

## IN THIS ISSUE



#### On the Cover: Rally Day

The kickoff to the program year, Rally Day, was fun for all ages! Rob & Suzanne Roakes did a fabulous job as grill masters for the event. Check out more pictures from Rally Day on page 6.

#### Page 7: Stewardship 2022

This year's Stewardship Campaign is entitled "I Love to Tell the Story. All are invited to the breakfast on September 26.

#### Page 9: Fellowship Trips

Two opportunities are coming up to travel out of town and fellowship together! Join in the day trip to the Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro, and sign up to travel to Kentucky for the Immersive Genesis Experience trip. These experiences are for all ages!

#### 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

http://

Website www.fumcsalisbury.org

🕨 YouTube

YouTube Channel FUMC Salisbury



Sermon Podcast Salisbury Sermons on Apple Podcasts and Spotify Sermon by Phone Call 1(704)378-8581

Mark@fumcsalisbury.org Becca@fumcsalisbury.org Aaron@fumcsalisbury.org Mike@fumcsalisbury.org Jenni@fumcsalisbury.org Josh@fumcsalisbury.org Bailee@fumcsalisbury.org

Gdcook@triad.rr.com

Afterschool@fumcsalisbury.org

Kellyhaustin@gmail.com

Summercamp@fumcsalisbury.org

CDC@fumcsalisbury.org



Facebook @fumcsalisbury Instagram @fumcsalisbury



704.636.3121 | 217 South Church Street Salisbury, NC 28144

Let's look ahead at "The Story" for the month of September. This will give you a sense of the weekly readings along with Sunday worship.

The book of Job is unlike any other in the Bible, although there are other ancient texts from Egypt and Mesopotamia that resemble it. The book tells the story of Job: his family, friends, losses, suffering, and ultimate restoration. Job's character was unfairly attacked. Then he lost his property. His health suffers. Even worse, Job lost his sons and daughters when a strong wind caused their house's roof to collapse tragically! Amazingly enough, Job did not sin or say anything bad against God. Most of the book consists of Job's response, his friends talking, and eventually God interceding.

Many significant and weighty theological questions are explored in the story of Job. For starters, do we love God only when good things happen in our life? How can we make sense of life's struggles? What's the right way to respond when we suffer loss? What's God's wisdom for us during hardship? Keep these questions in mind.

Other readings during September come from Psalms, including Psalm 6:2: "Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror." This text surely resonates with the story of Job. Maybe, when our suffering leaves us speechless, Psalm 6:2 can give us words to speak and pray.

The Psalms can be understood, in the words of Martin Luther, as "a little Bible," because "in it is comprehended most beautifully and briefly everything that is in the entire Bible." This rings true because the Psalms cover all the themes found in the Old Testament, although Jesus of Nazareth is not explicitly mentioned (obviously). You sense more fully how the Psalms are the ancient songbook for the Hebrew people, including Jesus, as you read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. (Come to "Thursday Psalms in September" for more!)

The Old Testament readings also include Isaiah, one of those biblical books we know to be important, yet we know too little about it. Isaiah is one of the most prominent prophets for ancient Israel, and the early church saw connections to Jesus. This latter note was so significant that some of the early church fathers regarded Isaiah as the first apostle (even before Jesus was born). Nonetheless, like other prophetic writings, Isaiah deals in obscure imagery and difficult concepts. Once again, the book's historical context comes to bear on understanding what Isaiah originally meant, and also what it means for us today.

In addition to these and other Old Testament writings, we will look closely at some of the Apostle Paul's letters. After wrapping up Second Corinthians, we will read Colossians, Philemon and 1

Thessalonians. All of these letters were written to different groups of Christians in varying contexts; however, the same message of God's salvation through Jesus Christ is proclaimed. Taken together, we pray for God's Spirit to infuse our reading with a deep understanding about God's purposes. Look for theological themes to connect your reading. Themes like "God is faithful" or "God calls us to be obedient" will be found throughout.

Let me know what you discover! May God continue to bless you, *Pastor Mark* 





#### Week of August 29- September 4

35 NEHEMIAH 7-8	PSALM 50	NEHEMIAH 12–13	JOB 1–4	JOB 5–8
PSALM 121		PSALM 48	PSALM 19	PSALM 78
II CORINTHIANS 11		II CORINTHIANS 13	PSALM 56	PSALM 87

#### Week of September 5-11

(36)	PSALM 96	PSALM 26	PSALM 6	PSALM 39	PSALM 38
50	JOB 9–12	JOB 13-16	JOB 17-20	JOB 21–24	JOB 25–28

#### Week of September 12-18

37	PSALM 41 JOB 29–32 PSALM 88	PSALM 73 JOB 33–36	PSALM 13 JOB 37–39 PSALM 111	PSALMS 42–43 JOB 40–42 PSALM 139	PSALM 141 SONG OF SONGS 1–4 PSALM 148
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#### Week of September 19-25

(	38	SONG OF SONGS 5–8	ZEPHANIAH 1–3	ISAIAH 1–3	ISAIAH 4–7 COLOSSIANS 4	PSALM 134
		COLOSSIANS 1	COLOSSIANS 2	COLOSSIANS 3	PHILEMON 1	ISAIAH 8–10

#### Week of September 26-October 2

$\overline{zo}$	( <b>30</b> ) ISAIAH 11–14 PSALM 16	ISAIAH 15–17	ISAIAH 18–21	ISAIAH 22–24	ISAIAH 25–27	
	I THESSALONIANS 1-3	I THESSALONIANS 4–5	ROMANS 1	ROMANS 2	ROMANS 3	

## CHURCH HISTORY

#### "Looking back, moving forward"

The flu epidemic of 1918 closed our church doors for weeks. The pandemic of 2020-2021 closed them for over a year. Even now, our church struggles to reopen and relaunch its various ministries. This crucial cross-road offers us a challenge to reexamine our founding principles. Why is there a Methodist Church in Salisbury, and what enabled it to become the church it is today?



We began as a religious society. In the summer of 1783 a lay Methodist preacher named Beverly Allen arrived in the Yadkin area. Unlike the well dressed and well educated clergy of other denominations, Allen was a slender, delicate young man who preached wearing the 18th century equivalent of blue jeans. He was a common man for common people, but his soul burned with a passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Salisbury resident of that time, Henrietta Cole Fishburn, later remembered that, "it was announced that there would be preaching in a school house by a new kind of people, called Methodists." A small crowd attended and formed a religious society. The following year, 1784, they became The Methodist Episcopal Church.

We know very little about those founding church members. The earliest surviving membership roll lists only twelve names. Most of Salisbury's wealthy and influential citizens belonged to the Episcopal Church. Methodists welcomed everyone regardless of their social status.

The new church had only one membership requirement: a desire to "flee from the wrath to come." New members didn't have to affirm a specific creed or even know much about the Christian faith. They only had to demonstrate a sincere desire to live a devout and holy life.

Methodists preached and practiced holy living. Their faith grew out of a missional imperative. They did things for people in need. Using John Wesley's directives, members sought to grow in grace and be perfected in love. They lived by three general rules: Do no harm, do good, and attend upon the ordinances of God such as prayer, worship, and reading the Bible. A full elaboration of those rules still appears in The Book of Discipline ¶104 p. 78.

Methodist preachers customarily moved to a new assignment every year. Some of Methodism's greatest 18th century leaders preached from the Salisbury pulpit. Both of Methodism's first bishops, Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke, preached in Salisbury. Jesse Lee, Methodism's first historian, began his ministry here. He even later recorded the rowdy conduct of his successor, Hope Hull, who disrupted the gaiety of a Salisbury society ball by falling on the floor while shouting and praying.

Today when people hear the word "church" they think of a physical structure. For the first fifty years of their existence, Salisbury Methodists did not have a building. The met in a school house, private residences, or practiced field preaching. The church survived as the gathered people of God living devout and holy lives. It was not until 1831 that the congregation purchased a city lot and built their first log structure. That location is now the grassy lawn between the sanctuary and the chapel.

As First United Methodist Church emerges from the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is good to remember that our congregation was founded by common people living uncommon holy lives. In humility, we also need to obey John Wesley's rules to "Do no harm, do good, and attend upon the ordinances of God." Holy living under the lordship of Jesus Christ remains the essential solid foundation for our church's bright and promising future.

Fred Jordan, Church Historian

## RECAP: RALLY DAY, PROGRAM YEAR KICKOFF















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. Your financial contributions this year have certainly been an inspiration. We will end 2021 in a better financial position than when the year began. This is because you understand that without your financial support our church would not be able to fund our mission "to make and nurture Christian Disciples through the presence and power of God."

This year's stewardship campaign – "I Love to Tell the Story" – will begin with a kickoff breakfast on September 26th in the Fellowship Hall. There will be two separate seating times: at 9:30 am and 10:15 to ensure social distancing. We will have a short, upbeat presentation for the proposed 2022 budget.

Church members will receive a stewardship letter mid-September. A committee will make phone calls to members inviting everyone to the Stewardship Breakfast. If you are interested in helping with these calls, please contact Larry Cordts (704-639-4095).

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.

I know you all love our church as much as I do. Please pray for our Church and your financial commitment for 2022.

May God Bless All, Larry Cordts, Stewardship Chair



**Kickoff Breakfast September 26** 

**Commitment Sunday October 10** 

## FLOWER MINISTRY



#### What happens to the flowers after worship?

The flower ministry provides a wonderful opportunity to share Christ's love with individuals who are not able to attend church. Your gift of altar flowers not only blesses those of us in worship, but their beauty lives on to bring joy to others.

After Sunday service, our flower ministry team rearranges the flowers into smaller vases and then delivers them as they visit church members who are sick or home bound. The flowers are a tangible reminder of the love and support of our church family

Our ministry team consists of those who arrange the flowers (Judy Beymer, Mary Jo Maphis, and Betty Smyth) and those who make visits and deliver the flowers (Rachel Buchanan, Gloria Matthews, Susan Ogle, Jo Ann Smith, and Nancy Sherriff).

You can support this important ministry by volunteering to help arrange, make visits, or donate altar flowers for Sunday worship. You can contact Nancy Sherriff (704-778-1744) or call the church office.

Many thanks to all who help make this ministry possible!



#### THURSDAY PSALMS IN SEPTEMBER



#### Fall Bible Study

September 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 11:00am in the Parlor

Each session will feature a close reading of several Psalms, along with reflection and discussion led by Pastor Mark Conforti.

(And join us in October as we study the prophets!)

## INTERGENERATIONAL FELLOWSHIP TRIPS



#### DAY TRIP OCTOBER 2 International Civil Rights Center and Museum

Join us for a day trip to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro which opened in 2010, "as a comprehensive museum of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and an innovative educational organization devoted to understanding and advancing civil and human rights in this country and the world" (sitinmovement.org).

We will plan to arrive at the museum for a 2pm tour



on October 2. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth. The tour generally takes 2 hours.

Sign up on the church website or call/text Chelsea Franzese by September 15 at (336-972-6076) to reserve your spot!



#### OVERNIGHT EXCURSION NOVEMBER 11-13 Immersive Genesis Experience

Come join us on our upcoming Immersive Genesis Experience Encounter this November 11-13, 2021!

Trip highlights include:

- Creation Museum
- Newport Aquarium
- Riverboat Dinner Cruise along the Ohio River
- Ark Encounter
- 2 night stay at hotel
- Along with meaningful group fellowship and discussion,
- And daily devotions personally designed and curated for our group!

For more information and full itinerary, please contact Josh Starnes at josh@fumcsalisbury.org.

Deposits and registration forms are due by Friday, September 10 at 5:00 p.m. to secure your spot! \$440/person for double occupancy | \$550/person for single occupancy\*

This trip is open to all ages and will offer something for everyone!

\*Pricing is based on at least 15 trip participants. (14 seats available on the church bus).





## COAT DRIVE FOR ROWAN ONE CHURCH ONE CHILD

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

Our church partners with Rowan County Department of Social Services through Rowan One Church One Child (ROCOC). This mission supports children in the foster program and their families, addressing a critical need in our community. Even while the center and donations of items had to be closed during the past year, ROCOC continued to use monetary donations to buy beds, car seats, furniture, appliances, smoke alarms, etc.

The ROCOC center is now open again, and donations of new and gently used clothing, as well as household items in good condition, are always welcome. Also crucial to the mission are monetary contributions for securing items that must be bought. Volunteers are needed as well.



Donna Beaver, new coordinator for ROCOC, predicts there will be a great need for children's coats this fall. We would like to make a special effort as members of FUMC to support these children by collecting as many new or gently used coats as we can. From now through October 17, please drop your coats off in the missions room at church, or contact Lugene Cox or Laura Collins for help and information. Let's help these children feel the warmth of God's love and our prayers as they wrap their new coats around themselves.

Lugene – Call or text 704-213-0898. lpcox75@gmail.com Laura – 704-202-6199. pedspeech@gmail.com

#### UMW FUNDRAISER FOR LOCAL MISSIONS



### Order your mum plants from the United Methodist Women's fall fundraiser

Yellow, Rust, and Purple available for \$7.00 each Submit orders by Sunday, September 12 Pick-up is Saturday, September 18, 8:30am to noon

How to order your mums:

- Contact a UMW member,
- Find envelopes and order forms in a large envelope on the UMW bulletin board,
- Or call Ginny Champion (704-797-8912) or Nancy Schoch (704-279-0198)

We thank you for your support! Mums for Mission supports local missions like Rowan Helping Ministries, ARC, One Church One Child, and the Community Care Clinic.

## MISSION BRIDGE



#### **Play Bridge, Support Missions**

You and a partner are invited to join the church's Mission Bridge Group (singles without a partner can sign up for playing as a substitute until there is an opening in the existing pairs, which is how I joined originally). We currently have three tables of four and we meet once a month on the third Friday evening. We gather at 6:45 in the parlor, accessible through the back entrance with the overhang, and we play from approximately 7 to 10 p.m. Donations of \$3 per person go to various charities related to the church and to a set up fee paid to our custodian. Players each bring a treat to share and take turns hosting.

For more information, please feel free to call me at 704-216-1516 or email me at dillardsl@yahoo.com. We'd love to have you join us!

Sherry Dillard, Chairperson

#### CARE PACKAGE PROJECT

#### **Fall Care Packages**

The Care Package project is one way FUMC shows our continuing care and concern for our members who reside in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, are homebound, or have other special needs. We prepare and deliver small packages as a tangible expression of our love and prayers. We need donations of items to be included. Suggested items are listed below.

Please begin now making plans to contribute. Donations can be dropped off in the lobby and fellowship hall from October 3 - 17. The youth will take the lead in packing the bags on Sunday, October 24. Help will be needed with with delivering the bags after they are packed. To get involved, contact the church office, Susan Cooley, or Kathi Welborn.



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FUMC





FIRST WEDNESDAYS Free meal & Vespers

THIRD WEDNESDAYS Meal in Fellowship Hall & programming

#### SEPTEMBER I

SEPTEMBER 15

SIGN UP FOR MEALS ON THE 3RD WEDNESDAYS ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE \$7/ADULT, \$3/KIDS AND YOUTH



## MUSIC MINISTRY RETREAT



Music Ministry Retreat & Fall Kick-off Saturday, September 11, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

If you're already involved with, or interested in, any aspect of music ministry (handbells, choir, children's music, worship arts, and more), please come join us!

Bring something to share for our potluck lunch afterwards! 😂

## PEALS OF PRAISE HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

The Peals of Praise Handbell Ensemble will be resuming rehearsals on Monday, September 13 at 6:00pm in our new rehearsal space (room B104).

We recently had our handbells professionally refurbished by the manufacturer this spring and are looking forward to making beautiful music together again! We need 11 ringers for a full 3octave ensemble and at least 7 ringers for a 2-octave ensemble.

No prior experience (or music reading ability) required! Contact Josh Starnes for more information!



## YOUTH MINISTRY



## 6-12 GRADE MINISTRY

Acolyte Training

October 3, 9:45am

Many of our youth currently serve as acolytes, and do a fantastic job! We love seeing them participate as they lead us into worship, then back out into the world. On the first Sunday in October, we are inviting a new group of youth to be trained as acolytes.

All current acolytes are also asked to attend this time as a refresher! Please make plans to attend during the Sunday School hour. For information, contact Jen (jenni@fumcsalisbury.org)



**YOUTH GROUP** 

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth Email Newsletter

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## PROGRAM YEAR KICKOFF RECAP: BACK2SCHOOL BASH



SCOUTS



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

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

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

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

## FACILITY RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

#### Funding Facilities Renewal Campaign

By now many of you have received a mailing inviting you to participate in our Funding Facilities Renewal Campaign. The objective of the campaign is to help replenish funds that have been spent on completed projects so far in 2021 and projects scheduled to be completed in the remaining months of 2021. As a reminder of these projects, please see the list below.



# I am pleased to report that, thanks to several lead donors, we have commitments totaling \$164,575\* towards our goal of \$300,000. To receive these commitments so early in the campaign is certainly a testament to the generosity of our congregation; and I remain hopeful more of you will continue to give to help maintain our facilities and grounds in a way that we will all be proud of.

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

Dennis Barber FUMC Trustees Chair \*Gifts received as of August 24, 2021







Photo Credit: Gary Price

#### Capital Projects of 2021

- Sanctuary Exterior Painting \$56,200.00
- Lead Abatement \$116,000.00
- Fellowship Hall Painting and Window Treatments \$14,000.00
- Replace Nursery Fan/Coil \$7,360.00
- Cooling Tower Fan Replacement \$12,217.00
- Boiler Pump Replacement \$7,367.00
- Refurbish Hand Bells \$4,675.00

- Cleaned Windows in Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall \$1,655.70
- Washer/Dryer w/plumbing & electrical \$3,347.38
- Replaced HVAC at Parsonage \$5,790.00
- Bus Repairs \$1,164.55
- Boiler Inducer Replaced \$2,728.00
- Bird Removal/Roof Repair \$47,511.00
- Interior Playground Surface Removal and Drain Repair \$18,648.00
   Crand Tatal \$200,662.62

Grand Total \$298,663.63

## CHILDCARE PROGRAMS



#### **Preschool Welcomes Students & New Teacher**

We are excited to welcome our students back to preschool! We look forward to watching them make friends, learn, and have fun! Amanda Fletcher, one of our 3's teachers, accepted a full time position at her children's school. We are thankful for the impact she had on our preschool and will miss her. We are pleased to announce Tori White has joined our staff in the 3's class. She has previously worked as a substitute in our classrooms. We are all looking forward to a wonderful 2021-2022 school year!



#### After-School First Day of School Pictures

After-School Child Care is off and running! We are excited to be back and catch up with our children from last year and learn to know our new ones.



We have spaces available in our program if you are looking for child care after school. We pick up from several schools. We offer a faith-based program with homework assistance, healthy snacks, indoor/outdoor play, devotions, mission work and more. We are open 2:30 PM til 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. You can reach us at (704) 433 6679.

We are looking forward to a great year of playing, learning and growing together.

"Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work."





### WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS!



#### We celebrated welcoming new members into our congregation on Sunday August 22! Emily & Bryan Hutton, and Lisa Sheets joined

Emily & Bryan Hutton, and Lisa Sheets joined our church during the 11:00am service. Emily and Bryan have two children, Benjamin & Arabelle. Lisa has been attending worship with her son Jerry Jackson, Jr. who became a church member on Easter earlier this year!

Hello

### COMING UP...

#### Office Closed SEPTEMBER 6 Church office closed in observation of Labor Day

### Fall Festival OCTOBER 27

The Children's Fall Festival will be on October 27 this year.

Kids are invited to come in costume, play games, pick pumpkins, and go home with a lot of candy!

Donate candy, volunteer, and bring your kiddos!

## Church Wide Hoedown остовек 17

This year we're having a chili cookoff! Start perfecting your family's recipe, and join in the fun for all ages!

If you prefer baking, we will also need people to bring cornbread and desserts!

#### All Saints Sunday NOVEMBER 7 8:30 and 11:00 worship

## 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

Did you know you can access the church calendar any time? Just go to fumcsalisbury.org and look under the Connect tab. Under 'Connect' you can also find the digital version of this edition of the Ecclesia as well as archived editions.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Frankie Ritch
3 Amanda Bosch

- Amanda Bosch Susan Fraley
- 4

1

- **5** Jeanmarie Burton
- 6 Frank Shafer Denny White
- 7 Mia Conforti
- 8 Mandy Deadwyler Monty Carmichael Clark Moore
- 9 Kelsey Bradshaw Morgan Rollins
- 10 Zach Johnson Joel Smeltzer
- Joe Vaughn
- 12 Gary Cox
- 13 Christian Lewis Lloyd Mowery
- 14

15

16 Tim Wyrick17 Don Hylton

RI

**R**-1

- 18 Danny Coutu Liam McGee
- **19** Brent Seifert Hill Fowler Jen Fogt

#### 20

21 Mike Hughes Alfred Chea

- 22 Mary Jo Maphis Jacob Daye
- 23 Hattie Watson
- 24 Christopher McCoy Rocco Franzese
- **25** Janice Applewhite

**26** 

- 27
- 28 Betty Smyth John Carnes
- 29 Corbin Barber Sophia Buchanan
- **30** Fred Jordan Karla Swanson Anne Hedrick Beverly Gobble



In Remembrance Please keep these families in your prayers

BARBARA MARIE ABERNETHY WHITEHEAD Mother of Sue Bivens

JANE BROWN SHUMATE Wife of Mel Shumate

LAWRENCE STANBACK Son of Fred Stanback

**ROBERT "BOB" ZIMMERMAN** Brother of Nan Zimmerman January 31, 1931 - August 6, 2021

June 22, 1940 - August 14, 2021

August 27, 1960 - August 18, 2021

June 23, 1954 - August 24, 2021

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

#### NEW NEIGHBORS: BELL TOWER GREEN OPENING SOON!

#### Giving Away Ice Cream, Water, and Kindness!

Represent our church and connect with the community by passing out free bottles of water, ice cream, & popsicles during the grand opening of the Bell Tower Green, Friday September 10. Our spot will be the church's corner on South Church Street & West Fisher Street, across from the park. Sign up for one or two timeslots with the QR code here, or the link on the church website.

(Yes, the water, ice cream, & popsicles will be provided.)





#### 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.

Peggy McDaniels Phone Number: 704-660-0093 Carol YoungSue LewisEmail: youngcarol3@gmail.comEmail: chessollie@aol.com

## **ECCLESIA** NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

