

JANUARY FOOD DRIVE

The January Food Drive for food-insecure families at Eastlawn Elementary has been extended to **February 13**. We're collecting specific items in support of our Backpack Ministry.

- canned beans, fruits, soup, and vegetables
- canned meat: chicken, or tuna
- dry or canned pasta
- granola, fruit, or other healthy bars
- individual cereal, oatmeal, or grits (instant or regular)
- macaroni and cheese
- pasta sauce (no glass jars please)
- peanut butter and crackers

Please deposit your donations in the Welcome Center. As always, thank you for your support. To learn more about our C4C ministry with Eastlawn Elementary, or to volunteer, please contact Ms. Melissa.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CELEBRATION CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

spark that ignited the fire of celebration, but I'm not the one who kept it going. The one who keeps it going is the Holy Spirit who connects us all. When we gather together to celebrate it is the work of the Holy Spirit in us that brings out that laughter and cheer, because She is reuniting with another piece of Herself in the other people we are with. The Holy Spirit draws us together, and our world tries to resist that gathering in many different ways. But we are created in the image of God, follow the life of Jesus Christ, and are imbued with the Holy Spirit. God celebrates in creation, Jesus begins his public ministry at a party in Cana, and the Holy Spirit is like a fire of celebration longing to act in our lives.

So friends, it's time to stop putting off the celebrations. No matter what you are feeling called to celebrate, do it and remember that the Holy Trinity is celebrating with you! The rest of life will remain. Amen.

Pastor Stephan

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FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry
of Front Street UMC



February 3, 2022 Volume MMXXII No 3

CELEBRATION

Friends!

If you are reading this on Friday, February 4th, it's my birthday! I thank God for another year of life, and ask for blessings over this next new year in creation. I'm also thankful for those who will celebrate with me, and I want to invite you to celebrate as well. Now, I don't necessarily want you to celebrate my birthday, although I welcome it. This isn't about me, it's about celebration. Did you know celebration is considered a spiritual discipline?

Just this past week the staff gathered together to celebrate my birthday before I left for vacation. Now, I'm not big on celebrating my birthday. I typically ignore it until someone tells me to acknowledge it. My first thoughts in this moment were, "We've got too much to do. There's no need to pause for this, really." Maybe you love to celebrate birthdays, and that's great! However, our world is so busy and chaotic that sometimes it may seem like there is no room to celebrate. Maybe we don't feel we have enough time to get our work done in order to celebrate. Maybe we aren't sure we've earned the celebration. Maybe we feel celebrating is a privilege and it would be inconsiderate. Whatever the case may be, our understanding of celebration should not be thought of as a hindrance to life. In fact, celebration should be the model for life!

As I let my thoughts settle down I realized, this really is less about me. It was a joy to see everyone gathered together with smiles on our faces. My birthday may have been the

continued

A LOOK AHEAD:

KNOWING CHRIST

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on **Wednesday, March 2** at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, including the imposition of ashes. A nursery for children under 5 will be provided. Please join us.

METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Children deserve a safe, loving home where they can thrive and live to their full God-given potential. On Methodist Home for Children Sunday, you can make this happen. Methodist Home for Children Sunday is the one day a year when congregations take up a special collection for the children served by MHC.



In one year, the Methodist Home for Children provided sustaining care for 1303 children and families living in 82 counties. What impact did they have?

- children were safer - 96% of their measured youth reported a stable condition of well being.
- better prepared - Older teens earned workforce certifications in hospitality, restaurant management, welding, and forklift.
- smarter - Young children came to their preschool in record numbers, elementary and middle school students maintained studies year round, and 91% of eligible teens earned a high school diploma (or equivalent).
- working - 100% of eligible teens were employed.
- and families stayed together - 83% of families maintained custody.

Thank you for believing and for giving. Offering envelopes will be provided for your gift.

GROWING IN CHRIST

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW is inviting all women to belong and to explore the ways to connect. Here are a few opportunities coming up in February.

February 7 - UMW Circles meet in the Heritage Center at 10:00 a.m. for fellowship and a program with Dr. Jim Pace, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Elon. Please bring a friend to hear Dr. Pace and to attend Circles following. Circle #5 will meet on **Tuesday, February 8** at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center.

February 7-8 - C4C (Congregations for Children) Encourage Eastlawn Elementary teachers with treats. Bring fresh fruit or homemade Valentines to FSUMC and we will deliver your encouragement to school on February 9.

United Methodist



February 8 - Luncheon for the Clergy of Alamance County Bring flowers for table décor or come help us serve our church leaders during lunch.

Later in February - C4C Principal Dan of Eastlawn Elementary School has requested our partnership in tutoring K-1 children with reading and sight cards.

Please call Kathy Roberson 336-380-5664 or Suzie Lambeth 704-907-1472 if you'd like to help with C4C or the clergy luncheon. **We look forward to seeing you!**

"Making a difference - and allowing God to use your gifts to change someone else's life - is truly the greatest joy you will ever experience."
Ainsley Earhardt

SHARING CHRIST

CEREAL SUNDAY

Cereal Sunday at FSUMC is **February 6!** Please deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet located in the Welcome Center. Please feel free to drop off these items any time during the month. Thank you for your continued support of stocking the food pantry at the Salvation Army.



BLOOD DRIVE

Front Street will have a blood drive on **Saturday, February 26** from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in Aldersgate Hall. Note: donors can go ahead and sign up now online at www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Front Street. Also, donors may text or call Gene Fonville at 336-260-8114 (cell) for more information or to schedule your appointment.



Prayers

- **Helen Eckman** who is recovering from knee replacement surgery
- **Fred and Vicky Glassford** upon the death of his mother, Anne Glassford, on 1/20
- **Mike and Margaret Mitchell** upon the death of his sister, Linda Mitchell Gerring, on 1/25

Continued prayers:

- **Jennie Hawks**

Thank You

Dear Front Street UMC,
Just a note of thanks for the use of the sanctuary and grand piano for my studio recital. It was such a treat for my students to play for their families on the grand and in such a glorious setting. My appreciation is beyond words.

Sincerely,
Janet Van Sant

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **February 20 and 27 and March 6, 20, and 27.** For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or kpaul5@triad.rr.com.

FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE FOR 1/28/2022

YTD Actual Giving - \$130,691.59
YTD Budgeted Giving - \$107,562.46

STAFF

Senior Pastor
Ross Carter

Pastor of Discipleship
Stephan Margeson

Youth Minister
Chris Huneycutt

Children's Minister
Melissa Miller

Minister of Visitation
Leslie Peavy

Organist/Director of Music
Matt Brittain

Choir Director
Brad Logan

Director of Aldersgate Music
Clay Stevenson

Finance Manager
Tammy Page

Administrative Assistant
Pamela Shields

Communications Coordinator
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Joe Peloquin
Zach Mace

Afterschool Director
Katie Porter

Playschool/Babies Morning Out Director
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