

Greetings from Children's Ministry

First, let me thank you for the warm welcome that I have received from everyone! I can already feel what a passionate, caring, God-loving family I have joined at Front Street UMC.

As I am getting settled in, I am realizing some areas where I can use support. If you have strengths in any of the following areas, PLEASE reach out and let me know.

- Are you good at creating graphics on the computer like postcards, flyers, signs?
- Are you skilled in the area of creating newsletters?
- Are you an organizer? Do you like to clean out closets and label things?
- Do you have special artistic skills, or are skilled in set making or construction?

You don't actually have to be good at any of these things, but if you enjoy doing them and are willing to donate some of your time, that's great too! God can use all of us and our skills, and so can children's ministry. As our stewardship campaign this year reminds us, we are stronger together.

If we haven't met yet, please reach out to me so we can get connected. I want to meet you and learn more about you. The best way to reach me is by email melissa@frontstreetumc.org. You can also reach me by calling the church office at 336-227-6263 x218.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings,
Ms. Melissa

GRATITUDE CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

was one other. Perhaps he realized that he didn't deserve any of the blessings that came into his life. So when one did fall upon him, he knew it was proper to thank the author of his blessing – God.

When we understand and practice giving thanks for our blessings, we begin to develop an increased awareness of all that God has given us, and a greater sense of contentment with our life. This Thanksgiving, try sharing Psalm 100 with all those gathered and then give thanks to the God who abundantly blesses you. Be the 1, not the 9. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ross

Periodical
Postage Paid
Burlington NC
27216-2597

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FRONTLINE
(USPS 021-256)
Published bi-weekly except June, July, August &
December which will be published monthly.
by Front Street United Methodist Church
136 South Fisher Street
Burlington NC 27215
Postmaster, Send Address Changes to:
Front Street United Methodist Church
PO Box 2597
136 South Fisher Street
Burlington NC 27216-2597
Church Office (336) 227-6263
Fax (336) 227-7905
email: fsumc@frontstreetumc.org
website: www.frontstreetumc.org
FSUMC Playschool (336) 227-6603
FSUMC Afterschool (336) 227-6772

FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry
of Front Street UMC



November 25, 2021 Volume MMXXI No. 21

GRATITUDE

As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests."

And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you." (Luke 17:11-19)

From the moment we put the big bird in the oven till the last of the turkey sandwiches are gone, the focus of Thanksgiving is usually food. To be honest I'm a big fan of the turkey, dressing, and cranberry sauce sandwich...with white bread and a slather of Duke's mayo. So, enjoy the food and the family gathering, and remember why we gather in the first place.

The Bible tells us to *give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.* (Psalms 107:1) Yet that attitude can be lost in our secular-minded, "I deserve everything I have" culture. That may have been the mindset of the 9 lepers who were healed in the Luke passage above. Maybe they thought that they deserved to be healed, so there was no need to thank anyone. But there

continued

A LOOK AHEAD:

KNOWING CHRIST

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28



Gifts to the United Methodist Student Day offering help deserving United Methodist students continue their education and their faith journeys as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them to do. Offering envelopes will be provided for your gift. To learn more about this offering visit, www.umcgiving.outreach.com.

GROWING IN CHRIST

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Front Street's Advent Devotions 2021 will be available **Sunday, November 28**. Please pick up a copy in the Welcome Center, Narthex, or Heritage Center. We ask that you only take one copy per family. Beginning November 28, a daily devotion will be posted on Front Street's Facebook page. 'Like' us to receive notifications. Alternatively, sign up at our website, www.frontstreetumc.org, to receive a daily Advent devotion straight to your inbox. We hope these devotions will be a source of renewal for you this Advent season.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women invite all women of the church to join us on **December 6** at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel for a program including music by our own Matt Brittan and for our guest speaker, Joanne Soliday, who will present "The Silver Boxes." Joanne is a well known speaker at higher education events and serves as an ordained minister at St. Mark's Church in Elon. There will be no small group Circle meetings that day as we will adjourn after the presentations to Aldersgate for fellowship and lunch. In place of our traditional holiday covered dish event, those attending can either bring their own "bag" lunch on December 6 or can pre-order a boxed lunch for \$10 through your Circle chairs by December 2. Those who are not circle members but wish to attend the this event should email kvroberson@yahoo.com to pre-order your lunch by December 2. In addition to the December 6 event, Circle #5 will meet on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. (continued on page 4)

United Methodist



SHARING CHRIST

TREES OF LOVE

This season, share Christ with our neighbors by adorning our Trees of Love:

Tree of Grace: Pastor's Discretionary Community Relief Fund assists members of the community who are in financial distress. Specifically, this fund helps to pay for electric, gas, and water bills.

Tree of Hope: Our Sister's House has women and children residing there over the holidays. Help make Christmas special for them by taking an ornament and returning the item listed on the reverse. Let's bring some hope to our neighbors who need our help the most.



Tree of Life: Allied Churches has specific requests for the following items:

- carryout/to go trays (the clam type)
- garbage bags
- paper towels
- toilet paper

Adorn our Trees of Love with the spirit of giving! Please return all items (unwrapped) to the trees by **Sunday, December 19**. Note: if you are donating money or gift cards, please return to the church office. Thank you!

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

The Missions Team at Front Street is looking for individuals to fill jobs for next year's Buckner Mission Man Triathlon! This mission opportunity supports several ministries in our area and farther out with tens of thousands of dollars in support! It is a HUGE opportunity and our Missions Team wants you to be a part of it. Here are the current jobs:

1. City Contact and Venue Coordinator: responsible for obtaining permits and permissions and scheduling dates with phone calls or visits. Usually 1+ hours of time
2. Sponsor Captain: coordinate with previous sponsors and committee members to raise money for missions. Usually 5+ hours during spring
3. Swim Course Captain: responsible for obtaining lifeguards from city, kayaks and water safety. Coordinate with our event hosts, and some race day help. 1-2+ hours in late spring

If you feel called to be a member of this amazing mission opportunity please email Pastor Stephan.

Prayers

- **Jim and JoAnn Barbour** upon the death of his sister, Marsha Barbour Hale, on 11/21
- **Jane Lee** who is recovering from surgery
- **Tina Manning** who is recovering from knee surgery
- **Elaine Williams** upon the death of her husband, Jesse, on 11/11

Continued prayers:

- **Cynthia Powell**

CEREAL SUNDAY

Don't forget **December 5** is Cereal Sunday at FSUMC! Please deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center. Thank you!



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one:

December 24 and 26. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or kpaul5@triad.rr.com (email).



CHRIST OFFERING

On **Sunday, December 12**, as has been our tradition, we will receive this year's Christ offering. This offering assures that we not only meet our obligations for the year, but that we testify to the light which is Jesus Christ our Lord. If you will not attend church in person that Sunday, please mail your gift to the church or send it by any electronic means you prefer. Just indicate "Christ Offering".

FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE FOR 11/19/2021

YTD Actual Giving - \$922,190.99
YTD Budgeted Giving - \$1,154,224.28

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 Brittan

Choir Director
Brad Logan

Director of Aldersgate Music
Clay Stevenson

Finance Manager
Tammy Page

Administrative Assistant
Pamela Shields

Communications Coordinator
Joanna Strelow

Building Superintendent
Jackie Long

Maintenance
Joe Peloquin
Zach Mace

Afterschool Director
Katie Porter

Playschool/Babies Morning Out Director
Rebecca Hurdle

FOLLOW US





ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FRONT STREET UMC

BEL CANTO CONCERT

November 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

“A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS”

DECEMBER 12 AT 10:45 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

NOTE: 8:45 A.M. ADLERSGATE'S SERVICE WORSHIPS AS USUAL

DECEMBER 19 - MEMBER-GUEST SUNDAY

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH. COVERED DISH LUNCH TO FOLLOW 11 A.M. SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

Notices from the Church Office

FROM THE FINANCE MANAGER: Offering envelopes will be available for pick-up outside the church office beginning **Sunday, December 5.**

If you give a stock gift to the church, please call the church office and inform Tammy Page, Finance Manager, of your gift. When the church receives a stock gift, the donor name is not always provided. We want to ensure the correct individual is credited with the donation.

FROM THE EDITOR: The next newsletter (published December 9) will be the last newsletter of the year. Please submit any articles for inclusion by **Wednesday, December 1.** The *Front Street Happenings*, our electronic newsletter, will continue to be published on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout December. To receive this weekly email, contact the church office.

UMW news continued from page 2

During the past months UMW has worked "Stronger Together" to facilitate the following mission opportunities:

- (1) Our Congregation for Children (C4C) school, which is Eastlawn Elementary, was provided holiday snacks for its teachers both for Fall in October & for Thanksgiving in November. Nearly 100 letters of gratitude were also written by UMW members and were passed on to these teachers during a most difficult time in education,
- (2) UMW provided funds to assist in the church-wide purchase of Thanksgiving meals for some families of Eastlawn Elementary,
- (3) Members contributed to the UMC Conference's World Thank Offering initiative in November. There is still time to send your offering to Martha Brannock, the UMW treasurer, if you missed the opportunity to acknowledge gratitude for God's abundance and grace in our lives.

Join us and become a part of the great things that are happening in United Methodist Women at Front Street UMC.