

This 'n That

First United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY, 2024



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KONG



This 'n That 2

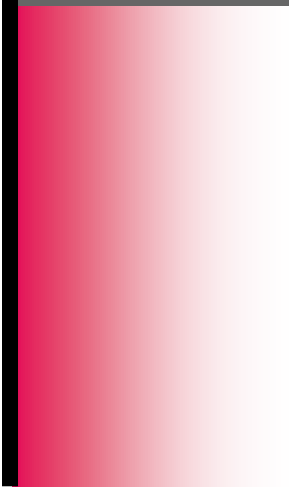
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“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”

(1 John 4:16)

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

(1 John 3:18)

In the month of February, we celebrate Valentine's Day. It is a day when we express our love to others by giving gifts such as flowers, chocolates, and cards, sharing words of affirmation, and spending quality time together. It is a good feeling to know that we have others to love and we are loved by others. It enhances and adds meaning and value to our existence.

However, the celebration of Valentine's Day is temporary because it is only

for one day. In addition, we change according to our circumstances and environments. When we were a child, we had a special toy that we cherished. Do we love it now? Absolutely not! We may reminisce about it and feel nostalgia for it, but we do not love it like we used to when we were younger. Likewise, our love for others is not permanent because of our changing selves and our sinful and self-centered nature. There is no hope for humanity to love eternally based on our own capabilities. It is impossible for human beings to love others unconditionally. Is there any possibility that we can love others perpetually?

Where do we find it? How can we love everlastingly?

The scripture says, “God is love.” His love is unconditional, unconventional, and profound. There is no greater love than God's love. When we experience his unconditional love, it replaces the conditional love we have for others. And then we live in God eternally. Love is eternal life like God is everlasting.

I pray that we demonstrate God's love to our spouse, family, and friends without any reservation. Therefore, let us believe that God loves us. Let us fill our hearts and our church with God's love. Let us share the love of God with others not only on Valentine's Day, but always with all the people of God.

Sincerely Yours
in Christ,

Kong, Pastor

This 'n That

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US.
The Women of First United Methodist Church
of Laurinburg will Host a
Beth Moore Simulcast
Saturday, February 3, 2024.
8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Title: *Safe Harbor:*
Jesus, our safe place in dangerous days

DON'T MISS THIS FUN AND
EXCITING TIME OF MINISTRY
AND
FELLOWSHIP.
LUNCH IS INCLUDED

WELCOME OUR NEW
YOUTH
DIRECTOR,
HANNAH NAMKUNG



Children's Education

The children of the church celebrated the beginning of the new year with a Pajamas and Popcorn movie night. They enjoyed creating their popcorn bowls using popcorn, popcorn seasoning, pretzels, mini cookies and M & M's. Then they spread out with their blankets and enjoyed a movie and fellowship with their friends.

The children of the church are working on the question "Why do

we pray?" It's wonderful to hear the different perspectives from the different ages of the children. It is a blessing to be able to spend time with them on Sunday mornings. Curious as to their answers? Come and join us at 10 for Sunday school! Wyatt, Charlie and

Ean respond with great (and often hilarious) answers. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 is our Key Passage this unit. "Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

We are excited to welcome our new youth director Hannah Namkung. We feel blessed to have her join us in this position to work with the FUMC youth! --Candice--



Live in the Present

Remembering to live in the present is one of the hardest aspects of my journey with Christ. The Bible is full of counsel to live in the present. Psalm 118:24 reminds me: "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Lamentations assures me: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning" (3:22-23). God's grace envelopes me in the present day. Why is keeping my thoughts on today so difficult to do?

Before I was born again, I continually looked back on previous decisions and wondered if they were the right ones. I even tried to

imagine if there were a way to move back to a previous town and a previous life. Of course, there never was. I can only go forward. As Jesus says in Luke 9:62, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

When I wasn't looking backwards, I was jumping ahead to the future. What was coming around the corner? Would the future be good or difficult? I questioned whether I could cope and manage. How-

ever, scripture tells me plainly: "You do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little

time and then vanishes" (James 4:14). And, Matthew 6:34 counsels me: "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.

Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Even now that I'm walking with Jesus by my side, it's still hard to remember that I do not need to be afraid of the present or try to

manage the future. I only need to profess Isaiah 41:10 daily: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." I need to remember to walk this daily journey trusting in Jesus, holding his hand, and finding God's grace in the present day where I can be filled with His fullness. As Romans 8:28 assures me: "For those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." I cannot know what each day holds for me, but God does, and I will trust that He will work it out for my good.

~ Judy, A Sister in Christ

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." *Isaiah 41:10*

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2 George Myers | 20 Deann Carter Coe |
| 3 Michael Hall | Bonnie Jones |
| 5 Walker Davis | 22 Rhonda Hester |
| 10 Cynthia Womble | Bob Weagraff |
| 11 Jim Walters | 23 John Butson |
| 12 Erin Shelley | 25 John Carpenter |
| Jessica Shelley | Paul Bridgeman |
| 18 Anita Cottingham | 26 Ralph Carter |
| 19 Austin Stone | Lynn Hodges |



Mission Team

Doing Mission can be very encouraging and exciting. First UM Church responds to many of our calls for Mission. Keep listening and respond! God will bless you!

FEBRUARY MISSION TEAM CALENDAR

Blessing Box filled – Each Sunday after worship

Food Bank – collect and bag produce – Friday, Feb. 9 – 10:00 AM

Food Bank – Friday, Feb 9 – create bags – 2:30 PM

Free Food Give-away – Food Bank – Sat. Feb. 10 – 7:30 AM – Give away bags - 8:00 AM

Mission Team meeting - Tuesday - Feb. 13 – 6:30 PM - in the Library or Pastor's office

Sunday, March 18 – Mission Moment – at both worship services

Monday, Feb. 26 – 8:45-9:00 AM – unload pallet from Northview Harvest Ministries

FEBRUARY INMATE BIRTHDAYS

Gaston CI	Monterius	Smith	#0816885	2/1/86
Maury CI	Thomas	Wilson	#0623442	2/2/52
Eastern CI	Kenneth	Byrd	#0060840	2/2/72
Scotland CI	Joseph G	Williams	#0777318	2/5/85
Harnett CI	Quashon	Huskey	#0872341	2/5/85
Bertie CI	Shawn	Massey	#0652506	2/6/79
Gaston CC	Terry L	Meadows	#0277490	2/7/61
Greene CI	Edward	Murphy	#0718766	2/7/60
Neuse CI	Harvey D	Trull	#0412444	2/10/69
Maury CI	Donny	Sessum	#1683562	2/10/82
Eastern CI	Brett	Johnson	#1471531	2/11/92
Maury CI	Justin	Beaver	#0716334	2/12/84
Albemarle CI	Julian	Lepe-Garcia	#1509304	2/13/80
Dan River WF	Christopher	West	#0673986	2/13/80
Albemarle CI	Angel	Perez	#1530787	2/21/19
Hyde CI	Dwight	Blockem	#0034915	2/22/69
Franklin CC	Brent	Murry	#0926550	2/23/80

Everybody loves
to get Birthday
Cards in the mail!
Don't you?

Use the following:

Inmate Name
and ID#
Institution
P O Box 247
Phoenix, MD
21131

For return ad-
dress:

A Name
First UM Church
101 W Church St
Laurinburg, NC

ONGOING AND UPCOMING MISSION EVENTS

- ◆ We always need Blessing Box items: Peanut Butter, Jelly, canned vegetables, small boxes of cereal, diapers, bottles of water, crackers, can openers, etc.
- ◆ We can always use individual pudding cups – chocolate or vanilla.
- ◆ We could use some pen pals for the inmates.
- ◆ We will be collecting Adult Underwear on March 3rd.
- ◆ We can always use more Mission Team members.

If you have any questions about how you can help the Mission Team – contact Leslie Womack at lawcog@gmail.com or [910] 280-1030 or put a message in the Mission Box in the church office.

May God continue to bless First UM Church!

February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3  8AM—3PM
4 Communion Sunday	5 11:00 am Communion @ Scotia 10:30—Circle #3 4:00 —Circle #2 6:00—Children’s Council	6	7 WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLO- SHIP MEAL	8	9 FOOD BANK 10:00 am Produce 3:00 pm Pack Bags	10 BANK 7:30—Give Out 8am—12 Rev. Beth Hood Planning Session
11	12	13 6:30 pm Missions	14 ASH WEDNESDAY	15	16	17
18 7:30— Men’s Breakfast Speaker: Dr. Tom Smith Oral Health	19 5:30 pm—SPRC 6:00 pm— Trustees	20 6:00 pm— Finance	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23	24
25	26 9:00 am - Pallet from Northview 6:00 pm— Administrative Council	27	28 1:00 pm— Women’s Board	29		