

The Church Tower
First United Methodist Church
September 2020



A note from the Pastor:

Grace and Peace,

Doug's grandmother, Velma, was nothing if not certain that there was a time for everything. I remember during one of our first visits, when it was time for dinner to be concluded, Doug, fork mid-air, attempted to eat as she promptly picked up his plate and walked into the kitchen. Dinner was over.

Meal preparation and eating were precisely timed so as not to throw off her schedule. Please know this is a woman who ran a diner and had retired many years previously; she knew about such things. When I met Grandma Velma, she was living with Doug's parents. She had a routine; for example, Saturdays were for visits to the hair salon and library. Lunch and dinner were exactly timed so that she did not miss her "stories" or Jeopardy in the evenings. You know the "stories," you've probably watched them, *The Days of our Lives* * and *As the World Turns* *. I honestly don't remember what time they came on the television, but she knew and planned accordingly. Breakfast and lunch had to be prepared, eaten, and cleared and dinner preparations begun before the "stories" began. Dinner, naturally was prepared, eaten, and cleared before 7 pm.

I think most of us have routines that direct our days. We are creatures of habit and we like it that way.

Obviously, our routines have been upset by the pandemic. Many of us work from home; some are isolated from family, friends, and community. Some do not have sufficient work.

School is "virtual." Church worship is live-streamed and video messages, rarely in-person. We struggle to find meaning and purpose when so much seems illogical and unbelievable.

What has not changed is the way that God continues to direct our days. We still pray, sing, praise, and worship. We still trust and honor God. We still follow the ways of Christ.

We wait, as generations before us, for the second coming of Jesus. What are we to do while we wait? We live as best we can in the circumstances we find ourselves. We remember who we are and who is God. We remember that these days are not

forever. We remember that no matter how bleak or dark our day seems, Christ has already made a way in, and through, the darkness. Christ has already conquered sin and death. Christ has already offered us the gift of life, now and forever more.

For with God, there is a time and season for everything!

Grace, Peace and Love



Pastor Elizabeth



As of August, we will be offering another option to listen to our Sunday services, and a mid-week devotion.

Sermon by Phone



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September Birthdays

9/3	Lisa Coleman	9/17	Jonah Therrien
9/4	Janet Kessler	9/19	Bill Daley
9/7	Florence Kingston	9/20	Jane Waters
9/10	Yvonne Edwards	9/23	Agnes Rodgers
9/10	John Harrell	9/23	Hannah Therrien
9/10	Jane Preston	9/24	Phyllis Kirts
9/15	Janet Keller	9/25	Mary Lou Carter
9/16	Katie Harper	9/26	Terry Sanchez
9/16	Bette Jones	9/30	Ann Brookner

September Anniversaries

9/2	Bob and Sally Walker	9/6	Clyde and Janet Keller
9/15	Kevin and Suzie Barnes	9/24	Mike Seay



FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL

We're Open!!

It has been a while since the sounds of laughter and excitement have echoed through the halls of the preschool. Starting September 14 we will once again return for all the new festivities that the preschool has to offer. The preschool will open two days a week to start (Monday & Wednesday) with a 3rd day to be added at a later date.

While many things will seem different with new procedures in place for safety of all, the staff and the FUMP Preschool Board are committed to providing a quality program that is safe, educational, child friendly, and fun.

Bishop Lewis is allowing church preschools to open as long as they provide spots to essential workers children and follow the COVID guidelines from the Virginia Department of Health. Preschool as we have known it for the last 50 some years will not exist (at least this coming year) but I and the staff are excited to start a new journey and adventure. "To boldly go where no man has gone before." Our wish list: Painters tape, gallon size Ziploc bags, play sand, stickers and child size watering cans.

Annual Conference 2020 ~ One-day virtual gathering
September 19th
“See All the People”



Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7, NRSV

From Bishop Lewis

Appointive Cabinet and Annual Conference Planning Team

The Bishop, Appointive Cabinet and the Annual Conference Planning team have continued to evaluate options while conducting extensive logistical work of planning for the 2020 Virginia Annual Conference.

We would like to inform the Conference that the 2020 Virginia Annual Conference will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2020, in a virtual format.

Additional details regarding timing, agenda and procedure will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as the Planning Team continues to coordinate the many facets of conducting Annual Conference, especially in this unusual time.

Please direct any questions to your district superintendent.

Access to the Book of Reports, Appointments, Ordination Service, Conference Offering, and Kit information can be found on the Conference website: vaumc.org/ac2020/

Annual Conference Mission Offering 2020

The Annual Conference Mission Offering will be taken during one-day virtual Annual Conference on September 19, 2020. Bishop Lewis encourages all local churches to participate in this second mile offering as an expression of support for designated conference priority mission projects and programs which she selects. The pastor or lay representative of every faith community should contribute to this offering. Of course, individual gifts are always welcome! Checks may be made payable to “Virginia Conference of the UMC” or “VAUMC” with Conference Offering in the memo line.

The recipients of the 2020 offering represent a mixture of long term mission partnership commitments as well as new mission opportunities: 50 Percent Food Ministries within the Virginia Conference – Funds for food ministries within the Virginia Conference will be disbursed by the Missional Ministries Board.

50 Percent Partnerships of Hope – (Formerly Initiatives of Hope) Support for our conference long-term international mission partnerships with Mozambique, Cambodia and Brazil.

Please be generous in your support of the Annual Conference Mission Offering as we continue to show our strong support for God’s mission here in Virginia and around the world.

Kits for Conference

Local churches are encouraged to continue the collection of Kits for Conference. Specific collection details still underway, but will very likely include organization of regional, or district-wide, drop-off locations. ***More information will be forthcoming as the new plan is created and finalized.***

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is currently focusing efforts on Cleaning Kits (aka Flood Buckets), Hygiene Kits, and School Kits. Cleaning kits provide supplies to help individuals and families clean up after flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters. Hygiene kits replace basic necessity items lost in a disaster such as toothbrushes, hand towels, and soap to help people stay clean and healthy. School kits include school supplies for children as they return to the classroom. (see the Conference website for specific item listing and assembly instructions for each type of kit).

If you prefer to make a financial contribution to enable UMCOR to purchase relief kits, you can contribute \$75 for each cleaning kit; \$12 for each health kit; and \$11 for each school kit. Additionally, UMCOR asks for \$1 per kit (\$3 for cleaning buckets) to cover processing and shipping and \$1 for toothpaste for each health kit.

All checks (for processing and shipping, for toothpaste, and in lieu of providing kits) should be made payable to “Virginia Conference UMC,” earmarked for “kits” and mailed to Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA, 23058 any time prior to Annual Conference.



Our Healthy Church Team is still working on plans providing *safe-for-all* in-person worship.

As you may remember, Sunday July 26th the HCT and a few guests were welcomed to an in-person worship service. All in all, it went very well, so we’ve decided to do it again!

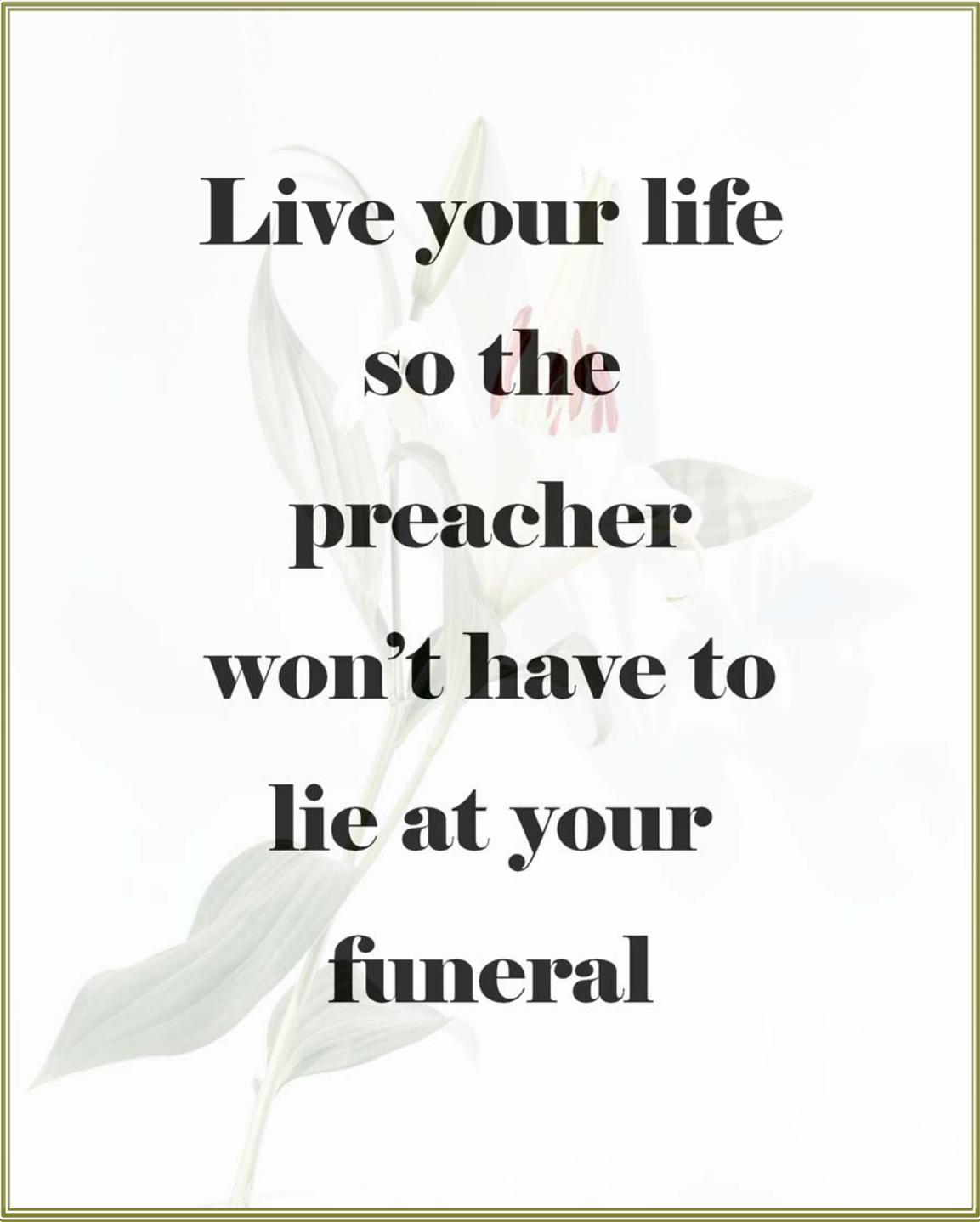
Sunday, September, 6th at 10 am we will have another in-person worship service. The HCT and those members of the congregation that said ‘yes’ to our requirement survey will be gathering together. The team’s hope is to make improvements to our first attempt in order to prepare a plan to submit to the District Superintendent.

When approved, it is my desire that we begin to offer *one* in-person worship each Sunday; while still taping and posting.

We have learned that with proper social-distancing, seating, and allowing for adequate ‘aisles’ we can host 30 – 34 people (including worship leaders) in our Fellowship Hall. We will begin here and work toward opening the Sanctuary.

I know that some are not ready for this next step and I know that some are more than eager. We will continue to proceed with the greatest care and caution. As I said earlier today, “I look forward the time when I can fling the doors wide open!”

Until that time, may we be in prayer together about the ministry of First UMC.



**Live your life
so the
preacher
won't have to
lie at your
funeral**

September 2020

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years."

Genesis 1:14

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 Worship at Home	7 Labor Day Holiday	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship at Home	14 First Day of School PLUMP	15	16	17	18	19
20 Worship at Home	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship at Home	28	29	30			



*God is most glorified in us, when we are
most satisfied in Him.*
- JOHN WIPER -



First Church's HomeBound Members

Have you been in touch? Cards, notes and letters are encouraging .

Are you able to visit by telephone? What a difference 15 minutes would make by calling to check in on your brother or sister in Christ!

Are you able to deliver a special meal or treat? Do you cook or bake? If you know that any of our HomeBound Members are able to have a treat, or receive a special meal—what a blessing you could be!

*First United Methodist Church
HomeBound Members*

*Some of our members need your care and attention
Please feel free to take a list of names and address to:
Send a Card
Or Make a Phone Visit*

Evelyn Creasy
107 James River Drive
Newport News, VA 23601

Margaret Way (Billie)
Bayside Convalescent Center
1 Vantage Drive, Rm. 301
Poquoson, VA 23662

C/O Carl Crigger
Louise Crigger
406 Jeffress Road
Keyssville, VA 23947

Robert Tankard
605 Hamlin Street
Newport News, VA 23601-3714

Katie Harper
The Huntington at The Newport
11143 Warwick Blvd. Rm. 102-S
Newport News, VA 23601

Fred Way
c/o The Mennowood
13030 Warwick Blvd., Room 261
Newport News, VA 23602

Ola Lawson
534 Blount Point Road
Newport News, VA 23606

Agnes Rodgers
22 Milford Road
Newport News, VA 23601

Robert & Sally Walker
52 Ferguson Cove
Newport News, VA 23606

Let each of you look not to your
own interests, but to the interests of
others.

Philippians 2:4



**UMWOMEN – FUMC
TIME FOR SCHERMER’S PECANS!**

\$11 per lb. bag.

Get your order in now!

Call Betty Miller

930-0087

**All proceeds support
Wesley Community Center~
*an outreach to the needy in Portsmouth***



City of Newport News
Virginia



Department of
Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Active Lifestyles Program

July 29, 2020

Mr. Jerry Dodson
First United Methodist Church/Food Pantry
26 Glendale Drive
Newport News, VA 23606

Dear Mr. Dodson:

On behalf of the seniors that receive groceries from First United Methodist Church's Food Pantry, I want to extend our heartfelt appreciation for this outstanding community outreach. Since 2016, your Ministry has given over 1,000 bags of groceries to participants that attend Doris Miller Community Center and Hilton Senior Center.

The Active Lifestyles' goal is to offer activities for older adults in a safe environment. We have found that many of the participants face hardships in purchasing essential food due to health or financial restrictions. The participants have expressed their appreciation for the groceries and have stated that your assistance has eased the financial burden to purchase other essential items such as prescriptions. They were especially grateful to receive items this month.

Thank you again for your support. It has been a pleasure to work with you and the other members that have worked so diligently to make sure the seniors receive the food. Please convey my appreciation to Mr. David Dellinger, and the other volunteers for their support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catharine Yusuf".

Catharine Yusuf
Supervisor
Active Lifestyles Program

Fountain Plaza Two ~ 700 Town Center Drive, Suite 320 ~ Newport News, VA 23606
(757) 926-1400 ~ FAX (757) 926-1460

UMWomen Update/September Tower~2020

ALL of you have probably received your new UMWomen Directories! Great appreciation to the Circle Leaders for delivering them to their members so expediently.

It's time for the UMWomen Schermer's Pecan Sale! Get your order in now! Call Betty Miller at 930-0087~remember all proceeds will be given to the Wesley Community Center for their outreach to others in the needy areas of Portsmouth. A 1-pound bag of pecans is \$11.00. Thank you.

A Zoom District Executive Committee Meeting , including all local unit presidents, took place Saturday, August 8th. Sylvia Rumsey, our President, welcomed her Mission Team and many Presidents from the various 49 churches in the York River District. Sylvia also emphasized that all Mission Team Reports are due to the appropriate District Mission Team Chair by September 10th in order to make preparations for the September 26th Annual Meeting.

The Mission Team Officers had remarks of interest:

Vice-President ~ Mary Saylor ~ although our 2020 calendar has been altered due to the corona-virus pandemic, our activities in 2021 will be somewhat the same in the upcoming year. For example, our unit had planned to have the President's meeting this year and it was changed to a Zoom meeting. However, we are planning to host the meeting in August of 2021. FUMC-Fox Hill is hoping to have the Annual Advent Breakfast on December 5th, the first Saturday in the month; a tradition for their church.

Treasurer ~ Joan Heaton ~ stated our membership is now 1586; so in keeping with \$3.00 per member, our present amount to VA Conference Treasurer will be \$4,758.00, due on September 20th.

Education/Interpretation ~ Dana Dunham said School Kits, Health Kits and Cleaning Kits for UMCOR would be collected. Points for collections will be designated soon by the UMC-VA Conference. Also, please continue to save your can tabs and your used stamps for UMCOR. Call Jane Waters at 874-4888 if you have any and I will pick them up and turn them in. The former stamp buyer died, but a new purchaser is being arranged.

Social Action Chair ~ Julianna Rosas said next year's priorities will be "Just Energy for ALL" and "Mass Incarceration ~ addressing criminalization of communities of color. She encouraged us all to take advantage of the many online trainings & zoom webinars to help us address these issues.

Program Resources ~ Anita Boucher realizes that many members may not have had access to their church libraries and therefore could not read as much as usual. She would like you to list what you have read & send or call the list to your local unit Program Resource Chair: Mary Barker, 134 Emmaus Rd., Poquoson, VA 23662, no later than August 30th.

Due to repercussions from the pandemic crisis our unit will be sharing our 2021 Program Books ~ Circles 2 & 4/AND Circles 5 & 6. We will order only "2" Prayer Calendars~1 for the Library and one for our Spiritual Growth Chair, Anita Crumpler. I also personally ordered one which I purchased.

This is a lengthy report because there is much to share with you since we are not meeting in the church yet. We all miss our church, our worship there and our dear friends, but hopefully this pandemic will end soon.

"May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You 'til We Meet Again~"

In Christian Love, Jane Waters

President UMWomen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gifts to FUMC received July 29, 2020 – August, 2020

General Fund:

- * In Memory of John Harwood by Lillian Harwood
- * In Memory of Robert Kriz by Glenn & Betty Miller



August 17, 2020

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Thank You card and the generous gift card for Carrabba's that I received in the mail today! I can't express how much it means to me to be remembered in this way. It has been my pleasure to fill in for Joan during her surgery and recovery and help our church at the same time. I will think of you all when I enjoy using your thoughtful and generous gift!

In Christian Love,

Cindy Loving

Please share the First United Methodist Church Tower with your friends, family and neighbors!

Anyone who has a computer or smartphone can sign up for a monthly electronic version! Just visit our website at:

FirstUMCNewportNews.com

Scroll to the bottom of the page, add your email address, and click 'Subscribe'.

This could provide an encouraging and needed means of interaction and devotion while we are struggling with health and social matters.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Lutz, *Pastor*
Kim Webster, *Pre-School Director*
Joan Bonnett, *Business Administrator*
Thom Robertson, *Director of Music Ministries*
Debbie Wolff, *Administrative Assistant*
Kaylee Correll, *Nursery Director*
Rick Clifton, *Custodian*



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Pastor's phone: (cell) 757/335-2649 (home) 757/595-5630