



#### On the Cover: Rainy Community Meal

The first Community Meal was the first Wednesday in September, and rain arrived just as the team was preparing to set up outside. The rain location under the porte cochere worked wonderfully and we were still able to enjoy a meal together. The next community meal is October 6, and all church and community members are welcome.

### **Church-Wide Hoedown: Page 7**

Meet at Sloan Park on October 17 for the return of the Church Hoedown! Live entertainment, and a chili cookoff are planned for this year's event.

### **Role of the Laity: Pages 10-11**

Lay Leader Brenda Loflin offers a reflection on the role of the laity to love and serve as God calls each of us to do.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

The Reverend Doctor Mark Conforti, Senior Pastor

Mrs. Becca Blackmon, Business Administrator

Mr. Aaron Cameron, Production Director

Mr. Mike Fansler, Building Superintendent

Ms. Jen Fogt, Director of Youth Ministry

Mr. Joshua Starnes, Director of Music Ministry

Mrs. Bailee Weisensel, Director of Children's Ministry

Rev. Garry Cook M.Div. LCSW,

Pastoral Counseling, Sanctuary Counseling Group

Mrs. Donna Frederick,

Lead Teacher of After-School Child Care Program

Mrs. Kelly Austin,

Director of Preschool

Molly Alexander

Lead Teacher of Summer Day Camp

Mrs. Courtney Bost

Lead Teacher/Director of Child Development Center

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Website www.fumcsalisbury.org



YouTube Channel FUMC Salisbury











Facebook @fumcsalisbury Instagram @fumcsalisbury



Sermon Podcast



In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul declares what many biblical scholars to be the "Gospel in a nutshell," at least Paul's version. Celebrating the glory of God's love, Paul proclaims:

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." ~ Romans 8:38-39

Do you share this same conviction?

What Jesus says in John 3:16 is often times considered the "Gospel in miniature," as Martin Luther put it. What if we square Jesus' statement with what Paul wrote to the Romans? To do so insists that God's love – which is so vast that God sent Jesus, the only begotten Son of the Heavenly Father – is stronger than any power. This is true even to the point of death, for whoever believes in Jesus will gain everlasting life.

The tradition of Christian teaching maintains that everlasting life points to a time when this earthly life is finished, when we dwell in God's eternal glory. Yet, "everlasting life" is beyond time and place. To imagine life being everlasting (Greek, aiōnios), we also affirm that life takes on a transformed quality now, while we are still living! Anyone who is in Christ becomes a new creation, as Paul told the Christians in Corinth. As we are sanctified by the Holy Spirit, becoming perfected in Christian love, our life becomes more holy.

Does this give us license to be "holier than thou?" Of course not! Becoming more holy insists that we humbly observe changes in our character. It's the work of God's love inside of us.

Again, we are called to believe that God's love is stronger than any power. During funerals and memorial services, we will frequently read from Romans 8:38-39 – a solemn reminder of God's love being stronger than death. But remember what else: even stronger than life.

"...neither death, nor life..."

The challenges of this current age require us to reflect deeply upon God's love. After all, God's love is not a wimpy, passive fog that occasionally catches our attention. Rather, God's love is active and engaging. And nothing – not even life – will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What does this mean? The realities of life during the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. wearing masks, physical distancing, questions about what's next, etc.) are an overwhelming force. It's causing us to re-evaluate our schedule, our priorities, and our commitments. It's leaving us weary and exhausted. Yet these realities of life will not ever separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord. It's true! As you make your way into October, hold this in your heart.

May God continue to bless you,

Pastor Mark



### Week of September 26-October 2

ISAIAH 11–14 PSALM 16 THESSALONIANS 1–3	ISAIAH 15-17	ISAIAH 18–21	ISAIAH 22-24	ISAIAH 25-27
THESSALONIANS 1–3	I THESSALONIANS 4–5	ROMANS 1	ROMANS 2	ROMANS 3

### Week of October 3-9

40 ISAIAH 28–30 PSALM 14 ROMANS 4 ROMANS 5–6 ISAIAH 34–36 PSALM 44 PSALM 45 ROMANS 7 ROMANS 8 ROMANS 9
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### Week of October 10-16

PSALM 85 ROMANS 10–11 ROMANS 12 ROMANS 13 ROMANS 14–15 ROMANS 16
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### Week of October 17-23

(42)	ISAIAH 61–63	ISAIAH 64–66 PSALM 77	PSALM 102 FSTHFR 1-5	PSALM 136	HOSEA 1–10
42	JUDE	II PETER 1–3	PSALM 143	ESTHER 6-10	II TIMOTHY 1

### Week of October 24-30

(1, 7)	HOSEA 11-14	AMOS 1–4 PSALM 125	PSALM 3	AMOS 9	PSALM 142
43	II TIMOTHY 2	II TIMOTHY 3	AMOS 5–8	II TIMOTHY 4	JEREMIAH 1–4

### Week of October 31-November 6

### CHURCH HISTORY

"Looking back, moving forward"

Since at least 1970. United Methodist leaders have officially debated over issues around human sexuality. Many now believe that debate will end at the 2022 General Conference with a division of our denomination. While most local churches will likely remain in the moderate United Methodist Church, some will join the proposed evangelical Global Methodist Church or one of the emerging progressive Methodist expressions.

A church separation is like a divorce; everyone suffers. Yet church divisions are not new. The first century Jerusalem Council (see Acts 4) dealt with a split between Jewish and Gentile Christians. Even Methodism has had its share of separations.



RICHARD ALLEN

In 1791, Bishop Francis Asbury assigned Salisbury's pastor, James Park, to serve the station appointment in Charleston, South Carolina. The South Carolina congregation objected. They preferred a local preacher named William Hammett. A formal petition did not change the bishop's mind. Hammett left the Methodist Episcopal Church along with a large number of Charleston members. He called his new church The Primitive Methodist Church. After a year in Charleston, Parks returned to Salisbury as the presiding Elder. The renegade South Carolina congregation eventually reunited with the Methodist Episcopal Church. A more serious split occurred in 1792 when James O'Kelly, a prominent Methodist preacher, refused his pastoral appointment. Francis Asbury practiced a centralized episcopal rather than a congregational style of church government. O'Kelly objected and withdrew to form the Republican Methodist Church. It is now known as either the 'Christian Churches' (Disciples of Christ) or 'Churches of Christ'.

Early Methodism had a strong ministry to and with African Americans. A black Methodist preacher, Richard Allen, was part of the Christmas Conference that ordained Francis Asbury. Sadly, the Methodist Episcopal Church denied African Americans full ordination rights. They were required to work under the supervision of white preachers. Freed Africans living in Philadelphia and New York tired of this second class status and withdrew to form the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1816) and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (1821).

In 1830, the democratic American spirit led to the creation of the Methodist Protestant Church. Prior to 1830, only clergy voted in church conferences. Methodist Protestants gave laity equal voting status with clergy. They replaced the office of bishop with a conference president and presiding elders became district superintendents.

Ideological opposition over slavery increased tensions between Northern and Southern Methodist churches. The matter came to a head in 1844. When James O. Andrew from Georgia was elected a bishop in 1832, he owned slaves by inheritance from his wife's estate. One, a young girl named Kitty, chose to stay with Andrew rather than be sent out of the state, and a little boy was too young to emancipate. Bishop Andrew's slave owning status sparked the debate that led to the Methodist Episcopal Church's division into Northern and Southern branches. Our local church became part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

In 1870, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, divested its membership rolls of Black members by promoting the organization of the Colored (now Christian) Methodist Episcopal Church. This new denomination served former slaves.

In 1939, The Methodist Protestant Church along with the Methodist Episcopal Church North and South reunited to form The Methodist Church. In 1968 The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church originally formed by German speaking Methodists united to form The United Methodist Church. Methodists have a long history of disagreeing, dividing, and then reuniting. If the United Methodist Church divides at the next General Conference, it will not be without precedent or without hope for another reunion.

Fred Jordan, Church Historian



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS...

Making and nurturing Christian disciples through the presence and power of God.

#### Introducing the 2022 Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to all FUMC members for your faithful stewardship in 2021, and your prayerful consideration of your financial commitment for 2022. Through the giving of your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness together we support the church's mission "To make and nurture Christian disciples through the presence and power of God."

Everyone should have received your pledge card through the mail in September. An informative and encouraging message about this year's campaign can be found on the church's YouTube page.

Commitment Sunday will be October 10, 2021. We will bring our pledge cards to the altar table to represent our sacrifice to God for His many blessings.

May God bless you and keep you, Larry Cordts, Stewardship Chair

### Commitment Sunday October 10

Spare pledge cards will be available in the Narthex on October 10. Pledge cards can also be returned to the church office during the week. Stewardship Video

Available on YouTube Now

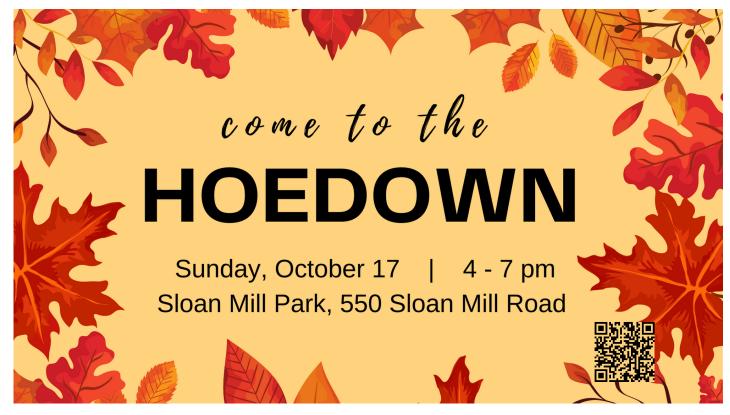


### SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR ISENBERG





Thank you to all who donated school supplies this year for Isenberg Elementary! Your gifts were delivered during the first week of school. The youth Sunday School class also wrote encouraging notes on Post-It pads for the teachers and administrators!



### FACILITY RENEWAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

This fall you should have received a letter in the mail inviting you to participate in our Funding Facilities Renewal Campaign. We are working to replenish funds that have been spent on several necessary capital improvement projects throughout 2021.

As of September 22 we have received \$196,565 towards our goal of \$300,000.

If you would like more information related to this campaign, or a full list of projects please feel free to reach out to me, Becca Blackmon, or Pastor Mark Conforti. Thank you all for your consideration and support of this campaign.

Dennis Barber FUMC Trustees Chair



### Some of the Capital Projects from 2021 (Partial List)

- Lead abatement
- Boiler pump replacement
- Roof repair
- · Painting Sanctuary exterior
- Interior playground drain repair
   Grand Total of all projects, \$298,663.63







Photo Credit: Gary Price

### LIVESTREAM MINISTRY FURTHERS OUR MISSION

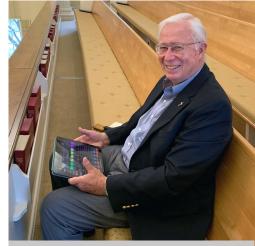
In 2020 the church took a leap of faith and upgraded the sound system. We also installed cameras and a streaming system. This was all in the name of keeping the church accessible to the members.

Livestreaming the 11:00 worship service each week is a great way to reach members who cannot attend due to the pandemic, our homebound members, and people who are affiliated with the church but live far

away. Having an online presence means that anyone on the internet can find your content. This opens the church up to new possibilities to gain a followership.

It's wonderful that the church owns a bus we can use to provide easier accessibility to the church. Faithful drivers pick people up each Sunday morning, and bring them to worship. There is no doubt having the church bus allows us to reach people in the community. The year 2020 and 2021 has proven to us that there's a whole world of people who need to hear God's message of hope and love. Livestreaming and social media are our online church bus – they are vehicles for welcoming more people into our church community.

I am grateful that the church continues to invest in the livestream. There are a few things that all members can do to help.



Richard Paschall operating the sound system for the Sanctuary

- 1. **Watch our YouTube channel!** We have been posting more than just the livestream. "The Story" videos follow our weekly guided Bible reading plan recorded by Pastor Mark. "Cheerwine Chat" videos are posted periodically with interviews and updates about the church. You will also find an archive of older services recorded at the church.
- 2. Make sure you are following the church on our social media channels. We have a YouTube channel and a Facebook page. Make sure you are subscribed and notifications are on so that you see when we post content. Also, please interact with our content. Liking and commenting tells the algorithm that people are enjoying our content, and the platform will begin recommending our content to others.
- 3. Volunteer to help with the sound and live stream. Our church has been blessed to have volunteers run the sound system for the room. This allows congregants to hear easily. We also need volunteers to run the livestream. Don't worry, we will teach you everything you need to know. If you are interested in helping with the livestream, please email our me at aaron@fumcsalisbury.org.

We appreciate your support and participation in helping this ministry grow! You are furthering our mission, "to make and nurture Christian disciples through the presence and power of God."

Aaron Cameron, *Production Director* 

### 3 WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT TECHONOLOGY MINISTRY AT FUMC

WATCH

WATCH OUR

YOUTUBE

**CHANNEL** 



FOLLOW

FOLLOW
FUMC SOCIAL
MEDIA
ACCOUNTS



VOLUNTEER

JOIN THE TECH MINISTRY TEAM!

# 20 FALL 21 FESTIVAL

JOIN US

5:30 PM | OCTOBER 27 | 7:30 PM

GAMES, PUMPKIN PICKING,
PRIZES AND FUN
FOR KIDS PRE-K - 5TH GRADE!



REGISTRATION REQUIRED





217 S CHURCH STREET SALISBURY, NC 28144 FUMCSALISBURY.ORG



#### Laity, The People of the Church

Where does the word Laity come from? It comes from the Greek word "laso" meaning "people." That same word lies at the root of another worship word—Liturgy meaning the "work of the people." Worship every Sunday is to be the work of the people; a people of many gifts and differing roles. We are called by God to LOVE AND TO SERVE.

If you study the book of Ruth from the Old Testament you will find another Greek word, ezer, which describes aspects of God's character. He is our strength, our rescuer, our protector, and our help. Through the nurturing that Ruth provided, Naomi became more of the "ezer" that God created her to be. But you also found in Ruth that being an ezer, a helper, is not always easy. Sometimes you must be an ezer to difficult people and in less than ideal circumstances.

Courage is walking forward and embracing all in love. Remember that Jesus walked that way before you and he walks that way with you now. Our Christian Ministry begins at Baptism. We are Christians and we are called to minister. Our vocation to the calling is both inward and outward. Inward being your relationship to the call and the outward calling or vocation is the use of gifts you are given. There is never one without the other. Those that God calls, God equips. You may be saying to yourself that those are BIG statements and what do they mean for me. How can I use the gifts that I am given or even recognize the gifts that God has equipped me with?

YOU are using your gifts now! Simply by offering a friendly greeting on Sunday morning you are taking a first step. It helps to relax both parties so that an extended conversation can continue. We must be "people persons." Remember Paul's greeting found in Romans? "To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:7).

### THE ROLE OF THE LAITY

With just a friendly greeting you have opened a path, extended a welcome in a way that can lead to future conversations and can also help in understanding the needs of the person or persons you have welcomed into our "church community." We need to understand the needs of others in order to show our life within First United Methodist Church...what it means to us and what it can mean to others.

We – you and I are lay servants. May we use whatever gifts we have been given to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. May we reach out to make disciples and discern new opportunities for the ministry of our church. If unsure how you may be of service please do hesitate to contact Pastor Mark, a member of our church staff or any member of our church "leadership teams" to discuss opportunities in which to serve.

May God bless each of you as you continue your ministry within our church, our community and the world.

Brenda Loflin, Lay Leader



### United Methodists vow to

faithfully participate in the life and ministries of our local congregation through our...





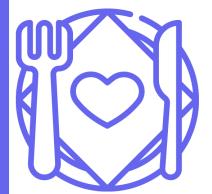
Service





JOIN US, NEIGHBOR! NO CHARGE

## FREE COMMUNITY MEAL



OF EACH MONTH
NEXT ONE: OCT 6

6 PM

LOCATION: ENTRANCE ON WEST FISHER STREET

### THURSDAY PROPHETS IN OCTOBER



**THURSDAYS IN SEPTEMBER, 11AM** 

### **Fall Bible Study**

October 7, 14, 21, 28 11:00am in the Parlor

Each session will feature a close reading of passages from books of the prophets, along with reflection and discussion led by Pastor Mark Conforti.

### **5TH SUNDAY SEMINARY**

### **Fifth Sunday Seminary Series**

October 31, 9:45am in the Chapel

Sunday School classes are invited to meet together in the Chapel on the 5th Sunday in October as Pastor Mark Conforti shares insights about the book of Revelation.



### **Fall Care Packages**

The Care Package project is a way we can show our love for our members who reside in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, are homebound, or have other special needs. We are gathering donations of fun and useful items for these gifts, the youth will pack the bags, and a team of church members will deliver them! To get involved, contact the church office, Susan Cooley, or Kathi Welborn.

Donations can be dropped off in the lobby and missions room from October 3 - 17.



- Travel size toiletries
- Small hand sanitizer
- Lip balm
- Lotion

- Stamps
- Blank Cards
- Word searches
- Crossword books
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Tea, coffee or hot chocolate
- Candy
- Individually packaged snacks

### COAT DRIVE FOR ROWAN ONE CHURCH ONE CHILD



### Coat Weather is Coming! How Can We Help?

Our church helps support children in foster care through Rowan One Church One Child (ROCOC). This fall they are predicting a great need for children's coats. Let's help these children feel the warmth of God's love and our prayers as they wrap their new coats around themselves.

Bring new or gently used coats to the church October 1-17. Coats can be dropped off in the lobby or missions room.

ROCOC could always use more volunteers on their team, monetary donations can be used to purchase beds and other essential items, and their current needs list includes things like diapers (unopened, especially newborn sizes) and queen size sheet sets.

Lugene Cox – 704-213-0898. lpcox75@gmail.com , Laura Collins – 704-202-6199. pedspeech@gmail.com

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

O-4 YRS
Nursery
Crossover Hall rooms B-106 & B-108

K-5TH Sunday School Sundays 10:00-10:45am (KidzPraize! during Sunday School)



### THROUGH THE WEEK



**PRE-K** 3rd Saturdays



**K-3RD** 3rd Wednesdays



**4TH-5TH** 2nd Sundays

## 20 FALL 21 FESTIVAL

5:30 **PM** 

OCTOBER 27

7:30 **PM** 



October 16

### FALL PLAYDATE JOIN US @ PATTERSON FARM

IIAM - IPM

10390 Caldwell Road,
Mount Ulla, North Carolina 28125

Admission is \$7 and children 2 and under are free!

Pack a lunch and join us out on the farm for pumpkin picking, hayrides and corn maize fun!

Pumpkin prices vary.

### YOUTH MINISTRY



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAYS 10:00-10:45AM

YOUTH GROUP SUNDAYS 4:00-5:30PM





### **ACOLYTE TRAINING**

FOR ALL NEW AND CURRENT ACOLYTES

**10.03.21** 9:45AM, SANCTUARY

Youth ministry outing, mini golfing at Jocko's Mini Golf course in Kannapolis!

### YOUTH CONTINUED...







## CONFIRMATION you'ge invited!

FIRST CLASS

OCTOBER 17 • 10:00 AM

All youth in 7th grade and above who have not experienced Confirmation are invited to join this year's class!

### **SCOUTS**



### Scout Troop 442 (6-12) Mondays at 7:00pm

Contact Bruce Kolkebeck (BK) (704)433-8151 bkolback@gmail.com

### Cub Pack 442 (k-5) Mondays at 6:00pm

Contact Bill Shaffer (678)641-3513 shaffb31@yahoo.com

#### **National Public Lands Day Coming Up**

Troop and Pack 442 have begun regular meetings in August. The Cub Scouts started with a bicycle ride at Salisbury Park and then followed up the next week with a bicycle safety and maintenance lesson from Aaron Stevenson.

The Troop kicked off the year with a canoe trip through the rapids on the Dan River. There were many swimming holes and rocks to jump off.

Both the Troop and the Pack will participate in National Public Lands Day cleaning the many islands and remote camping spots on Falls Reservoir for the US Forest Service.





### **Preschool Year Begins**

We are off to a great start! Our preschool teachers and students are settling into their new routines. We are enjoying getting to know each other as our preschoolers' start to show their true personalities. Our classes are looking forward to the cooler temperatures of fall and having their Halloween parties! We currently have a few openings left in our Older and Younger 2's classes. If you'd like more information please contact Kelly Austin (336)722-9260

















#### **Record Mum Sales**

The United Methodist Women thank you for supporting our record breaking "Mums for Mission" fundraiser. A total of 460 mums were sold which helps us support local mission projects. Additional information will follow in the November Ecclesia.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE



#### **Help Greet Church Members and Visitors**

During the week a wonderful team of volunteers are the greeters at the front door when people stop by the church office. We are looking to add a few people to this hospitality team. Volunteers are asked to answer the phones and doors. Occasionally there are also tasks volunteers can help with as well.

Shifts are split into half days from 9:00am-1:00pm and 1:00-5:00pm, and currently there are openings on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. If you think you might like to give this a try, please contact Becca by phone or email at becca@fumcsalisbury. The church staff appreciates our volunteers who make FUMC a more welcoming place for everyone throughout the week!

### COMING UP...

### World Communion Sunday OCTOBER 3

United Methodist Women's & Reformation Sunday
OCTOBER 31

### 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 can be submitted by the first Friday of the month prior to when you would like it printed.

### All Saints' Sunday

#### **NOVEMBER 7**

8:30 and 11:00 worship

### Advent

#### **NOVEMBER 28**

Advent begins on the last Sunday in November this year

### 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.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Jay Duke Josh Grenoble
- 2 Linda Smith
- J. C. Ludwig
  Jim Poteat
- 4 Trevor Watson
- Gary Ingram
  Ann Ludwig
- 6
- 7 Pat Paschall
- 8 Sally Roberts
  Todd Steinman
- 9 Bob Gresham
- Larry Oldham Fred Stanback, Jr.
- 11
- Tammy Livengood
  Dewey Peck
  Neil Pierce
- Tom Dissler
  Rush Rollins
  Nate Shaffer

- Scott Hunt
  Carole Ann Duke Young
- 15 McKinley Rollins
- 16 Patty Langford
- Emily Bosch
  Judy Fowler
- 18 Ed Rusher
- **19**
- 20 Maggie Rusher
- **21** Kelly Austin Rosemary Sokolowski
- **22**
- Marcia Carter
  Megan Leonard
- 24 Susan Ogle
  Autumn Walser
- 25 Jack Kribbs
  Charles Steinman
- **26** Ellen Robertson Tony Nussman

- 27 Millie Weisensel
- 28 Scott Maphis
- Jim Calloway
  Laura Collins
  Steve Hatley
- Frances Miller
  Peggy Price
  Dena Oldham
- Lynne Johnson
  Teresa Johnson



### FUMC FAMILY AND EXTENDED FAMILY TRANSITIONS

In Remembrance

Please keep these families in your prayers

BLANCHE B. SHERRILL

Died May 22, 2021

SALLY SEEDBERRY HELMS

Mother of Vicki Helms Butler & Pam Helms Clark

May 14, 1928 - September 16, 2021

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." - Psalm 46:1

### THANK YOU!

Dear FUMC family,

My new family! Thank you so much for welcoming me and my son Jerry Jackson, Jr. into membership this year. I am so glad to have finally been able to join as a member with Jerry. May God continue to bless all of us...

Best regards, Lisa Sheets



### **From Praying Pelican Missions**

Thank you for all of the decorations and supplies that you dropped off for the VBS in DC. The decorations were fantastic and the children and church members absolutely loved them. The church had a huge stage and area so we used most of the decorations in the sanctuary and it looked amazing. We also decorated the hall that we used for all of their classes and it looked awesome as well. It truly made the event and everyone was in awe of the decorations. We are truly grateful for all the help that you gave even though your team was unable to be there. It really a testament to you and your church.

Cathy Kirk, Operations Coordinator



### DIRECTORY UPDATES



Access the online directory anytime by going to **fumcsalisbury.ctrn.co**, following the link on our website (under 'Connect'), or downloading the CTRN 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.

#### **Carole Young**

Correction from September youngcarole3@gmail.com

## ECCLESIA NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



MAKING AND NURTURING CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES
THROUGH THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD