

**First Methodist Church of Clinton**

208 Sampson St  
Clinton, NC 28328  
Telephone: (910)592-2035  
Church Email: [info@fmcnc.org](mailto:info@fmcnc.org)  
Website: [www.fmcnc.org](http://www.fmcnc.org)



## The Cornerstone

1815 - 2024 . . .  
Ephesians 2:20

### APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



#### PASTOR'S CORNER

*"Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!'" Luke 24:25*

This verse comes from the Emmaus Road passage. The story is one of the many resurrection appearance stories in scripture. As I was reading the text, it stood out to me the reason Cleopas and the unnamed individual did not recognize Jesus. In verse 25, Jesus says, *"How foolish you are, how slow of hearts to believe."* They didn't recognize Jesus because they didn't believe in their heart all that had been spoken and written about Jesus. Jesus begins to unpack the Old Testament, starting with Moses. In verse 27, we read, *"Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures."* It would be in the breaking of bread that they would recognize Jesus.

As I said earlier, many stories of Jesus' resurrection appearances are found in the Bible. We read these and think, wow, that sounds amazing; or what were they thinking about not being able to recognize Jesus, or how could Thomas doubt the witness of those he had spent so much time with? In their human minds, they

were lacking a spiritual dimension. Jesus comes and opens their eyes; Jesus comes and says, *"touch my hands and my side."* As we read in Luke 24, Jesus breaks the bread, and they recognize him.

Lord, where are you now? Lord, reveal yourself to me. Lord, let me see you the way the women at the tomb, the disciples in the upper room, and the two men on the road to Emmaus have seen you. A famous chorus says, *"Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus."* We all want to see Jesus and have the experience that the early disciples and followers had in those days following his death and resurrection. The reality is that Jesus is here. As the Gaither Vocal Band sings, *"He is here, Hallelujah! He is here, Amen! He is here, Holy, Holy. I will bless His name again. He is here; listen closely. Hear Him calling out your name. He is here; you can touch Him. You will never be the same."*

Blessings,  
Pastor Matt    [pastor@fmcnc.org](mailto:pastor@fmcnc.org)

*Make sure to join us April 21-23 for Revival. Join us also in praying for the different groups coming to lead music and Pastor Matthew Creech as he prepares to bring the message each night.*

#### Prayer List

Pam Griffin, Margaret Malpass, Matias Robies, Caroline Cleary, Tom Hawkins, Pat Warrick, Wayne Tew, Louetta Carr, Barry Moore, David Jackson, Henry Carr, Lucas Mireles, Holly McMillen, Jimmy Watkins, Catherine C. Yancey, Emery Walker, JoAnn Westbrook, Janet Johnson, Brantley Williamson, Donald Hopkins, George Neilson, Candi Kerhoulas, Brandi Apperson Connelly, Cheryl Moore, Wes Keen, Megan Pickerill, Bobby Beard, Fletcher & Frances Pearson, Zachery Johnson, Bill & Sally Grigg, Ronnie Wheeler, Dennis Motschenbacher, Sydney Arp, Steve Baker, Mike Humphrey, Glenn Brewer, Phil Ferrell, Bryson Capps, Ed Owen, Jack & Merry Wicke, Greg Moore, Jimmy Smith, Carolyn Wrench, Wayne Reynolds, Angie Hall, Danny Dyson, Violet White

#### Those who are homebound

Barbara Comwell, Eva Creed, Mary Humphrey, Jimmy Moore, Ruth Godwin, Henry & Barbara Carr

#### Those who are in long term care

Loraine Butler, Yolanda Turlington, Margaret Oates, Anthony Balkcum, Pat Green



### Meals On Wheels

4/12 Bob & Sue Williams

4/26 Holly McMillen

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Holly McMillen at 910-551-2917.

### Nursing Home Member Residents

Mary Gran - Anthony Balkcum, P.O. Box 379  
Clinton, NC 28329

Rolling Ridge - Loraine Butler & Yolanda  
Turlington, 700 Mt. Olive Dr. Newton Grove,  
NC 28366

Pine Knoll - Grace Hubbard, 590 Central Dr.  
Apt B-20 Southern Pines, NC 28387

**Friendship Circle:** The Friendship Circle will meet Tuesday, April 19th at 11:00 at the church for lunch at Salem Pizza. Please contact Kay Raynor, 910-305-1534, for more info.

### **Birthday Cake Volunteers:**

Lisa Turlington, Doris Gore, Jane Claire Tew  
*This ministry provides birthday cakes for  
handicapped adults. If you are interested in  
volunteering, please contact Christy Boyette @  
[wcboyette@intrstar.net](mailto:wcboyette@intrstar.net).*

**First Baptist Church @ 900 College Street,  
Food Bank:** Canned Tomatoes



## First Church Music Corner

Dear Church Family,

Back in February, the staff of First Methodist had the privilege of attending the New Room Leaders Gathering conference. During some of the main sessions and very much in the worship leaders' sessions, a lot of discussion and emphasis was placed on the two concepts of **consecration** before worship and **lingering** during worship.

The idea of **consecration** expresses the idea of being "set apart." This can happen through prayer and by surrendering one's self to God's purposes, releasing fear, anxiety, and ego, as well as confessing sin and shedding self-focused goals (for more in this check out the free pamphlet from seedbed.org entitled "How to Lead Worship for Encounter With Jesus"). At the conference, several of the worship leaders described lingering in worship as times that are "unrushed" or "spacious." These are times to truly just bask in God's presence.

In mulling over these two concepts during and after the conference I was reminded that the musical **prelude** that is played at the beginning of our Sunday times of worship helps to facilitate both a sense of **consecration** and **lingering**. During this time, the instrumental music is often reflective and contemplative. This is not a time to focus on the music or musicians, but rather the music serves to help draw us into a time of reflection, meditation, confession, prayer, and a readying of ourselves to worship God. It is a time when we can prepare our hearts and minds to be receptive to what God may have to say to us. It can be a time when we read over the scripture verses for the service or even pray for our church and community as we prepare to worship corporately. It's also a time to lay down the burdens of the week and let go of anything that may be clouding our hearts and minds as we seek to focus on Him.

Please consider being more intentional during the time of worship when the prelude is being played. Perhaps consider limiting conversation that is unrelated to worship. Take advantage of those five or so minutes to just be still and prepare for worship. As one of my favorite hymns states:

*Jesus, the very thought of Thee  
With Sweetness fills my breast:  
But sweeter far Thy face to see  
And in Thy presence rest.*

An article entitled "Prelude Talk" found on the website [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org), discusses many of the challenges of the prelude/gathering time of worship and presents many suggestions for helping make this a more intentional time. I encourage you to read it and let me know what you think!

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/prelude-talk>

Additionally, we look forward to resuming dulcimer rehearsals this month. If you are interested in joining this fun group, please let me know! I will be attending a one-day dulcimer workshop at St. Mary Catholic School in Goldsboro, NC on Saturday, April 6 th from 9 am to 5pm. This workshop is open to complete beginners to intermediate dulcimer players. The day will culminate with a concert presented by Jeff Furman, Joe Collins, and Flat Mountain Dulcimers at 5 pm. Please contact me for more information or check out the link.

<https://www.jcdulcimer.com/PR/24-04%20Waterbound%20Workshop.pdf>

In Christ,

Marquita Someliana-Lauer, Organist, etc.

(910) 548-2719

[music@fmcnc.org](mailto:music@fmcnc.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
	<b>1 BYB CLOSED</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>No intercessory Prayer</b>	<b>2 BYB OPEN</b> 7:30am-5:30pm  <b>NO Chat with Pastor Matt</b>	<b>3 BYB OPEN</b> 7:30am-5:30pm	<b>4 BYB OPEN</b> 7:30am-5:30pm	<b>5 BYB OPEN</b> 7:30am-5:30pm	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>First Fellowship</b> 9:30am <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00am <b>Worship Service</b> 11:00am <b>NO YOUTH</b>  <b>Catalyst Mission Workshop</b> 2:00pm-5:00pm	<b>8</b> <b>Intercessory Prayer</b> 10:00am <b>Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting</b> 10:00am <b>Communion</b> 12:00pm <b>BYB OPEN</b> 7:30am-5:30pm	<b>9</b> <b>Chat with Pastor Matt @ Simply Brewed Coffee Co.</b> 9:00am <b>Friendship Circle meet at the Church</b> 11:00am  <b>Prayer @ Clinton City Hall</b> 12:00pm	<b>10</b> <b>Dulcimers</b> 4:00pm <b>K-5 Choir</b> 4:45pm <b>3-4 year old choir</b> 5:15 <b>DINNER</b> 5:30pm <b>WEF Studies</b> 6:00pm <b>Chancel Choir</b> 7:00pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Son-up</b> 9:00am <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00am <b>Worship Service</b> 11:00am <b>Youth</b> 5:00pm	<b>15</b> <b>Intercessory Prayer</b> 10:00am <b>Staff Meeting</b> 1:00pm	<b>16</b> <b>Chat with Pastor Matt @ Simply Brewed Coffee Co.</b> 9:00am  <b>Prayer @ Clinton City Schools Central Office</b> 12:00pm  <b>Eleanor Powell</b> 6:30pm	<b>17 WEF Dulcimers</b> 4:00pm <b>K-5 Choir</b> 4:45pm <b>3-4 Year old choir</b> 5:15pm <b>Dinner</b> 5:30pm <b>WEF Studies</b> 6:00pm <b>Chancel Choir</b> 7:00pm	<b>18</b> <b>Birthday Cakes:</b> Lisa Turlington, Doris Gore, Jane Claire Tew  <b>Blood Drive</b> 1:30pm-7:00pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Methodist Men Breakfast</b> 8:00am <b>Son-up</b> 9:00am <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00am <b>Worship Service</b> 11:00am <b>Revival /Covered Dish</b> 5:00pm	<b>22</b> <b>Intercessory Prayer</b> 10:00pm <b>Ida Johnson</b> 11:00am <b>Communion</b> 12:00pm <b>Revival</b> 6:30pm	<b>23</b> <b>Chat with Pastor Matt @ Simply Brewed Coffee Co.</b> 9:00am <b>Revival</b> 6:30pm  <b>Prayer @ Clinton Police &amp; Fire Dpt.</b> 12:00pm	<b>24</b> <b>K-5 Choir</b> 4:45pm <b>3-4 Year old choir</b> 5:15pm <b>Handbell Rehearsal</b> 6:00pm <b>Chancel Choir</b> 7:00pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Son-up</b> 9:00am <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00am <b>Traditional Worship</b> 11:00am <b>Youth</b> 5:00pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Chat with Pastor Matt @ Simply Brewed Coffee Co.</b> 9:00am  <b>Prayer @ Emergency Management Building</b> 12:00pm  <b>SPRC Meeting</b> 7:00pm	<b>1</b> <b>K-5 Choir</b> 4:45pm <b>3-4 Year old choir</b> 5:15pm <b>Handbell Rehearsal</b> 6:00pm <b>Chancel Choir</b> 7:00pm			



## **First Kids Corner**

Abby Tomell-children@fmcnc.org

Did you know there was a National Unicorn Day? Well, get out your best unicorn shirt because it's April 9th. Other fun days in April include: National High-Five Day on the 19th; Earth day is the 22nd, and April is Daisy Month.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Easter Egg Hunt a success. I appreciate all the helpful hands. A special shout out to Tanner Serafini and Isabelle Tomell who filled all those eggs for us. The kids had a blast. And what a beautiful sight all those butterflies were on Easter morning. He is Risen!

Please mark your calendars for a VBS volunteer meeting on April 14th during Sunday school. I'd like to talk briefly about decorations and food. Actual VBS dates are June 9-12.

## **First Youth Corner**

Pastor Matt

Youth Group will take a short break for Easter Week! We will resume Youth Group April 14th at 5:00pm. April 21st the youth are encouraged to attend the covered dish and revival services. Rev. Matthew Creech will bring the message each night of revival.

Youth Sunday/ Senior Sunday will be May 5th. The youth will go out to eat following the worship service.



### **Anniversaries**

- 8 Anthony & Shelia Steed
- 12 Tom & Denise Hendricks
- 14 Keith & Janet Shoemaker
- 18 Steve & Dianne Cox
- 19 David & Becky Jackson, Dennis & Janet Carter
- 20 Ken & Kim Sutton
- 26 Bob & Sue Williams

### **Birthdays**

- 1 Wayne Boyette
- 4 Mary Lee
- 6 Jackson Lowe, Kelly Stanley, Mary Carr Baxter
- 7 Marshall Lee
- 8 Will Herring, John Prestage, Sharon Carter
- 9 James McLean
- 11 Mary Thomas Williams, David Taylor
- 12 Benjamin Baxter
- 14 Frankie Owens
- 17 Julie Moore
- 19 Kaylin Prestage
- 20 Herring Williams
- 21 Lisa B. Turlington, Kam Miller
- 22 Mary Jo Carr, Tom Hendricks, Liz Sumner
- 24 Holly McMillen
- 25 Ruth Holland, Wayne Andrews
- 29 Emma DuBose, Janet Prestage, Maddie Pope Dixon & Rachel Pope McLamb
- 30 Samuel Martin



## **Blood Drive**



**APRIL 18, 2024**  
**1:30 PM - 7:00 PM**  
**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**  
208 Sampson Street, Clinton, NC

Blood drive is open to the public.

## **Worship Corner - April**

### **Altar Guild:**

Jeff & Sarah Swartz

### **Ushers:**

Volunteers Needed

### **Greeters:**

NOW Committee

**Acolyte Schedule:** Please contact Sarah Stone at (910)990-9726 to sign your child up.

### **Chancel Flowers:**

4/7 Venetia & Craig Mann  
4/14 Mike & Susan Eaves  
4/21 Hannah Williams  
4/28 Beth Pope & Vanna Prestage

### **Flower Calendar 2024**

The 2024 Chancel Flower Calendar is up and ready to go! To sign up please contact the church office or you may go online. Arrangements are \$55 for one slot or \$110 for both. Please make sure payments are made before your slot date.

Thank you,  
Maykala Bishop, Administrative Assistant

# Your time to serve...

It is time to begin praying over the leadership positions of our church and who will serve in the various ministry areas of the church. To help us in that prayerful discernment, I briefly describe each ministry team here at First Methodist and the leadership roles for each team.

**Board of Trustees:** The Trustees of First Methodist Church are entrusted to care for and maintain what God has provided for us here. They oversee the buildings and the maintenance needs of all physical property. The Board of Trustees chair is elected yearly from within the board. If you wish to serve on the Board of Trustees, please contact Pastor Matt for more details. For more information, you may also see the *Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline*, paragraph 346.

**SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Team):** The Staff Parish Relations team is a ministry team that cares for and partners with our staff. They serve a vital role in checking in with the staff, addressing staffing concerns, evaluating both pastor and staff and filling any vacancies as they open. The SPRC also, in consultation with the Finance team, establishes the salaries and benefits for the pastor and staff. If you wish to serve on the SPRC Team, please get in touch with Pastor Matt for more details. For more information, see the *Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline*, paragraph 345.

**Finance Team:** The Finance Team shall oversee the stewardship of financial resources as their priority throughout the year, seeking as part of the ministry of discipleship to move members toward tithing and beyond, with an attitude of generosity (Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline paragraph 347.2). The finance team looks at the church's financial practices and ensures that we are being good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. If you wish to serve on the Finance Team, please contact Pastor Matt for more details. For more information, see the *Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline*, paragraph 347.

**Nominations Team:** This team works each year to discern who God may call to leadership in the local church. They seek to discern the gifts and graces each member has to serve and where they might best serve in the church's life. The team seeks to prayerfully discern the right person for a role, not just a warm body to fill a seat. Someone recently said, "Don't bring people on your team to fill roles. Bring people on your team because they are the people you believe God is calling to your team to be family." If you wish to serve on the Nominations Team, please get in touch with Pastor Matt for more details. For more information, see the *Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline*, paragraph 344.

**Lay Leader:** The Lay Leader serves as the bridge between the pastor and the church's laity. The Lay Leader will have a pulse on the congregation and can relay that to the pastor and relay the pastor's pulse to the congregation. They serve as members of many church ministry teams, offering the congregation's thoughts in those places. If you wish to serve as the Church Lay Leader, please contact Pastor Matt for more details. For more information, see the *Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline*, paragraph 342.1.

**The nominations team also evaluates and nominates leaders for the following each year;**

Administrative Board Chair and Secretary

Finance Chair

Treasurer

Business Manager

Lay Member to Annual Conference

The Nominations Team this year:

	2024	2025	2026
Administrative Board Chair and Secretary	Sandra Pearson	Mary Nell Darden	Mandy DuBose
Finance Chair	Tyler Baxter	Susan Heath	Karen Sutton
Treasurer	Steve Cox	Warren Perry	Wendy Carr



**Nominations Team**  
**Meeting**  
**April 16th 7:00 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**





It is getting close to the time of year that we honor and celebrate the Class of 2024!

If you have a high school graduate (child or grandchild) please contact the church office with their information.

On Sunday **May 5th** we will have Youth/ Senior Sunday. We will begin the day with a youth breakfast at 8:30 am where we will honor our High School graduates that are members of the church. This will be a breakfast for youth and the families of graduates. We will also have a special time in the worship service to honor these individuals.

**College Graduates:** Do you have children/ grandchildren graduating college? Please let the office know so that we can also celebrate these accomplishments as well.

All information will be due in the office by April 20th.

To fill out the information on a Google form visit: <https://bit.ly/graduate24info>



**April 21-23**

**5:00 Covered Dish  
Sunday Night**

**6:30 service each night**

**Revival Preacher**

**Rev. Matthew Creech**

**Hickory Grove Baptist Church**

**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**  
WWW.FMCNC.ORG CLINTON, NC  
208 Sampson St. Clinton, NC

**Revival Music**

**April 21st: Blooming Hill Men's Chorus, Richlands, NC**

**April 22nd: The Plainview Boys**

**April 23rd: Brewington Family**

A love offering will be collected each night to bless those who come to share.

**50 Days of Praying and Waiting**  
A time of prayer for our community, around our community, with our community.

To boldly pray, God we want you, your presence, your power, your mercy, and your grace here. We will gather outside these places and pray without ceasing for God to show up in these places.

**Gather at 12:00  
Prayers begin at 12:15  
Depart 12:45**

- April 9th: Clinton City Hall
- April 16th: Clinton City Schools Central Office
- April 23rd: Clinton Police and Fire Department
- April 30: Emergency Management Building
- May 7th: Sampson Regional Medical Center
- May 14th: Courthouse Square (between the Courthouse and Annex)

'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.  
2 Chronicles 7:14-15

**Catalyst!**  
**Mission Planning Workshop**

Join churches in your circle and region as we prepare, prioritize, and develop a plan for missions to grow participation and reach more people for Christ in places near, far, and hard!

The NC GMC, in partnership with One Mission Society, has scheduled regional workshops around the state. Our hope is that you will plan to attend if it is within a 90-minute drive of your church.

**April 7, 2024  
2:00 pm-5:00 pm  
First Methodist Church  
208 Sampson St  
Clinton, NC**

ONEMISSION  
OMS • ONE MISSION SOCIETY  
Engaging the One to Reach the Many