



**Covenant United
Methodist Church**

**801 W. Franklin Blvd
Gastonia, NC 28052**

**Rev. Keith Lowder
Pastor**

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Church Office

(704) 865-5055

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monday - Thursday

covenantgastonia@gmail.com

**Tammy Bassett
Administrative Assistant**

**Laura McDonald
Director of Music**

**Rebecca Brooks
Pianist**

www.covenantumcgastonia.com
Website

**February
2019**

Regular Scheduled Activities

Sunday

- 8:00 United Methodist Men's Breakfast/Devotion (bi-monthly)
- 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

- 7:00 Bible Study with Pastor Keith
- 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 ...

Occasionally in sports when a higher ranked team is losing to a lower ranked team, the crowds may begin the chant, "Overrated!" It is a clever dig against the losing side, suggesting they are not as good as people appraised them to be. There is a king in Israel's history that truly deserves the label, "overrated."

I asked a Bible study to name the top 3 greatest kings of Israel. Solomon routinely made the list, even reaching #1 with one group. Had I not read about his life, I would have placed him on my list. Why? Because Solomon was the wise king. He asked the LORD for wisdom and received it. His request was one of his few praiseworthy actions.

Before you think I am being harsh, just read about Solomon's life. Early on in I Kings he becomes the focal point. His father David gave Solomon good advice in telling him:

Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, so that the LORD may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

Unfortunately, David, the king with a checkered life, immediately turns to enjoining his son to take revenge on those whom he still held a grudge. Soon after he became king, Solomon exacted revenge on behalf of his late father. In the future, Solomon would need no prompting to make poor decisions.

Solomon soon turned to using marriage to build foreign alliances and allowed his multitudinous wives to sacrifice to false gods. He commanded many building projects that included the Temple of the LORD and his own palace. The palace was much bigger than the Temple. He needed laborers for these projects and used his power to conscript men in Israel to give up a quarter of their year to provide the construction.

LaSor, Hubbard, and Bush remarked about Solomon's trading:

Solomon's commercial enterprises brought fabulous wealth to Jerusalem. Unfortunately, this wealth did not benefit all classes in Israel. Nor did it relieve the severe taxation necessary to support the massive building enterprises. The commoner, in fact, may have been less comfortable under Solomon than under David and Saul. The tendency toward centralization of wealth which angered the great prophets of the eighth century began in Solomon's golden reign.

**February
2019**

**Nothing Can Separate Us
from the *Love* of God**



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The most damning evidence for Solomon’s overrated reign was his own participation in idolatry. Recall David’s advice to his son to follow the commandments written in the Law of Moses. The first command is “you shall have no other gods before me.” The particle used for prohibiting the worship of other gods has a permanent, absolute durative value. Solomon did not participate in the worship of other gods early in his reign though he allowed others this sin. If only his abstinence from other gods early in his kingship had the same permanent durative value. I Kings 11:4-8 states:

For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

Name anyone who had so many God-given advantages (divinely powered wisdom!) and yet did so little with them. You can understand why I might suddenly begin to chant “overrated” if someone begins to praise Solomon. For me, Solomon represents moral compromise, valuing the wrong things, and dereliction of duty to be a guardian of the faith.

Pastor Keith



- 1 Melisa Armstrong

1 Allison Stutts

4 Lily Lowe

8 Judy Hoffman

8 Mason Meeks

11 Randy Dees

21 Jerry Yelton III

23 Shawn Carpenter

23 Betty Lynch

24 Savannah Raxter

29 Judy Paige
- Happy Anniversary!

2 Chick & Eileen Lowe

25 Robert & Suzanne Kayler

January 2019 Worship Attendance Tithes & Offerings		
January 6	59	\$2,061
January 13	47	\$2,427
January 20	54	\$1,957
January 27	51	\$2,071
\$2,414 is needed weekly to meet our 2019 budget.		

“Serving Christ” Schedule for February			
MONTHLY USHERS	MONTHLY GREETERS	DOORSTEP VISITOR	NURSERY
Wayne Houser Robert Kayler	Ruth Houser Linda Harrison	Tony & Teresa Wilson	Melisa Armstrong Kim Ramsey Sydney Armstrong

FEBRUARY

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
February is collection month for Crisis Assistance Ministry.						
3 Communion 9:00 Call to Prayer in Laura's class 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship	4 UMW Circles 10:00 Mission Kprs 6:30 Hope Givers 6:00 Girl Scouts	5 6:00 Worship Committee Mg 7:00 Bible Study	6 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	7	8 2:00 UMW Exec Committee Mtg (Meet at East Gas-tonia Hardware)	9
10 No UMM today 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship 2:00 Council Meeting	11 6:00 Girl Scouts	12 7:00 Bible Study	13 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15	16
17 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship	18 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Girl Scouts	19 12:30 Y&L Lunch 7:00 Bible Study	20 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	21	22	23
24 9:45 SS 11:00 Contemporary Worship	25 6:00 Girl Scouts	26 7:00 Bible Study	27 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	28	Coming in March: March 6 - Pancake Supper & Ash Wednesday Service March 19 - Life Line Screening here at Covenant	

UMW General Meeting held January 7 - Teresa Wilson was honored with the 2018 Gift to Missions pin for serving as president of the UMW for several years as well as other leadership roles in the church.



2019 UMW Officers

L to R: Margie Martin, Tommy Sue Atkinson, Brenda Johnson, Linda Raxter, Sharon Brendle, Joyce Swanson, Sharon Cole (President), Laura McDonald, and Andrea Bell



Teresa Wilson - recipient of the 2018 Gift to Missions Pin



Young & Lively Group - January is our Annual Birthday Celebration, it's EVERYONE's Birthday! Young & Lively meet once a month for fellowship and lunch and also plan special trip adventures throughout the year. Always a great time! Join us February 19th at 12:30 pm in the fellowship hall for our next luncheon!



March 6

6:00 pm Pancake Supper

7:00 pm Ash Wed. Service



Dear friends,

Now that the holidays are over, the decorations are put away, the family have all returned home, let us take some time and give some thought to our spiritual lives. The UMW offers a number of opportunities to expand our faith through service and fellowship. Think about it and give us a try.

Stay warm,
Sharon Cole

Upcoming Events:

February 2 - CV UMW Spiritual Growth and Memorial Service (also known as the Prayer Breakfast)

9:00 Brunch/Gathering (reservations for brunch are closed)

10:00 Program in sanctuary - all are welcome to the 10:00 service

Speaker: Rev. Angela Pleasants

First United Methodist Church Dallas

301 W. Main St. Dallas, NC 28034

Overflow parking at Ingles (shuttle provided)

Hands-on mission: non-perishable goods for the Dallas/High Shoals Christian Ministries

February 3 - 9:00 am Call to Prayer and Self-Denial in Laura's Sunday School room

Program by Joyce Swanson

Refreshments provided by the Executive Committee

February 4 - Regularly scheduled circle meetings

February 8 - 2:00 pm Executive Committee meeting

Meet at East Gastonia Hardware

Circle Meetings this month: February 4

Mission Keepers - 10:00 am

Hostess: Trish Bridges

Program: Johnnie Flanagan

Hope Givers - 6:30 pm - Meet at Tommy Sue's

Hostess: Tommy Sue Atkinson

Program: Joyce Swanson

Mission Keepers is responsible for keeping the kitchen tidy this month.



**March 10th
at 8:00 am**



We had a great meeting in January with 11 present. Thanks to Tony Wilson and Jack Bridges for the tasty breakfast. Our new officers for 2019 are: Scott Ramsey - President and Tony Wilson - Treasurer. Every man is a member of Covenant United Methodist Men. Although it may not be possible for you to attend, be assured that you are always welcome. We will be meeting bi-monthly this year. Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 10 at 8:00 am. Hope to see you there. You will be blessed.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

Covenant Prayer Corner

New/Updated Prayer Concerns

Mandi Merritt - pray for a healthy delivery for mom and baby girl! (due in March)

Trinity Turner - waiting for appointment with the surgeon

Preston Cole (Beverly's grandson) had surgery to remove knot on neck, lymph nodes tested were benign, although he has several other enlarged lymph nodes, they will monitor him with CT scans monthly

Continued Prayer Concerns

Michael McElveen

Dean Atkinson

Jay Raxter

Eileen Lowe

Dennis Dees

Larry Moore*

Don Gibson

Larry McElveen

Carol Kenah*

Jerry Rankin*

Pat Leigh

Harvey McDonald

**non-church members*

Covenant Shut-Ins

Christine Carroll - home

Charles Lunsford - Woodhaven Rest Home, Mt. Holly

Betty Lynch - Covenant Village, Rm B116

B.A. Moore - home

Please keep the office informed of prayer requests and updates! Names in the bulletin are the most recent requests and are listed up to four weeks in the bulletin and then transferred to the 'continued prayer concerns' in the newsletter (unless requested to stay). The Continued Prayer Concerns listed in the monthly newsletter are those that continually need prayer due to an extended illness, injury, and/or shut-ins. Keep the office updated, it's also important to share when our prayers are answered as well! Prayer is important and so isn't communicating those prayers requests!

New Directories Coming Soon!

We need to be sure our information is correct! Did you change your email or phone # in the last year? Newsletters and prayer requests/updates are sent via email, so if you have email, be sure the office has your correct address. If you don't use email, let us know that as well. Cell numbers are optional, but we do need a contact phone for all. For those of you who regularly worship with us, although haven't joined in membership, are welcome to be included as well.



Call the office or email your information to covenantgastonia@gmail.com.

Get your information in as quickly as possible; we would like to print off the new directories by the end of the month. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. ☺

LET'S MAKE A 'CHANGE' IN OUR COMMUNITY!

The Outreach Committee of Covenant would like your help in helping those less fortunate in our community. We will collect items monthly for Crisis Assistance Ministry and during Lent, collect loose change for Gastonia Street Ministry.

Crisis Assistance Ministry

In addition to our annual CAM donations that we collect annually in February, we will collect two items per month.

February	Everything!
March	Peanut Butter & Jelly
April	Rice & Mac 'n Cheese
May	Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant
June	Pancake Mix & Syrup
July	Canned Vegetables and Soup
August	Toilet Paper
September	Pasta & Pasta Sauce
October	Instant Potatoes and Canned Meat
November	Rice & Mac 'n Cheese
December	Peanut Butter & Jelly

GASTONIA STREET MINISTRY

Serving the Homeless with Compassion

As servants of God we work together to bring hope and relief to lives devastated by poverty. We often serve souls broken by addiction, unable to help themselves. We also serve single parents, the mentally ill, the very young, immigrants, refugees...all struggling to survive.

We offer comfort to the suffering through prayer, food, clothing, conversation, and gentle human contact of a hand or a hug. We have a coalition of church partners who offer Christian worship service bringing hope in Christ. We joyfully serve anyone in need regardless of religion, race, sexual orientation, or age. We strive to meet the basic human needs of our neighbors whom are in the greatest need with as much compassion as possible.



Make a Change Lenten Jars
March 10 - April 21

Take a jar home and fill it with spare change during Lent and bring it back on Easter Sunday. All proceeds will go to Gastonia Street Ministry.



Join Pastor Keith for Bible Study!

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Meet in the Fellowship Hall

The month of February has 28 days and the book of Matthew has 28 chapters; Pastor Keith encourages you to read a chapter a day and join him Tuesdays at 7 pm!