



First Newton

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Becoming one diverse community
Worshipping Jesus passionately
Practicing unprecedented acts of hospitality

LOVING ALL PEOPLE INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Fred Cook.....1/1
Mary Killian.....1/1
Lukas Yoder.....1/1
Mason Driscoll.....1/2
Bradley Bollinger.....1/5
William Shillito.....1/5
C. Ray Shrum.....1/5
Frankie Cooke.....1/6
Tracie Loyzelle.....1/6
Staci Miller.....1/7
Bradley Byrd.....1/8
Vance Ervin.....1/9
Donna Mull.....1/10
Matt Miller.....1/12
W. Harold Lynch.....1/13
John Trivette.....1/13

Jackie Sigmon.....1/18
Kathy Clark.....1/20
Caleb Miller.....1/20
Railey White.....1/21
Conner Baker.....1/22
David Lewis.....1/23
Elizabeth Rights.....1/23
Bob Fowler.....1/24
Teresa Coley.....1/25
Brenda Saunders.....1/25
Bev Underwood.....1/25
Emma Burnette.....1/26
Jennifer Coffey.....1/26
Diane Hadley.....1/26
Christopher White.....1/28
Tom Dixon.....1/31

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Cara Cadwallader.....2/2
Gaye Keener.....2/2
Jeff Hewins.....2/3
Greg Bailes.....2/7
Adrienne Binkley.....2/7
Frank Reinhardt.....2/7
Brooks Nichols, Jr.....2/8
Vance Sigmon.....2/9
Paulette Moss.....2/12
Lori Wray.....2/12
Andrew Boylan.....2/14
Carol Brown.....2/14
Gabe Ervin.....2/14
Ken Moss.....2/16
Ken Simmons.....2/17
Jean Carter.....2/18

Paiton Fair.....2/18
Pat Howard.....2/18
Jim Byrd, Jr.....2/19
Joseph Beaman.....2/19
Anna Cook.....2/19
Lorene Martin.....2/20
Flo Williams.....2/20
Bobby Carter.....2/21
Anne Hunsucker.....2/22
Ivey Ervin.....2/23
Sydney Templeton.....2/27
Katie Brown.....2/28
Erin Killian.....2/28
George Wilkinson, Jr.....2/28

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Josh Sherfey, Pastor
P: 704-881-2488 | E: josh@firstnewton.org

Shannon LeMaster-Smith, Deacon,
Minister of Discipleship - Children, Youth & Outreach
P: 336-460-1769 | E: DeaconShannon@firstnewton.org

Beverly Underwood, Church Administrator
P: 828-464-8422 | E: office@firstnewton.org

Ron Sinclair, Director of Music | E: ronsinclair@firstnewton.org

John Coffey, Organist | E: johnnyjava@earthlink.net

Gina King, Dir. of Communications | communications@firstnewton.org

Hank Weddington, Praise Team Leader

Kim Boston, Nursery Coordinator

Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director
P: 828-465-6397 | E: newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Mike Jenkins & Tricia Hayes.....1/1
Hank & Monica Weddington.....1/1
Rob & Debbie Rights, Jr.....1/21

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Rick & Ann Faust.....2/10
Reid & Judy Ikerd.....2/10
Wayne & Jackie Dellinger.....2/20
Bobby & Leslie Benson, Jr.....2/26

JANUARY MEMORIALS

Eunice Gutyar
Pat Britt
Joe Goble

Methodist Women
Capital Building Fund
Capital Building Fund



WELCOME REVEREND JOSH SHERFEY AS FIRST NEWTON'S PASTOR!

We are overjoyed to welcome Reverend Josh Sherfey and his wife, Shannon to the First Newton family! Josh and Shannon live in Hickory, along with their two fur babies, Blaze and Satchel. Josh comes to us from his last appointment as the Missional Engagement Director for the Catawba Valley District, while Shannon is a physician and partner at Newton Family Physicians. Josh and Shannon have written introduction letters for us to help us get to know them! You will find those letters on the inside pages of this newsletter. Josh's first Sunday to lead us in worship will be February 9, 2020. Josh, we look forward to your years of ministry with First Newton!



GET TO KNOW JOSH and SHANNON SHERFEY!

Take our **SHERFEY TRIVIA** quiz!

GUESS which one of these statements is **NOT** true about Shannon:

- 1) Shannon loves to collect cookbooks.
- 2) Shannon has 2 younger sisters, who are twins.
- 3) Shannon has a degree in Psychology.
- 4) Shannon loves to swim.

GUESS which one of these statements is **NOT** true about Josh:

- 1) Josh loves animals, particularly dogs.
- 2) Josh loves musicals and can sing every word to the songs from many of them, including "Hamilton".
- 3) Josh has a minor in Russian.
- 4) Josh would like to be Spiderman when he grows up.



Josh baptized over a dozen prisoners on one Easter Day! T or F

Josh has a beautiful singing voice. T or F

Shannon and Josh were BOTH baptized at the age of 12 on the exact same day. T or F

Shannon and Josh are BOTH "neat freaks". T or F

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	JANUARY 2019	JANUARY 2020
Sunday School	51	43
8:30 Contemporary Worship Service	57	53
10:30 Traditional Worship Service	114	119
TOTAL WORSHIP AVERAGE	171	168

Meet Josh & Shannon Sherfey

We thought it might be nice for us to introduce each other to you so you get the inside scoop!

Meet Josh (by Shannon)

Josh was born in Indiana and moved to NC at the age of four. He grew up on Kerr Lake, outside of Henderson, about 45 minutes north of Durham. His mother was an English teacher & his father taught Special Education for years before going into sales. Josh has two younger sisters. Sarah lives in Newton with their mother and is the librarian at the Maiden library branch. Lizzie is a United Methodist minister and lives in Wisconsin with her husband and daughter.

Josh & I met while undergrads at Duke, where we were both involved in the Duke Wesley Methodist Fellowship. He graduated with a B.A. in History and a minor in Latin. After spending six months in Bolivia doing mission work at an orphanage, he started seminary at Duke Divinity School. We were married during his first year of seminary in 1997. Josh served as an Associate Pastor at Main Street UMC in Kernersville for 3 years. He was then appointed to Hickory Grove UMC in Greensboro, which was an excellent fit. If it weren't for my career, we would've stayed there much longer. But, I got an offer to join Newton Family Physicians so we moved to Statesville where he served Bethlehem UMC. After three years there, Josh decided to go back to school & he completed a ThM (masters of theology) at Duke Divinity School in 2009 while we lived in Newton. We even worshiped here at First Newton some while he was back in school! After that break from the parish, Josh was appointed to serve as senior pastor at First UMC Taylorsville where we stayed for 8 years. Over the past 2 years, Josh has taken a sabbatical and then has been working as the Missional Engagement Director for the Catawba Valley District.

While in Taylorsville, the church we served grew tremendously and underwent a major transformation. We had outgrown our space in the historic downtown location so we purchased a vacant car dealership to renovate into our new campus. Everyone was all in for this endeavor because with our new building we had a larger space all on one level with better parking, great visibility and an innovative path to reach those who may not be in relationship with Christ. We wanted to use the downtown space to meet the needs in Alexander County so today this facility is known as the FUMC Mission Campus and now houses low cost nonprofit office space for the United Way and the Shelter Home for Women that combats domestic violence. The old sanctuary space is available for community church services and a music ministry for underprivileged children. Most exciting is the use of the fellowship hall and kitchen as The Café, a much-needed soup kitchen that is the result of a partnership with 8 churches of various denominations, much like your Corner Table.

(By the way, just so you all know, he'd prefer to be called just "Josh" rather than "Pastor Josh" and if you have to make it more official for some reason, then "Reverend Sherfey.")

Now on to the more interesting stuff. Josh is one of those people who exudes love and joy. He is full of energy and life and his gregarious personality allows him to connect with lots of different people of all ages. He is also very genuine and authentic and isn't afraid to tell it like it is.

Josh loves animals, particularly dogs, and I knew when we got married that we'd always have pets. We've had 6 boxers over the years and currently have Blaze who is 4 years old and Satchel who is a 9 year old rescue. Some days I think he loves our boxers more than me! We were never able to have children so the dogs are our kids and have become quite spoiled.

I can't think of a single person who loves music more than Josh but God has not blessed him with many musical talents. In fact, I urge you to turn off his microphone during the songs and hymns. He loves to sing & usually does so "lustily and with good courage" as John Wesley taught. He secretly (OK, maybe not so secretly) loves musicals & can sing every word to the songs from The Sound of Music, Annie, Big River, The Music Man, and of course - Hamilton! When Josh grows up, he'd like to be Spiderman, a drummer in a rock band, an archaeologist or an astronaut. Or maybe a Star Trek captain. Or even a Jedi.

We both love to run on a regular basis and have been known to make travel plans based on races. Josh has run 12 marathons & we typically try to run several 5K's, 10K's and half marathons throughout the year. He also enjoys road biking and has recently started doing triathlons, completing a half Iron Man in September. He will be doing another half Iron Man in April and plans to complete a full Iron Man in September of this year. Pretty impressive for someone who just started swimming last year.

Since meeting Josh over half a lifetime ago, he has helped me to become more adventurous. We've gone sky diving, SCUBA diving, hiked to the top of a volcano, taken helicopter rides in cool places and gone flying to lots of local spots as Josh has his private pilot's license. Josh loves to travel & explore new places and has had the privilege of going to the Middle East, South Africa, several European countries and many Latin American countries. He has a heart for missions & Hispanic ministry and I'm certain many of you will join us on VIM teams to Central & South America during our time with you.

Josh cannot wait to be in ministry with First Newton over the coming years. We think this is a great fit and we're thrilled to be part of your faith community. Let's get out there and make a difference!

ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON WHO MAY BE CALLED TO MINISTRY?

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE
WNCC EXPLORE
SUMMER INTERNSHIP HAS BEEN
EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 1, 2020.

The Explore Summer Internship exists to help young adults (18-25 years old) discern their call to vocational ministry by providing an environment for exploring their gifts and giving the intern opportunities to explore particular aspects of ministry and/or program development in a safe and encouraging environment. The internship is a hands-on experience in a church setting or a church affiliated organization. Interns engage in a broad range of ministerial work and/or program development then reflect on their experiences. To learn more about this program, please visit:

<https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/explore-summer-internship-13019771>
Or contact Jana Alexander, District Administrator,



WE WILL BE PRINTING THE 2020 CHURCH DIRECTORY SOON!

Please contact Beverly Underwood,
Church Administrator,
with any changes or updates to your
contact information.
Church Office: 828-464-8422 or
office@firstnewton.org.



Nursery:

For children up to 4 years
8:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on Level 1

Sunday School:

9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Children 3 years - 5th
Grade on Level 1. Youth (6th-12th
grade) in Fellowship Hall.

Confirmation / Youth:

- **Confirmation Sessions:** Sundays (4:15pm-5:45pm) Feb 9, 16 & March 1
- **High School Girl's Group:** (6pm) Each Thursday in the Activity Room
- **Friday-Sunday March 6-8, 2020:** **SAVE THE DATE!** Confirmation Retreat

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL is available for children ages 3 – 5th grade. These groups meet on the level below the Sanctuary from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Our 1st-5th graders are learning about Bible Characters.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP

We welcome children of all ages and the sounds & activity that accompany them! The Pray-Ground is an area located near the Praise Café during the 8:30 service, that offers children 5 & under a space to quietly engage in age appropriate activities while experiencing worship with their families. There are also Worship Bags available at the entrances to the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall.



KIDS FOR CHRIST CONTINUES

k4C is an after school ministry for children in Kindergarten - 6th Grade that meets on Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. We are learning about the Fruits of the Spirit. We pick up from Startown, Shuford, and South Newton Elementary Schools. For more info, please contact Deacon Shannon.



@Camp Hanes in King, NC

April 24-26, 2020

IgniteUS is a middle school youth retreat planned and led by our Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

Cost: \$100
Register by March 1st

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS 2020 - FOCUS ON THE PATH



WE NEED YOU! Are you willing to do Facebook Live for either of our worship services? Contact Gina King at 828-320-3883 or communications@firstnewton.org to sign up for a Sunday!

A Final Word from Willis

Dear Family and Friends of First Newton,

Overwhelming ... overwhelming is the word I have used to describe what you did for me on our final Sunday together. The beautiful flowers showered upon me, the laying on of hands to bless my departure, the elegant table decorations in the Fellowship Hall, the delicious meal, the creative gifts and the occasion to be "Queen for a Day" will be memories I will treasure for years to come. Thank you for all of your expressions of love and friendship. The outpouring of kindness and generosity was simply overwhelming and my heart was deeply touched. I will be forever grateful for the unique and meaningful ways you sent me forth from this appointment.

Friends, you are a generous bunch and I am confident that the kindness and generosity you shared with David and me will be the same kindness and care you share with Rev. Josh Sherfey and his spouse, Dr. Shannon Sherfey. You are extremely blessed to be receiving this couple into the church family. Please make them feel as welcomed and as loved as you have the Greenes. It will be an easy task - they are terrific people! Your future together is bright and I know that God's abundant grace will be upon your new partnership.

For all that has been - THANKS!

To all that shall be - YES!

With a grateful heart,
Willis



Meet Josh & Shannon Sherfey

We thought it might be nice for us to introduce each other to you so you get the inside scoop!

Meet Shannon (by Josh)

Shannon grew up in Severna Park, Maryland, which is located between Annapolis and Baltimore. Her parents expanded their business and moved to St. Augustine, Florida right after we got married. She has 2 younger sisters, who are twins (and they still gang up on her today). Megan lives in St. Augustine with her two children and is a social worker/therapist. Carmen lives in Philadelphia with her husband and two children and is a VP in finance and accounting. Shannon grew up as an active member of Severna Park UMC so we've both been Methodist for more years than we can count. Eerily, we were even baptized at the age of 12 on the exact same day, her in Maryland and me in North Carolina!

Shannon & I met while undergrads at Duke University (actually the first day of freshman year!) where we were both active in the Wesley Methodist Fellowship. She graduated with a degree in Psychology and then got her M.D. from Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She stayed in Winston-Salem to complete her residency training in family medicine at Wake Forest. Shannon worked at MedCentral in High Point for a few years before becoming a partner at Newton Family Physicians in 2005. The practice is thriving as one of the last physician-owned groups in the county and she hopes to stay there until retirement.

Have you ever seen the T. V. show Friends? Well, Shannon IS Monica. She's super organized and a neat freak. Luckily, some of her obsessive traits have rubbed off on me over the years (and even more luckily, some of my laid back ways have rubbed off on her as well). She's also quite the chef. She loves to go to the Hickory farmers market in the summer and enjoys collecting cookbooks. (Can we start a letter writing campaign to bring a Whole Foods to Catawba County?) For health and athletic performance reasons, we have recently started eating a plant-based (or vegan) diet. Not sure how long that will last but so far we both feel better. (I do, however, really miss ice cream!!) One of our friends said all we eat is twigs and weeds but I assure you, there are plenty of unhealthy plant-based options out there too when we need to splurge!

When she's not cleaning or organizing, making lists or planning something, Shannon likes to run and do yoga or go hiking. We both do several half marathons a year and she's gotten quite speedy over the past few years! She recently got a road bike so has started joining me on some rides. She's not keen on the swimming piece so I'm not sure if I can convince her to do triathlons - at least not yet! We both love to travel and explore new places and try to take a big trip every few years - so far to Greece, Italy and South Africa. Asheville is one of our favorite local destinations where several of our best friends live so we tend to find ourselves there quite often.

Unlike me, Shannon has been blessed with a beautiful singing voice and a natural talent for music. I'm sure she is looking forward to being a part of the music ministry at First. We are both anticipating a wonderful season of ministry with you and the community. Shannon quite simply makes me a better husband and human. We complement each other well and we push one another in areas we need to improve. She is extremely grounded and compassionate with the love of Christ at the center of her being. One of her many gifts is hospitality - making folks feel at home both in their environment and in their own skin. I am sure she will bring that gift to bear at First Newton. She also is a fierce champion for human equality in all its forms and I join her in striving for this reality as God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.



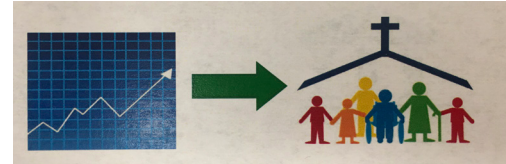
AN UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

Your IRA and Appreciated stock can support our church AND help you avoid and lower your taxes

If you would like more information on how to lower your taxes or avoid taxes while giving to the church, please contact the church office at 828-464-8422.

We are planning a presentation by A J Thomas from the United Methodist Foundation, sometime in early March. If interested, please contact the church office.

The following info was provided by the United Methodist Foundation.

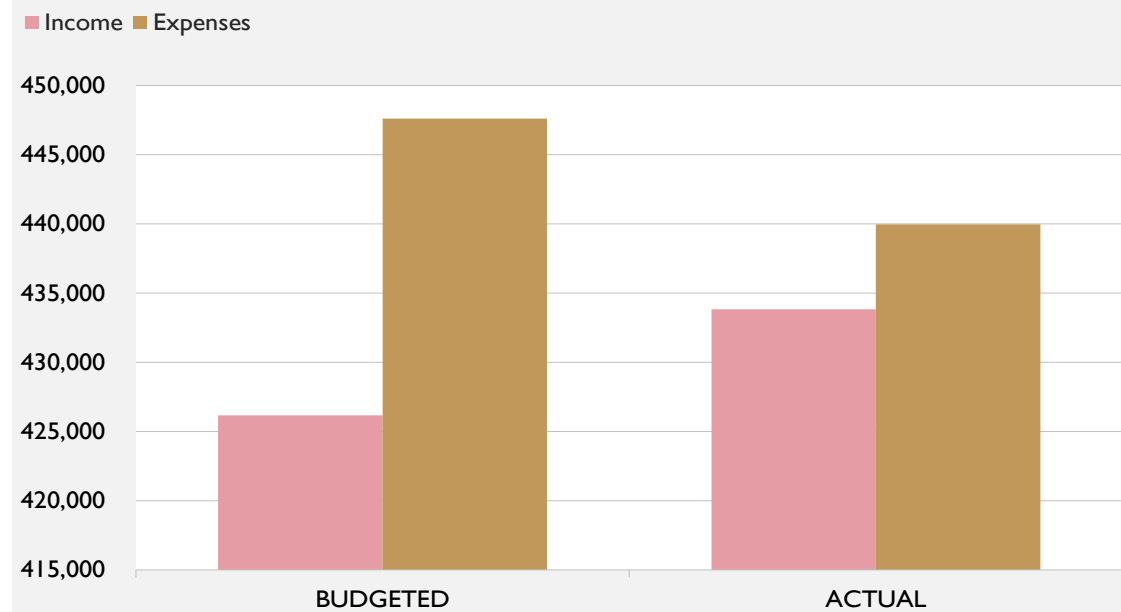


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWTON 2019 BUDGET



BUDGET TOTALS	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Income	426,170.00	433,819.00	+ 7,649.00
Expenses	447,612.00	439,964.00	7,648.00

BUDGET OVERVIEW

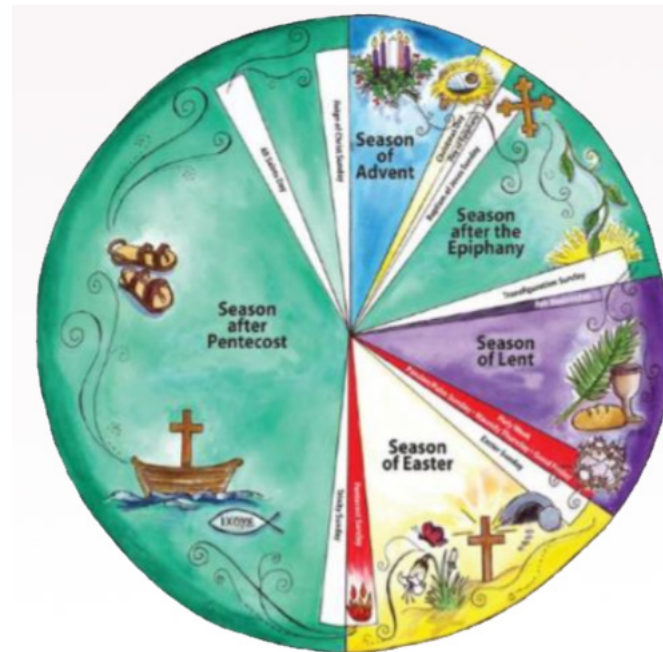


Ever wonder what the Liturgical Colors of the Church Mean?

Watch your Newsletters, Bulletins & E-News this year, as our Scholar in Residence, Jonathan LeMaster-Smith, explains each color change.

Liturgical Color History:

GREEN



From Advent to Christ the King Sunday, the Christian year offers many stories, rituals, and colors. The color we most often see in our church is green, for what is called Ordinary Time. However, no time in the Christian year is very ordinary. Just like the new seeds sprouting in spring, green symbolizes hope, life, and anticipation. The focus of these times are the life, teachings, and actions of Christ and the which shape the way Christians are to grow in their faith.



by Dr. Jonathan LeMaster-Smith,
Scholar In Residence

EASTER EGG HUNT & VBS CARNIVAL PLANNING MEETING

**THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH
11:30AM (after the late service)
in the Activity Room**

See Deacon Shannon if you are interested in helping plan these events.



ECCCM March Madness Food Drive

Did you know that 1 in 5 people in Catawba County live with food insecurity? The ECCCM is hosting its Annual March Madness Food Drive to address this issue by encouraging a little friendly competition of donating food items in the name of favorite March Madness NCAA basketball teams!

Bring your canned foods or monetary donation to the church breezeway and "Vote" for your favorite teams! Deacon Shannon and the Kids For Christ kids will have boxes decorated for all the big teams! Each canned food item counts as \$1 or 1 vote! SHOW YOUR TEAM SPIRIT while supporting ECCCM! The food drive will run through the March Madness Tournament concludes with the National Championship on April 6th!

ECCCM will acknowledge the church with the most pounds of food donated, as well as the basketball teams most supported through food donations!

LET'S GO, FIRST NEWTON!