

THE CORNERSTONE



Sermon Series:



12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time?
18. Am I proud?
19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to me?

A Letter From The Pastor

By Matt Seals

Looking in a Mirror

As I write this newsletter, I find myself returning to the image we used in worship on February 22—the window and the mirror. There is something about that image that has stayed with me. So often, when we look in a mirror, it's to check whether we are put together and ready for whatever comes next. We look to apply makeup, adjust our hair, or decide whether an outfit looks right. At other times, we look in the mirror and don't like what we see. We feel disappointed, dissatisfied, or even discouraged. Too often, we judge ourselves harshly.

As we examine our hearts and lives during this Lenten season, I want to caution us against doing just that. God is a loving and gracious God who meets us in the mess of our lives—who pulls us out of it and cleans us up. None of us is beyond the reach of the Father.

The journey to the cross is a journey we take with Jesus, learning more about God's great love and the lengths God goes to in order to show us that love—ultimately, at the cross.

Yet our human nature is to walk past the mirror and look out the window instead. Like the Pharisee who prays, "Thank you, Lord, that I am not like..." we avoid acknowledging our own brokenness and sin by pointing out the failures of others. In doing so, we try to convince ourselves that we are not so bad after all. But this is not the way of Christ. As we continue through this Lenten season, my prayer is that we would not bypass the mirror for the window. Instead, may we spend time not focused on outward appearances, but coming humbly before our Father in heaven—seeking more of God as we journey to the cross. It is my prayer that we would receive anew the amazing grace of God, made available to us through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is stirring among us. May our prayer this season continue to be: "Search me, O God, and know my heart." (Psalm 139)

In Christ,

Rev. Matt Seals
pastor@fmcnc.org

A Letter From The Youth Pastor

By Joel Wise

A good house is built on a strong foundation. That is what we continue to do for our youth: build a strong foundation for their life through the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ. This month, the Steadfast Youth have been finishing up their Sunday school study of the book of Revelation, diving into the Gospels on Wednesday nights, learning how to reset their lives to be on track with God, and serving their church and community.

The youth would like to thank everyone who helped with The Love Project. We were able to deliver over 200 valentines to Mary Gran and Southwood nursing and rehabilitation centers. If you still have cards, please continue to bring them to church. We will give them out next year.

In January, the youth held a chili cook off to begin raising funds for a new multipurpose sound system for the fellowship hall. The flyer for the system is in this newsletter.



“build a strong foundation for their life through the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ”

Between the chili cook off, the Valentine’s Day spaghetti dinner, and generous donations from our church family, we have raised over \$800. Our goal is \$2500. If God is calling you to help with this project, please donate to the youth fund with the memo “sound system”.

This month, we went on our ski trip to Boone. Photos will be shared on Facebook. We had 15 youth go on the trip and we had a blast. One of our challenges with our trips is finding chaperones. If you’d like to go on a trip with the youth, please let Pastor Joel know.

We are currently looking for chaperones for our summer mission trip to the Outer Banks, **July 13 – 18**. We will be serving the communities out on the coast. The youth are able to help with more projects when we have more adults to help. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to Pastor Joel. Thank you again for supporting our youth in their desire to love God, each other, and the world.

God Bless,

Rev. Joel Wise

Associate Pastor
youth@fmcnc.org

Sunday Night Youth Meals

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

Sign up today!

5pm Sunday Nights



Please join us to celebrate

Youth
St. Patrick's Day
PARTY

15 MARCH
Start at 5:00pm

Traditional Irish Food
Shamrock Shakes
Irish Themed Games, Music,
and More!

Youth Outing

March 21

**Airborne & Special
Operations Museum**





A Letter From The Children’s Minister

By Abby Tomell

Happy March

What a joy it was to see our kids stepping into leadership and serving with such big hearts for Children’s Sunday. They did an incredible job leading, singing, sharing and serving. I am so proud of them and grateful for the ways God is moving in our Children’s Ministry. A big thank you to Marquita and Mary Jo for all their time, patience, and energy they put into helping our kids learn these songs that will forever be in their hearts. Wednesday night classes (5:30pm-6:25pm) continue to be full of laughter, creativity and connection. 3-5 has been digging into the book of Luke while K-2 has been learning from our made-up story about Savannah (ask them to tell you her tale) and then our real-life story about David.

They should be bringing home a take-home sheet that provides discussion points from the lesson to help carry you throughout the week. If you have a 3-5th grader, please help them remember to bring their Bible with them each Sunday. We use it each week, and I would love for them to be familiar with their personal Bible verses, the ones I have in class. Vacation Bible School is one of the biggest highlights of the year, and it takes many helping hands. I am in search of volunteers for a variety of roles – group leaders, teachers, and decorating just to name a few. No experience required – just a willing heart!

Thank you to our February Children’s Ministry volunteers. You have no idea how helpful and needed your presence has been. Thank you for answering that call.

Much Love,

Abby Tomell

Children@fmcnc.org

**VBS Volunteers
Needed**

**Contact Abby
for Details**

Children’s Events



Save The Dates
VBS 2026



June 7 - 10



Upcoming Event:



Past Events:



Dulcimers Play at History Museum February 21, 2026



A Letter From The Musicians

Dan Holland, Cameron and Marquita Someliana- Lauer

Dear Church Family,

This month, we are celebrating Dan Holland’s forty years as director of music here at First Methodist! For the past several months we have been preparing for a very special concert that will celebrate his wonderful ministry over the past four decades. This concert will feature some of Mr. Dan’s favorite anthems presented by a choir of about 45 singers. These singers are from many area churches.

The anthem selections for this concert will include many anthems that our congregation knows and love as well as anthems that we have not had the opportunity to present for a while. Mr. Dan has chosen wonderful selections from a capella, classical, hymn-anthems, and festival anthem traditions.

We hope that you will join us in this wonderful evening of celebration as we truly sing our praises to God and give thanks for Mr. Dan and all that he has done and will continue to do for the life and ministries of our church. There will also be a reception in the fellowship hall following the concert.

Here are some other events coming up:

- On **Sunday, March 1st**, the children will sing in worship.
- The brass ensemble will play in worship sometime this month.
- On **Sunday, March 8th**, we will have our third rehearsal for the “Sing Praise to God Concert.”
- 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



March 9th Meeting

N.O.W. Corner

Needs help with meals on:
March 22nd-Concert Reception Help
• Contact Jane Claire Tew for more info.
Allison Driver needs volunteers for Read Across America on 3/5 (910.990.0809)



March 15th Packing

Missions Corner

March Mission: Back Pack Buddies
Sunday, March 15 - Packing stations will be available before and after service
Monetary donations will be collected



Worship Corner

Altar Guild: Tom & Denise Hendricks
Greeters: Methodist Men



February Packing Outcome

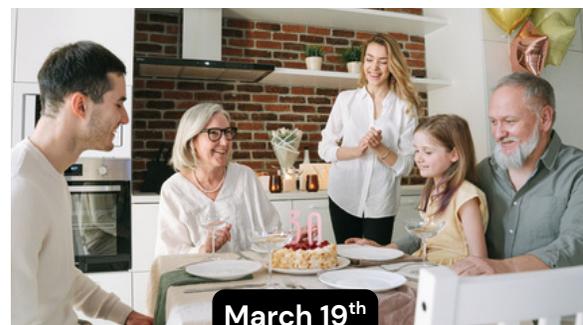


Flower Calendar

March 1st: Dan & Ruth Holland
March 8th: Rex & Ellen Moody
March 15th: Bob Carr
March 22nd: Tyler & Hannah Baxter
March 29th: **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.



March 19th

Birthday Cake Bunch

Venetia Mann, Helen Kaleel, Sandra Pearson



Meals on Wheels

March 13th: Steve Williams
March 27th : Holly McMillen

The Prayer Corner

Intercessory Prayer Group: Mondays at 10:00 am



Happy Birthday!

- 1st – Leigh Butler
- 1st – Jean Turlington
- 2nd – Heather Waters
- 4th – Tom Turlington
- 5th – Jesse Pickrell
- 6th – Sherri Cole-Smith
- 6th – Vanna Johnson
- 6th – Deborah Roberts
- 7th – Bailey Serafini
- 8th – Becky Jackson
- 8th – Charli Marshburn
- 8th – Chandler Perry
- 8th – Jonathan Williams
- 9th – Dana Inch
- 9th – Darrell Jones
- 9th – Reynolds King
- 12th – Brenda Nordin
- 16th – Margaret Turlington
- 17th – Sherri Smith
- 18th – Pat Warrick
- 19th – Jane Herring
- 19th – Kay Raynor
- 20th – Blanche Matthews
- 21st – Hadley Heath
- 21st – Carter Lowe
- 21st – Scott Moore
- 21st – Amy Temple
- 22nd – Betsy Martin
- 24th – Carole Hales
- 24th – Jonathan Lane
- 24th – Wayne Tew
- 31st – Jean Bell

Martin Sikorski, Owen Hales, 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:

- 1st – Susan Eaves
- 8th – Vevlyn Lowe
- 15th – Kay Raynor
- 22nd – Susan Sautter
- 29th – Marilyn St. Pierre

K-2 Children's Church:

- 8th – Chris Driver
- 15th – Johnathan Lane
- 22nd – Kaleb Sargent
- 29th – Lesa Moore

K-2 Wednesday 5:30 – 6:20:

- 4th – Sarah Swartz
- 11th – Mike Rivenbark
- 18th – Rachel Grantham
- 25th – Luke Martin

Happy Anniversary!

- 16th – Bob & Wendy Carr
- 20th – Warren & Melissa Perry



METHODIST MEN

Sunday BREAKFAST



**MARCH 15
08.00 AM**

JOIN US FOR A MORNING
OF FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP.

YOU ARE INVITED

Brunch at the Farmers Market

A Little Shopping
& Then Dessert at
The Howling Cow

MARCH 12
RALEIGH, NC

DEPART AT
9:30 OR 10:00 AM

CONTACT
LISA MOORE
SUSAN EAVES

SALT

SEASONED ADULTS LIVING TRIUMPHANTLY

Holy Week

April 2nd - 5th *Schedule*

Maundy Thursday  7:00 PM	Easter Sunrise  Clinton Cemetery 6:30 AM
Good Friday  Lisbon St. Missionary Baptist Church 12:00 PM	Kids Easter Egg Hunt  10:00AM
Holy Saturday  Intentional Prayer From Home	Easter Worship  11:00AM Butterfly Release Following

Student Care Packages



Items Needed

- Handwritten Notes
- Personalized Cards



Gift Cards

- Starbucks
- Dunkin
- Walmart
- Amazon




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

March 24th, 12 pm at First Methodist Church

Community Communion

Remembering His Sacrifice



208 Sampson St, Clinton, NC