

*The Church Tower*  
*First United Methodist Church*  
*October 2024*

*The Lord's Prayer*




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 and ever.

*Amen.*

Matthew 6:9-13



*Strengthening and sharing our Christian  
faith through fellowship and service.*



## *A Note from the Pastor ...*

“Pray, then, in this way:  
Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be revered as holy.  
May your kingdom come.  
May your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
~Matthew 6:9-10

Beloved,

As you know, for the past two years our congregation has been in a time of intentional prayer and discernment about our future ministry. With all things, there comes a time to make a decision, and we are rapidly approaching that time.

Last week, I met with the District Superintendent to discuss our options. Yesterday, the Church Leadership Team met to discuss those options and decide upon a recommendation to be brought to our Church Council. The next steps in this period of discernment are to have one more Family Meeting in October, followed by a Church Council meeting. The Church Council will schedule a date for a formal Church Conference at which we will vote on the option moved forward by the Church Council. We would like to have this Church Conference in November.

You will recall that we conducted a survey a year ago with several options: (1) stay open until our finances do not allow, (2) merge with another or (3) become part of a multi-church charge. These remain our options.

Given the nature of these choices, we feel it is essential for everyone to be informed. Please make every effort to attend the next Family Meeting, Saturday, October 19, following Men's Breakfast at 9 am.



# OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Blessings of Stuffed Animals 10AM/Chapel Bible Study 6PM	3	4	5 10AM Blessings of the animals
6 Sun. School 9 AM Worship 10 AM Choir 11 AM Handbell 11:45 AM	7 10:45 AM Bible Study	8	9 10AM/Chapel Bible Study 6PM	10 Foundation MTG 7:30 PM	11	12 Piano Tuner 9AM Choir Rehearsal 12pm
13 Sun. School 9 AM Worship 10AM Choir 11 AM	14 Office/School Closed	15 Church Council 1PM	16 10 AM/Chapel Bible Study 6PM	17	18	19 United Men's Breakfast 9AM Family Meeting 10 AM
20 Sun. School 9 AM Worship 10 AM Choir 11 AM Handbell 11:45AM	21 10:45 AM Bible Study	22	23 10 AM/Chapel Bible Study 6PM	24	25	26 Fall Festival Brunswick Stew & Bake Sale Kitchen & Fellowship Hall Reserved
27 Sun. School 9 AM Worship 10 AM Choir 11 AM Handbell 11:45 AM	28 10:45 AM Bible Study	29 Book Club 7PM	30 10 AM/Chapel Bible Study 6PM	31		

## First Church's Homebound Members

Joanne Bates  
5 Pin Oak Road  
Newport News, VA 23601

Mary Lou Carter  
4 Susannah Drive  
Apt. 203  
Durham, NC 2770

Sibyl French  
10 Northwood Drive  
Hampton, Va 23661

Anna Gibson  
14301 Brandermill Woods Trail  
Apt. A-307  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Richard & Mallory Joyce  
1103 Sam Lions Trail  
Martinsville, VA 24112

Phyllis Kirts  
440 McLaws Circle, Rm 131  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Edith Layman  
Edgewood Park at Newtown  
5501 Discover Park Blvd  
Apt. 1215  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Lynda Rainey  
2220 Executive Drive  
Apt. 169  
Hampton, VA 23666

Norman Shields  
3540 Victory Blvd  
Apt. 114  
Yorktown, VA 23693

Billie Way  
Golden Living  
Bayside of Poquoson  
1 Vantage Drive  
Poquoson, VA 23662





## **UWIF TOWER REPORT~OCTOBER 2024**

*"What does the Lord require of you, but to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your GOD." MICAH 6:8*

HAPPY FALL! The warm days and the cool evenings have been just perfect, and the crispness in the air reminds us that October is here which means that our FALL FESTIVAL is just around the corner. Saturday, October 26, from 11-2, is the date and time to add to your calendar. Soon we will be smelling Brunswick Stew cooking on the stove and biscuits baking in the oven. Can you believe this is our Fiftieth year!!! We encourage everyone to join in this time of fellowship and fun and to help where you can. We need goodies for our bake sale, greeters to welcome and direct our guests, chicken cookers, ham stuffers, set-up and clean-up, and many more. Call Susanne Daley (757-232-6682) to volunteer your time.

Come join us on Monday mornings by zoom for our Bible Study from 10:45 to 11:45. John Price is leading our study which is presently on the book of Luke. If you are interested, just contact John, and he will send you a link to join us.

For the past few weeks, we have been collecting shoes in any condition for THRIVE. So far, Jane and Bill have emptied the huge red can in the Narthex three times! This outreach will continue until the end of October - let's see how many more times the container will need emptying by the end of October.

Thank you for your continued support in all that the UWIF does. Even though the day and evening of our General Meeting was raining, raining, we had a record attendance to hear Spencer Sinchett explain to us about the wonderful mission outreach, the Menchville House. Not only did you show your interest with many questions, but you also filled her car with items that were much needed for Menchville House. Again, thank you, thank you.

If you are not a member of the one of our circles, we would love for you to join us. It is rewarding being with a supportive group that has the purpose of knowing God and working toward the missions of the church. Please call Jeanette Leslie (757-753-5039) if you are interested.

**May the peace of Christ be with you,**  
Jeanette Leslie, Leadership Team - UWIF



## Music Ministry



### **HELP WANTED/PART-TIME**

***Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass for Formal Adult Choir***

#### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

Able to carry light notes across the sanctuary.

Able to breathe in a normal manner.

Have sung "Happy Birthday to You" at least once.

**EXPERIENCE:** No applications accepted from persons who have not sung, whistled, or hummed in the shower at some time.

**BEGINNING WAGES:** Guaranteed satisfaction and joy in the service of the Lord.

**HOURS:** Sunday morning rehearsals from 11 am—11:40 am in the choir room and 2nd Saturday of the month from 12 pm—1:30 pm with summers off to relax!

**WEATHER:** If the weather is bad and you can't come, you are forgiven by the director. He won't be there as well!

**BENEFITS: HEALTH:** All that extra breathing is good for you!

**SOCIAL SECURITY:** We promise you the security of fellowship with other Fine members of the choir.

**LONG TERM:** You can stay forever if you wish.

**RETIREMENT:** Generally determines when printed notes get too small or notes are too high, the organist is unable to play the notes you sing, or the director can't play the notes that you are trying to sing.

**I KNOW YOU ARE ALL BUSY!!! COME WHEN YOU CAN!!!**

Questions: Contact John Thomas Allsbrook, Director of Music Ministries, 757-323-4137!

You can just leave the sanctuary and come straight to choir! I wouldn't want you to get lost!



## October's Birthdays

10/04	Martha Dodson	10/21	Ricky Clifton
10/08	Cathy Price	10/27	Kelly Webster
10/09	Teresa Mitchener	10/30	Virginia Gall
10/12	Belinda Young	10/31	Lyn Smith
10/13	Barbara Poplin		



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## October Anniversaries

- 10/01 Richard & Shirley Smith
- 10/06 Beverly Yeoman & Phil Rehrig
- 10/11 Jane & William Waters
- 10/19 Deedra & Rahman Hussein

## Missions

### We exceeded our goal!

Instead of 50 bags, FUMC filled 105 "Snacks for Kids" Blessing Bags this summer for Thrive Peninsula. FUMC members donated a total of 874 individual healthy snacks and 16 family-to Thrive in support of this effort to provide healthy snacks for our area's needy children.

Thank you, FUMC members, for your outstanding support of this unique Mission's project to provide Thrive Pantry with "Snacks for Kids" Blessing Bags this summer!







**THRIVE Peninsula** · Follow

Jul 25 · 🌐

**#ThankfulThursday**

🙏🍎 A huge thank you to **First United Methodist Church, Newport News** for their incredible donation of snack kits for kids throughout the months of June and July! Your kindness and generosity are truly appreciated.

These snack kits will bring smiles to many children in our community, ensuring they have healthy and tasty snacks to enjoy. ❤️

THANKFUL THURSDAY





***Gifts to the FUMC Foundation  
given to the Glory of God by:***

Martha & Jerry Dodson in honor of David Dellinger

Susan & Doug Foltz in honor of the church staff

Martha & Jerry Dodson in honor of Cathy Nicholson

Martha & Jerry Dodson in honor of Jane Preston

Susan & Doug Foltz in memory of Jean Richardson

Anonymous in honor of Martha & Jerry Dodson

Miriam Sandstrom

Martha & Jerry Dodson in honor of James Michener

Cathy & John Price in memory of Hazel & Russell Wichael  
and Irene & Charles Price

Conway & Lyn Smith

Barbara Poplin in honor of Jane Preston

Mahla Swinford in honor of Glenn Miller's 80th birthday

Martha & Jerry Dodson in honor of Elizabeth & Doug Lutz

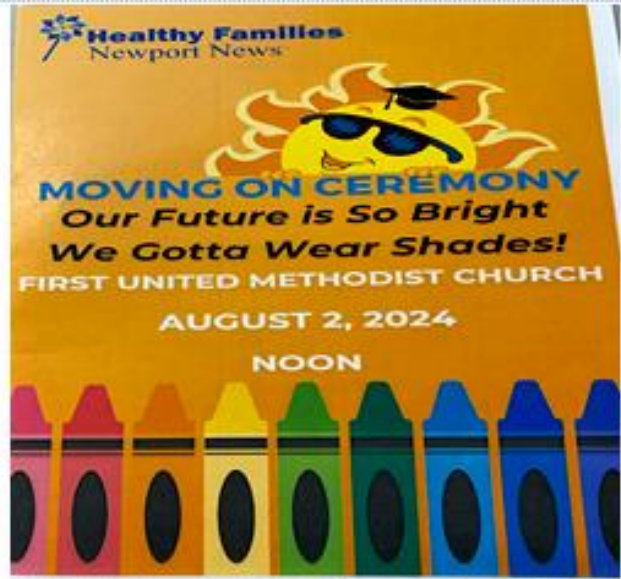
***Thank you for your ongoing support to the  
FUMC Foundation.***

# Congregational *Prayer*

God of Love and Wisdom, we humbly come before you today  
as we make new plans and arrangements requiring significant changes ~  
we need your guidance and presence ~ as we discern our future.  
May the Holy Spirit that dwells within us guide us to decisions that  
are true and in accordance with your will.  
Help us, Lord! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



A bright beginning for the  
Graduates of the  
Healthy Families Program  
was held at  
First United Methodist  
Church  
over the summer.



# Blessing of the Animals



Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 am

All Creatures Welcome!

*God's Creations*

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

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*Newport News/Peninsula*  
CROP HUNGER WALK

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OCTOBER 20, 2024

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NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a yearly gathering. It's a movement that's 55 years strong, made up of compassionate people in more than 500 communities across the U.S.

The steps we take - and the funds we raise together - will provide life-saving support including emergency food and resources, along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future.

**Recruit a team of family and friends to join a CROP Hunger Walk in your community. Every step and every donation ends hunger!**

The route for this year's Walk will start and finish at Grace United Methodist Church, 1209 Country Club Lane, Newport News, as it has in previous years. Whether you are a first time participant or a long time walker, now is the time to start planning to participate this year. The process is easy:

1. Select a coordinator to be your group liaison with the CROP Committee and the walkers for your congregation or group.
2. Get materials for publicity from the CROP committee and help walkers secure sponsorships
3. Walk on Sunday, October 20. Registrations will begin 1:15 pm with Walk starting at 2 pm.

For information on registering go to [support.crophungerwalk.org/section/registering](https://support.crophungerwalk.org/section/registering) or contact LeRoy Griffin, at [lg1006@cox.net](mailto:lg1006@cox.net) or 757-223-9591.

Also, we are partnering again with Thrive to collect shoes. Please see the flyer on the next page. In addition, we will be collecting canned goods for the Foodbank.

## COLLECT SHOES

*To make a difference*



Thank you for participating in the **2024 Peninsula CROP Walk on October 20** In addition to the funds we are raising to fight hunger both locally and globally, again this year we invite you collect shoes at your church for THRIVE Peninsula.

**Begin collecting shoes ahead of the event (any type, any condition), and bring them to the CROP Walk to make a 3-step difference:**

1. Create Jobs in Developing Nations
2. Reduce Waste in our Area Landfills
3. Raise Funds to Help Peninsula Families facing economic hardship

THRIVE has collection bins with signage available to help make your drive a success. Contact us to get a bin!

### **Who is THRIVE Peninsula?**

We are a 501 c3 non-profit that is a collaborative ministry of 80 Peninsula churches which centralizes resources to serve struggling families to avoid duplication of services. THRIVE provides financial assistance, financial coaching, a free grocery store, and more.

### **Peninsula CROP Walk**

94 Hopkins Street, Newport News  
757-223-9591 [www.crophungerwalk.org/newportnewsva](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/newportnewsva)

### **THRIVE Peninsula**

[contact@thrivepeninsula.org](mailto:contact@thrivepeninsula.org) 757-877-6211x6  
[www.thrivepeninsula.org/shoes](http://www.thrivepeninsula.org/shoes)





## **First United Methodist Church**

***Worship with our Family on Sunday mornings!***

***Sunday School 9:00 a.m.***

***Worship Service 10:00 a.m.***

### **Find us on Facebook!**

[www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchNewportNews](http://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchNewportNews)

### **First United Methodist Preschool:**

[www.facebook.com/FUMPreschool](http://www.facebook.com/FUMPreschool)

[www.instagram.com/firstumcpreschool](http://www.instagram.com/firstumcpreschool)

### **Church Staff**

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Lutz, ***Pastor***

Kim Webster, ***Pre-School Director***

Kevin Wilson, ***Business Administrator***

John T. Allsbrook, ***Director of Music Ministries***

Belinda Young, ***Administrative Assistant***

Rick Clifton, ***Custodian***

10246 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, Virginia 23601

Church Office: (757) 595-0383

Website: [www.firstumcnewportnews.com](http://www.firstumcnewportnews.com)

Pastor Elizabeth: [pastor@firstumcnewportnews.com](mailto:pastor@firstumcnewportnews.com)

Pastor's phone: Mobile: (757) 335-2649

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am—2:30 pm**