

THE FIRST WORD

2015 - 05 First United Methodist Church – 109 West College Street – Winnsboro, SC 05 - 2015

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.”
Matthew 7:7

I love a good question. A good question is one that makes you think, it makes you dig into the recesses of your memory and experience, it dredges up thoughts that may not have passed through your mind in years. A good question can be challenging, sometimes a stumper, but always, always, always a good question will incite further questions, exploration, and discovery.

While at home on maternity leave, I had the opportunity to watch a lot more television than I normally do, and one of the shows I got hooked on was reruns of “How It’s Made” on YouTube. It didn’t really matter what they were making: I enjoyed watching light bulbs being created as much as I enjoyed watching high-end alpine skis glued and shaved into shape. A favorite from the past few weeks was all about how tea is made, from seed to cup. One episode leads naturally to the next, and on to the next. Interests I never knew I had pop up like flowers. For me, “How It’s Made” is full of good questions that lead me into new questions and new discoveries.

I love asking good questions, but even more so, I love discussing good questions with others. As a pastor, questions seem to be kind of my wheelhouse. “What was Jesus like as a kid?” “What does the Bible mean when it says...?” “Can Christians believe in Evolution?” “Why does an all powerful God allow bad things to happen?” I never promise to offer anyone an answer, and if I’ve done my job right I hope to leave people with more questions than they came with! But in many ways, that’s the point of religion. Religion, no matter how you practice it, revolves around the big questions of life and death, morality and evil, dark and light, what it means to be human, and who is God? Churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, we all provide a space for asking and exploring the good questions, the big questions that sit on our hearts and in our minds.

I want you to share your questions with me! What bothers you about the Bible? What confuses you about Jesus? What keeps you up at night? Is there a part of our worship service you just don’t understand? Ask away! During the month of May, I invite you to write your questions to me via email, or jot them down (legibly!) and place them in the boxes in the Narthex. Over the next couple weeks there will be an index card included in the bulletin each week as a place for you to write down your questions. You can ask anonymously or with your name attached, either is fine. During the Sundays in June I’ll take on some of your biggest questions in my sermons each week. I don’t promise any easy answers, or even any answers at all, but I do promise I will try to leave you with a deeper understanding and a few more questions to take home and ponder. Good questions mature our faith, they teach us and shape us into better disciples of Jesus, and they help us grow into the people we are called to be. So, let’s ask some good questions!

Rev. Julie Songer Belman

OUR MINISTRY FOR MAY

USHERS:

Eric Johnson and Reid Johnson

COUNTERS:

Mary Jim Gunter and Patsy Black
Sallie Kate and Donnie Laird
Alex Rabb and Kenny Martin
Roy Barnett and Jim Baughman

Acolyte:
Berkley Derrick

PRAYER LIST

Don Songer, Bobby Lee Estes, Dargan Broome, Jean Allison, Bill Bundy, Ann Bailey, Caroline Montgomery, Jim Pressley, Sara Duncan, Bernie and Betty Enloe, Dennis Shaefer, Rev. Don McKinney, Betty Coleman, Chip, Julie and Madeline Fischesser, Brent Dorrier, Frank Martin, Taylor Novinger, Lynne Moore, Mary Thomas, Tam Lark, Merrill J. Wood, Annette Clowney, Scott Vanvick, Albertia Bundy, Julie Reese, Dennis Schaefer, and Blaine Riley

**Please, remember in prayer those serving
our country in our armed forces both at
home and overseas.**

**When you can, remember to send a card, call
or visit**

Doris Myfelt 3195 Rio Dosa Drive #2103,
Lexington, KY 40509 (859)309-9284

Dot Yon Goodwin House Apt. #401, 3440 S.
Jefferson Street
Falls Church, VA 22041

Elise Williams 9423 Old Douglass Road,
Blackstock, SC 29014

Becky McMaster NHC Room 311, 7601 Parkland (PO
Box 25548), Columbia SC 29223

Katherine Rabb 1330 India Hook Road,
Westminster Towers, Apt. 108 Rock Hill, SC 29732

Lisa Lewis Meyer The Heritage at Lowman, PO
Box 444
White Rock, SC 29177

Mabel Ward 200 River Landing Unit #209,
Charleston, SC 29492



Jay Lucas was one of a kind! He took care of many little details at First Methodist that will never be forgotten!



**TO MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY
WITH BIRTHDAYS IN
May**

May 1	Travis Belman
May 2	Frances Barnett
May 4	Brent Dorrier
May 9	Marion Robinson
May 10	Brock Williams
May 15	Barbara Martin
May 16	Tony Barfield
May 22	Dean Lee
May 23	Jay Ayers
May 24	Ann Lee
May 29	Reid Johnson

A special Happy 90th Birthday to
Brent Dorrier
on May 4, 2015!

Altar Flower Schedule

May FLOWER CALENDAR

May 3 **Bill and Lenora Bundy**

May 10 **Mother's Day**

May 17

May 24

May 31

If you would like to provide altar flowers, please sign up on the flower calendar in the hall behind the sanctuary.



Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

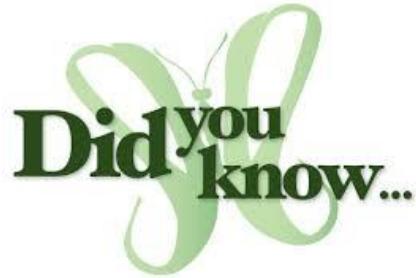
8:00 a.m. until Noon (Julie Barfield)

Tuesday

9:00 a.m. until 12:30 (Peggy Ayers)

Friday

10:00 a.m. until Noon (Peggy Ayers)



The United Methodist Women provided the Good Friday meal during Holy Week Services. These ladies provide a service to our church through their ministries and missions to various charities and non profit organizations. They are the unsung heroes of our congregation and we give them many thanks for all they do.



May 10 **Mother's Day**

May 25 **Memorial Day**



The Johnson family celebrating Easter.



Tripp and John Ryan win *Best picture of Easter Sunday!*

Our congratulations to

Thomas and Grayson Garner

on their marriage April 24, 2015. First United Methodist Church wishes the couple a lifetime of happiness!

*Those whom God has joined together,
let no one put asunder. Amen*



First United Methodist Church welcomes

Wesley Bradford Williams, Jr.

into the congregation.

Brady received Christian baptism and was confirmed as a member of Christ's holy Church. Brady was received into the membership of First United Methodist Church on April 12, 2015



"May the Lord give His angel charge over you, to guide you in all your ways." Psalm 91:11

During Holy Week Services, the offering for the Fairfield County Community Food Bank totaled \$830.50. A big thank you to all who contributed food and/or money.



FUMC enjoyed having Dr. Rev. Cathy Jamieson-Ogg in the pulpit for the Easter service. James Belman heard his first sermon from our District Superintendent!

Trustees Report

First United Methodist has contracted the services of a structural engineer through Dennis Corporation to provide a detailed report so the Trustees can move forward to repair the roof of the sanctuary. We will keep the congregation informed on the findings of this report and what steps the church will need to take to make the necessary repairs.

Epworth's Annual Mother's Day Offering

Sunday, May 10, 2015

Holly's childhood was in disarray.

Her family was in a destructive cycle.

Then Epworth stepped in to help.



*Break the cycle.
Give generously.*

Thanks Be to God

The congregation raised \$464 to support Gideon International in their mission of distributing bibles throughout the world.



The Gideons International

**Spreading the
Good News**

Mothers have a special way
Of saying, 'I love you',
A love that God has given them,
A love that will hold true
For Mothers sacrifice so much,
Providing for the home,
Creating there an atmosphere
That reflects God's love alone.

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Memorials

In Memory of Susan Jackson

Ann N. Owens

Todd and Jane Milford

Larry and Nancy Stevenson

Ellen Wallace Buchanan

Katherine Rabb

Kathy McKinney

Joe and Sydney Robinson

Martha Huguenin

Don and Marry Jim Gunter

Jim and JoAnn Futrell

Dean and Ann Lee, Jack Melvin, and Kay Williams

Marion and Vickie Robinson

Danny and Lily Caldwell

Curlee McMaster Douglas Jennings Circle

Wilbur and Barbara Douglas

Ruby Teal

W.G. and Betsy Stevenson

In Memory of Jay Lucas

Jim and JoAnn Futrell

Methodist Men's Club

Alex and Kitty Rabb

Curlee McMaster Douglas Jennings Circle

Frank and Barbara Martin

Marcia Bonds

Jim and JoAnn Futrell

In Memory of Forest Hughes

Alex and Kitty Rabb

Frank and Barbara Martin

In Memory of Susan Miller

Marion and Vickie Robinson

Don and Mary Jim Gunter

Jim and Esther Baughman

In Memory of Carl Douglas

Frank and Barbara Martin

In Memory of Harvey Branham, Jr.

Curlee McMaster Douglas Jennings Circle



In Memory of Bill Boulware, Sr.

Eddie and Sallie Kate Watford

Peggy H. Ayers

W.G. and Betsy Stevenson

Bill and Margaret DuBard

Curlee McMaster Douglas Jennings Circle

Don and Mary Jim Gunter

Bill and Linda Haslett

In Memory of Bill Boulware, Jr.

W.G. and Betsy Stevenson

Curlee McMaster Douglas Jennings Circle

In Memory of Rufus Gaddy

Roy and Frances Barnett

Bill and Linda Haslett

Marion and Vickie Robinson

Peggy H. Ayers

Don and Mary Jim Gunter

In Memory of Edith McAlister

Jerry and Cornelia Smith

Don and Mary Jim Gunter

Alex and Kitty Rabb

Louis and Mary Ann Schulze

Win McMaster

Peggy H. Ayers

Tommy and Betsy Barron

Jeff and Johanna B. Fields

Jean D. Fields

Audria Tolson

In Memory of Vern Mays

Don and Mary Jim Gunter

Side Note

In keeping in compliance with the Safe Sanctuary Policy, beginning immediately, the side door and the back door will be locked on Sunday mornings. If you do not have a code for the backdoor, please call the church office. If you need assistance to gain access to the handicapped access at the backdoor, please see an usher. We thank you in advance for your consideration and patience as we work diligently to ensure the safety of our children and our congregation.

“The best thing of all is God is with us.”

John Wesley

