Dear FUMC Family,

In an earlier newsletter, I shared with you my hope that in 2016 our congregation would find ways to spend more time with Jesus as we seek to live out our mission to be more like him for our community and beyond. I suggested 3 goals for the year: First, we will spend more time with Jesus in worship by offering a new worship service. Second, we will spend more time with Jesus by befriending and building relationships with those we serve in the community. Finally, we will spend more time with Jesus by deepening our spiritual life together, engaging in more prayer, study and conversation with one another.

We're making much progress in working toward these goals. In particular I want to share an exciting new endeavor. On April 17, we're launching a new service of worship at 8:30 a.m. in our sanctuary. We hope it will provide a way for many to continue joining us for worship, even as Sunday schedules get busier and busier through the spring and summer. More than that, we hope it will provide a different setting in which to encounter God. We'll use more modern hymns and contemplative spiritual music from the Iona and Taize communities. And each Sunday we'll gather at the Lord’s Table to celebrate Holy Communion together. There will still be a sermon, but the entire service will hopefully last no more than 45-50 minutes, in time for everyone to join the Sunday School Breakfast in Carpenter Hall. We are planning to provide childcare, and if you would be willing to help us with this, please reach out to Kristen at kristen@fumcbelmont.org.

In conversations with our Worship Committee the consensus has been that we need to try something, see how it works, and make improvements as we go along. We’ve made a commitment to evaluate later in the summer what’s working, what can we improve, how should we move forward into the fall. So, I hope you’ll join us in the months ahead and share your thoughts and feedback with us.

One of my coaches and mentors in ministry recently shared a book with me that draws leadership lessons from the explorers Lewis and Clark. In the book, the author shares how the explorers hoped to find a series of rivers that would lead across North America to the Pacific Ocean. But on reaching the headwaters of the Missouri they were confronted not with another rolling river but with the unexpected Rocky Mountains. To embrace the rest of their journey, Lewis and Clark needed a renewed sense of openness to adventure.

As your pastor, I am approaching this new worship opportunity with just such a sense of openness to adventure. We’re trying something new. We’ll learn as we go and continue to make improvements. All along the way, we will prayerfully ask God to lead and guide us that we might meet Jesus, grow with him, and become more like him in the days ahead. It’s a great time to be part of First United Methodist Church, and I’m so grateful to be here, on the journey with all of you.

In Christ,
George

Join us for Holy Week 2016

Palm/Passion Sunday Service of Worship
Sunday, March 20 ~ 11:00 a.m ~ Begins on the Sanctuary Lawn

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Monday-Friday, March 21-25 ~ 9 a.m – 5 p.m
Carpenter Hall

Lenten Prayer Vigil
Tuesday, March 22 ~ 7:00 a.m ~ 8:00 p.m
Sanctuary

Service of Holy Communion
Wednesday, March 23 ~ 6:30 p.m ~ Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday Service of Worship
Thursday, March 24 ~ 7:00 p.m ~ Sanctuary

Community Cross Walk
Friday, March 25 ~ 12 noon
Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

Good Friday Service of Tenebrae
Friday, March 25 ~ 7:00 p.m ~ Sanctuary

Community Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, March 27 ~ Greenwood Cemetery

Easter Sunday Service of Worship
Sunday, March 27 ~ 11:00 a.m ~ Sanctuary

WHAT IS GENERAL CONFERENCE?

General Conference is the top decision-making body for United Methodists. It meets every four years, this year in Portland Oregon from May 10-20. Delegates are elected from around the world and meet to consider changes to our Book of Discipline and approve priorities for mission and ministry in the coming years. We’re blessed at FUMC to have the Rev. Kim Ingram, who is a delegate to this year’s conference, in our congregation. Join Kim in Carpenter Hall on Sunday, April 10 at 9:45 a.m. for a special presentation about what will happen at this year’s conference, including some of the important proposals they will consider and what impact they could have for us in the years ahead. And please be in prayer for all those who will participate and serve in this year’s conference. You can learn more online at http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE

The next issue of the Tri-Angles will be published on April 19. Please have all articles turned in to the church office by April 14.

Find Us on Facebook

Did you know our church has a Facebook page? Be sure to check us out during Holy Week for special posts following Jesus’ final week and his journey to the cross. If you’re out of town or travelling, it’s a great way to stay connected to your church family during his holy time.
Church Family: Keith Lowe, Betty Deitz, David Gensch, Marjorie Goins, Pam Martin, Danny LaBoone, Valerie Elrod, Baron Elrod.

Extended Family & Friends: Randy Chambers (friend of Joe & Valerie Armeen), Alex Lathan (grandson of Bill & Cindy Jenkins), Mark & Deb Baer, Jim Coblentz (brother-in-law of Hazel Pfeiffer), Gray Carpenter (heart friend of Murphy Clark), John Campbell (friend of Reid & Liz McGraw), mother and daughter of Kay Mose Spencer (friends of Rachel Patterson), Fannie Andrews (grandmother of Greg Andrews), George Hall (friend of Avery Davis), Kathleen Boice, Juanita Brannum (friend of Linda England), Opal Cline (mother of Rita Greene), Sharon Armeen

Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the family of Janet Rhodes upon the death of her father Joe Bucia and to the family of Geraldine Brown upon her passing.

Those in Assisted Living
Covenant Village: Helen Rankin,
Morningside of Gastonia: Tom Stephens
Terrace Ridge: Mary Elizabeth Bowen

Those in the Military - Jay Felmster, McCauley Griffin

Church Hour Nursery
March 20 - Infants: John & Beverly Kart, David Gensch, Dianne McClure
Toddler/Pre-K: The Hanafin Family, Tim Painter
March 27 - Infants: Hunter & Anneke Armstrong, Anissa Mobley
Toddler/Pre-K: Danielle Kelly, Tom & Jen Teders
April 3 - Infants: Jean & Blair Reaagin, Amy & Kaylee Thaard, Abier Thornton
Toddler/Pre-K: Emma Beatty, Traci Pate, Lizzy & Coleman Williams
April 10 - Infants: Daniel & Jessica Durham
Toddler/Pre-K: Becky Forthenberry, Elizabeth Maynard
April 17 - Infants: Brad & Ashley Falls, Derek & Stacey Featherston
Toddler/Pre-K: Thomas & Heather Taylor, Tricia VanGastle

Guardian Angel
March 20 - Maggie Moore
March 27 - Leslie Kalmbach
April 3 - Shannon Agee
April 10 - Johnny Williamson
April 17 - Amanda Currier

Ushers
March - Adrian Lunsford, Trevis Lunsford, Dean Rice, Jack Rice
April - Greg Andrews, Matt Boehlke, Daniel Durham, Tommy Redmond

Tellers
March - Merle Costner, Jeff Lankley, Sue Teeter
April - Richard & Julia Armstrong, Mike Harrison, Johnny Williamson

Greeters
March 20 - Bill McLean, Linda Pitch
March 27 - Richard & Julia Armstrong, Sam & Janice Pennington
April 3 - Deborah Brooks, Gale Collins, Dottie Moore
April 10 - Margaret Howard, Betsy McKee, Carol Tomlinson
April 17 - Rebecca Harrison, Liz McGraw, Reid McGraw, Ann McKenney

Altar
March - Worship Committee
April - TBA

Acolyte
March - Caroline Beatty
April - Hayden Currier

Children's Story
March 20 - Kristen Surratt
March 27 - Traci Pate
April 10 - OPEN
April 17 - George Ragsdale

START YOUR SPRING CLEANING EARLY
AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 3rd Annual YOUTH YARD SALE is happening April 23rd 2016
Accepting gently used furniture, clothes, household items, books, tools, toy and sports equipment. NO TANDEM'S Contact Sara Clark for questions.
More details to come in the following weeks.

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO SUPPORT YOUTH MISSIONS

**Collections will not start until the week of the sale**
Communications Update: New Text Messaging System

Our new communications team is setting up a new text messaging system to send important news and updates to our congregation from time to time. To participate, text FUMCBELMONT to 313131. We do not anticipate sending a huge number of texts, but do feel this will be a helpful way for us to extend and improve communication in a timely manner. You can opt out of the messages at any time.

PASTOR GEORGE’S WEEKLY EMAIL

Pastor George is beginning a new weekly email, delivered to your inbox on Friday that will include brief devotional thought to prepare for Sunday’s worship, congregational news, and other items of interest. If you’d like to receive this email, send your email address to george@fumcbelmont.org.

SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT – Saturday, May 7, 2016

Save the date and tell your friends and neighbors about our next Community Movie Night on Saturday, May 7. We’re hoping for good weather in order to show Finding Nemo outdoors on the church lawn. Plan now to bring your lawn chairs and join us! More information to come at www.fumcbelmont.org.

FEEDING THE CHILDREN

During Spring Break we will again be Feeding the Children. We will deliver hot lunches to children who would normally be eating lunch at school on the 6 days of their spring break. We could use your help in preparing, delivering, providing cookies or giving a donation to purchase the food. Just make your check to FUMC with Feeding the Children on the memo line. The dates for feeding are March 25 and March 28 – April 1. To give your time please contact Martha Taylor at 704-825-7630 or sign up in the narthex before and after worship. Your time, gas and energy really make this program happen. Thank you, Preston and Martha

BOXED OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

PLEASE SEE AN Usher IF YOU WOULD LIKE A BOX
OR CONTACT JANICE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

\[\text{\textbf{11 S A BOY AND A GIRL!}}\]

Congratulations to Cody & Anna Martin upon the birth of their twins Avery Louise Martin and Elijah Cody Martin on February 18, 2016. Avery and Eli are welcomed by their big sister Aria and their proud grandparents Bill & Jane McLean.

\[\text{\textbf{11 S A BOY!}}\]

Congratulations to Steven & Danielle Pennington upon the birth of a son Harrison Kevin Pennington on March 12, 2016. Harry is welcomed by his big sister Rosalee, his proud grandparents Sam & Janice Pennington and his great-grandmother Betty Pennington.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERIN PAINTER CARVER

CROSSNORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR!!

FLOWERS NEEDED FOR EASTER CROSS

The Worship Committee requests that the congregation bring flowers for the cross on Easter morning. We will begin placing the flowers on the cross during the Sunday school hour. Anything in bloom from your yards will be very welcome and appreciated.

NAME TAGS

Remember to wear your name tags on Sundays to help us get to know each other better.

REMINDER TO CHECK YOUR MAIL BOX

Committee Chairpersons and group leaders, please remember to check your mail boxes located outside of Janice’s office. We encourage the congregation to use the boxes. This is a great way to distribute information, mail or announcements that you might like to get to a certain committee, UMM, UMW, Boy Scouts, Sunday School Classes, etc. Thank You!