

**First Methodist Church of
Clinton**
208 Sampson St
Clinton, NC 28328
Telephone: (910)592-2035
Church Email: info@fmcnc.org
Website: www.fmcnc.org

The Cornerstone
1815 - 2025. . .
Ephesians 2:20



Pastor’s Corner

Celebrating Homecoming: A Legacy of Faith and a Future of Hope

This October 5th, we gather to celebrate Homecoming at First Methodist Church. Since 1815, this church has stood as a cornerstone of faith in Clinton—a place where the Gospel has been preached, prayers have been lifted, lives have been changed, and the love of Christ has been shared. As we look back with gratitude, we also look forward with hope.

In Luke 17:5–10, the disciples ask Jesus, “Increase our faith!” Jesus responds by reminding them that even faith as small as a mustard seed can do great things. For more than 200 years, little mustard seeds of faith have been planted by pastors, members, families, and friends who trusted God in their time. Those seeds—sometimes planted through a word of encouragement, a prayer, a gift, or a simple act of service—have grown into the witness we celebrate today. We are where we are because of their faithfulness.

Paul, writing in 2 Timothy 1:1–14, encourages Timothy to “rekindle the gift of God” and to live with “power, love, and self-discipline.” That same encouragement is for us today. The faith that was planted in us must be nurtured, shared, and passed on. Our Homecoming is not only about remembering the past, but also about recommitting ourselves to the future—to planting new mustard seeds that will grow and bear fruit for generations to come.

As we celebrate Homecoming, may we give thanks for the seeds of faith that were planted long before us, and may we take up the call to plant seeds today. With power, love, and self-discipline, may we ensure that First Methodist Church continues to be a cornerstone of faith for another 200 years and beyond.

Come home, give thanks, and look forward with hope—because God is not finished with us yet!
Blessings, ~ Pastor Matt
pastor@fmcnc.org

Dates to
Remember

**Homecoming
October 5th**

**Socktober Drive
for Children’s
Ministry**

**Football Team
Meal
October 17th**

**Staff Meetings
October 6th and
20th**

**Square Fair
Downton
Clinton October
11th**

**Young Adult
Game Night
October 19th**

REVIVE 2025

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday, Oct. 5th - 9 & 11 AM Pastor Mark Fields

6:30 PM Rev. Matt Seals

Monday, Oct. 6th - 6:30 PM Rev. Russ Emmanuel

Tuesday, Oct. 7th - 6:30 PM Rev. Clay Carter

Wednesday, Oct. 8th - 6:30 PM Pastor Dwayne Dunning

(meal @ 5:30 pm)

"A Life-Giving Church
People Love To Call Home"

 clinton community church
1901 sunset avenue clinton, nc 28328

Prayer Corner

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, Emery Walker, 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 who are homebound Ruth Godwin, Barbara Carr

Those who are in long term care Loraine Butler, Margaret Oates, Anthony Balkcum, Pat
Green, Mary Humphrey, Frances Pearson, Gerry Krivoniak

Love and sympathy to the family of Rosalyn Holland

Intercessory Prayer Group Mondays at 10:00 am

Music Corner- music@fmcnc.org

Dan Holland, Cameron and Marquita Someliana- Lauer



Dear Church Family,

Our fall semester is well on its way! There are many exciting upcoming events coming up in the life of our church. On Sunday, October 5th, we will celebrate Homecoming with a worship service full of special music.

- The children (preschool-5th grade) will sing and the brass ensemble will play.
- The dulcimer ensemble will be playing in worship on Sunday, October 26th.
- The children will also sing in worship the first Sundays of November and December.
- The kids are also hard at work on their Christmas musical! This will be Wednesday, December 10th.
- We are preparing to host this year's Community Thanksgiving service. It will be held on the evening of November 23rd.

I would also like to share a bit about a wonderful learning opportunity I experienced last month. At the beginning of September, my eldest daughter Vivian and I attended one of the best conferences ever. The "Sing!" conference took place in Nashville, TN, and was themed "From Generation to Generation." It was a truly wonderful musical experience and one that I will remember for the rest of my life. I have a few highlights I would like to share with you. There were so many more things I wish I could mention, and if you would like to talk more about the conference, I'd love to share!

Monday, 9-1-2025

The first breakout of the day was a J.W. Pepper sing-along. It was wonderful to hear 300+ singers, in good voice singing through nearly an hour of wonderful new choir anthems.

The first plenary session was a concert to celebrate and introduce the new Sing! hymnal. In the full Ryman Auditorium, along with 7,000+ participants, the conference founders and hosts, Keith and Krystin Getty, explained the three goals for the hymnal. These goals were:

- 1.To publish great hymns of the faith.
- 2.Curate what we sing.
3. Build deeper, more biblical worship services.

Tuesday, 9-2-2025

The second day started with the second plenary session, which focused on hymns dealing with "the Christian Life". Most of the discussion was on the importance of instilling Christian faith into children and praying and singing with our families. The Sing! hymnal is ultimately meant to be on the family piano at home as well as in church pews. After the plenary session, Vivian and I went to a good, old-fashion hymn sing with 600+ people. The beauty of the sound was wonderful. I made sure to have my hymnal the entire time! In the evening, we got to experience a beautiful Christmas lessons and Carols service. Yes... in September!

Wednesday, 9-3-2025

Our final breakout session was about the importance of raising the next generation of musicians and how every skill and talent is needed by Christ for the church. There were quite a few suggestions including, but not limited to, whittling, cooking, dramatic reading, knitting, harmonica playing, painting, gardening, and even playing the mountain dulcimer! I couldn't write fast enough for all the examples, but the point was that everyone has something they can share with the next generation to use for the glory of God, and if they don't, those skills could be lost forever.

For more see Music pg. 3

Children's Corner– children@fmcnc.org

Abby Tomell, Children's Minister



As the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisp, we are excited to step into a new season of ministry with our children. Fall always brings fresh opportunities to grow, serve, and celebrate together!

Wednesday Evening Fellowship

We are thrilled to be fully back on Wednesday evenings. Our K-2 class meets upstairs with Ms. Abby, our 3-5 are with Mrs. Allison, and our nursery is staffed with Isabelle and a weekly volunteer. Each class has its own Bible lesson, activities, and fellowship designed to help our kids grow their faith.

Fall Mission Project: Socktober

This season, we will be collecting new socks for those in need. Warm socks are one of the most requested items in homeless shelters, and we are excited to see our kids live out their faith through giving. Donations can be dropped off in the location bins located in various places throughout the church.



Christmas Program

It may feel early, but preparations are already underway for our Christmas Program. Practices will be during WEF. We can't wait to celebrate the birth of Christ with a fun, energetic play from our kids. We hope everyone joins us on December 10th.

Christmas Parade

Mark your calendars – December 13. We will also be participating in the community Christmas Parade again this year. The Rivenbarks have so graciously offered their trailer again. More details on time and location will be coming soon.

Updated Nursery Info and Policy

We are pleased to announce that Isabelle Tomell will now serve as an employee in the nursery. She has been volunteering for a while now and is excited to spend more time with our littles.

To keep our little ones safe, please remember that only parents and legal guardians are allowed to pick up children from the nursery. When you sign your kids in, please include who is picking them up if it will be different than the one dropping off. Staff and volunteers will not be removing kids from the nursery without prior permission. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for our youngest members.

We are so grateful for each child and family God has placed in our care. I am excited to see us grow in Christ together and celebrate all these blessings.

Music continued

All in all, this was a truly wonderful experience. Vivian and I were blessed not only to participate in this event but to experience it together as a father-daughter trip. This was especially poignant due to the overall theme and focus of this year's conference: "From Generation to Generation."

In Christ,
Cameron Someliana-Lauer, Assistant Music Director
(910) 548-3901
music@fmcnc.org

Sing Praise to God!

A concert featuring the favorite anthems of
Music Director, Dan Holland.

Presented in celebration of his 40 years of music
ministry at First Methodist Church.

Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.
Reception to follow

First Methodist Church
208 Sampson St. Clinton, NC 28328

Please contact us by January 4th, 2026, if you are interested
in singing with the choir for this wonderful event.
music@fmcnc.org or (910) 548-2719

Greetings church!

The youth have been doing well this fall. We have completed three classes of our confirmation course with five more to go. We have also been diving deep into Revelation in our Sunday school class.

Our youth are hungry for the word of God and it is awesome! This fall, our Sunday night devotions have been on putting God first because He has put us first. We have discussed how God loved us first, sought us first, and reached out to us first. We will be finishing up this series on October 5th. The following series will be on Living Out the Christian Life.



The youth are also participating in the Clinton *Trunk or Treat* on October 31. Their theme this year is VeggieTales. If you would like to donate candy for the kids to give out, please deliver it to the office before October 26. If you would like to help the youth decorate their trunk, please reach out to Pastor Joel.

This month, the youth are heading up the church’s mission. Our focus is on Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Shoe boxes are available for pickup in the sanctuary. Inside each shoebox is a pamphlet with instructions on how to fill the shoebox and a list of what to fill it with. We are asking that if you fill a shoe box that you also add ten dollars to the box for shipping. The ten dollars can be cash or a check made out to Samaritans’ Purse. **Shoe boxes are due back by November 1, 2025.**



Thank you for continuing to support our youth as they seek to be good disciples of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world.

God bless,
Pastor Joel Wise

Youth website

Youth Parents Band app



Sunday Schedule
Confirmation 4:00
Youth Group 5:00

Meals on Wheels

October 10th
Helen Hobson

October 24th
Sue Williams

Birthday Cake Bunch

Lesa Moore,
Mary Margaret Hobbs,
Doris Gore

First Baptist Church 900
Food Pantry Collection
Stuffing Mix

**SERVE
LIKE
JESUS**

Worship Corner~ October

Altar Guild: Matt and Sarah Stone

Flowers: Reminder, Sanctuary flower arrangements are \$55 for one slot or \$110 for both. Please make sure payments are made before your date.

October Flower Calendar

5th: Roxanne Parsons
12th: Susan and Mike Eaves
19th: Janet Prestage
26th: Open

Greeters: Eleanor Powell Circle

First Methodist Church

Homecoming 2025

October 5th 11:00 am

Homecoming Preacher: Rev. Matt Seals

Covered Dish to follow

NOW Corner

The NOW Team is excited to welcome the Clinton Dark Horse football team to First Methodist on October 17th. Our church will be providing the meal for the team as they prepare to take on East Duplin. Go Dark Horses!



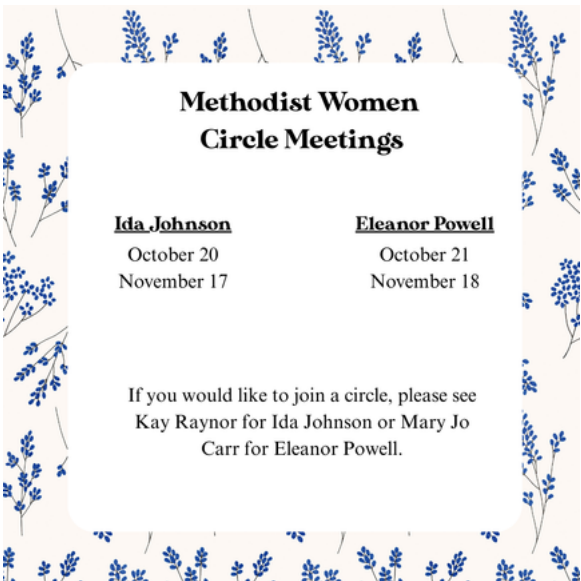
Missions Corner



Throughout the month of October our Children's Ministry will be collecting socks for the homeless. Please drop off any new socks in the church office or with Ms. Abby



Thank you for your support of our mission projects throughout this fall season. For the month of October, our churchwide mission focus will be in partnership with our children and youth. We ask that you pick up an OCC box, and while you are shopping to fill your box, grab some socks for the sock collection led by our children's ministry. This is how we, as the church, together share the love of Christ beyond the walls of the church.



Be sure to check out the renovated chapel space, now the parlor area of the church. The restrooms are open, and there is seating space available as well as coffee.





UPCOMING MEETINGS

10/6 Staff Meeting
10/7 Trustees Meeting
10/13 Methodist Women's
Executive Board
10/14 Finance Meeting
10/20 Staff Meeting
10/28 SPRC



Anniversaries

3rd -Dempsey and Pat Craig
8th- Eric and Caitlyn Collins
11th -Mike and Tiffany Rivenbark
13th -Luke and Jessica Martin
22nd- Caleb and Kimberly Ayres
23rd - Jerry and Mary Margaret Hobbs
27th - Hugh and Mary Jo Carr

Birthdays

1st -Tanner Serafini, Kayleigh Seals Tiffany
Rivenbark, Reid Herring
3rd Joe Hollowell
4th -Polly Coffey
5th - Bill Carr, Dennis Carter
6th - Michael Eaves
7th -Edward Owen
9th -Douglas Taylor
10th -Josie Sargent
11th - Warren Perry
Carolyn Pope
14th - Everett Griffin
15th - Maggie Wells, Albert Thornton, Wendy
Carr, Rose Vann, Bill Prestage, Ben
Prestage, Kylie Cashwell
18th - Douglas Moore, Kathryn Jacomet
19th - Loraine Butler
21st - Luke Martin, Mac O'Quinn
22nd - Trey Pope, Taylor Driver, Belinda
Kiziah
October 23rd - Lynne Moore
October 24th - Justin Boyette
26th - Rachel Grantham
27th - Vevlyn Lowe, Kim Sutton, Louetta
Carr, Grayson Butler
October 30th - Jordan Lindsay