

LOVING ALL PEOPLE INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRANDY BURNETTE

Thank you for your prayers and many acts of kindness since the passing of our Church Administrator, Brandy Burnette. Many of you have expressed interest in helping Jimmy Burnette and the family during this difficult time. Here is a list of ways you may assist:

- A meal delivery sign-up calendar has been set up for the next month. You may sign-up to deliver a meal to the family at: www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4AAEAA2FA02-burnette
- You may also drop by financial donations to the Church Office between 9 am – 3 pm Monday – Thursday. **PLEASE NOTE: Checks must be made payable to Jimmy Burnette.** All money collected will be given directly to Jimmy for use as needed.
- First Newton United Methodist Church has also established the Brandy Burnette Memorial Fund. You may contribute to this fund, by making checks payable to First Newton UMC and note Brandy Burnette Memorial Fund on the memo line. First Newton will work with the family to identify ways to use these funds to the Glory of God here at First Newton UMC in memory of Brandy.

Finally, we ask for your continued prayers for Brandy's family, friends and our church staff and family.



Our Spring Dinners for 8 group met at Whisk & Barrel for their first meal. Fall sign-ups will be announced this Summer.

Lent & Holy Week EVENTS

Thursday, April 11 • 7:30 p.m. • Sanctuary
Hickory Rings Spring Concert
(Love offering will be taken.)

Sunday, April 14 • 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, April 14 • 2:00 p.m. • Front Lawn
FREE Community Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday, April 18 • 7:00 p.m. • Sanctuary
Holy Thursday Worship Service

Sunday, April 21 • EASTER SUNDAY
**8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
in the Garden**

**10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary**

DINNERS FOR 8: PROVIDING GOOD FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Our Dinners for 8 group will be wrapping up in April and several of those participating are already looking forward to the next round in the Fall. Terri Strickland is new to the area and to First Newton and shared, "This has been a great way to get to know people from the church. It's hard to do that before and after service on Sundays. This small group is fun, informal, and not just for couples. It's a wonderful mix of people."

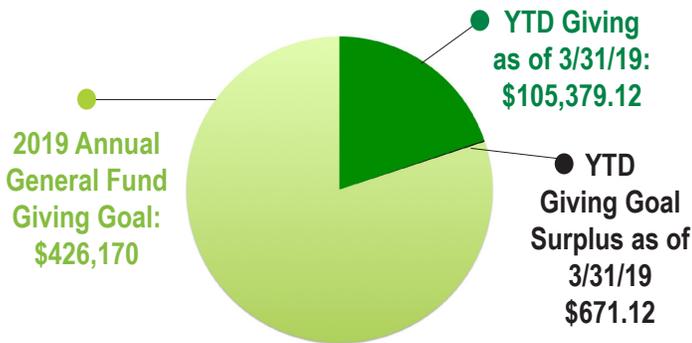
Debbie Rights served as the leader for the group and said coordinating the group was as simple as contacting the members of the group and setting a time and place for the first meal. "There is an anonymous quote that says, 'Your friends are your needs answered.'" said Debbie. "I feel Dinners for 8 epitomizes this quote. By developing friendships you become family."



Thank you to everyone who participated in our St. Patrick's Day party in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 17. Thank you especially to our Sunday School classes and youth for a great team effort coordinating the activities, food and fun! It was wonderful to see our church family of all ages fellowship, play games, laugh and learn more about one another. Stay tuned for details about more upcoming church-wide events!

AN UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

The following is an update on our church finances through March 31, 2019. Detailed financial updates are shared at the monthly Church Council meetings and notes are made available in the Welcome Center. You may also contact George Wilkinson with questions: gwillkinson0228@gmail.com



AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	MARCH 2018	MARCH 2019
Sunday School	51	45
8:30 Contemporary Worship Service	57	58
10:30 Traditional Worship Service	125	107
TOTAL WORSHIP AVERAGE	182	165

*Attendance from the former 8:30 a.m. service in the Sanctuary is counted with the Traditional Worship Service for the 2018 average.

DEACON SHANNON HONORED FOR SERVICE

On March 6, The Corner Table welcomed their 2019 Honorees of The Baker's Dozen Women's Society including our Deacon Shannon LeMaster-Smith. The society recognizes women who are passionate about their community, and have partnered with The Corner Table to make a difference in the lives of those they serve each day. The Corner Table is a soup kitchen outreach ministry provided by the people of our community for the hungry in our community.

"I am so excited to take part in The Baker's Dozen Women's Society," said Deacon Shannon, "I have set a goal to raise at least \$1,000 for The Corner Table Soup Kitchen."

Deacon Shannon is using her artistic talents and selling items to help her reach her goal. Items include: hand painted notecards, watercolor hymn prints, or you may commission your own personalized piece of artwork. You may view her artistic designs at: www.deaconshannon.wordpress.com/unearth



**JOY MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 11**

The next JOY gathering will be Thursday, April 11. Refreshments are served at 9:30 a.m., and the program begins at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This month's program is "Imperfect but Forgiven" a group of men from the Catawba Correctional Center who sing and speak about their rehabilitation. The lunch menu is chicken pie, rice & gravy, slaw, rolls, and homemade desserts. RSVP for lunch by calling the Church Office (828-464-8422) by noon on Tuesday, April 9. For more info, contact Bev Underwood @ 828-465-0481. **NOTE:** JOY volunteers will meet on Tuesday, April 9 at 2 p.m.



ATTENTION GOLFERS: ECCCM TOURNAMENT IN MAY

The annual ECCCM (Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry) benefit golf tournament will be played on May 9 at Glen Oaks Golf Club in Maiden. If you're a golfer, please consider getting a team together to represent First Newton while supporting a great cause. There are also multiple sponsorship opportunities available. Tournament information can be found at www.ecccm.org/benefit-golf-tournament Contact ECCCM Board members Stephen Sims (828-302-5631) or Jim Mauney (jmauney2@yahoo.com) for more details.

All 6th -12th graders are welcome to join the Youth of First Newton for worship and fun. Please contact Deacon Shannon for details. Here are a few of the events coming up during April:

- **Sunday, April 7** - Youth Group from 3:30 - 5 p.m.
- **Sunday, April 14** - Youth Group from 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Assist with Easter Egg Hunt, and then a fun outing.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

This **FREE** family-friendly event is for children of all ages!

Sunday, April 14 @ 2 p.m. **RAIN OR SHINE!**

on the Front Lawn @ First Newton



Refreshments • Face Painting • Cupcake Walk • 2000+ Eggs!



HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATE INFO

Attention High School & College Students! Applications and guidelines for the Methodist Women, Wellborn and Odum Scholarships are now available on-line @ firstnewton.org/scholarships or in the Church Office. **Deadline is April 17, 2019.**

SEND US YOUR GRADUATION INFORMATION - Graduation Sunday for High School & College graduates is June 2. We would love to celebrate your accomplishments. Contact the Church Office by April 29 with your graduation information or **Email: kristispencer@firstnewton.org | P: 828-464-8422.**



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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH WILL START BACK IN APRIL

On Communion Sundays children will stay in worship to celebrate communion with their families. On other Sundays, children K-2nd grade are invited to go with Deacon Shannon to experience worship in the children's church room near the nursery. We will learn about rituals and songs used in the traditional service and follow the liturgical calendar. If you are interested in helping with Children's Church, contact Deacon Shannon.



VBS MEETING / CLOSET CLEAN-OUT - If you are interested in helping with VBS this Summer, we will meet for a **FREE LUNCH** in the Activity Room at 11:45 on April 28. We will discuss VBS over lunch and then get to work cleaning out the children's ministry supply closets. **ALL are WELCOME!** For more information, contact Deacon Shannon.

NEWS FROM THE NURSERY

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Melissa Ervin for serving as our Nursery Director over the last year. Melissa has done a wonderful job updating our Nursery policies & procedures while nurturing our youngest disciples every Sunday. Effective April 1, Melissa is stepping down and Megan Johnson will be our new Nursery Coordinator. Megan will schedule volunteers, oversee the policies and procedures and be in the nursery during the Praise Service and Sunday school hour. Kim Boston and Megan Stephens will share the childcare worker position for the Traditional Service with Kim in the nursery on the 1st & 3rd Sundays and Megan on the 2nd & 4th Sundays.



NEWTON

METHODIST PRESCHOOL

Thank you to our church family for participating in the Preschool's Spring Community Service Project. The Preschool donated over 150 boxes and 200 cans of food to the Catawba Co. Schools Backpack Program.

We're enrolling for Fall 2019. For more info, contact Kristi Harvell, Preschool Director at 828-465-6397 or email newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com.



k4C is an after school ministry for children in Kindergarten - 6th Grade and meets Wednesdays from 3:00-5:30 p.m. during the school year. Our theme this year is "Journey with Jesus." For more info, contact Shannon at deaconshannon@firstnewton.org. **Here's a look at our April schedule:**

April 10: Journey with Jesus - Good Friday / Betrayal

April 17: Journey with Jesus - Resurrection (Easter Celebration)

April 24: No k4C (Spring Break)

Would you like to join our hospitality ministry? Can't commit to the whole year? How about serving as a Summer substitute? We have a lot of different ways to get you plugged into our hospitality ministry. We have immediate needs for folks to serve:

- On Team 1 at 10 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month
- Greeters at 8 a.m. on the first, third and fourth Sunday
- Refreshments at 10 a.m. on the second Sunday each month

Please contact the Church Office at 828-464-8422 for complete details.



EASTER CARDS & ENCOURAGEMENT

Easter is a wonderful time to remember our homebound members and send them a note or letter of encouragement and blessing. Our Kids 4 Christ have assembled Easter gift boxes for each homebound member, on display in the breezeway. There are also cards with a list of names on a table in the breezeway. Simply pick up a list, label your cards, and **return them to the church by Sunday, April 14.** If you would like to assist in the delivery of the Easter baskets and cards to our members, please contact the Church Office at 828-464-8422.

MARCH MEMORIALS

- Marty Burrows - Capitol Building Fund, General Fund, Music Fund
- David Propst - Capitol Building Fund, Garden Fund, General Fund
- Monteen Fox - Capitol Building Fund, General Fund, Music Fund
- Polly Kelly - Capitol Building Fund, General Fund

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Church Office | P: 828-464-8422

Lara "Willis" Greene, Pastor | P: 828-461-5918 | E: willisgreene@firstnewton.org

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

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

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

Michael Roberts, Praise Team Director | E: jasper.angeline@gmail.com

Kristi Spencer, Communications Director | P: 704-607-3280 | E: kristispencer@firstnewton.org

Megan Johnson, Nursery Coordinator | E: meganlj1997@gmail.com

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

CHURCH ALERTS:

We will communicate any changes to our church schedule via local TV (WBTV, WCNC, & WSOC), in addition to email, Facebook, and website postings. **NEW: Sign up to receive a text alert.** Simply text: @1stnewton to 81010.



BIRTHDAYS

William Johnson	4/2
Jane Harvell	4/3
Diane Colletta	4/5
Bill Powell	4/5
Marjo Erickson	4/6
Ruth Boland	4/7
Ethan Clark	4/8
Heather Clontz	4/8
Harriett Wyatt	4/8
Gordon Kerley	4/9
Joe Killian	4/9
Pat Simmons	4/9
Jim Hardin	4/10
Nancy Killian	4/10
Gina King	4/10
Dewayne Setzer Jr.	4/10
Stephen Sims Jr.	4/10
Stuart Smith	4/11
Jeff Elledge	4/13
Matt Wilkinson	4/17
Angela Gantt	4/18
Anne Lemons	4/20
Bobby Benson Jr.	4/21
Beth Morgan	4/23
Gigi Ervin	4/24
Michael Roberts	4/24
Margaret Benfield	4/25
Judy Beaman	4/27
Megan Johnson	4/29
River Stephens	4/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Anne Lemons	4/3
Matt & Staci Miller	4/18
Mark & Mary Killian	4/22