

Michael Shuford to Become Next Pastor of Elkin FUMC

The Rev. Michael (Mike) Shuford, currently pastor of First UMC, Sylva, will be appointed as Elkin FUMC's next pastor effective July 1. Shuford, 60, is a graduate of UNC-Asheville (B.A. – 1979), Western Carolina (M.A. – 1983) and received his seminary training at Chandler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. Mike and his wife, Donna have two grown daughters, one of whom will be moving to Boonville. Donna is an assistant teacher in the church pre-school in Sylva.



Rev. Michael A Shuford

In his current position, he led the church in paying down the debt on a Christian Life Center, helped his congregation revamp the missions program to be more a part of the connection and do more significant missions in the community.

Prior to his career as a full-time pastor, Mike served as a part-time local pastor for 20 years and worked as an elementary school counselor for Shelby City Schools for 15 years.

"My heart is set on grace as I understand it in the Wesleyan Spirit," said Shuford. "God has come to us with abundant grace and therefore it is our calling to offer that grace in the same manner Christ has for us."

He has enabled his current church to become more focused and effective in mission in the community through Bible studies, discipleship and "how we react as Christians in our contemporary world."

Mike and Donna will be visiting Elkin in the near future to meet with staff, church leaders and our current pastor. Moving week is set for the first week in July. His first day "on the job" will be Monday, July 10 with his first Sunday preaching on July 16.

During the next two months, Pastor Mark will be working with Mike and our church leadership to ensure a smooth transition. The Vision & Leadership Team, along with the Staff-Parish Relations Team, have already begun to follow the steps outlined by the conference for an orderly transition. The bishop is appointing our current pastor to Central UMC in Shelby.

"I am excited for Elkin FUMC," said Mark. "I know Mike will do a great job in leading this congregation. He will bring gifts and graces that will make this a stronger and better congregation. I am confident you will be in good hands."

Please keep both churches and pastors in your prayers. And, take a moment to welcome your new parsonage family with a card, email or phone call. Michael's contact information is:

How Are United Methodist Pastoral Appointments Made?

Though specifics on making pastoral appointments have varied among conferences through the years, the basic concept has been a part of Methodism since becoming a denomination in America in 1784. Central to United Methodism is the itineracy, the moving of clergy to places where they are needed most.

In the Western North Carolina Conference, consultation begins when district superintendents inquire of both the Staff-Parish Relations Committees (SPRC) and pastors if either wish to discuss a pastoral change for the coming year. Either or both can request a change.

Next, profiles are completed individually by the pastor and the SPRC. If a change is requested, the district superintendent meets with each individually to gain specific information and an understanding of their desires.

The district superintendent takes the profiles to the bishop's cabinet (the bishop and all the district superintendents) where all are reviewed and the process begins of making projected appointments.

This year, pastors and SPRC chairpersons were notified of the projected appointments around April 20 with April 30 set as the date when the appointments could be announced to the congregations and revealed publicly..

The appointments become official when Bishop Paul Leeland "fixes" them at the closing session of the Western NC Annual Conference on June 25.

Many still remember the days when there was no consultative process and appointments were not announced until the last session of annual conference.

"I remember my dad calling home from annual conference to tell us where we were moving," said Mark Barden. "we had no idea where we would move and if we did, it was usually wrong. The old process was always a mystery that could result in either joy or disappointment."

Today's process is much more open following a consultation process. But one thing has not changed: only the bishop has the authority to make an appointment and when it is fixed, it is final.

The appointive system in The United Methodist Church is not perfect, but is far better than some. Churches never have to worry about not having a pastor. Pastors do not have to worry about not having a church. Though every set of appointments may not be ideal, much prayer and consideration are given to match the gifts and graces of each pastor with the vision and needs of each local congregation.

And another thing... appointments are and always have been for one year at a time. There never have been four-year appointments, a popular misconception from years ago when tenure at local churches averaged about four years. Today's trend is for longer appointments with six to eight years as the norm.

Remembering Holy Week and Easter 2017



















From the Bishop

Bishop Leeland Responds to Ruling Against Gay Bishop

The consecration of a gay bishop violates church law, the top court of The United Methodist Church has ruled.

However, the bishop "remains in good standing," the Judicial Council said in Decision 1341, until an administrative or judicial process is completed.

"Under the long-standing principle of legality, no individual member or entity may violate, ignore or negate church law," said the decision, made public April 28. "It is not lawful for the college of bishops of any jurisdictional or central conference to consecrate a self-avowed practicing homosexual bishop."

Western NC Conference Bishop Paul Leeland responded to the news with the statement below to all congregations in the conference:

The United Methodist Church's Judicial Council has been asked by the South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church to determine the constitutionality of the election of Rev. Karen Oliveto as a bishop by the Western Jurisdictional Conference. The deep and diverse opinions expressed throughout our nation regarding sexuality are also presently reflected within our denomination. Since Bishop Oliveto is married to a spouse of the same sex, the validity of her election and consecration as a Bishop of The United Methodist Church has been called into question.

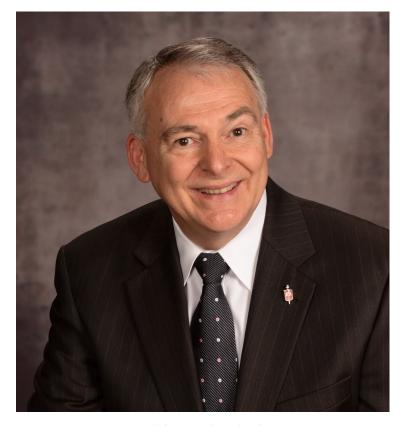
Now that the Judicial Council has made a response and rationale to the request (<u>read here</u>), I wanted to make the following observations:

While persons will react in different ways to this decision, some positively, some negatively, some neutrally, the mission of the local church by the guidance of the Holy Spirit is to help others "accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to live their daily lives in light of their relationship with God" (\P 202).

The ministry of our local churches will not change. The context of our communities will continue to be places which call for ongoing responses to the needs for God's Grace. The Presence of the Resurrected Christ will invite others to find their protection, freedom, and direction in Jesus alone. "The angel of God, who had been leading, now moved and went around behind them" (Ex 14:19). May we truly speak of the ways in which Jesus shields us and leads us to eternal freedom, regardless of the storms and controversies surrounding us. This has been our Easter message!

The Judicial Council has the authority to address specific requests related to the constitutionality of our discipline but does not have the authority to change The Book of Discipline.

The General Conference requested that the Council of Bishops create the Commission on A Way Forward "to examine the paragraphs of The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church."



Bishop Paul Leeland

The Commission on A Way Forward continues to meet and will share its work at a special called session of General Conference, February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri. It is our General Conference that will determine the next steps forward in regard to this divisive dispute.

Like all families, we have family members who do not express themselves as we would wish. In such moments we look for the things that genuinely unite us, that make us family. It is my hope that we can identify these uniting attributes, those elements that hold us together and help us find a Way Forward as those who "accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and live their lives in light of their relationship with God."

I also encourage you to <u>read the statement offered by our Council of Bishops</u> in response to the Judicial Council.

I pray for those who have the responsibility of serving on the Commission on A Way Forward. I invite you to join me in praying for them as well.

Finally, I would encourage you to be a non-anxious presence, trusting in the Providence of God, as you pray for the ministries within our annual conference related to our local churches, districts, youth, retirement homes, colleges, universities, and new places of worship. These Christian ministries are deeply dependent on how we live our "daily lives in light of our relationship with God."

May 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 - Mercy Bible 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	/ENTS—M. Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Junuay	1	2	3	4	5	6 Scouts - Pinewood Derby
7 5:00 PM-Middle School UMYF 06:00 PM-Youth Dinner 6:30 PM-High School UMYF	8	9 7:00 PM- Trustees Mtg.	10	11	12	13
14 No Youth Activities	7:00 PM - Parsonage Team Mtg.	16 6:30 PM- Worship Team Mtg. 7:30 PM-Finance Team Mtg. 8:30 PM - Endowment Team Mtg.	17	18 9:00 AM- Preschool Parents Party	19	20
21 9:45 AM- Prospective Member Class 2:00 PM-Youth attend EHS Play	22 6:00 PM-Scouts - Tiger Graduation 7:00 PM-Missions Team Mtg.		24	25 6:00 PM- Preschool Graduation	26	27
28 Graduation Sunday 10:00 AM- Graduation Breakfast 12:15 PM-Vision & Leadership Team No Youth Activities	29	30	31			

Missions

Little Pantries Fill Big Need in Yadkin Valley

You may have seen around the community little cabinets mounted on posts with food inside free to anyone who is hungry and has nothing to eat. These are part of an effort called, "Helping Hands – Your Neighbors' Pantry," which provides food, personal care products and other items that are needed by those who may not have funds to purchase them.

Of the 8 pantries scattered throughout Yadkin Valley, the one located in front of Elkin City Hall is stocked by Beanie Taylor, one of our neighbors at Chatham Woods. Our Missions Team met with Beanie and decided to support her by supplying personal care products (soap, shampoo, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, shaving cream, etc.) that are not typically available through Tri-C Ministry or available for purchase with food stamps.

"Products for housecleaning and personal hygiene are some of the most important and most expensive items on a grocery list," said Beanie. "For that reason, I have tried to focus my efforts personally on these needs. Sunscreen and toilet paper should not be a luxury."

"Unlike traditional pantries, The Little Pantry is completely anonymous," said Taylor. "No one knows if someone is stopping to drop off or pick items up."

The pantries are always open and require no identification or qualifications. Herb MacDonald will be coordinating our effort and make a collection box to be placed at the administrative entrance soon. The Missions Team is excited about this effort and the opportunity to fill a void that other ministries are not always able to fulfill.



congregation can help with the pantries.

The second and third weeks of the month are when the needs are greatest. Food items with pull-tabs This pantry is located at the or easy to open without a can opener *Elkin City* or scissors are especially needed.

Items that are needed: paper towels, toilet paper, dish detergent, laundry detergent, dryer sheets/ softener, bleach (cleaning and laundry), shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, toothbrushes, tooth paste, sunscreen, soap, razors, lotion, tampons/pads, deodorant and multi-vitamins (kids and adults).

Seasonal items needed are: pencils, pens, notebooks, erasers, crayons, markers and other school items (August). Card games, Beanie Taylor shares with the FUMC Mission Team how our marbles, jacks, plastic action figures/animals, jump ropes, candy, stocking stuffers for Christmas (December).



Hall/Police Department in the median between the parking lots.

Mission Team Plans Impact Community Day on June 3

Make plans now to help our Mission Team make an impact upon our community by volunteering for one of several projects on Impact Community Day on June 3. You are invited to sign up online at http://elkinfumc.org/impact-day or on the board outside the Church Office. Projects include maintenance work on the prayer trail behind the church; weeding, mulching, cleaning

playground equipment and possibly painting at The Ark; weeding and landscaping at the Senior Center in Jonesville; and miscellaneous tasks at Tri-C Ministry. We will not have a trash pick-up due to the faithfulness of Herb MacDonald who keeps Oakland Drive free of liter during his regular walks.

Participants are invited to stop by the church Fellowship Hall between 8:45 and 9 am on the day of the event for coffee and donuts. You can leave from the church to go to the site.

Your support of this effort does make a difference in our community and is greatly appreciated.



Ministry Volunteers

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, May 7

Lav Reader: Jarrett Peterson Children's Time: Amy Johnson

Children's Church: Carrie Morrison, Charlotte Guyer

Acolytes/Chimer: Granger Teachey, Lydia Teachey, Raelin Carter Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Cameron Beals, Emma Aldridge 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

Radio Commentator: Tiger Sloop

Sunday, May 14

Lay Reader: Ray Fencl Children's Time: Cindy Furr Children's Church: Kristi Gaddis

Acolytes/Chimer: Ella Kleinheksel, Cama Ball, Grace Harrison

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Jacob Bellia, Cole 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

Radio Commentator: TBA

Sunday, May 21

Lay Reader: Richard Brinegar Children's Time: Mark Barden Children's Church: Melissa Cline

Acolytes/Chimer: Erika Snider, Alyssa Snider, Paul Brinegar Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Jarrett Peterson, Kelly Husucker

Cross Bearers: Luke Bellia, Kelly Hunsucker

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

Betsy Robertson

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

Bellia, Danny Freeman

Counters: Frank Beals, David & Betsy Robertson

Radio Commentator: Bob Midkiff

Sunday, May 28

Lay Reader: Tiger Sloop Children's Time: Amy Johnson Children's Church: Rachel Eidson

Acolytes/Chimer: Annabelle Walker, Zena Petrocy,

Margaret Freeman

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: Isaac Powell, Zara Petrocy

Greeters: Rob & Gina Peterson, Gambill Aldridge, Sam Tesh Ushers: Gary Conrad, Gerald Combs, Steve Brown, Tiger Sloop,

Randy Hunsucker

Counters: Gambill Aldridge, Margaret Tucker, Steve & Vickie

Wells

Radio Commentator: Frank Beals

STEWARDHIP REVIEW

March 2017

Income: \$24.921.09 Expenses: \$36,649.37 Difference: (\$11,728.28) <u>January - March 2017</u>

Income: \$117,500.72 Expenses: \$99,984.26 Difference: \$17,516.46

SOLID ROCK CAFE

Wednesday, May 3

Menu: Hot Dogs, Chips, Baked Beans Cooking Team Leader: Youth Fundraiser

Dessert: Powell, Harrison, Carroll, MacDonald, McDowell

Wednesday, May 10 Menu: Taco Bar

Cooking Team Leader: Amy Johnson & Chancel Choir **Dessert:** Lowe, Sanders, Andrew, McCrary, Parker, Dent

Wednesday, May 17

Menu: Stuffed Shells, Bread

Cooking Team Leader: David VanAntwerp **Dessert:** Harris, Johnson, Erlandson, Coley, Petrocy

Wednesday, May 24

Menu: Ham, Baked Beans, Slaw, Rolls Cooking Team Leader: Greta Wallace

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

Wednesday, May 31

Menu: Covered Dish Meal

Dessert: Furr, Robertson, Tucker, Barden

Each week also includes Salad and Peanut Butter & Jelly

Sandwiches.

CHOIR SNACKS

4 yrs – K: Tuesday - 2:45 pm

May 2 - Addison May 9 - Wyatt May 16 - Benjamin

May 23 - Olivia G. May 30 - Olivia B.

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

May 3 - Webb, Raelin May 10 - Ava, Emma May 17 - Erika, Alyssa

May 24 - Lucas K.

MAY MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 9, 7:00 pm (Library)

Youth Ministry Team

Monday, May 15, 6:30 pm (Library)

Parsonage Committee

Monday, May 15, 7 pm (Parsonage)

Worship Ministry Team

Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 pm (Library)

Finance Team

Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 pm (Library)

Endowment Team

Tuesday, May 16, 8:30 pm (Library)

Missions Team

Monday, May 22, 7:00 pm (Library)

Vision & Leadership Team

Sunday, May 28, 12:15 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Announcements & Reminders

USHERS NEEDED: Have you ever wondered how you can serve Elkin FUMC occasionally? Now that opportunity exists. Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers on a rotating basis. For more information, contact Ben Wallace at the church office.

HOT DOG DINNER TO BENEFIT YOUTH MISSIONS:

The next youth fundraiser for missions is a Hot Dog Dinner on Wednesday, May 3, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Hot Dogs with all the fix'ins, baked beans, chips, salad and peanut butter/jelly sandwiches are on the menu. Additional donations will be accepted at the dinner.

ARBOR ACRES SPECIAL OFFERING: On Sunday, May 14 the United Methodist Churches in the Western North Carolina Conference will be taking a special Mother's Day Offering for Arbor Acres, a United Methodist Retirement Community in Winston-Salem. This offering supports the financial assistance ministry at Arbor Acres, currently generating 30% of the Annual Fund income. More info will be in the bulletin on May 8 or you may visit www.arboracres.org. Please make checks payable to "Elkin FUMC" and memo that it's for "Arbor Acres."

STEPS RENOVATION: The Trustees are moving on to the next capital project, renovation of the steps and walkway in front of the main entrance to the Sanctuary. Work will begin as soon as we raise the funds to complete the project, which will take approximately \$23,000. Prayerfully consider a contribution and designate it for the Capital Fund. For more information, contact Steve Wells, Trustees Chairperson (stevenwlls990@gmail.com).

TRI-C DONATIONS: Crisco Sticks and Cooking Oil are the needed items for May. Deposit these items and any non-perishable food items or toiletries in the basket under the table at the administrative entrance.

BACKPACK PROGRAM NEEDS DONATIONS: The church is collecting food donations for the Elkin City Schools Backpack Program. Suggested items are: flip top canned

BIBLE SUPERHEORES You can be a HERO, too! June 25-29

Sunday: 5:00-7:00 pm Kick-off Cookout & Swim at Elkin Park Pool



Monday - Thursday: 5:30-8 pm

Worship, Music, Games, Science, Service & Stories

Weather permitting, this will be an outdoor VBS, incorporating our worship area and prayer trail. We will need pop-up canopies for our supper tent and station areas—may we borrow yours?

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Please contact Amy Johnson at the church office: 336-835-2323 or by email: ajohnson@elkinfumc.org.

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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 3 - Jack Turner

May 4 - Jane Lowe

May 5 - Catherine Schumak

May 7 - Steve Erlandson

May 8 - Jennifer Martin Brown, Holly Crater

May 12 - Glenda Brown, Ann Foster

May 14 - Betsy Brendle

May 15 - Janet Adams, John Kennedy III

May 16 - Ginny Mackie

May 17 - Ryan Grider, Jillian Lewis, Darren Pelkey

May 18 - Allen Sanders

May 19 - John Kennedy Jr., Mike Powell

May 21 - Lenna Hobson

May 24 - Jarrett Peterson

May 25 - Brian Carroll

May 27 - Chris Chatham

May 28 - Jim Jenkins, Bob Midkiff

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 2 - David & Betsy Robertson

May 5 - Marc & Tammy Ammen

May 6 - Mike & Carol McDowell

May 7 - Ty & Emily Tucker

May 8 - Steve & Betsy Brendle

May 9 - Dan & Sallie Park, John & Betty Sapper

May 14 - Steve & Vickie Wells

May 15 - Al & Jane Sartain

May 19 - Rob & Gina Peterson

May 22 - Alan & Billie Payne

May 27 - Mark & Barbara Barden

May 30 - Carey & Cindy Bruton

PRAYER CONCERNS

Church Family: Bliss Vanderpool, Ann Graham, Sam Tesh, Holly Gambill, Betty Tesh, Rev. Paul McCauley, Sallie Park, Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhaiat, Ray Fencl, Linda Maxey, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Greta Wallace, Bill Amburn, Glenda Brown, Donovan Maines, nursing home residents & homebound

Extended Care: Jim Cockerham, Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Jenny Brown, Frances Harris

Extended Family: Hattie Ford, Ruth Deck, Aileen Sparks, Sarah Jarvis, John Seats, Vickie Key, Richard Sparks, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, McKenzie Barneycastle, Clifford Jordan, Rick Gallimore, Ronnie Ray, Lelia Carico, Nada Sheets, Lana Craft, Gertrude Hamm, Emily Stewart, Andess Weishaupt, Ethan Spencer, Shirley Williams, Tim, James Sebastian, Dick Bailey, Family of Linda Perkins, Anne Marlette, Clyde Snyder, Family of Lois Billings, Florence Leveritt, Ana Garciana, James Sebastian

All of our military personnel and their families

PLACE STAMP HERE



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Fax: 336-835-8035

Website: www.elkinfumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/elkinfumc

Email: office@elkinfumc.org

Church Staff:

Rev. Mark L. Barden, Pastor (mbarden@wnccumc.net)
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)

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.

Experience visual art as a means to deepen spirituality

The classes are completed. The proposal has been approved. Now, Pastor Mark Barden needs help from the congregation with his doctoral project to complete



requirements for the D. Min. degree from Wesley Theological Seminary. He is inviting persons who are interested in exploring visual art as a means to deepen their spirituality to participate in a series of workshops and a mini-retreat to be held in late May/early June.

You do not have to possess artistic skills,

only a desire to learn and experiment. The program is built around the concept that as co-creators with God, we have been gifted with a sense of creativity to engage in artistic media in ways that draw us closer to God and enrich our spiritual lives. The process designed by Pastor Mark will include explorations into art, Christianity and spirituality and provide an experiential component to "dabble" in visual art to see what God can reveal. This non-threatening approach is not about creating the "right" piece of art. It is more about listening to the Spirit and see what the artist and God can create together. Yes, you really are an artist!

If you are interested in more information or would like to participate, please contact Pastor Mark as soon as possible. If you know of someone in the community that would be interested, feel free to invite them as well. He may be contacted via email at mbarden@wnccumc.net or at 336-466-0884. This is a great opportunity to both learn and contribute to developing a greater use of visual art in cultivating a closer relationship with God.

Are you interested in becoming a member of Elkin FUMC?

Join us for the next Prospective Member Orientation.

Sunday, May 21, 9:45 am Church Library

For more information, contact:
Rev. Mark Barden
mbarden@wnccumc.net or 336-466-0884