

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ALAN

We are just over a year out from our Deep Water weekend at FUMC, and nearly a year out since our congregation voted overwhelmingly to approve the recommendations. So, I thought it would be appropriate to take stock of where we have come so far. In the fall, our Deep Water Vision Team completed their work on our new vision, which was subsequently approved by Church Council. That approval was followed by a three week sermon series introducing our new vision: **Seek Relationship With God, Grow in Faith, Serve God Through Care For Others.**

As this was happening our Deep Water Contemporary Worship team was completing their work and making their own recommendation to Church Council. They were tasked with looking at the overcrowding of the 8:45 Genesis service, and determining what the best course of action might be going forward. After much prayer, conversation, and discernment, they recommended to Church Council that we begin a 10:00 AM Genesis service that would be called Genesis II. Church Council agreed to their recommendation, with an understanding that the Church Council would evaluate the service after six months, to see how the service had performed as well as any effects it had on other ministries in the church, such as other worship services, Sunday school, etc. With that approval, we created another opportunity for our church and community to “Seek Relationship with God,” and we began the Genesis II service on December 2, 2018.

The Deep Water Communications Team has been hard at work in cooperation with SPRC discussing the best way to staff our communications needs as well as thinking through many of the communications questions facing our church. Their work has been ongoing as we have learned more about those needs and the options available for providing staffing assistance in those areas.

The Deep Water Discipleship and Outreach Teams have been hard at work gathering data and working on creating structures and pathways for our congregation to “Grow in Faith” and “Serve God Through Care for Others”. They each made presentations to Church Council about initial plans as their work has progressed, but the scope of their work has necessitated their continued work through this year.

With that being said, I am excited to share with you our plan for our May sermon series, which will be focused around the second point of our new vision: **Grow in Faith.** Our “**Grow in Faith**” Sermon Series will be an opportunity to reflect together on several scriptures about following Jesus as one of his disciples. It will also offer us an opportunity to share about some of the opportunities in our church to grow in faith, as well as to ask ourselves what new possibilities God might bring forth in our midst to help us to grow together in our faith.

I am also so excited to tell you about Pentecost Sunday. Our plan is to celebrate **Pentecost Sunday, June 9th, together in one service at 10:30 AM!** This will allow us all to be together in worship on the day we celebrate the birth of the Church. It will also give us the opportunity to Confirm our Confirmands and welcome them in to membership in First United Methodist Church. Make sure to mark your calendar now to plan on being part of what is sure to be a wonderful morning of worship!

Peace,

Alan

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Tricia Givens, Director

He is not here, he is risen!

"HE is not here , he is risen," only seven words. Seven words changed our world. Those seven words laid down the beginning of Christianity. The belief in Jesus Christ, God's only son, was forever embedded into our faith history at the moment those words were spoken. Christ who came to live with us, die for us and take on our sins is now the story that should be told over and over and over again. The son of God, who brought us new life. Those seven words should be remembered and whispered each day. We should start the day remembering that Christ is alive and the Holy Spirit lives within us. Those seven words glorify the greatness of God and the enormity of His love and the fact that he is all that is good.

We celebrate Easter with the joy of HOPE. We celebrate the Hope that Jesus Christ brought us everlasting life through his sacrificial love. We are so blessed. Looking at the world through a lens with those seven words in our hearts, we are able to see a picture of a world that Christ conquered with a perfect love.

Share this message with your children. Share the real message of Easter. Let them know Christ loves them so much that he came to be with us always. Let them know that Christ's love is with them every day. Help them to seek Christ in their everyday world. Help your child look for Christ each day. Help them see Christ in the lives of others. Help them look for God in the beauty of spring and the simple blessings of new life all around them. God is so good. His love endures forever. We need to always remind our children of that. Make sure the Easter bunny does not take away the true message of Easter. Easter means NEW LIFE and Christ brought us that in ways that are almost too hard to understand.

ACTIVITY: (Christ Glasses)

Each evening, as you sit at your dinner table or as you put your child to bed, ask them to share a Christ moment that they experienced that day. (I call it a GOD THING)! Help them see that Christ works through others and with them all day, but we have to tune our eyes and hearts to see Christ in the world. We have to be looking for God in our world. There are miracles in our day that we just take for granted. Have your child notice the beauty of trees budding with new life and say that those buds remind us of GOD and his amazing greatness. Baby birds hatching are a reminder of God and the Easter message of new life. Remind them that a kind friend who helps unselfishly is a Christ moment because you see Christ living in your friend. In other words, help your child to look at the world with Christ glasses- God glasses and look for God all through the day. HE is there and his message of everlasting hope and new life is waiting for us to see and share.

In His Service,
Tricia Givens

Fellowship Sunday, May 5th

Church Wide Talent Night

6:00 pm Dinner (Subs, chips, cookies)

6:30 PM Program

Please come share your talent with our church family, at our Fellowship dinner on May 5th. We invite the forensic team to come share some of their state winning presentations. We invite our dancers, pianist, singers, and instrumentalist! Come and enjoy a night of celebrating the gifts of our church family.

Wesley Kids, Sunday May 5th

Wesley Kids and Tweens will meet at 5:00PM in the Chapel. Bring a garden spade! We will be planting flowers around the Church fellowship hall. We will end with a short Bible time game!!!

Wesley Tweens, Monday May 6th

Wesley Tweens will meet at 6:00PM in the Chapel. We will have our bible study and then walk to the ice cream parlor!

Children's Choirs

We will sing at the 10:00AM Genesis II service and the 11:00AM Traditional service on Sunday, May 12th.

Milestone Sunday, June 2nd

All Sunday school children will meet in the chapel for our milestone end of the year presentations. Please have your child here to receive their presentation for their yearly milestone award. We will be in the chapel at 10:00 am.

Summer Sunday School

During the summer, **beginning on June 16th**, we combine classes as follows: Children ages Three-First grade will meet in room #103 for Sunday school. Children second grade through fifth will meet in room #205.

Vacation Bible School, July 15th-19th (9:00AM—12:30PM)

“INTO THE WILD”

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School! Open to children ages 4 through 5th grade. Third – fifth grade will be traveling all week to serve in our community. Children pre-k 4 – 2nd grade will be doing backyard mission projects here at our church.

Registration forms may be found at the Welcome Center and Church Office. You may also visit our website fumcsalemva.org to sign up online! *The deadline to register is July 7th.

Summer Story Time (Wednesdays, June 26 - July 31)

Summer Story Time begins on June 26th in the church library at 11:00 am. Bring a friend and join us for STORYTIME FUN!!!

June 26

“What Would You Do With A Box?” (everyone bring a box)

“Something Big”

“Every Way to Pray”

“The Boy Whose Lunch Fed 5,000”

We will make a Blessing Box. We will go on an imaginary trip with our boxes! We will enjoy ice cream cones to go!!!

July 3

“Whoever You Are”

“I’ve Got A Job To Do “

“Super Hero”

“David and Goliath”

Today dress us like your favorite hero, when you come to story time. We will make cut outs of ourselves to put up in the church.

July 10

“Bear’s Dream”

“A Visitor for Bear”

“Paddington Bear”

“Let The Bible Be Your Guide” (Berenstain Bears)

Today bring your favorite stuffed animal to story time. We will have Bear Grahams and a tea party with our stuffed animal friends.

July 24

“Pete The Cat and the Magic Sunglasses”

“I’m A Cock a doodle HOOOOOOO”

“Bad Marley the Dog”

“Duck at the Door”

Story of Noah and the ARK with all the animals. Bring a picture of your pet (if you have one) and be ready to share about pet. We will make an Ark (to take home) and fill it with animal crackers!

July 31

“When I Grow Up”

“When I Feel Angry”

“Whoops!!!”

“I Love You Stinky Face”

“Jesus and the Little Children”

“If Jesus Came To My House!”

We will make our own prayer book to take home. We will make ice cream sundaes together and enjoy some playground time together. Miss Trish has a surprise for all of you!!!!

Kid's in the Spotlight

This month First Church recognizes Luke and Paul Brock. These sweet twins are the sons of Stacy and Dan Brock and the brothers to Lauren Brock. The boys sing in cherub choir. They also attend Sunday school, VBS, Wesley Kids and you will see them at most of our church functions. They bring a zest for life to church. They are caring and make friends easily. They also share endearing love for their family. Thank you Luke and Paul, for making a difference at First Church.

Children's Ministry Volunteer of the Month

This month Children's Ministry recognizes Meghan O'Brian and Alex Lintner. Meghan and Alex work with our nursery. They are in the nursery every Sunday to care for our youngest church goers. They show such patience and care with each little one. They give their time on Sunday mornings to watch little ones, so parents can go to worship and relax. We appreciate their love and care. Thank you both for making a difference here at First Church. The book, “ God Loves You,” has been put in the children's ministry library in their honor.

WESLEYAN PRESCHOOL

Jane Butto, Director

It's hard to believe our preschool year is coming to an end! This has been a great year! Every year I like to offer thanks to all the people who help make this preschool so amazing! Thank you goes to the following people:

To our wonderful staff: Angie Carter, Susan Carter, Sherry Grisso, Jennifer Painter, Cindy McNally, Carrie Johnson, Debbie Holley, Becky Stephenson, Ashley Heffron, Tracy Lintner, Amanda Camden, Sara Hodge and Tami Hines. This dedicated group of women gives so much love, patience and teaching to these precious little ones!

To our Music Staff: Tricia Givens and Mary Rae, who lead our music classes for our 3 and 4 year old classes. We appreciate your enthusiasm and expertise!

To our Chapel Leaders: Pastor Alan, Tricia Givens & Jessica Gehman - we are so thankful for the time you give to share God's love and sow seeds of faith in these children.

To our Preschool Board: Shelia Barber, Tricia Givens, Tracy Coe, Sharon Sheppard, Alisa Burns, Anne Roseberry, Niki Justice and Susan Carter. I am so thankful that you give of your time and wisdom to help our school run smoothly. Personally, I appreciate your encouragement, advice and support.

To our Fix It Man: Butch Johnson - Thank you for coming to our rescue so many times from fixing broken shelves to plunging toilets. We appreciate you!

To our Financial person: Margaret Woolwine. Thank you so much for all you do for us. Whenever we have questions or problems you always help us with a smile.

To our substitute staff: Stacy Brock, Carrie Johnson, Heather Marks, Anne Roseberry - You have been there for us many times this year and we appreciate your willingness to help us, sometimes with very little notice.

To our bus driver: Will Powers - We are so thankful that you give of your time to get us safely to all of our field trips.

Our Four Year Old Classes will be presenting their End of the Year Program on Wednesday, May 22 at 10:30am in the Sanctuary. All of you are invited to attend and see a small part of what these children have learned this year. Thank you again to Tricia, Mary, Debbie, Tracy, Ashley and Amanda for your part in making this program happen.

We will have two weeks of Pre-k Summer Camp this year. Our first week of camp June 3-7 is already full. We still have room in our second week of camp August 5-9. This second week has a Circus theme “Under God's Big Top”. This week will include a lesson in how a person changes into a clown from our very own clown, Tommy Barber and a field trip to Bounce! Please call the Preschool for more information and to reserve a spot for your 4 or 5 year old!

We still have openings in some of our Preschool classes for the Fall. Information sheets are available outside the Preschool office or contact Jane at (540) 389-5144 or at jbutto@fumcsalemva.org

Have a great summer!

Jane

UPCOMING 6TH GRADERS

UPCOMING 6th Grade Ice Cream Social on June 10th from 7:00-8:00pm, Fellowship Hall

We are so excited for you to be a part of the youth group! I know you are finishing up 5th grade and you may not be 100% done but I want you to know that this summer you are welcome to come to all and any of the youth activities!

On June 10th there will be an Ice Cream Social for Parents and upcoming 6th graders. This will be a time to meet Jessica and hopefully meet a few of our older youth! This is also a time for parents to get all the information about the youth program, what to expect, what we do, and summer activities. This is a casual time to just get to know each other and the youth program. We are so excited to have you!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Jessica Gehman, Director

Youth Mission Trip Meetings:

May 6th 12:00-2:30pm Mission Trip Meeting 2

May 18th 9:30-12:00pm: Car Wash Fundraiser

May 18th: 12:00-2:00pm Mission Trip Meeting 3

June 9th: 6:00pm Mandatory Final Mission Trip Meeting for youth and Parents

June 15th-21st: Mission Trip

Final Small Group for the School Year

Group	Day	Time	Location
6th-8th Grade	Monday May 6th and 13th	7:30-8:30pm	Off Site
9th-12th Grade	Wednesday May 1st, 8th and 15th	7:30-8:30pm	Off Site

Final Reality Check- May 19th | Hand Print - Leave your Mark!

We will be leaving our mark on the youth wing May 19th during our Final Reality Check of the year. If you painted your hand last year, you can do another one! If you haven't gotten your hand on the wall you are apart of the group!

Youth Summer 2019 -Taco Tuesdays!

Let's find the best tacos in town! We will be visiting many of the Mexican Restaurants in Salem and try all the tacos. Make sure to come out to have fun and to stuff yourself with tacos! We will be ending Taco Tuesdays with a Photo Scavenger Hunt downtown Salem after dinner.

Dates:

July 2nd 6:30-7:30pm

July 9th 6:30-7:30pm

July 16th (after VBS) 12:30-1:30pm

July 30th 6:30-7:30pm

August 6th 6:30-8:45pm

Save the Date!

August 25th End of Summer Youth Retreat | Timing: TBA Early afternoon into evening

This will be a youth retreat will be done locally! With lots of fun! Hopefully some water involved and a great way to end the last warm days of summer! Details will be shared during the summer.

Mark your Calendars for our Summer Day Trips! Please make sure to sign up online and to fill out the youth permission form if you have not done so prior. More information will come out in our weekly e-mails closer to the event.

July 10th Kings Dominion and Chick-fil-a Day

Price: \$40 + Plus money for Breakfast (Chick-fil-A) Lunch (packed if you choose) and Dinner (in the park). Money due the day of. Timing: Exact timing TBA but it will be EARLY morning to LATE at night.

July 31st: Snowflex at Liberty Mountain!

Many of you asked to go back in the summer, so we are! Do you want to ski or tube but it's summer time? Then come to Snowflex where it's open all year! Timing: TBA

Cost: Tubing: \$15, Snowboarding OR skiing: \$20, Tubing and Snowboarding or skiing: \$25

August 8th: Water Tubing on the New River Junction.

Time: 1:30-6:00pm, Cost: \$12/person

Youth Contact Information

E-mail: jessicak@fumcsalemva.org

Facebook Group: FUMC Impact Youth Ministry

Instagram: fumc_impactyouth

Remind App: Text 81010 with message: @2015impact

NEW Youth Website: youth.fumcsalemva.org

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES

Graduation Sunday will be Sunday June 2nd, 2019. It is very important to know who will be participating in this special day! Please email Jessica Gehman at jessicak@fumcsalemva.org or sign up on the google form no later than May 19, 2019 with the following information:

- Graduate's name, school they are graduating from, degree received (college students); future plans (college, job, course of study if decided, job, move to new location, ie).
- We would also like new contact information such as email and school address. The contact information will not be printed but kept for office record information.
- If you are a member of the church and are not able to attend please send your information so we can have you in the program.

Graduation Sunday will be in the Traditional 11:00am service. Please meet in the Parlor with your Caps and Gowns at 10:15am. This way we can discuss the order and get pictures prior to the service. The Graduates will process in with the choir and we will sit together during the service. A reception will follow the 11am Traditional Service.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Circle 9

Circle 9 will host the Candle Burning ceremony and UM dinner meeting on May 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Memorial and Honorarium donations are now being received for the Candle Burning. All donations go to missions and are recognized through the ceremony program. Forms are available from Mary Jane Wall or the church office. Guest speaker is Sarah Stephens from Raleigh Court UMC. Circle 9 will provide meat and beverages for the meal. Everyone else is asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

Rescue Mission Volunteers

Our church sends a 3-person team to serve breakfast at the Rescue Mission on the 2nd Thursday of each month. This is open to all adults. Please contact Scott Wade at scottcwade@gmail.com if you would like to be added to rotation of volunteers that serve our community in this way!

Car Wash Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip - May 18th 10:00am-12:00pm

We have enjoyed the support by our church family! You all are amazing and we are so blessed. For one last Fundraiser before our trip we will be hosting a Car Wash here in the church parking lot on May 18th from 10:00-12:00pm. Hope to see you there!

FINANCE UPDATE

AS OF MARCH 31, 2019

Year to Date Actual Giving	\$187,985
Year to Date Budget	<u>\$226,016</u>
Year to Date Balance Remaining	(\$38,031)
<hr/>	
Year to Date Actual Giving	\$187,985
Annual Budget	<u>\$860,818</u>
Annual Budget Remaining	(\$672,833)

Note Burning Ceremony

All are invited to our Note Burning Ceremony to be held Sunday, May 5th at 5:30PM in the Sanctuary. This service will commemorate paying off \$2.6 million of building debt over the past 12 years. By paying off the debts of our past we are now more fully able to focus on the needs of our future! This was no small task, and it could not have been accomplished without each and every contribution made to the building fund. Please join us to celebrate this momentous occasion!

CALENDAR INFORMATION

Please note the following weekly calendar items are not represented due to space constraints:

Weekly Choir & Bell Schedule

Sunday

Heavenly Bells	3:00pm
Chorister Choir	4:00pm
JuBELLation	4:00pm
Cherub Choir	4:30pm
Youth Choir	5:00pm

Tuesday

GENESIS Praise Band	7:00pm
---------------------	--------

Thursday

Resounding Joy	6:00pm
Sanctuary Choir	7:30pm

MAY 2019

Calendar information is as of April 5th. Please check with group leaders for more information.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 5:00pm - Girls on the Run 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - Communications 7:30pm - 9-12 Small Group	2 10:00am - Faith Journey Bible Study 6:00pm - District Scout Awards	3 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - Al-Anon	4
5 12:00pm - Mission Trip Meeting 12:00pm - Trustees/Endowment Meeting 5:00pm - Wesley Kids & Tweens 5:30pm - Burn the Note 6:00pm - Fellowship Dinner & Talent Show	6 6:00pm - Wesley Tweens 7:00pm - Boy & Girl Scouts 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	7 10:00am - SKY Board 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - SPRC	8 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 6:00pm - Candle Burning 7:30 - 9-12 Small Group	9 10:00am - Faith Journey Bible Study 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	10 10:00am - Parliamentarians 8:00pm - AA Program 8:00pm - Al-Anon	11
12	13 7:00pm - Boy & Girl Scouts 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	14 10:00am - Circle 5 6:30pm - Girls on the Run 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	15 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 7:00pm - Shawl Ministry 7:30pm - 9-12 Small Group	16 10:00am - Faith Journey Bible Study 11:30am - SKY Group	17 8:00pm - AA Program 8:00pm - Al-Anon	18 10:00am - Mission Trip Car Wash 12:30pm - Mission Trip meeting
19 6:00pm - Reality Check 7:30pm - Boy & Girl Scouts 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	20 7:00pm - Boy & Girl Scouts 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	21 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Finance Meeting	22 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 12:15pm - Staff Meeting	23 10:00am - Faith Journey Bible Study 6:00 - Girl Scouts	24 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - Al-Anon	25
26 6:00pm - Troop 51 Meeting	27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	28 9:00am - District Meeting 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	29 6:30am - Men's Bible Study	30 10:00am - Faith Journey Bible Study 6:00 - Girl Scouts	31 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - Al-Anon	

First United Methodist Church

125 West Main Street

Salem, VA 24153-0887

First United Methodist Church Staff

- ◆ Lead Pastor, **Rev. Alan Combs** (alancombs@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Associate Minister, **The Rev^d Jeffrey Dorsey** (jeff@dorseylawfirm.com)
- ◆ Pastor In Residence, **Rev. Dr. Michael Houff**
- ◆ Director of Children's Ministries & Children's Choirs, **Tricia Givens** (triciag@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Youth Ministries Director, **Jessica Gehman** (jessicak@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Director of Wesleyan Preschool, **Jane Butto** (jbutto@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Coordinator of Music Ministries, **Heather Mitchell** (hmittchell@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Organist, **Judith Snyder** (jsnyder@hollins.edu)
- ◆ Piano Accompanist for Children & Youth, **London Reinhard**
- ◆ Contemporary Worship Music Co-Director, **Allan Davidson** (davidsonallan4@gmail.com)
- ◆ Contemporary Worship Music Co-Director, **Joey Poarch** (joseph.poarch@gmail.com)
- ◆ Office & Communications Manager, **Margaret Woolwine** (margaretw@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Sextons, **Butch & Genia Johnson** (winhoos1@hotmail.com)

Roanoke District and VA Annual Conference

Bishop, **Sharma Lewis** District Superintendent, **Kathleen Overby-Webster**

First Connections (USPS693-120) is published monthly by First United Methodist Church

125 W. Main Street, Salem VA 24153-3615 | Phone (540) 389-5459

Website: www.fumcsalemva.org Email: church@fumcsalemva.org

Wesleyan Preschool: (540) 389-5144