



The Story

April 2018

310 S. Main Street, Lexington NC 27292 • www.fumclex.org • 336-248-2886

From the Pastor's Corner

Just a little shy of four years ago, I decided to “take up residence” in the old pastor’s study in the back corner of the sanctuary, near the chancel area. And I decided to call my contributions to The Story “The Pastor’s Corner”. While I still need to clear my stuff from that office, this will be my last entry from the pastor’s corner, since as of Monday, April 2, I am on leave of absence.

I never wanted Easter to be my last Sunday preaching, but what a day it was. I got to baptize three beautiful children (thanks to the Mabe and Bowers families), bring a family into the membership of the local church, celebrate and serve Holy Communion to over 400 people, and preach a message that I hope flowed not just from my heart, but also from the heart of God. It brought tears of sadness and joy to look out across the room and see people that mean so much to me and my family, here at FUMC and from across our years of ministry in the Western North Carolina. As my friend Rob Fuquay told his congregation in Indiana Sunday morning, “nothing will keep Jamie away this Easter, because the belief in resurrection and life eternal has been the driving force behind his faith, and the sustaining force on this journey, and the comforting hope as they walk through the valley of shadows.”

If you’ve got to go, what a great way to go!

Surrounded by extended family and dear friends, we continued our Easter celebration with 17 people at the house for lunch. Elizabeth was able to be around everyone for a short while, and she was able to visit with them individually from her bed, before I had to take her back to the hospital again Sunday evening.

Four years ago, I told you in my first sermon that I knew God sent me to First Lexington. I still know that to be true today. Nothing has changed. Maybe you needed me. Maybe I needed you. Maybe we needed each other. And you have been the embodiment of Christ in our lives, especially in this past year.

Just as surely as I know God sent me here, I know God has called me elsewhere, to be with Elizabeth for all the days and nights we have left together. As her recurrent cancer continues to progress, I suspect that will be far shorter than we could have ever imagined, and certainly shorter than we want, but I am committed to cherishing every moment with her. And my life is all about loving and caring for her until the last breath comes and she rests in the arms of Jesus forever.

I still covet your prayers. I still depend on your strength. And I still dream about how God is going to use FUMC in this community and beyond. You will never be far from my heart! So as I leave the corner, I leave you with two simple thoughts: Love God with everything you have, and love your neighbors (all of them) like your life depended on it. And if you continue to do that, in the end, everything will be OK.

Until we meet again...

Jamie Armstrong
jarmstrong1@wnccumc.net
828-292-3966 (cell phone)

(This email and cell phone will travel with me for the rest of my life. And, we will continue to receive mail at the Lexington parsonage at least until early June)

A Note from the Staff Parish Relations Committee

Please join our committee in welcoming Rev. Fred Jordan who will be serving in a supportive role for our church until our next senior minister arrives in July. You may recognize Fred as one of our guest ministers from last summer. We are blessed to have Fred serve our church during the months of April, May, and June.

Fred is highly qualified as a retired elder of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. He has served as chair of the conference board of ordained ministry, chair of the board of managers of the NC Pastor's School at Duke University, vice president of the board of pensions, a church growth consultant, a district superintendent and cabinet secretary, and for twenty years an instructor in the licensing school for local pastors. He has also served as a trustee of Brevard College and a member of the board of directors of Givens Estates, Arbor Acres, UMAR, and the Wesley Foundation at Appalachian State University. He has a strong commitment to Christian education in the outdoors and his last episcopal appointment was as the conference coordinator of camping ministries. Fred is an adjunct professor at Hood University in Salisbury with expertise in United Methodist polity, evangelism, and church administration & leadership.



Sign-Up to Host a Table for the Ladies' Tea



Committee Members and Benefactors providing **all** food, favors, and gifts. **There will be no hostess expense other than what you want to spend on your table.** If you have questions before you sign-up, please contact: Gay Smith 336-479-3822 or G. F. Smith 336-596-9563 • **Sign-Up at the Volunteer's Desk. Hostess' Responsibilities:** Sell 6-8 tickets (\$10 each) (including yourself) and **Set up** your table for 6-8 ladies (**arrive early on Saturday, May 5**)

2018 Ladies Tea Committee: Gay Smith, G. F. Smith, Judy Roberts and Rachel Roberts



Friends of the Lexington Library ANNUAL BOOK SALE

April 12-14 at the Library Annex (612 S. Main Street)

Choose from more than 10,000 books! 100% donated! Not picked over!

Prices: \$0.50—\$5.00

For Members: Thursday, April 12 (4p-7:30p) • Memberships available at the door • **For General Public:** Friday, April 13 (9a-5:30p), Saturday, April 14 (9a-Noon) Bag Sale: Saturday, April 14 (1p-3p)

Gold City Sunday, April 22

Nationally known Southern gospel quartet from Gadsden, Alabama and 2017 Gospel Music Hall of Fame inductee will join us:

10:00a - Concert in the sanctuary

11:00a - Worship Service

(featuring the music of Gold City)

Listen to "Victory In Jesus" and "I'm Not Giving Up" on our website.



Called Charge Conference Notice

Authorization from Rev. Laura Auten, Uwharrie District Superintendent, has been given for First UMC to have a Called Charge Conference. The conference is to be **Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 12:00 pm (immediately following worship).**

The charge conference is for the sole purpose of considering a proposal that the church create a new endowment fund which is designed to support the operating costs of First UMC. No agenda, other than that stated in the call, is to be considered.

A copy of the minutes of the Conference will be sent to the District Office for inclusion in their records.

All First UMC members are welcome to attend the Conference.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL 2018

Worship

Early Worship

1st & 3rd Sundays at 8:30a
Sanctuary

2nd & 4th Sundays at 8:30a
Fellowship Hall

Morning Worship

Each Sunday at 11:00a
Sanctuary

Sunday School

All Ages at 9:45a

Children's Ministries

Staffed Child Care

Birth—5 years
Both Worship Services and
Sunday School (Children's
Ministry Area, Ground Floor)

We Worship with the Children

Each Sunday during the 11:00a
Morning Worship Service

Children's Worship

Each Sunday following *We
Worship with the Children*.
K-3rd graders are invited to
follow the Worship Leader to
the Children's Ministry Area,
Ground Floor.

April 1 Amanda Bostick

April 8 Christa Weeks

April 15 Laurie Briggs

April 22 Emy Garrett

April 29 Jane Hedrick

Children's Ministry (K-1st-2nd)

Wednesdays (6:30p-7:30p)

Children's Ministry Area
Ground Floor

HIS Club (3rd-4th-5th)

Wednesdays (6:30p-7:30p)

Children's Ministry Area
Ground Floor

UPCOMING Sermons

Sunday, April 8

The Unexpected Guest
John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 15

Close Encounters
Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 22

And Then Some
John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 29

Belonging to the Vine
John 15:1-8

Sermons are posted by date
on our website:

Click on **Worship**

Click on **Sermon Library** in
the drop down menu

Click on [date of sermon](#)

Weekly Group Meetings

Youth Choir

Sunday, April 22 at 4:30p

Sunday, April 29 at 4p

Teens of Life Youth Ministry

Sundays at 5p

Youth/Scout House

Boy Scouts & Venturers

Mondays at 7p

Youth/Scout House

Theology Pub

Tuesdays at 7p

High Rock Outfitters

Prayer Breakfast

Wednesdays at 7:45a

Cagney's Restaurant

Chancel Bells Rehearsal

Wednesdays at 6p

Bell Room

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays at 7p

Choir Room

Men's Devotion & Fellowship

Thursdays at 7:45a

Biscuit King on Main Street

Mid-Week Family Fellowship

Wednesdays at 6p

Fellowship Hall

Adults \$6 Child \$4

Family \$20 (maximum)

April 4

**Spring Break—No meal or
program**

April 11

Menu: Chicken Breast

Program: North Davidson

Jazz Combo

April 18

Menu: Meatloaf

Program: ALIVE Praise Band

April 25

Menu: Hamburgers & Hotdogs

Program: Fellowship will be
outside-- weather permitting

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

**We will return in
September!**

UPCOMING Events

UMW Uwharrie District

Event—Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, April 21 (9:30a-11:30a)

First UMC Albemarle

Gold City

Sunday, April 22

(10a) Concert in the Sanctuary

(11a) Worship Service—

featuring the music of

Gold City

Monthly Meetings

Choral Society Rehearsals

Monday, April 9, 16, 23

Thursday, April 26
(6p-9:30p) Sanctuary

Trustees

Sunday, April 8 (7p)

Parlor

Evangelism

Monday, April 9 (6p)

Conference Room

United Methodist Women

Group 2

Tuesday, April 10 (10a)

Parlor

United Methodist Women

Group 12

Tuesday, April 10 (7p)

Fellowship Hall

Davidson Prison Ministry

Thursday, April 12 (12p)

Parlor

Newsletter Articles Due

April 15 for April Issue

United Methodist Men

Sunday, April 15 (8:30a)

Fellowship Hall

Finance

Sunday, April 15 (7p)

Parlor

Serve meal at Crisis

Ministries

Tuesday, April 17 (5:45p)

Koinonia Sunday School

Contact: John McWhorter/
Kathy Hester

Called Charge Conference

Sunday, April 22 (12:15p)

Sanctuary

Amazing Grace Seekers

Tuesday, April 24 (7p)

Home of Lynn Rowe

Faithseekers Gathering

Thursday, April 26 (6:30p)

Home of Donna Smith

Administrative Council

Thursday, April 26 (7p)

To Be Announced

Calendar Events are subject to change—Refer to the Weekly Calendar in the bulletin or visit us
on the web at www.firstumclex.org

Member Care Birthday Card Ministry

Let us joyfully unite to remember the birthdays of our shut-ins and nursing home residents. Card collection baskets are located near the 4th Avenue entrance and the main hallway near the workroom. Pastor Doug will personally deliver the cards to these dear folks.



April 29—Isabel Trimpey



Sunday, April 29 (3:00p) First UMC Sanctuary
Lexington Choral Society **Spring Sing**



Third Annual Ladies Tea

Saturday, May 5
(2:00p-4:00p) ♥ Fellowship Hall
Spring is the Time for New Beginnings
Tickets: \$10

(Proceeds benefit Open Hands Ministry)

Guest Speaker: Sandy Blackburn
An Evangelist, author and a gifted speaker. She and her husband

Deric live in the small bedroom community of Welcome, North Carolina. She has graciously been given the gift of writing and readily shares her life, which is rich in trials, with anyone who will listen. Her joy is contagious and God opens doors for her to share His abundant blessings in her life. Simplicity is her mainstay in her walk with God, both in writing and speaking. "He made it simple enough for a child to understand and He made it simple enough for a country girl like me" she often shares. Her devotionals will stir the spirit deep within you as you recognize that God speaks through this simple country girl who is but a cracked pot in the Hands of the Master Potter. Sandy has crossed denominational lines to speak in a myriad of churches, ladies banquets, prayer breakfasts, and senior's groups. She has been the keynote speaker in several Women's Conferences in both Ohio and North Carolina.

Mother's Day Bulletin

This year, the Mother's Day bulletin is sponsored by Teens of Life Youth Ministry. Please submit your donation with a completed form provided in upcoming bulletins to the church office **no later than Monday, May 7**. Your kind donations will benefit service projects and group activities throughout the year, as well as their mission trip to Belize.



Triad Taste & Silent Auction Tuesday, May 1 (5:30p—8:00p)

RCR Event Center, 425 Industrial Way, Welcome, NC - Enjoy food & beverages from local restaurants while supporting people with developmental disabilities.



Tickets: \$15 per person (includes admission & 5 food tickets)
Additional food tickets available for purchase.

Contact Libby Samuels for tickets!

Meet: Honorary Chair FOX8's Kate Garner

Vacation Bible School Registration

We are accepting registration forms now for

Vacation Bible School

Registration Forms located at the Volunteer's Desk and online www.fumclex.org

Event KICK-OFF: Sunday, JUNE 10 (TBA)

Dates: **JUNE 11 - JUNE 14**

Time: **(5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.)**

Location: **First UMC**

Questions?: Amanda Bostick (336-596-1363)



Children's Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt



Thank you to the Teens of Life Youth Ministry for hiding the Easter eggs!

Teens of Life Youth Ministry Events & Happenings

Youth Choir—April 22 & 29

Youth Sunday—May 6

Sunday, April 1	Easter Sunday—No meeting—Enjoy time with your family!
Sunday, April 8	(5p-6p) CREED Series or movie
Sunday, April 15	(5p-6p) CREED Series or movie
Saturday, April 22	(4:30p) Youth Choir, Choir Room (5p—6p) Planning for Youth Sunday/Games
Sunday, April 29	(4p) Youth Choir, Choir Room (4:30p-6:30p) Belize Planning @ FBC includes dinner

For more information about Teens of Life Youth Ministry:
Lee Mabe, Director of Youth Ministry 336-248-2886 or maestromabe@gmail.com

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We're on the web!

www.fumclex.org



Sympathy

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to Jill Michener and family upon the death of her mother, Pam Zloty on March 31, 2018.

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to Cameron Craver Voisin and family upon the death of her mother, Debra Craver on April 8, 2018.

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to Lacy Carol Belcher and family upon the death of her son, Robert Belcher, Jr. on April 8, 2018.

Prayer Requests

Kathy Baragona
Doug Clayton
June Craver
Linda Fisher
John & Judy Hench
Earl Hester
Martha Highsmith
Miheepa Jones
Susan Terry Jones
Jim Ragan
John Scarff
Donna Smith
Gay Smith
Paul Smith
Dare Wilson

Shut-Ins

Dot Kinsey
Caroline McCree
Evelyn Sink

Piedmont Crossing

Health Care

Margaret McCrary Carver
Barbara Proctor
Margaret Ragan

Residents

Jo Doris Beck
Herman & Naoma Crabtree
Richard & Camille Lawrence
Madelaine Palmer
Jim Ragan
Nancy Wilkinson

Alston-Brook

Isabelle Trimpey

Bethany Woods (Albemarle)

Alvin Pope

Brookdale

Opal Bloome
Betty Darr

Brookstone

Albert Gobble

Genesis House (Salisbury)

Julee Smith

Lexington Health Care

Hilda Brower

Rolling Green Village

(Greenville, SC)

Peggy Trollinger

Spring Arbor (Albemarle)

Bonnie Cates

Wood Haven (Albemarle)

Louise Pope

Extended Family & Friends

Norma S. Trotter
Jimmy McDermott
Rev. Jamie Armstrong
Rev. Elizabeth Graves
Billy Everhart
Shannon & Steve Ford
Sherry & Roger Smith
Helen Hall
Rae Leonard
Jayne James
Dermont Morris
Arlena Edwards
Sandy Balsar
Ruth Carlton
Mike Daniel
Patricia Addair
Craig Thompson

Lynn Mack & family
Jennifer Bagby
Katrina Hunt
Bailey Christensen
Rev. Russell Brownworth
Gary Leonard
Lillian Shearin
Tami Robinson
Kelli Jones
Tom Sigmon
Chris Hunt
Spencer Davis
Faye Graham
Gracie Joy Hedrick
Kendall Conner
David Ogle
Tempie Almstead
Kelly Michael
Kristin Harris
Claire Dowling
Ann Schaefer
David Stafford
Cameron & Pete Dunlap
Linda & Tom Dunlap
Carol & Steve Harris
Peggy Sisk
Anna Smathers
Pat Wilson
Jack Smith
Gene Oldham
Nakajah Vaughan
Brenda Hipp
Jane King
Breanna Wilson
Ethan Reavis
Jason & Stacy Heitman

Jenny Rains
Jimmy Davis
Bentley Leonard
John Bruce Davis
Eric Leonard
Robert, Doris, & Keith Hunt
Martha Daniel
Debra Ann Leonard
Betty Jean Whitaker
Len & Dottie Harris
Jack & Susan Phillips
Jordan Beswick
Susan Fritts
Regina Chrest
Bruce Thornton

Serving in the Armed Forces

Capt. Jarrad Thorley
321 Avondale Lane
Bossier City, LA 71112
Birthday: August 17

SMS Jason Brownworth
128 Barkley Street
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473

SGT Alan R. Ingram. USMC
427 Calico Road
Oceanside, CA 92058-6748

SGT John Hall
Deployed to Afghanistan
Birthday: August 7

Church Staff

Rev. Fred Jordan, Senior Minister
nfredjordan@bellsouth.net

Rev. Doug Rowe
Minister of Congregational Care and Adult Ministries
drowe003@triad.rr.com

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Kimberly Leonard, Toddler Nursery

Alma Carlton, Financial Secretary
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