

## Connect with God through Visual Art

Visual art was an extremely important component of early Christian spirituality. Unfortunately, those of us in the Protestant tradition moved away from engagement of visual art in nurturing spiritual growth to using the spoken or written word predominantly. Pastor Mark Barden's work in his doctoral program will focus on visual art and how it can help one deepen one's spiritual relationship with God. To provide a basis for his dissertation, he is offering a short-term course, "Connecting with God through Visual Art," in three different congregational settings. The first congregation offered this opportunity is Elkin FUMC.

The course begins with an afternoon/early evening mini-retreat on Sunday, May 28, 3-8 pm at the church focusing on our being co-creators with God. Topic sessions will be held Tuesday, May 30, 6-8:30 pm (Role of Visual Art in Christianity); Thursday, June 1, 6-8:30 pm (Aesthetics and Concepts of Beauty); Sunday, June 4, 2-4:30 pm (Spiritual Disciplines Using Visual Art); Tuesday, June 6, 6-8:30 pm (Creating Art in an Atmosphere of Prayer); and Thursday, June 8, 6-8:30 pm (Incorporating the Discipline of Artistic Expression into One's Spiritual Life). A closing day-long retreat will be held Saturday, June 17.

In addition to the topical presentation, each gathering will include a significant time for experiential engagement with visual art as individuals and as a group. This interactive experience will utilize multiple techniques to help individuals connect with God spiritually.

Persons interested in participating do not need to possess artistic talent, only a desire to learn and openness to experiment. Participants need to plan attending all sessions including the mini-retreat and day-long retreat. This is important to the research taking place through these experiences.

There is no cost for the course or the meals that will be served each time. Basic art supplies will be provided. The only "cost" is attendance at each session.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Mark at [mbarden@wncumc.net](mailto:mbarden@wncumc.net) or 336-466-0884 by Monday, May 22 if you have not already done so. Feel free to contact him with questions or for further information.



*It is time to make sure the Prayer Trail is in top condition for spring and summer hiking. You can help by participating in this year's Impact Community Day on June 3. The Prayer Trail is open to the community and is a great place to pray, meditate and commune with God in the beautiful natural surroundings.*

## Project List Updated For Impact Community Day

Impact Community Day is incorporating a few new features this year. With the addition of maintenance of the prayer trail behind the church and cleaning the storage area for Habitat for Humanity, the Light of Christ going out into the community continues to grow.

Participants of all ages are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45 am on Saturday, June 3 for coffee and donuts. Groups will head out to various sites around 9 am. If you wish to participate, please sign up on the sheets posted on the hallway bulletin board or sign up online at <http://elkinfumc.org/impact-day>.

Projects for Impact Community Day include:

- Prayer Trail Maintenance - FUMC
- Storage Area Cleaning - Habitat for Humanity ReStore
- Landscaping - Senior Center, Jonesville
- Assorted Tasks - Tri-C
- Landscaping, Playground Clean-up, Painting - The Ark

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Get your peanuts and Cracker Jacks and come out to BB&T Ballpark as The Winston-Salem Dash plays against the Wilmington Blue Rocks on Saturday, June 3 at 4:00 pm. Following the game Christian artist Sidewalk Prophets will perform a free concert for all fans in attendance. The bus/van will depart the church parking lot at 2:45 pm for anyone who would like to ride. Tickets to the game are \$10 each. Please give cash or checks (payable to Elkin FUMC) to Cindy Furr, Amy Johnson or Ben Wallace by Wednesday, May 24 at 8:00 pm.

*A New Way To Give to Elkin FUMC*

**PayPal**  
Giving Fund

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/221649>

*100% of your donation comes to the church*

# Announcements & Reminders

**PROSPECTIVE MEMBER ORIENTATION:** Have you been visiting First UMC and would like to know more about becoming a member? If so, an orientation class for prospective members will be held Sunday, May 21 at 9:45 am in the Library. Rev. Barden will be sharing and answering questions about church membership. Join us! If you are not able to attend and would like to become a member, please contact Pastor Mark.

**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.

**GRADUATION SUNDAY — MAY 28:** In preparation for honoring our graduates on Sunday, May 28, we need information on all our graduates. If you or someone in your family (a church member) is graduating from high school or college this spring please contact Ben Wallace (bwallace@elkinfumc.org or 835-2323.) We also would like to have two photos of each graduate (first grade and current) along with the graduate's name, school, degree, major and plans for the future. Please send info to Ben by Thursday, May 18.

**TRI-C DONATIONS NEEDED:** 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.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Mark your calendar, VBS will be held June 25-29, 5:30-8:00 pm. 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? For more info or to volunteer please contact Amy Johnson at the church office (336-835-2323 or ajohnson@elkinfumc.org).

**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).

**PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS NEEDED:** 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. There are 8 of these pantries spread throughout the Yadkin Valley. Herb MacDonald has created a collection box located at the administrative entrance. Items needed include: shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, razors, feminine products, etc. A full list of needed items can be found next to the collection box.

## 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 Elkhayat, Ray Fencil, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Greta Wallace, Bill Amburn, Glenda Brown, nursing home residents & homebound

**Extended Care:** Jim Cockerham, Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Jenny Brown, Frances Harris, Mary Neil, Linda Maxey

**Extended Family:** Ruth Deck, Aileen Sparks, John Seats, Richard Sparks, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, Clifford Jordan, Ronnie Ray, Lelia Carico, Nada Sheets, Lana Craft, Emily Stewart, Ethan Spencer, Tim, Dick Bailey, Anne Marlette, Clyde Snyder, Family of Lois Billings, Florence Leveritt, Ana Garciana, Family of James Sebastian

**All of our military personnel and their families**

## Upcoming Meetings

### Youth Ministry Team

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

### Worship Ministry Team

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

### Finance Team

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

### Children's Min. Team

Sunday, May 21, 2:00 pm (Library)

### Missions Team

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

### Vision & Leadership Team

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

**IMPACT  
COMMUNITY**  
Saturday, June 3 ■ 8:45 am  
Elkin First United Methodist Church

Church Office: 336-835-2323  
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@wncumc.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)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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