



Friendship United Methodist Church Weekly News Blast

(828) 464-5408

2900 NC Hwy. 16 South, P.O. Box 1373, Newton, NC 28658

friendshipoffice@friendshipumc.us

friendshipumc-newton.org

Article from *The FISHWRAPPER*, of Lebanon County, NJ

Shared by Lois Weaver

The Empty Chair

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said.

"No, who are you?" said the father.

The minister told him his name and then remarked, "I see the empty chair; I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?" Puzzled, the minister shut the door. "I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head." "I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest. Sit down in a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised, 'I'll be with you always.' Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now.'

"So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon.

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UPCOMING LECTIONARY

December 9:

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 16:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

December 2, 2018

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United Methodist Men's

Breakfast Meeting

Sat., Dec. 8 - 7:30 AM - FLC

SPRC Meeting

Tue., Dec. 11 - 6:00 PM

FIF (Crafters) Classroom

Charles Beck Memorial Prayer Group

Every Wed. - 6:30 AM

Family Life Center

Weekly Bible Study At Abernethy Laurels

Every Wed. - 10:30-11:30

Clock Tower Room

Questions? Call Dwin Caldwell

- 828-244-9684

Choir Practice

Tuesdays, 6-7:00 PM

Sanctuary - Dec. 11 & 18

Continuation of Story / Upcoming Events

The Empty Chair - continued

“Did he die in peace?” he asked.

“Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek.

When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. “But there was something strange about his death. Apparently just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?”

The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, “I wish we could all go like that.”

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 16

8:30 AM - Family Life Center

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 23

10:00 AM - Family Life Center

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 23

11:00 AM - Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Monday, December 24

7:00 PM - Sanctuary

Weekly Givings / New Phone # / Local Ministry Needs

2018 Giving of Our Tithes and Offering

Weekly income required:	\$6,657.71
Received 12/2/2018	\$4,739.02
YTD Received	\$263,780.98
YTD Needed	\$319,570.08
+/-	(-) \$55,789.10

NEW PHONE NUMBER:

Angela Detter
704-740-9442



Women's Resource Center Supplies

Needed are: **laundry detergent; dryer fabric softener sheets; liquid hand soap; paper towels; liquid dish soap; disinfectant spray; all-purpose cleaner (409, Lysol, etc.); mouthwash; Q-tips; body wash; shampoo and other hair products; deodorant; light bulbs.** You can find all of these items at Dollar Tree for just \$1 each. This is an ongoing mission project of the United Methodist Women.

You may drop off items in the narthex of the sanctuary or in the entry area to the Family Life Center.

Battered Women's Shelter Needs:

Baby diapers - all sizes
Cleaning supplies; brooms/dustpans
Paper products - toilet tissue, paper towels, napkins
Utensils; sets of 4 dishes; alarm clocks
Hair products - shampoo/conditioners; hairspray
Lotions; makeup items; nail clippers; files; razors
Children's shampoo
Clothing for newborns through 5's

This is an ongoing mission project of the United Methodist Women.

You may leave items in the narthex of the sanctuary or in the entry area to the Family Life Center.

Volunteer Schedules



Nursery Schedule of Volunteers

December 9

8:30 am Olivia Spencer
11:00 am Darlene Poovey

December 16

8:30 am Jennifer Hastings
11:00 am Lindsay Loyer

December 23

8:30 am Nancy Fulbright
11:00 am Melanie Whitener

December 30

8:30 am Olivia Spencer
11:00 am Rhonda Parker

Son Quest Volunteer Schedule

December 9

8:30 am Judy Whisnant & Nancy Fulbright
11:00 am Dwin Caldwell & Glenn Fulbright

December 16

8:30 am Jennifer Shook & Nancy Fulbright
11:00 am Nancy Fulbright & Brian Weaver

December 23

8:30 am Joel Sherrill & Nancy Fulbright
11:00 am Rhonda Parker & Lydia Brown

December 30

8:30 am Jamie Stilwell & Shane Hastings
11:00 am Pam Rutledge & Nancy Drum



Greeters for 8:30 AM Service

December 9 - Dave & Judy Whisnant
December 16 - Frank & JoAnn Sherrill
December 23 - Charlie & Sandy Sedwick
December 30 - Ernie & Mary Keller



Acolytes for 11 AM Worship Service

December 9 - Brennan Cody & Ashlyn Cody
December 16 - Perrey Rutledge & Meredith Fulbright
December 23 - Preston Rutledge & Brennan Cody
December 30 - Kevin Brown & Joe Crump



Ushers for 11:00 Worship Service

December - Bob Drum & Mike Rutledge

Counters

December - JoAnn Sherrill & Steve Cloninger

2 Week Schedule of Events at Friendship UMC

Sunday, December 9

8-8:25 AM Gathering - FLC
8:30 AM Worship - FLC
9:45 AM Sunday School/Small Groups
11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
4:30 PM YOUTH - Youth Sunday School Class
4:30 PM Children's Praise Practice - FLC
5:00 PM Kids On a Mission - FLC
6:00 PM Dinner - Children - FLC/KIT

Monday, December 10

6:30-8 PM Scouts - FH/FLC

Tuesday, December 11

12:30 PM Crafters for Christ - FIF Class
6:00 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary
6:00 PM SPRC Meeting - FIF Class

Wednesday, December 12

6:30 AM C. Beck Mem. Prayer Group - FLC/KIT
10:30-11:30 AM Bible Study - Abernethy Laurels -
In the Clock Tower Room
PM - Praise Team Practice - FLC

Sunday, December 16

8-8:25 AM Gathering - FLC
8:30 AM Children's Christmas Program - FLC
9:45 AM Sunday School/Small Groups
11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
4:30 PM YOUTH - Youth Sunday School Class
4:30 PM Children's Praise Practice - FLC
5:00 PM Kids On a Mission - FLC
6:00 PM Dinner - Children - FLC/KIT

Monday, December 17

6:30-8 PM Scouts - FH
5:30-9:30 PM Private Event - FLC/KIT

Tuesday, December 18

12:30 PM Crafters for Christ - FIF Class
6:00 PM Choir Practice - Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 19

6:30 AM C. Beck Mem. Prayer Group - FLC/KIT
10:30-11:30 AM Bible Study - Abernethy Laurels -
In the Clock Tower Room
PM - Praise Team Practice - FLC

Thursday, December 20

6:30 PM Finance Com. Mtg. - FIF Class

Sunday, December 23

8-8:25 AM Gathering - FLC
8:30 AM Worship - Children's Program - FLC
9:45 AM Sunday School/Small Groups
10:00 AM Breakfast with Santa - FLC/KIT
11:00 AM Christmas Cantata - Sanctuary
4:30 PM YOUTH - Youth Sunday School Class
4:30-6:30 PM Children's Fun Night - FLC

FRIENDSHIP-A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

PO BOX 1373

NEWTON, NC 28658



Return Service Requested



December Birthdays

6 Zach Lamb	27 Max Woody
7 Dale Shuford	28 Diana Killian
10 Ada Robinson	29 Larry Yancey
11 Mindy Warren	31 Rhonda Parker
12 Brian Woody	
13 Marty Edmonson	
14 Katelynn Guernsey	
15 Kathryn Hermance	
Eryn Laney	
Christina Saunders	
17 Dave Davis	
Gene Sites	
18 Blake Edmonson	
Jesse Parker	
24 Vickie Crouse	
25 Daren Burns	
Wayne Hermance	

December Anniversaries

2 Brian & Shelley Woody
15 Brian & Lindsay Loyer
20 Donnie & Angel McKinney
23 Michael & Diane Guy
28 Tim & Beverly Hefner
30 LeRoy & Kathy Plude

If you have a birthday or anniversary not listed for this month, please contact the church office.