

The Church Tower
First United Methodist Church
2021 October



To be alive in Christian faith
To express our faith through service
To build a supportive fellowship

A Note from the Pastor ...

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Mark 6.10

Beloved, we find ourselves in a now and not yet world. This is a Christian’s understanding of faith in the kingdom of God that arrived with Christ and its ultimate fulfillment when Christ comes again.

How do we live in this time? Our first step, always begins with God. I believe my friend Jim wrote clearly and with great meaning about this time and I share it below:

Now I believe in a God who creates Order out of Chaos; it’s the Genesis story in a sketch. God spoke and things happened. ... and we’re just scratching the surface via our scientific discoveries of the complexities and intricacies of that order!

It’s a wonder-filled journey, full of surprises and serendipity, lasting all the length of human history. ... and every once and a while, if we’re still and listening, we hear the Almighty’s snickering amusement at “our plans.”

You see, our Plans typically begin with some first person, singular or plural, statement of self-centered desire of intention, sounding awfully like: “I want ...” or “We don’t like ...” or “It seems to me/us ...” and then babbling along in the creative process we intend to pursue.

How do you suppose that things might be different if we began with that phrase that Jesus included in the Family Prayer that begins, “Our Father ...”? You know the phrase: “Thy will be done. ...” What if our plans began with deliberate intention to discern God’s plans before we ever take a step? It might save us a few lumps, bumps and messes that we would have to clean up later!

But then, carry that kind of radical reorientation of one’s personal world into the life and ministry of the various task groups and committees in our Churches. What difference would it make if at the beginning of every meet-

ing, we spent significant time in what our Quaker Friends would call a “Committee on Clarity” – intended to discern the leading of the Almighty before taking our first step(s)?

What if every meeting began with deliberate consideration of scripture, not thrown under the plans we already have, but given priority and voice as we set about hearing the Voice of the Almighty whispering, “Come over here” or “What about those over there?”

It would, I believe, relieve us of a bit of fretting over, “What to do / say / be next?” and free us to sing, “Here I am Lord, send me,” sounding “for the world” like Isaiah when confronted with the query of the Almighty, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” (Cf. Isaiah 6)

Grace and peace.
James N. Earley, II
27 October 2011



Did you know that our Hilton Plaza neighbors need basic necessities?

Things like:

Soap, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Deodorant, Gently Used Clothing, Socks, Undies, Winter Gloves, Hats & Scarves, Bibles

There are two boxes in the Fellowship Hall to leave donations.



August 27, 2021

Dear Members of First United Methodist Church,

Newport News Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers would like to thank you all for your continued support during the pandemic. We know that this past year and a half has been a difficult time for everyone, and especially for the families we serve in our city. We truly appreciate your caring spirit and your devoted support of families in our community over the years. Because of your generosity and kindness, dozens of families have received food, diapers, baby wipes and personal care items when they needed them most. We cannot fully express our gratitude, but please know you are making a difference and we appreciate each and every one of you. We thank you for your partnership over the years and we pray that we will be able to continue serving families in our great city together for many years to come!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Tina Maynard".

Tina Maynard,
Prevention Services Supervisor
Healthy Families Newport News
Newport News Parents as Teachers
6060 Jefferson Ave. 5th floor
Newport News, VA 23605

We received two letters of thanks from the City of Newport News. Thank you Missions Team for your good work!



Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers — 6060 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, VA 23605 Phone: (757) 926-6009 Fax: (757) 926-6430



City of Newport News
Virginia



Department of
Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Active Lifestyles Program

August 23, 2021

Rev. Elizabeth Lutz
First United Methodist Church
10246 Warwick Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23601

Dear Reverend Lutz:

On behalf of the seniors that receive groceries from First United Methodist Church's Food Bank Program, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for this outstanding community outreach. Since its inception five years ago, your Ministry has given the participants at Doris Miller Community Center, North Newport News Community Center, and Hilton Senior Center nutritional options that are faithfully delivered and bagged each month.

The grocery program has been especially needed during the Pandemic, which made it cumbersome for the participants to acquire essential food. They have expressed their appreciation for the groceries and mentioned that the assistance eased the financial burden of having to choose between food and medical prescriptions. For this, I am thankful that your outreach services have touched their lives.

We are very fortunate to support the benefits from your congregation's generosity. We appreciate the volunteer efforts from Jerry and Martha Dodson as well as the other volunteers that work so diligently to make sure the seniors receive the food. Please convey my appreciation to the coordinators and volunteers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "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

Daily Prayers for our
Neighbors & Community

MONDAY (Pray for families)

Heavenly Father, we ask for your presence in families in our neighborhood. We pray for strength and understanding between the marriages in our neighborhood. We ask for loving, strong bonds between the children, teenagers, adults, and grandparents. We pray that each branch of the family would demonstrate love for one another.

TUESDAY (Pray for relationships between neighbors.)

God Almighty, we ask for healthy, thriving relationships between neighbors. We pray different cultures will be able to understand and care for one another in our neighborhood. We pray that the diversity of your people will be celebrated by all neighbors, just as you affirm and love each one of us.

WEDNESDAY (Pray for schools)

Father, we pray for the teachers and local principals who devote their days to shepherding our students. Please be present as district and state leaders make impactful decisions. We ask for guidance and patience for the parent volunteers as they serve our neighborhood schools. We pray that our schools will be a safe, positive community for our students.

THURSDAY (Pray for local churches)

Lord God, we pray for guidance for our local

pastors as they nurture Your congregation and seek to serve those around them. We pray congregations would welcome neighbors with open arms. We hope for residents to find a place to experience community with the body of Christ as they grow spiritually.

FRIDAY (Pray for safety and peace)

God, our Prince of Peace, we ask for your presence in the streets and homes of our community. We pray for local law enforcement, for their safety and wisdom and compassion in all circumstances. We pray your comfort for those who have experienced violence, and we ask your protection for all our neighbors.

SATURDAY (Pray for leaders)

Father, we ask you to give our state and local leaders wisdom make decisions affecting our neighborhood. We pray they will be thoughtful in their decisions and listen to the voices of the community. We pray for courage to stand up for our community and to live with grace and dignity in our city.

SUNDAY (Pray for neighborhood residents)

God, we ask for a flourishing community, where neighbors learn to love each other and come to know Jesus. We pray that we can be good stewards of Your love to each one of our neighbors. We ask that You help us to learn from our community, and it may be a place where all are welcomed.



FOOD HANDLERS!

Calling all Soup Kitchen volunteers, Brunswick Stew makers, and other food handlers at FUMC all persons who prepare and distribute food on the church property are *required* to obtain a Food Handlers Certificate (Newport News Municipal Code Chapter 17) If this applies to you, please contact the Deedra Hussein or Elizabeth Lutz as soon as possible. Your Food Handlers Certificate must be received by Elizabeth Lutz and/or Deedra Hussein *prior to the approval of* any event or occasion where food will be prepared and distributed. Thank you!

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 31, AT 4:00 PM

PRIZES FOR:

BEST DECORATED VEHICLE



... BRING YOUR LITTLE MONSTERS ...

A pink, fluffy monster with one large, round, teal-colored eye and a wide, smiling mouth showing small teeth. It has a soft, fuzzy texture and is positioned in the bottom right corner of the event announcement box.

October 2021

"If any man ascribes anything of salvation, even the very least thing, to the free will of man, he knows nothing of grace, and he has not learned Jesus Christ rightly."

Martin Luther

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10/2: Blessing of the Animals, 10am 10/11: Columbus Day – Church and Preschool Closed 10/30: Hilton Village Fall Festival/Brunswick Stew Sale 10/31: Trunk or Treat						
3 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	4 FUMP Music, 10am, PMR Bible Study, Zoom, 10:30am May we pray for our church to grow (Colossians 1:18)	5 UMW Board Mtg, 1:00pm FH Book Study, 7pm via Zoom	6 FUMP Chapel, 10am, SA Bible Study, 6pm, via Zoom	7 FUMP Music, 10am, PMR	8 National Pierogi Day 	9 Tidewater Painters, 8:30am 1pm John Crumpler Memorial Service, Amory Funeral Home, Yorktown
10 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Im Circle's (Patler)	11 Columbus Day FUMP/FUMP Closed May we pray that future generations will know the Lord (Ephesians 3:21)	12 Circle 2, Rm 209, 10am Circle 4, Parlor, 12:30pm Book Study, 7pm via Zoom	13 FUMP Chapel, SA, 10am Circle 6, Parlor, 11am Bible Study, 6pm, via Zoom	14 Charge Conference Reports Due Today FUMP Music, 10am, PMR	15 Missions Food Packing 8:30-11am FH	16
17 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	18 FUMP Music, 10am, PMR Bible Study, Zoom, 10:30am May we pray for our health (Proverbs 15:24)	19 Church Council, 1pm FH Book Study, 7pm via Zoom	20 FUMP Chapel, SA, 10am	21 10/18 – 10/30 Elizabeth out 10/21 – 10/30 Kevin out	22	23
24 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	25 FUMP Music, 10am, PMR Bible Study, Zoom, 10:30am May we pray for the nations (Judges 21:25)	26 Book Study, 7pm via Zoom	27 FUMP Chapel, SA, 10am 	28 Stew Sale Prep Today FUMP Music, 10am, PMR Foundation Mtg, 7pm, FH	29 Stew Sale Prep Today	30 Stew Sale Today/ Hilton Village Fall Festival, 11am – 2pm

10/31 Trunk or Treat, 4pm outside

Gifts to the Foundation

Gifts given to the Glory of God by:

Sally and Bob Walker in memory of Pat Robinson;

Martha and Jerry Dodson in memory of Fred Way;

Martha and Jerry Dodson in honor of Nancy and Bud Vincent;

Martha and Jerry Dodson in honor of Jane and Bill Waters;

Brenda and Gene Garriss;

Cathy and John Price in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Wickael and

Rev. and Mrs. Charles Price

Missions Baby Shower

For over five years, First Church's Mission Team has supported Newport News Healthy Family's Program with pampers, wipes and food. Each week the program's mentors, teachers visit our local hospitals checking on new arrivals and determining their needs and assessing if the family is at risk.

For the month of October, we are asking the congregation to help these new families by bringing new baby items like clothing, pacifiers, books, powder, and the like. Please drop them in the basket outside the nursery.

We will bless them in November and pray for these new children.

Thank you! Please contact Jerry Dodson at (757) 599-4527 with any questions.

Once again Betty Miller is selling Schermers pecans.



They are \$11:00 per one pound bag. This year, because of lack of funds in the UMW, you need to pay when you order. Make checks payable to "UMWomen Mission Team" or cash. Call Betty today at 757-930-0087.



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.



UMCOR Kits were distributed recently.

The UMWomen were instrumental in getting the kits distributed locally.



UMWomen Tower Report ~ October 2021

The aroma of Brunswick Stew will soon fill the halls of our church! A great stew sale will take place on Saturday, October 30th during the local Hilton Village Fall Festival. The hours are 11:00 to 2:00 p.m., or until 10 pots of stew have been sold!

We will sell 32 oz. quart jars at \$12.00 as well as cups of stew with crackers for \$5.00. The table will be set up in front of the church. Cathy Nocon will also display a great variety of lovely plants! Pre-sale tickets will be available, and orders may be picked up at the back door. Call this number for pre-orders: (757) 930-0765. All proceeds go to Missions!

Congratulations Ladies! The District Annual Meeting was recently held on Zoom, September 25th. Our unit was presented a gold award. We also had five women who achieved Level 1 Reading Certificates by reading five UM-Women Library Books each ~ Virginia Gall, Betty Miller, Jeanette Leslie, Judy Talbert and Jane Waters. One woman completed Level 2 Reading ~ Shelby Knoble. Way to go Shelby!

Jeanette Yoh showed a video about the District Mission Encounter which several of our ladies attended during the summer, *"Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom"*; Nancy Yarborough, Cathy Nicholson and Jane Waters attended this Mission Study.

October Dates:

- * Tuesday, 10/5 ~ UMWomen Executive Board Meeting 1:00 p.m. in FH
- * Tuesday, 10/12 ~ Circle #2/at 10:00 a.m. in Room 209
- * Tuesday, 10/12 ~ Circle #4/at 1:00 p.m. in Church Parlor
- * Sunday, 10/10 ~ Circle #5/at 1:00 p.m. in Church Parlor
- * Wednesday, 10/13 ~ Circle #6/at 11:00 a.m. in Church Parlor
- * Saturday, 10/30 ~ Brunswick Stew Sale/11:00 to 2:00 on church grounds

"Come near to God and He will come near to you" ~ James 4:8

Jane Waters, President

York River District Update



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

POST OFFICE BOX 5606

10330 STAPLES MILL ROAD

GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA 23058-5606

Sharma D. Lewis
RESIDENT BISHOP

Appointive Cabinet
OF THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

September 23, 2021

District Initiative

Beginning October 1, each of the eight District Superintendents will convene a workgroup from their districts to integrate the two districts into one. This planning will be a collaborative effort of the Cabinet and District Leadership. It will be anchored in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, as we equip disciples who are life-long learners who influence others to serve. By centering this critical work at the district level, it will engage people who are experts on the geography, ministries, and missional needs of their communities.

The authority to set the number of districts rests with the Annual Conference, while the authority to set district boundaries rests with the Bishop. The Bishop recognizes and appreciates the collective wisdom of the laity, clergy, and the Cabinet, and is excited to see what God will do with this Spirit-led work. We anticipate that the fruit of this work will be formally presented at Annual Conference in June 2022, so the members of Annual Conference may vote on the number of districts along with any Conference Rules changes that may become necessary with the new district configuration. By forming teams and developing these plans immediately, we can begin receiving broader input across our districts sooner.

The eight District Superintendents are already finding fruitful ways to collaborate across their two districts, using connection and community to share the Good News of Christ in real and tangible ways. The current “cross-pollination” builds on models of successful shared ministry throughout the conference, including the Northern Virginia Bi-District, and the 1 DS-2 District model piloted in the Danville and Farmville Districts from 2019 to 2021. Blending sixteen districts into eight requires building structural support and missional opportunities that foster increased community presence. It also requires resourcing for clergy and laity and creating fruitful synergy and efficiencies.

We are excited to begin this important work and know that God will bless our work as committed disciples of Jesus serving together in the Virginia Conference. We ask that you cover this work in prayer, asking for the creativity, wisdom, and discernment of the Holy Spirit to guide all that we do.

Stay tuned for updates as we journey on together!

Serving with you in Christ,

Bishop Lewis and Appointive Cabinet



**First United
Methodist Church**

Brunswick Stew Sale

SATURDAY OCTOBER 30TH

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Sold "to go" by the bowl
and by the quart.**

Pre-orders: 757-930-0765



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



Church Office: (757) 595-0383
10246 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, Virginia 23601
Website: www.firstumcnewportnews.com
Pastor Elizabeth: pastor@firstumcnewportnews.com
Pastor's phone: (cell) 757/335-2649 (home) 757/595-5630