

First Methodist Church of Clinton

208 Sampson St
Clinton, NC 28328
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Website: www.fmcnc.org



The Cornerstone

1815 - 2025 . . .
Ephesians 2:20

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



PASTOR'S CORNER

'I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

A few weeks ago, Pastor Joel and I were discussing the August sermon series, and he mentioned the word “Transitions.” That resonated with me because this month, in my family, we are facing some significant transitions. The first thing that I had been mentally preparing for was the fact that Jackson was moving from 5th grade to 6th grade. The fact that he is a centimeter taller than I is hard enough; now I have to deal with the fact that he is going to middle school. If he hasn't told you yet, he is going to Midway. Give him a “Go Dark Horses” when you see him; he will love it. Then came Kayleigh's transition from pre-k to kindergarten. A middle schooler and a kindergartner at the same time.

I always joke that when one goes to college, I would still have a driver to take me places. I didn't think about the school change that would happen long before that. How did we get here? Kayleigh is facing a huge transition as she moves from a small preschool to a big school, but I know it is one that she will handle like a boss. These are two of the new things that God is doing. But that is not all. Leslie is going back to school. We transitioned her out of the classroom at the beginning of the summer, something I didn't think I would be doing this year. Still, God is doing a new thing and has opened a door for her to be a Principal fellow and complete her Master's while interning as an Assistant Principal. She will be at Clement in the fall and Hargrove in the spring, while

taking online classes from ECU. We are excited for these seasons, but I must confess it is a bit overwhelming to wrap one's head around. Yet, I am reminded that God is doing a new thing, and these transitions are part of our lives for this season. God is in the midst of them all. Beginning August 10th, we will explore how to trust God in seasons of change. Our series, “*Transitions*” will explore how God goes before us, how God will carry us through unfamiliar places, and equip us for what's next. We will also examine how, in all seasons, changes may occur, but God is at work in them all.

You may know someone going through a life transition, or you may be facing your own. Join us and invite someone to journey with us as we remind ourselves that, in this season of school starting back, new routines being developed, familiar things fading, and new things beginning, God is with us and He will never leave us nor forsake us.

***Blessings,
Pastor Matt
pastor@fmcnc.org
910-417-9660***



Prayer List

Mitch Malpass, Marvin Mitchell, Frances Pearson, Jack Musick, Wayne Boyette, Ethan Youngblood, Mary Margaret Hobbs, Homer Morris, Debra Morris, Jane Waters, Pam Griffin, Wayne Tew, Louetta Carr, Pat Warrick, Emery Walker, JoAnn Westbrook, Janet Johnson, Brantley Williamson, Brandi Apperson Connelly, Cheryl Moore, Wes Keen, Zachery Johnson, Steve Baker, Mike & Myra Humphrey, Glenn Brewer, Bryson Capps, Ed Owen, Merry Wicke, Greg Moore, Jimmy Smith, Carolyn Wrench, Wayne Reynolds, Angie Hall, Danny Dyson, Violet White

Those who are homebound

Ruth Godwin, Barbara Carr

Those who are in long term care

Loraine Butler, Margaret Oates, Anthony Balkcum, Pat Green, Mary Humphrey, Frances Pearson

First Church Music Corner

Dear Church Family,

The “Jukebox” song for July 27 th was “Ancient Words” by Michael W. Smith. For the sermon about that song, Pastor Matt asked folks from the congregation to submit “words” from the Word that had particularly impacted them. As difficult as it was to pick just one passage of scripture, a passage that has become a sort of “theme verse” for our family is Philippians 4:8-9. This passage states:

“Finally, Brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy- meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Considering both this passage of scripture and the song “Ancient Words” made me think about the hymn “Wonderful Words of Life” (OGRP No. 429). This hymn, written by Philip Bliss in 1874, begins with this desire: **“Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life; Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life; words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life...”** Not only are the “ancient words” of the Bible true, they are indeed beautiful.

The scripture passage from Philippians encourages Christians to meditate on things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report. What embodies these virtues more than the words of the Bible? Nothing! As the hymn says, these words, these beautiful and life-giving words, teach us faith and duty. Singing the words of the Bible is a wonderful, beautiful, and effective way to teach, learn, and internalize the truths of our faith.

The options for what kind of music we listen to with our families on a daily basis are virtually infinite. However, as followers of Christ, we need to be especially mindful of the content of the music we are consuming. Is the music we are listening to true, noble, pure, lovely, etc.? Not everything we listen to needs to necessarily be “sacred” but it should not in any way hinder our walk with the Lord. Listening and singing music that focuses on the Word of God is definitely a great way to ensure that we are not exposing ourselves to themes and ideas that are dishonoring to God or could create stumbling blocks for ourselves and our families.

As we head into a new school year, don’t neglect the singing of wonderful words with your family. By doing so, you will be internalizing Biblical truths through music. You will also be ensuring that your family will be listening/singing songs that align with Philippians 4:8.

In Christ,

Marquita Someliana-Lauer, Organist, etc.
(910) 548-2719
music@fmcnc.org

First Kids Corner

Abby Tomell-children@fmcnc.org

It’s That Time Again... Back to School!

While many parents may be celebrating the return to routine, we know kids might not be quite as ready to say goodbye to their lazy summer days. So, to ease the transition, here are a few fun facts to kick off the season:

- The average pencil writes about **45,000 words** before it retires.
- Before erasers, people used **rolled-up white bread** to remove pencil marks!
- And believe it or not, the **glue stick** was inspired by lipstick.

We hope your summer has been filled with joy, adventure, and memory-making moments. As we gear up for a new season, here are a few important dates to mark on your calendar:

August 10 – Back to School Sunday

- Children will move up to their new Sunday School classes.
- Our 3rd graders will receive their very own Bibles.
- Join us for a potluck lunch following the 11:00 p.m. service.
- We’ll end the day with a waterslide and dunk booth — a splashy celebration to wrap up summer!

September 10 – Wednesday Evening Fellowship Returns

- WEF will run weekly through **November 19**.
- We’re currently in need of **volunteers to help lead our 3rd–5th grade class**. If you feel called to serve, please reach out!

Looking Ahead:

- **December 10** – Our kids will present a **Christmas Program**. Rehearsals will be held mostly on **Wednesdays and Sundays**.
- **December 13** – We’ll be participating in the **Clinton Downtown Christmas Parade** again. Stay tuned for ways to get involved!

A heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who served in the nursery this summer. Your time, love, and energy have made a real difference — and those little ones absolutely loved having you there. We see you, and we appreciate you more than words can say!

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people." Ephesians 6:7

Wow! It's August! How did that happen? The youth have had a good summer. We went to Rodanthe for our summer mission trip, we helped with vacation Bible school, and we even went and listened to some of the history shared at "Good Ole Days" event at the Sampson County History Museum.

With school about to begin, we are looking forward to an eventful fall. We have our back to school bash on August 10, we are planning to go see the Fayetteville Woodpeckers play on August 17, and we are planning a lake party at the lake for September.

Our August youth night theme is "God First". We will be discussing what it looks like to put God first in our life above the business of school and the demands of social life. In Sunday School, we will be beginning our Revelation Study and will be going in depth on the understanding of the scriptures.

It is going to be a wonderful start to our 2025 - 2026 year. We will keep you posted!

Rev. Joel Wise



FMC MISSIONS

MISSION TRIP

SEPT. 21-26

REGISTER ONLINE

**[HTTPS://WWW.FMCNC.ORG/FMC-
MISSIONS#TEXAS](https://www.fmcnc.org/fmc-missions#TEXAS)**



SERVE LIKE JESUS

Meals On Wheels

8/8 Steve & Dianne Cox

8/22 Jane Spell

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

Birthday Cake Volunteers:

Becky Jackson, Susan Eaves, Janet Mitchell
*This ministry provides birthday cakes for
handicapped adults. If you are interested in
volunteering, please contact Christy
Boyette,
wcboyette@intrstar.net.*

Nursing Home Member Residents

Mary Gran - Anthony Balkcum,
P.O. Box 379 Clinton, NC 28329
Rolling Ridge - Loraine Butler, Mary Humphrey, Frances Pearson
700 Mt. Olive Dr. Newton Grove,
NC 28366

First Baptist Church Food Bank Collection

Soup & Crackers

Mary and Martha Congregational Care Team

This team of volunteers works to provide care to each member of the church by delivering Sunday Morning flowers, meals, cards, visits, and calls. If you would like to be part of a team that takes Communion to our friends that are homebound please contact Pastor Matt.

Skill Creations Ministry

Every month we have an opportunity to go and be a blessing to the residents at Skill Creations in Clinton.

Our time there includes a Bible Lesson, singing, and a craft. We enjoy some sweet fellowship with the residents at Skill Creations and leave blessed each time. You are welcome to join us each month for this great time of worship. Please meet at Skill Creations. If you have questions or want more information, contact Leslie Seals.

Worship Corner - August

Altar Guild:
Darrell & Debbie Jones

Ushers:
Volunteers Needed

Greeters:
NOW Team

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

Chancel Flowers:
8/3 Dan & Ruth Holland
8/10 Vacant
8/17 Curtis & Lori Barwick
8/24 Dan & Ruth Holland
8/31 Craig & Venetia Mann

**Son-Up Service Resumes
August 10th 9:00 am**



Flower Calendar 2025

Hi friends, there are plenty of **slots** ready to be claimed! 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

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Combined Worship	4 10:00am Intercessory Prayer 11:00am Staff Meeting	5 9:00am Chat with M@ 6:30pm Nominations Committee Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 Back to School Sunday Son Up Service 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Traditional Worship 11:00am Covered Dish 12:00pm Youth 5:00pm	11 10:00am Intercessory Prayer 10:00am Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting	12 9:00am Chat with M@ 7:00pm Trustees Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 Son Up Service 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Traditional Worship 11:00am Churchwide Baseball Game 3:00pm	18 10:00am Intercessory Prayer 7:00pm Finance Meeting	19 9:00am Chat with M@ 7:00pm Worship Team Meeting	20	21 Birthday Cakes: Becky Jackson, Susan Eaves, Janet Mitchell	22	23
24 Son Up Service 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Traditional Worship 11:00am Youth 5:00pm	25	26 9:00am Roll w/ Joel @ Simply Brewed	27 6:00pm Choir Appreciation Dinner	28	29	30 Cox Family-Building Use

Birthdays & Anniversaries

	Birthdays
1	Robert Turlington, Kelly Tyndall
2	Donna Owens, Patty Perkins, Kimberly Ayres
5	Jay Pope, Edye Carr
6	Marina Sessoms
8	Kara Scott
9	Kathleen Gancer
12	William Waters, IV; Ann Robinson; Courtney St. Pierre
13	Betsy Best
14	Melissa Perry
15	Elizabeth Andrews
16	Jan Smith, Wiley Lane
17	Charlotte Martin, Max Martin, Sarah Swartz
18	Janet Mitchell
19	Brett Shoemaker, Emily Pope, Andrew Scott
20	Bill Sutton
22	Cameron Someliana-Lauer
24	Pat Green, Wes Sautter
25	Debbie Jones, Beverly Stanley
26	Karen Wrench
27	Elizabeth Holland
28	Lee Turlington, William (Will) Waters, III; Stephen Waters
30	Karen Sutton, Reese O'Quinn, David Nordin
31	Kensley Sutton, Rickie Cashwell
	Anniversaries
7	Dan & Ruth Holland
23	Wellie & Tara Jackson
28	Eric & Heather Turlington

BACKYARD BUDDIES

Afterschool Childcare Program



WE'RE HIRING TEEN CAREGIVERS

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The teenage caregiver serves as an active participant in the care of the children. They are to actively engage in play, conversation, and interactions with the children while serving as a positive Christian role model

For More Information on the Position:



For a Quick View of Our Application



bybcp1998@gmail.com


<https://www.fmcnc.org/backyard-buddies>

First Methodist Church, 208 Sampson St, Clinton NC


910-592-2035

AUGUST MISSION PROJECT: DISASTER RELIEF

Our August Mission Project focus is on Disaster Relief. We ask that you bring this month, items to make flood buckets and loose change to support disaster relief projects in our state.



A CALL FOR STORM RELIEF CLEAN-UP KITS



UPCOMING MEETINGS

8/4 Staff Meeting 11:00am

8/5 Nominations Team 6:30 pm

8/11 Methodist Women Executive Board 10:00am

8/12 Trustees Meeting 7:00pm

8/18 Finance Meeting 7:00pm

8/19 Worship Team Meeting 7:00pm

9/2 SPRC Meeting 6:30pm



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Wednesday Nights
5:30 pm
Sanctuary
Led by
Pastor Matt
Beginning
September 10th

Bring your Bible
and something to
take notes



THE BOOK OF ACTS

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH



27-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

 **FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**
WWW.FMCNC.ORG CLINTON, NC

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

RESUMES SEPTEMBER 10TH

 **FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**
WWW.FMCNC.ORG CLINTON, NC



*Sanctuary
Sounds*

Sermons,
Music,
Thoughts and
More



 **FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**
WWW.FMCNC.ORG CLINTON, NC


**FIRST METHODIST
CHURCH**

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY

**AUGUST 10TH
9:00 AND 11:00 WORSHIP**

Join us as we pray over students, teachers, staff,
administrators and the 2025-2026 school year.

Grief Share®

Grief never ends... Grieving is all-encompassing. The loss could be a spouse, child, family member, friend, pet, and even divorce. Recovery from grief is overwhelming and can be lonely. First Methodist Church would like to help you with your loss by providing "Grief Share" support. This support series will help and give encouragement from a loss. The Grief Share Support group will begin September 16th. If you or someone you know would like to attend, please notify the church office.

910-592-2035
info@fmcnc.org
September 16th
4:30-6:30 pm
\$15.00 (scholarships
available)

Scan to register




**FIRST METHODIST
CHURCH**

**Back to School Sunday ~ Promotion Sun-
day ~ 3rd Grade Bibles**

9:00 and 11:00 Worship

**Covered Dish lunch at Noon with water
slide and dunk tank!**

**THE
BIBLE
RECAP**

**The Bible Recap
Resumes
September 10th
10:00 am**

 **FIRST
METHODIST
CHURCH**

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 *Book of Doctrine and Discipline*, paragraph 446.

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 *Book of Doctrine and Discipline*, paragraph 445.

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 (*Book of Doctrine and Discipline* paragraph 447.2). 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 *Book of Doctrine and Discipline*, paragraph 447.

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 *Book of Doctrine and Discipline*, paragraph 444.

Stewardship Team: Plans and carries out the yearly stewardship campaign. They prepare the list for the Stewardship Boxes and encourage members of the church to prayerfully consider their pledge to God and to the ministries of First Methodist each fall.

NOW Team: The Nurture Outreach Witness Team is the team that is responsible for planning and carrying out the various events and activities inside the walls of the church but also outside the walls of the church. From Wednesday Evening Fellowship to Community partnerships events the NOW team seeks to make the name of Jesus known and disciples of Jesus made.

The Nominations Team this year:

2025	2026	2027
Mary Nell Darden	Mandy DuBose	Lynn Owen
Susan Heath	Karen Sutton	Venetia Mann
Warren Perry	Wendy Carr	Helen Hobson

