



**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

**March
2019**

Regular Scheduled Activities

Sunday

- 8:00 United Methodist Men's Breakfast/Devotion (bi-monthly)
January March May July September November
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 ...

One of the most astonishing questions I encountered in my time in an Indian church was, "Is it alright for a man to strike his wife?" This question is just one example of how different Indian culture is from that of the United States and Europe. The idea of a man hitting a woman has always been revolting to me. This judgment is so firmly lodged in my mind that I couldn't imagine doing something so cowardly. And yet here I was in a nation in which the above question was asked with seriousness to the pastors. What was settled in my mind as out of bounds wasn't settled in the minds of many Indian believers. For them, it was a legitimate question.

Consider how ineffective my conversation would have been if I told the men they were awful to even ask the question and proceeded to shame them. To do that wouldn't win them over, but would be more about me attempting to show how honorable I was rather than meet them where they were and win them over to a better way. It would also be a way of shutting down the conversation without engaging the substance of it.

This situation reveals the weakness of making a case based on feelings when two people disagree. Whether in schools, cafes, the halls of Congress, or even on the floor of the UMC General Conference, I am amazed at how many people's arguments are based on how they feel or from experiences they have had. I don't want to say it is never helpful to argue along these lines, but this method collapses when we debate someone who has different feelings than we do or foreign experiences. Think of how ridiculous it would be if I expected people to agree with me simply because I felt a certain way or that my experience should trump whatever they had done or gone through. People would rightly choke on my arrogance. How should we proceed?

It is crucial to establish an authoritative common ground. For example, up to 90% of Kenyans identify as Christian. Even though that percentage doesn't attend church regularly, I know by appealing to the authority of the Bible in a debate with a stranger in Kenya my argument will carry considerable weight. The Bible is an ancient book that Christians for ages have affirmed as true that provides divine guidance, boundaries, and a record of salvation history.

However, not every person accepts biblical authority. What then? Beyond accepted tradition, one can appeal to shared laws or particular competence. The former is obvious. The latter works when a person refers to special knowledge relevant to the issue at hand. I might be engaged in a debate about the effectiveness of a medical procedure. Yet my interlocuter might refer to a medical study or even bring a doctor in to support his position. The study or doctor would have far more competence in addressing the issue because I have no medical background.

Feelings can be powerful with regards to what we believe and why we do what we do. However, we must remember that they are rarely persuasive to others who disagree with us. We must be respectful of others, search for a common ground of authority, and proceed from there.


Pastor Keith

I ended up preaching from Ephesians 5, emphasizing the importance of husbands loving their wives sacrificially as Christ loves the Church and gave Himself up for her. I knew these men accepted biblical authority. I also ended up teaching the Women's Meeting regularly to encourage them.

**March
2019**

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2 Corey Carr
6 Mildred McElveen
16 Jim Mathews
21 Robert Kayler
24 Laura McDonald
26 Trinity Turner
27 Jeff Zelgewicz
31 Katie Cochran
31 Caleb Lowe

Happy Anniversary!

23 Mark & Melisa Armstrong



March 6, 2019
6:00 Pancake Supper

7:00 Ash Wednesday Svc


Join us!



"Serving Christ" Schedule for March			
MONTHLY USHERS	MONTHLY GREETERS	DOORSTEP VISITOR	NURSERY
Sharon Cole Katie Cochran	Sue Fields Peggy Shackelford	Jack & Trish Bridges	Melisa Armstrong Kim Ramsey Sydney Armstrong

February 2019 Worship Attendance Tithes & Offerings			
February 3	57	\$4,954	
February 10	51	\$1,862	
February 17	43	\$1,551	
February 24	60	\$2,082	

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



2019 Directories are printed!

Copies are available on the table at the side entrance to the sanctuary. If you need additional copies, see Tammy.

Please respect the privacy of others and shred your old directories or bring them to the church and place in box outside Tammy's office and she will shred for you. ☺



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 10 - Daylight Savings March 10 - 1st Sunday in Lent						
3 Communion 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	4 UMW Circles 10:00 Mission Kprs 6:30 Hope Givers 6:00 Girl Scouts	5 7:00 Bible Study	6 Lent Begins Ash Wednesday 6:00 Pancake Supper 7:00 Ash Wed. Svc	7	8 12:00 - 1:00 First UMC UMM Hot Dog Lunch	9 Daylight Savings Spring Forward!
10 1st Sunday in Lent 8:00 UMM Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 2:00 Council Meeting	11 6:30 UMW General Meeting 6:00 Girl Scouts	12 7:00 Bible Study	13 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	14	15	16
17 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:00 Girl Scouts	19 8:00-5:00 Life Line Screening 7:00 Bible Study	20 First day of Spring 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	21	22	23 8:00 UMW Walk for Mission at Eastridge Mall
24 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:45 Sunday 11:00 Worship	25 6:00 Girl Scouts	26 12:30 Y&L Lunch 7:00 Bible Study	27 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	28	29	30
31 4th Sunday in Lent UMCOR Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary Worship	March 10, 17, 24, 31 - Lay Servant Training, Park St UMC					



Life Line Screening is coming to Covenant! March 19, 2019

Are you at Risk for Stroke, Heart Disease and Diabetes?

Did you know that a 10% decrease in cholesterol can reduce your risk for heart disease 30%?

- ***Diabetes is the 5th leading cause of death in the US***
- ***Elevated CRP levels in the blood are indicators of risk for heart disease and high blood pressure***

Stroke is the 4th leading cause of death

Life Line Screening offers finger-stick blood tests with results in 10 minutes. Protect your health by finding out your risk of diabetes and vascular disease by participating in the Life Line Screening that will be at Covenant United Methodist Church on Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

Register for the lipid panel (HDL, LDL, total cholesterol and triglycerides), glucose and CRP blood tests for only \$129. Call **1-888-653-6441** or visit www.lifelinescreening.comcommunitycircle or **text** the word **circle** to **797979** to schedule your appointment. Ask about our other stroke and heart tests. Taking control of your health doesn't have to be hard.

Do you know your TSH level?

Thyroid Disorders TSH can indicate an underactive thyroid

- ***20 million Americans have an underactive thyroid but half don't know it***
- ***An underactive thyroid can cause an increased risk of heart disease and lead to an enlarged heart***

Underactive thyroid is more common among men and women aged 60 and older

Life Line Screening offers a finger-stick blood test with results in less than 10 minutes. Protect your health by finding out your risk of an underactive thyroid by having a TSH screening. Life Line Screening will be at Covenant United Methodist Church on Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

Attention all Men!

Do you know your risk for Prostate Cancer?

- ***A Prostate Cancer PSA test is the most accurate method for the detection of prostate cancer***
- ***1 in 6 men will get Prostate Cancer***

PSA tests have been used for over 25 years

A simple PSA blood test could save your life. Protect your health by finding out your risk of Prostate Cancer.

Call **1-888-653-6441** or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or **text** the word **circle** to **797979** to **schedule the PSA or TSH, test for only \$49**. Ask about our other stroke and heart tests. Taking control of your health doesn't have to be hard.

Call the church office for complimentary screening coupons (valued at \$70.00)!



Dear friends,

What will March bring? The lion or the lamb? I guess by the time you read this, we'll have some indication. While winter hasn't been particularly cold yet, I myself am voting for the lamb.

General meeting will be held March 11 at 6:30 pm. Mission Keepers will prepare the meal and Margie Martin will have the program.

We have a very special celebration coming up this month. On Saturday, March 23, the United Methodist Women will celebrate our 150th birthday. A walk-a-thon will be held that morning at 8:00 at Eastridge Mall to raise money for the Legacy Fund. Everyone is invited to participate. See me for more information if you are interested. On Sunday, the 24th, we will have a "birthday party" during church hours. Please join us. There may be treats! Yum! That afternoon at 4:00, a drama about UMW will be presented at Laurel Hill UMC in Vale, NC.

Please be in prayer for how we might revitalize our reading program. We have many interesting and informative books in our UMW library.

May God be with you all,
Sharon Cole

Circle Meetings this month: March 4

Mission Keepers - 10:00 am

Hostess: Laura McDonald

Program: Trish Bridges

Hope Givers - 6:30 pm - Meet at Pat's home

Hostess: Pat Culver

Program: Tommy Sue Atkinson

Upcoming Events:

March 11 6:30 pm

General Meeting, Fellowship Hall

March 23 8:00 am

CV District Walk for Mission, UMW 150th Birthday, Eastridge Mall

April 6

CV District Mission Study, Messiah UMC, Lincolnton

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



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



The United Methodist Men will be meeting bi-monthly this year; March, May, July, September, and November, the second Sunday of the month. Put these dates on your calendar and plan to join us for a delicious breakfast and a time of fellowship with your brothers in Christ. All men are welcome! We will be meeting, Sunday, March 10 at 8:00 am. Hope to see you there. You will be blessed.

Cooking Team for March

Henry Raxter

Scott Ramsey

Buddy Johnson

Ron Culver

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another..."

Hebrews 10:25

Covenant Prayer Corner

New/Updated Prayer Concerns

Ruth Houser - pray for strength and healing

Brenda Johnson - fracture in her foot, has to wear a boot, had a recent fall and broke her elbow

Mandi Merritt - Brooklynn is here! Born March 4th, Mom & baby are doing well! Praise God!

Carolyn Moore - having a nerve injection on March 5, pray the procedure will help relieve her migraines

Trinity Turner - has an appointment with the surgeon this month

Continued Prayer Concerns

Jay Raxter

Dennis Dees

Carol Kenah*

**non-church members*

Eileen Lowe

Larry Moore*

Jerry Rankin*

Preston Cole

Don Gibson

Pat Leigh

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 prayer requests!

MAKING 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.

GASTONIA STREET MINISTRY

Serving the Homeless with Compassion

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.

Crisis Assistance Ministry Monthly Collection

Don't forget donations this month for CAM! For March, we are collecting **Peanut Butter & Jelly**, but of course, you can bring any items! Thank you for your support!



Declan Mitchell Meek
Baptized February 24, 2019



Declan all tired out following his baptism ☺



*Declan and Pastor Keith
having a special moment ♥*

Join Pastor Keith for Bible Study!

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Meet in the Fellowship Hall



Coming in April - Mark your calendars!

April 13th at 3:00 pm



Easter Sunday - April 21st - Sunrise Service at 6:45 am
Easter Family Breakfast will follow.

Lenten Lunches - We will be joining with Loray Baptist to provide two Lenten Lunches.
April 10 - Lunch at Loray
April 17 - Lunch at Covenant