

THE CORNERSTONE



A Letter From The Pastor

From Knowing About Christ to Truly Knowing Christ
Philippians 3:10-11

"I want to know Christ — yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." This passage was the Scripture for the March 2, 2026, *Wake-Up Call* with J.D. Walt. Many of you know that I am a big fan of Seedbed and the daily *Wake-Up Call*, and you hear me reference it fairly often. As I was driving home after dropping the kids off at school that morning, J.D.'s words struck a familiar and deep chord—touching on themes I pray about and speak about regularly. I often talk about the difference between *head knowledge* of Christ and *heart knowledge* of Christ. Many of us were raised in a time when we were told a great deal *about* Jesus. Yet for some, that information never fully became transformation. We know facts about Him—but do we truly know Him? J.D. offered a simple but powerful image: two circles. One circle was labeled knowledge; the other was labeled knowing. Where those two circles overlap, he said, is awakening. That's it.

The journey from knowing about Jesus to truly knowing Jesus is awakening. That, I believe, is what the Church needs today. I often think of the Church as a sleeping giant, while the world is in desperate need of that giant to wake up. The problem is that the world—and the enemy—are quite content to keep the giant snoozing. Satan does not want the Body of Christ to awaken. His work becomes much harder the more we wake up to who Jesus is and to the power of His life, death, and resurrection at work in the world today. The more we become like Christ and less like the world, the more threatened the enemy becomes. He knows the truth: the darkness cannot overcome the light. Still, he will do everything he can to distract, discourage, and derail us. From the constant noise and distractions that pull us away from time with God, to the chaos and turmoil we see around us, these are all tools meant to steal, kill, and destroy our opportunity to truly know Jesus. So how do we move from knowledge to knowing? We stay connected to the Body of Christ, and we keep practicing the rhythms of grace.

Prayer. Scripture. Worship.
Small groups. Life together in Christian community.

These are not just religious habits—they are the means by which the Holy Spirit awakens us. Through them, we move beyond merely knowing about Christ and begin to truly know Him, living in the power of His resurrection even now.

As we read in Ephesians 5:14 and as JD starts every *Wake-Up Call*, *Wake-Up* sleeper and rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

In Christ,

Rev. Matt Seals
pastor@fmcnc.org



A Letter From The Youth Pastor

By Joel Wise

Happy spring!

The world is blossoming, the birds are singing, and softball, baseball, and soccer are in full swing. We have a lot of talented youth athletes. If you are able to go and support one of their games, please do. Our youth love seeing our church members show interest in what they do.

This March, we had our St. Patrick's day party where we played games, won prizes, and enjoyed traditional Irish cuisine. We learned about the mystery of the Trinity and how to share that knowledge with others.

We have wrapped up our Sunday School study on Revelation and have begun our study on the book of Daniel. On Wednesday nights, we are going through the Gospels in depth. Currently, we are going through the Gospel of Matthew.

Our Mic'd for Ministry project has met its goal! Thank you so much to everyone who donated toward the new fellowship hall sound system!

Our **summer mission trip is July 13-18**. All are welcome to go with the youth. You can register online or you can get a form from the office.

Finally, Jessie and I are approaching baby Taran's due date. During my paternity leave, I will need teachers to lead our youth at Sunday School and Wednesday Night Youth Group. Curriculum is provided, including games and leader guides. If you are willing to support my family and the youth between **May 17 and June 24**, please sign-up with me, Pastor Joel, in the office or online.

Thank you all for your continued support of our youth and their spiritual growth.

There are links at the bottom section of this page for the Summer Mission Trip Registration, Lesson Leaders, and Youth Meal sign up.

God Bless,

Associate Pastor
youth@fmcnc.org



Lesson Leader Sign Up

Summer Mission Trip Sign Up

Youth Meal Sign UP

<https://tinyurl.com/FMCYLead>

<https://tinyurl.com/summermissiontrip>

<https://tinyurl.com/FMCYMLS>





A Letter From The Children’s Minister

By Abby Tomell

Our volunteer list is going strong, and we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has faithfully served in the nursery. Your time and care make a meaningful difference for our families each week.

The Children’s Ministry team recently met, and we are excited to share that new things are on the horizon. Be on the lookout for upcoming updates and opportunities to get involved!

Our end of WEF skating trip will be **April 22nd**. We’ll need a few parents to join us and help supervise, so please consider coming along – no skating required, but you’ll earn extra points if you do!

Vacation Bible School sign-up is live on Facebook. If you are interested in serving in a role, you can sign up online using the same link, or feel free to speak with me personally. Our theme is Irish, and our verse is Psalm 23.

Easter Sunday is almost here! Our annual egg hunt will be during Sunday School at 10 am. The preschool kids will be in the prayer garden while the bigger kids will be on the playground (weather permitting). The entire congregation will meet out at the front lawn after service to release butterflies and rejoice in the true meaning of Easter.

Thank you for all of your faithful prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness that you provide for these children.

Much Love,

Abby Tomell

Children@fmcnc.org

Children’s Events

VBS Volunteers Needed



Scan with your camera or visit our website to sign up.





A Letter From The Musicians

Dear Church Family,

We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make the Sing Praise to God concert a success! It was a tremendously wonderful and joyful evening.

We were so blessed by the support of the church and the community. Thank you to all of the singers who dedicated many hours to rehearsing the music. Thank you to everyone who helped with the reception and many logistics. And of course, thank you to everyone who came and listened! It truly was an unforgettable way to celebrate Mr. Dan's many years of service to the music ministry of First Methodist Church. If you missed the concert, we encourage you to check it out on the church's YouTube page. If you were able to attend the concert, you will recall that the encore was a brand-new anthem that was commissioned by the church in honor of Mr. Dan. The anthem is entitled *God Knows We Are Lifted Up* and was composed by Raleigh-based composer, Pepper Choplin, to be premiered at the concert.

This anthem will be published with the following inscription:

**Commissioned in
honor of
Dan Holland,
Music Director,
In celebration of his
forty years of
faithful service to
and leadership of
the music ministry
at First Methodist
Church, Clinton, NC**

In our conversations with Mr. Choplin regarding the commission, he shared that the idea for the original text came from a concept he learned in seminary: that God does not need our praise and worship, but that He wants it and delights in it. Also, when the body of Christ gathers together to lift our praises, worship, and songs to God, we are lifted up and edified as well. Here are some of the lyrics of the anthem:

God knows we are lifted up when we lift Him up and we praise Him.

God knows we are lifted up It's a gift to us when we come, Come to worship the Lord.

We Know God is holy and never needs a thing.

Still God calls us to worship at His throne.

God knows we are inspired when we gather here to sing.

When we lift Him up we are lifted up as we lift God's praises high!

Mr. Dan has certainly helped to lift us up by leading this congregation in lifting up God's praises through song over the past forty-years. We are so grateful for his leadership and look forward to many more great things to come as we continue to work together to lift God's praises high!

In Christ,

*Cameron & Marquita
Somejian-Lauer*

(910) 548-2719

organist@fmcnc.org



Missions Corner

April Mission: Care Packages
(See graphic on page 8 for details)



N.O.W. Corner

Last Wednesday Evening Fellowship is a Pig Picking Cooked by Phillip Andrews & Reid Butler at 6:30 PM on **April 29th**. Everyone is welcome!

N.O.W. is looking for one or two people to take leadership over Wednesday Night Fellowship meals. For more information, please follow the link or contact Pastor Joel or Jeff Swartz for more information.

<https://tinyurl.com/WEFCRD>

Butler Avenue Field Day April 17th. Contact Allison Driver for more info.

Summer Gatherings Coming Soon!



Worship Corner

Altar Guild: Jeff & Sarah Swartz
Greeters: N.O.W. Team



Flower Calendar

- April 5th : Dan & Ruth Holland
- April 12th : Becky Jackson & Dianne Cox
- April 19th : OPEN
- April 26th : OPEN

Sanctuary flower arrangements are \$55 for one slot or \$110 for both.

Payments are made before your date.

Scan the QR Code to sign up for yours.



April 16th

Birthday Cake Bunch

Lisa Turlington, Sarah Hesketh, and Jane Claire Tew



Meals on Wheels

April 10th : Helen Hobson
April 24th : Elsie Taylor

The Prayer Corner

Intercessory Prayer Group: Mondays at 10:00 am



Doris Gore, Neal Hardison, Martin Sikorski, Owen Hales, Joey Lowder, Dr. Mac Herring, Jimmie Hall, Marvin Mitchell, Wayne Boyette, Ethan Youngblood, Mary Margaret Hobbs, Homer Morris, Debra Morris, Jane Waters, Pam Griffin, Wayne Tew, Louetta Carr, Pat Warrick, JoAnn Westbrook, Janet Johnson, Zachery Johnson, Steve Baker, Mike & Myra Humphrey, Glenn Brewer, Bryson Capps, Ed Owen, Greg Moore, Jimmy Smith, Donald & Carolyn Wrench, Wayne Reynolds, Angie Hall, Danny Dyson, Violet White

Long-term care:

- Loraine Butler
- Anthony Balkcum
- Pat Green
- Frances Pearson
- Polly Coffey

Homebound:

- Ruth Godwin
- Barbara Carr

Missionaries:

- Forrest & Laura Strickland



Happy Birthday!

- 1st – Wayne Boyette
- 2nd – Zander Owens
- 3rd – Gregory Carr
- 4th – Mary Lee
- 5th – Hallie Bullard
- 6th – Mary Carr Baxter
- 6th – Jackson Lowe
- 6th – Kelly Stanley
- 7th – Marshall Lee
- 8th – Sharon Carter
- 8th – Will Herring
- 8th – John Prestage
- 11th – David Taylor
- 11th – Mary Williams
- 12th – Benjamin Baxter
- 14th – Frankie Owens
- 15th – Jamie Pope
- 19th – Kaylin Prestage
- 20th – Herring Williams
- 21st – Kam Evans
- 21st – Lisa B. Turlington
- 22nd – Mary Jo Carr
- 22nd – Sarah Harrison
- 22nd – Tom Hendricks
- 22nd – Liz Sumner
- 24th – Holly McMillen
- 25th – Wayne Andrews
- 25th – Ruth Holland
- 27th – Avery Knowles
- 29th – Maddie Dixon
- 29th – Emma DuBose
- 29th – Rachel McLamb
- 29th – Janet Prestage
- 30th – Samuel "Sam" Martin



Children's Volunteers

Nursery:

- 5th – Sarah Hesketh (Easter)
- 12th – Sarah Stone
- 19th – Karen Sutton
- 26th – Sarah Swartz

K-2 Children's Church:

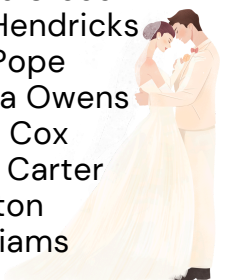
- 12th – Brenda Nordin
- 19th – Rex Moody
- 26th – Dottie O'Quinn

K-2 Wednesday 5:30 – 6:20:

- 1st – Chris Driver
- 8th – Spring Break
- 15th – Jenna King
- 22nd – Outing
- 29th – Tyler Baxter

Happy Anniversary!

- 8th – Anthony & Sheila Steed
- 12th – Tom & Denise Hendricks
- 15th – Jay & Carolyn Pope
- 16th – Frankie & Donna Owens
- 18th – Steve & Dianne Cox
- 19th – Dennis & Janet Carter
- 20th – Ken & Kim Sutton
- 26th – Bob & Sue Williams



April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 12:00 Lent Lunch 4:45 K- 5 th Choir 5:30 3 & 4 yr Choir & Bible Study 6:30 WEF Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir	2 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	3 12:00 Lisbon St. Missionary Baptist Church Service <i>Good Friday</i>	4 Building Reserved for Lillie Turlington (Rain Scheduled)
5 6:30 Easter Sunrise 9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 Worship Service Butterfly Release 	6 EASTER MONDAY Office Closed	7 9:00 Roll with Joel	8 9:00 Mary Nell- Admin 1:00 Jan S.- Admin NO WEF ACTIVITIES	9 8:00 SALT Trip	10	11
Pastor Matt on Vacation 6 th - 12 th						
12 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth	13 10:00 Intercessory Prayer 10:30 Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting- FH 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Nominations Team Meeting	14 9:00 Chat with M@ 6:30 SPRC Meeting	15 4:00 Dulcimers 4:45 K-5 th Choir 5:30 3 & 4 yr Choir & Bible Study 6:30 WEF Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir	16 9:30-10 Birthday Cakes 	17 Butler Avenue Field Day	18 9:00 Building In Use
19 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth	20 10:00 Intercessory Prayer 11:00 Ida Johnson Fellowship hall	21 9:00 Chat with M@ 6:30 Eleanor Powell Fellowship Hall 6:30 Finance Meeting May Newsletter Info Due to Office	22 4:00 Dulcimers 4:45 K- 5 th Choir 5:30 3 & 4 yr Choir & Bible Study 6:30 WEF Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir	23 6:30 Skill Creations	24	25
26 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Baby Shower for Jessie Wise in Parlor 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth	27 10:00 Intercessory Prayer 11:00 Mary & Martha Ministry Interest & Updates	28 9:00 Chat with M@	29 4:00 Dulcimers 4:45 K- 5 th Choir 5:30 3 & 4 yr Choir & Bible Study 6:30 Last WEF Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir	30	<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 10px;"> <p>Important Board Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations - 13th SPRC - 14th Finance - 21st </div>	

Notes:

4/1: Receipts & Coordinating forms Due to Office

4/8: Mary Nell Darden & Jan Smith will fill in as Admin from 9-3PM.

Mary and Martha Congregational Care Ministry

Are you interested in learning more about how to serve in any of these areas?

- Flower Team
- Card Team
- Ride Share
- Intercessory Prayer
- Visitation Team
- Communion Team
- Berevement Teams

Join Pastor Matt on April 27th 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall for an interest and update meeting and to learn more about serving in care ministry.

S.A.L.T TRIP

APRIL 9TH 2026

SYLVAN HEIGHTS BIRD PARK
VAN LEAVES AT 8:00 AM (2 HR TRIP)
500 SYLVAN HEIGHTS PKWY, SCOTLAND NECK, NC

LUNCH: LA CASETTA (ITALIAN)
900 MAIN ST, SCOTLAND NECK, NC

**PLEASE BRING MONEY FOR
PARK ADMISSION & LUNCH**

CALL THE CHURCH, LESA MOORE OR MIKE EAVES
FOR ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS

WILL YOU BE RIDING THE VAN?
SIGN UP ON THE GOOGLE FORM ASAP TO LET US KNOW!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

FIELD DAY
AT BUTLER AVENUE

APRIL 17TH

WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR A FUN DAY OF GAMES AND ACTIVITIES WITH OUR STUDENTS!

- RACE GAMES
- OBSTACLE COURSES
- WATER FUN
- SNACKS & MORE!

If you can volunteer, please contact:
Allison Driver
910-990-0809

FIELD DAY

Student Care Packages

Items Needed
Handwritten Notes
Personalized Cards

Gift Cards
Starbucks
Dunkin
Walmart
Amazon

Bring Items to Mission Cabinet
Outside of the Church Office