



**Covenant United  
Methodist Church**

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

**Rev. Keith Lowder  
Pastor**

**nkeithlowder@gmail.com**

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

**October  
2019**

**Regular Scheduled Activities**

Sunday

- 8:00 United Methodist Men's Breakfast/Devotion (bi-monthly)  
Next scheduled: November 10  
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

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 . . .*

The majority of worthy goals in life take some measure of time and sacrifice to achieve them. They require planning and intentional decision making guided by the plan to get the results we are aiming for. In order to lose weight, the generally accepted formula is regular exercise and cutting calories, particularly carbohydrates. For learning an instrument, one must get lessons and maintain a practice regimen.

Basically, all of our goals necessitate approaching them as a project. We know the goals will not be had when left to chance. Effort is a must. And yet, this knowledge can disappear when it comes to spiritual growth. It is embarrassing how many times I catch myself and other Christians wishing for growth and yet neglect making decisions to see that growth become a reality. I hasten to add that we alone cannot become who Christ wants us to be. The Holy Spirit molds us into being like Christ. Nevertheless, the witness of the Bible and church history testifies to tried and true practices that have put believers in a position to grow. These practices are spiritual disciplines and include worship, prayer, fasting, reading Scripture, Christian meditation, etc. It is foolish to neglect them.

If you are interested in doing more than wishing to grow closer to Christ, I recommend:

**Plan:** For instance, if you want to know God more, consider developing your prayer life. Plan a time during your day in which you will devote your full attention to praying for ten minutes. Put it in your calendar.

**Investment:** Planning is the most exciting stage, but the real work comes in the investment. We often know the thing we should do, but lack the willpower to follow through. Don't overthink and don't let your feelings control you. If you need to do so, treat your goal of cultivating your prayer life or reading the Bible as you would brushing your teeth. Just do it, and the interest and feeling will follow. Appreciation will.

**Commitment and Focus:** We are all familiar with people who join the gym in January to lose weight, and yet quit by mid-February. Investment takes time. We must actually change our lifestyle to maintain the life we want. What good is it losing ten pounds and then going back to the way we used to live, watching the pounds come right back?

**Evaluation:** There is no need to become legalistic. Evaluating our goals and methods of achieving them is good. We may reach a point in which we no longer need to schedule time to pray because we have become a praying person who naturally gravitates towards praying. It is fine to live in that mode rather than scheduling it.

How on earth can we expect to grow without at least informally following the above points? To do less is like putting all our financial stewardship on buying a lottery ticket. Let's pray and see what the LORD would have us focus on for spiritual growth.

Blessings, Pastor Keith

**October  
2019**



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October

- 3 Anna Gibson
- 3 Amber Lowe
- 5 Brenda Rodriguez
- 6 Keith Lowder
- 7 Michael Grose
- 15 Carolyn Moore
- 19 Scott Ramsey
- 19 Madison Armstrong
- 20 Darlene Raxter
- 22 Sharon Cole
- 24 Lee Raxter
- 24 John Kaylor
- 24 Shawn McGinnis
- 27 Rocco Cochran
- 31 Ray Kaylor

Happy Anniversary!

- 11 Drew & Mandi Merritt
- 22 Dick & Sharon Cole
- 27 Matt & Katie Cochran

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to all you helped to make our First Responders Luncheon a success! The cooks, the servers, greeters, clean up crew, decorating crew, you took care of it all! We served over 100 First Responders! It was a success because of your excellent team work! Thanks again!

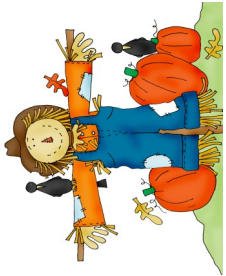
Matt Cochran, Outreach Chair

"Serving Christ" Schedule for October		
MONTHLY USHERS	MONTHLY GREETERS	NURSERY
Tony Wilson Jim Brendle	Ann Dees Becky VanAntwerp	Melisa Armstrong Kim Ramsey Sydney Armstrong

September 2019 Worship Attendance Tithes & Offerings		
September 1	44	\$1,995
September 8	46	\$2,781
September 15	36	\$ 875 (@ lake)
September 22	45	\$1,706
September 29	51	\$4,421
\$2,414 is needed weekly to meet our 2019 budget.		



For the month of October, we will be collecting instant potatoes and canned meat for Crisis Assistance Ministry. There is a box in the back hallway and by the choir room for collection. Y'all have been doing great with your monthly donations! Thank you!!



OCTOBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Young &amp; Lively this month TBD. Watch your bulletin! We may be taking a trip!</i>	7 UMW Circles 10:00 Mission Kprs 6:30 Hope Givers 10:00 Bible Study at First UMC		2 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	3 5:00 pm FUSE Ground Breaking Ceremony	4 12:00 - 1:00 Hot Dog Luncheon	5
6 World Communion Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	8		9 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	10	11	12
13 Children's Sabbath 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 2:00 Council Mtg	14 10:00 Bible Study at First UMC	15	16 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	17	18	19
20 Laity Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Celebration of Life for Joyce Swanson	21 10:00 Bible Study at First UMC	22	23 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	24	25	26
27 Contemporary Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 UMW Fall Luncheon	28 10:00 Bible Study at First UMC	29	30 6:00 Hand Bells 7:00 Choir	31 5:00--7:00 	Coming in November: Nov. 3 - Daylight Savings Ends Nov. 10 - UMM Breakfast Nov. 10 at 2 pm - Charge Conference Nov. 27 - Community Thanksgiving Dinner	



# Covenant Close-Ups!



**Appreciation Luncheon**



Dear friends,

It's Fall y'all! Or so they say. We'll see.

We had a great general meeting on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. The Hope Givers served a wonderful meal with a pork chop casserole. Our speaker was Sheila Revels, who has such an interesting background. She served in the Navy in the Intelligence service. (Told you it was interesting.) She later became a cafeteria manager, a teacher's assistant, then a certified teacher. She also has served on many mission trips to Eastern Europe, not an area we usually hear from. She shared many beautiful souvenirs, but the really good part were her stories. We know the difficulties of serving in Africa and Latin America, but eastern Europe is a whole different ballgame. We need to be in prayer for Sheila and her husband, Keith, as he is ill, and she is now a full-time caregiver.

Our Fall fundraising luncheon will be held on Oct. 27. We will be serving a ham dinner (see menu below). The Hope Givers will have kitchen duty, and the Mission Keepers will be in charge of cleanup.

We have several members who are having medical issues, please pray for them and let's remember our shut-ins.

Sending love and peace,  
Sharon Cole

## Circle Meetings this Month - October 7

**Mission Keepers - 10:00 am**

Hostess: Ann Dees

Program: Laura McDonald

**Hope Givers - 6:30 pm**

Hostess: Marcia Phillips

Meet at Marcia's home.

## UMW Upcoming Events

**October 12- UBUNTU Day of Service**

**October 28 - Fall Luncheon**

**November 3 - CV District Leadership Development, Bethlehem UMC, Claremont NC**

*UMW Fall Luncheon*

*October 27th, 12:00 pm*

*Baked Ham*

*Potato Salad*

*Green Beans*

*Dinner Roll*

*Beverage, Dessert*

*\$10 Adults*

*\$4 - Children under 12*



# Covenant Prayer Corner

## Praise God

**Beau Jones\*** - finally home after three weeks in the hospital following his birth, he is gaining weight and doing well! ☺

**Kelly Lowe\*** - recovering well at home from bypass surgery ☺

## New/Updated Prayer Concerns

**Family of Vonnie Benton\*** - passed away in September

**Christine Carroll** - has an undiagnosed infection

**Family of Bob Lunsford\*** (Larry McElveen's cousin) passed away in September from complications following surgery

**Larry McElveen** - Caromont, Room 6115, is feeling a little better ☺

**Jean Stewart** - continue prayers for strength and healing, is now having a break from treatments, will follow up with an MRI

## Continued Prayer Concerns \*non-church members

<b>Jay Raxter</b>	<b>Pat Leigh</b>	<b>Dennis Dees</b>	<b>Tim Abernathy*</b>
<b>Larry Moore*</b>	<b>Don Gibson</b>	<b>Eileen Lowe</b>	<b>Jerry Rankin*</b>
<b>Ruth Houser</b>	<b>Harvey McDonald</b>	<b>Mary Payseur*</b>	<b>Carol Kenah*</b>

## Covenant Shut-Ins

**Christine Carroll** - recently moved to **Peak Resources, Gastonia, Room 115**

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

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

**B.A. Moore** - home

*Our Christian Sympathy and love is expressed to Swanny, Geoff, and to the Swanson family on the recent death of Joyce, a loving wife, mother, and a friend to so many of us at Covenant. Though we will all miss her, we are thankful she is healed and with her Lord and Savior!*

*Celebration of Life  
Joyce Ann Swanson  
October 20, 2019 at 4:00 pm  
with Rev. Paul Brown  
at Covenant UMC*

To my Covenant Church Family,

Words are really inadequate to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the cards, phone calls, and food received during my recent surgery. What a wonderful church family we have at Covenant and I am so proud to be part of it! I will look forward to being able to be back with you.

Warmest Regards, Ina Jones



Everyone is welcome!

The Study of James

Led by Rev. David Mason

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Monday

10:00 - 11:30 am

at First UMC, Rm 218

During this time of transition at Covenant, David Mason is available for emergency pastoral care if needed. He will also be leading us in worship and communion on October 6. We are thankful for Pastor David always being there when we need him!

Trunk - or - Treat  
on the 'BOO'levard



October 31st

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Decorate your car, dress up, and join in the fun! Hot dogs will be served!

(If you would like to donate some individual wrapped candy, place on the pew in the back hallway, thanks!)