



The First Word



First United Methodist Church

August 3, 2017

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“He leadeth me on the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” Psalm 23:3

The Shepherd’s Psalm, or Psalm 23 as we know it, is a perennial favorite of Christians of all denominations and probably the passage of scripture that most of us know the best. Yet, how many of us have truly closely examined these cherished phrases for what they really mean? I could preach for a month or two just on these 6 verses, but allow me to resist that temptation here and just nibble a bit on one morsel rather than set the whole feast.

Sheep are skittish animals that on the fight or flight continuum max out pretty much on the flight end, ready to flee from any possible danger. It is the shepherd’s job to protect the sheep from anything or anyone that might harm them as well as any dangers they might cause themselves. The sheep know the voice of their shepherd and will follow only that voice and no other as Jesus reminded his disciples.

Once on a family outing to my dad’s home place in Yancey County, NC, I took off into the woods fancying myself as quite the woodsman to rival Daniel Boone. Somehow in those unfamiliar woods, I got disoriented and did not know where to turn to get out of those woods and back with my family. My ten-year-old heart was getting close to panic, when suddenly I heard my dad’s voice, and followed THAT voice. It was amazing to me to realize how close he really had been to me the entire time.

Life holds an abundance of fearful moments when we are disoriented and have no clue as to which way to turn or how to extract ourselves from certain unpleasant situations. The Psalmist reminds us to listen for the voice of our shepherd, guardian, protector, and comforter. If only we will stop long enough to listen carefully, we may find that our shepherd has never been far away from us at all and the only thing that has created even the smallest of distances is our own roaming, our own overconfidence in our own abilities.

Never forget to listen for your shepherd’s voice.

Shalom, Pastor Mike

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE SET FOR AUGUST 22

Open House for the Preschool will be held on Tuesday, August 22 from 5:00-7:00 pm. The first day of school will be Tuesday, September 5.

We have a few spots available. Registration information is available from Beth Darnell or online at <http://elkinfumc.org/weekday-registration>.

SOLID ROCK CAFÉ RESUMES AUGUST 30

Join us on August 30 as we kick off fall activities at FUMC.

We will have inflatables on the front lawn for the kids to play on from 5:30-7:30 pm. Peter and George will be grilling hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages for dinner at 6:00 pm (in the Fellowship Hall).

Ministry Volunteers

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM will be meet on Monday, August 7 at 2:30 pm in the Library. If you would like to join our team in visiting homebound members please come to the meeting.

TRI-C DONATIONS NEEDED: Tooth Paste is the needed item for August. They are also accepting Bibles to give out to clients. Deposit tooth paste, Bibles, and any non-perishable food items or toiletries in the basket under the table at the administrative entrance.

LAITY SERVICE AWARD: The Laity Service Award is promoted by the WNCB Board of Laity as a means of recognizing a deserving lay person (youth or adult) whose work in the local church and community exemplifies a life of Christian stewardship. The recipient from our church will be honored during a district-wide celebration being held at Millers Creek UMC on Sunday October 15 from 3-5 pm. If you would like to nominate someone from our church please pick up a Nomination Form from the table outside of the Church Library. Please return forms to Pastor Mike by Sunday, August 20.

LAY SERVANT TRAINING: Lay Servant Training is an opportunity for youth and adults to learn about ways to serve in the United Methodist Church. If you were unable to attend the Appalachian District training in May you are invited to attend the training being offered in September by the Catawba Valley District. Training will be held on Sunday evenings at Bradley Memorial UMC in Gastonia. For more information contact Ben Wallace or Pastor Mike in the Elkin FUMC Church Office or visit <http://wncbumc.org/lay-servant-ministries>. Deadline to register is August 24.

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).

CHURCH PICNIC IN THE MOUNTAINS: Our annual church picnic at Phyllis Qualheim's mountain home will be held on Sunday, August 27. We will eat around 5:30-6:00 pm. Feel free to come any time after lunch to swim in the lake or play on the beach area. Just bring food to share and folding chairs, blankets, etc. to sit on. Tea and paper products will be provided.

Directions to Phyllis' mountain home:

Take Highway 21 toward Sparta

After you go under Parkway Bridge, take the first paved road to the left
(Pull Tail Road/County Road 1111)

Approximately 1.5 miles on the right is Araniska Road (County Road 1112)

Pass through the open gate...Phyllis' house is the first house on the left

AUGUST MEETINGS

Congregational Care Team

Monday, August 7, 2:30 pm (Library)

Trustees

Tuesday, August 8, 7:00 pm (Library)

Worship Ministry Team

Tuesday, August 15, 6:30 pm (Library)

Finance Team

Tuesday, August 15, 7:30 pm (Library)

Missions Team

Monday, August 28, 7:00 pm (Library)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, August 6

Youth Mission Sunday

Children's Church: Stacey Carter

Greeters: UMYF Members

Ushers: UMYF Members

Counters: Dave Johnson, Gardner & Lauren Meek

Sunday, August 13

Lay Reader: Tom Gwyn

Children's Church: Mary Keller

Acolytes/Chimer: TBA

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: TBA

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

Ushers: Dan Park, Steve Wells, David VanAntwerp, George Crater

Counters: Mike Powell, Andy & Ann Garner

Sunday, August 20

Lay Reader: Jane Hazelman

Children's Church: Jennifer Kleinheksel

Acolytes/Chimer: TBA

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: TBA

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

Sunday, August 27

Lay Reader: Claire Grider

Children's Church: Carrie Morrison, Charlotte Guyer

Acolytes/Chimer: TBA

Crucifer/Banner Bearer: TBA

Greeters: Rob & Gina Peterson, Gambill Aldridge, Jennifer Martin Brown, Sam Tesh

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

Counters: Gambill Aldridge, Margaret Tucker, Steve & Vickie Wells

Congregational Care

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1 - Brooklyn Kleinheksel, Dennis Thompson
 August 2 - Jeff Eidson, Hugh Turner, George Brown
 August 3 - Ed Chappell
 August 4 - Robert Ball Jr
 August 7 - John Caudle, David Cline, Ben Erlandson
 August 8 - Harper Maines
 August 10 - Jerre Boren, Tonya Smith
 August 11 - Darlene Love
 August 13 - Eris Ball, Jennifer Chatham, Sebastian Cline,
 Omeiga Seaford, Phebe Eller
 August 15 - Stephanie Caudle
 August 16 - Carson Rose Canter
 August 18 - Jane Dale
 August 19 - Wayne Coe
 August 20 - Rande Dent
 August 21 - James Brendle, Tom Bryan, Robin Turner
 August 22 - Eli Powell
 August 24 - Damon Chappell
 August 25 - Ann Neaves, Ben Wallace
 August 26 - Heston Canter, Jill Chatham, Tammy Coley,
 Piper Lewis, Gina Peterson
 August 28 - Thomas James, Tyler Ammen
 August 29 - Jim Teachey, Blair Collie
 August 30 - Barbara Meek, Beckett Willis
 August 31 - Jill Bellia, Paige Nance

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, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Bill Amburn, Glenda Brown, Ercel Carter, PJ Elkhaiat, Dan Park, Isaac Powell, Brian Carroll, 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, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, Clifford Jordan, Ronnie Ray, Nada Sheets, Emily Stewart, Ethan Spencer, Anne Marlette, Clyde Snyder, Florence Leverett, Ana Garciana, Steve McLain, Betty Jordan, Linda Caudill, Jeff Miltner, Kristan Seaford, Sharon and Brad Watterson, Pierce & Aishling, Lonnie Snider, Priscilla Smith, Marc Bishop, Family of Bill McAllister, Family of Rev. Bill Brown, Lynn & Dale Rose, Elaine Mason

All of our military personnel and their families

OUR SYMPATHY

Sympathy is expressed to the Family of Rev. Bill Brown who passed away on July 22. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, August 6 at 3:00 pm in the Elkin FUMC Sanctuary. Please keep Jewell, George and the rest of the family in your prayers.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the men of the church who donated ties for Mark's quilt. I hope everyone realized that all the beautiful colors on the front of the quilt were bits of neckties! You were so generous that I had enough necktie fabric left to make another quilt, so I did. The second quilt will be used as a fundraiser for the Ark. Look for it this fall at Wednesday night suppers and be ready to make a generous donation and perhaps it will be yours!

Many thanks, Carol McDowell

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries Sunday Set For August 27



On August 27 we will celebrate Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM) and receive a special offering along with in all the churches in the Western North Carolina Conference.

Jesus reminds us to be in ministry to the least of these and specifically names the prisoner as one in need of ministry. DBOM grew from a call to take Disciple Bible Study to prison. The first Disciple prison class took place in the fall of 1995. Today, thousands of inmates have taken Disciple Bible Study in North Carolina prisons and hundreds of local church volunteers have taught behind prison walls.

Your support is critical to this ongoing work. The special offering is DBOM of North Carolina's largest single source of yearly support. For more information about DBOM visit www.disciplebibleoutreach.org.

Please make your check payable to "Elkin FUMC" and mark that it's for "DBOM."

An Easy Way To Give To Elkin FUMC
PayPal
 Giving Fund

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

100% of your donation comes to the church



First United Methodist Church

PO Box 69 ▪ 340 Hawthorne Road ▪ Elkin, NC 28621

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE STAMP HERE

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. Michael A. Shuford, Pastor (mshuford@elkinfumc.org)
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.

Christmas Boxes, Other Items Needed for Project AGAPE



It is time to fill boxes for the AGAPE Christmas box project. Children in Armenia are always thrilled to receive the boxes from their North Carolina friends. Empty boxes with lists of appropriate contents are available in the on the table outside of the church library.

In addition to Christmas boxes Project AGAPE is always in need of other items.

Please return all items to the church by Sunday, September 17.



The following are some of the items that can be accepted for Project AGAPE shipments to Armenia:

- * Bedding (new/used)
* Clothing (new/used)
* Clothing Accessories
* Carpentry & tools
* Coats (new/used)
* Computer equipment
* Children's Christmas Boxes
* Health/Hygiene Items
* Household Items
* Infant Items
* Kitchenware
* Medical Equipment
* Office Supplies
* School Supplies
* Sewing Supplies
* Shoes (New Only)
* Toys (New Only)
* Uniforms

The following items can no longer be accepted for shipments to Project AGAPE:

- * Food (including candy and gum)
* Furniture or large appliances
* Any items with batteries included
* Medical supplies or medicines
* Clothing that is worn, torn, or dirty
* Anything that is broken or needs repair