prayer is evangelistically important for at least three reasons -

#1, prayer changes things. It changes us. Through prayer we become God's co-workers. Prayer conveys divine power. It enables us to do with God's help what we cannot do on our own. God answers prayer, but first we need to place our petitions before God. Modern Christians are not likely to adopt Wesley's practice of praying two hours every day, but faith sharing evangelism begins with prayer.

#2, prayer is like a heart transplant. It creates in us a clean heart and renews God's spirit within us (Psalm 15:10). It gives us new eyes to view the world. Too often we only see the people who look like us, think like us, and behave like us. Prayer gives us a broader vision. Through prayer we see spiritual and physical needs in all God's children.

#3, prayer gives us imagination. It helps us see what God is doing now. It gave Wesley the courage to take God's message outside the sanctuary to places people gathered. Prayer can give us the courage to see and embrace changes needed to reach Salisbury's growing diverse population.

Christianity has been in decline across 21st century America. The solution lies not in new church programs or building renovations. It is found, as Wesley discovered, in the daily practice of prayer. That is how we reignite vital faith in a spiritually hungry world. I will say more about John Wesley's evangelistic methods next month.



#### **Lent & Easter Celebration**



## **Upcoming Downtown Events**



#### May 18 - Cheerwine Festival

FUMC will be selling Cheerwine brownies as a fundraiser for Camp Discovery. We will also have the opportunity to welcome guests as the official spot on the Cheerwine Festival map for nursing mothers to find a quiet spot to feed their babies.

#### June 22 - Salisbury Pride

The Trustees have approved supporting another downtown event - FUMC will be the location where Salisbury Pride organizers will be hosting the volunteer check-in table. Volunteers interested in offering our guests hospitality that day can contact Bob Johnsen!

## **Women's Beach Retreat**













Twenty ladies from FUMC enjoyed a wonderful retreat on Oak Island! Our programming focused on God's faithfulness through the many seasons we experience in life. Ladies interested in going on next year's beach retreat can contact Brenda Loflin.







## **Youth Ministry**



We are pleased to celebrate with Connor Price and his

family as he graduates at the end of the month! Connor will

be recognized during the 8:30am service on May 12.

**GRADUATION SUNDAY - MAY 12** 

# Newsletter

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# YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR SPRING 2024

#### MAY

#### 5 - YOUTH GROUP

12 - no youth group (Mother's day)

19 - SUMMER KICKOFF

28 -no youth group

(summer)



#### **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - MAY 19**

Our confirmands have reached the end of their classes, and are preparing for their opportunity to become members of the church! As they confirm their baptism, and join the church, our confirmands take the same vows as all members

of United Methodist congregations; including our promise to support God's church through our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness.We will celebrate Confirmation Sunday during the 11:00am service on May 19.

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Our final confirmation classes will be held on May 5 & 12! Confirmation Sunday is on May 19 during the 11am worship service!!

May												
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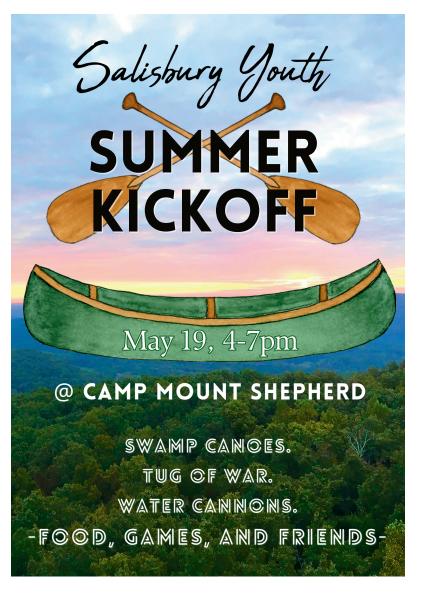
## **Fundraising for Camp Discovery**



## **Youth Ministry Summer Events**

#### **Celebrate the Summer**

Serve this Summer





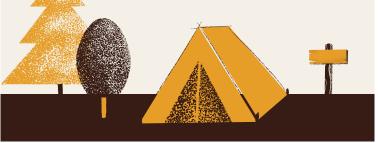


#### JOIN CAMP DISCOVERY'S

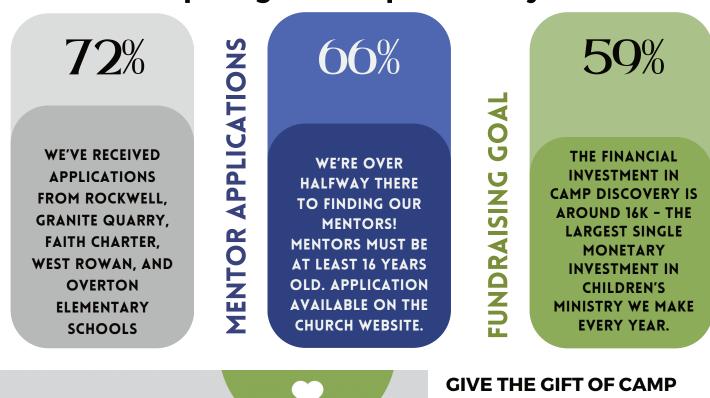
Y.E.E.T.

#### YOUTH ENCOURAGEMENT & EMPOWERMENT TEAM

Help us make Camp Discovery a great experience for our campers and mentors! Open to Youth & Adults June 9-12, 2024



## **Preparing for Camp Discovery**



VOLUNTEER AT CAMP DISCOVERY

Can't serve a full week of Camp? We have just the right job for you.

> <sub>3</sub>0™ ഗ്യ JUNE 9-14

DETAILS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL & CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

AVAILABLE AT FUMCSALISBURY.ORG/ CAMP-DISCOVERY



## WE NEED HELP WITH :

- Morning Activities
  - 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- Snack Time
  - ∘ 2:30 4:00 p.m.
- Evening Activities
  - 6:00 9:00 p.m.

For more information on how to serve, please email:

CampDiscoveryFUMC@gmail.com

WANT TO SERVE THE WHOLE DAY? WE HAVE A SPOT FOR YOU.

## **Children's Ministry**

# CAMP DISCOVERY 2024 JUNE 9-14



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS helping families engage in worship

The children's worship cart is getting a refresh! New supplies are on their way, and will be available in zipper pouches. These 'activity bags' including Children's Worship Guides, will be available for children to use as they attend worship with their families.

Look for these new items in the month of May!

#### Vacation Bible School - June 24 - 27 **REGISTER HERE** Registration Now Open! DAY 1 DAY 3 DAY 4 DAY 2 It's wild! It's wild! It's wild! It's wild! Jesus **Jesus helps Jesus** is Jesus why we invites us to us to shows us spend time use our share our how to with God. story. aifts. spend time th others. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27 (NIV)

## VBS for children nursery - 5th Grade | fumcsalisbury.org/vbs

Ecclesia: Newsletter

## **Rowan Helping Ministries This Month**

#### **Food Pantry**



#### Need - Breakfast Items



<u>Did you know?</u>

Rowan Helping Ministries has partnered with Door Dash to deliver groceries to neighbors who needs them, and have limited transportation or mobility. Meals on Wheels has also been a way to deliver items to people who need them.

Serving Meals in Jeannie's Kitchen March: Discovery Class Dinner, May 9 & Breakfast, May 10

June: Adam & Eve/ Seekers Classes Interested in your group serving a meal? Contact Taffy Jordan!

#### Food Packing

Fourth Wednesdays, during the school year Next Packing Party: **May 22, 2:00-300pm** 

Interested in coming to a packing party? Contact Jen Fogt!

## **Child Development Programs**

## Preschool

We are wrapping up another wonderful school year! We are having End of Year Programs and Parties. Our sweet students have learned and grown so much during our time together. Lots of lasting friendships were made. We are already looking forward to being together again in the fall, and wish all the best to our rising kindergarteners!

Our registration is in full swing! We have limited spaces available in our 3's and 4's classes for next year, and currently have openings in our Older and Younger 2's classes. If anyone would like a tour, or more information, please contact Kelly Austin.

There are some teaching positions (part-time) that need to be filled for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. We are looking for warm, loving, creative, fun teachers to join us! If you are interested, or know someone that may be, please feel free to reach out to Kelly Austin (704)636-3121 x.1113

## **After School Child Care**

It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to a close! That does not mean we are not hard at work in the ASCC Ministry! We completed our Resurrection Eggs Project and our students can explain the events leading up to Jesus' ascending into Heaven. They have a booklet they have written as well as a set of 12 eggs with object clues for retelling the Easter story. We completed the project by making Empty Tomb sweet rolls.

It is time to start thinking about the summer. Plans are being make for a wonderful and fun camp this year. If you or someone you know is looking for Summer Camp Care, please contact Scotty Adcock for details. Applications are being accepted now for weekly spaces. We want the Son to shine brightly this summer!

(704)636-3121 x.1112



# NOW ENROLLING 2024-2025 THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

## Serving ages 3-5 years old 5 Star License Center



We are more than just a Child Development Center, we are a community dedicated to providing a safe space for your child to learn and grow!



Brittney Lewis 704-636-3121 x.1111



C cdc@fumcsalisbury.org Salisbury 28144

## After School Child Care / Summer Camp

#### Applications Summer Camp Are Now Available!

Are you looking for Summer Camp fun for your children?We are now accepring applications for our Summer Camp Ministry! We will hold weekly camps through the months of June and July in association with our ASCC Ministry for students who have completed K through 5th grades.Each week we will have trips, practice educational skills, and have fun with breakfast and lunch provided. You select the weeks you would like to attend.Weekly tuition is \$130 per student and there is a discount for siblings. Contact Scotty Adcock for more information, 704-636-3121 x.1112.





#### Need After School Care Next School Year?

We are currently accepting applications for the 2024-2025 School Year. We provide quality care with educational support, activities, snacks and FUN!Transportation is provided for pick up on regular and early release days. Tuition is based on the days school is in session for the month, a typical month is 20 days at the cost of \$180 (\$9 per day). There is a sibling discount for families with multiple students.Please contact Scotty Adcock for more information, 704-636-3121 x.1112.

## **Emergency Preparedness Training**

Kimberly Cruz, Public Health/Child Care Health, Consultant provided Emergency Preparedness and Response training. Brittney Lewis, Child Development Center/NC Pre-K Director, Scotty Adcock, After-School Child Care/Summer Day Camp, Crystal Derringer, Teacher/Child Development Center, Josh Starnes, Director of Music Ministry, Mike Fansler, Building Superintendent and Dr. Sarah Hensley, Board Chairman of Child Development Center completed the training and received a Certificate of Completion approved by the Division of Child Development and Early Education, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

The training focused on the importance of licensed child care programs to be adequately prepared to respond to the needs of children and others in the event of disasters and emergencies. An emergency drill for natural disasters is required at least every three months. The team will review the current EPR Plan to address natural and man-made disasters to ensure the safety and protection of the children and the staff. Natural and man-made disasters include but not limited to the following: fire, tornado, flood, power failures, chemical spills, bomb threats, earthquakes, blizzards, nuclear disasters, or dangerous person(s) in the vicinity.

The next step is for the team to assign staff members EPR responsibilities based on the strengths of the staff members that are certified in Emergency Preparedness and Response Training.

## THE ROAD TO GENERAL CONFERENCE



#### FIRST: A QUICK LOOK AT OUR STRUCTURE

#### **IT STARTS WITH YOU!**

You are a committed leader within your local church faithfully participating in the life and ministries of your local congregation through your **prayers**, **presence**, **gifts**, **service**, and **witness**.

#### YOUR CHURCH IS PART OF A DISTRICT

The Virginia Conference has **eight districts** -- Coastal Virginia, Living Waters, Mission Rivers, Mountain View, Northern Virginia, Shenandoah River, Three Notch'd, and Valley Ridge.

#### YOUR DISTRICT IS PART OF AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Your church is one of approximately 875 churches in the **Virginia Annual Conference.** The United States has 54 annual conferences, supervised by bishops in 46 episcopal areas. There are 75 annual conferences in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, which are supervised by 20 bishops.





#### YOUR CONFERENCE IS PART OF A JURISDICTION

There are five US Jurisdictions -- North Central, Northeastern, South Central, Southeastern, and Western. Virginia is part of the **Southeastern Jurisdiction** or SEJ.

#### WE ARE A WORLDWIDE CHURCH

Outside the US, Annual Conferences are organized into seven **Central Conferences**. Together we all make up the United Methodist Church.





#### WE ARE GOVERNED BY THREE BODIES

The United Methodist Church does not have a central headquarters or a single executive leader. Duties are divided among bodies that include the **Judicial Council**, the **General Conference**, and the **Council of Bishops**.

#### **GENERAL CONFERENCE SETS POLICY**

The General Conference meets every four years. Legislation is examined and voted upon by **persons elected** from Annual Conferences from **across the denomination**. The Council of Bishops presides over General Conference and the Judicial Council reviews passed legislation to determine its constitutionality, legality, or meaning.



#### LEARN MORE vaumc.org/gc2024

#### *Sources*: umc.org, umcnews.org, resourceumc.org

## THE ROAD TO GENERAL CONFERENCE



#### WHAT DO DELEGATES DO AT GENERAL CONFERENCE?



#### **PLENARY SESSIONS**

The full body of the General Conference meets together for worship, dialogue, and voting. It is in **full plenary sessions** where votes are taken on petitions and resolutions.

#### VOTING

Each General Conference delegate votes on legislation brought before the body. Most legislation requires only a **majority vote**.



Changes to the **constitution** require **both** a 2/3 vote by the General Conference and a 2/3 aggregate vote of lay and clergy members in annual conferences.

#### AFTER GENERAL CONFERENCE



#### **REVISED DOCUMENTS**

The Book of Discipline, the Book of Resolutions, and other documents as approved by the General Conference are updated with revisions. Passed legislation usually becomes effective on **January 1st** of the following year.

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

LEARN MORE

vaumc.org/gc2024

Constitutional amendments passed by 2/3 of the General Conference are sent to Annual Conferences for voting. Those **elected to attend Annual Conference** from their church or district will cast a vote.



Sources:

umc.org, umcnews.org,

resourceumc.org



Once **all Annual Conferences** from across the connection have voted, if 2/3 of the total votes cast are in favor, that legislation becomes official.

1



- Trish Brinkley Parker Williams
- **2** Grace Fazia
- **3** Susan Barker Fowler Jean Hill
- 4 Katie Scarvey
- 5 Gary Applewhite Kathy Duke
- **6** Connie Sheehan

8 Bryan Hutton Laurie Zerger

9 Sondra ShulerMillie StoutIan Walworth

10

7

- Kurt Kolkebeck George Shuler Betty Slife
- 12 Lori Moore Henry Brown

13 Lugene Cox

14 Carrie Carter

15 <sub>Steve Haines</sub> Joyce Ingram Dakeita Kluttz Meredith Williams

**16** Jean Corpening Jerry Dymond Benjamin Hutton

17 Dennis Barber Allison Lineberry

## 18

**19** Ron Cherry John Conrad Gregg Williams Nancy Wyrick

## 20

## 21

22 Dinah Carpenter Alexander Whitaker 23<sub>Anne Ellis</sub>

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 $25_{
m Chuck}$  Bowman

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27 Janet McCoy Susan McLain

28<sub>Larry Schall</sub>

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 $\mathbf{30}_{\mathsf{Billy Webb}}$ 

**31** Harry Warren





## **Safe Sanctuary Policy Updated**

The Trustees Committee has approved an update to the Safe Sanctuary policy. Training for staff and volunteers who regularly work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults will begin this summer.

The Safe Sanctuary Policy is our document that directs how we as the church, are doing our due diligence to ensure that this is a safe place for all God's children to be welcomed and cared for. It outlines procedures for how we conduct background checks, how classrooms/programming leadership is managed, and new in this policy - how vendors are will now be asked to check in with the volunteer at the front desk. Those interested in learning more can visit the church website, under Policies & Forms. The new policy will be posted by June 1.

Our Safe Sanctuary policy was updated by a team including youth ministry volunteers, parents of young children within the church, representatives from SPRC & Trustees, in consultation with Church Council, and led by our Director of Discipleship Ministries.

## **Pastor Mark Reappointed!**

The Western North Carolina Cabinet recently announced appointments for the coming year, and on behalf of the Staff - Parish Relations Committee, I'm pleased to announce that the Reverend Mark Conforti will again be appointed to First United Methodist Church (Salisbury) This will begin Mark's 11th year with FUMC.

Please join me and the SPRC Committee, in offering our congratulations to Mark. And please keep Mark, Mary Allen, Connor, Tyler, and Mia in your prayers for this reappointment.

-Deneen Jones, chair of SPRC

## Tangela to be Ordained at Annual Conference



# Do you have an article for the Ecclesia?

Send them to Jenni@fumcsalisbury.org with "(Month to be printed) Ecclesia" in the subject line.

Articles should be submitted by the 10th day of each month for the month following -(Example: March articles should be submitted by February 10).

#### Access the Church Calendar Any Time

Access the church calendar any time! Just go to fumcsalisbury.org and look under the "Connect" tab. There you can also find a digital version of the *Ecclesia*.



## **Directory Updates**

**Stay Connected** 



Access the online directory anytime by going to **fumcsalisbury.ctrn.co**, following the link on our website (under 'Connect'), or downloading the Online Member Directory app on your smartphone or tablet. Enter the access code **fumcsalisbury** and your unique username and password.

You can update your information at any time, if you would like assistance in updating your information please contact the church office.

# ECCLESIA



## NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



making and nurturing Christian disciples through the presence and power of God

