

“The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

Share His love by telling what the Lord has done for you
Share His love by sharing of your faith
And show the world that Jesus Christ is real to you
Every moment, every day!

TRINITY CHIMES

(Please remain in place at the end of the service until the conclusion of the Trinity Chimes)

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” By Kath Elert

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are dedicated to the glory of God
and given in loving memory of COL Elmore and Annie Lawton,
LT(jg) William Lawton, LT COL James Lawton and Esther Lawton
by Anne Lawton, their daughter, sister and aunt.

GREETERS

8:30 Jean Kittrell

11:00 Christine & Carlos Cannon

The family of Nancy Detweiler expresses their gratitude to all who showed
such deep care and concern for them during Nancy’s sickness and homegoing.
Each prayer, card, contact, and attendance at her service brought comfort.
Thanks for being the body of Christ.

Martha’s Mission November Food Drive

Our Missions Committee continues to encourage you to contribute to the
Food Drive for Martha’s Mission throughout this month! The Martha's
Mission wagon is in the atrium where you can drop off nonperishable
food items anytime the church is open.

Immediate Needs:

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Canned Vegetables

ONLINE GIVING



Prayerfully consider giving
to support the missions and
ministries of First Methodist
Church by scanning the
QR code.

For God so loved that He GAVE his Son.

For Such a Time as This

Pledge cards for our Generosity Month have been distributed! If you did not
receive yours, please let us know and we’ll make sure you get one. You can
return your completed card by mail, in person, or online. We will pray over all
pledges on Sunday, November 23rd. Let’s give generously, stand firm, and
give thanks trusting God to use our gifts for His purpose and glory.

Decorate the Chrismon Tree - Sunday, November 23rd at 12:00pm

Mark your calendar! Join us on Sunday, November 23 at 12:00 PM
to help decorate the Chrismon Tree, Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
as we prepare for the Advent season. Lunch will be provided.

Charge Conference - Sunday, November 23rd at 4:00pm

A Charge Conference in the Global Methodist Church is an annual meeting of
a local congregation’s leadership to conduct the official business of the
church. It serves as both a time of accountability and celebration affirming the
mission of the local church and aligning it with the broader mission of the
Global Methodist Church.

Advent Family Night – Sunday, Nov 30 at 5:30 PM

Come celebrate the start of Advent with Kids Ministry! Families will
decorate their own mini Chrismon trees to take home and learn
about the meaning behind each symbol. Register your family today!

Moravian Love Feast & Candlelight Service

Join us on Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 PM for our Moravian Love Feast
and Candlelight Service, a cherished tradition of worship, song, and Moravian
bread and coffee as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. Bring
family and friends for this beautiful evening together!

Kids Christmas Cantata “The Uncertain, Poor Shepherd”

Join us on Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for our
Children’s Christmas Cantata, “The Uncertain, Poor Shepherd.” Come
celebrate the season as our kids share the story of Christmas through music
and drama, reminding us of God’s love and grace revealed to even the most
humble hearts. Bring your family and friends for this evening of worship!

WaveRunners trip to Mike’s Farm - New Venue! “Ho! Ho! Christmas”

Enjoy a festive Christmas show with dinner, followed by an optional hayride
on December 11. Cost is \$68. Please sign up and pay online or in the church
office. Depart the church at 12:30 PM. Register by Dec 3rd.

The Singing Christmas Tree

Open to All Church Members. Join us for the Singing Christmas Tree in
Fayetteville on December 6! We’ll leave the church at 11:00 AM, stop for
lunch in Kinston, and attend the show at 4:30 PM. The deadline to sign up is
November 10th. Register online or in the church office.

Red Cross Scholarship Opportunity

We are searching for a YOUTH to host the December Red Cross Blood Drive
(already a planned event so this is easy). Earn leadership experience,
volunteer hours, a gift card AND be entered to win a college scholarship!
Contact Pastor Sarah or Kim McCoury if you are interested.

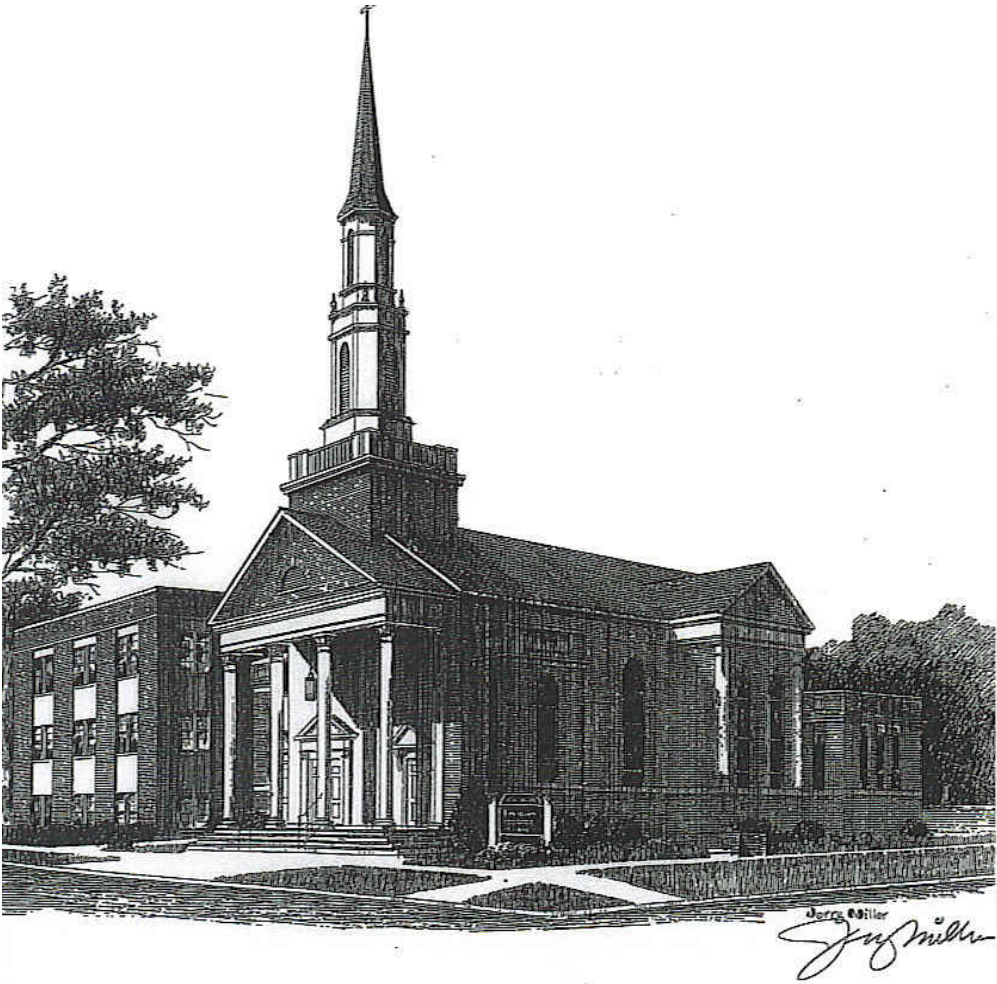
First Methodist Church

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Reverend Sarah Williams
Associate Pastor

Reverend Patrick Whaley
Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care

Kim McCoury, Director of Communications	Sabrina Juarez, Facilities Manager
Shanna du Mont, Director of Children’s Ministry	Stefany Boyd, Office Manager
Phil Routszong, Director of Music	Sunnie Gail Ballou, Organist
Miranda Routszong, Assistant Rise Music	Fran Welch, Sound Tech



“WORSHIPPING PASSIONATELY, LOVING EXTRAVAGANTLY, AND WITNESSING BOLDLY”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

PRELUDE“Thanksgiving Praise”By Mary McDonald

†CHIMING OF THE HOUR & INTROIT

†CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord! (Psalm 27)

†HYMN“We Gather Together”No. 131

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

†OPENING PRAYERUnison

Faithful and steadfast God, you are our light and our salvation, our refuge when the world around us trembles. When we grow weary in doing good, renew our strength. Teach us to stand firm in faith, to persevere in love, to give generously, serve willingly, and trust your timing for the harvest. Grant us the courage of Esther to act when you call, and the grace of Christ to endure with hope. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ CreedUnison

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

†GLORIA PATRIUnison

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYERUnison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever, Amen.

SCRIPTUREGalatians 6:9-10

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WORSHIP WITH TITHES, GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY“Thanksgiving Suite”Handbell Choir
Arr. by Kurt Meyer

†DOXOLOGYNo. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†HYMN“O God Our Help in Ages Past”No. 117

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our Shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home!

SCRIPTUREEsther 4:1-17

4 When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.

² But he went only as far as the king’s gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. ³ In every province to which the edict and

order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴ When Esther’s eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. ⁵ Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king’s eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. ⁶ So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate. ⁷ Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king’s presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. ⁹ Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, ¹¹ “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.” ¹² When Esther’s words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” ¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.” ¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.

SERMONFor Such a Time as This...Phil Routszong

†HYMN“How Firm a Foundation”No. 529

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.