

**DO NO HARM** CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

- Mission Man Triathlon – After conversation with Susan, Amanda, and Pastor Patrick, we decided that it was in our best interest to cancel the event for this year. As you can imagine, some of our small business sponsors are not able to contribute this year due to the economy. Also, with participant numbers projected to be down, we felt cancellation was the most prudent financial decision at this time. We are providing the congregation with a list of the missions that the proceeds normally support in case you would like to make personal donations to help cover the amounts they would ordinarily receive from the church.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We will continue to evaluate the possibility of face-to-face worship. The Conference Office is preparing a document containing suggested guidelines for local churches to consider as we are able to move through the State's phases of re-opening. I will gather a small steering committee together to help give advice on how we might move forward at Front Street. As the many issues are considered, we will continue to keep the first General Rule to "do no harm" in mind.

I participated in a webinar recently on Wesleyan teaching as it relates to ministry during a pandemic. The question was asked, "What would John Wesley think about churches not meeting in-person during our present pandemic?"

The presenter replied that there is evidence in Wesley's writings that he discussed situations where the obligation to engage in works of piety (such as corporate worship) came into conflict with the obligation to do no harm. When that happened, Wesley took the position that the obligation to do no harm to one's self, or to another person, trumped the obligation to engage in works of piety. So, in the opinion of the presenter, John Wesley would approve of our pause in corporate worship and in other aspects of corporate church life insofar as we are doing so seeking to protect the health of ourselves and others. I'm glad to know that Brother John would approve of the decision we've made at Front Street to move to online worship for a season.

Please continue to pray for all those who are in leadership at the church as we continue to discern what the future looks like for us at Front Street; and, know that we are praying for you, too.

Grace and peace,  
Ross

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# FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry  
of Front Street UMC



May 14, 2020 Volume MMXX No. 10

## DO NO HARM

In the latter part of the year 1739, some new persons to the faith came to John Wesley to see if he would mentor them in their spiritual life. Over time, the number of people seeking guidance grew, and Wesley formed them into small groups. He gave structure to the groups' lives by providing self-reflection questions to be answered, and guidelines by which each person should live. Some of those have become what we today call, The General Rules.

As I have talked with other staff about how we should live out our shared life as the Front Street congregation in light of our COVID-19 pandemic, the first General Rule keeps coming to mind and gives good guidance: "First, Do no harm."

Recently we have had conversations about everything from VBS to the Mission Man Triathlon, and the first General Rule continues to give us good guidance as we seek to balance our desire to enjoy communal activities with protection of physical health. The following are some of the decisions that we want to share with you:

- Music & Mission Camp – This has been cancelled in its present form for this year. We are hoping to be able to have a 1-day event in the fall.
- Vacation Bible School – This has also been cancelled for this summer. Instead, Marcy will focus on creating spiritual activities for our children that will hopefully be able to conform more closely to the pandemic guidelines.

continued

# A LOOK AHEAD:

## BUCKNER MISSION MAN TRIATHLON FUNDS

The following is a list of the missions that the 2019 BMMT funds supported:

- Allied Churches
- Burlington Housing Authority
- Family Abuse Services
- Front Street Adult Missions Fund
- PAYC (Positive Attitude Youth Center)
- Missionary Air Group
- Sustainable Alamance

## COLLEGE GRADUATES

This is the time of year when we celebrate students who have graduated from high school and college. We would like to recognize your college grad! If you have a loved one who is

a **new college graduate**, please provide us their name, the school they graduated from, and the degree they received. Visit [www.frontstreetumc.org/features](http://www.frontstreetumc.org/features) to complete an online graduate form, or email Pamela ([pamela@frontstreetumc.org](mailto:pamela@frontstreetumc.org)) by

**Monday, June 1.** We will include the list of 2020 graduates in the June newsletter. Thank you.



## FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES FOR BACKPACK MINISTRY

A shout out to these friends who are serving the community through our Backpack Ministry by sorting, delivering, and distributing food to Eastlawn students and their families.



Volunteers are needed to help sort and distribute food once a week. Contact Ms. Marcy to learn more.



A HUGE thank you to all of you who are supporting this ministry through your food or monetary donations. YOU make this ministry possible.

## How you can support the Backpack Ministry

- 1) **Donate specific food items.** Purchase items from the list provided on our website ([www.frontstreetumc.org](http://www.frontstreetumc.org)) and drop them by the church, or contact Ms. Marcy for porch pick-up.
- 2) **Make a monetary donation.** Make checks payable to Front Street UMC with "Backpack Ministry" in the memo-line and mail to the church.

## FRONTLINE—SUMMER EDITIONS

In the months of June, July, and August, we will publish ONE edition of *Frontline* monthly. Our online newsletter, *Front Street Happenings*, will continue on its regular schedule. Please submit any article for inclusion in *Frontline* by the following dates:

**June 4 ♦ July 2 ♦ July 30**

Please email information to [pamela@frontstreetumc.org](mailto:pamela@frontstreetumc.org). Thank you for your cooperation.



2020

No more handshakes,  
No more hugs,  
Thanks a lot  
To the Covid bugs.

Social distancing,  
Sheltering in place,  
Life has slowed  
To a crawling pace.

So much suffering,  
So much care  
From first responders  
Everywhere.

My machine and I,  
Most of the time,  
Fail to compute,  
And that leaves me behind.

I continue to look  
For lessons to learn  
From this trying time  
Which seems so long term.

I'm counting my blessings,  
But I'm left in the lurch,  
I'm missing my family,  
My friends, and my church.

When all this is over,  
As it surely will end,  
May we be better people  
Than we've ever been.

Betty Davison  
April, 2020

## Prayers

- **Sandy Elliott** who is having health issues
- **Leslie Hamlett** had surgery on her right hand on 5/11
- **Lisa Smith** who is having health problems

Continued prayers

- **Lynn Chandler**

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Bob and Betty Davison upon the birth of their great grandson, Lewis Martin Schwab, born on May 2.

## WORSHIP @ HOME

The service is available on Facebook and YouTube. The links can be found on our website. Visit [www.frontstreetumc.org](http://www.frontstreetumc.org) and click on the green "worship @ home" image.



The church office will be closed on **Monday, May 25** in observance of Memorial Day.

## FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE AS OF 5/8/2020

YTD Actual Giving – \$420,807.92

YTD Budgeted Giving - \$526,676.15

## 3 WAYS TO GIVE



TEXT

Text \$ amount to  
336.489.4483



ONLINE

[www.frontstreetumc.org/give](http://www.frontstreetumc.org/give)



MAIL

PO Box 2597  
Burlington, NC 27216

## STAFF

**Senior Pastor**  
Ross Carter

**Pastor of Discipleship**  
Patrick Murphy

**Youth Minister**  
Chris Huneycutt

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Marcy McAdams

**Minister of Visitation**  
Leslie Peavy

**Organist/Director of Music**  
Matt Brittain

**Choirmaster**  
Laura Sam

**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

**Playschool/Babies Morning Out Director**  
Rebecca Hurdle

**Afterschool Director**  
Catherine Mills