Ecclesia October 2022

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Stewardship 2023

Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign theme is "The Gift of Love." You're invited to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the church in 2023, and bring your commitment card with you to worship on October 9. You can also complete a commitment card confidentially online, or deliver your card to the church office during the week.



Commitment Sunday October 9

Julet inward love guide every deed"



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 4PM - 6PM SLOAN MILL PARK: SLOAN SHELTER

FALL CHILI COOK-OFF AND HOEDOWN SIGN UP FOR FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, & FUN

REMARKS

An interesting part to the story of Moses is impactful for us today. The scene is typically overshadowed by other dramatic moments from Exodus, such as the burning bush, the plagues, the Passover, the parting of the Red Sea, and the manna. The part worth our attention involves none other than Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, and the advice Jethro offers. It's also wise counsel for us today!

Let's set the stage. All of the aforementioned Exodus drama is in the rearview mirror, and Moses is leading the Hebrew people toward the promised land. Along the way, Moses' credibility increases, so much that the people keep coming to Moses to fix their problems and settle their squabbles. "The next day Moses sat as judge for the people, while the people stood around him from morning until evening (Exodus 18:13)." Jethro saw the sheer number of people, the magnitude of the situation, and grew concerned. He asked Moses to explain what was happening and why. Moses responded, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. When they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make known to them the statutes and instructions of God (Exodus 18:15-16)."

Imagine if Jethro replied, "That's great! My daughter married such an important man. There's no one as great as you, Moses! Everyone depends on you – what a terrific guy!" But Jethro did not. Far from it!

Instead, Jethro said, "What you are doing is not good. You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone (Exodus 18:17-18)."

Jethro named the truth that was hard for Moses to recognize on his own. Perhaps Moses felt such a strong burden of responsibility, that he presumed the remainder of his days would be spent acting as judge for each case, one-by-one, ad infinitum. Jethro's interjection, however, was surely a liberating observation. It took a fresh set of eyes and an outsider's voice to guide Moses, so that he could be the best leader on behalf of God's people.

Jethro's counsel included other pieces of excellent advice (Exodus 18:19-27). Find trustworthy people. Train them. Entrust them to carry on the work, otherwise you will wear out. Think about how this applies to First United Methodist Church. Imagine all of the responsibilities and tasks related to the church's ministry. There are likely components that are not coming to mind right now, too. No one person, even the most gifted and talented, could not manage it all. No clergy, lay leader, staff member, or committee chair can do it alone. As Jethro noted, "the task is too heavy." When the weight is too heavy, either set it down or get extra people to carry.

The Gospel truth is that Jesus Christ does the heavy lifting. What's more – by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ also gives us the strength to do our part. And yes, you do have a part to play. Do not wait for someone else to carry the entire weight. The church's mission is too important; it's need, too urgent. How is God calling you?

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

COMMUNITY MEAL, FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

COMMUNITY MEAL OCTOBER 5

Menu: Baked potatoes, toppings, salad & dessert

> **Program:** Bingo

REXT FREE COMMUNITY MEAL Wednesday, November 2 6:00pm

All are welcome!

RECYCLING CANDY WRAPPERS

Bring Candy Wrappers in for Recycling This Halloween

We're participating in Rubicon's Trick or Trash campaign to recycle candy wrappers and keep these small pieces of plastic out of our landfills and water sources. After enjoying your Halloween candy, bring your wrappers to the church and help fill the Trick or Trash box!

Research shows that in the United States alone, more than 600 million pounds of candy are purchased each year for Halloween. The vast majority of candy wrappers end up in landfills due to an inability by most curbside recycling programs to recycle them. That's where Rubicon comes in. By participating in Trick or Trash[™], you don't have to trash those candy wrappers and doom them to an eternity in a landfill—or, even worse, in our oceans. Using one of our custom candy wrapper recycling boxes, you can help keep our planet clean and contribute to the circular economy.

© RUBICON TRICK®TRASH

Help keep your community's candy wrappers out of landfills this Halloween!

TrickOrTrash.com



CHURCH HISTORY

"looking back... moving forward"

The Methodist church has always addressed social issues. Issues change as the culture changes but our concern for human welfare remains constant. In the mid-19th century the church's social priority was human bondage. When the Civil War ended slavery, alcoholism became Methodism's new social emphasis. When offered a drink, Methodists politely said, "No thank you."

Alcohol abuse was a serious Salisbury problem in 1900. Our town was widely known as a place for drunks. There were twenty-two saloons, distilleries, and places to buy alcohol within the city limits. The story was told of a Salisbury visitor who found a stray kitten. He took it home to his daughter in Greensboro. The child thanked her father and asked where he got the cat. When he replied Salisbury she said, "Then I will name it Boozy."

Back then Salisbury was a very different place. Its population was much smaller. The average life expectancy was 47. A common laborer could expect to earn from \$200 to \$300 a year. Eighty-Six percent of homes didn't have a bathtub or indoor plumbing, and ninety percent of the doctors had no college education. Heroin, morphine, and cocaine could be purchased over the counter at any drug store.

A Methodist social reformer named Carrie Nation led a national crusade for prohibition. She reputedly once attacked a saloon with a hatchet. Eventually her temperance campaign brought her to Salisbury. A local saloon posted a sign that read, "All nations are welcome except Carrie." In 1908, a well-known itinerant preacher, Mordechai Ham, arrived in Salisbury and erected a revival tent. The local rabble met him with chants of "Rotten ham, rotten ham, sandwiches filled with rotten ham." The preacher stood his ground and was assisted in his anti-alcohol sermons by a prominent Methodist preacher named George Stuart. (Our Western North Carolina Conference still meets in Lake Junaluska's Stuart Auditorium that bears his name.)

Local Methodists succeeded in their fight against alcohol. A North Carolina state-wide referendum in 1908 banned all alcohol sales. The "Drys" beat the "Wets" 113,000 to 69,000 votes. Salisbury's distilleries moved to other states.

Methodists also led the way in developing a non-alcoholic alternative to wine. It seemed hypocritical to ask church members to sign a temperance pledge and then serve an alcoholic beverage at Holy Communion. Thomas Welch, a devout Methodist, developed a method for pasteurizing grape juice. The process halted fermentation. His son, Charles E. Welch, a practicing dentist, marketed the product as "Dr. Welch's unfermented Wine." Later it became known simply as Welch's Grape Juice."

Methodists continued the alcohol fight in other states until the 18th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on January 16, 1919 ending all alcohol sales in the United States. Unfortunately, that prohibition proved unenforceable. The amendment was repealed in 1933. Methodists never gave up our social agenda. The 20th century Methodist Church developed a set of Social Principles that covered a wide range of topics from racial discrimination and human sexuality to war and peace. The most recent Social Principles date from 1970. Yet the church never forgot the damaging role alcohol and drugs play in people's lives. While not considered church law, our Social Principles still recommend, "our long-standing support of abstinence from alcohol as a faithful witness to God's liberating and redeeming love for persons. ¶162.L"

N. Fred Jordan, Jr., Church Historian





t UMC.org/BeUMC

Core Value: Generosity

#Beu

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." (*Psalm* 112:9) 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (NRSV)

We give to minister in Jesus' name. Together, United Methodists do remarkable ministry around the world. We care for survivors recovering from earthquakes and storms; we invest, long term, in vulnerable communities; we implement the most effective solutions to diseases like malaria; we equip the next generation to lead the Church and society. In all of this, we share the good news of Jesus Christ. We give because God first gave to us.

We offer our gifts and resources to serve those in need, both near and far.



Learn More UMC GIVING https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/umcgiving UMCOR https://umcmission.org/umcor/



WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The #BeUMC campaign reminds us of who we are at our best. As people of God called The United Methodist Church, we're faithful followers of Jesus seeking to make the world a better place. 7

HYMN OF THE MONTH: THE GIFT OF LOVE

(The United Methodist Hymnal, No. 408)

"The Gift of Love" is our 2023 Stewardship Theme and featured "Hymn of the Month" for October. As paraphrases of I Corinthians 13.1,3 the first two stanzas here are in the first person singular, yet they lead into a plural prayer for the gift of such love, for it thrives in community. Penned by Hal H. Hopson in 1972, these words are especially poignant with this adaptation of the haunting English folk tune, *O Waly Waly*, from the 18th century. This hymn is perhaps the most beloved of Hopson's compositions. For more information, please visit: https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-the-gift-of-love.

TITLE The Gift of Love Author Hal H. Hopson Tune Based on O Waly Waly

About the Composer



Hal H. Hopson (b. White Mound, Texas, 1933) is a prolific composer, arranger, clinician, teacher and promoter of congregational song, with more than 1,300 published works, especially of hymn and psalm arrangements, choir anthems, and creative ideas for choral and organ music in worship. Born in Texas, with degrees from Baylor University (BA, 1954), and Southern Baptist Seminary (MSM, 1956), he served churches in Nashville, TN, and most recently at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. He has served on national boards of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and the Choristers Guild, and taught numerous workshops at various national conferences. In 2009, a collection of sixty-four of his hymn tunes were published in *Hymns for Our Time: The Collected Tunes of Hal H. Hopson (Hope Publishing Company)*.

Though I may give all I possess, I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, And have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our sprits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.

– Words: Hal H. Hopson (b. 1933); 1972, based on I Corinthians 13; © 1972, 2018 Hope Publishing Co. Music: based on English folk tune, O Waly Waly; arr. Hal H. Hopson (b. 1933); © 1972, 2015, 2018 Hope Publishing Co. Lyrics reprinted with permission under CCLI Copyright License No. 1433553 and OneLicense.net Annual License No. A-739957.

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal...If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. – I Corinthians 13.1,3 (NRSVUE)

DENOMINATIONAL Q&A SESSION

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

TUESDAY, OCT 4 6:30 - 7:30 PM Fellowship Hall

5TH SUNDAY SEMINARY

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

With the start of the Global Methodist Church, along with lawsuits related to local churches disaffiliating from The United Methodist Church, misinformation and rumors are being spread. Rev. Fred Jordan and Pastor Mark Conforti will offer brief presentations and then be available to answer your questions.



The United Methodist Church



Welcoming Dr. Trevor Eppehimer

We look forward to welcoming Dr. Trevor Eppehimer as our speaker for 5th Sunday Seminary on October 30. Dr. Eppehimer currently teaches courses in Christian theology and electives in Christian ethics, philosophy of religion, Methodist doctrine, and systematic theology. He is the Academic Dean, Messinger-Williams Family Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics at Hood Theological Seminary.

LIVING THROUGH GRIEF



Grief & Grieving Session October 17 Counselor Garry Cook, clinical staff member of Sanctuary Counseling Group, will lead a program entitled "Living Through Grief" October 17 7 – 8 pm, Chapel

Rev. Cook is a North Carolina Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a Fellow of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Prior to clinical training, Rev. Cook served as a pastor for ten years. He has been providing counseling for over 30 years in a wide variety of settings.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Join us for Kids Connection:

Our new Sunday School concept has kicked off. We meet in the Carter Lobby from 10:30 - 10:50. Parents can grab coffee and pastries/breakfast items and have fellowship with one another in the Stanback room.





OCTOBER

- 15 Preschool Playdate @ 11AM
- 26 Fall Festival @5:30PM
- **30** Club 45/ Youth @ 5PM - 7PM

NOVEMBER

- 06 All Saints' Sunday @ 10AM
- 20 Advent & Christmas Decorating & Club 45 / Youth Potluck



INTERESTED IN BEING A TRUNK R' TREAT CAR FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL?

REACH OUT TO BAILEE LET HER KNOW!

Candy Donations for Fall Festival

Please bring donations of individually wrapped candy to the lobby by October 23. Thank you for helping supply candy for the children at our Fall Festival this year!



YOUTH MINISTRY



(Thanksgiving wknd)

Youth Group at FUMC

<u>Sunday Nights 5:00-7:00pm</u>, all middle & high school youth invited. *Typically we start in the fellowship hall, use door C1.*



Learn & Serve Trip Postponed

The intergenerational Learn & Serve Trip planned for October 13-16 has been postponed due to lack of sign ups. We hope that picking new dates will allow more participants to go, and the trip will happen in the future.









LOVE THY NEIGHBOR WORK CONTINUES

In mid-September a team from FUMC completed the first phase of a ramp project in Faith, NC.

Rev. Fred Jordan sent in an update:

"On Monday we removed the old rotten porch. On Tuesday we completed the base of the new enlarged deck. On Wednesday we installed the steps and gate. On Friday we completed the



IOVE THY NEIGHBOR

hand rails and side protections. Workers have included Steve Sherriff, John Carnes, Taffy Jordan, and myself. Next week we will start constructing ramps to allow wheelchair access. We normally work on Ellen Street, Salisbury, NC, from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm any day we have a crew. Additional workers are needed and welcome."

If you would like to join the team, and help construct ramps that make homes safer and more accessible for neighbors with limited mobility - please contact Fred!

SCOUTING AT FUMC

Troop 442 recently completed a fun trip to the New River August 27-28. The group canoed all day on the river, camped out on a nearby farm, and on the following day headed to Mt. Jefferson to hike. As we returned to regular meetings on September 12, we began with an award ceremony. Scouts received merit badges earned at camp over the summer.



A faints Funday

10:00AM WORSHIP November 06, 2022

What is All Saints Day?

All Saints Day is the day in the Christian Year set apart to remember all the saints throughout history, and our connection to them. The word "saints" is applied broadly to all those who have trusted in Christ for salvation. We believe that we are connected by the thread of our faith in Christ to all those who have come before, and all those who will follow after us. The tradition is practiced by many Christian denominations including many Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox churches.

Catholic and Protestant churches recognize All Saints Day on November First every year. It follows All Hallows Eve or Halloween (October 31) and precedes All Souls Day (November 02). For Eastern Orthodox churches (and some others) All Saints Day is recognized on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

Recognizing All Saints Sunday at First Methodist

All Saints Sunday is the first Sunday in November. On this day in worship, the names of the saints we have lost since the last All Saints Sunday will be read, and candles are lit in their memory. This year we will do so together, in one combined service at 10:00am. November 06, 2022 will also be the day that daylight savings time ends.

GEOFF CLAPP TRIO

Hosting The Geoff Clapp Jazz Trio

It was a joy to host Geoff Clapp and the fellow members of his trio for a concert on September 11. The musicians played a fantastic hour long set for those gathered; and the concert featured an impromptu jazz rendition of Geoff's favorite hymn, A Mighty Fortress is Our God.

Geoff grew up in North Carolina the son of a church organist and a children's director. During the concert, he told the story of having to accompany his father to the church on Saturdays to prepare for Sunday worship - funny enough, tuning an organ wasn't the most fun way he could think to spend his Saturdays at 12 years old... Regardless, Geoff clearly grew to appreciate the instrument; and brilliantly accompanied the organ, choir, and congregation during the hymns that Sunday morning.





COMMUNITY MEALS HAVE RETURNED!









REPLACING A CHURCH BUS, UPDATE FROM TRUSTEES

New Bus to be Delivered Later This Fall

As many of you are aware, back in May our older church bus was being used by the Afterschool Program and was involved in an accident at the fault of the other driver. Fortunately, no one was injured and the Afterschool Program and church staff handled the situation admirably to ensure the children on the bus were indeed ok. Upon the start of the new school year, the bus was being evaluated for repair by insurance, and to keep our program running as usual the decision had to be made to rent a 15-passenger van, at a cost of \$2,400 per month. In early August the Trustees were notified of the decision by insurance to consider the bus a total loss, and were only about to recoup a little over \$5,000. While the bus could still be fixed, to the tune of \$15,000, the church could not have a salvage title on our insurance. The Trustees had a lengthy discussion about the issue, and a unanimous decision was made to purchase another bus.

The decision by the Trustees was made for two primary reasons:

- 1) continuing our missions of the church and
- 2) safety of everyone using our transportation methods.

The Trustees feel strongly about the mission of serving our young children in the Afterschool Program, the Scouts, and Youth trips. While there may be other groups utilizing the bus, the children are the primary beneficiaries of it. The Afterschool Program serves at least 4 different elementary schools, is at maximum capacity, and even has a waiting list to get in! What a great testament to that program. With having children and adults alike on the bus, a bus is considered far safer than large vans. A bus will have a heavier chassis and dual rear wheels, which will significantly decrease the risk of a rollover in an accident, and steel cage construction will better protect occupants in the event of an accident. While we were left without much choice to rent a van for Afterschool, we think a similar accident could have a different, negative outcome.

The Trustees researched options to purchase new and used buses, and much like the current car and truck markets, both are hard to come by. Used buses considered for purchase were over \$50,000 and had over 100,000 miles on them, and had very limited warranties. An additional meeting by the Trustees was held and the decision was unanimous, again, to purchase a new bus. With a new bus, you know where it has been, how it has been serviced, and have better warranties. We are planning to use the same vendor from which the church purchased the most recent bus, and it should be ready for delivery in late October or early November.

The new bus will cost just under \$107,000, which of course is not a small amount of money. A 10% deposit was needed to secure the bus for the church, and I am pleased to announce at the time of this being published that with the insurance payoff of the totaled bus and a lead gift of \$6,500 by the Trustees and the Friendship Sunday School class, the 10% deposit is covered. The Afterschool Program is also verbalizing a pledge towards the cause. The Trustees strongly support our decision, and if you feel compelled to support the missions of our church using the bus and would like to contribute to the purchase of the new bus, please submit donations to Becca Blackmon and mark them "New Bus." Additional funding by our church members will help to decrease funds that would need to be withdrawn from our Endowments or perhaps borrowed at the time of delivery of the new bus.

The Trustees remain committed to the needs of the church, and most decisions made to spend money are out of necessity. This is another such decision that was made with much thought, discussion, and prayer by faithful stewards of the church. If you have any questions, I will be glad to answer to the best of my ability.

Dennis Barber, Trustees Chair OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Jay Duke Josh Grenoble

- 2 Linda Smith
- **3** J. C. Ludwig Jim Poteat
- 4 Trevor Watson
- 5 Gary Ingram Ann Ludwig
- 6

7

- Pat Paschall
- 8 Sally Roberts Todd Steinman
- 9 Bob Gresham
- 10 Larry Oldham Fred Stanback, Jr.
- 11
- 12 Tammy Livengood Dewey Peck Neil Pierce
- 13 Tom Dissler Nate Shaffer

- 14 Scott Hunt Carole Ann Duke Young
- 15
- 16 Patty Langford
- 17 Emily Bosch
- 18 Ed Rusher

19

- 20 Maggie Rusher
- 21 Kelly Austin Rosemary Sokolowski

22

- 23 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
- 29 Jim Calloway Laura Collins Steve Hatley
- **30** Frances Miller Peggy Price Dena Oldham
- **31** Lynne Johnson Teresa Johnson



STAFF SPOTLIGHT ON BAILEE WEISENSEL *PRESENTED BY STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE*

What is your role on staff? Director of Children's Ministry

How long have you served at FUMC? Since January 2018

Tell us about your family. I have been with my husband, Ben, since we were 18. We have been married for 7 years. Many of you have seen/met my super energized children! We have three girls, Charleigh (5 ½), Millie (Soon to be 4) and Mackley (1). We also have an 8 month old St. Bernard! Needless to say, we stay pretty busy!

Tell us about your call to ministry: My call to ministry is a bit progressive you could say. God has always played an important role in my life. I was raised in the Lutheran church and my grandfather was a Lutheran Pastor. I've always had a love for

people and a passion for working with children. (I graduated from Western Carolina University with a degree in Sociology with a concentration in Child Life).

Where were you before you came to FUMC? Previously, I was an Executive Assistant to the Head of School at Davidson Day School.

Tell us a little more about what you do. My primary objective is to build meaningful relationships with children and their families and foster growth in their faith in Jesus Christ. Part of my role is to create a loving and welcoming atmosphere for children (infants – 5th grade) and their families. I lead Children's Ministry activities on Sundays, Play Dates, Kids Connection and Club45. I coordinate, plan and fundraise for Camp Discovery alongside Jen Fogt and the camp director, Claire Karriker. I plan our children's ministry special events, such as: Fall Festival, Christmas Gingerbread House Building, and help plan various other churchwide events. I help maintain the church calendar and do whatever else needs to be done to help support our wonderful team!

COMING UP...

All Saints Sunday NOVEMBER 6

ONE combined worship service, bringing together the whole church at 10:00am Charge Conference NOVEMBER 13 Combined/cluster charge conference at Milford Hills UMC, 4:00pm Harvest Procession NOVEMBER 20 Shopping bags & this year's list will be available in November

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.

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.





FUMC FAMILY & EXTENDED FAMILY TRANSITIONS

IN REMEMBRANCE

Please keep these families in your prayers

WILLIAM HAROLD LINN. JR. Husband of Susan Linn

MABEL S. JONES

JANIEL JOSEPH PARK Father of Mark Park

JOHN GREENWOOD HOPPE Father of John Foy Hoppe February 22, 2942 - September 01, 2022

July 08, 1927 - September 07, 2022

February 23, 1934 - September 19, 2022

August 16, 1924 - September 20, 2022

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted..." ~ Psalm 34:18

IN **ELEBRATION** We rejoice with these families in these moments of new beginnings

ASHER LEE LINEBERGER Son of Andy & Rev. Katie Lineberger Born September 15, 2022

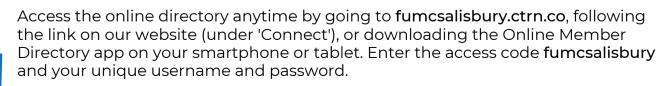
THANK YOU!

Special thanks to the generous church members whose donations made it possible for us to offer the Geoff Clapp Trio concert to the community free of charge!

Dear Church,

Thank you to all who recently bought a church T-Shirt. We collectively raised \$300 for missions! If you have not received your shirt, it's waiting for you in the church office!

DIRECTORY UPDATES



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

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