

THE CORNERSTONE



A Letter From The Pastor

By Matt Seals

13 One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. **14** But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." **15** And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left. Matthew :19:13-15 (NLT)

If you read my note about year 5, you recall a section that talked about our Children's Ministry team's decision to move away from the Children's Church model. Our Children's Church served children from kindergarten through 2nd grade. To some, this is exciting news; to others, there has been a quiet struggle with this news. As I stated in my note, worship is one of the primary places where disciples are formed. Children learn to worship by worshipping. They learn hymns by singing them. They learn the rhythms of prayer by participating in them. They learn the importance of gathering with God's people by being present with God's people.

Since I first heard this conversation in other circles I have seen an increase in statements and information about how significant this is in the life of a child younger and older. So I wanted to share a couple of thoughts to encourage you during this transition as we move away from the Children's Church model and incorporate our children into worship.

First, we can learn from kids being in worship and they can learn from us. How many of you have been blessed by the beautiful prayers that our children pray on Sunday mornings? How many of you have been amazed at the boldness with which they step up to pray those prayers? This is the result of being in worship and living a life out of being in worship. These kids have seen this modeled for them in worship and outside of worship and because of this, they are teaching us the importance and power of prayer.

Second, a child sitting in worship has a greater chance of hearing God call them into ministry.

Did you know that your next preacher, musician, youth pastor, or children's ministry leader is sitting in the pews of your church? I shared this recently from something I ran across online: "Today's youth are tomorrow's pastors, parents, missionaries, and leaders." What message are we sending them if we send them out of worship each Sunday? What message might they be missing if we send them out of worship each Sunday?

So as we get back into school and new routines and return from the travels of summer, an aspect of our weekly worship will be a little different. Remember, Jesus said, "Let the children come." May our hearts be like Jesus' and open to let the children come.

In Christ,
Rev. Matt Seals
 pastor@fmcnc.org



A Letter From The Youth Pastor

By Joel Wise

It’s hard to believe that summer is over and school is about to begin. This past summer was filled with wonderful opportunities for our youth. They helped with VBS and the Water Wars and Worship. We went bowling and had a wonderful day at the beach. Thank you to the Lane family for hosting us.

I was very blessed to have so many leaders volunteer to teach our youth while I was on paternity leave. The different leadership styles were very impactful on the youth. We were also blessed with some good cooking for our youth meals.

This fall, we are hoping to continue to have volunteer leaders come and teach. Our youth group is growing and I will need help in guiding our youth and to help them to build solid faith foundations. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please let me know.

There are so many things we are looking forward to doing this fall. We are hoping that these upcoming events will engage our youth in fun activities while strengthening their faith through conversation and relationship. Thank you for continuing to support our youth.

Upcoming Dates

Aug. 9 – Sunday Youth Night resumes (5pm–7pm)

Aug. 16 – Youth Brick Painting (5:30–7:00pm)

Sept. 13 – Nov. 15 Confirmation Course

Sept. 18–19 – Raven Rock Camping Trip.

In Christ,
Pastor Joel

Joel Wise

Feed The Youth

Would you like to provide a meal for our youth one night?

Sign up today at
<https://tinyurl.com/FMCYMLS>
or scan the QR code with your cell phone camera to go to the link.





Fall Confirmation

What?
THE BASICS OF
CHRISTIANITY AND
OUR FAITH

Where?
FIRST METHODIST
FELLOWSHIP HALL



SEPT. 13 - NOV. 15
EVERY SUNDAY AT 4PM
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CONFIRMFMC26](https://tinyurl.com/CONFIRMFMC26)



A Letter From The Children’s Minister

By Abby Tomell

As summer sadly comes to a close, we are thankful for all the wonderful memories we’ve made together! We are excited to see what God has in store for our children as we begin a new school year. Please continue to keep our students, teachers, school staff, and families in your prayers as they prepare for the year ahead.

WORSHIP & WATER WARS

What a fun time we had at our Worship and Water Wars event. The kids enjoyed hot dogs, fun water games, lots of laughter, and making new friends. I personally took on a few tiny humans with water guns and may or may not have lost. Most importantly, we learned that Jesus is the Living Water who satisfies our needs and hearts forever.

“Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst”
John 4:14

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY AND PROMOTION : August 9th

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year!

On this special day we will:

- *Pray over students, teachers, and staff (feel free to bring your backpack or teacher bag)
- * Recognize students moving up into Youth
- * Present Bibles to our 3rd graders as they move up to the next Sunday School class

We look forward to celebrating this exciting milestone with our church family!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

WEF will resume on Wednesday **September 9th**. Look for a detailed schedule of these nights to come. Allison Driver will once again teach the 3-5 grade group while Ms. Abby teaches the K-2 group.

EVENT UPDATE

Due to lack of interest, the Mud Run Event has been cancelled. We appreciate everyone’s understanding and look forward to planning future events.

NURSERY INFORMATION

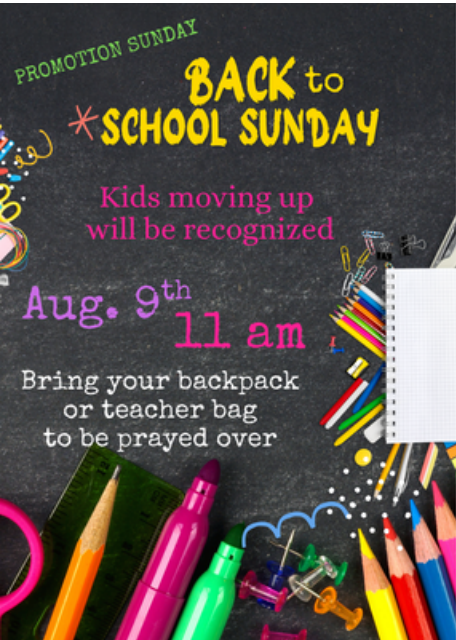
Thank you to everyone who serves in our nursery ministry! Please check the Nursery Volunteer Schedule for your assigned time to serve.

Our Infant Nursery is also available for families who need to use it. Currently, there is no volunteer schedule. As the need grows, we will develop a volunteer rotation for that space.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and willingness to serve our children’s ministry. We are grateful for each family and volunteer who helps share the love of Jesus with our children.

Much Love,
Abby Tomell
Children@fmcnc.org





A Letter From The Musicians

Dear Church Family,

Cameron and I really enjoyed the first "Intro to Music Reading and Singing" session in July! If you missed the first one, please come to the August session. Or if you had a great time in July, come out to the August session and we'll build on what we did in July. As has been mentioned in Sunday morning worship, these sessions are not necessarily to "recruit" new choir members but more so to help enhance congregational worship and singing.

After the July session the idea was mentioned that we explore the idea of a "First Sunday Choir". This would be a way for folks that are "on the fence" or too busy to commit to singing in the choir every Sunday a chance to still be a part of our music program. Since First Sunday services are combined, there tends to be more unison (no harmony, just one voice part) songs and hymns. During the school year, we also try to pick the anthems for First Sundays well in advance in order to give the singers the most time to prepare them. This would be a great way to try the choir experience without getting too overwhelmed by weekly anthem preparation. It would also be a great way for our young singers to get more involved with the Chancel Choir in the midst of their very busy schedules.

Of course, we would also love to encourage anyone who would love to join the choir "fulltime".

We are so grateful for our singers who show up every Wednesday and Sunday to help lead the congregation in song. It is so important, and we appreciate the blessing of these singers' dedication.

Did you know that being a choir member was one of the first ministerial "jobs" established in Old Testament times? King David was perhaps the most influential figure in the development of music as a form of worship. Under his direction, the first designated choirs and musical ensembles were formed for the purpose of leading people in worship. The book of Chronicles tells how King David "Commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brothers as the singers who should play loudly on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise sounds of joy" (1 Chronicles 15:16). This is among the earliest instances of an organized choir for the purpose of worship. These qualified and skilled Levites formed choirs that not only were examples of excellence in offerings of musical talents, but also the inspiration for the worship and praise of the people, for they, following the pattern of the choir, were also instructed to sing praises to God. The great choirs ordained by David and his son, Solomon, exemplify the Biblical significance of the power of music (especially choral and corporate singing) in ecclesiastical and corporate worship.

Here are a few more things to make note of for the rest of this month:

***The Chancel Choir will have its last summer rehearsal on August 5th at 7 p.m.** Regular rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 2nd at 7 pm. Please remember that the Chancel Choir is open to youth ages 6th-grade and up, not just adults. This would be a great way for the many talented young people of our congregation to stay active in the ministries of the church this summer.

***Cameron is planning to have the second "Intro to Music-Reading/Singing" session on August 5th at 6:15 pm** in the choir room. If you would like to refresh your music-reading skills in order to gain confidence in joining one of our ensembles, please consider attending one of these fun sessions! Even if you are not interested in joining one of our musical groups, these sessions would also be beneficial in gaining confidence in congregational singing and hopefully increase participation in corporate worship. These sessions are open to all-ages.

In Christ,

*Cameron & Marquita
Someliana-Lauer*

(910) 548-2719
organist@fmcnc.org



Meeting August 2nd @ 4

N.O.W. Corner

Ice Cream Social 3–4 PM on August 2nd.
Bring your favorite ice cream to FMC!

Thank you to Ricky & Helen Kaleel for
volunteering to coordinate October and
November meals.
Cooking teams are still needed!



August 20th

Birthday Cake Bunch

Becky Jackson; Susan Eaves; Janet Mitchell



W.E.F. Schedule

SEPTEMBER
9th – Team Phillip Andrews & Kaleb Sargent
16th – Team Mary Nell Darden
23rd – Team Sandra Pearson
30th – Team Debbie Jones

OCTOBER
7th – Team Lesa Moore
14th –
21st – Team Bob & Ken
28th –

NOVEMBER
4th –
11th –
18th –



Meals on Wheels

August 14: Steve & Dianne Cox
August 28: Bob & Sue Williams



Flower Calendar

2nd – The Griffin Family
9th – Dempsey Craig | **OPEN**
16th – **OPEN**
23rd – Dan and Ruth Holland | **OPEN**
30th – Venetia Mann

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.



Worship Corner

Altar Guild: Darrell & Debbie Jones
Greeters: N.O.W. Team

The Prayer Corner

Intercessory Prayer Group: Mondays at 10:00 am



Happy Birthday!

- 1st – Piper Bartsch
- 1st – Robert Turlington
- 2nd – Cameron McLamb
- 2nd – Donna Owens
- 2nd – Kimberly Ayers
- 5th – Edye Carr
- 5th – Jay Pope
- 8th – Kara Scott
- 9th – Kathleen Gancer
- 12th – Ann Robinson
- 12th – Courtney St Pierre
- 12th – William Waters, IV
- 13th – Betsy Best
- 14th – Melissa Perry
- 15th – Elizabeth Andrews
- 16th – Linda (Jan) Smith
- 16th – Wiley Lane
- 17th – Charlotte Martin
- 17th – Max Martin
- 17th – Sarah Swartz
- 18th – Janet Mitchell
- 19th – Emily Pope
- 20th – Bill Sutton
- 22nd – Cameron Someliana-Lauer
- 24th – Pat Green
- 24th – Wes Sautter
- 25th – Beverly Stanley
- 25th – Debbie Jones
- 26th – Karen Wrench
- 27th – Elizabeth Holland
- 28th – Lee Turlington
- 28th – Stephen Waters
- 28th – Will Waters, III
- 30th – David Nordin
- 30th – Karen Sutton
- 30th – Reese O’Quinn
- 31st – Kensley Sutton
- 31st – Rickie Cashwell

Prayer List:
Lynn McLamb, Jack Musick, Larry Waters, Jerry & Mary Margaret Hobbs, Jane Spell, Doris Gore, Neal Hardison, Joey Lowder, Dr. Mac Herring, Jimmie Hall, Marvin Mitchell, Homer Morris, Debra Morris, Wayne Tew, Pat Warrick, JoAnn Westbrook, Janet Johnson, Zachery Johnson, Steve Baker, Mike & Myra Humphrey, Glenn Brewer, Bryson Capps, Ed Owen, Greg Moore, Jimmy Smith, Wayne Reynolds, Angie Hall, Violet White

Those who are homebound:
Ruth Godwin

Those who are in long-term care:
Loraine Butler, Anthony Balkcum, Pat Green, Frances Pearson, Polly Coffey, Helen Griffin, Louetta Carr

Missionary:
Forrest & Laura Strickland



Children’s Volunteers

- Nursery:**
- 2nd – Ashley Rivers (11am)
 - 9th – Sarah Swartz (9am)
 - 16th – Beth Pope (9am)
 - 23rd – Wendy Carr (9am)
 - 30th – Leigh Butler (9am)

Happy Anniversary!

- 7th – Dan & Ruth Holland
- 16th – Will & Caroline Wallace
- 23rd – Wellie & Tara Jackson
- 28th – Eric & Heather Turlington



2026

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 3:00 Ice Cream Social 4:00 N.O.W. Meeting (Everyone Welcome)	3 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	4 9:00 Chat with M@ 6:30 Missions Meeting	5 5:30 Youth 6:15 Intro to Music Class 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8
9 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:30 Youth 	10 10:00 Intercessory Prayer 7:00 NormCom Meeting	11 9:00 Chat with M@ 6:30 SPRC Meeting September Newsletter & Event Info Due to Office	12	13	14 Meals on Wheels	15
16 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:30 Youth	17 10:00 Intercessory Prayer 7:00 Worship Meeting	18 9:00 Chat with M@ 7:00 Finance Meeting	19	20 9:30-10 Birthday Cakes  6:30 Skill Creations	21	22
23 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:30 Youth	24 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	25 9:00 Chat with M@ 7:00 Admin Board	26	27	28 Meals on Wheels	29 5:30 S.A.L.T Trip to Mikes Farm 
30 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 4:00 Cry Freedom Missions 5:30 Youth	31 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	Notes: 8/3: Receipts & Coordinating forms Due to Office 8/11: September Newsletters & Event Info Due to Office				



CRY FREEDOM MISSIONS

REACH RESCUE RESTORE

Stories of Hope & Restoration

Hear how lives are being transformed through rescue, healing, and the hope found in Christ.





GUEST SPEAKER

Beverly Weeks

SUNDAY

AUGUST 30

4:00 PM

EVERYONE IS

Welcome!

Come hear powerful testimonies and discover how God is changing lives around the world.



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

208 SAMPSON STREET • CLINTON, NC

MONTHLY MISSION

SEP. 6 - NOV. 8

OPERATION Christmas CHILD





S.A.L.T.

Seasoned adults living triumphantly

2026 - 2027 EVENTS



AUGUST 29TH

Mike's Farm

DINNER & MAGIC SHOW



SEPTEMBER • DATE TBA

Farmers Market Lunch

Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral Tour

Howling Cow Ice Cream





OCTOBER 15-16

The Great Gatsby

CHARLOTTE TRIP



NOVEMBER • DATE TBA

Rudy Theatre

CHRISTMAS SHOW

SELMA, NC





DECEMBER • DATE TBA

Snyder Memorial

SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE

JANUARY 24TH • 5:30 PM

Dinner & Show

AT FIRST METHODIST

DETAILS TBA



FEBRUARY

DATE TBA

Bethel Church

VALENTINE STEAK DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

LA GRANGE, NC



MARCH

DATE TBA

Sweet Tea

Shakespeare PLAY IN

FAYETTEVILLE



APRIL

DATE & DETAILS TBA

Sight & Sound

Theatre Trip

LANCASTER, PA



MAY

DATE TBA

Sampson County

History Museum & LUNCH



SALT Trip to Charlotte

October 15th-16th

Overnight trip to Charlotte:

The Great Gatsby

Cost:

Single - \$640.00

Double - \$480.00

per person

Cost includes:

Hotel

Great Gatsby Tickets

Choice of museum on Friday

Attendees will need money for meals

Depart from FMC

October 15th

9:00 am to Leland

Register/ Pay via this site:

<https://tinyurl.com/SALTGATSBY>