

THE CORNERSTONE



A Letter From The Pastor

By Matt Seals

Travel Light

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Have you ever packed for a trip and realized you packed way too much? I bet we all have done that and maybe have done that as recently as this summer. I don't like packing. I never know what to pack, how much to pack. I will say that I may at times be one who will underpack, and that too is problematic. With our road trip theme and thinking about our faith in the sense of it being a journey, I couldn't help but think of how we might overpack our lives at times and find ourselves weighed down, or burdened by the excessiveness of the stuff we carry.

When I think about this I don't just think about a full calendar. Yes, that might be part of the heaviness that we carry. But we may also be carrying guilt or grief—burdens that entangle and hinder us. The writer of Hebrews points us to see the great cloud of witnesses around us. These are folks who are no longer with us, folks who have moved on to glory; they are for sure travelling light. They are folks who are witnesses to the goodness and grace of God. They are our cheerleaders in the faith, encouraging us in the race before us. As we come to what has with the early start of school become the last full month of summer, I want to invite us to not overpack for our trips nor overpack our lives with things of this world. Instead, let me invite you to travel light this month. Find time each day to be encouraged by Jesus through the reading of his word or spending time talking with him in prayer. Look for ways to encourage those around you in the faith, at home, your workplace, on the ball field, or on the beach.

Make room in your journey this month to experience fresh and new, the power of God, and something more of God that is made possible by the present Holy Spirit. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father for us, and while he is there, we are on his mind. So let's travel light, throw off everything that hinders and entangles, do not carry around the weight of the world, instead, carry the joy that comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Rev. Matt Seals
pastor@fmcnc.org





A Letter From The Youth Pastor

Guest Written: Matt Seals

It is hard to believe that summer is halfway over! We first want to thank those who stepped in and led the various youth opportunities and activities while Pastor Joel has been out these last few weeks! It has been great to see so many people pouring into our young people. As the parent of a youth, thank you!

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

The summer mission trip for the week of July 13 has been canceled. Instead of the trip, the youth will be going bowling, to the NC Zoo, and to Fort Fisher Beach. If your teen would like to go on any of the trips, please let pastor Joel know.

As we get closer to fall, please pray for all of our youth. Many have been traveling this summer. Pray that they have had a restful summer.

We are finishing up our “Fierce” summer theme. We hope that the lessons the youth have learned will encourage them to be bold in their faith as well as in their character.

This fall, we will begin our season with the series, “Change: How to handle it.” We will also have a confirmation course in September.

In Christ,
Pastor Joel

Youth Summer Schedule July

July 1– 5:30 pm Summer Youth

July 8th– Summer Youth

July 14–Bowling Dunn, NC

July 16– NC Zoo, Ashboro., Nc

July 18– Fort Fisher Beach, Cure NC

July 22nd– 5:30 pm Summer Youth

July 29th– 7:00 pm Summer Worship Night

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.



STEADFAST YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP

JULY 13–18, 2026
OUTER BANKS, NC

OPEN TO ANY 6TH–12TH GRADERS
AND ANY ADULTS IN THE CONGREGATION

\$350 PER PERSON

MISSION PROJECTS INCLUDE:
HOME REPAIR, LANDSCAPING, CLEANING,
AND MORE

REGISTER AT:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/SUMMERMISSIONTRIP](https://tinyurl.com/SUMMERMISSIONTRIP)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL YOUTH@FMCNC.ORG



A Letter From The Children’s Minister

By Abby Tomell

Heartfelt Thanks!

What an incredible week we had at Vacation Bible School. I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who helped make VBS such a wonderful success. Thank you to our volunteers, decoration committee, teachers, helpers, parents, and church family for your time, prayers, support, and encouragement.

Our children had an amazing time traveling through the rolling green hills of Ireland learning about God’s love, the 23rd Psalm, how He shepherds us, and His goodness. It was wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm throughout the week. Only 355 days until the next one!

Summer Nursery Schedule

Please make note of the Summer Nursery Schedule. And keep an eye out for updates and changes as the Infant Nursery is constructed. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have faithfully served our youngest church members.

Oh, Baby!

We would also like to extend a warm congratulations and welcome to the King family on the newest additions to their family, Briggs and Banks King were born on June 13. Mom and babies are doing well.

Water Wars & Worship

Mark your calendars ... Water Wars and Worship. **Join us July 1st from 5:30–7** for an evening filled with fun, friends, water wars, snacks, and learning more about Jesus being the Living Water

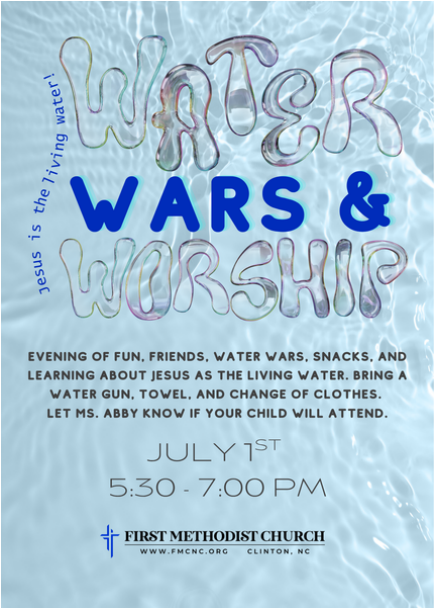
Bring your favorite water gun, towel, and change of clothes. Please let Ms. Abby know if your child plans on attending so she can have a head count.

I hope everyone continues to have a safe, fun, and blessed summer. We look forward to seeing all our children and families at upcoming church events and activities.

Much Love,
Abby Tomell

Children@fmcnc.org

Children Events





A Letter From The Musicians

Dear Church Family,

Several times a year, our family receives a magazine from the *Voice of The Martyrs* organization. These magazines include stories and testimonies of persecuted Christians from all over the world as well as specific prayer requests and ways to help these brothers and sisters. In a recent issue I was greatly moved by the story of a pastor whose wife was brutally attacked by a group of terrorists (the attack had been meant for him). Sadly, Pastor Andre's wife, Miriam, ultimately passed away because of her injuries, but Pastor Andre stated that he felt led by the Holy Spirit to sing a hymn with her as they drove to the hospital. Pastor Andre went on to say that he was able to sing the comforting words to his wife because the song was a song that spoke about the love of God for him and what the Lord had done for him. Many of the stories in these magazines tell about the importance of singing, music, and corporate worship to persecuted churches around the globe. Often, the accompanying photographs portray worshippers singing with such enthusiasm and joy in spite of extremely challenging circumstances.

This month, we will celebrate a very special Independence Day holiday. America 250!

As we celebrate the many freedoms that we enjoy here in the United States, please remember the great privilege that we have to be able to worship freely. The next time you come to church, I hope that you will joyfully remember that we are free to sing aloud God's praises! What a tremendous gift and blessing. Please also remember in your prayers the persecuted church and our fellow Christians who do not have those freedoms.

If you are interested in learning more about this organization and how to support the persecuted church please check out The Voice of the Martyrs at vom.org.

Here are a few things to make note of for the rest of this summer!

- The Singing Strings Ensemble will play at Simply Brewed on **Wednesday, July 1st from about 4-5 pm.**
- The Singing Strings Ensemble will play patriotic selections in worship on **Sunday, July, 5th.**
- The Chancel Choir will only rehearse on the first Wednesday of each of the summer months- **June 3rd, July 1st, and August 5th at 7 p.m.**

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 also hoping to have two "Intro to Music-Reading/Singing" sessions this summer. These will take place on **July 1st and 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.
- On **Wednesday, July 29th at 7 pm** we will have our second summer "Night of Worship".

In Christ,

*Cameron & Marquita
Someliana-Lauer*

(910) 548-2719
organist@fmcnc.org



N.O.W. Corner

Ice Cream Social 3–4PM on August 2nd.
Bring your favorite ice cream to FMC!
Last call: For WEF to continue, we need people to sign up by July 30th.



Missions Corner

We are collecting school supplies to support Butler Avenue. All supplies are due back on July 30th.



Worship Corner

Altar Guild: Dan & Ruth Holland
Greeters: Methodist Men



Birthday Cake Bunch

Sarah Hesketh; Kathleen Gancer; Mary Jo Carr



Meals on Wheels

July 10th – Elsie Taylor
July 24th – Helen Hobson



Flower Calendar

5th – Leslie Darden | Janet Shoemaker
12th – **OPEN**
19th – Venetia Mann
26th – Karen Wrench

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.



Let's Welcome Our New Members

Frank Svenson & Sue Driver

The Prayer Corner

Intercessory Prayer Group: Mondays at 10:00 am



Happy Birthday!

- 1st – Sarah Hesketh
- 4th – Donald Royal
- 5th – Dr. Mac Herring
- 5th – Nelson Waters
- 6th – Lynn McLamb
- 10th – Charlotte Best
- 10th – Kalin Cockman
- 10th – Beth Griffin
- 10th – Janet Shoemaker
- 11th – Casey Bartsch
- 11th – Pat Craig
- 11th – Lynn Owen
- 13th – Janet Carter
- 15th – Melanie Herring
- 18th – Kelly Wheeler
- 20th – Mary Catherine Hazle
- 21st – Blake Raynor
- 21st – Leslie Seals
- 21st – Dickie Smith
- 21st – Don Wrench
- 22nd – Kade Sutton
- 26th – Danny Dyson
- 26th – Isabelle Tomell
- 28th – Debbie Shea
- 29th – Dempsey Craig
- 29th – Emmett Grantham
- 29th – Dale Marshburn
- 30th – Ashley Rivers
- 31st – Robert Williams

Prayer List:

Lynn McLamb, Jack Musick, Larry Waters, Jerry & Mary Margaret Hobbs, Jane Spell, Doris Gore, Neal Hardison, Martin Sikorski, Owen Hales, Joey Lowder, Dr. Mac Herring, Jimmie Hall, Marvin Mitchell, Frances Pearson, Ethan Youngblood, Homer Morris, Debra Morris, 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, Wayne Reynolds, Angie Hall, Danny Dyson, 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:

- 5th – 11:00 – Leslie Seals
- 12th – 9:00 – Sheila Steed & Casey Bartsch
- 11:00 – Madison Melvin
- 19th – 9:00 – Beth Pope
- 26th – 9:00 – Debbie Jones & Tiffany Rivenbark
- 11:00 – Ashley Rivers

Happy Anniversary!

- 8th – Craig & Venetia Mann
- 17th – Dr. Tim & Jan Smith
- 23rd – Joel & Jessie Wise
- 27th – Don & Karen Wrench
- 28th – Will & Karen Herring
- 29th – John & Vevlyn Lowe
- 29th – Will & Heather Waters
- 30th – Dickie & Sherri Smith



Stewardship Team Meeting
July 22 6:00 PM

July

Notes:

7/9: Victoria out of Office - Volunteer Opportunity

Night of Worship

Wednesday, July 29th

7:00 pm

Message by: Rev. Matt Seals
Music to be announced



Fellowship Hall :
First Methodist Church
208 Sampson St.
Clinton, NC



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
WWW.FMNC.ORG CLINTON, NC

INTRO TO MUSIC READING/SINGING

Have you always wanted to learn to read music, sing, or play an instrument? Join our beginner's music reading and singing lessons led by Cameron Someliana-Lauer.

JULY 1ST AUG. 5TH 6:15 PM

FMC CHOIR ROOM



"BYOIC" ICE CREAM Social



August 2nd 2026 3-4 PM

Bring your favorite homemade ice cream!
Don't forget your friends, your family, or just your sweet tooth!

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



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

SATURDAY
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



SEPTEMBER

9th
16th
23rd
30th

OCTOBER

7th - Team Lesa Moore
14th
21st
28th

NOVEMBER

4th
11th
18th



IN SEARCH OF WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP COOK TEAMS

- You create the menu
- 50-60 people each week
- Funds are available to purchase meals

 **6:30 PM**

 **CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR PASTOR JOEL TO SIGN UP**

11 Weeks

11 Teams