

**A Message from Pastor Alan:**

Everyone is commended for their continued interest and comments around our Deep Water Process. After our Deep Water weekend, we offered two Town Hall meetings in order to help clarify the report and answer questions and concerns. It might helpful to summarize some questions that arose at the Town Hall meetings. Here are a few frequently asked questions.

**1. Who initiated the Deep Water process?**

The Deep Water process is based on a process called the Healthy Church Initiative, (HCI), which is a process many congregations are going through in to consider ways that they might be more faithful and effective. Our own Church Council initiated this process. Back in the fall, we began to have conversations around our previous strategic plan, our direction as a church, and the organization of our leadership. It was apparent that while our church has many wonderful and thriving missions and ministries, it was difficult to articulate a clear vision of where we are headed as a church. Our previous mission statement was created many years ago. We set about considering possibilities of how we might regain a sense of vision and direction. Marg Kutz, clergy coach for Alan Combs, offered to help put together a team and a process, as she has been involved with HCI work in other United Methodist congregations, and she has seen the process bear fruit. Our Church Council approved working with Marg to bring together our Deep Water Process.

**2. Why did the Deep Water Team suggest focusing on a different time and/or location, and not building a bigger building or moving Genesis to the sanctuary?**

The goal of the Deep Water process was to listen effectively to the voice of and data of our congregation, so that the team could echo back to us what they heard. Essentially, they suggested we avoid building or moving Genesis into the sanctuary because they heard those two possibilities as major obstacles and wanted to help us avoid options that might prevent us from developing a timely solution to the overcrowding issue. Buildings require a great deal of conversation and significant fundraising, along with the reality that we are at this point essentially landlocked. A conversation about a major capital project would extend a conversation that is already overdue for action.

Regarding moving the Genesis service to the sanctuary, they had good reason to suggest we avoid that option as well. On one end of the spectrum, we have worshippers for whom making the changes to the Sanctuary necessary to accommodate the Genesis service would be something they could not abide. On the other end of the spectrum, we have worshippers for whom Genesis ceases to be Genesis if it is held in the Sanctuary. Essentially, part of the ethos of Genesis is being in a different kind of space. The Deep Water team thought it would be a good idea to avoid these solutions.

Their recommendation is that we focus on the possibility for a new time for Genesis in the present location and/or the possibility of adding an additional worship service at a new location. Neither of these possibilities would be without risk and challenges, but both of them would leave the current Genesis and Sanctuary services intact, while allowing us to deal adequately with overcrowding and to have a more consistent vision of our contemporary worship.

**3. Where the recommendations call for teams, who picks the teams? How do we ensure appropriate skills and diversity on the teams?**

Our Senior Pastor will create the initial list of persons to invite, which is then brought to Church Council for approval. The Church Council will have the opportunity to provide a check on those suggestions to ensure that a variety of viewpoints as well as specific gifts and skills are present in each team.

Our Church Council is where the accountability resides for “follow through” on the recommendations if they are approved. Church Council is made up of the chairs of several committees, as well as people who oversee ministry areas in the church. They are nominated by our Lay Leadership and Nominations Committee, though nominations are accepted from the floor of

Charge Conference. Those nominations are voted on at Charge Conference, and those who are newly elected take office in January. If you would like to see who currently serves on our Church Council, you can find it on our website at [fumcsalemva.org](http://fumcsalemva.org) or you can request a copy from our church office at [church@fumcsalemva.org](mailto:church@fumcsalemva.org) or (540) 389-5459.

Many have noted that the deadlines seem like they are rather soon. It is true that the deadlines are aggressive, but that is intentional in order to put us to work with a sense of urgency. Many of the areas of concern addressed by the recommendations have been concerns for several years, and it is our hope that we can move toward discernment and action to address those concerns. If we fail to meet a deadline, we will have to adjust accordingly, holding ourselves accountable to the work to which we are called. In reality, even if we do not approve the recommendations, the areas of concern will still need to be addressed, and the gift of the recommendations is to put some concrete timelines on that work. Church Council will be approving any actions. As the work progresses, each committee will be responsible for communicating updates to the congregation through the newsletter as well as a blog we are working to set up on our webpage.

Finally, some wanted a summary of what we will be voting on during our Church Conference on June 3 at 10:00 AM. A brief summary follows, but we will be voting on the recommendations as they are found in the report, not the summary of the report.

#### **Recommendation 1**

- ◆ By October 1, 2018, the Senior Pastor, his coach Marg Kutz, and a team the Senior Pastor selects will ensure there is a new aligning vision statement for FUMC.
- ◆ The Finance Committee will formulate a 2019 budget that is aligned with this new vision.
- ◆ By Easter 2019, The Staff Parish relations committee will review current staffing to assess alignment around the vision, update job descriptions accordingly, and all new hires to be made with the updated statement and aligned descriptions. This work will include an effort to reconcile the current disparity between staff resources among the different worship services.
- ◆ Church Council will read contemporary literature on aligning our church with the vision.

#### **Recommendation 2**

- ◆ The Senior Pastor will create a team of 5-9 people who have an interest in contemporary worship, approved by Church Council, whose task is to review possible options for solution to Genesis overcrowding, that is aligned with the vision, and to develop a model for contemporary music.
- ◆ This work should be completed by November 1, 2018 with plans to implement by spring 2019.

#### **Recommendation 3**

- ◆ SPRC is charged to consider hiring a part time communications staff person.
- ◆ Senior Pastor will have conversations with other Large Church pastors about how they communicate effectively with their congregations.
- ◆ Church will consider placing electronic screens throughout the building to offer congregational announcements and updates.

#### **Recommendation 4**

- ◆ Form a team of 8-12 people (including staff responsible for spiritual formation of children, youth, and adults) appointed by the Senior pastor and approved by the Church Council.
- ◆ This team will review existing discipleship efforts and then seek to deepen the work and develop it into an intentional process that makes and multiplies disciples.
- ◆ Team will meet at least once with Marg Kutz, Pastor Alan's Clergy Coach, and may also consult with other churches.
- ◆ Work to address and create discipleship growth opportunities for new members and parents for basic instruction on living the Christian life.
- ◆ All of this would be developed by December 1, 2018, and recommended to the Church Council, to be implemented in 2019.

#### **Recommendation 5**

- ◆ FUMC will seek opportunities for connection and service with those beyond the congregation in our growing community, using appropriate tools and learning new ways to be church in our community.

We are looking forward to the **Church Conference on June 3 at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall**, where we will have the opportunity to vote on these recommendations. In order to vote, you must be a member of the church and you must be present at the Church Council. Our goal is to get 70% of members present and voting to approve the recommendations. And finally, please continue to pray for our Church, and for the Church Conference.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Alan T. Combs*  
Lead Pastor, First UMC

*Charles N. Dorsey*  
Church Council Chair

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

*Tricia Givens, Director*

### **Be Still and Know that I Am God**

School is almost over and finally the schedules should start calming down. I pray that you and your family can stop and rest for the summer. I pray that you have not booked your children up for everything and made their days so busy that they have no time to just "Be Still." We make the mistake of thinking that good parenting is seeing your child is in everything that you can sign them up for and often children need time to be a child. They want time to be with you. You also need time to be a parent. Take the summer to SLOW DOWN!!!! Allow the summer to give you and your family time to restore your souls and be with each other and calm your days. Children are pushed through such crazy schedules, that they do not know how to slow down and parents do not seem to know how to slow down either. All this running and over scheduling is not very healthy and is very stressful.

### **Goals for the summer:**

\*Encourage your child to read a little each day. Set some Quiet time in their room or outside on the lawn with a book. NO TECHNOLOGY for that time!!!

\*Try to go on short family outings. Go hiking, on a picnic, or go see something of interest nearby. Make it an easy quick outing that seems spontaneous and not overly planned. Do not have any technology on these little short side trips.

\*Do a family fun project together. Maybe you can plant a garden together. Maybe you can make a family scrap book. Maybe you can make a family history book of your family tree and all the family history you want your kids to know.

\*Have your child clean out their room and find things to give away such as clothes, toys, books, or old games. Take those things to Good Will.

\*Schedule a God time for each day. Let your child pick when. Tell them this is their time to be still and get to know God. They may read their Bibles, or read books about characters in the bible or write in a prayer journal you may give them. This does not have to be a long amount of time. The goal is to just set a time for them to stop- look and listen for God.

\*Family cooking night. Have a fun family night of cooking together. Assign each child something to cook and have a dinner where everyone has contributed. If your children are much older, have them take turns cooking dinner once a month or once a week.

\*Family game night or movie night. Have a night of games with the kids. Have a movie night and pop popcorn and sit down and watch a movie together at home. Go to a nearby drive in for a movie night. Something different!

I pray you will intentionally choose to restore your souls and help your children to restore their souls too. God tells us to do this. He says, " Be still and Know that I Am God! Psalm 46:10

### **Sunday School Teachers**

Thank you for a job well done this year. You are amazing and such giving people. Please plan on dinner out at the HOME PLACE on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Home Place at 5:30pm.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

Parents: The children will be combining for Sunday school, during the summer months. All three, four's, five's, kindergartners and first graders will meet in room #105.

All children in the second, third, fourth and fifth grader will meet in room #205.

### **Story Time 2018**

Join us on Wednesday in the church library on the second floor at 11:00 am on the following dates.

#### **June 27th**

The Kissing Hand

Whoops ( a story where the children make the sounds)

A special Caterpillar

Every Which Way To Pray

We will make praying hands to hang and enjoy our own bags of candy kisses!

#### **July 4th**

Pete the Cat and The Missing Cupcakes

Letter To My Teacher

Cookies

Our Country Had A Birthday

Jesus Heals the Blind Man

We will dress up in 4th of July Red white and blue and have our own Fourth of July Parade

#### **July 11th**

Green Turtle (read by the Green Turtle)

Ellie

Audrey Bunny

God gave us You

We will make wooden book marker of ourselves with bible scriptures that go on

#### **July 25th**

Jelly Bean's Dance

Who's Been Walking on my Floor??

What DO You DO With A Problem?

David and Goliath

We will make a Jelly Bean – Love Does Jar!

#### **August 1**

Caps for Sale

Magic Hat

Miss Fanny's Hat

The Lost Sheep ( Bleat)

Everyone come in their funny or favorite hat.

We will have a little magic fun today and end on the playground with ice cream sundaes that you make !!! You will go home with a new hat from Story Time !!!

### **Vacation Bible School**

Rolling Rampage River

July 16- 20th

9:00am – 12:30 pm

Ages pre-k 4- 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Children finishing the third grade, fourth and fifth grade will travel all week.

### **OUTREACH PROJECT** for Oak Park meeting **June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Key 73 room.**

We are looking at ways to reach out to the children who live at Oak Park with VBS curriculum or a story time. We will discuss ways to begin this community mission project. Tricia Givens – 540 -389-5459 ext. 240

### **Volunteers of the Month in children's ministry**

This month children's ministry would like to honor Mary Rae. Mary has played for me for years. She accompanies me, as I work with the Wesleyan Preschoolers. She has played for me, as I teach music for VBS the last 15 years. She plays for me whenever I need someone for something that the children are doing outside of children's choirs. Mary plays by ear, so together we have written many songs and enjoyed making the music fun and personal for the children. She has always been a huge support to me and my work with the children. She truly deserves to be honored after so many years of dedication. The DVD'S ,” Families of the Orchestra and Peter and The Wolf,” have been placed in the children' ministry library in her honor. Thank you Mary for making a difference for me and our church.

### **Kids' in the Spotlight**

This month First Church recognizes Kerrington Jewell. Kerrington sings in the children's choirs. She is a bright face with the most beautiful long red hair. She is sweet and loving and makes everyone around her feel special. She comes to VBS, Sunday School, Wesley Kids and many church events. Kerrington is the daughter of Chris and Ashely Jewell. Thank you Kerrington for making a difference at First Church.

## **WESLEYAN PRESCHOOL**

*Jane Butto, Director*

We still have some openings for our Pre-K camp in August. The date for our “Playing on God's Team” camp is August 6-10. Camp hours are from 9:00-1:00. If your child is ready for some fun, you can register them for a busy week of Pre-K camp. Call the Preschool office at 389-5144 for more information! All children who have already finished a 3 year old preschool year through age 5 are welcome to attend.

We'd love to have you be a part of our team!

Our registration for Fall right now is at 95 children. We still have room for a few more in our 1 year old class and our Tuesday/Thursday 3 year old class. Contact the Preschool at [jbutto@fumcsalemva.org](mailto:jbutto@fumcsalemva.org) to reserve a place for a child in our weekday preschool.

Enjoy your summer! *Jane*

## **YOUTH MINISTRIES**

*Jessica Kauffman, Director*

### **YOUTH DAY TRIPS**

The youth will be going on Three Day Trips during the summer! Kings Dominion July 10<sup>th</sup>, Kayaking Trip August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and WV State Fair and Mercy Me Concert August 11<sup>th</sup>. To attend one trip it is \$40, Two Trips \$70, and Three Trips is \$100! **Please contact Jessica at [jessicak@fumcsalemva.org](mailto:jessicak@fumcsalemva.org) to sign up. All money and signups are due by July 1<sup>st</sup> to secure your spot! Adults and parents are welcome to attend as well!** If you would like to go but financially are not able to cover the cost please contact Jessica we have a few wonderful people in the church who would like to support you!

### **POP UP OFFICE HOURS**

During the month of July and August I will have Pop-Up Office Hours in the afternoon at Coffee Shops or Parks. These are times to come hang out, have one on one discipleship time, or ask questions! Locations will come in weekly e-mails. July dates are: July 2<sup>nd</sup>, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and July 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Meet-n-Eat Mondays!**

During the months of July and August we will have Meet-n-Eat Mondays from 11:30-12:30pm. The youth will meet at a local restaurant, announced in the weekly e-mails. We will have a 5 minute devotional focusing on Prayer. Then we will spend the rest of the time fellowshiping and enjoying our time together as youth!

### **Congratulations to our Graduates!**

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> we celebrated our Graduating Seniors! Your church family supports and prays for you as you continue on your future endeavors!

## **2018 Confirmands**

On May 20<sup>th</sup> we welcomed 18 Confirmands into our church family!

## **Youth Mission Trip**

On June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 13 youth and 3 adults will be going to Taylorsville, NC for the Mission Trip. They will be helping with neighbor beautification, painting, and yard work! Please keep the youth and adult leaders in your prayers as they are helping to serve and share the love of Christ to others!



## **ADULT MINISTRIES & OUTREACH**

*Rev. Bobby J. Pickle, Director*

### **SKY PICNIC**

Come and join us at our annual SKY Picnic!

Date/Time: June 21st / 11:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Location: Longwood Park in Salem, Shelter #4 (at top of the hill)

Main Dish and Drinks will be provided. “There’s a place waiting for you”

God Bless,

*Rev. Bobby J. Pickle*

### **CIRCLE 5**

Circle 5 will meet Tuesday, June 12th at 10am in room 116 to travel to the home of Rebecca Frazier for a meeting and program followed by lunch.

## **JUNE STUDY & SERMON SERIES: HALF TRUTHS**

“They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We’ve all heard these words. Maybe we’ve said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.

The clichés include:

- Everything happens for a reason. (June 3rd)
- God helps those who help themselves. (June 10)
- God won’t give you more than you can handle. (June 17)
- God said it, I believe it, that settles it. (June 24)
- Love the sinner, hate the sin.” (July 1)

Join us in June as we explore Adam Hamilton’s “Half Truths”. Hardback books are now available in the church office for \$15 each.

## **SUMMER WORSHIP & GIVING**

This summer, many in the FUMC family are traveling for vacations. We hope you enjoy the time away from the daily distractions and make lasting memories! Take time, if possible, to worship wherever you may be and give thanks for the privilege to do so. Also please remember our church in your prayers and in your giving as you are away. Our operations and ministries continue throughout the summer months and it is only because of your generosity that we are able to do so. As well, our apportionment payments are current through May 2018! Giving is now easier than ever with an online option available via our website [www.fumcsalemva.org](http://www.fumcsalemva.org). You may also mail contributions to the church or set up online bill pay through your bank to continue tithing while away. Thank you for your faithful support!

# JUNE 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Preschool Camp (June 4-8)  Youth Mission Trip (June 17-22)					1 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	2
3 10:00am - Church Conference 6:00pm - Youth Mission Meeting 7:00pm - VBS Meeting	4 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 8:00pm - AA	5 6:30pm - Cub Scout	6 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 7:30pm - Youth (9th-12th)	7 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	8 10:00am - Parliamentarians 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	9
10 9:45am - Youth Mission Meeting	11 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:30pm - Youth (7th-8th) 8:00pm - AA	12 10:00am - Circle 5 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - SPRC	13 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	14 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	15 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	16
17	18 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 8:00pm - AA	19 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Finance Meeting	20 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 7:00pm - Shawl Meeting	21 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	22 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	23
24	25 4:00pm - SAEM Read & Feed 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 8:00pm - AA	26 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	27 6:00pm - Girl Scouts 7:00pm - Troop 51 Meeting	28 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	29 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	30



# JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45am - Youth Coffee Shop Sunday School	2 11:30am - Youth Munchin' Monday 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 8:00pm - AA	3 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	4 Independence Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>	5 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	6 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	7
8	9 11:30am - Youth Munchin' Monday 4:00pm - SAEM Read & Feed 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 8:00pm - AA	10 10:00am - Circle 5 6:30pm - Cub Scout Youth Kings Dominion Trip	11 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 10:00am - Small Group Committee 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	12 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	13 10:00am - Parliamentarians 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	14
15 Vacation Bible School (July 16-20)	16 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 8:00pm - AA	17 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	18 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 7:00pm - Shawl Meeting	19 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	20 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	21
22 Family Promise (July 22-29)	23 11:30am - Youth Munchin' Monday 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 8:00pm - AA	24 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	25 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	26 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	27 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	28
29	30 11:30am - Youth Munchin' Monday 4:00pm - SAEM Read & Feed 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 8:00pm - AA	31 6:30pm - Cub Scouts				

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