

The Church Tower
First United Methodist Church
May 2025



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

**“... for just such a time as this.”
~ Esther 4:14b**

Beloved,

This phrase from the Book of Esther has been on my mind and heart. While this statement comes from Mordecai about Esther's becoming queen to save her people, the Jews, my sentiment is closer to heart.

As many of you know, I have been in ministry for more than 30 years. And by God's providence I have found myself, whether I wanted to be or not, in the place where God would use me for God's purposes.

I am becoming much more sentimental as I come closer to retirement. And while I may not have been the perfect Pastor (who could be?) I have tried to do the best I could. But as with all things the time comes for change.

You have heard me say that change is not 'bad' it's just different.

I am stepping away from parish ministry knowing that God will provide for you as God always has. I step away with the confidence that the right Pastor for you is coming. I step aside with my heart full of the love and care you all have offered.

Every Blessing!



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Preschool Last Day May 23				1	2	3
4 Sun. School 9 am Worship 10 am Choir 11 am Handbell 11:45 am	5	6 Church Council 2pm	7 Chapel—10 am	8	9	10 Choir Practice— 12 pm
11 Sun. School 9 am Worship 10 am Choir 11 am Handbell 11:45 am	12 Bible Study— 10:30 am	13	14 Chapel—10 am	15	16	17 Men's Breakfast— 8:30 am
18 Sun. School 9 am Worship 10 am Choir 11 am Handbell 11:45 am Preschool Recognition Service	19 Bible Study— 10:30 am	20	21 Chapel—10 am Bible Study— 6pm	22	23 Preschool Picnic & Last Day	24
25 Sun. School 9 am Worship 10 am Choir 11 am Handbell 11:45 am	26  Church Office Closed Bible Study— 10:30 am	27 Book Club— 7pm (Zoom)	28 Bible Study— 6pm	29 Book Club in person— 7 pm	30	31



May Birthdays

5/04 Cathy Nicholson

5/06 Barbara Yost

5/07 Becca Michener

5/08 Isabel Marsteller

5/11 Miriam Sandstrom

5/17 Jason Michener

5/19 Kevin Wilson

5/24 Suzie Barnes

5/26 Doug Foltz



5/5 Bill & Susanne Daley

5/12 James & Teresa Michener

5/16 Doug & Susan Foltz

5/17 Steve & Kathy Hubbard

5/25 John & Judy Talbert



First United Methodist Church Preschool Recognition Service



Thank you. Thank you very much.

Come join us, as we give recognition to the
Preschool for their love, caring and
dedication over the years to the children.

Immediately after morning service on
Sunday, May 18th 2025

Come to the Fellowship Hall for some cake and
personally thank these awesome teachers.



“Little Hands. Big Achievements.”

Kim Webster, Director First United Methodist Preschool
10246 Warwick Boulevard Newport News, VA 2360

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 27705

Polly Clodfelter
The Chesapeake
955 Harpersville Road—Apt. #2029
Newport News, VA 23601

Yvonne Edwards
25 State Road 13—Apt. F3
Jacksonville, FL 32259

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

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

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

Please continue to keep our members in your thoughts and prayers. Amen

"I was
sick and
you visited
me . . ."
—Matthew 25:36 NKJV



UWIF TOWER REPORT – MAY, 2025

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:17

It's finally spring ... or is it???? One day it's cold like winter. and the next day it's hot like summer. SPRING? Where are you????? Regardless of the weather, there is much going on with the members of the UWIF as we continue to live into our purpose of expanding our concepts of mission. Spring brings exams to CNU which also brings the UWIF to CNU. Our church distributed treats to the students for two hours on May 1st. Thank you for all the goodies you brought and for all the ways you helped. The students always are so appreciative.

As you know, we have a reading program where after a criteria of 1 book in 5 different categories is reached, an award certificate is given. Each year, we not only enjoy reading our books, but we also love to read to our preschoolers to help them receive an award for reaching their goal. Not sure who enjoys it more ~ the children or the readers.

Another aspect of our mission goals is to help our environment. FYI: Newport News Master Gardeners and the Waterworks are partnering to offer a Rain Barrel workshop. For \$65 you will get all the materials needed to build, install, and maintain a 55 - gallon rain barrel. For more information, call 757-591-4838. The remaining workshop dates are May 17th and June 21st. Preregistering is necessary.

MAY 20th IS SPECIAL!!!!!! Mary Elder is coming to speak to us at our General Meeting. Mary grew up in our church and is working with the youth at Shady Grove Methodist Church in Mechanicsville. Come join us at 6:30 and meet this bubbly and enthusiastic young lady and enjoy some food and fellowship. More details are coming.

This year we are continuing to help UMCOR by making kits to aid areas hit by natural disasters. Each circle has decided which kit (s) they will make. The completed kits will be brought to our General Meeting on May 20th . May 4th is another special event. We are hosting a Community Service with other Hilton area churches on Sunday, May 4th. The UWIF is helping with the reception. Hope you will be able to attend this service and to remain afterwards for cake and punch.

MAY THE PEACE CHRIST BE WITH YOU....

Jeanette Leslie ~ Leadership Team ~ UWIF

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Circle 7 ~ May 13th ~ meeting in the parlor at 1

Circle 6 ~ May 14th ~ meeting at 11:30 at the Crab Shack

Circle 5 ~ To Be Announced

General Meeting ~ May 20th at 6:30



Join Us and Celebrate Growth, Generosity & Community.



Don't miss is special event!

TUESDAY, MAY 6 | 🕒 8:00– 11:00 AM | [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

📍 **THRIVE Peninsula** (12749 Nettles Dr, NN)

🌟 **Unveiling of THRIVE's Donor Recognition Wall** – Celebrate the roots of our future!

🌱 **Garden Tours & Compost Giveaway** – Take home nutrient-rich compost for your own green space! (Bring a bucket if you have one.)

💖 **Donation Drop-off** | ☕ **Light Refreshments** - Bring a gift, enjoy a snack, and see how your support is changing lives.

👉 **Nurture hope and help THRIVE grow!** 🌞

RSVP- RISE AND THRIVE

Community Events



Get ready, Peninsula—Give Local 757 is almost here, and we need YOU to help hope take root!

On May 6, we're working to raise \$60,000 to nourish THRIVE's mission of providing food, rent relief, and financial coaching to neighbors in crisis. Every dollar you give is DOUBLED, thanks to \$30,000 in generous matching funds.

This campaign isn't just about giving—it's about GROWING.
Growing hope. Growing compassion. Growing community.

And this year, we're bringing even more fun and inspiration to the day, just check out the details below!



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



First United Methodist Preschool:

www.facebook.com/FUMPreschool



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 B. Young, ***Administrative Assistant***

Rick Clifton, ***Custodian***

10246 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, Virginia 23601

Church Office: (757) 595-0383

Website: www.firstumcnewportnews.com

Pastor Elizabeth: pastor@firstumcnewportnews.com

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

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