

First United Methodist Church of Hampton

110 E Queen St Hampton VA 23669

(757) 723-6577

March 8, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

In the name of Christ WELCOME!

Although you may be a stranger to us, you are no stranger to God, who knows you and loves you, and whose heart is glad at your presence here. We sincerely hope this time of worship will bless your life.

As you are able, please stand for acts of worship indicated by an asterisk (*).
UMH indicates The United Methodist Hymnal (red book in pew rack)
TFWS indicates The Faith We Sing (thin black book in pew rack)

Our Mission: To Know and Share Jesus Christ

Help us sustain God's creation by placing used worship bulletins in the basket on the credenza in the back of the sanctuary for recycling.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***INTROIT** *Come Before His Presence With Thanksgiving* Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Watch. Listen.

Nicodemus is astonished when Jesus says, "You must be born from above." He retreats into literalism.

But Jesus says, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes."

So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. We don't know where the Spirit comes from or where it goes, but the Spirit is here.

Come, let us be born again, not into fear and suspicion, but in love, truth, and service.

***HYMN** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* UMH 139

LENTEN JOURNEY FROM LIGHT TO DARKNESS

Meditation: Repentance

We try to do the right thing, but at times we fail and temptation seems to win. At other times we seem to drown in our failures, maybe even believing nothing good can come from what we are doing. We forget that God calls us to repent, and He remembers our sins no more. When we know that our sins are forgiven, then we can indeed be sorry for them, and turn back to God. Just give Jesus a chance to work for good in our lives.

(Extinguish 2nd purple candle)

Let us pray together.

Loving God, help us to turn back to you when we stray. Help us to remember that Jesus was no stranger to temptation. As we continue to journey to the cross together this Lenten season, help us to honestly repent when we have gone wrong. The Lord promises not to remember our transgressions. In our Savior's precious name. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE OF THE CONGREGATION

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (sing twice)

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17 (NRSV)

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all, your own son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. In gratitude and praise, we offer you our time, our money, our very selves. In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing to your world. Amen.

OFFERTORY

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *What Gift Can We Bring (verse 4)* UMH 87

**This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!**

***HYMN** *The Gift of Love* UMH 408

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Kerry Greenhill

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Shelby Davis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Candee Martin

THE LORD'S PRAYER *SPOKEN in Unison*

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.

ANTHEM *God Will Make A Way* Chancel Choir

MESSAGE *Letting Go* Rev. Candee Martin

***HYMN** *Spirit Song* UMH 347

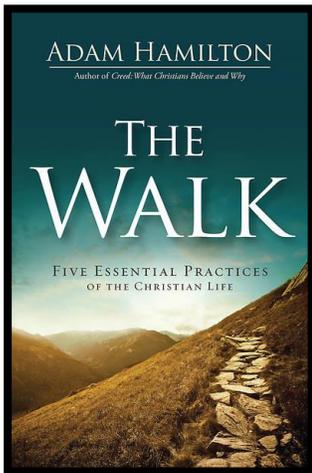
*COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING (in Unison)

Into your hands, O God, we place our whole selves, trusting that your vision for our lives and the life of the world is far richer than we could ever ask or imagine. Renew in us daily the choice to love and serve you without reservation. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

The Walk -- Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life

by Adam Hamilton



Pastor Candee and Brenda Wright will be leading six sessions of a Lenten study called ***The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life***, by Adam Hamilton. This book looks at five spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God, as described in the Bible, that can help us to walk more closely with Jesus in our own lives. Groups will meet Tuesdays at 1:00p.m. and 7:00p.m., beginning March 3. [Contact office@firstumchampton.org](mailto:office@firstumchampton.org) to learn more or sign up. You may pick up your book in the church office. The suggested donation is \$13.00.

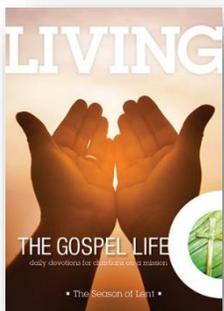
Centering Prayer Group

Sundays, March 1 - April 5 at 4:00 pm

Rev. Kerry will facilitate a small group study of Christian meditation and centering prayer, using ***One Breath at a Time: A Skeptic's Guide to Christian Meditation***, by J. Dana Trent. This group will meet Sundays at 4:00 p.m. starting March 1; email klgreenhill@gmail.com to learn more or sign up.



Living the Gospel Life: The Season of Lent



There is a Lenten Devotional available for your use during this season of Lent which has daily readings with a scripture and prayer along with a daily challenge to live the Christian life. Our hope is that this devotional will speak to your heart and guide you through this season of Lent. The devotionals are located in the back of the sanctuary (narthex) or on the table outside of the office.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
TODAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

LITURGIST: Cheryl Williams
FINANCE: Wayne Barfoot
COUNTERS: Bob Allsbrook
Ralph White

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS
NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15**

LITURGIST: Jeremy Hooten
FINANCE: Bill Diggs
COUNTERS: Brad Allsbrook
JoAnn Walberg

Altar Flowers



Don't forget to purchase your beautiful
Easter Gerber Daisies for only \$10.00



Contact Suzann in the office at 723-6577 or Email office@firstumchampton.org

Attendance Last week

Worship: **68** Sunday School: **49**

DONATIONS NEEDED

Individually wrapped candy that will fit into plastic eggs
Need by April 5. Boxes will be placed in the Narthex
(back of the sanctuary) and the Kitchen for collections.

Bags of Plastic Eggs

Need by April 5

Hard Boiled Eggs

Need by Friday, April 10 or before the party April 11.

Put in kitchen refrigerator.

Reminders, Announcements, and Other News



SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Daylights Savings Time Starts ~ Spring Forward

- 8:30 am Fellowship (FH)
- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Worship (S)
- 4:00 pm Centering Prayer Group (CP)

MONDAY, MARCH 9

- 10:00 am UMW Circle 8 (FH)

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- 10:00 am Nifty Crafters
- 1:00 pm Lenten Study: The Walk (CP)
- 6:00 pm Fitness Yoga (FH)
- 7:00 pm Lenten Study: The Walk (CP)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- 10:00 am UMW Circle 1 (FH)
- 11:30 am UMW Circle 4 (Vancosta's)
- 5:30 pm Messy Church (FH)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- 10:00 am Gentle Yoga (FH)
- 5:00 pm Sine Nomine (CR)
- 6:15 pm Glory Ringers (CR)
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir (S)

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

No Activities Scheduled

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- 8:00 am UMW Circle 9 (Barbara Price's home)

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- 8:30 am Fellowship (FH)
- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Worship (S)
- 4:00 pm Centering Prayer Group (CP)



3/8

Richard Turnage

3/10

AJ Greenhill-Raymond
Nora O'Brien
Steve Waldron

3/11

Hank Godwin

3/12

Linda Minetree

3/14

Caroline Montgomery

**The Pastor and staff
wish everyone a happy
birthday and pray God's
blessings upon you.**

If your birthday is not listed or listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and let us know in the office so we can correct our records. Thank you.

FH-Fellowship Hall
CR-Choir Room

HP-Happy People's Class
S-Sanctuary

CFR-Craft Room
CP-Crouse Parlor

K-Kitchen



Is there someone for whom you would like us to pray?
Please contact the church office.

Please remember in prayer those from our congregation:

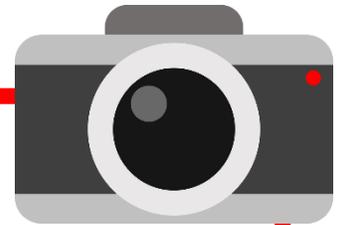
- Beth Nystrom
- Kathy Minkoff
- Ann Gordon Evans
- Winnie & Gale Barnes
- Jackie Taylor
- Adam Shlyk
- Allen Langford
- Lil' Bit Brown
- Nell Writtenberry
- Candee Martin and family
- Lenny Yarrington
- Robin Welch
- Marianne Prentiss
- Ray and Tricia Waldon

Members will be listed for four weeks unless church office is notified.

Our friends and family members in need of prayer:

- James Chandler
- The family of Suzann Messick
- The family of Barbara Cubbage
- The family of Tiffany Temple
- The family of Donna Deans
- Kay Outland (Bob Allsbrook's sister)
- Michelle Allsbrook
- Chastain Cannon (Pastor Candee's cousin)
- Scarlett Lutz Kasperbauer

Persons will be listed for four weeks unless church office is notified.



Website Updates:

Calling all photographers!

We are updating our website, and we need your photos of the church, and especially of **PEOPLE** at our church! If you have digital photos you are willing to share, please email Rev. Kerry at kjgreenhill@gmail.com, or bring the files on a flash drive.

Thanks in advance!



Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

WHY PLAN AHEAD? Lunch and Learn: CALLING ALL VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES! Join us for an informative discussion on veteran burial benefits, State and National Veteran Cemeteries, preplanning a service, and the many decisions that must be made when a death occurs. Sponsored by R. Hayden Smith Family Funeral Homes, 2609 Cunningham Drive, Hampton. Please rsvp to 757.723.3191 or send us an email @ rhaydensmithfuneralhome@gmail.com



Wednesday, March 11, at 5:30 p.m.

Next Messy Church: Our March Messy Church gathering will explore the biblical story of Creation, and what it means to be caretakers of all that God has made. Join us as we celebrate the beauty of the earth and the joy of inter-generational community!



Saturday, March 21, at 5:30 p.m.

March Movie Night: Join us for pizza (\$4/person) and a family-friendly movie: Abominable (2019), rated PG. Three teenagers must help a Yeti return to his family while avoiding a wealthy man and a zoologist who want it for their own needs. Invite friends and bring a dessert to share!



Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Spring Craft Fair: Presented by MOPS FUMC Foxhill, 1 Salt Pond Road, Hampton Crafters, artisans, silent auction, raffle, vendors, bake sale and lunch.

Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 11:00 am

EASTER PARTY!

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors! Enjoy games, snacks, crafts for Children and Adults. There will be Egg Hunts for All Ages...

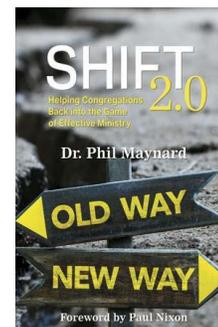


Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 9:30am – 3:30pm

Shift Leadership Training Event: Authentic Relationships

St. Luke's UMC, Yorktown, VA 23692

Both clergy and laity are strongly encouraged to attend this workshop; a .5 CEU is available for all clergy and Lay speakers. Registration is open at <https://yorkriverdistrict.org/news/district-events.html>. The \$20 fee covers the cost of the workbook and lunch. Checks should be made payable to the "York River District" and mailed to the district office at 6515 George Washington Memorial Highway, Suite 203, Yorktown, VA 23692.





Second Sunday of Lent

What does religious freedom mean today?

Given the strong foundation of religious liberty built by those who established our nation and the history of painful challenges to that liberty, where do we look now? What are we as leaders to do to ensure religious freedom and liberty? What guidelines might we consider for Religious Freedom?

Not an excuse to do anything in the name of religion. “Religious liberty does not mean persons can do whatever they please,” maintains Molly Marshall. “We live in community as citizens in a democracy that has both legal and social obligations.... Thus, the limits of religious liberty have to do with whether or not its exercise causes harm to another.”

Never a pretense for discrimination. Religious freedom has to do precisely with religious freedom. People have the right to worship where and how they choose without government interference. Marshall believes “the principle of religious liberty, as set forth in the First Amendment, is being hijacked by religious leaders and others who give it a narrow sectarian meaning that argues for personal privilege and concomitant discrimination.”

Doesn't mean religious comfort. Corey Fields says, “Being required to conduct your business fairly and within commerce regulations does not constitute the loss of freedom or religious persecution.” He wonders why the business owners who don't want to offer their services to some people on the basis of principle are quite willing to do business with those violating other tenets of faith ... American Christians tend to confuse criticism with persecution.

The calling of Christians in a pluralistic world ~ Biblical prophets warned about the danger of a sense of religious superiority. Some of Jesus's harshest words were directed to proud and intolerant religious people. Our God is larger than any human understanding of who God is. Therefore, Christians are called to resist abridging the freedom of those whose understanding of God varies from our own. It is increasingly unlikely religious leaders serve where they are surrounded only by those who share their understanding of faith. The U.S. has long been a nation of diverse religious traditions, but many of us have experienced just the denominational variations of Christianity, often living where one strong tradition shaped the religious ethos of the region. For others, Will Herberg's classic book, *Protestant, Catholic, Jew* (1955), describes the shape of the religious world they have experienced. Today's world is notable for the presence of people practicing a great range of world religions as well as a rapidly growing group who claim no religion. This different world does not mean the uniqueness of Christian witness should be forgotten. Christians are still resolved to make an active and sometimes distinctive witness in society. But Christians who know genuine religious freedom do not feel the need to use public

laws and institutions in a way that violates the religious freedom of others who don't share their faith or profess any faith. ~ **Lewis Center for Church Leadership**

Learn about District Listening Sessions

A diverse group of representatives from United Methodist advocacy groups with contrasting views and bishops from around the world has collaborated on a proposed agreement for the separation of The United Methodist Church (UMC) that has the unanimous support of all the parties involved. The proposed agreement, the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation, was achieved on December 17, 2019. District Listening Sessions on the Protocol have been ongoing with more scheduled for the coming months.

If you are interested in learning more about this proposed legislation, districts are setting up sessions to discuss:

March 9 at 6:30 p.m. **South Hill UMC**, 105 Franklin St, South Hill 23970 (all welcome).

March 11 at **Annandale United Methodist Church** (with the Rev. Tom Berlin and the Rev. Keith Boyette) 6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Va. 22003 Clergy Session: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Laity: 7:00-9:00 p.m.; **Mt. Laurel UMC**, 8077 Newbill School Rd, Clover, Va. 24534. (all welcome)

For a complete list of these sessions, visit: <https://vaumc.org/pages/news/2020news/protocol-sessions>.

Mission Encounter set for July

Are you looking to learn more about issues important to you, your family and your church? Are you seeking to grow spiritually as you come upon stories, Scripture and information that may help you deal with these issues? You are invited to Mission Encounter, **July 24-26**, at Smith Mountain Lake. The United Methodist Women (UMW) and the Board of Global Ministries work together in creating this weekend event, providing important studies of interest and purpose. One continuing education credit for full participation in the weekend is offered and the registration fee is all inclusive with meals and lodging. Study books are typically a nominal fee and can be ordered through the www.umwmissionresources.org.

You may find a listing of study offerings at

<https://vaumc.org/pages/news/2020news/missionencounter2020>.

This event is highly recommended for all who work or volunteer in children's or youth ministry, mission ministry, clergy, UMW, United Methodist Men, and anyone who wants to learn more and grow deeper in their understanding of how faith and commitment to a just and peaceful world are important.

Registration will be available soon. For more information contact Darlene Runaldue, dean of Mission Encounter, at darrunaldue@gmail.org.

Visitor Center

TO REACH THE REST ROOMS OR THE NURSERY: Enter through the canopied entrance on the side of the building. Rest rooms are down the hall to the left. The Nursery is up the steps and down the hall to the right. Greeters and ushers are available to guide you.

REGISTRATION PADS are in each pew near the center aisle. Please use these to record your presence, and to pass along information for the pastor or the church office.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS are available in the pews and in the foyer atop the Prayer Box. Deposit them in the box or drop them in the offering plates.

WE PRACTICE “OPEN” COMMUNION. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month, and at other special times. All are welcome at the table of the Lord, regardless of church membership, age, or feelings of worthiness. If you wish to come into relationship with Christ, deepen or renew that relationship, there is a place for you here.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER OF FIRST UMC, please indicate so on the registration pad, or contact the pastor.

OUR SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

FELLOWSHIP 8:30 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM
WORSHIP: 10:00 AM

There is a place for you and your family on Sunday mornings here at First UMC Hampton!

Website: <http://firstumchampton.org/>

How to Reach Us

Church Office

office@firstumchampton.org

757.723.6577

Pastor

Rev. Candee Martin

candeemartin@vaumc.org

Minister of Discipleship and Community Engagement

Rev. Kerry Greenhill

klgreenhill@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministries

Dean Shinn

deanshinn@aol.com

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William.Boyer@cox.net

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