

THE CORNERSTONE



A Letter From The Pastor

By Matt Seals

Your Time to Serve!

Some of you saw the picture and the heading of this article and said, "Oh no!" It is that time of year when your Nominations Team begins the work of prayerfully discerning the gifts for ministry of each member of the church and the needs that we have for the various ministry teams. We do not seek to put warm bodies in a seat. We prayerfully do this work, seeking out who God is raising up to lead us into the future that God has for us. Our guidelines for how we do our work come from the Global Methodist Church *Book of Doctrine and Discipline*.

In the Discipline, the church is to have the following that are voted on and approved by the Charge Conference, Staff Parish Team, Finance Team, Nominations Team, and Trustee Team. These individuals are named to serve three-year terms with a new class added each year.

We also nominate and elect yearly the following: Admin Board Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Lay Leader,

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, Financial Secretary, Membership, and then the chairs of the various ministry teams with the exception of Trustees. We also look to maintain a three-year term on these, though they are elected yearly.

Our church also has several other ministry teams that are nominated and approved as we see the need. They include: Worship, NOW, Backyard Buddies Board, Stewardship, Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry Teams, Parsonage, and Missions.

Each of these ministry teams is vital to the ministry of First Methodist Church, be it a strategic role or a tactical role. Each of these ministry areas needs your prayers and your presence to help carry out the mission and ministry of this church. We all have received gifts from the Holy Spirit to be used, and over the next few months, your Nominations team is going to pray for God's wisdom and guidance on how your gifts might bless others now and in the years to come.

If you are interested in serving in a particular ministry area or you want to learn more, reach out to any member of our Nominations Team. We always love hearing from folks who have felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit to serve.

In Christ,

Rev. Matt Seals
pastor@fmcnc.org

Your Nominations Team

Mandy DuBose, Karen Sutton, Wendy Carr, Lynn Owen, Venetia Mann, Helen Hobson, Steve Williams, Helen Kaleel, Brittany Serafini, Sue Williams, Rex Moody, and Pastor Matt



Be sure to join us **May 7th** at Clinton City Market at 12:00 pm for **National Day of Prayer**.

A Letter From The Youth Pastor

By Joel Wise

Wow! Is it May already?! Just last month, it was April. The youth have been busy during the month of April with sports, school, and family life. It has been fun going to support some of their games this season. I am very proud of our youth who continue to excel within the spaces they are in and are excellent leaders, teammates, and friends.

This past month, our youth outing was to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC. They enjoyed learning about the military operations of past conflicts and were even more excited to go and get Sweet Frogs Ice cream afterwards. As world events continue to bring concern for our youth and communities, it is important for us to lead and teach about the seriousness of war and, more importantly, what being a Christian looks like during these uncertain times.

The youth are currently going through the book of Daniel in Sunday school and are enjoying the study.

During youth nights, we are diving deeper into our understanding of our personal relationships with Christ.



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

At the end of this month, we will begin our summer series: “Fierce”.

Baby Taran Wise is due any day now. Jessie and I are very thankful for all who have supported us in this season. That being said, I need a little more support with teaching the youth while I am on paternity leave. If you would like to teach a Sunday school lesson or a Wednesday night youth lesson, please sign up via the link at the bottom of this page.

There are also slots available to feed our youth this summer. There is a link for that sign-up sheet at the bottom of this page as well.

Finally, the youth were able to meet their goal of \$2500 for their Mic’d for Ministry project to purchase a new sound system for the fellowship hall. We are currently purchasing the items and installing them as they arrive. We hope to have the new system fully functional by VBS in June. Thank you to all who helped with this project.

Thank you again for helping us build a firm foundation of faith with our youth.

Much Love,

Associate Pastor
youth@fmcnc.org

Youth Meal Sign UP
<https://tinyurl.com/FMCYMLS>

Steadfast Youth
Lesson
Leaders
<https://tinyurl.com/FMCYLead>

Sunday Night Youth Meals

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

Sign up today!

5pm Sunday Nights

STEADFAST YOUTH
SUMMER MISSION TRIP

JULY 13-18, 2026
OUTER BANKS, NC
ALL ARE WELCOME

[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

Happy May! Can you feel it? The start of summer is so close! We have several important updates and upcoming events to share as we move into the summer season.

WEF has come to an end, and we had a lot of fun learning about David. We concluded our series with a watch party of the movie David. We are thankful for the time of learning, connection, and growth we shared together each week.

Our end of WEF skating trip was a lot of fun too. The kids skated circles around me! Thank you to all the parents who helped make it happen.

VBS is fast approaching, and there are some new things in store for us. Mark your calendars and register your kids for **June 7-10, 5:30-8**, as we work our way through Psalm 23.

Our church family is growing! We have a few members expecting, and in preparation for this joyous occasion, we are creating a dedicated infant nursery. A few of us from the Children’s Ministry team have put together an Amazon Wish list to help equip the nursery. Your generosity is greatly appreciated as we prepare to care for our youngest members.

When our Children’s Ministry team met, we also discussed and decided to discontinue children’s church. All children will remain in the main service with their families. The “busy bags” will be updated and checked frequently. We encourage all families to worship together during this time.

How about some messy fun? Muddy Kids is hosting a mud run for kids throughout the region. They will be in Raleigh on **Aug 22nd**. The cost is currently \$29 for each 2-mile ticket, and kids 5+ are allowed to run. This will be a great event for kids and families to enjoy together. Once your tickets are purchased, please let Ms. Abby know.

As always, thank you for all you do to build up our children.

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”
Hebrews 12:1

Much Love,

Abby Tomell

Children@fmcnc.org

Children’s Events

VBS Volunteers Needed
Contact Abby for Details





A Letter From The Musicians

Dear Church Family,

As we wind down the spring semester, we are looking forward to some special times of music making this month as well as into the summer months. Here are some things coming up that we are particularly looking forward to:

The first Sunday of May will be Youth Sunday. Many of our First Methodist Youth will help lead the music for this service. The children's choirs will also sing and the fifth-grade recorders will play.

This month, the chancel choir will be presenting a couple of new anthems in worship. These will include the anthem that we commissioned in honor of Mr. Dan, "God Knows We Are Lifted Up" by Pepper Choplin (May 17th) and "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" by Tom Fettke (**May 31st**). We are also working on some beautiful patriotic music to sing on Memorial Day weekend and **July 4th** weekend.

The dulcimer ensemble will play in worship on **Sunday, May 10th**. This group also is planning to play for one or more of our local nursing facilities.

The brass ensemble will be playing on **Sunday, May 24th**. They will be playing patriotic hymns as well as John Williams "Hymn to the Fallen".

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

We are also planning some events for the summer months and into the fall, so please stay tuned and keep us in prayer as we plan out the rest of the year.

As we continue to celebrate our Risen Savior this Eastertide, we'd like to leave you with a verse from the hymn "Christ is Alive" (UMH no. 318). We recently sang this when we were on vacation and visited another church. We really loved the first verse!

**Christ is alive!
Let Christians sing.
His cross stands
empty to the sky. Let
streets and homes
with praises ring.
His love in death shall
never die.**

It is our hope and prayer that Christians will indeed sing their praises aloud in their homes and in the streets of our city.

In Christ,

*Cameron & Marquita
Somfiana-Lauer*

(910) 548-2719
organist@fmcnc.org



No Meeting

N.O.W. Corner

Desserts are needed for Butler Avenue Teacher Appreciation. Drop-off by 4 PM on May 7th. Contact Jeff Swartz for info at 910.214.1006



Missions Corner

May Mission: We are collecting change for Life Line Sampson to support new families.



Worship Corner

Altar Guild: Bob & Sue Williams
Greeters: Ida Johnson Circle



May 21st

Birthday Cake Bunch

Sheila Steed, Karen Wrench, Sarah Swartz



June 24th - 7:00 PM
July 29th - 7:00 PM



Flower Calendar

- May 3rd : Logan Bartsch
- May 10th : Ashley Rivers
- May 17th : Heather Turlington & The Taylors
- May 24th : OPEN
- May 31st : 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.



Meals on Wheels

May 8th : Brenda Nordin
May 22nd : Steve & Dianne Cox

The Prayer Corner

Intercessory Prayer Group: Mondays at 10:00 am



Happy Birthday!

- 1st – Janet Sargent
- 2nd – Caroline Evans
- 2nd – Alice St. Pierre
- 3rd – Patrick O'Quinn
- 3rd – Lisa Hall Turlington
- 4th – Tyler Baxter
- 6th – Steve Williams
- 7th – Luke Swartz
- 8th – Anna Keith Rivenbark
- 9th – Doris Gore
- 10th – Avery Driver
- 10th – Beth Pope
- 12th – Helen Griffin
- 13th – Ashley Steed
- 14th – Sarah Lane
- 14th – Brittany Serafini
- 15th – Kay McClanahan
- 17th – Johnny Vann
- 19th – Evan Johnson
- 20th – Will Andrews
- 23rd – Alan Williams
- 26th – Spell Carr
- 29th – Christy Boyette
- 29th – Anthony Steed
- 31st – Kalyn Herring
- 31st – Charlesanna Williams

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



Children's Volunteers

Nursery:

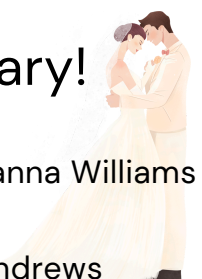
- 3rd – Jan Smith (11:00)
- 10th – Karen Wrench (9:00)
- 17th – Catherine Sargent (9:00)
- 31st – Ruth Holland (9:00)

K-2 Children's Church:

- 3rd – First Sunday
- 10th – Sandra Pearson
- 17th – Melissa Perry
- 24th – Vanna Johnson
- 31st – Craig Mann

Happy Anniversary!


- 2nd – Jonathan & Charlesanna Williams
- 8th – Reid & Leigh Butler
- 27th – Rex & Ellen Moody
- 31st – Phillip & Elizabeth Andrews



2026


May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Youth Sunday 1:00-3:00 Fellowship Hall in Use <i>No Youth</i>	4 9:00 Sunset Ave. Backpack Packing 10:00 Intercessory Prayer 11:00 Staff Meeting Happy Birthday Pastor Joel!	5 9:00 Chat with M@ 7:00 Admin Board Meeting 	6 4:15 Dulcimers 5:30 Brass Ensemble 7:00 Chancel Choir	7 National Day of Prayer 7:00 Breakfast Rowan Baptist 12:00 Clinton City Market 7:00 Clinton City Market 	8 Meals on Wheels	9
10 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service <i>No Youth</i> 	11 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	12 9:00 Chat with M@	13 4:15 Dulcimers 5:30 Brass Ensemble 7:00 Chancel Choir Victoria Off	14 4:30 Sanctuary In Use	15 Happy Birthday Marquita!	16
17 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 School's Out for Summer Youth Party	18 10:00 Intercessory Prayer 11:00 Ida Johnson- Fellowship Hall	19 9:00 Chat with M@ 6:30 Eleanor Powell- Fellowship Hall June Newsletter Info Due to Office	20 4:15 Dulcimers 5:30 Brass Ensemble 7:00 Chancel Choir	21 9:30-10 Birthday Cakes 	22 Meals on Wheels	23
24 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth	25 10:00 No IPG Office Closed 	26 9:00 Chat with M@	27 4:15 Dulcimers 5:00 Summer Youth Begins 5:30 Brass Ensemble 7:00 Chancel Choir	28 6:30 Skill Creations	29	30
31 9:00 Son- Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth	Notes: 5/4: Receipts & Coordinating forms Due to Office 5/7: Desserts needed for Butler Avenue Teacher Appreciation to FMC by 4 PM. _____ _____ _____					



Desserts are needed for Butler Avenue Teacher Appreciation Drop-off at FMC by 4 PM on May 7th.

Contact Jeff Swartz for info at 910.214.1006



Teacher Appreciation Week
May 4-8th

We need volunteers on **May 5th, 7th, and 8th** to monitor students in the cafeteria so teachers can have a duty-free lunch.

Time slots:
10:30-11:30 or **11:30-12:30**

Or anyone can do both. We will also be providing lunch on the 8th to the teachers.

Call/Text Allison Driver 910-990-0809

NATIONAL DAY OF
Prayer
MAY 7, 2026



Theme: Glorify God among the nations, seeking Him in all generations. Prayer time will be all day if you need special prayer.

7:00AM | BREAKFAST
ROWAN BAPTIST CHURCH
701 ROWAN RD., CLINTON

12:00PM | 7:00PM
CLINTON CITY MARKET
217 LISBON ST., CLINTON

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

Summer Road Trip
Grace that Leads the Way
Romans 4-8

June 7- July 26



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
WWW.FMCNC.ORG CLINTON, NC

Infant Nursery



First Methodist Church
Baby Registry Amazon Wish List




MUD RUN EVENT

Grab your family ages 5 and up to create muddy memories on the 2 mile run with 10+ obstacles.

22 AUGUST 2026
Starting at 11 am Heat

NC MOTORSPORTS PARK
900 Cheeks Quarter Rd.
Henderson, NC 27537

REGISTER NOW!

www.muddykids.us/events

Text Abby with ticket confirmation.



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 brass ensemble.

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

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
WWW.FMCNC.ORG CLINTON, NC

