

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@fmnc.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@fmcmc.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@fmcmc.org

Youth Events This Month



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,

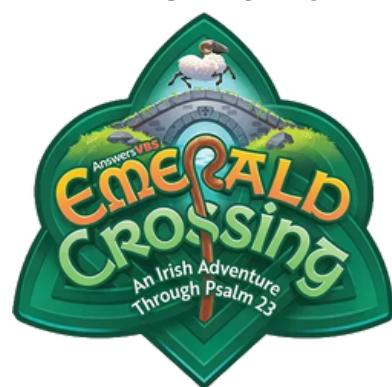
Abby Tomell

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

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

Saturday, February 21st, 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@fmcmc.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 4th, 2026, if you are interested in singing with the choir for this wonderful event.
music@fmcmc.org or (910) 548-2719





N.O.W. Corner

Needs help with meals on:

March 22nd—Concert Reception

- Contact Jane Claire Tew for more info.

March 25th 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 19th

Birthday Cake Bunch

Lynn Owen; Carolyn Pope; Marilyn St. Pierre



Flower Calendar

February 1st: David & Jana Hobson

February 8th: Hugh & Mary Jo Carr

February 15th: Tentative Move from 1st

February 22nd: 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:

8th - 9:00 - Rachel Grantham
 15th - 9:00 - Leigh Butler
 22nd - 9:00 - Brittany Serafini

K-2 Children's Church:

8th - Phillip Andrews
 15th - Jenna King
 22nd - Madison Melvin

K-2 Wednesday 5:30 - 6:20:

4th - Johnathan Lane
 11th - Sarah Stone
 25th - 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!

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

2026

February

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

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
- Popeorn
- 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