

# The Cornerstone



## Sermon Series:



1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, money, or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?
9. Am I enjoying prayer?
10. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?

## A Letter From The Pastor

By Matt Seals

This month, we begin the season of Lent. Our Lenten series is titled “Questions That Shape the Soul: A Journey through Scripture and John Wesley’s 22 Questions for Holy Living.” While John and Charles Wesley were students at Oxford University, they formed a small group that met regularly for prayer, Bible study, and intentional discipleship. The group was mockingly nicknamed the “Holy Club” and labeled “Methodist” because of their disciplined and methodical approach to the Christian life. Central to their shared life were a set of questions used for daily self-examination and accountability. John Wesley asked himself these questions each day and recorded his reflections in his journal as a means of spiritual growth and holiness. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to continually grow in our faith. The Christian life is not a sprint toward perfection, but a daily turning toward love. Day by day, we are shaped more fully into the likeness of Christ—in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Lent offers us a sacred season to examine our hearts, reorder our lives, deepen our faith, and renew our commitment to Christ. This is the heart of discipleship. As John Wesley often emphasized, the church changes the world not merely by making converts, but by forming disciples. Beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, we will journey through Scripture alongside two to three of Wesley’s questions each week. These questions are offered as a means of growing in grace, being transformed in love, and deepening our life of discipleship. Each day, you are encouraged to reflect on the questions introduced that week, adding new ones as we move through the season, so that by Easter, all 22 questions have become part of your daily rhythm of prayer and reflection.

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

# A Letter From The Youth Pastor

By Joel Wise

Greetings, Church Family!

January was such an eventful month for our youth. We began our "System Reset Series" and began going through the Gospels. Due to the winter storm, we were not able to go on our winter retreat to Blowing Rock, NC. We are planning another ski trip for **February 27-29th**.

Looking ahead to February, our youth will be volunteering at Night to Shine and participating in The Love Project on **February 21**. The Love Project brings our youth together—with the help of other volunteers—to create Valentine's cards that will be delivered to residents at Mary Gran, Southwood, and Rolling Ridge nursing homes. If you would like to make a card or two, please drop them off at the church by **February 19th**. We are also still looking for church family members to help provide Sunday night meals for our youth during the 2026 year. If you would like to prepare a home-cooked meal, please contact me at youth@fmcnc.org, and I will add you to the sign-up sheet.



***" Your encouragement helps them grow in the love of Christ and equips them to be ambassadors who share his love"***

We are currently finalizing dates for our summer youth mission trip and will share those soon. Last year, we served in Rodanthe near Cape Hatteras on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This year, we will be returning to the Outer Banks for a full week of mission work, serving several coastal communities. Please keep our youth in your prayers as they begin preparing for this trip. Thank you for the love, care, and support you give to our young people. Your encouragement helps them grow in the love of Christ and equips them to be ambassadors who share His love with others.

Chili Cook-Off Results \$396  
Amount remaining to reach goal?  
**\$2,104**

God Bless,  
*Rev. Joel Wise*  
Associate Pastor  
youth@fmcnc.org

## Youth Events This Month

THE LOVE PROJECT  
PRESENTED BY  
THE STEADFAST YOUTH  
OF FIRST METHODIST

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!!

FROM THE STEADFAST YOUTH GROUP

CARDS DELIVER ON FEB 21, 2026

**Student Care Packages**

Packing Date : Feb. 4

Items Needed

- Gum
- Popcorn
- Granola/Energy Bar
- Cookies (Homemade)
- Chips
- Pop Tarts
- School Supplies
- Hand written notes/ Letters
- Stress Balls
- Gift Cards
- Fidget Toys
- Card Games
- Silly/Fun Items

**Bring Items to Mission Cabinet  
Outside of the Church Office**





## A Letter From The Children's Minister

By Abby Tomell

Happy February, families and friends! What an amazing start to 2026 we've had in our Children's Ministry! January was full of laughter, learning, instant pudding, and God's love shining brightly on us all. Thank you so much to all of our volunteers this month. The new volunteer schedule has been wonderful, and I am deeply grateful for your continued commitment to embracing our baptismal covenant by sharing the love of Jesus with our children. If you need another copy of the schedule, please reach out to either Victoria or me. Children's Sunday is February 1st! We hope you will join us as our kids lead us in worship. Please plan to stay afterward for a potluck luncheon and face painting, immediately following the service.

WEF is off to a fantastic start as well. Our oldest kids are diving into the Gospel of Luke, our K-2 group is dancing through the life of King David, and our preschoolers are marching through the alphabet—one biblical letter at a time! Mark your calendars for an unforgettable adventure—castles, kilts, and courageous faith lessons from the Highlands! Volunteers are needed as we gear up for **Vacation Bible School, June 7–10**. Recently, I taught a lesson on the gifts God has given us—and yes, it involved pudding (ask your kids about it!).

I want to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you for sharing your gifts and your hearts with our children, and for sharing them with me.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

1 Peter 4:10

Much Love,

*Abby Tomell*

Children@fmcnc.org

# Children's Events Coming Soon



## Save The Dates VBS 2026



## June 7 – 10

# A Letter From The Musicians

Dan Holland, Cameron and Marquita Someliana- Lauer

Dear Church Family,

We will glorify the King of kings,  
We will glorify the Lamb;  
We will glorify the Lord of lords,  
Who is the great I AM.

These are the words of the first verse of a praise chorus by Twila Paris entitled "We Will Glorify the King of Kings" (TFWS No. 2087). This is a praise chorus that we have done several times at church and has been stuck in my head lately as I am in the process of doing a bit of a "word study" on the word "glory" or "glorify" as it is found in the Bible and relates to our worship practices. We sing often of "glorifying" the Lord. In fact, almost every Sunday we sing these words as part of the "Gloria Patri": "Glory be to the Father..." So what exactly does it mean to "glorify" the Lord? Webster's dictionary defines the word "glory" as "praise or honor offered in worship." To put it in my own words- I think that when we "glorify" the Lord we are worshipping and/or honoring the Lord in a way that acknowledges His holiness and pleases him. I am reminded of Pastor Matt's sermon from a few weeks ago when he explained the difference between "selfish obedience" and "selfless obedience".

We can be outwardly obedient in our actions when we show up to church on Sundays, but God wants our whole selves to be actively engaged in "glorifying" Him in everything we do. This means that when we show up to worship we sing, pray, read the Word, and listen with hearts surrendered to Him, receptive to what the Lord has to say to us, reverent, and excited and joyful to be in the house of God with our brothers and sisters!

Psalm 29:1-2 declares:

Give unto the Lord,  
O you mighty ones,  
Give unto the Lord  
glory and strength.  
Worship the Lord  
in the beauty of  
holiness.

We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas about what it means to "glorify" the Lord. Please reach out and let us know what you think! Here are some additional ways that the music program will be actively striving to glorify the Lord this month through music and worship:

**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>,** is Children's Sunday! Come and be blessed as the children of our church lead all of the music and worship.

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>,** we will have our second rehearsal for the "Sing Praise to God Concert."

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>,** the dulcimer ensemble will be playing music at the History Museum. Exact time TBD.

All of our choirs and ensembles are preparing special music for the Lenten Season. We look forward to worshipping with you!

In Christ,

*Marquita Someliana-Lauer*  
Organist, etc.  
(910) 548-2719  
[organist@fmcnc.org](mailto:organist@fmcnc.org)

*Sing Praise to God!*

A concert featuring the favorite anthems of  
Music Director, Dan Holland.

Presented in celebration of his 40 years of music  
ministry at First Methodist Church.

Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.  
*Reception to follow*

First Methodist Church  
208 Sampson St. Clinton, NC 28328

Please contact us by January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, if you are interested  
in singing with the choir for this wonderful event.  
[music@fmcnc.org](mailto:music@fmcnc.org) or (910) 548-2719







N.O.W. Corner

Needs help with meals on:  
**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**–Concert Reception  
• Contact Jane Claire Tew for more info.  
**March 25<sup>th</sup>** Wednesday Evening Fellowship



Packing February 4th

Missions Corner

Back Pack Buddies Packing 2/4 at 10 am  
Care Package Collection  
(See needed items on last page)



Worship Corner

Altar Guild: Wayne & Christy Boyette  
Greeters: Eleanor Powell Circle  
1st–Sarah Stone, Hannah Baxter  
8th–Mary Nell Darden, Janet Mitchell  
15th–Jane Herring, Ellen Moody  
23rd–Jane Claire Tew, Lesa Moore



February 19<sup>th</sup>

Birthday Cake Bunch

Lynn Owen; Carolyn Pope; Marilyn St. Pierre



Flower Calendar

February 1<sup>st</sup>: David & Jana Hobson  
February 8<sup>th</sup>: Hugh & Mary Jo Carr  
February 15<sup>th</sup>: **Tentative Move from 1<sup>st</sup>**  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>: **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.



Food Pantry Collection

First Baptist Church 900

Jelly (Squeezable plastic container)



Meals on Wheels

February 13th: Steve & Dianne Cox  
February 27th : Elsie Taylor

# The Prayer Corner

Intercessory Prayer Group: Mondays at 10:00 am



Joey Lowder, Dr. Mac Herring, Jimmie Hall, Marvin Mitchell, Frances Pearson, 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, Wes Keen, Zachery Johnson, Steve Baker, Mike & Myra Humphrey, Glenn Brewer, Bryson Capps, Ed Owen, Merry Wicke, Greg Moore, Jimmy Smith, Donald & Carolyn Wrench, Wayne Reynolds, Angie Hall, Danny Dyson, Violet White

Those in long-term care:

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

Those who are homebound:

- Ruth Godwin
- Barbara Carr



## Children’s Volunteer’s

Nursery:

- 8<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 – Rachel Grantham
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 – Leigh Butler
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – 9:00 – Brittany Serafini

K–2 Children’s Church:

- 8<sup>th</sup> – Phillip Andrews
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Jenna King
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Madison Melvin

K–2 Wednesday 5:30 – 6:20:

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Johnathan Lane
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Sarah Stone
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Nick Serafini



## Happy Birthday!

- 1st – Callie Turlington
- 2nd – James Barker
- 4th – Caroline Andrews
- 5th – Felix Someliana–Lauer
- 5th – Sarah Stone
- 5th – Abigail W. Godwin
- 6th – Helen Hobson
- 6th – Ricky Kaleel
- 6th – Makalyn Raynor
- 6th – Susan Sautter
- 6th – Selma Turlington
- 7th – Anita Boney
- 7th – Jack Waters
- 10th – Vivian Someliana–Lauer
- 10th – Caroline Wallace
- 11th – Will Carter
- 12th – Deborah Harn
- 12th – Tara Jackson
- 12th – Betty McLean
- 14th – Livie Martin
- 15th – Holden DuBose
- 16th – Michael Rivenbark
- 16th – Kathleen Sargent
- 17th – Ann Butler
- 17th – Enid Wise
- 18th – Barbara Carr
- 19th – Tracy Pope
- 19th – Jackson Seals
- 24th – Spencer Driver
- 25th – Taylor Herring
- 25th – Josh Ward
- 27th – Sutton Driver

## Happy Anniversary!

- 14<sup>th</sup> – Edward & Lynn Owen
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Everett & Helen Griffin
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Cameron & Marquita Someliana–Lauer





February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div>1</div> <div>11:00 Online Church Service</div> <div></div>	<div>2</div> <div>10:00 Intercessory Prayer 11:00 Staff Meeting</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9:00 Chat with M@ 7:00 Finance Meeting</div>	<div>4</div> <div>10:00 BPB Packing 4:00 Dulcimers 4:45 K- 5<sup>th</sup> Choir 5:30 3 &amp; 4 yr Choir &amp; Bible Study 6:30 WEF Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>
<div>8</div> <div>9:00 Son-Up Service 9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Worship 12:00 Covered Dish 1:30 Church Conference 3:00 Choir Rehearsal 5:00 Youth</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10:00 Intercessory Prayer</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9:00 Chat with M@</div>	<div>11</div> <div>4:00 Dulcimers 4:45 K- 5<sup>th</sup> Choir 5:30 3 &amp; 4 yr Choir &amp; Bible Study 6:30 WEF Valentine Dinner by Youth + Salt 7:00 Chancel Choir</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Admin Board Reports Due to Office!</div>	<div>13</div> <div>6:00  Night to Shine TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Happy Valentine's Day</div>
<div>15</div> <div>8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Worship 5:00 Youth</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10:00 No Intercessory Prayer 11:00 Ida Johnson</div> <div> OFFICE CLOSED</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9:00 Chat with M@ 6:30 Eleanor Powell Circle</div>	<div>18</div> <div>12:00 Lent Lunch 4:00 Dulcimers 4:45 K- 5<sup>th</sup> Choir</div> <div>Ash wednesday 5:30 Service 6:30 WEF Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir</div>	<div>19</div> <div>9:30-10 Birthday Cakes</div> <div></div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div>12:45 Dulcimers play at History Museum 9:00-11:00 Youth Love Project Deliveries</div> <div></div>
<div>22</div> <div>9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Worship 5:00 Youth</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10:00 Intercessory Prayer</div>	<div>24</div> <div>9:00 Chat with M@ 7:00 Admin Board Meeting</div> <div>March Newsletter Info Due to Office</div>	<div>25</div> <div>12:00 Lent Lunch 4:00 Dulcimers 4:45 K- 5<sup>th</sup> Choir 5:30 3 &amp; 4 yr Choir &amp; Bible Study 6:30 WEF Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div>4:30 Departure Rescheduled Youth Ski Trip</div> <div></div>	<div>28</div> <div></div>

Notes:



# Lent

## LUNCH SCHEDULE

SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 18 — REV. KATIE RIVES  
"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM"

FEBRUARY 25 — REV. DR. RAY AMMONS  
"TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME, IN PARADISE"

MARCH 4 — REV. ERIC GRUBB  
"WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON"


MARCH 11 — REV. DR. THADDEUS GODWIN  
"MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

MARCH 18 — REV. MARK FIELDS  
"I THIRST"

MARCH 25 — REV. JONATHON SHATTUCK  
"IT IS FINISHED"

APRIL 1 — REV. MATT SEALS  
"INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT"

TIME:  
12:00-1:00 PM



COST: \$5.00  
PER PERSON

METHODIST MEN

# Sunday BREAKFAST




**FEBRUARY 15  
08.00 AM**

JOIN US FOR A MORNING  
OF FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP.

## Butler Avenue School Volunteers Needed

### Contact Jeff Swartz for Information



WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP  
FEBRUARY 11- 6:30 PM



## VALENTINE'S DINNER

LET'S BE TOGETHER

**STARTER**

SALAD

**MAIN**

SPAGHETTI & BREAD

**DESSERT**

HOSTED BY SALT + THE STEADFAST YOUTH

## Sunday Night Youth Meals

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

Sign up today!

5pm Sunday Nights



## Student Care Packages

Packing Date : Feb. 4

Items Needed

- Gum
- Popcorn
- Granola/Energy Bar
- Cookies (Homemade)
- Chips
- Pop Tarts
- School Supplies
- Hand written notes/ Letters
- Stress Balls
- Gift Cards
- Fidget Toys
- Card Games
- Silly/Fun Items

Bring Items to Mission Cabinet  
Outside of the Church Office