



**Covenant United  
Methodist Church**

801 W. Franklin Blvd  
Gastonia, NC 28052

**Rev. Keith Lowder**  
Pastor

[nkeithlowder@gmail.com](mailto:nkeithlowder@gmail.com)

Church Office

(704) 865-5055  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday  
[covenantgastonia@gmail.com](mailto:covenantgastonia@gmail.com)

Tammy Bassett  
Administrative Assistant

Laura McDonald  
Director of Music

Rebecca Brooks  
Pianist

Website  
[www.covenantumcgastonia.com](http://www.covenantumcgastonia.com)

**January  
2019**

**Regular Scheduled Activities**

Sunday

8:00 United Methodist Men's Breakfast/Devotion (2nd wk)  
9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship  
2:00 Council Meeting (2nd wk)

Monday

United Methodist Women Circle Meetings (1st wk)  
10:00 Mission Keepers Circle  
6:30 Hope Givers Circle  
6:00 Girl Scouts

Tuesday

12:30 Young & Lively Luncheon (3rd wk)

Wednesday

6:00 Hand Bells Rehearsal  
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Covenant Connection**



COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GASTONIA NC

*From the Desk of the Pastor ...*

I remember sitting outside my college library my freshmen year reading my introduction to psychology textbook. The section I was reading covered the difference between goal setters who achieved their goals and those who did not. The essential difference was the former set realistic goals while the latter set unrealistic ones. Those who set realistic goals were stretched and challenged, having met those just-out-of-reach goals through sacrifice. Those who did not set goals that were hopelessly out of reach from when they started. They often became discouraged and quit.

Sitting there I realized the truth of what I was reading. The key was learning how to set goals that were tough, but not too tough, doable versus next-to-impossible. Over time I have come to see that those who eventually attain what seems unattainable did so because they set and achieved incremental goals that coalesced to put them in shooting distance of the seemingly impossible. These people had to become someone they were not at the outset.

While being no expert, I have learned that the gift is not in meeting an individual goal or a group of goals. The real gift is developing the ability to adapt and change. It is a transferable quality whether one wants to shave 3 inches off their waistline or learn to play the guitar. Discipline and patience are essential.

Though I love achieving goals, I am often challenged by the question, "To what end?" I am reminded that as Christians we need the LORD to guide us to the appropriate goals and trust Him to equip us to meet them. Becoming a more patient person or learning to love like Christ also takes time. We don't change overnight. Instead of trying to eliminate anger in your life in one week, try seeking to eliminate your road rage first and then move on to quelling anger in another area of your life. Lean into Christ the whole way. Don't know where you need changing? Ask the Lord. He will let you know.

Pastor Keith

**January  
2019**

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*  
*Matthew 5:16*

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January

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Kim Ramsey
- 4 Helen Pilon
- 9 Jay Raxter
- 9 Dick Cole
- 9 Chloe Merritt
- 12 Eileen Lowe
- 12 Eddie Kayler, Jr.
- 16 Joey Kayler, Jr.
- 20 Jasper Carr

Happy Anniversary!

4 Glenn & Pat Leigh



Council Planning Meeting  
January 12 at 10:30 am

All committee chairs are expected to attend and have plans/dates for the year. We would like to get as many dates set on the calendar as possible at this time. Calendars for all will be provided and also lunch will be provided.

December 2018  
Worship Attendance  
Tithes & Offerings

December 2	48	\$2,405
December 9	Snow Day	
December 16	66	\$3,484
December 23	70+	\$4,039
December 30	50	\$2,490

\$2,414 is needed weekly to meet our 2019 budget.



"Serving Christ" Schedule for January

MONTHLY USHERS	MONTHLY GREETERS	DOORSTEP VISITOR	NURSERY
Tony Wilson Teresa Wilson	Joan Turner Mildred McElveen	Joan Turner	Melisa Armstrong Kim Ramsey Sydney Armstrong

January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
All bulletin info is due by Thursday morning prior to Each Sunday.  February newsletter deadline is January 21.		1 	2	3	4 12:00 - 1:00 First UMC UMM Hot Dog Lunch	5
	6 Communion  9:45 SS 11:00 Worship	7 6:30 UMW General Mtg  6:00 Girl Scouts	8	9 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	10	11
12 10:30 Council Planning Mtg						
13 8:00 UMM Breakfast 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship	14 UMW Circles 10:00 Mission Keepers 6:30 Hope Givers 6:00 Girl Scouts	15 12:30 Y&L Birthday Lunch	16 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	17	18	19
20 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship	21  6:00 Girl Scouts	22	23 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	24	25	26
27 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship	28 6:00 Girl Scouts	29	30 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	31		



New Adult Sunday School class!

Led by Tony Wilson

Study: "Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple"  
by Adam Hamilton

He was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous, but possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear. Pastor and author Adam Hamilton six-week journey will take you on an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter.

### Important Notice from the Church Office. . .

\*\*\*\*\*Monthly Newsletter Deadline is the 3rd Monday of each month.\*\*\*\*\*  
Weekly Bulletin Deadline is Thursday a.m. each week.

As the office administrator, my responsibility is to inform the congregation of activities, meetings, and special events happening within the church and at times, the community. In order to do this efficiently in a timely manner, I need your help. The council will have a planning committee meeting on January 12th and that will be just the beginning. Each committee chair is responsible to call the office (or email at [covenantgastonia@gmail.com](mailto:covenantgastonia@gmail.com)) dates and times of events for your committee. If there are any changes to regular scheduled events, the office needs to know that as well.

As listed above, ALL information for the upcoming monthly newsletter will be due BY the third Monday of the prior month. Events for the weekly bulletin need to be sent by Thursday morning prior to each Sunday. Please work with me to keep things running efficiently within the church. Also, any additions or updates for the prayer corner I need to be notified as well. I thank you in advance. 😊

Tammy Bassett, Admin. Assistant

Contact Information for Pastor Keith:

Covenant is thankful for the arrival of our new pastor! A new year begins, and as we unite as a congregation along with Pastor Keith, we hope to have exciting things happening at Covenant in the upcoming months!

If you would like contact Pastor Keith or would like a visit, you can reach him by his cell at (704) 441-2935, or by email: [nkeithlowder@gmail.com](mailto:nkeithlowder@gmail.com).

**Lets make it a great 2019 at Covenant UMC!**



It's January! The start of a new year for UMW. Together we will make this a great year! Thank you to all who have purchased nuts through our annual fundraiser, we still have some available! Special thanks to Andrea Bell who sells so many at her store! (see below)

Whole/Sliced Almonds

Pecan Halves

Chocolate Covered Pecans

Pecan Pieces

**Coming up: January 7 - General Meeting, 6:30 pm**

**Circle Meetings this month: January 14\* (week change due to General Meeting)**

**Mission Keepers - 10:00 am**

Hostess: Laura McDonald

**Hope Givers - 6:30 pm**

Hostess: Tommy Sue Atkinson

Program: Marcia Phillips

Hope Givers Circle is responsible for keeping the kitchen tidy this month.



The UMM did not have their regular meeting in December. We will begin meeting for the new year on Sunday, January 13 at 8:00 am for breakfast and devotion. All men are welcome to attend. Join us! You will be blessed!

**January Cook Team:**

Tony Wilson

Jack Bridges

Wayne Houser

**January 13th  
at 8:00 am**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Young & Lively  
Annual Birthday  
Celebration!**

**January 15  
12:30 pm**

**It's EVERYONE'S  
Birthday!**







# Covenant Prayer Corner

**New/Updated Prayer Concerns**

**Ward Carlson\*** (father-in-law of Culver's son) recovering from surgery removing 20+ tumors from his bladder, is doing well and is now home

**Trinity Turner** - waiting for appointment with the surgeon

**Continued Prayer Concerns**

**Michael McElveen**

**Dean Atkinson**

**Jay Raxter**

**Eileen Lowe**

**Dennis Dees**

**Larry Moore\***

**Don Gibson**

**Larry McElveen**

**Jane King\***

**Jerry Rankin\***

**Tammy Bassett\***

**Harvey McDonald**

**Carol Kenah\***

*\*non-church members*

**Covenant Shut-Ins**

**Christine Carroll** - home

**Charles Lunsford** - Woodhaven Rest Home, Mt. Holly

**Betty Lynch** - Covenant Village, Rm B116

## *A Special Thank You . . . .*

Dear Covenant Family,

*Cards and gifts you expect to receive mean a lot, but cards and gifts you don't expect mean even more! You can imagine my complete surprise when the mail arrived and I received your wonderful greeting, signed by all of you. You are such a loving and giving congregation! It is a joy to maintain a relationship with you over the years. It was an honor to be called upon to serve you during your time of need under such difficult circumstances. You may be sure that you and Pastor Keith are in my daily prayers. My prayer is that God will bless each of you with hope, assurance, and deliverance during the new year and that he will continue to bless Covenant Church with growth and prosperity in His Kingdom. Elaine joins me in thanking you for your expression of caring.*

*Blessings and love.....*

*Pastor David and Elaine*

Dear CUMC Congregation,

Thank you all for another year to serve Christ as your pianist. Thank you too for my awesome Christmas gift! May you all be extra blessed in the new year!

Rebecca Brooks

To My "Other Church Family,"

Another good year has passed, I am blessed to be working with you at Covenant. Thank you for your prayers and concerns for me this year as I have had so many health issues. As of Jan. 1st I have medical insurance! (been 8 years ) I'll now be able to get the care I need and have a healthier year.

Thank you for my Christmas bonus, it was much needed and appreciated! Thank you also for your support and patience with me all year. May you all have a blessed 2018!

Tammy Bassett

## 2019 COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Council Chair:** Tony Wilson, Jr.

**Board of Trustees:** Don Oglesby, Chair – Scott Ramsey, Vice-Chair

**2019**

Sharon Cole

Larry McElveen

**2020**

Don Oglesby

Andrea Bell

Jack Bridges

**2021**

Scott Ramsey

Brenda Johnson

Linda Raxter (secretary)

**Lay Leadership Team & Nominations:** Rev. Keith Lowder

**Lay Leader - Joyce Swanson**

**2019**

Lib Grose

**2020**

Beverly Cole

**2021**

Linda Raxter

**Worship Committee – Chair: Rev. Keith Lowder**

**Co-Chairs: Laura McDonald, Sharon Cole**

Rev. Keith Lowder

Brenda Johnson

Sydney Armstrong

Tony Wilson, Jr.

Teresa Wilson

Sharon Brendle

Laura McDonald

Joyce Swanson

Sharon Cole

Rebecca Brooks

Katie Cochran

**Family Ministries**

Kim Ramsey

**Nurture Committee**

Joan Turner

**Education**

Katie Cochran

**Outreach**

Matt Cochran

**Children's Ministries**

Melisa Armstrong

**Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) - Teresa Wilson, Chair**

**2019**

Trish Bridges

Mark Armstrong

Teresa Wilson

**2020**

Tommy Sue Atkinson

Johnnie Flanagan

**2021**

Pat Culver

Wayne Houser

**Finance Committee – Pat Culver, Chair**

Tony Wilson, Jr.

Katie Cochran

Kim Ramsey

Ann Dees\*

Joyce Swanson

Matt Cochran

Andrea Bell\*

Teresa Wilson

Rev. Keith Lowder

*\*financial secretaries*

**Communion Stewards**

Sue Fields

Brenda Rodriguez

Linda Harrison