



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

“Let’s Engage In Conversation” June Edition

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship

Summer is here! Students are out of school. I’m hearing about a great start to boat church with over 1,100 people at the Lake on Memorial Day Sunday. It is also very warm while I sit on the patio to write this letter to you.

Summer brings about a different pace in most congregations. Many of us long to return to familiar summer routines that include the lake, more ice cream, some summer reading, a vacation from work, and simply a slower schedule.

This summer doesn't look like a slow summer break.

We will have Vacation Bible School on the mornings of July 14, 21, 28, and August 4. To volunteer or get more information please contact Brooke in the office.

We will spend much of the summer preparing for the fall. This fall will include back-to-school missions in August, a yard sale in September, all things pumpkin in October, and mission collections in November.

This summer, I will be restarting “Lemonade with Laura”. This is an opportunity for us to talk about hopes, dreams, and concerns. I’m planning on being available at least two **Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings each month. (10 am and 6:30 pm– June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, August 2, August 5, and August 18)**

Come join me for a glass of lemonade or a bottle of water. The exact topics will vary based on what the people present want to discuss. However, these sessions will include regular updates about the information gathering process for sharing space with Liberty STEAM School.

The condensed update on sharing space with Liberty STEAM School is the Information Gathering Phase has begun. Both the school and church are exploring, dreaming, and listing concerns to be addressed in the Digging Into the Details Phase. Communication will be ongoing through the newsletter, worship announcements, letters as warranted by the latest information, and “Lemonade with Laura” sessions. There will also be an update at the Church Council meeting in July.

In addition to planning for all the events, we need to be planning how we want to grow as disciples. We will have opportunities to grow in classes and worship. Carol Fleury will be offering a 6-week class on Ephesians beginning in August. I will begin a Disciple Bible Study – Fast Track class in mid-September. This class will be an introduction to the whole Bible and will use the new short videos.

I’m excited about the direction of worship for the summer, too. Some people like to trace some history when they are on vacation. We will be following the path of the prophets from June 12 to August 28. We will spend a couple of weeks each with Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jeremiah.

Peace,
Pastor Laura

(Please see the back page of this newsletter for information from Rev. Whitt regarding the process of potentially sharing space with Liberty Steam Charter School)

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

Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Laura Whitt

(Ext. 101)

Office Manager:

Brooke Staniec

(Ext. 100)

Custodian: Shpendi Dani



VBS is approaching quickly and we need volunteers. Our theme this year is Food Truck Party. We will begin on Thursday, July 14th and continue for (4) Thursday's. Each week will be a different lesson and a different food truck. We hope that you will join us and experience this new style VBS and come engage with our children and children in our community.



The United Women in Faith (formerly known as United Methodist Women) have car wash tickets for Tidal Wave available for \$10.



Bottles for Baby Bottle Boomerang are available in Narthex if you'd like to fill one. Bottles are due back by Father's Day.



We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 5th. Please come and help us celebrate the success of our hard working graduates.



We collected 34 pints of blood at our last blood drive and we had 40 people check in to donate blood.



UMCOR and their work in Ukraine will be an ongoing mission we will continue to support. Please give as you feel led to do so, but please note on your giving envelope when you'd like funds to go to UMCOR. We thank you for your continued support.

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
- Bobbi Land
- Bill Reither
- Charlie Bells
- Sam Crawford
- Pam Fleury
- All Homebound Members

Please let us know if we need to remove/add someone to this list.





June 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 UMM 7:00 AM | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Graduation Sunday Annual Conference | 6 | 7 Jenky's Circle 10AM Circle #2 7PM | 8 UMM 7:00 AM | 9 Knitters 10AM | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Evangelism 6:30PM | 15 UMM 7:00 AM | 16 Trustees 6:30PM | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Father's Day | 20 | 21 UMW Board 6:30PM | 22 UMM 7:00 AM | 23 Knitters 10AM | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 UMM 7:00 AM | 30 | | |

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship



| <u>Stewardship Report</u> |
|----------------------------------------------|
| <u>Actual Received: Jan-Apr</u> \$147,278 |
| <u>Budgeted: Jan-Apr</u> \$183,833 |
| <u>Budget Remaining:</u> \$36,054 |

| JUNE BIRTHDAYS | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Jim Jennings | 10 Dot Morgan | 21 Chandler Heriot |
| 3 Barb Nichol | 15 Madison Cox | 22 Mariean Northrup |
| 3 Tucker Nettles | 16 Charles McFaddin | 22 Jim Wilkinson |
| 5 Susan Petty | 18 Luke Harding | 25 Mary Dallery |
| 6 Bill Lynam | 18 Clark Newsom | 27 Ellie White |
| 10 Bonnie Brown | 20 Thomas Meadows | |



**Space Sharing
Gathering Information Phase
Update May 31, 2022**

The condensed update on sharing space with Liberty STEAM School is the Information Gathering Phase has begun. Both the school and church are exploring, dreaming, and listing concerns to be addressed in the Digging Into the Details Phase. Communication will be ongoing through the newsletter, worship announcements, letters as warranted by the latest information, and “Lemonade with Laura” sessions. There will also be an update at the Church Council meeting in July.

A Few FAQs

Is this a done deal?

No final decisions have been made. We have a non-binding commitment to exploring sharing space with Liberty STEAM School.

What changes will Liberty STEAM School make to our existing buildings? (Or some variation of this.)

Liberty STEAM School has had an architect and building manager look at our building. Initial indications are that they would have to create bathroom space and install a sprinkler system in the Wesley Wing. Some of the storage space in the Wesley Wing was originally designed to be converted into bathrooms. Any other physical changes are hypothetical.

What kind of ministry could we have if we respect the commitment not to teach any specific religious beliefs in a public school?

We do not have to pray or speak of God during the school day to be witnesses of God’s love. That would come from the love and care that we would share in our daily actions during the school day. We have discussed the potential of a faith-based after-school program.

Where would we put new people if we share space with Liberty STEAM School?

Any children’s ministry programming could share the classroom space when school is not in session. It would be more difficult for adults to share the classroom space because of the child-friendly seating. We would find creative ways to decorate spaces that would be mobile.