



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Stewardship

September Edition

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship

Office Details

Hours: 8:00-1:00

(Emails answered throughout the day)

Aldersgate@ftc-i.net

(803) 775-1602

211 Alice Drive

Sumter, SC 29150

Churches often have a stewardship campaign during September. This allows them to receive giving commitments so that a budget can be planned for the coming year. Therefore, we often associate stewardship with financial giving. Sometimes, we even dread a month-long focus on stewardship because we expect a month of sermons about tithing. If we already tithe, it can come across as a month of telling us to do what we already do. If we don't, we are either open to growing in this spiritual discipline or feel guilty because we haven't been tithing. I've had all three experiences at one time or another.

The most helpful stewardship campaigns for me personally, have been holistic. They have challenged me to shape my life in a way that recognizes that ALL that I have is God's gift for me to use. They have invited me to not just follow rules, but to grow in my recognition of what God has done for me. They have opened doors to reshaping my life so that I consider how to use all my resources wisely and faithfully.

That is what I hope this year's stewardship campaign will offer each of you – an opportunity to commit to multiple practices that allow us to show appreciation to God for what God has already done in our lives and to grow in our faith. We make vows to support the church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. That means that we promise to engage in personal and corporate relationships with God and others.

That's why I decided to use Adam Hamilton's book – *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life* – as the framework for our September – October sermon series. On this journey we will consider how we relate to God and others through:

- Worship and Prayer
- Reading and Studying Scripture
- Service
- Giving, and
- Sharing our Faith.

On October 16, we will have the opportunity to share our commitments to practice our faith in 2023 with God and with the church. Being intentional about not only our finance giving helps us as individuals and allows us to plan wisely as a congregation. Our commitments to taking part in worship, participating in group Bible Studies, serving through acts of mercy, supporting our ministries financial and with our skills, and sharing our faith shape the activities that we will plan for the coming year.

This also will allow our financial reporting to be more meaningful. This year's budget was based on last year's budget not on expected giving and actual planned expenditures. Therefore, our budget currently functions more as a guide to making sure we aren't spending more than we are receiving. This means that we are always looking backward rather than discerning what God is calling us to do now.

Ideally, our giving commitments (which can be changed when our circumstances change) allow us to work together to use the resources that God has given us as a church to continue sharing the same Good News of God's love in relevant ways that make a difference today in our lives and in our community.

I look forward to us planning on what our walk together will look like next year.

Peace,
Pastor Laura

Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Laura Whitt

(Ext. 101)

Office Manager:

Brooke Staniec

(Ext. 100)

Custodian: Shpendi Dani



Our Annual Church Yard Sale will be **Saturday, September 17th**. Take In's have begun and you can drop off at the Fellowship Hall Entrance. We're going to need volunteer support to make this happen so please contact Brooke if you're able to help in any way.

The UMM will do a YARD SALE PICKUP Saturday, September 10th beginning at 8AM. If you know someone or if you have items that need to be picked up please reach out and let Brooke know, this way the men will schedule your pickup.

Opa's Veteran's Table Food Truck will be here for the Tournament. They are a German food truck, and the daughter of our very own, Mr. Norm Taylor runs this truck! *Don't miss this fun filled day!!*



Our 2nd Annual Pumpkin Palooza will be Saturday, October 8th, 11AM-5PM. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to come out to volunteer or just fellowship with our congregation and community!

Our Pumpkins arrive September 27th and we open for business on September 28th! The UMM will be cooking burgers and hotdogs on the 17th while the Fireants unload, please come out at 4:00 PM for some good and fellowship and to thank the Fireants for their continued support of the patch.

We will be needing "story time readers" for our field trips. Please reach out to Ms. Anna Polston if you're interested in helping this season.



There will be a women's Bible study offered on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 AM beginning on September 6th Please let us know if you would like to join that study.

Pastor Laura will begin a Fast Track Discipleship study on September 21st. Times are TBD, you can email us to sign up.



The United Women in Faith still have car wash tickets, contact Sandi Davis, Lin Hendrix, or other UWF to get one of these at this great deal.

The UWF will be having a friendly Gamecocks vs. Clemson (or other teams) competition to see who can donate the most items for a food drive for Christian Charities beginning in September.



Our next blood drive will be Thursday, September 22nd from 2PM-7PM.



This month we will begin preparing for Annual Charge Conference. Please watch for meetings.

OUR PRAYERS:

- Lynn Boan
- Betty Hodges
- Betty Heacker
- Kathy Goldstein
- Mark Goldstein
- Gene Hunter
- Larry & Garland Nettles
- Allen Prescott
- Everett Burroughs
- Ed Hudson
- Cornell Thomas
- Dot Morgan
- Wilma Crayton
- Griffin/Smith Family
- Marvin Vannoy
- Rex Riddle
- Mark Goldstein
- Bill Reither
- Angie Heinz
- Sam Crawford
- Pam Fleury
- All Homebound Members



SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Yard Sale Take Ins	2	3
4	5 Labor Day Holiday- Office Closed	6 Bible Study 9:30AM Jenky's 10AM Circle #2 7PM	7 UMM 7AM Bible Study 6:30PM	8 Knitters 10AM Nurture Meeting 5:30PM	9	10
11	12 Finance Meeting 6:30PM	13 Bible Study 9:30 AM Nominations Meeting 6:30PM	14 UMM 7AM Bible Study 6:30PM	15 Trustees 5:30 PM SPRC 6:30PM	16	17 Yard Sale 7AM-12PM Corn Hole Tournament
18	19 Church Council 6:30PM	20 Bible Study 9:30AM UMW Board Meeting 6:30PM	21 UMM 7AM Bible Study 6:30PM	22 Knitters 10AM Blood Drive 2PM-7PM	23	24
25	26	27 Bible Study 9:30AM Pumpkin Delivery and Cookout 4PM	28 UMM 7AM Bible Study 6:30PM	29	30	

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship



Stewardship Report

Actual Received: Jan-June

\$226, 808

Budgeted: Jan-June

\$275,000

Deficit to Budget:

(\$48,192)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Ann Hubbard	19 Tym Brace
3 David White	20 Fran Wheat
14 Kevin Vannoy	25 Pat Boozer
15 Larry Brown	26 Norma Heriot
15 Gene Hunter	27 Phil Watry
18 Shawn White	29 Mike Boan



It's time for another Liberty STEAM Charter School update. Due to the growing expenses of the site work and the number of students, Liberty STEAM Charter School has decided to pivot away from placing the 3rd – 5th grades at Aldersgate. However, they still want to share space with us in a way that should be a better fit. Liberty STEAM Charter School is moving toward their next step which is an early childhood education center. Our building is already designed for a preschool. The initial plan would be to have 80 scholars in K4 beginning in fall 2024.

I'm excited about this middle-way opportunity and look forward to discussing this as we know more.

Peace,
Pastor Laura