The Cornerstone



A Letter From The Pastor

By Matt Seals

"Be still, and know that I am God!" — Psalm 46:10

Most of you probably know by now, but if you don't, now you do: I lost the hearing I had in my left ear back in March. Let me tell you, it has been a hard season. I have prayed, sought help from two different ENT specialists, visited doctors, and even had an MRI—which did confirm that I have a brain and that it is normal!

I was told I had two options: major surgery or a device that might help. But in reality, I have a third option: do nothing. For now, that is the option I have chosen.

But I am not sure that doing nothing is truly doing nothing. In fact, I think doing nothing can actually be doing something. In this season of life, I am learning to adapt to a new normal. These are very much unwanted changes, but changes nonetheless. Not being able to hear as I once did has brought a bit of chaos into my life and made some everyday things more difficult. If you walk beside me on my left side, there is a good chance I will not hear what you say. If we are in a noisy space with lots of background noise, I may struggle to hear you unless I am looking at you or leaning in to listen with my right ear. If you call my name from another room while I am focused on something, I may not hear your voice at all.

So now, when I walk with someone, I may need to ask them to walk on my right side. When we sit at a table, I try to position myself where I can best hear the conversation. And if I hear someone speaking from another room, I get up and go to where they are so I can be more fully present.

All of this has gotten me thinking about our journey of faith.

Scripture calls us to "be still, and know" God. In a fast-paced, chaotic world, that is often easier said than done. Yet, we are invited to slow down, and our response is to listen and be obedient.

Why does this matter? Because being still and knowing God requires us to stop what we are doing and pay attention to what God is saying. If I am constantly in go mode—running from one thing to the next, filling every moment with activity—how can I truly listen for the voice of God?

For me, being still and knowing God is about being present. The psalmist invites us to slow down, quiet our hearts, and make room to recognize God's presence.

One way I think about being still and present is through the image of walking with Jesus. As I mentioned, if you walk on my left side, my bad ear, I may not hear you clearly. In the same way, if I am walking through life consumed by busyness, surrounded by noise, or overwhelmed by everything competing for my attention, I may struggle to be fully present as I walk with Jesus.

There is a reason we sing the familiar words of the hymn *In the Garden*: "And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own." What a beautiful reminder that our faith is not simply about knowing things about Jesus. It is about walking with Him, spending time with Him, and learning to recognize His voice.

In John 10:27, Jesus tells us that His sheep listen to His voice. He knows them, and they follow Him.

My sudden hearing loss has made it harder to hear the many voices around me. But in the midst of this unwanted change, I find comfort in this truth: even when hearing is hard, Jesus still speaks.

There are so many voices competing for our attention. The noise of the world, the demands of our schedules, the worries we carry, and the distractions of everyday life can make it difficult to hear the voice that matters most.

Perhaps we need to practice doing a little less so that we can be more attentive to the One who is always present with us. Perhaps being still is not doing nothing at all. Perhaps it is making room for God to speak.

So, in the middle of the chaos and the noise, take a moment to slow down. Be still. Draw closer to Jesus. Listen for His voice, and follow Him through whatever season you find yourself in.

Because even when hearing is hard, Jesus still speaks.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." — John 10:27

In Christ,

Rev. Matt Seals

pastor@fmcnc.org



A Letter From The Youth Pastor

By Joel Wise

We are blessed to have so many youth within our church. Did you know that we have 30 in our registry? That's awesome! These are the future young adults of our church and community. They need guidance.

Why do we need lesson leaders?

One statistic states that, "when teens can identify three or more spiritual mentors during their high school years, they are three times more likely to stay connected to church during college." (Ben Trueblood, Lifeway Student Ministry) Your presence with the youth is important as you become another spiritual presence in their lives.

These youth need to hear the voices of others within our church and the community share their faith and knowledge. These voices help connect them to the church family and show them the importance of our connection. It's not about teaching a lesson, more than it is about creating a connection between these youth and someone other than a pastor.

In the beginning of the Methodist movement, it grew not only by the preaching and teaching of pastors, but through the teaching of believers in class meetings held every week. The laity led the ministry and mission of the church.

This is the shift that we are experiencing again in the Global Methodist movement today. Your voice, your testimony matters and it matters to these youth.

"I thought the youth pastor was supposed to be teaching?"

I am still teaching. We are attempting a new dynamic this year because of the amount of youth we have and the amount of youth for which we are preparing.

I alone cannot lead them. Jesus himself had 12 disciples whom he taught to also do the work of the ministry. In essence, we are creating discipleship as others are able to begin to do the ministry that I myself am leading and participating in.

Our church mission statement reads: "To Multiply disciples of Jesus Christ through spirit-filled, Christ-centered ministry." Disciples make disciples. If I'm the only one teaching the good news of the gospel, who am I discipling? Oh, may I see the day when the older youth stand to teach a lesson to the younger! Even more so, to see the congregants of our church teach the foundations of our faith so as to help others to stand upon the rock which is Christ Jesus.

In conclusion

Who are you discipling? To whom are you sharing and teaching the faith and the Gospel? Where are you being taught? In what spaces are you being discipled? We are all called to ministry. I will help equip you for that ministry. Are you willing to serve?

Some of you are called to teach our youth and kids, to be a voice to them in this sinful world. To be a light in the darkness and a beacon of hope. This is why we need lesson leaders not so the youth pastor can do less, but that the church can accomplish more for the Kingdom and to help make a difference in the lives of the youth of our church that they would be strong disciples to go and make disciples of all the world.

In Christ,

Pastor Joel





A Letter From The Children's Minister

By Abby Tomell

Hello, November!

The leaves are falling, and the air is finally getting cooler. As we head into the season of gratitude, I am excited to share what is happening with our kids.

Wheels Up!

What a fun time we had at Wheels Up. We broke in the our new parking lot with bikes, skateboards, and scooters. The kids had a fantastic time being in the Word, riding, rolling, and enjoying our time together.

Next time, we plan on adding more ramps for even more fun challenges.

We can't wait to see everyone back for another round.

Upcoming:

Community Thanksgiving
November 22 nd @ 6:30 pm
Grove Park Baptist Church

Join us as we gather together in gratitude and fellowship. We look forward to supporting our kids' choir as they join their voices with other surrounding churches.

Christmas Cookie Fun
December 2 nd
5:30-7pm

The kids will enjoy dinner together and then decorate Christmas cookies. It will be a fun time to share a meal, get creative, and celebrate the season.

Children's Church is back
HALF TIME

Beginning November 1st, we are bringing back half-time Children's Church.

This gives our children opportunities to worship alongside their families while also enjoying time together in Children's church.

1st & 3rd Sundays: Children will remain in the main service and worship with their families.

2nd & 4th Sundays: Children K-2 may join Ms. Abby upstairs for Children's Church.

I love watching our kids learn, grow, worship, and have fun together. I look forward to all the exciting things ahead this coming holiday season.

Much Love,

Abby Tomell

Children@fmcnc.org





A Letter From The Musicians

Dear Church Family,

The musicians of First Methodist have enjoyed a busy, productive, and blessed few weeks of music ministry. The children and adult choirs have been working hard on special music for the upcoming holiday season and the Wind Ensemble has enjoyed opportunities to perform for our community both as part of "Music on Main" and the "Square Fair".

On **Sunday, November 15 th** we will celebrate the legacy of the women of our church as part of **Methodist Women's Sunday.** There will be some wonderful special music at the 11 o'clock service, including the Ladies' Chorus, directed by Mary Jo Carr, and the Singing Strings. As a musical tribute to women's contributions to the life of our church and worship, the Singing Strings will be playing a medley of hymns with texts by prolific hymnist, Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915).

This phenomenal woman is credited with penning around 8,000 hymn texts throughout her life! Sixteen of these hymn texts can be found in our hymnal alone! This makes her one of the top three contributors to our hymnal. Some of Crosby's most well-known and beloved hymns include "Praise Him! Praise Him!" (No. 148), "All the Way My Savior Leads Me" (No. 150), "To God Be the Glory" (No. 531), and "Blessed Assurance" (No. 570).

Perhaps what makes her accomplishments even more impressive is the fact that, as a result of a childhood illness, she was blind for most of her life. The *Sing!* hymnal states the following about this incredible woman: "Her life's story is marked by both the extraordinary breadth of her hymns and the deep intensity of her faith. She once said,

'If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind, for when I die, the very first face I ever see will be the face of my blessed Jesus.'

Please make plans to be present in worship on **November 15th** as we celebrate the women of our church and give thanks to God for all the gifts they so willingly share.



Here are a few more **upcoming events** to help fill your heart with a joyful song:

- The Children's Choirs will sing in worship on November 1st and December 6th.
- 11-11-2026: The FMC Wind Ensemble and Friends will play patriotic music in the church fellowship hall from about 6-6:30 pm as part of the church's Veteran's Day celebrations and Wednesday Evening Fellowship.
- 11-15-2026: Methodist Women's Sunday with special music (The Singing Strings and Ladies' Chorus).
- 11-16-2026: The FMC Wind Ensemble and Friends will play for the Clinton Lion's Club.
- 11-22-2026: The annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at Grove Park Baptist Church at 6:30 pm. This will include combined adult and children's choirs.
- 12-3-2026: The FMC Wind Ensemble and Friends will play for the tree lighting ceremony as part of Clinton's "Christmas in the City".
- 12-16-2026: Chancel Choir Christmas party. Rehearsal at 6 and party at 7. Last choir rehearsal of the year and dress rehearsal for the Christmas special. More details TBD.
- 12-18-2026: The Singing Strings will be performing at Transfiguration Catholic Church in Wallace, NC as part of their annual Christmas Concert.
- 12-20-2026: "Christmas in America"-Choir Special as part of the 11 o'clock service.

In Christ,

Cameron & Marquita Someliana-Lauer



N.O.W. Corner - College Kids

Reach out to our college kids:

Jackson St. Pierre - Grandson of Marilyn St. Pierre, 1219 Broad St., Durham, NC 27705

Mackenzie Pope - Daughter of Jamie and Emily Pope, 5810 Waycross St., Unit 71 Raleigh, NC 27606

Will Waters - Son of William and Heather Waters 3418 W. Grace St. Tampa, Florida 33607



W.E.F. Schedule

NOVEMBER
4th - The Methodist Men
11th - Team Marilyn St. Pierre
18th - Team Luke Martin



Worship Corner

Altar Guild: John & Vevlyn Lowe

Greeters: Methodist Men



Birthday Cake Bunch

Hannah Baxter; Rachel Grantham; Denise Hendricks



Meals on Wheels

Nov. 13 - Elsie Taylor
Nov. 25 - Holly McMillen



Flower Calendar

1st- Jane Herring
8th- Jodie Nelson
15th- Methodist Women
22nd- Mac Herring
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.

The Prayer Corner

Intercessory Prayer Group: Mondays at 10:00 am



Prayer List:
Joshua Coombs, Hayes Wicher, Jane Claire Tew, Debbie Roberts, Janet Mitchell, Audrey Vaughn, Marti Knobloch, Amanda Underwood, Lynn McLamb, Jack Musick, Larry Waters, Mary Margaret Hobbs, Jane Spell, Doris Gore, Neal Hardison, Joey Lowder, Dr. Mac Herring, Jimmie Hall, Marvin Mitchell, Homer and Debra Morris, Wayne Tew, 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, Violet White

Those who are homebound:
Ruth Godwin

Missionary:
Forrest & Laura Strickland

Those who are in long-term care:
Loraine Butler, Anthony Balkcum, Pat Green, Frances Pearson, Polly Coffey, Helen Griffin, Louetta Carr



Children's Volunteers

Nursery:
Nov. 1 – Sarah Hesketh & Tara Jackson (11:00)
Nov. 4 – Becky Jackson (WEF)
Nov. 8 – Rachel Grantham (9:00)
- Nov. 8 - Don Wrench (Children's Church)

Nov. 11 – Dottie O'Quinn (WEF)
Nov. 15 – Sheila Steed (9:00)
Nov. 18 – Kaleb Sargent (WEF)
Nov. 22 – Kathleen Sargent (9:00)
- Nov. 22 - Ashley Rivers (Children's Church)

Nov. 29 – Lesa Moore (9:00)



Happy Birthday!

1st – Roxanne Parsons
2nd – Kenner Lane
4th – Wallace Herring
5th – Jessica Martin
6th – Lori Barwick
6th – Carolyn Royal
8th – Mackenzie Herring
8th – Vince Nelson
8th – Matt Seals
9th – Mattie Herring
11th – Craig Mann
12th – Jerry Herring
14th – Linda Andrews
15th – Mary Nell Darden
15th – Maria Pearson
16th – Piper Nelson
17th – Dalton Grantham
18th – Anna Parker Andrews
18th – Kinley Tomell
19th – Bob Carr
20th – Matthew J. Wheeler
21st – Cara Carr
21st – Christopher Driver
23rd – David Stone
23rd – Henry Stone
24th – Jeff Bell
24th – Jeffrey Bell
24th – Mandy DuBose
24th – Richard Pearson
24th – Jessie Wise
25th – Cara Hill
25th – Anna Williams
26th – Festus Turlington
28th – Sarah-John Jackson
28th – Morgan Steed

Happy Anniversary!

5th - Billy & Karen Sutton
6th - Wayne & Linda Andrews
12th - Sarah & Matt Stone
14th - Stewart & Kay Raynor
20th - Tracy & Beth Pope
22nd - Marvin & Janet Mitchell
24th - Richard & Sandra Pearson
29th - Donald & Carolyn Royal



2026

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 4:00 Confirmation 5:00 Youth **6:30 Charge Conference** *All Saints' Sunday*	2 10:00 Intercessory Prayer **11:00 Staff Meeting**	3 9:00 Chat with M@ 4:30 Griefshare	4 4:00 Singing Strings 5:00 K-5 Choir 5:30 Bible Study for All Ages 5:30 Preschool Choir 5:45 Bells/Winds 6:30 Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir	5	6	7
8 *New Member Sunday* 9:00 Son-Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 4:00 Confirmation 5:00 Youth *Happy Birthday Pastor Matt!*	9 10:00 Intercessory Prayer M a t t a t C a b i n e t	10 9:00 Roll with Joel 4:30 Griefshare	11 4:00 Singing Strings 5:00 K-5 Choir 5:30 WEF Bingo & FMC Wind Ensemble 5:30 Preschool Choir 5:45 Bells/Winds 6:30 Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir ***Office & BYB Closed***	12 **Poinsettia Sale Ends.** ***Order is Placed***  R e t r e a t	13 Meals on Wheels	14
15 **8:00 MM Breakfast** 9:00 Son-Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service **3:00 GriefShare - Surviving the Holidays** 4:00 Confirmation Ends 5:00 Youth *Methodist Women's Sunday*	16 10:00 Intercessory Prayer 11:00 Ida Johnson Circle 5:30 Building in Use **Wind Ensemble to play at Lions Club** ***Newsletters Due***	17 9:00 Chat with M@ 4:30 Griefshare 6:30 Eleanor Powell Circle	18 4:00 Singing Strings 5:00 K-5 Choir 5:30 Bible Study for All Ages 5:30 Preschool Choir 5:45 Bells/Winds 6:30 Last WEF Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir	19 9:30-10 Birthday Cakes 	20	21 Shriner Parade Downtown Clinton
22 **MW Bake Sale** 9:00 Son-Up Service 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth **6:30 Community Thanksgiving Service**	23 10:00 Intercessory Prayer	24 9:00 Chat with M@ 4:30 Griefshare	25 Meals on Wheels B A C K Y A R D	26 Building In Use  O F F I C E D B U D D I E S	27 Christmas Decorating Begins  C L O S E D C L O S E D	28
29 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth  	30 10:00 Intercessory Prayer					

Notes:

11/1: Receipts & Coordinating forms Due to Office

11/16: December Newsletters Due to Office

11/11: WEF Bingo @ 5:30 and FMC Wind Ensemble beginning at 6 in the fellowship hall.

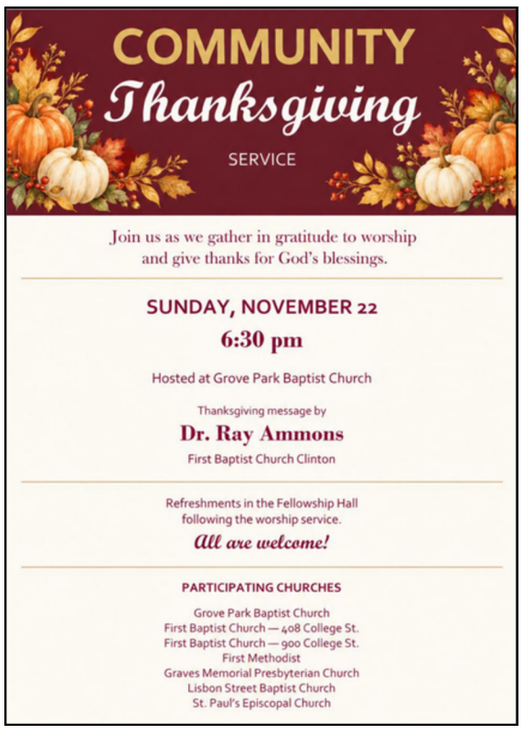
11/18: Last Wednesday Evening Fellowship until January 13th, 2027

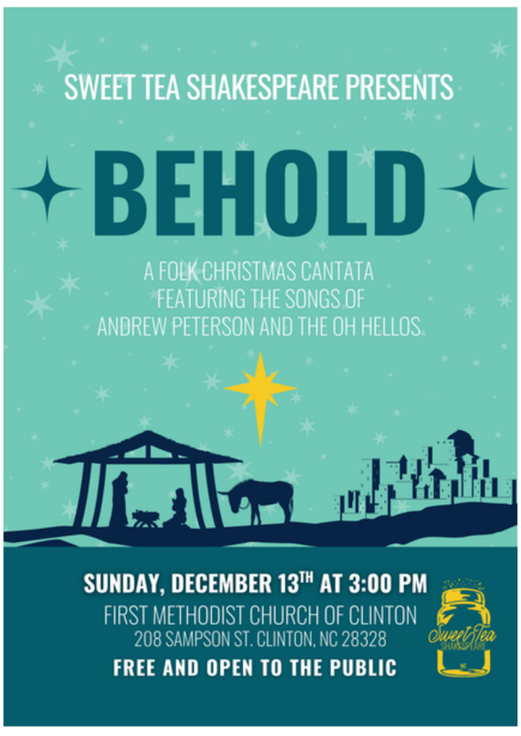

METHODIST MEN
Sunday
BREAKFAST
NOVEMBER 15
08.00 AM
JOIN US FOR A MORNING
OF FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP.


Clinton Circle
CHARGE
Conference
NOVEMBER 1 | 6:30 PM
SANCTUARY
JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF WORSHIP WITH GRACE AND EPWORTH METHODIST AS WE OFFER UP TO GOD OUR LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRIES TO GOD.


The holidays are challenging when you're grieving a loss.
GriefShare
Surviving the Holidays
provides encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the season.
Join us for this holiday seminar
Date & Time
Sunday 3:00-5:00 pm
November 15
Location
First Methodist Church
208 Sampson St.
Clinton, NC 28328
info@fmcnc.org 910-592-2035
griefshare.org/holidays


Methodist Women
Casserole & Bake Sale
NOVEMBER 22
9:30 - 12:30
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLINTON, NC
FELLOWSHIP HALL


COMMUNITY
Thanksgiving
SERVICE
Join us as we gather in gratitude to worship and give thanks for God's blessings.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
6:30 pm
Hosted at Grove Park Baptist Church
Thanksgiving message by
Dr. Ray Ammons
First Baptist Church Clinton
Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.
All are welcome!
PARTICIPATING CHURCHES
Grove Park Baptist Church
First Baptist Church — 408 College St.
First Baptist Church — 900 College St.
First Methodist
Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church
Lisbon Street Baptist Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church


SWEET TEA SHAKESPEARE PRESENTS
BEHOLD
A FOLK CHRISTMAS CANTATA
FEATURING THE SONGS OF
ANDREW PETERSON AND THE OH HELLOS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 3:00 PM
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF CLINTON
208 SAMPSON ST. CLINTON, NC 28328
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC