Greetings from David

Dear Fellow Ministers,

Thank you! Thank you for your faithfulness in so much regarding your discipleship to this church. I am aware that I tend to push a lot of things and sometimes that can cause difficulty. But you all handle me well! Thank you for your willingness to follow Christ. You are doing amazing things in our community and around our world! Please know my daily thanksgiving to God for you.

During February, we are going to be collecting canned food for Crisis Assistance Ministry (CAM) here in Gastonia. On Super Bowl Sunday, our children will be collecting money for CAM at the beginning and end of each worship service, so please bring your spare change for that emphasis. Each year, we take it upon ourselves to totally stock the pantry of CAM for one solid month. You will notice that this year, we have the added bonus of participating in a canned food drive against the Denver, CO, area churches. Let’s pull for our Panthers AND win the canned food drive!

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a copy of the 2016 approved Budget for our church. I am always grateful to the laypersons who work tirelessly to insure that our budget is an attainable financial goal for our church. This is important in a year when we have so many great things on the horizon: Awaiting to see the plans for our future on March 6 (one worship service at 10:30 a.m.) presented by ADW Architects; a possible partnership with Bessemer City UMC; and the list could go on and on. God is faithful to us, and we give God thanks!

I am blessed to get to be appointed to First UMC for this season. I look forward to being in ministry and mission with you this month!

In Christ’s Service,
David
Sympathy to:  Timothy Scruggs and family on the death of his grandmother, Lorena Scruggs.  
David Owens and family on the death of his mother, Gaynell Owens.  
The Family and Friends of Ray Wellman, who passed away January 17.  
The Family and Friends of Mike Farmer, who passed away January 19.  
Branson Massey and family on the death of his son, Brad Massey.  
Joy to:  Madison and Brad Henry on the birth of Charles “Chaz” Weston Henry, who was born January 18.  
Big brother is Pierce.  
Thank you: Special thanks to each of you who made our “old” Hospitality Room the warm, inviting place it became. Its success was entirely due to your efforts. You never failed to provide warm smiles, Christian fellowship and delicious food (I knew would always be on the table by 9:30 a.m.). You made my job look easy and it was due to your love for Him and each other. I know all this warmth will follow us to our “new” Hospitality area in the FLC. I look forward to seeing you there.  
Much love, Linda Addison

Just the numbers: Sunday Attendance  
January 3:  475  
January 10:  555  
January 17:  666  
January 24:  433  
January 31:  477

Minister on Call Schedule:  
704-915-5078 (call or text)  
February 5-7:  Jim Westmoreland  
February 12-14:  Ashley Anne  
February 19-21:  David Christy  
February 26-28:  David Christy

Wednesday Menus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 3</th>
<th>February 10</th>
<th>February 17</th>
<th>February 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pork chops, green beans, stewed apples, salad, bread, dessert</td>
<td>Jambalaya, catfish nug., Po’ Boy, okra/tomatoes, salad, bread, dessert</td>
<td>Fried/baked chicken, macaroni &amp; cheese, greens, yams, salad, bread, dessert</td>
<td>Bacon, sausage, salmon patties, eggs, chicken ‘n waffles, home fries, grits, biscuits, gravy, sweet rolls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reservations are requested for everyone and accepted until 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the meal via The website, First Connection card, or by calling the office. Cancellations are appreciated.
February Food Drive for Crisis Assistance Ministry

We will collect non-perishable items during the month of February. Please bring your contributions to one of the donations bins around campus. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays or given to the Business Office.

Shopping List: Canned vegetables, canned beans, canned fruit, macaroni & cheese, rice, instant potatoes, spaghetti sauce, pasta, soup, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, grits, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, powdered milk, personal care items.

Tuesday Morning Lenten Prayer Breakfast
February 9, 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 7 a.m. at Firestone Grill. Led by Jim Westmoreland.

Lent Sunday School
*John; The Gospel of Light and Life* by author Adam Hamilton.
Sunday's, February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, 10 a.m. in the Theatre. Led by Ashley Anne, David and Jim.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study
*Soul Keeping; Caring for the Most Important Part of You* by John Ortberg. 10 a.m. in Room 201. Led by Jim Westmoreland

Community Lenten Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Minister</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>St. Mark’s Episcopal</td>
<td>Brack East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>First Presbyterian</td>
<td>David Christy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>First United Methodist</td>
<td>Gary Butterworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Location not yet determined</td>
<td>John Frye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>First Baptist</td>
<td>Matt Kuiken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>First ARP</td>
<td>Shawn Griffith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Holy Trinity</td>
<td>Tom Bayes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Run For God

12 Week Bible Study. Whether you’re a new runner, walker, a fast walker, or a slow runner, this study is for you. Each week you’ll take a journey through inspiring stories, scripture, running tips, and physical activities. Weekly devotions and workouts will be held on Motivational Mondays (February 1-April 11), 6-7:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center. This study will be led by Jennifer Cabaniss and Lisa Marisiddaiah.

United Methodist Women—Faith, Hope, and Love in Action

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first of our 2016 fundraiser luncheons! To each of you who purchased a ticket which helps to further the efforts of our UMW supporting women and children locally and globally. Bruce and his staff, the UMW Board members and other faithful servants from our United Methodist Women participating in Faith, Hope, and Love In Action.
Saturday, February 27—District Mission Study at Highland UMC in Hickory. Study time 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with a light lunch to be served. Course of study will be “Created for Happiness” with Shannon M. Smith. Reservations are needed as a light lunch will be available. Cost of lunch will be nominal. A FUMC bus can be available.
To those interested in attending the District Mission Study, please contact Jane Smith: 704-865-9651 Home; 704-864-7237 cell; jamesandjanes@gmail.com
UMW Dinner Meeting—March 14 (2nd Monday), 6:30 p.m. Dinner Meeting—Call to Prayer and Self Denial. A special offering will be taken.

Friendship Connections—Where Friends Connect and Reconnect

Save the date—February 18, 2016—Fellowship begins 10:45 a.m. in the FLC by connecting with our friends and making new friends. A delicious lunch follows the program.

“Friendship is one of life’s greatest treasures and sharing good times with friends can make life worthwhile. After all, friends are there to give our spirits a lift—a wonderful gift.”

Sabbath—An Opportunity for Women

It's not too late to join us for Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline
Lauren Winner’s original Mudhouse Sabbath has sold 45,000 copies, been translated into three languages, and spawned a successful video study series. After her conversion from Orthodox Judaism to Christianity, Winner found that her life was indelibly marked by the rich traditions and spiritual practices of Judaism. She here presents eleven Jewish practices that can transform the way Christians view the world and God, including attentive eating, mourning, candle-lighting, and Sabbath-keeping. Since first publishing the book, Lauren has earned her MDiv and PhD, and become an Episcopal priest. Her thought has deepened and developed. This new Study Edition incorporates the complete original text plus primary texts from Jewish and Christian sources, and new material on each of the eleven topics. The result is a powerful work for Christians wanting to explore in depth and understand the Jewish origins of Christianity. “At a time when we are so aware of the differences between Judaism and Christianity, Lauren Winner’s book on what we can learn from each other is so refreshingly welcome.”—Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of When Bad Things Happen to Good People.
Meets Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Room.
We’ll be serving dinner to the Boys & Girls Club for our Family Service Project on Wednesday, February 3. Families should plan to meet Mrs. Jennifer at the Boys & Girls Club by 4:45 p.m.

Please make plans to join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30 in the Sanctuary.

Our 2nd annual Daddy Daughter Dinner and Dance will be on Friday, February 12 in the Family Life Center 6-8 p.m. Tickets are $25 per couple and $10 for additional daughter. It’s going to be a fun evening dancing and creating memories in the photo booth. Please RSVP to jennifer@fumcgastonia.org by Monday, February 8.

Family Fun Night will take place on Wednesday, February 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Children’s Ministry Service Project for February: Mac & Cheese**

Kids can drop off boxes of Macaroni and Cheese in the basket by our Children’s Ministry Table on the first floor. We’ll be giving the Macaroni and Cheese to our friends at Crisis Assistance Ministry.

Please check out our Facebook page and weekly eBlast for more details on our upcoming activities. We hope you can join us for some of the exciting events going on at FUMC!
FUMC Concert Series Presents...

WINGATE UNIVERSITY SINGERS
Wednesday, February 24, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary
Dr. Kenney Potter, Director
Featuring our own Sarah Towner!

Heart Healthy Cooking Classes at Discover You! In Mt. Holly. Every 4th Tuesday-February 23, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, 6-7:30 p.m. $10/session. Register in advance-704-827-6770 or www.discover-you.org

Quit Smart Tobacco Cessation Program-a three session program (offered monthly at the CaroMont Health and Fitness Center) which combines personalized coaching, relaxation tools and a self-help kit to help you quit tobacco for good. For more information or to register, call 704-671-7936.

Heartsaver CPR/AED class-American Heart Association certification course. $44/person. February 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m. At Discover You! Call 704-827-6770.

Do you know how many calories YOUR body “burns” each day? Metabolic Testing can provide the results! Gaston College-David Belk Cannon Health Education Institute. $15/students, $25/public. To make an appointment, call 704-922-6377.

-Music and Worship Arts Ministry

Contact: Rev. Saxon Scarborough
Minister of Music
704-864-4371 ext. 233
saxon@fumcgastonia.org

-Parish Nurse Ministry

Contact: Lisa Marisiddaiah
Parish Nurse
704-864-4371 ext. 256
nurse@fumcgastonia.org
Youth Happenings!

Sunday School-The Greenehouse
9:45 a.m.–Praise Music and Gathering     10:05 a.m.–Morning Glow
10:10 a.m.–Sunday School: Confirmation 6th Grade, 7th & 8th Grades, 9th–12th Grades

Souper Bowl Pancake Breakfast Sunday, February 7
February 7, the youth will participate in its annual Souper Bowl Pancake Breakfast during Sunday School. We will start eating at 9:45 a.m. and Ben Cabaniss will share with us his story of athletics and beyond starting at 10 a.m.! Please bring cans of soup for CAM. NO UMYF Super Bowl night, Go Panthers!

Morning Glow Schedule
February 14-Jacob Hord, Nick Deely and Jackson Harbin
February 21-Linnea Jurs, Anna Taylor Harbin and Hannah Long
February 28-Elliott Hill and Parker Davis

Sr. Hi Prayer Breakfast
South New Hope Rd., 7 a.m.

UMYF
Sr Hi TBA
Mid Hi
February 14, Greenehouse-6:15-7:30 p.m.–“The Great Youth group Cook Off” Make your favorite food and bring to UMYF for dinner. We will talk about what does the Bible say about what food we should eat? Are their foods a Christians should avoid? We will explore food and bible stories about food!

February 21, Greenehouse-6:15-7:30 p.m.–“Scared” What scares you? For most of us we have it pretty good. We have enough food to eat and a roof over our heads. We have phones, Internet and plenty of fun to keep us occupied. You wouldn’t think we’d be very scared of much? Think again?

February 28, Greenehouse-6:15-7:30 p.m. “Game Night”-Enjoy a night of new games! Learn games like: Scatterball, Grog, Christians in the Catacombs and more!

Bible Study @
starts February 17!

Contact: Tripp Hord
Director of Student Ministries
704-864-4371 ext. 241
tripp@fumcgastonia.org
Nashville Mini Mission Trip

20 Youth and 10 Youth Counselors were part of this year’s Mini Mission Trip to Nashville. The theme was “Be Still”. We spent time at the following agencies:

**Community Servants**, an outreach mission of Smyrna Assembly. Bruce Coble, Missions Pastor, received permission from Wherry Housing Authority to remodel an apartment and use it for 1 year to help a couple of homeless families get a fresh start. Founded and still based on the Biblical mandate to care for the poor, widows and the fatherless, Community Servants became a non-profit in 2003. Now with many local churches and visiting mission teams coming to serve in this community, the ministry continues to expand to serve the greater community. Here our youth prep and paint houses and worked with kids in afterschool program.

**Thistle Farms**, is a powerful community of women who have survived prostitution, trafficking and addiction. They employ more than 50 survivors through our social enterprises which include a natural body care company, Thistle Stop Cafe, artisan studio, and global marketplace called Shared Trade. Started in 1997 by Rev. Becca Stevens under the name Magdalene, Thistle Farms includes a two-year residential program and advocacy services for up to 700 women yearly. They provide education and training annually through speaking events and immersion workshops. Our group cut t-shirts to be used for note cards sold in their Café.

**Bethlehem Centers**, Sallie Hill Sawyer, laid the groundwork to open the Bethlehem Center. An African American graduate of Fisk University, former teacher and member of Capers Memorial Colored Methodist Church urged the women of the Methodist Training School in Nashville to extend their services to aid impoverished African Americans. She and Estelle Haskins of the Missionary Training School started a Kindergarten, well-baby clinic, sewing circle, and recreation program for the community. Our youth spent time cleaning closets, replacing floor tiles and organizing afterschool areas.

Thanks to Mark Skillestad, Andy Jurs, Rawlings Tidwell, Cheryl Loggins, Natalie Tindol Davis, Ben Cabaniss, and our staff Jenifer, Carol and Becky for making the trip to Nashville, such a success for our youth and their growth in Christ!
Welcome New Members

Preschool Registration

Beginning February 23! Preschool registration for currently enrolled students and church members who are not currently enrolled, opens February 23. Enrollment forms for Summer Camp 2016 and School Year 2016/2017 can be found on the website (www.fumcgastonia.org). Click on the “Ministries” tab and then the “Weekday Preschool” tab. Additional forms are also available at the Preschool Office. Registration opens to the public on March 1, so be sure to register early to guarantee availability. Please contact Kristi McClellan, preschool@fumgastonia.org or 704-864-5188 with any questions.

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 10
6:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

Mickey Efird Weekend

March 4 and 5, 2016
Friday Dinner and Study, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Saturday Breakfast and Study, 8:30 a.m.-Noon
Please make reservations for all meals.

Calling all Campers!

SAVE THE DATES
Friday April 22-Sunday April 24
Family Weekend at Camp Tekoa

$60/per person
Includes lodging and meals prepared by Chef Bruce
$80 deposit per family is required by February 28
Contact Jennifer or Tripp with questions
A BEAD AND A PRAYER
Powerful Things, These Beads

Beads become prayer beads when making and using them is part of a meditation process. If not, they are simply jewelry. If you use beads as prayer beads, then each time you touch them you’ll remember their purpose. In that moment, you will feel your feet on the floor and your grounding on earth. If you continually bring small moments of silence into your life, you will stay in the present moment, and your opportunities to notice spiritual connections will grow.

Sponsored by the Gastonia Parish Nurse Ministry

FREE EXERCISE CLASSES
Zumba, Body Vive, Body Attack, Body Flow

First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall
1621 East Garrison Blvd., Gastonia

Thursday Evenings, 6:30pm-7:30 pm
Beginning February 11 through April 14.
(No class on February 25)

Sponsored by the Gastonia Parish Nurse Ministry
Black History Month Celebration

Dr. Martin Luther King's 'Letter From Birmingham Jail'
Special Guests: Rev. Shirley Canty & Rev. Albert Mills

First United Methodist Church Theater
162 East Main Ave., Gastonia, NC

Rev. David Christy, Senior Minister
Rev. Ashley Anne Lloyd, Associate Minister

Date: February 5, 2016
Time: 6:00 - 7:30 pm
To print this calendar, select **print** and choose **page 12**.

Our job is to love people... without stopping to question if they are worthy of our love.
To print this calendar, select **print** and choose **page 13**.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Boy Scout Sunday</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Traditional Worship</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>8:00 AM Emmanuel Reunion Group for Men</td>
<td>9:00 AM Community Bible Study-Room 2</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>5:00 AM Salvation Army Breakfast Ministry</td>
<td>7:00 AM Fascinating Devotion Breakfast</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>9:00 AM Sunday Bulletin Deadline</td>
<td>10:00 AM Bible Study-Room 21</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>6:45 AM Discipling the Leaders Room 2</td>
<td>7:30 AM UMYF Breakfast at Freedom Hall</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
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**Be still and know that I am God.**

*Psalm 46:10*
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<tr>
<th>Budget Expenditures</th>
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<td>Total Conference And District</td>
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<td>Outreach Ministry</td>
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<td>Total Buildings And Grounds Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Budget Expenses</td>
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Church Council

Executive Team  (Giles Beal, Chair; David Christy, Staff; Lyn Anderson, Vice Chair)
Advisors:  2016-Amanda Placie-West, John Crane; 2017-June Gray, RanJan Maitra; 2018-David Radford, Carolyn Bohanan (Ashley Anne Lloyd and Becky Greene, Staff)

Chairs Of Committees: Joel Long (SPRC); David Nanney (Finance); John Land (Trustees); Bethe Rogers (UMW); Skip McPhail (UMM); Juta Carpenter, Jim Macomson (Lay Leaders)

Worship Chairs:  Martha McCamy (Chair), Michele Graham (Vice-Chair)
(Saxon Scarborough, Staff Rep.)

Education Chairs:  David Poston (Chair), Gretchen Farrell (Vice Chair),
(Jennifer Cabaniss, Staff Rep.)

Nurture Chairs:  Richard Abernethy (Chair), Nancy Moore (Vice Chair),
(Ashley Anne Lloyd, Staff Rep.)

Outreach Chairs:  Gayle Kersh (Chair), Nancy Pridnia (Vice Chair), Steve Whitesell (Vice Chair),
(Tripp Hord, Staff Rep.)

Church Council At-Large Members:
Class of 2016:  Emily Howell, Bob Lowder, Tim Patti
Class of 2017:  Nancy Albright, Bill Gray, Kemp Hooper
Class of 2018:  Brad Henry, Dan Kersh, Jake Gray
Youth Members:  Jacob Hord, Chelsea Vale

Buildings and Grounds:
Class of 2016:  Mike Moyer-Chair, Janice Cramp, Ted Lisle-Vice Chair
Class of 2017:  Scott Grigg, Julie Heath, Frank Larrazabal
Class of 2018:  Kathy Plemmons, Don Turner, Robert Faires

Finance Committee:
Class of 2016:  David Nanney-Chair, Drew Loper, May Robinson-Vice Chair
Class of 2017:  Hunter Peak, Ginger Rowe, Bill Sudyk
Class of 2018:  Johnathan Lowery, Jim Morris, Denise Skillestad, Lay Leaders

Committee on Lay Leadership:
Senior Pastor-Chair, Lay Leader
Class of 2016:  Jerry McSwain, Jane Smith, Erin Wilson
Class of 2017:  Jennifer Conrad, Walker Ingle, Laurel Morris
Class of 2018:  Scott Faggart, Caroline Haney, Madison Henry

Scholarship:
Class of 2016:  Annette Carter, Janice Gray, Kevin Queen
Class of 2017:  Doris Patti, Wes Styers, Cathy Waufle, Becky Greene-Chair
Class of 2018:  Andrew Thomasson, Ashley Whitesell, Joe Yavelak

Staff Parish Relations Committee:
Class of 2016:  Les Davis, Joel Long-Chair, Susan Neeley, (Lay Delegate to Annual Conference-John Wixson)
Class of 2017:  Lisa Albright-Jurs-Vice Chair, Bill Moore, Gary Schenk, Lay Leaders
Class of 2018:  Jim McCosh, Tim Patti, Loretta Stoker

Trustees:
Class of 2016:  Jack Kiser, Emily Leazer, Rob Sumner
Class of 2017:  John Land-Chair, Amy Plowden, Pennie Thrower
Class of 2018:  Bob Clay, Dana Crunkleton, Bill Dodgen

Endowment Trustees*:
Class of 2019:  David Allen Smith (1st Term), Dan Kersh (1st Term), Barbara Myers (1st Term), Fred Jackson (1st Term), Bill Banks-Chairperson (1st Term), Bill Sudyk-Vice Chairperson (1st Term), Earl Tindol (1st Term) Ex-Officio:  Senior Minister, Church Business Administrator-Secretary, Finance Chair, Trustee Chair, Church Council Chair *Endowment Trustees can serve up to two (2) consecutive 5-year terms

Lay Speakers:
Richard Abernethy, Locke Belle, Mary Anne Burton, Jesse Caldwell, John Crane, Zenda Douglas,
Mike Farmer, Sharon Heinrich, Tripp Hord, Bill Kaser, Phyllis Kaser, Skip McPhail, Royce Robinson, James Smith

Lay Delegates to Annual Conference:
Dan Moser, Bill and Carol Sudyk, John Wixson