

SYMPATHY

Our Christian Love and Sympathy is extended to:

The family of Dr. Larry Fleming upon his passing on January 21, 2017.

SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY

Children's Sunday School teachers

February 5	Susan Houck
February 12	Lori and Brad Clark
February 19	Linda Patton
February 26	Chris & Tanya Witherspoon

Greeters

9:00 Service	Pam Andrews-Each Sunday
11:00 Service	
February 5	Marvin & Lucy Folger
February 12	Ann Freeman & Sandy Turner
February 19	Tony, Karen, Ty, & Tripp Causby
February 26	Geoff & Kelly Messenheimer

Wednesday Night Servers

February 1	Judy Brittain, Billy Page, Brownie Rochefort
February 8	Pam Andrews, Sharlene Hipple, Sallie Townsend
February 15	Cackie Connelly, Connie Greene, Betty Davis
February 22	Susan Houck, Jan Little, Marge Livsey

Audio/Video Set Up

9:00 Service	
February 5	Geoff Messenheimer/Paul Simpson
February 12	Rated PG/Paul Simpson
February 19	Russ Sprehe/Paul Simpson
February 26	Chris Witherspoon

11:00 Service	Rahn Adams-Each Sunday
---------------	------------------------

Over the past couple of years the **TOUCH Ministry** has offered financial support to church families and friends who are going through a difficult time and need a little help. *Fortunately*, the generosity of our congregation and a gift from the Night of Life committee has made this possible. Many families have received help when they most needed it. *Unfortunately*, the need is great and all the money has been used. If you, presently or in the future, would like to help with this endeavor, you may make a donation to the church and put "TOUCH Ministry" in the memo line.

Thank you.

Lisa Lowder, TOUCH Chair.

A Message from Lisa Lowder. Chair of our T.O.U.C.H. Team:

We are looking for a person called by God to lead our Stephen Ministry. A Stephen Leader:

- casts a vision and builds awareness for Stephen Ministry in their congregation
- recruits, selects, and trains Stephen Ministers
- connects Stephen Ministers with people who need care
- provides ongoing supervision and continuing education for Stephen Ministers
- keeps Stephen Ministry vibrant and strong

For more information on Stephen Ministry please visit their website: <http://www.stephenministries.org/>

Or contact Lisa Lowder at llowder@hotmail.com

Kay's Corner

Two Deacons, Two Pianists, and a special friendship. These two ladies who are best friends presented a very special program for our Keepers on Tuesday, January 24. Rhonda Smith, is the Minister of Music at First United Methodist Church in Hickory, and Ann Hoyt is retired and lives in Burnsville. We heard many of our favorite hymns including *Amazing Grace*, *Be Thou My Vision*, *There's Power in the Blood* and *This Little Light of Mine*. We all enjoyed hearing their faith stories. It was a very uplifting program.

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 28, for our next meeting. A very interesting outing is in the works. More details will be coming soon

Creative Hands will be meeting on February 2 at 10:00. We will begin working on our Memorial Banner.

The group has a surplus of prayer shawls. If you know of anyone that you would like to share one with, please call me (413-4381). We would love to share.

Kay

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church Members (As of 01/25/17)

Farrell Austin, Edna Baugess, June Blakley, Nelson & Margaret Causby, Tony Causby, Miriam Connelly, Tom Corley, Bob Cossey, Sis Erwin, Marinetta Fisher, Rose Foust, Norma Gibbs, Alfred Hamer, Mildred Hallyburton, Lillian Hoyle, Dianne Hubbard, Thelma Isenhour, Lucy Maud Kibler, Hannah Kirksey, Jack & Lena Kirksey, Barry Little, Doshia Newton, Alice Paisley, Frank Patton, Sam Rosebrock, Mary Scott, Michael Scott, Betty Smith, Michael Smith, Josie Speas, Margaret Stark, Bib Talton, Anne Thompson (Sanford), Linda Webb

Extended Church Family

Dottie & Margaret (friends of Bob Lathan), Nellie Adams (mother of Rahn Adams), Joanne Arnone (sister-in-law of Wendi Arnone), Wendi Arnone (daughter of Janet Jehnzen), Sue Brinkley (sister of Melda Connelly), April Brown (daughter-in-law of James and Jean Brown), Lucy Ann Calder (niece of Lucy Maud Kibler), Bill Davis, Vickie Edwards (friend of Sue Holler), Chaz Erwin (grandson of Bob & Sis Erwin), Sidney Gaskin, Mary Edna Grantham (mother of Mary Linda Kirksey), Gary Joy, Mary Lowman (mother of Carolyn Benfield), Caitlyn McKenzie (granddaughter of Cackie Connelly), Sylvia Hogan Neely (niece of Doug Shepherd), James R. Norman (grandson of John & Jane Greene), Kerrey Orr (sister of Stacey Ripley), Sharon Orr (mother of Stacey Ripley), Jean Pope, Brenda Roper (Cousin of Suzan Tolbert), Chloe Scott (friend of Morgan Steinert), Dr. Anne Sparks (niece of Marinetta Fisher), Fleetwood & Yvonne Stokes (parents of Lisa Scott), Sue Villines (friend of Janet Jehnzen), Dean Williams (brother-in-law of Debbie Mitchell), Landres Williams (uncle of Sharlene Hipple), Linda Wilson (friend of Marge Livsey). Military personnel.

Please notify the Church Office of prayer concerns and updates.

FEBRUARY 24-6:30 pm

“BRING THE LIGHT”

A Night of Music,
Fun, Food & Fellowship

Watch upcoming bulletins,
mailings, and FB Posts for
more information

Save
the
Date!

FIRST NEWS February, 2017

First United Methodist Church
200 North King Street,
Morganton, NC 28655
Office: 828-437-0921
Fax: 828-437-2053
www.morgantonfumc.org



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Morganton, NC 28655
Permit No. 80

Pastor's Pen



When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

The Lenten Season begins March 1 with Ash Wednesday and is a 40 day, plus Sundays, season to prepare our lives to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter! Often ties Christians give up something or what traditionally is called “the practice of self-denial” to draw closer to the Lord We may give up an hour of television watching to read scripture and pray. We may give up some time with our cell phones and computers to visit with someone that is lonely such as a shut in. We might give up some of our income to give to the poor such as Burke United Christian Ministries or our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). We may choose to give up gossip, and speak kindly of people. We may give up hurry and worry and set aside some Sabbath time to be still and listen for God’s voice. We also may choose to confess a sin, repent and receive God’s forgiveness and cleansing. We ultimately practice self denial during Lent by taking up our cross and following Jesus.

One of my favorite “cross” hymns I recommend for you to sing and meditate on during Lent is Isaac watts’ *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*. This hymn was written in 1707 out of Watt’s disappointment with the hymns of his day which he complained to his father: were monotonous repetition of Old Testament Psalms.” His Dad’s response was “All right young man, give us something better!” Isaac accepted the challenge eventually writing a total of 600 hymns earning him the title “father of English hymnody.”

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died.
My richest gain I count but loss. And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine?
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing so divine, Demands my soul, my life my all.*

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor John*

Associate Pastor- Giving . . . for Lent

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Mark 8:34

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. These are the “bookends” for this season of the Christian Year. We begin in penitence, with an inward-focus. We acknowledge where we are, we own up to it, we recognize we cannot fix ourselves, and we seek God’s mercy and power to renew us. However, the early church developed Lent to be primarily “other-focused.” It was the final leg of intense preparation and support for people who had chosen to learn to “live the way of Jesus,” for those preparing for baptism and lifelong Christian discipleship. It was a season of intentional formation and baptismal preparation.

I wonder, how can this year be different? How can we reflect both an inward-focus AND an other-focus? I want to issue a challenge for you to consider “giving . . . for Lent” in a way you have not experienced recently. Yes, you can give up something such as sweets, TV, bad habits. Yes, you can give time such as helping others, volunteering. These are common responses during Lent. And they are all good. But perhaps God is calling us to greater impact.

For Lent 2017 here is my challenge: increase your financial giving to the church for March and April. That’s only two months. If you do not tithe or have not yet completed a pledge for our budget, consider giving ten percent of your monthly income for March and April. If you currently give your pledge each month, consider raising it ten percent for March and April. Two months! After two months, discern how God is calling you to make a greater impact in 2017.

Why? Because God is calling FUMC to be a light to downtown Morganton. Because God is calling FUMC to expand its ministries to families with children. Because God is calling FUMC to thrive, not merely survive. These are difficult financial times for FUMC, and we must respond with determination and perseverance.

Let us strive to “live the way of Jesus” and desire to be a fully devoted disciple in word and deed. You need the church. The church needs you. Will you accept my challenge?

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Charlotte Brendel
FUMC Associate Pastor

For Lent 2017 here is my challenge: increase your financial giving to the church for March and April. That’s only two months. If you do not tithe or have not yet completed a pledge for our budget, consider giving ten percent of your monthly income for March and April. If you currently give your pledge each month, consider raising it ten percent for March and April. Two months! After two months, discern how God is calling you to make a greater impact in 2017.

YOUTH NEWS

Hope everyone has recovered from the all the holidays. It’s starting to look a little like spring. All our students are back at school and working hard. It is also that time that we get started on a lot of service projects and youth services. We had a very successful Souper Bowl of Giving on Super Bowl Sunday. Just our group alone gathered almost 1700 pounds of food and \$4100 donated. The three churches combined for almost 3500 pounds and about \$10,000. Thanks to all that donated, BUCM will use it well to feed the hungry and homeless of Burke County.

Also by the time you get this letter we will have had the Shrove Pancake Dinner. I am sure it will be a great success. Thanks to all the Methodist Men (who donate all the proceeds to the youth ASP service project) and women who helped cook all the pancakes.

In March we start going back to help transport the residents at J. Iverson Riddle Center on Sundays. If anyone is interested, young and old, please let me know. It is one of the most moving services you will ever attend.

We also have Youth Sunday, the Annual Cake Auction and car wash coming up so it looks like we will be busy for a while.

One last thing we are always taking any donations for this year’s Appalachian Service Project. We will be going July 16 to 22. One of the things we are looking to do this year is see if anyone or group would like to sponsor a van (\$700). We will call the van by whatever name of the business or group name. This will also be the name of the group of kids and adults assigned to that van.

As always the youth and I would like to thank everyone who has supported our outstanding group of youth.

Thought of the month: Don’t worry about something ... do something about it.

Larry

