

Judges choose the best chili at the youth-sponsored Chili Cook-off - Below & Page 3.

Confirmands learn about Methodism at Lake Junaluska Retreat - Page 2.

Isaac Powell becomes latest Eagle Scout - Page 5

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The First Word

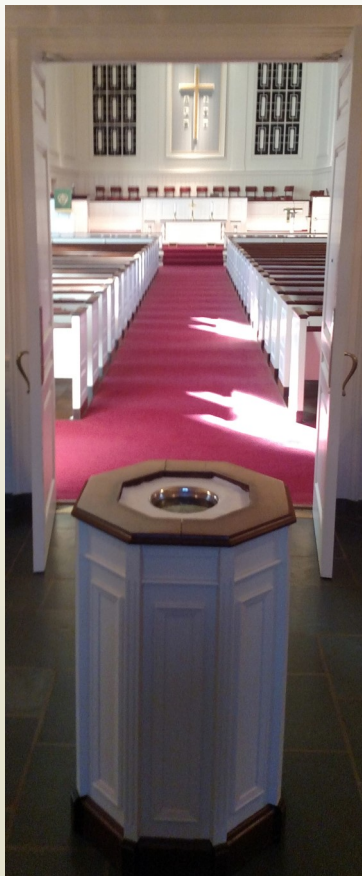
Elkin

First United Methodist Church

January 26, 2017

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REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM



Why is the baptismal font in the middle of the narthex?

Good question! The baptismal font is placed in the narthex following Baptism of the Lord Sunday when we participated in the baptismal reaffirmation service thanking God for the grace freely given to us.

An old tradition is to have the font at the entrance of the worship space so those going in can touch the water and remember their baptisms each week.

Feel free to pick up one of the glass stones in the font as a keepsake and reminder of your baptism and be thankful.

YOUTH SPONSOR VALENTINE'S DANCE, CAKE AUCTION

The Elkin Big Band will perform live in the Fellowship Hall for a Valentine's Dance and Cake Auction sponsored by our youth to raise funds for this summer's mission trips. The event is set for Saturday, Feb. 18, 7-9 pm and is open to both singles and couples of all ages. The cost is \$5 per person. Cookies and punch will be served.

FUMC member Larry Irwin directs the band, which is well known throughout the area. The band, which includes some of our church members, uses our Fellowship Hall for rehearsals. The youth are grateful for their contribution of time and talent to make this fundraiser possible.

Bring extra money for the cake auction. Several delicious cakes will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

MID-WEEK PRAYER RESUMES

The Wednesday evening prayer service will resume on Feb. 1 in the Chapel at 6:45 following the Wednesday Night Dinner. Each service varies offering different styles of prayer.

The first service features a Taizé prayer service focusing on music, scripture, prayer and silence. It is based upon worship at the Taizé community in France, which attracts large numbers of youth and young adults from around the world.



METHODISM COMES ALIVE AT RETREAT

What do John Wesley's hair, snow tubing, a woman named Sophie, and watching movies have in common? They were all a part of our Confirmation Class Winter Retreat held Jan. 13-16 at Lake Junaluska. Five confirmands, along with Cindy Furr and Pastor Mark spent the weekend learning about United Methodism and visiting sites at Lake Junaluska.

The class spent Friday evening settling in and getting ready for the activities that began early on Saturday morning. After taking a quick look at the history of the Church, participants viewed a movie about Methodism's founder, John Wesley. They liked the production because it showed Wesley was a human with feelings and doubts just like everyone else, especially evident in his relationship with Sophie Hopkey, his American love interest.

Next they visited the World Methodist Museum, which housed memorabilia from the early days of Wesley and Methodism. Some of the more popular items were Wesley's death mask, a lock of Wesley's hair, his traveling pulpit and a life-size drawing of Wesley where one could stand and see what a short person he was. Everyone in the group seemed to be taller than Wesley.

Saturday evening, the group headed to Maggie Valley for snow tubing. Though the temperatures were warm and everyone came home wet, all had a great time.

The contemporary service at First UMC, Waynesville was the worship experience on Sunday. This is the church where Revs. Sandy and Susie Giles now serve. Unfortunately, they were not there. However, the group did get to hear former WNCC Bishop Lawrence McCleskey preach and chat with him after the service.

The rest of Sunday was spent learning about the structure of the church and how it functions. In the evening, the group was invited to join 500 other youth at an event taking place at the lake. The live band and rousing preaching from Rev. Stephanie Hand was great. Pastor Mark was asked to be the celebrant for communion at the end of the service.

The retreat closed on Monday morning with an examination of the United Methodist Social Principles noting the many topics covered. After a quick clean-up, the group packed up and headed back to Elkin for a mid-afternoon arrival.

This year's confirmands are Chandler Ann Beals, Carter Hampton, Margaret Kennedy, Eli Powell, and Hugh Turner.

Thanks to all who kept our Confirmation Class in prayer over the weekend and to those who sent drinks and goodies to enjoy. The class is looking forward to the final retreat in March.





Diners at the Wednesday Night Meal on Jan. 25 were treated to an assortment of delicious chili. The Chili Cook-Off, sponsored by our youth as a fundraiser, resulted in the highest amount of money raised at a Wednesday Night Meal (nearly \$1000). Judges were chosen at random to sample the six varieties. Jill Bellia (left) won the top prize with Lisa Beals (right) as the runner-up.



February Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

Sunday

8:45 am - Worship
 9:45 am - Sunday School
 10:55 am - Worship
 5:30 pm - Moms' Bible Study
 - Mens' Bible Study
 6:30 pm - Richard Rohr Study

Youth Activities (unless listed otherwise)

5:00 pm - Middle School Youth
 6:00 pm - Youth Dinner
 6:30 pm - High School Youth

Monday-Thursday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Weekday Programs

Monday

6:30 pm - Cub Scouts
 6:45 pm - Boy Scouts

Tuesday

9:00 am - Morning Bell Choir
 12:00 pm - Moms' Bible Study
 2:45 pm - Kids' Choir (4 yrs - K)

Wednesday

2:45 pm - Kids' Choir (1st - 6th grade)
 6:00 pm - Solid Rock Café Fellowship Meal
 6:45 pm - Prayer Service
 Activities for Children & Youth
 Evening Bell Choir
 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

10:00 am - Adult Bible Study

Friday

Church Office Closed

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS—FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00 PM-Social Action Team	2	3 8:00 AM-Grace Clinic - Mobile Dental Clinic (Parking Lot)	4
5 6:30 PM-Youth Superbowl Party	6 11:00 AM-Lydia Circle 2:30 PM- Congregational Care Team	7	8	9	10	11
12 3:00 PM-6th Graders "Get Ready"	13 6:30 PM-Youth Min. Team Mtg.	14	15	16	17 6:00 PM-Youth -Girls' Night Out	18 8:00 AM- Scouts - Pin- ewood Derby 7:00 PM- Valentine's Dance
19	20	21 6:30 PM- Worship Team Mtg. 7:30 PM-Finance Team Mtg.	22	23	24	25
26 9:45 AM-Youth SS at Bojangles 10:40 AM-Youth Visit Wesley Chapel UMC 5:00 PM-Youth Music w/ Amy	27 7:00 PM- Missions Team Mtg.	28				

Congregational Care

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 1 - Anne Hine
 Feb. 2 - Norma Goodman
 Feb. 3 - Sarah Eidson
 Feb. 4 - Pam Fencl, Barbara Harrell, Alex Nance, Betty Ann Williams
 Feb. 7 - Karen Chappell, David Robertson
 Feb. 9 - James Freeman, Chandler Beals
 Feb. 10 - Nolan Sanders
 Feb. 11 - Herb MacDonald, Amy Tayloe
 Feb. 12 - Suzie Andrew, Libbi Parks, Deb Garing
 Feb. 13 - Lisa Beals, Donne Edwards, Dale Kennedy, Pat Trexler
 Feb. 14 - Matt Renegar, Avaya Morrison, Starr Morrison
 Feb. 15 - Sherry Caudle
 Feb. 16 - Sam Tayloe, Yvonne Hunsucker
 Feb. 17 - Betsy Robertson
 Feb. 20 - Robinette McLeroy, Noah Smith, Marian Spencer
 Feb. 21 - Welsey Oakes
 Feb. 23 - Dan Park
 Feb. 25 - Carrie Morrison, Birdie Johnson
 Feb. 26 - Emily Brown, Ryan Nance
 Feb. 27 - Jim Eidson

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 4 - Dave & Alison Ackerman
 Feb. 25 - Ron & Wendy Giudici

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Social Action Team

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 5:00 pm (Library)

Congregational Care

Monday, Feb. 6, 2:30 pm (Library)

Trustees

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 7 pm (Library)

Worship Ministry Team

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6:30 pm (Library)

Finance Team

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7:30 pm (Library)

Missions Team

Monday, Feb. 27, 7:00 pm (Library)

NEW EAGLE, SCOUT SUNDAY LEAD TROOP 648 NEWS

Isaac Powell, son of Mike and Janice Powell, received the Eagle Scout Award at a Court of Honor in the Chapel on Saturday, Jan. 21. His Eagle Scout Project was



highlighted in the Dec. 1 edition of *The First Word*. Janice Powell (center) pins the Eagle Award on her son, Isaac, as proud father and Scoutmaster Mike Powell looks on.

Congratulations to Isaac and thanks for the hard work he contributed in leading his team to complete the Prayer Trail behind the church.

Coming up...

- Boy Scout Sunday is Feb. 5 at FUMC. Scouts from our own Troop 648 will assist in the 10:55 am worship service. This is always an inspirational Sunday to see our Scouts in worship leadership and an opportunity to say "thank you" to the leaders who make this ministry possible at Elkin First United Methodist Church.

- The Boy Scouts will flip pancakes for the annual Mardi Gras Pancake Supper on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dress up and come prepared to celebrate in the Mardi Gras parade.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Church Family: Bliss Vanderpool, Ann Graham, Sam Tesh, Dr. Jim Harrell Sr., Holly Gambill, Betty Tesh, Rev. Paul McCauley, Sallie Park, Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhayat, Ray Fencl, Linda Maxey, Sharon Harvey, Ray McCrary, Mason Leeds, Larry Johnson, Ercel Carter, Walt Pettit, Omegia Seaford, Bern Schumak, Diane Pettit, Mark Barden, nursing home residents & homebound

Extended Care: Jim Cockerham, Mary Cockerham, Anne Hine, Iris Amburn

Extended Family: Hattie Ford, Ruth Deck, Mary Lou Longworth, Hope Swaim, Russ Kearns, Carol Clifton, Glenna Gambill, Stacy Gentry, Bob Norton, Laura Kennedy, Andy Garner's mother, Audrey Adkins, Aileen Sparks, US Veterans, Sarah Jarvis, John Seats, Pike Johnson, Wyatt Vogler, Family of Shane Newman, Vickie Key, Richard Sparks, Diana Ham, Richard Smoot, Angie Hodge, McKenzie Barneycastle, Edna Neaves & Family

All of our military personnel and their families

Got questions about the UMC?



Ministry Volunteers

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, Feb. 5

Lay Reader: Ellen Schumak

Children's Time: Amy Johnson

Children's Church: Rachel Eidson

Acolytes/Chimer: Alyssa Snider, Erika Snider, Paul Brinegar

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Alex Duncan, Claire Grider

Greeters: J.L. & Jane Lowe, Mary Renegar, Tony Duncan, Chris & Tammy Coley, Bob & Gail Midkiff

Ushers: Frank Beals, Rick Caudle, Glen Grider, Lon Snider, Darryl Rhyne

Counters: Dave Johnson, Gardner & Lauren Meek

Sunday, Feb. 12

Lay Reader: Pam Fencel

Children's Time: Cindy Furr

Children's Church: Stacey Carter

Acolytes/Chimer: Granger Teachey, Lydia Teachey, Annabelle Walker

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Cole Walker, Lilly Walker

Greeters: Tom Gwyn, Steve & Vickie Wells, Martha Maier, Emaline Cockerham, Louise Cockerham, Andy & Ann Garner

Ushers: Dan Park, Steve Wells, David Van Antwerp, George Crater

Counters: Mike Powell, Andy & Ann Garner

Sunday, Feb. 19

Lay Reader: Jennifer Martin Brown

Children's Time: Mark Barden

Children's Church: Janet Canter

Acolytes/Chimer: Charlie Pelkey, Matthew Pelkey, Raelin Carter

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Silas Coley, Luke Bellia

Greeters: Steve Mackie, Jane Hazelman, Jake Schot, David & Betsy Robertson

Ushers: James Freeman, David Poindexter, David Cline, Charlie Bellia, Danny Freeman

Counters: Frank Beals, Steve & Ginny Mackie, David & Betsy Robertson

Sunday, Feb. 26

Lay Reader: Emaline Cockerham

Children's Time: Amy Johnson

Children's Church: Mary Keller

Acolytes/Chimer: Margaret Freeman, Cama Ball, Grace Harrison

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Cameron Beals, Henry Freeman

Greeters: Rob & Gina Peterson, Gambill Aldridge, Sam Tesh

Ushers: Gary Conrad, Gerald Combs, Steve Brown, Tiger Sloop, Randy Hunsucker

Counters: Joan Sanders, Margaret Tucker, Steve & Vickie Wells

CHOIR SNACKS

4 yrs - K: Tuesday - 2:45 pm

Feb. 7 - Liam

Feb. 14 - Maci

Feb. 21 - Brooklyn

Feb. 28 - Addison

1st - 6th Grade: Wednesday - 2:45 pm

Feb. 8 - Erika, Alyssa

Feb. 15 - Sadie, Lucas K.

Feb. 22 - Ella, Lucas H.

March 1 - Webb, Raelin

SOLID ROCK CAFE

Wednesday, Feb. 1

Menu: Smoked Meats, Baked Beans, Slaw, Rolls

Cooking Team Leader: George Brown

Dessert: Powell, Harrison, Carroll, MacDonald, McDowell

Wednesday, Feb. 8

Menu: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Black-Eyed Peas

Cooking Team Leader: David VanAntwerp

Dessert: Lowe, Sanders, Andrew, McCrary, Parker, Dent

Wednesday, Feb. 15

Menu: BBQ, Baked Beans, Slaw, Rolls

Cooking Team Leader: Greta Wallace

Dessert: Harris, Johnson, Erlandson, Coley, Petrocy

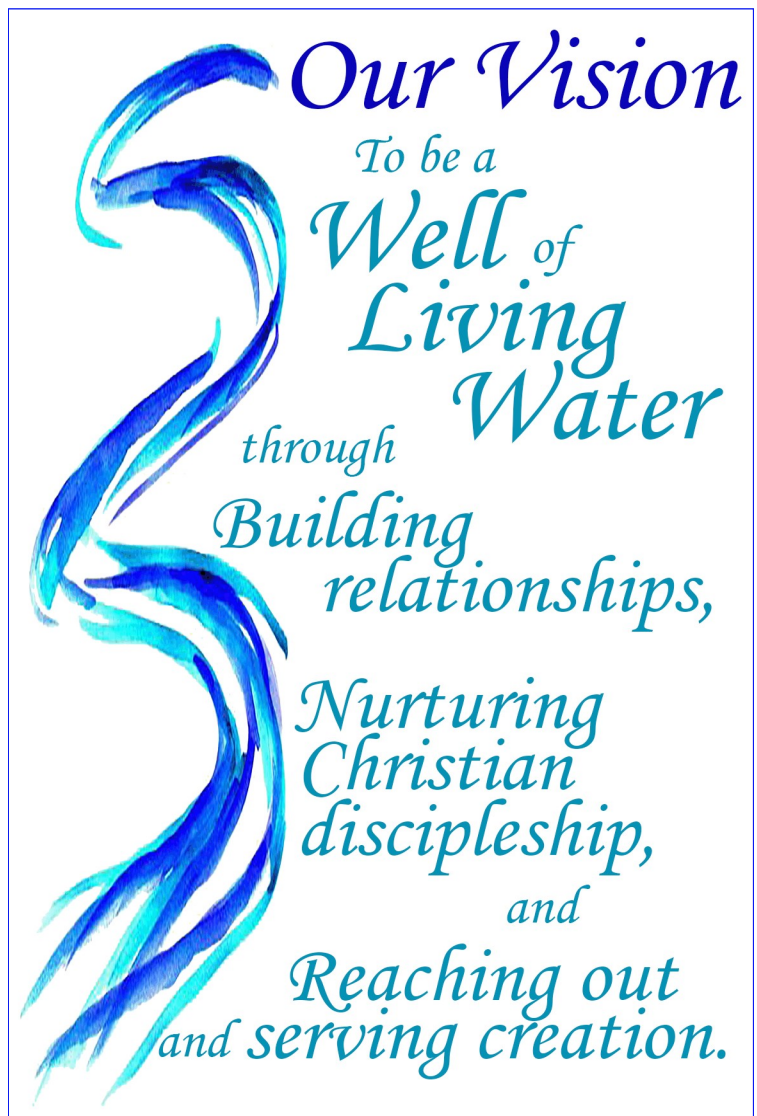
Wednesday, Feb. 22

Menu: Pancakes

Cooking Team Leader: Boy Scouts

Dessert: Brown, Snider, Combs, Midkiff, Kleinheksel, Aldridge

Each week also includes Salad and Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches.



Announcements & Reminders

JOIN US FOR GATHERING AT THE WELL on Jan. 29 from 9:30 to 10:55 am in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have a breakfast feast ready for you!

FIFTH SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL will happen on Jan. 29 at 10:55 am. So many have appreciated worship in the Fellowship Hall that we plan to worship in the more informal and intimate setting each fifth Sunday. The theme is "foolishness" (I Corinthians 1:18-31). The 8:45 service will meet in the Chapel as usual.

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JAN 29. Join us at 6:30 pm for a new study, "Embracing an Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on What It Means to Be Christian." If you wish to sign up for the study, please register on the sheet on the bulletin board across from the Church Office or contact Mark Barden at mbarden@wnccumc.net or call the Church Office. Though the book is available, it is not necessary for participation in the study. The book can be ordered through a local bookstore or from an online source.

DRY BEANS ARE THE TRI-C DONATION for February. Deposit dry beans and any non-perishable food items or toiletries in the basket under the table at the administrative entrance.

CAMP TEKOA REGISTRATION: Dates for 2017 United Methodist Camp Tekoa have been set. Located near Hendersonville, NC. Camp Tekoa offers camps for children age 7 through high school. Hiking, rock climbing, ropes course, fishing, boating and evening camp fires are included. Scholarships and early registration discounts are available. For more information visit <https://www.camptekoa.org/camps/2017/file>.

LYDIA CIRCLE MEETING: Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, February 6 at 11:00 am in the parlor. Following the meeting, join us for lunch. All women of the church are invited to attend

BACKPACK PROGRAM NEEDS DONATIONS: The church is collecting food donations for the Elkin City Schools Backpack Program. Suggested items are: flip top canned items or peel off lids (ravioli, spaghetti, soups, mac-n-cheese, fruit cups, pudding). They also need: cereal, granola bars, peanut butter, jelly, fruit gummy snacks, "Lance" crackers and juice boxes. A collection box is located in the entryway near the Church Office.



Sunday Service Cancellation Policy

We will always have 10:55 am Worship.

A decision will be made by 7 am on the morning in question for the 8:45 am service.

The decision will be communicated through...

- WIFM Radio in Elkin
- WXII - Channel 12 in Winston-Salem
- www.elkinfumc.org
- Elkin FUMC page on Facebook

Weekday activities will be cancelled if the Elkin City Schools are cancelled.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD HELPS GRIEVING FAMILIES

February 19 is designated in as Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday in the Western NC Conference. We will receive a special offering during both of our Sunday morning worship services.

The Brotherhood/Sisterhood of the Western North Carolina Conference has been actively caring for the families of deceased clergy members ever since this voluntary association of clergy and laity was organized in 1894. With the founding 121 clergy members pledging \$5 and with laity who joined as honorary members pledging \$1 or more after the death of a member, clergy families received \$400 to help with funeral and other expenses.

Currently, the death benefit is \$9,500 with 674 clergy members pledging \$8 and nearly 1,807 lay members contributing \$3 or more per call.

While anticipating an average of 15 deaths during each conference year, there was an abnormally high number of deaths (29) in 2013-2014, followed by 16 in 2014-2015 and 15 in 2015-2016. After having had more than 1,000 clergy and 3,000 lay members enrolled, the number of clergy and lay members has decreased in recent years. The board of directors is searching for ways to increase membership. Since last June, 26 new clergy and 23 new lay members have joined.

With deep gratitude for the faithful and generous support for this connectional expression of compassion and love to clergy families at a critical time in their lives, we invite everyone to join us. Please visit the website at brotherhoodsisterhood.com to learn more about your Brotherhood/Sisterhood including how to become a member and make contributions.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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Cindy Furr, Director of Discipleship (cfurr@elkinfumc.org)

Amy Johnson, Director of Music/Children's Ministries (ajohnson@elkinfumc.org)

Benjamin Wallace, Parish Life Coordinator (bwallace@elkinfumc.org)

Beth Darnell, Director of Weekday Programs (bdarnell@elkinfumc.org)

Pat Trexler, Custodian (ptrexler@elkinfumc.org)

George Brown, Assistant Custodian (gbrown@elkinfumc.org)

The deadline for the next issue is 5 pm on Monday, Feb. 6. Submit articles/photos to the Church Office or email office@elkinfumc.org

To receive *The First Word*, send an email to office@elkinfumc.org with *The First Word* in the subject line. In the body, please indicate your method of receiving it: email only, postal mail only or both. Remember, email copies save the church postage and is good stewardship of God's resources.

A close-up photograph of a gold-colored Mardi Gras mask with large eye cutouts, surrounded by colorful streamers (gold, purple, green), beads, and a large gold fleur-de-lis ornament.

Mardi Gras
at Elkin FUMC

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

Pancake Supper - 6 pm
Sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 648

Parade - 6:30 pm
Bring your Mardi Gras mask, hat or umbrella!