

# THE FIRST WORD

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2020-06 First United Methodist Church – 109 West College Street – Winnsboro, SC 2020-06

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My role filling in while your pastor is on maternity leave is quite different than I imagined when I was initially asked some months ago. The world is quite different. What a change! In truth, our reality is always changing as time moves along. This change has certainly been much more abrupt and with heightened uncertainty.

Never-the-less, my role is the same. I'm here to provide pastoral care and to bridge the gap. It is a gap between pastors, as well as a gap between no sanctuary worship and a return to sanctuary worship. Working with your leaders we will prayerfully begin taking safely measured steps to move from where we are, to eventually returning to a more normal sanctuary worship. This will be done in consultation with both your current and new pastors.

As to pastoral care, I plan to be available in the church office on Mondays and Wednesdays in the mornings. I can also be available at other times as you may need or desire. Please do not hesitate to reach and notify Julie or me about any needs.

First United Methodist Church in Winnsboro has a noble past and a promising future. I am grateful to have this time with you.

Mac Kinnett



**TO MEMBERS  
OF OUR  
CHURCH  
FAMILY WITH  
BIRTHDAYS IN  
JUNE**

**If you do not see  
your birthday on**

**the list, please let us know!**

- June 2 Laura Derrick
- June 2 Nancy Blair Gonzalez
- June 2 Jack Melvin
- June 7 Julie Barfield
- June 9 Sam Barfield
- June 13 Frances Ann Porter
- June 14, Tony Caulder
- June 19 Wanda Neese
- June 20 Callie Bell
- June 20 Sarah Bryant
- June 24 Lewis Humphries
- June 24 Martha Wilkes

**Mabel Ward** 320 Seven Farm Drive, The Summit Place/Daniel Island, Charleston, SC 29452

*Please, remember in prayer those serving our country in our armed forces both at home and overseas.*



The family of Marion Robinson, Jane Lee-Bonnett Jean Allison, George Taylor, Mike Taylor, Louise Taylor, Susan Fowler-Hindall, Lisa Lewis Meyer, Marie Wood, Frank Martin, Brent Dorrier, Kenny Martin, Lynne Moore, Dean Gaddy.

*People will stay on the prayer list one month. If after their four weeks you would like the person to stay on the prayer list, please call the church office.*

**When you can, remember to send a card, call or visit:**

**Brent Dorrier**, NHC Parklane, Room 236, 7601 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223

**Doris Myfelt** 3195 Rio Dosa Drive #2103, Lexington, KY 40509 (859)309-9284

**Dot Yon** Goodwin House Apt. #401, 3440 S. Jefferson Street Falls Church, VA 22041

**Lisa Lewis Meyer** (recently moved. Will get address asap.)

**Visit us on our website at [www.firstumcwinnsboro.com](http://www.firstumcwinnsboro.com)  
Visit us on Facebook, too!**

**Office Hours**

**Monday through Thursday  
7:30 a.m. until Noon**

**Visit [www.firstumcwinnsboro.com](http://www.firstumcwinnsboro.com) to see the calendar for the entire year.**



**Do we have your correct contact information? Email, cell phone, home phone? If not, please let us know so we can keep the lines of communication open**

**during these difficult days!**

Welcome to the world, “Bones”



Pastor Meg, John and Jimmy welcomed Leonard McCoy Cook into the world on Wednesday, May 20 weighing in at 8 lbs 10 oz, 21 inches long.

Please continue to keep the Cook family in your prayers as they settle into their new normal in the midst of unsettled times.

Congratulations to All!



2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**ALL CHURCH SERVICES INCLUDING SUNDAY SCHOOL, WORSHIP SERVICE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, CIRCLE MEETINGS AND ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED THROUGH June 10, 2020**

PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/FirstUMCWinnsboro/>  
THE CHURCH WEBPAGE <https://www.firstumcwinnsboro.com/>

CHECK YOUR EMAILS, SIGN UP FOR ZOOM BIBLE STUDY AND LISTEN FOR ROBOCALLS. WE WILL STAY IN TOUCH! PLEASE CONTINUE TO MAIL IN YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS, GIVE ON-LINE OR STOP BY THE MAIL DROP LOCATED ON THE COLLEGE STREET SIDE OF THE CHURCH NEXT TO THE BACK DOOR.

*Check on your friends and neighbors. Pray for them. Pick up the phone and check on loved ones.*

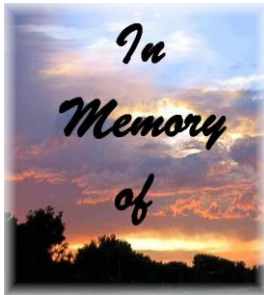
**We will keep you informed with more news on opening the church as it becomes available!**

# Blessing Box

## REQUEST

**URGENT**

While we are in the midst of a pandemic and money is ever so important to First United Methodist Church, please remember our Blessing Box participants. These are the most vulnerable and most in need of our help. While we struggle to get toilet paper and other everyday commodities during this time of crisis, these people struggle everyday to maintain the basis needs of everyday living. Please help us to help those in these days of dire need. We can fill a Blessing Box for \$20. We need your help. Thank you from all of volunteers of this Blessing Box ministry.



### **Win McMaster**

Tony and Beth Caulder  
Kitty Rice McMaster  
Paul and Bobbie Dove  
Mary McCormac

### **Waymon Morris**

Tony and Beth Caulder

### **Mitzie Renwick**

Don and Mary Jim Gunter  
Tony and Beth Caulder  
Paul and Bobbie Dove  
Wilbur and Barbara Douglas

### **Oliver Johnson**

Jim and Esther Baughman  
Paul and Bobbie Dove

### **Mary Yongue**

Tony and Beth Caulder

### **John Johnson**

Don and Mary Jim Gunter  
Jim and Esther Baughman  
Paul and Bobbie Dove  
Jack and Martha Wilkes

### **Sherri Speagle**

Paul and Bobbie Dove

### **Dr. Clyde McCants**

Paul and Bobbie Dove

### **Marion Robinson**

Jack and Martha Wilkes  
Don and Mary Jim Gunter  
Silas Holmes  
Fairfield County Council on Aging  
John and Jane Brooks  
Wanda Neese, Laura and Berkley Derrick  
Bob and Tricia Drake  
Peggy H. Ayers  
Henry Johnson  
Tony and Beth Caulder  
Kenny and Patsy Black

### **Julie McMaster**

Don and Mary Jim Gunter  
Mary McCormac  
Bob and Lyn Sheffield  
Nat McMaster  
Brian McMaster & Kathleen Strouse  
Peggy H. Ayers  
Tony and Beth Caulder

### **Harriet Albert**

Don and Mary Jim Gunter

# Bishop Holston: In-person worship and gatherings suspended through June 10; services may restart June 14

*Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, resident bishop of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, released this statement regarding the latest guidance in response to the coronavirus outbreak in our state:*

May 15, 2020

Friends, I continue to be inspired by the creative ways the churches of the South Carolina Conference have responded to the ongoing challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. Your commitment to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and your care for one another are evident in so many ways. South Carolina United Methodists are truly seeking a more excellent way – following God beyond the bounds of expectations.

In consultation with the Cabinet and according to the latest guidance from public health officials, I am strongly recommending that leaders of each local church continue to suspend in-person worship services, gatherings, meetings and events through June 10.

Worship and other in-person gatherings are allowed to resume beginning Sunday, June 14. The cabinet has outlined the safety concerns and guidelines for resuming in-person worship in a new resource called "[Reset | Restart | Renew](#)." These guidelines are the product of prayer, research, data analysis and many conversations with public health officials, church leaders and state leaders. Clergy and church leaders are strongly encouraged to use this document to navigate the transition to resuming in-person worship.

We have heard your desire to return in person to the communities of faith that shape your relationship with Jesus Christ. Even when the church doors are once again open and we can safely gather, this does not mean a return to business as usual. It is critical to recognize the importance of the safe and sanitary practices necessary once we return to church buildings.

Congregations are encouraged to care for one another as plans are made for resuming in-person worship and continuing remote worship opportunities. Some churches may opt to return in-person at a later date, depending on their context. We support you in making the best decisions for your congregation as you care for one another.

Moving day for those transitioning to new appointments will be Tuesday, June 30, 2020. This one-week delay allows time for in-person farewells and necessary sanitizing of parsonages.

We continue to monitor developments in the pandemic as we discern a new date for the 2020 Annual Conference session – postponed from June 7-10. Our priority in this and all decisions is ensuring the health and safety of South Carolina United Methodists.

In this interim time, I know you will remain steadfast in finding ways to remain in community with your sisters and brothers in Christ. Our regularly updated collection of resources to help local churches through this unprecedented time can be found at [umcsc.org/coronavirus](https://umcsc.org/coronavirus).

As people of faith who profess to follow Jesus Christ, we know that our call is to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. With ears open to hear how God is calling your congregation and hearts open to respond to that call, we embrace this opportunity to be a beacon of hope in a hurting world. We renew our commitment to faithfully participate in the life of our congregations through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness so that all may come to know and be transformed by the love, grace and mercy available through Jesus Christ.

I invite you to join me each morning – on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and at [umcsc.org](https://umcsc.org) – as we pray for those affected by the coronavirus, for those experiencing stress, anxiety and financial uncertainty, for medical professionals treating and caring for patients and for those working to ensure a healthier future for all of us.

Grace and peace,

L. Jonathan Holston  
Resident Bishop

## Helping Churches Reopen Amid COVID-19 Worship & Gathering Considerations This is an excerpt from the United Methodist Protocol “Reset Restart and Renew”

- If your regular attendance is larger than capacity limits placed on gatherings by government officials – a certain number of people per square foot – how will you ensure that you are in compliance? Can you add additional services?
- What is the maximum number of participants you can safely host in your space? How can you best arrange seating for worship participants to ensure proper social distancing requirements? How do you communicate and enforce those limits to ensure you don't end up with more people than allowed in your space?
  - What role will online worship and small groups play after restart? Live-streaming could result in fewer people attending in person, which would contribute to a safer environment.
- Plan how attendees will arrive and depart the worship space safely, while observing social distancing guidance. Can you set up one door as an entry and another as an exit? Consider propping open each entry/exit door or having a greeter to open and close doors to reduce the need for people to touch doorknobs and handles. Can you make hallways one-way?
- Consider removing Bibles, hymnals, forms and writing utensils from pew racks – or create a plan to clean and disinfect all of those items between services. Encourage attendees to use Bible smartphone apps, or project scripture during your service.
- Is it time to eliminate physical contact during the passing of the peace? Be creative and consider engaging ways to connect during this time.
- Avoid passing an offering plate to guard against spreading germs. If online giving is not an option for some, consider placing an offering plate near entrances and exits where attendees can drop off their offering.
- Avoid communion until there is a safe way to administer the sacrament.

*About choirs and singing. There seems to be ample evidence to suggest that singing creates a quantity of fine aerosols that can stay suspended in the air for long periods of time, move with air currents, and stay infectious for many hours, exposing virtually everyone in a building. Medical, science and public health experts strongly recommend against singing indoors in public until a vaccine is widely available and widely used.*



**As we move forward to open Worship in the Sanctuary, we will be sending you First United Methodist Church's protocols. While Rev. Mac Kinnett is here, we will be working with Rev. Steve Elkins to ensure our policies are in the best interest of our congregation. We plan to move slowly and safely into our new "Worship Normal." Stay tuned for more information throughout the month.**

**THE FIRST WORD**

**June 2020**

First United Methodist Church of Winnsboro, South Carolina  
Church Office 635-4087

