



August 2022

TOWER TOPICS



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1	Logan Chambers
8/2	Vicki Hanshaw
8/3	Tim Cummings Parker Shepherd
8/4	Mary Ganzer Tyler Eddins
8/6	Elsa Meade
8/7	David Denning Amanda Duncan Carter Sergent
8/8	Ellie Buell
8/9	Macy Archer
8/11	Campbell Neighborgall
8/12	Madison Reed
8/14	Mark Richardson
8/15	Katie Brown Evan Gooding
8/17	Judy Davis Jill Nelson
8/18	Judy Taylor
8/21	Jeri Danford
8/23	John Tanner
8/25	Josie Curry
8/27	Ann O'Roark
8/28	Jeff Davis Joe Eddins II Austin Davis Hillary Herold
8/29	Kathy Patrick Shawna Thomas
8/30	Mary Berry Jeff Archambault

It has been quite an active summer for me: Saying goodbye to Pastor Steve, Welcoming Pastor Heather, Vacation Bible School, Day-Spring Camp at Ritter Park, Annual Conference (where I was elected to serve as the Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry), travel to a wedding in Florida, and a "health" event or two. Throughout it all, I have felt nothing but the full support and helpfulness of the congregation of First Church.

But I also felt more than a need – a compulsion – to spend even more time in prayer. I have encouraged the Board of Ministry to join me in that prayer time as well. We have turbulent times ahead for us as a church and this Board, which is responsible for recruiting and enlisting ministerial leadership for churches throughout our conference, will be pushed to its max as well.

As July was coming to an end, I noted that the lectionary passage offered for the next to the last week was Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer. Because of this, I set out to do a two part series on prayer for the congregation as a way of inviting you all to join me in even more intentional times of prayer.

The sermons are not complete as I write this article but I do know some of the highlights that I will have shared with you during those sermons:

Luke's gospel has the most references to Jesus spending time in prayer;

We all learn to pray somewhere;

Although prayer may seem natural ("There are no atheists in foxholes!") Christian prayer is unique in that we pray for God's to continue to work to show Godself holy, we pray for daily

sustenance, the link between praying for forgiveness and forgiving others is unbreakable; and we pray knowing that the Holy Spirit is the greatest gift that God can give us.

When we pray the Lord's prayer, which may have resulted from the disciples seeing Jesus in prayer so often as much as it was a desire to be like John the Baptizer's disciples, we get a glimpse of how Jesus wants us to pray as Christians.

I hope that as you spend more intentional time in prayer following this sermon series, you will begin to see that prayer is all about God and our relationship to what God is doing in this world for God's Kingdom and Kin-dom.

I also hope that you will continue to pray for your pastors – both Heather and me – as we seek to lead our congregation through the coming year. Remember all the staff of the church – Schauna, Debbie, Jay, Rhonda, Hillary, Harriett, and Susan. Lift them up in prayer when you see them. Lift us up in prayer when we are absent – because I assure you that we are missing you in our absence!! But most of all, lift one another up as we call for God to bring God's Kingdom to us!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott



The end of summer is here, and that brings the return of Wednesday night dinners! The first one will be on August 24th. The meals are listed below (they are subject to change based on availability).

Dinner is \$5/person with reservation
\$6/person without reservation
\$3/children under 12 and \$20/family
RSVP will be available through the bulletin.

8/24	Pizza
8/31	Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & Fries
9/7	Ranch Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Steamed Broccoli
9/14	Spaghetti
9/21	Tacos & Brown Beans
9/28	Bake Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans





Scholarship Recipients

Alexa Hensley
Christopher Gooding
Skylar Stone Arthur
August Kuhl Meade
Carter Bacon
Taylor Davis
Justin Legg
Scout Arthur
Caleb Morgan
Sophia Wylie
Andrew Legg

This year, 2022, FUMC is celebrating its sesquicentennial. If you could speak with some of the member from 1872, what would you say to them?

Below are excerpts from their essays

Please hold on to your traditions. Not the hateful ones that limit humanity, but the ones that recognize community and the human spirit...Please stay strong, because faith isn't 'rational' but that's what makes it beautiful

The church provides food and items for those in need; travels around the country; and provides church lessons to spread the word of God. At FUMC anyone in need of an answers or assistance is welcomed with open arms.

Along with the many questions I have, I would also present my gratitude for how their contributions have positively affected not only my quality of life and spirituality but a variety of others of all ages, as well.

In our conversation about improving the church in the years to come, we should have a deep discussion about everything going on in the world today. Younger generations and even older generations are losing faith in Christianity. So what could we do to improve? We need to be welcoming to all and create a space where everyone, every single person, feels safe and included.

Hello all!

It's been several weeks since I've started as your new associate pastor, and it has been a great start! I've really enjoyed getting to know people in our short conversations before or after worship and through meetings and Bible studies. If I haven't gotten a chance to meet you yet, please pull me aside and introduce yourself. Thank you to all who baked cookies and stopped by during the reception, and especially for wearing name tags to help me learn names. It was such a blessing to see how the church showed up to greet me. Over the coming months, I hope that you'll join me in dreaming about what we can do together to bring glory to God. There are so many opportunities to explore in the church and the community, and I'm excited to be in ministry with you all, using the gifts and passions God has given us. I hope you'll be in prayer with me as we venture into some new and exciting things.

Blessings,
Heather



HANGING *with* HEATHER

Come meet Associate Pastor Heather around town to get to know her and she can get to know you and the church! Comprising of small groups, multiple times and locations are available to fit your schedule.

Check out firstunitedmethodist.com to sign up.



On August 21st We will be having our Annual Church Picnic and in Celebration of our 150th Anniversary, we will:

Celebrate "T-Shirt" Day in worship – everyone is invited to wear their 150th Anniversary Shirt to worship. Free ones will be provided to first time guests. If you need one, please contact the church office!

Have our picnic at Asbury Woods, the District Camp. Directions will be available online and on the day of the picnic.

The pool will be open for our use (pending the weather, of course) and a list of what items to bring will be published in the bulletin each week in August.

Festivities will begin at 2:00 pm at Asbury Woods!



The ladies of the Dorcas Circle collected items for Criddle Food & Clothing Pantry following a visit from Lynn Cummings their Director. Missing from the picture is Sue Atkinson, Kimberlee Lockwood, Joyce Ray. We are always wishing for ladies to join our group. Come and visit our Circle on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 in the Panel room.

ACE ADVENTURE

Youth are going to Ace Adventure on Saturday August 13th and families are welcome! **RSVP by Friday, August 5 is required.** This waterpark features a waterslide, zip lines, waterslides and other fun things to do in the lake. We will leave at 7 am and be there from 9 am to 3 pm. Cost will be \$18 for 15 and under plus money for food. Adults is \$23 plus food.

Welcome Back Wednesday on August 24!

We will have an evening of fun fellowship in the courtyard for our welcome back Wednesday. We will have crafts and games out in the courtyard. If you would like to help with one of the tables please see Schauna. KFC and Youth will go to normal schedules the 2nd week.

Youth 2023

Youth 2023 is in July 25-28 in Florida and Schauna needs a head count by **AUGUST 15**. To make the trip possible, Schauna needs volunteers to help with various aspects of the trip.

YES CAMPAIGN!

We are the church and so many times we don't know where to put our time in. Check out the Yes Campaign located in the sanctuary to see where would be the best place for you jump in, have some fun, and help make a difference! Information can also be found on the Facebook page and Website!



Join Pastor Heather and the Wednesday Bible Study Group for a 4-week study on the Book of Ruth! Though short in length, the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz contains insights into relationships, love, and God's providence. Each week we will cover a single chapter by reading the scripture, learning about the history, discussing how we see God at work, and seeing connections with our own lives. This adult Bible study is open to anyone, including those with no Bible knowledge to those with a lot. The study will begin Wednesday, August 10 at 11am in the Panel Room. You're invited to read the first chapter of Ruth prior to meeting, but it is not necessary. Come and bring a friend!

UMW United Women in Faith

We may have a new name, but our Mission to women, children and youth has not changed. Our June Mission Moment did not take pledge at the pulpit but in the fellowship hall. It was a whole lot more fun eating brunch and enjoying the company of 100 or so of our nearest and dearest. Nobody even noticed that we raised \$450 for Mission at the same time. Thanks to all the good cooks that made that possible.

In July, Dorcas Circle had a very quiet meeting, because we were busy writing. What were we writing? We were writing letters to our elected representatives urging them to help stop the carnage by banning those very unnecessary assault weapons that are killing our children.

Charge Conference

The annual Charge Conference for First UMC, Huntington will take place on October 23, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary of First UMC. Conference Superintendent of our as yet "unnamed" new District will preside. Please be ready for special meetings of SPRC, Finance, Church Council, and Lay Leadership to be announced as we prepare for this Charge Conference.



WEEKLY
SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY:

- 8-45 Coffee fellowship
- 9-30 Small Groups for all ages
- 10-45 Traditional Worship

WEDNESDAY

- 9:00 Wednesday Willing Workers
- 10:00 Veterans Fellowship (Parlor)
- Knitters Club
- 11:00 Bible Study (Panel Room)
- 6-6:45 Yoga (\$5.00 a person)
- Small Group Meetings

August 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3 Finance Meeting (6:00)	4	5 RSVP Deadline for Ace Adventure	6 The Table Bible Study
7 Scholarship Sunday SEA Begins (6:30-8:00)	8	9 Dorcas Circle (1:00)	10 Ruth Bible Study Begins (11:00) Trustee Meeting (6:00)	11	12	13
14	15 RSVP Deadline for Youth 2023	16	17 Staff Parish Meeting (7:00)	18	19	20
21 Church Picnic at Asbury Woods (2:00)	22	23	24 Wednesday Night Activities Start	25	26	27
28 Choir Retreat (1:30-5:00)	29	30	31			

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Senior Pastor,
 Scott Sears

Associate Pastor
 Heather Barker

Director of Christian Education
 Schauna Chambers

Sunday Worship Opportunities

Small Groups 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.



Next Tower Topics Deadline August 19, 2022.

Food Pantry Needs:

August: 96 Tuna Helper

September: 96 Chili



**Did you know there is more than
 one way to access Tower Topics?**

We want to update our records and make sure you get information and event notices how you want it. Every Tower Topic publication and a calendar is available on our website at www.firstunitedmethodist.com and it is also sent out to some electronically through email. If you want to update how you receive Tower Topics or want to stop getting the publication in the mail, please call the church office!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful. Together let us pray...

For those who are sick or homebound...

Mary Plyde Bell, Judy Davis, Dawn Aikin, Jeanne Burford, Leona Davis, GinnyLee Hastings, Betty Keeling, Claire McClure, Jane McColgan, Dan Smith, Pat Sydnor, Jean White, Tracy Jones, JD Maue, Nancy Palmer, Allen Parsley & his wife Beth, Mike Goodall, Beth McVey, Anna Archer, Richard Drown, Mike Conley, Anne Weeks, Carolyn Waggoner, Jack Patrick, Caretakers