

# THE CORNERSTONE



## A Letter From The Conference Superintendent

With the Annual Conference this month, I found this a great word for us all in this season. Enjoy.

~ Pastor Matt

Dr. Walter Liefeld (1927-2023) encouraged my love of Holy Scripture. From him came great insight into how to read a passage and to understand God's meaning in order to make wholesome applications. Not only was he my teacher, but he was also my boss. From 1982-1984, I was his graduate assistant.

Dr. Liefeld taught me to study and to research. He strengthened my abilities with the Greek language. He put me in front of graduate students and helped me learn to teach. Most importantly, he put me to the task of researching his particular interest on the call to ministry and women in the Church.

My wife and I will be eternally grateful to God for the lives and influence of Walter and Olive Liefeld.

Imagine my joy to discover recently that another book on ministry was written by Dr. Liefeld and published in 2015. The title is intriguing: "Direction: A Biblical Perspective on Being Called and Sent by God." We speak much of a call to ministry on both laity and clergy. My mentor writes that the Bible gives more attention to being sent by God. Even the classic call story of Isaiah 6 does not use "call" words per se. The crescendo is in the prophet's response, "Here I am. Send me." The book raises a question for me as I serve in the Global Methodist Church. Can anyone describe him/herself as called who is unwilling to be sent?

We speak of a call to ministry upon the laity. However, many members are more likely to leave worship with little sense of being sent. Our dear laity desire to care, to be kind. Too few, I fear, see themselves as sent by God to their neighbor and to the stranger with the Gospel.

Our clergy must give a call statement to the Board of Ministry. If one is in a discernment visit with a Staff Parish Committee in hopes of an appointment, he or she will need to articulate a call. Yet I also fear that too few have a powerful sense of being sent. Paul defends his role as an apostle in 2 Corinthians 11 and 12. On first reading, my thoughts are of "apostle" as a role of spiritual authority in the Church. On second reading, I remember that the meaning of "apostle" comes from the verb "to send." To be an "apostle" includes a keen sense of being "sent." Because of this inner conviction, the Apostle endured imprisonments, five occasions of thirty-nine lashes, beatings with rods, stoning, privation, hardship, shipwreck, and more. His argument is that how hardship is faced, accepted, and endured is evidence of one's sense of being "sent." Why endure discomfort, embarrassment, privation, and suffering? Because one is "sent" [to] a people who needed to the good news of Jesus Christ.

The one, holy, apostolic, and catholic Church is a "sent" church. Lay persons may not be ordained, but every lay Christian is a "sent" Christian no less than every clergy person, who is also "sent."

*Romans 10:13-15 (NASB) declares, 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." 14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"*

Rev. David Banks  
Conference Superintendent

# A Letter From The Youth Pastor

Guest Written: Matt Seals

Joel and Jessie had a baby!! We give thanks and celebrate the gift that they have in welcoming a healthy baby boy into this world. We continue to pray for them as they settle into new routines and habits in this season.

Summer is here! Memorial Day, the official kick-off to summer, has come and gone, and we are in summer vacation mode! We give thanks for a great school year and all that our young people accomplished throughout this school year in the classroom, on the stage, on the courts, and in the fields. We pray that each of you have a great, safe, and relaxing summer!

Just because we push pause on school for the summer doesn't mean we should push pause on our faith and gathering with the faith community. This is why this Summer we have moved our summer youth gathering from Sunday nights to Wednesday nights. For the next few weeks, we have some great volunteers who have agreed to come bless our youth and spend time with them in the word.



Here is the other cool thing about summer youth! All rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders get to join on Wednesday nights! Now you still go with Ms. Abby on Sunday mornings, and for Vacation Bible School, but Wednesday nights you get to hang out with the youth group, and begin to form relationships that will bless you and your life for years to come.

Summer Wednesday nights begin at 5:00 and end at 7:00 each Wednesday. We do have dinner each Wednesday as well. If you would like to feed the youth, please use the QR code below or visit the link below.

**Also, if you have not signed your youth up for the Summer Mission Trip, please do so by June 10<sup>th</sup>!**

### Wednesday Night Leaders and Meal

6.3 Jeff and Sarah Swartz  
Lesson and meal

6.8 Youth Vacation Bible School  
Helpers

6.17 Abby Tomell Lesson and Meal

6.24 Summer Worship Night  
7:00 pm

### Sunday School Lessons

6.7 Ellen Moody

6.14 Rex Moody

6.21 Jessica Martin

Much Love,

*Pastor Matt in for Pastor Joel!*

## 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-12<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:youth@fmcnc.org)



## A Letter From The Children’s Minister

By Abby Tomell

Welcome to Summer!

School is finally out, schedules are changing, and the smell of sunscreen is officially in the air! As we jump into summer, I am excited for a season full of fun, fellowship, and growing in the Word together.

### Summer Sunday School Schedule

During the summer months, our K-5<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be combined. Please continue to encourage your kids to bring their personal Bible with them each Sunday.

Please check the updated summer volunteer roster for your scheduled dates and assignments. If you are unable to fulfill your date, please find a replacement and let both the office and Ms. Abby know. Thank you for serving our children so faithfully throughout the year.

*Vacation Bible School- June 7-10*

VBS is almost here, and we can’t wait! Join us from 5:30-8 for four exciting evenings filled with Psalms 23, Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and tons of fun. Invite a friend and come make some dunk worthy memories.

*Mud Run Event – August 22*

Feel like getting dirty? Grab your family ages 5 and up to create muddy memories on the 2-mile run with 10 obstacles. Registration is now open at [muddykids.us/events](http://muddykids.us/events) This event is open to all church members and their families. We are starting at the 11 o’clock heat time.

*Children’s Church*

Per the Children’s Ministry Team, we will no longer offer Children’s Church during the 11:00 am worship service.

Moving forward, all children will worship together with their families.

We are excited for this opportunity for families to worship side-by-side and grow together in faith.

Thank you for being such an important part of our church family.

**“Let all that you do be done in love” 1 Cor 16:14**

Much Love,

*Abby Tomell*

Children@fmcnc.org





## A Letter From The Musicians

Dear Church Family,

We know that many folks enjoy traveling and being out of town during the summer. Even though our choir may shrink a little during the summer months and things may be a little quieter around the church during the week, please know that your musicians are staying busy planning and preparing music for this season and the Fall semester. Summer is also a time when we like to encourage folks to share their musical talents with the church. If you or someone you know would like to do a musical special in church this summer, please reach out to us and let us know.

This is also a great time to consider trying out the choir. Most of the anthems this summer will be a little easier so if you've been thinking about joining us, now would be a great time to start! The chancel choir is planning to only rehearse on the first Wednesday of each of the summer months - **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**, **July 1<sup>st</sup>**, and **August 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

Please remember that the chancel choir is open to youth in 6<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm** in the choir room. If you would like to refresh your music-reading skills 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 increasing participation in corporate worship. These sessions are open to all ages.

Here are a few other great events coming up this summer!

We are super excited about our VBS music this year. Since the theme is "Emerald Crossing," all of the music has a Celtic flavor. If you would like to help with the live music for VBS, please let us know.

On **June 14<sup>th</sup>**, the FMC wind Ensemble will be playing some patriotic tunes at Simply Brewed Coffee Shop in downtown Clinton. This will be in conjunction with the church ice cream social.

On **Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** we will have a "Night of Worship". This night of music and fellowship will feature Mitchell Brewington and the Holly Grove Praise Team.

There are so many opportunities to invite folks to church this summer. Please make note of all these special events and prayerfully consider attending and inviting your friends and neighbors!

In Christ,

*Cameron & Marquita  
Someliana-Lauer*

(910) 548-2719  
organist@fmcnc.org



No Meeting

### N.O.W. Corner

Please bring your friends and family out to Simply Brewed and have ice cream with us on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Can't wait to see you all there!



### Missions Corner

We are collecting change for Life Line Sampson to support new families. Bottles are due back on Father's Day



### Worship Corner

Altar Guild: Stewart & Kay Raynor  
Greeters: Eleanor Powell Circle



June 18<sup>th</sup>

### Birthday Cake Bunch

Dianne Cox; Kay Raynor; Elsie Taylor



June 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM-  
Guest Music Holly Grove Praise Team  
July 29<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM



### Flower Calendar

- June 7<sup>th</sup>: Ashley Rivers | OPEN
- June 14<sup>th</sup>: Mac Herring Jr.
- June 21<sup>st</sup>: OPEN
- June 28<sup>th</sup>: Sarah Lane

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.



### Meals on Wheels

June 12<sup>th</sup> : Steve Williams  
June 26<sup>th</sup> : Bob & Sue Williams

# The Prayer Corner

Intercessory Prayer Group: Mondays at 10:00 am



## Happy Birthday!

- 1st – Colby Marshburn
- 2nd – Barbara H. Rose
- 2nd – Logan Bartsch
- 2nd – Stewart Raynor
- 3rd – Corbitt Marshburn
- 3rd – Anita Cashwell
- 5th – Venetia Mann
- 5th – Elsie Taylor
- 7th – Rickie Cashwell
- 7th – Steve Cox
- 7th – Lilly Rogers
- 8th – Ellis Dunn
- 8th – Jodie Nelson
- 9th – Channing Jackson
- 10th – Billy Sutton
- 11th – Curtis Bawrick
- 12th – Lesa Moore
- 12th – Jeff Swartz
- 12th – Christopher Carr
- 13th – Caroline Sutton Vogler
- 14th – Reid Butler
- 14th – Davis Rogers
- 15th – Mary M. Hobbs
- 15th – Jeffrey Tew
- 16th – Nick Serafini
- 20th – Kaleb Sargent
- 20th – Zack Sargent
- 23rd – Cecilia Someliana-Lauer
- 24th – Victoria Bishop
- 25th – Dan Holland
- 26th – O.C. Holland
- 26th – Frances Pearson
- 27th – Heather Turlington
- 28th – Lauren Balkcum
- 28th – Camille Dunn
- 28th – Eric Pope
- 30th – Sandra Pearson
- 30th – Matt Stone

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, Jane Waters, 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 in long-term care:

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

### Those who are homebound:

- Ruth Godwin

PRAY FOR ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
JUNE 17TH-20TH



## Children's Volunteers

### Nursery:

- 7th – Kalin Cockman
- 14th – Kim Sutton
- 21st – Heather Turlington
- 28th – Linda Andrews

## Happy Anniversary!

- 2nd – Logan & Casey Bartsch
- 3rd – Matthew & Caroline Evans
- 6th – Ricky & Helen Kaleel
- 7th – Wallace & Jane Herring
- 10th – John & Janet Prestage
- 18th – Wayne & Christy Boyette
- 19th – Wayne & Jane Claire Tew
- 20th – Robert & Lisa Turlington
- 22nd – Tyler & Hannah Baxter
- 23rd – Holden & Mandy DuBose
- 23rd – Wayne & Lesa Moore
- 26th – Matt & Leslie Seals
- 26th – Mike & Susan Eaves
- 26th – Tom & Sandy Weikert



2026

# June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 10:00 Intercessory Prayer 11:00 Staff Meeting	2 9:00 Chat with M@ 9:00 MW Kitchen Clean-Up Day  HAPPY BIRTHDAY MR. STEWART!	3 4:15 Dulcimers 5:00 Youth 5:30 FMC Winds 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6
7 9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School Baptism & Membership 11:00 Worship Service 5:30-8 VBS  VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	8 10:00 Intercessory Prayer 5:30-8 VBS	9 9:00 Chat with M@ 5:30-8 VBS	10 4:15 Dulcimers 5:30-8 VBS	11	12 Meals on Wheels	13
14 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 2:00 Ice Cream Social	15 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	16 9:00 Chat with M@  July Newsletter/Info Due to Office	17 4:15 Dulcimers 5:00 Youth	18 9:30-10 Birthday Cakes 	19	20  ANNUAL CONFERENCE
21 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	22 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	23 9:00 Chat with M@	24 4:15 Dulcimers 5:00 Youth  HAPPY BIRTHDAY VICTORIA!	25 6:30 Skill Creations  HAPPY BIRTHDAY MR. DAN!	26 Meals on Wheels	27
28 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	29 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	30 9:00 Chat with M@				

**Notes:**

6/1: Receipts & Coordinating forms Due to Office

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# Summer Road Trip

Grace that Leads the Way  
Romans 4-8

June 7- July 26

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
WWW.FMCNC.ORG CLINTON, NC

## Baptism and Membership Sunday

June 7th | 11:00 Service

If you are ready to make a public profession of your faith and be baptized, become a member of First Methodist or would like to renew your baptismal covenant and remember your baptism.

Contact the church office to connect with  
Pastor Matt  
info@fmcnc.org 910-592-2035

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
WWW.FMCNC.ORG CLINTON, NC

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WWW.FMCNC.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 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**6:15 PM**  
FMC CHOIR ROOM

## Summer Ice Cream Social

Summer's in full swing, and what better way to beat the heat than with a delightful scoop of your favorite ice cream at Simply Brewed featuring the FMC wind ensemble.

**JUNE 14, 2026 2 - 4 PM**  
100 E Main St, Clinton, NC

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
WWW.FMCNC.ORG CLINTON, NC

**SEPTEMBER**  
9<sup>th</sup>  
16<sup>th</sup>  
23<sup>rd</sup>  
30<sup>th</sup>

**OCTOBER**  
7<sup>th</sup>  
14<sup>th</sup>  
21<sup>st</sup>  
28<sup>th</sup>

**NOVEMBER**  
4<sup>th</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup>  
18<sup>th</sup>

## IN SEARCH OF WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP COOK TEAMS

**11 Weeks**

**11 Teams**

- You create the menu
- 40-50 people each week
- Funds are available to purchase meals

**6:30 PM**

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