

**APRIL, MAY & JUNE MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS**

APRIL MEMORIALS

Beth Isenhour	Capital Building Fund	Tommy Howard	Current Expense
Howard Smith	Capital Building Fund	Howard Smith	Current Expense
Mickie Cochran	Capital Building Fund		

Nancy Killian	Music Ministry
Beth Isenhour	Music Ministry

MAY MEMORIALS

Tommy Howard	Capital Building Fund	<u>MAY HONORARIUMS</u>	
Beth Isenhour	Capital Building Fund	All Veterans	Garden Fund
Mrs. Lloyd (Nancy) Killian	Capital Building Fund	Beverly Underwood	Garden Fund
		The Columbarium Committee: Dot Hoage, Betty Newsome, Janet Byrd, Betty McGee	

JUNE MEMORIALS

Beth Isenhour	Capital Building Fund	<u>JUNE HONORARIUMS</u>	
		All Veterans-Past & Present	Garden/Columbarium
		JOY Volunteers	JOY Ministry

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**IN TOUCH**



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# 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**

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



*A*  
MESSAGE FROM  
JOSH

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I miss (more than you can know) seeing you all and gathering together. So much has changed yet so much remains the same. Yes, indoor worship is still not on the table and so we work with what we have. The church building continues to be repaired and renewed for when we do return. And, the promise of a new but very different school year looms ahead of us. One of the things we said when this whole pandemic thing started was that it was not just an inconvenience and a burden but also an opportunity. So my question today is what have we learned from this opportunity? Do we notice the wonder implicit in God's creation that surrounds us at every turn and in the relationships we share with one another. The author Joshua Harris describes the danger of going through the world without really looking and learning.

I knew a girl who used to think the stars were tiny specks of light just over her head. I'm not kidding. And she wasn't in grade school when she believed this. She was in college. She was a really sweet, kind, redhead who spoke almost perfect Spanish. She was intelligent in many ways. But one day in a conversation she mentioned that she had just learned that stars in the night sky were actually really far away. I asked her what she meant. She said, "You know, they're not just right up there. They're not just tiny dots. They're really far away."

I was incredulous.

"What did you think they were before?" I asked.

“I thought they were, you know, just right up above us.”

If you were to ask me why it matters that we study the doctrine of God, I’d say for the same reason that it’s worth knowing that stars are not tiny pinpricks of light just above our heads. When we know the truth about God, it fills us with wonder. If we fail to understand his true character, we’ll never be amazed by him. We’ll never feel small as we stare up at him. We’ll never worship him as we ought. We’ll never run to him for refuge or realize the great love he’s shown in the measureless distance he bridged to rescue us.

How often is our understanding of God so small because we never care to learn to open our eyes, our heart, and our mind to see the wonder around us? Part of the free will that God has given us as creatures is not just whether to chose salvation but to choose to experience the Triune God in all its fullness. We can keep God as a remote, impersonal deity or we can know God in as intimate a capacity as Jesus did – Abba, Father.

One of my favorite series growing ups was C. S. Lewis’s The Chronicles of Narnia. The young heroine Lucy meets a majestic lion named Aslan (who is allegorically representative of Christ and God) in the enchanted land of Narnia. Making a return visit a year later, the children discover that everything has changed radically, and they quickly become lost. But after a series of dreadful events, Lucy finally spots Aslan in a forest clearing, rushes to him, throws her arms around his neck, and buries her face in his mane.

The great beast rolled over on his side so that Lucy fell, half sitting and half lying between his front paws. He bent forward and touched her nose with his tongue. His warm breath came all around her. She gazed up into the large wise face.  
“Welcome child,” he said.

“Aslan,” said Lucy, “you’re bigger.”

“That’s because you’re older, little one,” answered he.

“Not because you are?”

“I’m not. But each year you grow, you’ll find me bigger.”

It’s my prayer for us all that as we grow, both in age and experience especially during the time of uncertainty and upheaval, that our knowledge, understanding, and love of God will grow with us!

Blessings and see you on Sunday!

Josh



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Katie Fleming.....7/1	Jessica Rhyne .....7/15
Nathan Rhyne.....7/2	Logan Carter.....7/16
Lynn Delancey.....7/4	Jim Stockner.....7/16
Jack Lamb .....7/4	Susan Reinhardt.....7/17
Vicki LeMaster .....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	Kim Caldwell.....7/24
Tricia Hayes.....7/10	Steven Dennie.....7/24
Camden Hollar.....7/10	Leslie Benson.....7/26
George Johnson.....7/10	Susan Peacock.....7/26
Kenneth Hunsucker.....7/11	Eddie Copeland.....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

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Cooper Hayes.....8/2	Dot Hoage.....8/19
Lynn Caldwell .....8/5	Neil Harvell.....8/20
Polly Pearson .....8/5	Larry Hollar, Sr.....8/20
Becky Stiver.....8/5	Jamie Richard.....8/20
Todd Rhyne .....8/7	Gaye Hood .....8/21
Pat Benfield .....8/11	Jason Lamb .....8/22
Judy Ikerd .....8/11	Suzanne Yoder .....8/22
Meg Miller .....8/11	Eric Hefner.....8/24
Tim Hayes .....8/15	Bill Childs.....8/25
Todd White.....8/15	Marcus Forsyth.....8/25
Trilby Stockner.....8/17	Joey Rhyne.....8/27
Brett Butler.....8/18	Chris Cadwallader .....8/28
Nick Cadwallader.....8/18	Allyson Ervin.....8/29
John Hewins .....8/18	Bebe Roland.....8/29
Vickie Burgess.....8/19	Todd Clark .....8/30
	Damion Setzer.....8/30

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Roy & Kay Lewis.....7/3
John & Teena Branton.....7/5
Terry & Cynthia Lemons.....7/5
Peter & Marjo Erickson.....7/6
Greg & Beth Phillips.....7/9
Ken & Paulette Moss.....7/17
Bob & Jean Carter.....7/18
John & Becky Stiver.....7/23
Brett & Terra Butler.....7/31
John & Donna Mull.....7/31

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Scott & Teresa Coley .....8/2
Nink & Jane Harvell .....8/3
Quint & Melissa Ervin .....8/5
Todd & Jessica Rhyne.....8/6
Fred & Kathleen Cook.....8/12
Dwayne & Beth Morgan.....8/17



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Ethan Branton.....5/1  
 Evan Branton.....5/1  
 Elizabeth Greene.....5/1  
 Libby Mauney .....5/2  
 John Coffey .....5/3  
 Kaye Lewis .....5/4  
 Pete Simpson .....5/4  
 Camryn Gantt .....5/5  
 Carter Greene.....5/7  
 Rebecca Saunders .....5/7  
 Nicky Smyre .....5/7  
 Betsy Roland .....5/9  
 Chandler Setzer.....5/10  
 Sonia Foster .....5/11  
 Aidan Hefner.....5/11  
 Jessie Pannell.....5/11  
 Sherry Pritchard.....5/11  
 David Kilby.....5/12  
 Rolan Benson.....5/13  
 Jessica Harkins .....5/13  
 Layla Isenhour.....5/13  
 Reece Peacock .....5/13  
 Vickie Lytton.....5/15  
 Mark Stiver.....5/15

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

Eddie & Regina Copeland ..... 5/12  
 George & Rebekah Wilkinson ..... 5/12  
 Jamey & Jill Sias .....5/17  
 Paul & Lisa Wade.....5/18  
 Mike & Shera Waller-Smith.....5/19  
 Roger & Lisa Johnson.....5/21  
 Stephen & Christie Sims.....5/21  
 Jamie & Rhonda Pawlik.....5/23  
 Steve & Karen Arndt.....5/24  
 Keith & Monica Setzer.....5/28

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Lynsey Wayne .....5/15  
 Pam Herman .....5/15  
 Jake Coley.....5/16  
 Reid Ikerd .....5/18  
 Alex Butler .....5/19  
 Joe Beaman .....5/20  
 Don Lemons.....5/20  
 Luke Sias.....5/20  
 Teena Branton.....5/22  
 Ashley Kale.....5/22  
 Scott Coley.....5/23  
 Ashley Benson.....5/24  
 Pat Lawing.....5/24  
 Jim Richard.....5/24  
 Abigail Driscoll.....5/25  
 Jill Sias.....5/26  
 Laura Bailes.....5/27  
 Nate Doty.....5/27  
 AB Lamb.....5/27  
 Parker Kelley.....5/28  
 Kristy Speagle.....5/28  
 Peter Erickson.....5/30  
 Matt Isenhour.....5/30  
 Arizona Roland.....5/30  
 Corinna Driscoll.....5/31

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

Jackie Dellinger .....6/1  
 Alden Elliott.....6/2  
 Sue Ingle .....6/2  
 Jill Philmon .....6/2  
 Chase Boston.....6/3  
 Rebekah Wilkinson.....6/3  
 Mike Smith.....6/4  
 Jim Yount.....6/4  
 Melissa Bean .....6/5  
 Ann Faust .....6/5  
 Debbie Rights.....6/5  
 Michael Clontz.....6/7  
 Hank Weddington.....6/8  
 Lauren Hildebran Levy .....6/9  
 Barbara Bohler .....6/10  
 Neel Dennie.....6/11  
 Andrew Stone.....6/12  
 Jewel Wooten.....6/12  
 Joe Colletta.....6/14  
 Michael & Heather Clontz.....6/2  
 Wayne & Faye Swofford.....6/2  
 Danny & Lynn Delancy.....6/4  
 Jacob & Tammy Smith.....6/4  
 Robert & Diane Smith.....6/6  
 Carl & Michelle Wayne .....6/6  
 Chris & Kristy Speagle.....6/7  
 Larry & Frances Hollar.....6/15  
 Tom & Margaret Dixon.....6/16  
 Brad & Angie McLawhorn.....6/18  
 Joe & Judy Beaman.....6/20  
 Wilson & Lynn Caldwell.....6/22  
 Tai & Joanna Orange.....6/22  
 Ken & Pat Lawing.....6/23  
 Ray & Billie Shrum.....6/23  
 Jeff & Debbie Carter.....6/24  
 Gabe & Allyson Ervin.....6/24  
 Nicky & Kay Smyre.....6/27  
 Bob & Brenda Saunders.....6/28  
 Ken & Pat Slmons.....6/29  
 John & Anne Brooks.....6/30

David Hardin.....6/15  
 Michelle Gibson.....6/18  
 Robert Smith.....6/18  
 Greg Phillips .....6/20  
 Madelyn Sitzer.....6/22  
 Stacey Gregory.....6/23  
 Lisa Lingerfelt .....6/23  
 Becky Doty .....6/24  
 Ryan Windham.....6/24  
 Sam Foster .....6/25  
 Sarah Johnson .....6/25  
 Debbie Chapman.....6/27  
 Addison Hefner.....6/27  
 Alex Mull.....6/28  
 Julia Richard.....6/28  
 Will Powell II.....6/29  
 Riley Templeton.....6/29  
 Betsy Kelly.....6/30  
 Kerri Setzer.....6/30



**First Newton**  
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANET  
 JAMES  
 BYRD

*Our newsletters will now be featuring a segment highlighting church members to help us get to know each other better! We hope you enjoy reading about our first Member Spotlight, a member of this church for over 70 years, Janet James Byrd.*

Janet James Byrd was born in Danville, Virginia in 1946. Her father, (Ralph James) was the Plant Manager for Dan River Mills where he met her mother (Helen James) who was Secretary to the President of Dan River. After a short courtship, they married and three years, later welcomed her into the world!

When Janet was about four years old, her father was offered a job by Carolina Mills in Newton. The family of four, Helen, Ralph, Janet and her sister Pat, packed up and moved to Newton! A few years later, her father purchased the Gulf Service Station which, at that time, was directly across from First Methodist Church. The Pastor at that time, Julian Holmes, visited the station everyday to talk to those who gathered there. Dr. Joe Young, who was a member of First Methodist, and Rev. Holmes, invited her father to bring his family to church. Janet says, "Seventy years later I'm still a member of this wonderful church family along with my husband, Jim, our son, Brad, and daughter, Leah, her husband Tim and the best grandson ever, Cooper. It was here at First, through the guidance of great Sunday School teachers, Pastors, and Associate Pastors, my relationship with Christ was nurtured until it developed into love for Him. I'm certain some will remember Roger Saunders, Frances Setzer, Celia Saunders, and all those who influenced youth through the years."

When Janet was eight years old, living on South Cline Avenue, she describes the "cutest little boy" moved into the house next door! At first, she really didn't think she liked boys, but looking back, she says, "I had no idea that twelve years later this "little boy" and I would be married. Yes, I married my childhood sweetheart! We have been blessed with two children and a grandson, mentioned earlier."

We asked Janet what members of the congregation would be surprised to know about her. She replied, "I still work!" She has been a hairdresser for fifty-five years. She describes it as a "rewarding career." Throughout her fifty-five years of work, she has gotten to know and love many wonderful clients and their families and consider them her extended family.

We also asked Janet to tell us about her hobbies. Most of you may not know that Janet is a huge family genealogy buff! She enjoys doing family genealogy, tracing the lineage of her friends, and helping them find their Revolutionary War Patriots. She is the Registrar for the Hickory Tavern Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. Research is where she spends her spare time. If you need help, Janet says, "I'm your go-to-girl!"

Janet also enjoys listening to all types of music from Rock to Country to Christian. She grew up in the time of Elvis and the Beatles and still enjoys listening to those artists. She also sings in our church choir. She says, "The choir is another family I cherish and singing with them on Sunday morning is simply a blessing."

We were thrilled to have Janet James Byrd as our first Member Spotlight and hope you enjoy getting to know her! As a last statement, Janet wants you to know how much she loves our church; "I have been so blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family for so many years and I thank each one of you who have had such a profound affect on my family and me. I send love and prayers to each of you, Janet."

# NEW PRAYER STATIONS IN OUR GARDEN



You are invited to come enjoy our beautiful prayer garden at First Newton UMC. It is a very peaceful place, and well cared for by Gail and Norris McCree.

For the next month, prayer stations will be available for you to come and do together as a family, or doing individually at your own pace. Share with your neighbors/friends. All are welcome. May we all grow closer to God and to one another through prayer.

## MUCH NEEDED CHURCH MAINTENANCE UNDERWAY!



bring your own lawn chairs



**JOIN US**  
for  
**OUTDOOR WORSHIP -**  
**EACH SUNDAY**  
in July - 9am  
**IN THE GARDEN!!**

Social Distancing Rules  
and Masks Required

(we will have disposable masks available)

\*\*please follow FUMC Newton

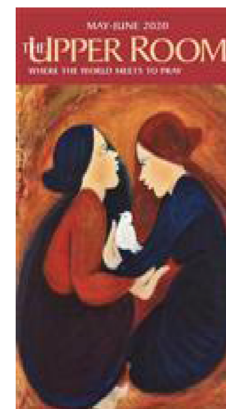
OUTDOOR WORSHIP GUIDELINES

**First Newton**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide



We have placed a bin with The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guides outside the entry doors under the covered walkway at the Welcome Center! Feel free to stop by and get one for your home!

*If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the church office at 828-464-8422!*