

# The Lamplighter

September 2024 • Volume XVII • Issue IX

## "Mine...or His?"

*"The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains; the world, and those who live in it." Psalm 24:1 NASB*

If you have ever known the joy of sharing life with "little ones," you are well aware of a phase of growing up through which they go, called the "terrible twos." During this phase, children go through a lot of change and some of that change can be quite challenging. It is in this phase that they begin to assert independence, insisting on doing things for themselves, like dressing themselves...*even if they don't yet have the full capability to do so.* It is during the terrible twos that many children develop a fondness for using the word "NO!" as a big part of their vocabulary. Initially, it may be cute or funny, but after a while, children have to be "instructed," if you will, as to its proper use.

Another challenging concept for little ones is that of possession or ownership. During this "terrible twos" phase, it seems to them that everything around them, especially those things they like, are in fact theirs. They mark their territory fiercely and should anyone attempt to infringe upon them, they set things straight with a loud declaration...*"MINE!"* Again, it becomes the task of loving parents, caregivers, and others in their lives to help set the record straight; that in fact, not everything is "theirs."

Some lessons are harder to learn than others. It would seem that there are times when many of us still struggle with our belief that everything is "ours." We worked for it, we earned it, we want it, it's ours, right? *Well, yes...and no.* The challenge for us is in understanding the difference between *ownership and stewardship.* Ownership implies that we are wholly responsible for that which we have received.. Stewardship, on the other hand, has a much deeper meaning. Stewardship indicates what we have received has been entrusted to us for the purpose of being enjoyed, yes, but also for being used wisely for a greater purpose.

As disciples of Jesus, we believe the higher purpose in question is that of both showing our gratitude to God for all of His goodness to us and to use what has been entrusted to us for His greater will and glory. Ben Simpson in his book, *Committed to Christ: 40 Devotions for a Generous Life*, writes, "All our possessions are gifts that have been given to us, and we are to steward and put them to good use. The portion we return to God through the tithe or other special gifts is a recognition of the origin of all that we possess. God has graciously provided us with all we have, whether through financial prosperity or the health, mental acumen and diligence that was necessary for us to obtain what we have earned. Financial giving is a much more inviting proposition when we first declare to God, "It's all Yours!"

During this month of September, you are invited to think about the meaning of true stewardship for your life and for the life of our church. You will be hearing sermons on the subject and receive information from church leaders about how God is blessing us and how He is calling us to be faithful to our vows of supporting both First Church and the Kingdom of God through our "prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness."

(continued at the top of page 6)



Children's Pool Party



Presentation of Bibles



Youth River Day

First Methodist Church Washington, Inc  
304 West Second Street  
PO Box 715  
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Email: admin@fmcwashington.com  
WebPage: www.fmcwashington.com  
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# From Your Associate Pastor of Missional Discipleship

Fellow First Church Disciples,

September is always a sign to me that the best is yet to come. I'm naturally someone who loves warmer weather, but the late summer and early autumn has to be the best all-round weather of the year. September weather is what I like to call "cookout weather!" It's usually too hot to enjoy the grill in August, and in October, it begins to get almost too cool. So, at least for me, September is the perfect middle. Cookout weather and college football are calling my name.

September is a great time to be reminded that the best is coming. The best surely is coming for us along our discipleship journeys. Christian hope is our looking at the future without anxiety and stress, and instead embracing a mindset that God has our future in mind. Hope is a Christian virtue that keeps us anchored in that whatever we are facing or going through right now won't get the last word, because the best thing is still yet to come. One phrase I'll say over and over again is, "the worse thing is never the last thing." This is the picture of hope the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us. The worse thing, the cross, doesn't get the last word in Jesus' life. The best is always yet to come, and the best is Easter and the resurrection.

Without this hope for what the future holds, our lives can easily fall into despair and turmoil. We get frustrated easily when everything we are presently facing gets the last word, or holds power over us. We get depressed when we look at the dismal past, and think that's all the future holds. Instead, remember God in Christ is making all things new.

Let us hope together for the best that is still ahead, and let us praise God for what He is working toward on our behalf. Instead of thinking about the autumn as the time the church just "gets busy again," let us look ahead at all the great possibilities God is giving us and seize those moments with great hope. Let us together continue to more fully know Christ, grow closer toward Christ, and increase in sharing Christ with the world.

In Christ,  
*Stephen Bazan*

## Bricks and Mortar

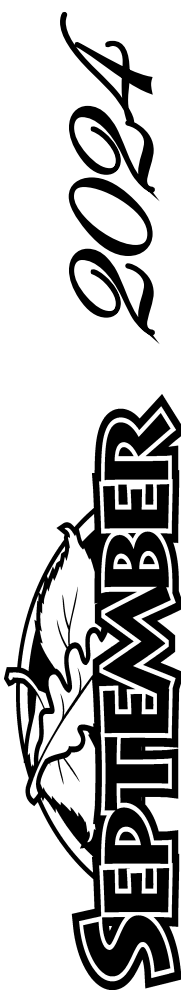
Global Methodist Church Convening Conference  
Why?

For widely understood reasons, many Global Methodists do not have warm feelings about General Conferences. They conjure up memories of very costly gatherings that were often marked by bitter conflict and bad press. All of which were hard to explain to family and friends and to people genuinely interested in learning about the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Consequently, it is not surprising some Global Methodists ask, "Why a General Conference? By holding them, aren't we just setting ourselves up for the conflict and heartache we want to leave behind?"

These are legitimate questions, that deserve thoughtful answers. First, a little history is in order.

In one way or another, all Methodist denominations trace their origins back to John Wesley and the early Methodists who routinely "conferenced" together, first informally, and over time, more formally. For our 18<sup>th</sup> century ancestors, gathering for a conference was a time for prayer, worship, theological reflection, and a corporate and disciplined examination of the body's effectiveness for fulfilling its shared mission. Conferences were deemed so essential to the vitality and growth of the movement that to this day nearly all Methodist denominations continue to conference together.

Over their long histories, most Methodist denominations' General Conferences are not typically marked by conflict, bitterness and disunity. Far more often, they are regarded as critical seasons of corporate examination, rededication, and renewal. And sometimes, by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, General Conferences are times of revival, where whole churches are moved to more passionately witness to and fully live out the gospel of Jesus Christ. This longer and broader view of Methodist conferencing is important to keep in mind as Global Methodists gather in San Jose, Costa Rica, September 20-26, 2024, for their convening General Conference.

										
		SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT		
1	9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship	2 Church Office Closed Child Care Closed Labor Day	3 9:00 AM Agape Circle Backpack Pals and Child Care Snacks 9:00 AM Mary and Martha Backpack Pals 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Circle of Joy	4 4:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 7:30 PM Praise Team	5 7:00 AM Men at the Table	6	7	14 11:00 AM Matthew 25 Fellowship Meal	21 5:30 PM Moore/Hill Wedding	
8	9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Yahoos	9 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM Family Ministries Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	10 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Circle of Kind Blessings 6:00 PM Circle of Joy Meeting 12:30 PM Pack Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Agape Circle Meeting	11 4:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Case for Faith (Kids, Youth, and Adults) 7:30 PM Praise Team	12 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM SPRC Meeting	13	19 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM Child Care Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting	20 5:00 PM Moore/Hill Rehearsal	27	30
15	8:00 AM Methodist Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 5:30 PM "Grow Your Faith" Event for Men and Women	16 5:30 PM Child Care Board Meeting 5:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	17 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	18 9:30 AM WWBS Fall Bible Study 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Case for Faith (Kids, Youth, and Adults) 7:30 PM Salt & Light Praise Team	19 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM Child Care Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting	26 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM Yahoos	28	31		
22	First Day of Autumn 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship	23 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	24 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM Troop Committee Meeting	25 9:30 AM WWBS Fall Bible Study 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Case for Faith (Kids, Youth, and Adults) 7:30 PM Salt & Light Praise Team						
29	Consecration Sunday 10:00 AM Combined Worship Service 11:00 AM Consecration Meal	30 1:00 PM Matthew 25 Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting								

# Letters

Dear First Methodist Church,

I'd like to thank you for helping my sister Sondra with her final utility bill with the City of Washington. Sondra is a 72-year-old with ongoing physical, emotional/mental, and financial problems for all of her adult life. The Housing Authority required her to move due to unsafe conditions of the residence. The move has been and continues to be extremely stressful. Please pray the stress will subside when she gets fully settled. On the bright side, she likes her new place!

Please convey our thanks to all of your members. Helping the needy is a wonderful ministry and much appreciated!!

God bless you all!!  
Sharon (76-year-old sister)

First Methodist Church,

Thank you for your support of Open Door Women's Shelter. With your help, we continue to provide a safe place for women and their children to live together while gaining skills and resources necessary to transition into a stable, long-term home.

Open Door is expanding! We are working toward raising funds to add a 3,000 sq. ft. addition that will provide 14 more beds for women and children! Please visit our website for more information.

We could not assist any of our clients without the support of community members like you!

Thank you,  
Laurie Stewart  
Executive Director

Dear Church Staff,

Thank you for the church bulletins. I do appreciate the ministry of First Methodist Church. I am blessed by the cards, phone calls, prayers, and communion service.

With Love,  
Ann Warner

First Methodist Church Washington,

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your overwhelming support over these past few months as I further my walk in the faith. Music is a passion of mine, and to be able to serve the Lord with music has been a blessing. As you know, I have spent the past six months on mission from the church to Temple FWB where I am pleased to serve. I have learned so much about what being a worship leader means. Now, I am headed off to school where I will be taught under some of the best musicians who are also sound in their theology in order to learn even more!

This would not be possible without your support. This church taught me a lot more than how to play the drums. It taught me what I wanted to be and who I wanted to be. Without this church, I would be as clueless as the blind man in Hank Williams' song "I Saw the Light"! To be backed with an abundance of financial support from the Ruble and Howard endowments shows to me your faithfulness and God's movement down the current path! I will be returning to see you soon, but until then, remember Numbers Chapter 6, Verses 24-26. Thank you and God Bless!

Nic Stembridge

Dear First Methodist Church of Washington,

On behalf of The Salvation Army of Washington, please accept my thanks for your generous contribution. We greatly appreciate your donation which enables us to continue our mission of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and meeting human needs in His Name.

May God continue to bless and keep you!

In Him,  
Sgt Les Ashby  
Corps Officer

## Eagle's Wings Food Pantry

Acknowledges with appreciation your donation to our ministry.

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*  
ISAIAH 40:30-31

## What Does It Mean To Be a Patriot?

Patriotism is the feeling of love, devotion, and a sense of attachment to a country or state. This attachment can be a combination of different feelings for things such as the language of one's homeland, and its ethnic, cultural, political, or historical aspects.

-Wikipedia- Lee Hemink

## Celebrating the gift of life during the month of September:

- 1st Jackie Monroe, Bobby Hardy, Chris Smith
- 2nd Graham Barnes
- 3rd Melanie Buckman
- 4th Kain Ross, Carole Musselwhite
- 5th Katlyn Peele
- 6th Steve Toler, Bonita Arvizu, Bill Edwards, Trevor Rawls
- 7th Nancy Jessup
- 8th Rick Anderson
- 9th Steve Gravely
- 10th Mary Maddox, Linda Smith, Lynette Amick, Elizabeth Moye
- 11th Tish Moore
- 12th Kasey Stone, Caitlin Alligood, Brayden Capehart
- 13th Selden Taylor
- 14th Tim Copeland, Lilly Frances Lobos
- 16th Derrick Ingalls
- 17th Bobby Turner, Fritz Tanner, Isaac Bazan
- 18th Brenda Anderson, LouAnn Jackson, Hayden Bollow
- 20th Christian McCullen
- 22nd Jackson Buck
- 23rd Blount Modlin, Elaine Sheridan
- 24th Jeryl Rawls
- 25th Jennifer Worsley, Will Glover
- 26th Dick Bump, Grant Culbertson
- 28th Buck Buckman, Becky Ward, Mitchell Blake
- 30th Dee Tankard

*Christian sympathy is expressed to the family of:*

*Melanie Wallace Buckman*

# Family Ministries

*"Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, And yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" Matthew 6:26-27*

One of my favorite things about my apartment is that I have a beautiful outside space where I can sit and watch the birds and other wildlife come and go and just really be at peace to enjoy God's beautiful creation. I was sitting outside one evening and had recently been enjoying three hummingbirds as they came and went between my yard and the neighbors' yards. All of a sudden, one of them came racing over towards me, checked out a little glass flower, and then was no more than six inches from my face! Oh, what a moment it was! I was in total awe of this little bird, how fast it could fly, how carefree it seemed with its friends, and how unafraid of me it was!

As I shared this experience with my mom, she encouraged me to stop and go to the Scriptures and be reminded of what God promises us. He reminds us how much He cares for all things, but certainly how we who are made in His image are so very important, and we need to trust in Him. While there are so many adversities that we face, there is always God's promise that He loves us, He cares for us, and that He will provide for us. God won't take away the problems that we face, but when we put our trust in Him, He will give us His strength to make it to the other side!

*"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." Matthew 6:34*

Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet for our new Wednesday night Bible Study that will start on September 11. Dinners will start at 5:30 p.m. and the Bible study will start at 6:15 p.m. We will have all ages using the "Case for Faith" by Lee Strobel for the first seven weeks of Wednesday nights. There will be opportunities to interact with the youth and children who will be studying an age-appropriate version, too. Our entire church family will have the opportunity to grow in Christ together.

Blessings,

*Sarah Beth*  
Director of Family Ministries  
252-946-3311 Ext. 204  
[dfm@fmcwashington.com](mailto:dfm@fmcwashington.com)

# Child Care

I sat thinking about kids, adults and our world. Some moments thoughts about our world are so sobering. Then, the Lord brought to my mind what we say in Child Care so often. "Kids are resilient. They will be great even during change." Our kids proved that last year when the HVAC failed and we were blessed by our amazing Caring Christian Carpenters to have "temporary housing" in the Fellowship Hall. The kids proved wrong nearly every statement about how hard that situation would be! Okay, in fairness, naptime was a CHALLENGE but again, they were resilient. The dictionary defines it this way:

re-sil-ient (of a person or animal) able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.  
"Babies are generally far more resilient than new parents realize."

I sat thinking about how God looks at us as children, how He requests a child-like faith and how dependent a child is on its parents for everything. We have been created to be resilient by our Almighty Father for every circumstance. Today as I sit writing this, it's been a day to "withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions." It's been a lesson from the Lord in listening and obedience and hopefully allowing knowledge of something to conform my mind and heart into wisdom. Pressing beyond the circumstance into action brought me into a place of joy. Isn't that just one of those astounding ways God shows His love, during pressure? HE calms us. Please pray with us as we care for these precious children, that we can pass along the messages of our loving Heavenly Father so the soil can be prepared, seeds can be planted, sprout, and be tended by all who later get to love and nurture them as we do so they become resilient soldiers in Christ's Kingdom.

*Diane Van Staaldouin*  
Child Care Director  
Director's Cell: 252-947-2836

# Missions

The Missions Committee will be offering several opportunities to share in the mission events that will be scheduled for the rest of this year.

**On Sunday, October 27, 2024**, we will host "The Church Has Left The Building" (This is a mission opportunity to help, serve and support our community.) There will be many mission events in which every person and family can participate. We will start the day with a praise and worship service to commission all that participate. The October Lamplighter will offer more details of the community events and projects.

**On Wednesday, November 6, 2024** we are planning a Chili Cook-Off. You will be able to enter a pot of your secret chili recipe to be judged for prizes. This will be an all-church event and an opportunity to share a special meal with our Church Family.

We encourage you, as members of FMCW to pray, serve and participate in these upcoming events.

**1 Samuel 12:24 "But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."**

## Family Night Dinner Menus

- 9/11/24 Baked Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, and Dessert
- 9/18/24 BBQ, "Up the Creek Potatoes," Slaw, Cornbread, and Dessert  
Kids portion of meal—Chicken Nuggets
- 9/25/24 Baked Ham, Roasted Zucchini, Squash and Onions, Mac 'n' Cheese, Rolls, and Dessert

Please note that we have intentionally worked these menus to include items children will like. When the menu doesn't inherently provide that, we have added an item for kids—i.e. the Chicken Nuggets on Sept. 18.

We will need volunteers for the desserts each week, so please be inspired to help Janie Hauser with those. If you love to eat them—then hopefully you will love to help provide them!

There will be sign-up sheets in the Wesley Hall Welcome Center and the Traditional Sanctuary entry hall each Sunday for the meal that will be prepared and served that upcoming Wednesday.. Please remember that you must sign up for the meal on Sundays or call the church office by noon on Mondays to get your name on the list for dinner. It is imperative that we have an accurate head count for each weekly meal so that we have plenty of food for dinners.

Please note that the church staff and volunteers are planning Christian programming for family members of all ages on Wednesday evenings following the meal...from the youngest to the oldest!

If you have any questions, please call Dale Peele at 252-943-8068.

We look forward to sharing these meals with our church family!

**Methodist Women  
Circle News**

Monday, August 26, 2024  
MW Executive Board Meeting  
9:00 AM, Asbury Conference Room

UMW Circle Meetings:

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Agape Circle  
9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall, Backpack Pals  
and Child Care Snacks

Circle of Mary and Martha  
9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall—Backpack Pals  
10:00 AM, Asbury Conference Room

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Agape Circle  
7:00 PM, Parlor

Circle of Joy  
12:30 PM—2:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Circle of Kind Blessings  
9:00 AM—3:00 PM, Asbury Conference Room  
and Kitchen

SONshine Circle  
TBD

## Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

*Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and education ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

*Reid Brodie*

Stewardship Chairman

## Library News

Laurie and Butch Weston have donated a new four-volume set of books that will answer many questions. Examples, How could Noah fit the animals in the ark? Why 66 books in the Bible? What really happened to the dinosaurs? Visit your church library to find good books to help your Christian journey.

*Delane Fuquay*

Church Librarian

## Matthew 25

Hurricane Debby changed our August plans and moved our fellowship meal to August 17. The Matthew 25 team extends a grateful "thank you" to our church family for your most generous donations of back-to-school supplies plus \$601.00 in cash donations!! We were able to assemble 60 bags of supplies for the precious children who attend our Matthew 25 fellowship meals. They were distributed on August 17 and will be distributed again on September 14. Any remaining supplies will be shared with other children in need in our community. What a blessing it is to help these children feel more confident as school starts. Bless you for your kindness and generosity in serving all of God's children.

For more information about this ministry, contact Lorre Bowen at 252-944-6548 or [lorrebowl@gmail.com](mailto:lorrebowl@gmail.com).

## Preschool

Our preschool team has worked so hard the past few weeks to make preparations for our precious students and we know that this year will be a good one!

We want to first welcome the new members of our preschool family! Mrs. Susan Bailey will be joining the team as our three-year-old class assistant. She has been attending our 11:15 a.m. service now for many months and we are excited that she wants to join us in serving our preschool. Mrs. Rachel Langley will be joining the team as our pre-K class assistant. She has been a sub for the preschool in years past, and we are blessed to now have her full time at the preschool.

We are pleased to announce that our Little Bits class, 2-year-old class, and 3-year-old class are already full for the school year. As of August 1, our Pre-K class only had two spots available! Please call or text my cell number at 252-532-7604 to check for current availability if you or someone you know may be interested. Registration forms can be found online at [fmcwashington.com](http://fmcwashington.com) by clicking the Children and Youth tab and selecting Preschool.

The following are some specific opportunities that the congregation has to partner with and help support our program this year. If you feel led to donate financially to the preschool, we are currently in need of more scholarship funds for our students. This year we have promised a total of \$3,000 towards scholarship funds in order to help three different families and 4 students total. These children would not have the opportunity to come to our program without this financial help. We have raised about half of those funds so far, and are looking for about \$1,500. Anything given above what is needed will be put toward the scholarship fund for the following school year.

We also covet your prayers for our staff members and the children they serve. If you are interested in partnering with a specific classroom this year to encourage them and pray for them, please email me at [fmcwpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:fmcwpreschool@gmail.com). I want to extend a thank you to those who have already committed to this service. Prayer is vitally important to the continued successes of our preschool and our staff (myself included) understands that everything we are able to do for these children and families is only done because of the power and the grace that God provides us.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our program.

Amanda Bazan  
Preschool Director  
Cell: 252-532-7604  
[fmcwpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:fmcwpreschool@gmail.com)

## Youth News

First off, thank you so much to everyone who was praying for our youth retreat that was scheduled for August 9 to August 11. Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Debby, the retreat was cancelled, but we look forward to a similar retreat in January. We did have a wonderful time of fellowship at Paige and Laura Davis' house on August 18. Youth and leaders spent time sharing a meal and enjoying the wonderful blessing of living on the Pamlico! See pictures on back cover.

For the month of September, we are excited to start youth group back but on Wednesday evening to go along-side our Family Night Dinners as well as a Children's Ministry time and adult Bible study. Our desire is that this time change will make it easier for everyone to be at church at the same time! Youth will meet on Wednesdays from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. We will have some time to study "The Case for Faith" to help youth be able to defend what they believe and why as well as fellowship and game time.

We will also continue our monthly fellowship time. This month we will be meeting at Pamlico Plantation from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 22, for an afternoon of pickleball/kickball and other fun games. Snacks, of course, will be on hand so we hope that all youth can come out.

"See You at the Pole" is on Wednesday, September 25, and I pray that everyone can participate in your school's event. "See You at the Pole" was started back in 1990 by a group of teenagers compelled by God to pray for their friends and their school and is celebrated across the world, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of September every year.

If you or your youth are not on the text thread, please contact Sarah Beth at [dfm@fmcwashington.com](mailto:dfm@fmcwashington.com) so that we can get you connected with the most up-to-date news.

*Sarah Beth*

(continued from Senior Pastor's article on page 1)

On the last Sunday of the month, we will be celebrating Consecration Sunday, as we bring our pledges of financial support to the altar and enjoy a fellowship meal afterward. As we go through this time, I encourage you to meditate on the words of Psalm 24:1, as you ask yourselves, "Is all of this mine...or is it truly His?" See you in church Sunday!

Ken

# Children's Ministry

On Sunday, August 18, Promotion Sunday, we shared a special time in worship where our children and their Sunday School teachers were invited to the front where we held a special prayer over them. Special backpack tags were given to all students and teachers to remind them that our church family is praying for them. It was special to present Bibles to our rising 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and we do this to encourage their growth and their personal relationship with God. We encourage them to bring their Bibles with them to church and everywhere they go.

- Hudson Slade Capehart
- Eileen Lux Culbertson
- Zachary Thomas Cushing
- Elise Gray Howdy
- Ethan Lemsanya Tisho

"I have hidden your word in my heart so that I won't sin against you." Psalm 119:11

Promotion Sunday also brought a fun day at the Bowes family pool. This was a wonderful day with lots of fun and fellowship and celebrating the back-to-school season.

August was such a busy month for our children's programs, and we have some wonderful things coming up in September. This month, Children's Ministry will resume Wednesday night programming and will join the youth and adults in studying "Case for Faith." Starting on Wednesday, September 11, each group will have their own age-appropriate study (children, youth and adult), but we look forward to having different ages share what they are learning. Children will also have some fun game time as well! Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets soon, and bring the family to dinner before we start. All dinners will be kid-friendly, sometimes even having a main course that is a kid favorite!

October is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to having a family pumpkin carving contest (like we did last year) on Wednesday, October 30, with a special treat! Parents, please also be thinking about when would be a good time in November and December for us to have play practice. We will send out more information on this soon!

Please contact Sarah Beth at [dfm@fmcwashington.com](mailto:dfm@fmcwashington.com) to be added to the communications list so that you can stay in the know with Children's Ministry events!

Please see pictures on back cover.

Sarah Beth

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR

FMCW would like to express its deepest gratitude to **Amanda Bazan**, who has been serving as our **Children's Ministry Coordinator**. Amanda recently stepped down from this position, and we are truly thankful for all of her work in helping to better form our children in the Christian faith. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for both Amanda and for our Children's program as we seek to be faithful to the mission of "Knowing Christ, Growing in Christ and Sharing Christ."

# Finance Committee

## Online Giving is Live!

Greetings, wonderful church family! We wanted to let you know that there are two new ways you can donate to support all the amazing programs spreading God's Word and His love through First Methodist Church. On the bulletin, you can use the **QR Code** and on our website, use the drop-down menu and select **Online Giving**. Instructions for both below.

**QR Code:** Open the **Camera** application on your phone. Line up the QR code on your screen until you see the yellow brackets appear and form a square around the QR Code. You will see a yellow bar open with a hyperlink to the website. Press the hyperlink and it will take you to the **Online Giving** page on our website. **Skip to step #3 on Online Giving for next steps.**

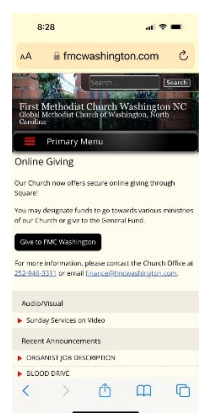
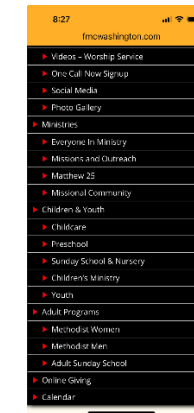


### Online Giving:

1. Visit our website at [www.fmcwashington.com](http://www.fmcwashington.com)
2. On your computer, select **Online Giving** from the bar under the picture (to the right, next to **Calendar**):



3. On your phone: From the **Primary Menu** (3 red bars upper left) drop down, select **Online Giving** (near bottom). On the next page, press the button that says **Give to FMC Washington**:



4. Select **Budget** or other area to give to and **type in amount**—press **Donate**. A box will pop up on screen that says **VIEW ORDER** and the amount you indicated you want to donate. Press on **View Order**—it will take you to the checkout screen. If it is correct, press **Continue** to payment.
5. The payment screen will give you the option to pay by Square Pay, Apple Pay or Google Pay. Use your credit card saved in any of these and complete the transaction. Fill in your contact information and an email copy will be sent to you as your receipt.

If you have any questions, you can call or text me, Shelley Tubaugh, 252-944-6594, though I am not experienced with Android phones.