



# The Story

March 2018

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

## **From the Pastor's Corner**

*holy discontent...*

*Then the Lord said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. <sup>8</sup> I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. <sup>9</sup> Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. <sup>10</sup> So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." **Exodus 3:7-10, Common English Bible CEB***

I was first introduced to the phrase "holy discontent" over a decade ago by Bill Hybels, founding pastor of Willow Creek Community Church. He has since written a book with this as the title, and he asks this question:

*What is the one aspect of this broken world that, when you see it, touch it, get near it, you just can't stand? Very likely, that firestorm of frustration reflects your holy discontent, a reality so troubling that you are thrust off the couch and into the game. It's during these defining times when your eyes open to the needs surrounding you and your heart hungers to respond that you hear God say, "I feel the same way about this problem. Now, let's go solve it together!"*

I see God's holy discontent in the story of the Exodus... "I've clearly seen...I've heard their cry...I know about their pain...I've come down to rescue. So get going, I'm sending you." As I've contemplated the aftermath of our latest school shooting on Ash Wednesday, I've experienced this sense of holy discontent. I've read reflections of friends and colleagues who are far deeper thinkers than I (including my friend Ken Carter, bishop of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.) And I've heard the voices of people with passionate feelings on every side of the issues at hand. And I know the feeling of many that "nothing will ever change."

But holy discontent stirs in my soul...a discontent that I believe has its origins in the holy discontent of God's heart. I believe to my core that God's heart is breaking over our increasingly hostile and violent society, and I believe God is calling the church to stand and to speak and to lead. I believe God is saying "so get going. I am sending you..." So here is what I believe. No child should have to fear for their life when they go to school! No child should die while they are at school. Enough is enough, and I/we can't be quiet any longer. We have to get off of the couch and in the game.

I am not naïve enough to believe that solutions will be easy, or that issues of violence and gun violence are limited to schools. But I know we have to start somewhere. And it begins with a commitment that every life is sacred in the eyes of God. This will take serious people who are willing to set aside deeply held personal convictions (conservative and liberal, right and left, pro and con) and have a serious discussion that will lead us out of the darkness. Shouting each other down, calling one another names, and refusing to hear those we disagree with and refusing to budge cannot be the way forward. (It has in fact been the way of the past, and look where that has taken us.)

So where do we begin? In the aftermath of the Parkland HS shootings, Bishop Carter asked his conference (and our United Methodist Connection) to join in a campaign of letters.

*Continued on next page*

*"I call upon the followers of Jesus to speak for those whose voices are silenced, and to speak for our children and grandchildren. What if, across Florida and even our connection, we were able to collect and send 5000 letters?"*

You can read more about this project on the website [www.5000letters.com](http://www.5000letters.com)

Will this be enough? Of course not. But it is a place to start. And I can't sit idly by with only tears and sadness and hopes and prayers to be my only companions any longer. God has stirred up a holy discontent in me and I believe God is saying, "so get going! I am sending you!"

More to come...Until we meet again...

Jamie Armstrong

[jamstrong1@wnccumc.net](mailto:jamstrong1@wnccumc.net)

828-292-3966 (cell phone)

**Thanks a Ton!** Troop and Crew 200 collected **2,160 pounds** of food during their 2018 Scouting for Food campaign. All donations went to Pastor's Pantry. **First United Methodist members contributed 1,588 pounds of the total.**

Thank you for supporting our Scouts & Venturers. And, most importantly, the 600 plus people in Davidson County that benefit from Pastor's Pantry ministry.

**February Blood Drive Update** We did not meet our goal of 35 pints but we are grateful for the **21 pints that were collected.** We are hopeful that our **August drive** will be back on track for meeting or surpassing our goal. Mark your calendar now and make plans to be a lifesaver in August!



**Easter Lilies** The Altar Guild will place lilies in the sanctuary and narthex for Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase lilies at **\$10 each**, in honor or in memory of someone, please complete the yellow form provided in upcoming bulletins and at the Volunteer's Desk, place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office **with your payment. Order early!**

### **United Methodist Women A Call to Prayer & Self Denial Breakfast**

**Sunday, March 4** (8:30a) Fellowship Hall ♥ All women are invited to join us for a hearty breakfast (**Cost: \$5**) and program entitled: **Learning for a Lifetime and Developing Leaders.** We will receive a love offering. You may register for the event at the Volunteer's Desk. Please make plans to join us for this wonderful time together!

### **United Methodist Women Group 2 Mesh Wreath Fundraiser**

**Sunday, March 4** (9:30a) Fellowship Hall ♥ EVERYONE is invited to drop by the fellowship hall **before & after Sunday school and the 11:00a worship service** to place a silent "bid" for a handmade mesh wreath. The highest bid is given the opportunity to purchase the wreath. Proceeds will benefit upcoming mission projects. **Also**, available for purchase pillowcase dresses (2T-8) and quilted throws (Carolina Panthers, UNC Carolina, NC State, Wake Forest, Duke & East Carolina) handmade by Judy Deal. The dresses and throws will be available in the fellowship hall from **Wednesday, February 28 through Monday, March 12.**

- Pillowcase dresses \$20 each (**UMW Group 2 receives \$5 per dress sold**).
- Throws \$75-\$80 each (**UMW Group 2 receives \$15 per throw sold**).

Don't forget to...



**SPRING FORWARD!**

**ONE** hour on Sunday, March 11



**FUMC Book Club Tuesday, March 13** (11:30a) Village Grill  
Our reading selection: *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter



Sponsored by GLAMA (Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association)

**Location: First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Dates: Wednesdays March 7, 14, 21**

**Time: 12 noon** in the Sanctuary (*Bring a bag lunch—drinks & desserts provided*)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS MARCH 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.

March 4 Amanda Bostick

March 11 Christa Weeks

March 18 Laurie Briggs

March 25 Emy Garrett

### 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

## Sermon Series: CREED Sunday, February 25

*I Believe in God*

Genesis 1:1-3, Psalm 19:1-4

### Sunday, March 4

*I Believe in Jesus Christ*

Matthew 16:13-16

### Sunday, March 11

*I Believe in the Holy Spirit*

Acts 2:1-4

### Sunday, March 18

*I Believe in the Church and the*

*Communion of Saints*

1 Corinthians 12:29; Galatians

6:10; 1 Peter 2:9-10a

### Sunday, March 25

*I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins*

Matthew 26:27-29; Luke 23:33-34

### Easter Sunday, April 1

*I Believe in the Resurrection of the*

*Body* 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-19,

35-38, 42-44, 50-55

## Weekly Group Meetings

### Teens of Life Youth Ministry

Sundays at 5p  
Youth/Scout House

### Boy Scouts & Venturers

Mondays at 7p  
Youth/Scout House

### Cub Scouts

Mondays at 7p  
2nd Floor Classrooms

### 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)

### March 7

**Menu:** Grilled Chicken

**Program:** ALIVE Praise Band

### March 14

**Menu:** Pork Chops

**Program:** Audrey Morris

### March 21

**Menu:** Baked Spaghetti

**Program:** Isabella Ellis and  
Kinsey Calderone

### March 28

**Menu:** Ham

**Program:** The Bible in Black  
& White

### APRIL 4—EASTER BREAK

No meal or program

## UPCOMING Events

### Lenten Services at Noon

Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21 (12p)  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

### Chili & Cornbread Lunch

Sunday, March 18 (12p)  
Fellowship Hall

Touching Davidson County  
with Love Saturday, March 24

### Walk to the Square

Palm Sunday, March 25

## Monthly Meetings

### United Methodist Women Group 2

Tuesday, March 6 (10a)  
Fellowship Hall

### Davidson Prison Ministry

Thursday, March 8 (12p)  
Parlor

### Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, March 11  
SPRING forward ONE hour

### Endowment

Sunday, March 11 (5:30p)  
Parlor

### Trustees

Sunday, March 11 (7p)  
Parlor

### Evangelism

Monday, March 12 (6p)  
Conference Room

### First UMC Book Club

Tuesday, March 13 (11:30a)  
Village Grill

*We Were the Lucky Ones* by  
Georgia Hunter

### United Methodist Women Group 12

Tuesday, March 13 (7p)  
Fellowship Hall

### Newsletter Articles Due

March 15 for April Issue

### United Methodist Men

Sunday, March 18 (8:30a)  
Fellowship Hall

### Finance

Sunday, March 18 (7p)  
Parlor

### Serve meal at Crisis

### Ministries

Tuesday, March 20 (5:45p)

### Agape Sunday School

Contact: Linda Saintsing/Doug  
Clayton

### Faithseekers Gathering

Thursday, March 22 (6:30p)  
Home of Martha Highsmith

### Amazing Grace Seekers

Tuesday, March 27 (7p)  
Home of Lynn Rowe

### Children's Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 25 (immediately  
following "Walk to the Square")  
Fellowship Hall & Church Lawn  
Pizza lunch provided

### Maunder Thursday Evening Worship & Communion

Thursday, March 29 (7p)

### Good Friday Service

Friday, March 30 (7p)  
Tenebrae...A Service of Darkness

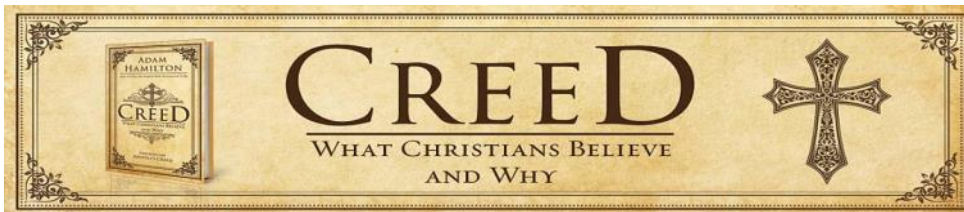
Calendar Events are subject to change—Refer to the Weekly Calendar in the bulletin or visit us on the web at [www.firstumclex.org](http://www.firstumclex.org)



## **Chili & Cornbread Luncheon Sunday, March 18**

(following the 11:00a Worship Service) ♥ sponsored by Teens of Life Youth Ministry with help from the Koinonia Sunday School Class ♥ **Join us in the fellowship hall** for Chili, Cornbread, & Dessert. \*Potato Soup available if you prefer\* Your kind donations are greatly appreciated and will benefit the Teens of Life mission trip to Belize this July.

**Candy! Candy! Candy!** We are collecting candy for the Children's Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. You may drop off your donated candy on the cart outside of Donna Huskins' office through **Wednesday, March 21**.



**Lenten Small Group Study:** We continue our church-wide journey by Adam Hamilton exploring the Apostle's Creed as a framework to talk about what we believe and why. Books are available from the church office for **\$12 each** and at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for your Kindle device.

**You are invited to join a small group for discussion & fellowship:**

**Adult Sunday School** (9:45a-10:45a) Genesis/Spruill (1st Floor), Adult Fellowship, Agape, Koinonia, Faith & Friends (2nd Floor)

**Sunday Evenings** (6:00p) Home of Wayne & Sandra Michael

**Tuesdays** (7:00p) Theology Pub at High Rock Outfitters

**Children (K-5th)** Sunday School (9:45a)

**Youth Ministry (Teens of Life)** Sunday Afternoons (5:00p-6:00p) Youth/Scout House

**Morning Worship Sermon Series:** (8:30a & 11:00a) Pastor Jamie will preach a sermon series for the season of Lent and Easter that parallels the lessons being learned through reading the book and small group discussion.

**February 25** *I Believe in God*

**March 4** *I Believe in Jesus Christ*

**March 11** *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*

**March 18** *I Believe in the Church and the Communion of Saints*

**March 25** *I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins* - PALM SUNDAY



**12:15pm Walk to the Square**—area church congregations join together for music and a brief message to the community.

**Following the walk, Children's Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt**—Fellowship Hall & Church Lawn—pizza lunch provided



**March 29** Maundy Thursday Evening Worship & Communion (7:00 pm)

**March 30** Good Friday Tenebrae—A Service of Darkness (7:00 pm)

**April 1** *I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body*

Please join us for **ONE** service of worship on **Easter Sunday**. You are invited to bring flowers to adorn the flower cross. At the close of the service we will process together, carrying the flower cross, outside to the front lawn for our Easter Sunday benediction.



## **YMCA Palm Sunday Lunch**

**Palm Sunday, March 25** (11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.)

J. Smith Young YMCA • Chicken pie, creamed potatoes, green beans, YMCA rolls, dessert, and tea • **Tickets:** \$10 Adults; \$5 Children (4-8 years); Free (3 & under) • Tickets are available at the YMCA or from **Glynda Smith**, church representative. You may contact Anna Flippen at [aflippen@lexingtonymca.com](mailto:aflippen@lexingtonymca.com) or [336-249-2177](tel:336-249-2177) to reserve a table for 10 people. All proceeds will be directed to YMCA scholarships for children and families needing assistance in our community.

**First UMC Scholarships 2018-2019** Applications are due back to the church, to the attention of the **Scholarship Committee** at the church address, by **March 21, 2018**.

**The Sparrow Project** Please take a moment to read about this project in an insert provided in the **March 11 bulletin**. Your feedback is vital in helping to build this project so that it may meet the needs of our congregation. Share your thoughts, ideas and needs on the bulletin insert and return it to the basket provided on the Volunteer's Desk.



**Touching Davidson County with Love** Now in its 12th year of area churches joining together in a day of service to help the poor, disabled, and elderly in our community. **EACH PERSON MAKES A DIFFERENCE. There is something to do for all ages.** Sign-up sheets for a wide selection of projects will soon be located on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Some of the proposed projects include food box deliveries, visiting and/or singing at nursing homes, making baby blankets, cleaning yards, painting, small home repairs, ramp construction, and more. We need project managers to lead projects, and crew members to help them. If you are willing to serve as a project manager, please contact Sandra Michael at [sandraemichael@gmail.com](mailto:sandraemichael@gmail.com). Also, if you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt, a sign-up sheet with sizes and costs will be provided. Please make checks payable to: **First Baptist Church**.

Each year, the participating churches each select an organization to support by collecting needed items. This year, First UMC will be collecting **non-perishable food items** and toiletries (**deodorant, soap, shampoo, feminine products**) for Communities In Schools Pantry. You may drop off donated items on the table in the hallway near the workroom.

There will be a celebration and prayer service for all TDCWL volunteers on our work day, **Saturday, March 24** beginning at **8:00 am at First UMC Fellowship Hall**. Light breakfast refreshments will be provided along with music from the **ALIVE** Praise Band. This will be a wonderful gathering of volunteers from the participating churches and local area. Please make plans to serve in this wonderful community event!

**MARK YOUR APRIL CALENDARS...**

**Sunday, April 22—Gold City**, 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



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

**Children's Events & Happenings Season of Lent**

- ✦ **Sunday School** CREED series & activities for children
- ✦ **Children's Worship** (Sunday mornings) **40 Days and 40 Nights** series & activities
- ✦ **Weekly Children's Ministry** (Wednesday evenings) **Growing Into Lent**
- ✦ **EASTER CELEBRATION & EGG HUNT** Palm Sunday, March 25 following the "Walk to the Square" - Pizza lunch provided

Please call **Amanda Bostick** at **336-596-1363** for detailed information.

**Teens of Life Youth Ministry Events & Happenings**

**Mission Project: Touching Davidson County with Love**

Sunday, March 4	(5p-6p) CREED Series
	(5p-6:30p) Belize Mission Trip Planning with FBC at First UMC with dinner provided
Sunday, March 11	
Sunday, March 18	(5p-6p) CREED Series
	Touching Davidson County with Love
	(8:30a) Light breakfast & kick-off in the Fellowship Hall
Saturday, March 24	(9a-10:30a) Clean-up at Kiawanis Kiddie Kamp
	(12:30p-1:45p) Help with Children's Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt—pizza lunch provided in the fellowship hall
Sunday, March 25	

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

# The Story

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**We're on the web!**

**[www.fumclex.org](http://www.fumclex.org)**



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**Facebook**

## Church Staff

### Rev. Jamie Armstrong, Jr.

Senior Minister

[jarmstrong1@wncumc.net](mailto:jarmstrong1@wncumc.net)

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Minister of Congregational  
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[drowe003@triad.rr.com](mailto:drowe003@triad.rr.com)

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### Amanda Bostick

Children's Ministries  
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[aebostick@gmail.com](mailto:aebostick@gmail.com)

### Kimberly Leonard

Toddler Nursery

### Alma Carlton

Financial Secretary  
[acarlton@firstumclex.org](mailto:acarlton@firstumclex.org)

### Donna Huskins

Administrative Assistant  
[dhuskins@firstumclex.org](mailto:dhuskins@firstumclex.org)

## Prayer Requests

Rev. Jamie Armstrong  
Gail Biesecker  
Doug Clayton  
Debra Craver  
June Craver  
John & Judy Hench  
Earl Hester  
Miheepa Jones  
Susan Terry Jones  
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  
Madeline 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

Wanda Jeffress  
Rae Leonard  
Jayne James  
Dermont Morris  
Rev. Kelley Groce  
Arlena Edwards  
Sandy Balsler  
Ruth Carlton  
Mike Daniel  
Patricia Addair  
Craig Thompson  
Lynn Mack & family  
Jennifer Bagby  
Rev. Elizabeth Graves  
Helen Hall  
Katrina Hunt  
Bailey Christensen  
Rev. Russell Brownworth  
Maretha Melton  
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  
Cliff Lopp, Jr.  
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**  
200 Cante Court  
Jacksonville, NC 28540

## **SGT John Hall**

Deployed to Afghanistan  
Birthday: August 7