

# 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

### THANK YOU FIRST NEWTON CHURCH FAMILY

A message from Reverend Lara "Willis" Greene

It's good to be home! Thank you very much for the time away for renewal and recharge. It was an amazing two months filled with powerful experiences of the living Lord and I look forward to sharing more with you in worship on July 14. The most important thing for me to say right now is THANK YOU. I am simply overwhelmed with gratitude. Thank you for being the church — for coming together to serve one another, the community, and carrying out the daily tasks of ministry over the past two months. Thank you to our strong Lay Leaders: Jim Richard, Council Chair; George Wilkinson, Finance; Mike Jenkins, Personnel; and Roger Johnson, Property for their leadership and oversight. Thank you to our strong and dedicated staff who worked sacrificially - Deacon Shannon LeMaster Smith, Ron Sinclair, John Coffey, Ann Cook, Kristi Spencer, Kristi Harvell and Megan Johnson. I am deeply grateful for their work and ministry in the service of Christ.

I'm excited about our new sermons series, *Tales by the Sea* which begins Sunday, July 7. Many of Jesus's greatest lessons were taught either on or by the Sea of Galilee. Being at sea in the Bible is a metaphor for being out of control and therefore, afraid. In some form or fashion, we are all trying to gain

control over our lives so the theme this month is that control ultimately belongs to Jesus. And that, my friends, is very good news!

On Sunday, July 14, I will incorporate several stories from my leave into the sermon. I will be sharing some of the amazing ways I encountered Jesus during my travels. Whether you have plans to travel near or far this summer, I encourage you to be intentional and aware of the presence of Christ's spirit in your life. He is in the business of doing amazing things and I look forward to journeying alongside you as we continue to become one diverse community; worshipping Jesus passionately; and practicing unprecedented acts of hospitality.

With joy,

Willis



## MOVE Mondays



Children, youth AND adults are invited to participate in our Move Monday events this Summer. Let us know you're coming. Visit: [firstnewton.org/movemonday](http://firstnewton.org/movemonday)

- July 8 (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.): Water Fun - Wear your bathing suit, bring your towel & water toys. Snacks provided.
- July 15 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.): Catawba Falls Hike\* - Bring a bag lunch, a water bottle; wear comfortable clothes & shoes (optional: bathing suit)
- July 22 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.): Swimming\* - bring a bag lunch, water, & towel
- August 5 (10 a.m. - 10 p.m.): White Water Rafting\* Must sign up by July 14. Cost is \$40 and includes rafting & dinner. Bring a bag lunch, water bottle, change of clothes and a towel.
- August 12 (10am-2pm): South Fork Rail Trail in Lincolnton\* - Wear comfortable clothes/shoes; bring a bag lunch and water bottle. Optional spending money for walk around downtown Lincolnton.
- August 19 (10 a.m. & Noon): YOGA with Erin - Wear comfortable clothes; \$5/person \*Ages 10+. Optional: bring \$ to go out to lunch after noon class.

\* For these events marked with an (\*), children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

**RAIN PLAN:** Games in the Activity Room (10am-1pm) Snacks provided

## DO GOOD CAMPAIGN KICKS-OFF

A message from Deacon Shannon LeMaster-Smith

At Brunch worship on Sunday, June 30 we had table conversations about doing good. What is your passion? What does doing good mean to you? How might you do good while at work? Home? Grocery shopping? How might your Sunday school class or family or other small group join together in doing good?

I am available as a resource for individuals, families, and small groups who are looking for ways to serve in our community. I love connecting with service agencies in our community and I get requests all the time for needs. Contact me if you would be willing/interested to be on a list serve to receive notices of these needs as they arise. May the Spirit ignite your passion and convict you to act, to "do good" - however, whatever, wherever, whenever, forever.

## WE'RE SERVING LUNCH WEDNESDAYS

One of the ways we will "Do Good" is by serving lunch at The Corner Table soup kitchen every Wednesday in July and August from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All ages are welcome; no previous experience required. We will help prepare and serve a meal to hungry people in our community. This is a great activity for families to do together!



## DO GOOD T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE NOW

Our "Do Good" t-shirts are available for purchase. You may pick them up on Sundays after worship near the Gomedela Room or from the Church Office Monday - Thursday from 9-3. T-shirts are one for \$15 or two for \$25 in Teal or Gold in sizes XS to 3XL. The t-shirts are made by a company called Seed Apparel, based in Haiti. They pay a living wage for their workers and all products are fair trade. By buying a shirt, you're supporting workers in Haiti...so you're doing good AND looking good!



In June, a group from First Newton participated in a Make & Take art session at the Resource Warehouse Gallery. Pictured left to right: Conner, Marshall, Phillip, Gordon. Missing in the pic is Amanda & Deacon Shannon.

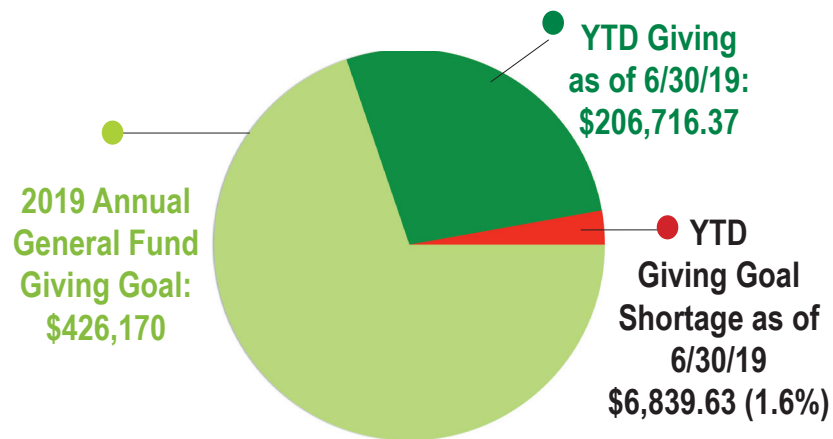


**NEXT JOY GATHERING  
THURSDAY, JULY 11**

"JOY" Ministry was started with the purpose of bringing seniors together within our churches and community for fellowship and service in order to nourish the body, mind, and soul. JOY meets the 2nd Thursday of every month in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee/refreshments available at 9:30 a.m., and the program begins at 10 a.m. with a time of devotion followed by a program. July's devotion will be led by Pastor Fred Thompson. Our patriotic program will be led by Gail McRee and will honor our Veterans, our History & our Freedom. You may honor those who have served by wearing red, white and blue and pin a picture of those who have served to your shoulder (a picture of you, or family, or a special friend). If you served and can still fit in your uniform, please wear it! The lunch menu is hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and assorted desserts. Reservations are recommended. Call the Church Office at 828-464-8422 by Tuesday, July 9.

## AN UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Team has provided a snapshot of our year-to-date giving (shown below) to keep us up to speed on our church finances. In June, we also collected \$213 for the Hunger Fund (given to ECCCM and The Corner Table). Detailed financial updates are shared at the monthly Church Council meetings and notes are made available in the Welcome Center. The next Church Council meeting will be held Tuesday, June 11 at 7 p.m. in the Gomedela Room. Meetings are open for anyone to attend. You may also contact George Wilkinson with questions at [gwilkinson0228@gmail.com](mailto:gwilkinson0228@gmail.com)



## SUMMER STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

While you're enjoying the beaches, mountains and other vacation destinations, please remember that the ministries of the church continue during the Summer. Many folks find that online giving meets their needs. You may give quickly and easily from the church website: [firstnewton.org/give](http://firstnewton.org/give). You may also mail your tithes & offerings to First United Methodist Church, PO Box 926, Newton, NC 28658.



**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. Our 1st-5th graders are exploring various Psalms through the Illustrated Children's Ministry curriculum. Thank you to our fabulous teachers for leading the children: Allyson, Staci, Justine, Bev and Kim! Youth Sunday School (6th-12th grade) is held in the Activity Room, on the basement level.

**Children's Worship Bags:** We love having children in worship! For the summer months of June- August, we will have additional activities in the worship bags for children to enjoy while participating in the service. Bags are located at the entrance of the Fellowship Hall.

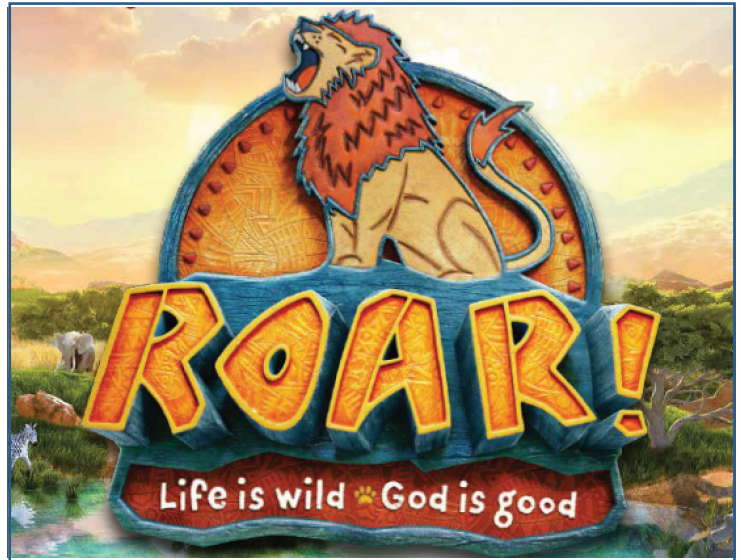
**In addition to the Move Monday events listed on the front cover, here's a look at our upcoming children & youth events:**

- Wednesdays in July (11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) serving lunch at The Corner Table (a great way for the entire family to serve)
- July 20: VBS 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- July 23-29: Youth Wilderness Trail



**NEWTON**  
METHODIST PRESCHOOL

Our preschool Summer program is in full swing. As a reminder, the Preschool is now enrolling for Fall 2019. Contact Kristi Harvell for more information or to schedule a tour at: 828-465-6397 or [newton-methodistpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:newton-methodistpreschool@gmail.com).



## VERY BIG SATURDAY

All children are invited a fun-filled time of music, crafts, games, food, fellowship & **BOWLING** as we learn about God's goodness.

**WHERE:** Pin Station (Expo Center)

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 20

**TIME:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**AGES:** 3 years (potty trained) thru 6th Grade

When life changes, **GOD IS GOOD!**

When life is scary, **GOD IS GOOD!**

When life is unfair, **GOD IS GOOD!**

When life is good, **GOD IS GOOD!**

If you would like to help with this Very Big Saturday event, please contact [deaonshannon@firstnewton.org](mailto:deaonshannon@firstnewton.org).

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN:**  
**[firstnewton.org/VBS](http://firstnewton.org/VBS)**

## FIRST CHURCH IS SEEKING A CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

The purpose of this position is two-fold: 1) to administer the life of the congregation and 2) create a welcoming environment by giving oversight to hospitality ministries. This position requires detailed organizational / administrative skills, strong computer skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Access) and the ability to mobilize others for church ministry. This is a 30hr/week position with hours on Sunday morning. Salary is negotiable depending on experience & credentials. If you or someone you know is interested, please submit a cover letter, with resume and references to [office@firstnewton.org](mailto:office@firstnewton.org). Contact the Church Office for more information and a complete job description.



## BIRTHDAYS . . . . .

- Katie Fleming ..... 7/1     Jessica Rhyne .... 7/15
- Nathan Rhyne ..... 7/2     Jim Stockner..... 7/16
- Lynn Delancey ..... 7/4     Susan Reinhardt . 7/17
- Jack Lamb ..... 7/4     Nichole Sigmon .. 7/18
- Betty McGee ..... 7/5     Teresa Fletcher ... 7/19
- Benjamin Benson . 7/8     Kim Boston ..... 7/20
- Kyle Lynch ..... 7/8     Fred Cook Jr. .... 7/20
- Michelle Caldwell .. 7/9     Eli Ervin ..... 7/20
- Martin Driscoll ..... 7/9     Sophie Cox ..... 7/21
- Tricia Hayes ..... 7/10     Kim Caldwell ..... 7/24
- Camden Hollar .... 7/10     Steven Dennie .... 7/24
- Betty Jackson ..... 7/10     Leslie Benson ..... 7/26
- George Johnson . 7/10     Susan Peacock ... 7/26
- Kenneth Hunsucker 7/11     Eddie Copeland Jr. 7/27
- Kay Smyre ..... 7/12     Evelyn Johnson .. 7/27
- Katie Foster ..... 7/13     Brittany Fulbright .. 7/29
- Bernice Allen..... 7/14     Colby Kelley ..... 7/31
- Audrey Smith ..... 7/14     David White ..... 7/31
- Eunice Gutyar ..... 7/15

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	JUNE 2018	JUNE 2019
Sunday School	46	37
Total Worship Average	180	119

*\*Attendance from the worship services was combined because several Sundays included only one service.*

### JUNE MEMORIALS

Brandy Burnette..... Brandy Burnette Fund

### JUNE HONORARIUMS

Beverly Stone ..... Brandy Burnette Fund  
 Ken & Pat Simmons..... General Fund

### MEMORIAL STONES

If you would like to purchase a Memorial Stone, please stop by the Church Office to pick up the order form. The cost is \$150. You may provide information about the person and include a picture that will be added to a Memory Book (like our Veterans Book) for our church archives.

## FIRST CHURCH STAFF

### Church Office

P: 828-464-8422 | E: [office@firstnewton.org](mailto:office@firstnewton.org) | Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-3

### Lara "Willis" Greene, Pastor

P: 828-461-5918 | E: [willisgreene@firstnewton.org](mailto:willisgreene@firstnewton.org)

### Shannon LeMaster-Smith, Deacon,

Minister of Discipleship - Children, Youth & Outreach

P: 336-460-1769 | E: [DeaconShannon@firstnewton.org](mailto:DeaconShannon@firstnewton.org)

**Ron Sinclair**, Director of Music | E: [ronsinclair@firstnewton.org](mailto:ronsinclair@firstnewton.org)

**John Coffey**, Organist | E: [johnnyjava@earthlink.net](mailto:johnnyjava@earthlink.net)

**Kristi Spencer**, Communications Director

P: 704-607-3280 | E: [kristispencer@firstnewton.org](mailto:kristispencer@firstnewton.org)

**Megan Johnson**, Nursery Coordinator | E: [meganlj1997@gmail.com](mailto:meganlj1997@gmail.com)

**Kristi Harvell**, Preschool Director

P: 828-465-6397 | E: [newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:newtonmethodistpreschool@gmail.com)

## ANNIVERSARIES . . . . .

- Roy & Kaye Lewis..... 7/3
- John & Teena Branton Jr..... 7/5
- Peter & Marjo Erickson ..... 7/6
- Greg & Beth Phillips ..... 7/9
- Ken & Paulette Moss ..... 7/17
- Brett & Terra Butler ..... 7/31
- John & Donna Mull ..... 7/31

### NEW FACILITIES EMAIL

A new email address has been established for direct contact with the Property Sub Team of Church Council (formerly known as Trustees) – [fumcproperty@gmail.com](mailto:fumcproperty@gmail.com). Please use this email address to raise any property concerns and building repair requests.