

“Faith is the foundation upon which a godlike character is built. It is a prerequisite for all other virtues.”

Ezra Taft Benson

“Weak people revenge. Strong people forgive.”

Albert Einstein



Volume 1* Issue 2
February, 2023

First Troutman UMC
Troutman, N.C.



“He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it unto the day of Christ Jesus”

(Phil. 1:6)

One cannot help drive through the town of Troutman and notice there are more construction sites than ever. It is amazing that there are so many housing projects that have begun just in the winter months alone this year. You normally do not see construction booming until early spring / summer, but they seem to be EVERYWHERE! Construction sites are normally loud and often very messy. Messy as wood, concrete, supplies, and equipment are strewn all over the place. However, it is understood that the architect and his foreman know exactly what is going on toward accomplishing the finished product. Now visualize for a moment and picture that our lives as buildings that are under construction. Just like most building sites; our lives are often messy.

Portions of our souls may lie broken or neglected, while the Contractor is working in a different area of the site. Our bodies are a lot more complex than that of any skyscraper. In addition, we are in constant contact with other “construction sites,” fellow believers enduring the same process whose

lives seem just as messy or ever more than our own. The Sabbath was made for us to rest. To rest in the assurance that your Father, the Master-Builder knows perfectly how His project is going and how to bring it to completion. Maybe your life feels like a mess or possibly even a wreck at the moment. Take a deep breath, try to relax, and let us trust the one who is the Designer, the Master Builder and allow Him to build you right and beautiful.

On Sunday, February 5th, we will begin a new sermon series entitle “Character Under Construction” This series will remind us that God is in the process of developing character in his children and He wants us to be a part of that process. Where do we develop character in our life? In a world obsessed with outward appearance, we need to be reminded that God wants to be a part of the process. When we choose to renew our minds, it will result in transformed lives. “Character is far more important that personal achievement or even fulfillment. This is the main message we want to explore during this topical sermon series: “Character under Construction.”

Pastor Jeff Hamrick

February Bible Study

Weds. Feb 1st, 8th, 15th, & 22nd
6:30–7:30 PM

Bible Study Topic—1st Samuel &
The Chosen Season #3

Wonderful Wednesday Meals

Meals served from 5:30–6:20 PM
Weds. Feb 1st, 8th, 15th, & 22nd

Methodist Men

Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30 PM
Meeting & eating At Talley House

Discernment Team Meeting

February 26th @ 11:30 AM
after Worship

Compassion Crafts (Select Dates)

Staff Parish Meeting

Sunday, February 19th @ 11:30 AM
All Staff Parish Members Please attend

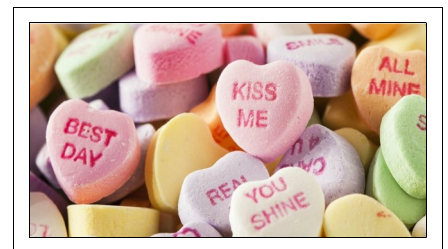




Notable February Birthdays in Past years - Feb 2nd (Farrah Fawcett); Feb 4th (Rosa Parks); Feb 5th (Henry “Hank” Aaron); Feb 6th (George Herman—Babe Ruth); Feb 7th (Laura Ingalls Wilder); Feb 11th (Thomas Edison); Feb 11th (Jennifer Anniston); Feb 12th (Charles Darwin); Feb 14th (Florence Henderson); Feb 17th (Michael Jordan & Ed Sheeran); Feb 18th (John Travolta & Vanna White)

Troutman First UMC - Notable February Birthdays

February 5th - Dina Spath	February 7th - Bill Patterson
February 9th - Trinity Adams	February 9th - Piotr Danielewski
February 11th - Carleen Willard	February 11th - Oliva Adams
February 13th - Brenda Sue Scott	February 19th - Allen Ragler
February 24th - Jillian Yager	February 28th - Maxine Warren



Troutman First UMC - Anniversaries

Feb 8th - Rabhi & Sharon Chaaban



Troutman First UMC Mission Statement

Discover

All eyes are opened to the grace and love of God and lives are transformed through the act of worship.

Develop

In a love and inclusive environment, disciples of Jesus Christ are nurtured and prepared.

Deploy—*We respond to needs locally and throughout the world as the Holy Spirit sends disciples forth to serve.*



First Troutman United Methodist

C O N T A C T



704 528-5110



www.troutmanmethodist.com



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S O C I A L



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Upcoming Sermon Topics

February 5th—Boy Scout Sunday
Series—*Character Under Construction*
“Keeping Good Company” - Proverbs 1

February 12th—6th Sunday After Epiphany
Series—*Character Under Construction*
“Guarding Our Hearts”—Proverbs 4:23

February 19th—Transfiguration Sunday
Series—*Character Under Construction*
“Controlling our Thoughts” - Phil. 4:8

February 22nd—Ash Wednesday
Series—*Character Under Construction*
“Giving Up Superiority”—John 4:5-42

February 26th—First Sunday of Lent
Series—*Character Under Construction*
“Giving Up Control”—Genesis 2:15-17



During the Month of February— This month, we will look at changing our Character to match what God desires for our lives. Come develop the nature of God together.

Bible Study Series Month of February

February 2023 we will continue with our **study of 1st Samuel**. We are now finding out God’s plan for David as he is anointed King of Israel, replacing Saul.

February 1st —1st Samuel Chapters 27, 28, & 29

February 8th - 1st Samuel Chapters 30 & 31

February 15th - Review of 1st Samuel (Lingering Questions Samuel, Saul, and David)

February 22nd - Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 PM (Imposition of the Ashes)

February 29th - Chosen Season 3 (Viewing Season #3 Video) First session (The Beatitudes)



The Chosen Season 3—Episodes

Episode 1—Homecoming

Episode 2—Two by Two

Episode 3—Physician Heal Yourself

Episode 4—Clean Part 1

Episode 5—Clean Part 2

Episode 6—Intensity in Tent City

Episode 7—Ears to Hear

Episode 8—Sustenance

Open Door Friends Gathering
Tuesday, February 14th @ 10:00 AM
At Providence UMC
1273 Old Mocksville Road, Statesville

This gathering is for adults ages fifty-five and older within the (12) UMC Missional Network churches of Troutman and Statesville. The program for the month of February includes a review of Jim & Susan Wollin's recent trip to Albania to visit their children Jamie & Hollee Wollin and grandchildren: Thomas, Luke & Eli. The program will include an overview of why the family serves in Albania and what a life of a foreign missionary family resembles. The morning will begin with welcome and conversations with new and old friends. Refreshments will be served by the Providence Senior group. Rev. David Bradley, Pastor of Providence UMC, will give the morning devotional. We would love for you to join us for the event. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by calling the church office at (704) 528-5110 or calling Jim Wollin directly (704) 724-7942. Hope to see you at our February gathering.



Young Adult Gathering
Saturday Feb. 11th @ 4:30 PM
At Broad Street UMC
315 West Broad Street, Statesville

On Saturday, February 11th, the Missional Network of the United Methodist churches in the Statesville / Troutman areas will host a young adult gathering at Broad Street UMC in Statesville (315 Broad Street) at 4:30 PM.

The gathering will *start* in the fellowship hall of Broad Street U. Methodist Church at the town square for introductions, interest surveys to gather activity preferences for any future gatherings (i.e., games, food, social-action/community enhancement and opportunities, etc.). The gathering will *continue* by moving to various downtown pubs and restaurants for drinks &/or dinner and for concluding conversation, there after. (Note: Childcare is available for those who RSVP of their need {please share ages & the number of any children} by notifying Broad Street UMC bsumc@broadstreet.org on or before Feb. 3rd).



Mission Service Projects

The Troutman / Statesville United Methodist Church missional network is discussing potential spring and summer mission projects. One project being discussed is a team of individuals to travel to Port Charlotte, Florida to assist with last year (2022) Hurricane clean-up. The team would travel together and work with a construction team to do debris clean-up and other necessary work in relief effort. If this is something you would be interested in, please sign-up and get your name on possible work-team for spring / summer 2023.

Costa Rica 2024 Trip - the network is also talking about a potential "Rice & Beans" trip to Costa Rica in 2024. Those interested in this trip would assist with any construction needs or help to lead in Vacation Bible School during the week-long trip. One other task: serving rice & beans to local residents during our week long stay. There will be a time for fun along with missional outreach. The projected costs for the week-long mission trip is \$1,700. The mission network will be hosting fund-raisers to help those who might be interested in this mission—service project.

A Call to Over Invest in our Youth & Children

In recent readings, I came across a quote from Youth & Children's church specialist, *Janie Huie*, and she says the following—"Working harder at what we have always done will not engage vast groups of unaffiliated millennials. We need to think differently about how we engage younger people in the church." Basically the point that Ms. Huie is making is that we are constantly finding ourselves trying to fix the broken pipeline of our youth or children by recreating patterns that served us well thirty or even forty years ago. These ideas no longer work the way they used to.

Working harder at what we have always done will not engage vast groups of unavailable millennials because that pipeline is a closed system. We need to think differently about how we engage younger people in the church. She goes on to say that we must overinvest in the young. Meaning that we must connect deeply with the community and engage people who live in the community. It means taking significant risks to innovate fresh expressions of ministry that will engage younger people. It requires offering ancient worship in fresh new ways. It means moving younger people into leadership even though they are not experienced. It means investing money into youth and children's ministries.

What ways can you over invest in our community youth and children? One step, that does not involve money is by volunteering when our Youth & Children's director needs volunteers for ministry activities. Second, you can give financially. Last, always be in prayer for our youth and children's directors. Pray for our youth and children by name. You will start noticing a change within these areas of ministry when you cover and bathe the leaders, children, and activities in prayer. Thank you to our directors for their work.

Ways to Take the Church into the Troutman Community

What would it look like if Troutman First United Methodist started doing things a little different? Could we make a difference within the Troutman Community? Here are some interesting items to ponder.

Embrace an expansive concept of Community

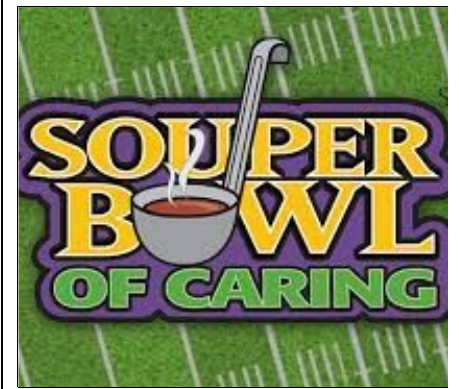
1. Learn to regard our community as an extension of our congregation. A church's mission field goes beyond its membership to include all the people God has called us to serve. We are connected to individuals who will never set foot in our building.
2. Know that what is happening in our church (ministry, preaching, worship, music, and Bible Study), are no longer enough to attract people in an age when church attendance is no longer a cultural expectation.
3. Don't sit in our church building waiting for people to come. Be prepared to meet people where they are.

Prepare ourselves Spiritually

1. Acknowledge the synergy between the Great Commandment Matthew 22 (love your neighbor as yourself), and the Great Commission (go and make disciples). Evangelistic outreach expresses love to others.
2. Remember Jesus primarily engaged others through everyday encounters, rather than in the Temple or synagogues. He fed people, met their everyday needs, and enjoyed the fellowship of others.
3. Express love and compassion for your community in big and small ways. Avoid judgmentalism.
4. Pray regularly for your neighbors and lift up community concerns.
5. Attend to the faith formation of existing members. Willingness to share faith and reach out to others develops as one grows in faith and discipleship.
6. Prepare spiritually for the transformation that creative, risk-taking outreach will bring.

Some food for thought for the month! What are your ideas on how we could take Troutman First into the community. Your pastor would love to hear.

More ideas coming next month. *Portions of excerpt from Lewis Center for Church Leadership.*



Souper Bowl of Caring Mission Project - February 2023

During the month of February, the (12) United Methodist Churches in Statesville / Troutman will be collecting cans of soup for 5th Street Ministries. We will be competing against one another to see which United Methodist church collects the most cans of soup. The contest runs through Sunday, February 26th, so start brining in those cans of soup. You can leave those at the back of the church.

5th Street Request

Fifth Street Ministries has contacted Leigh Payne (outreach chair) and has informed her of an immediate need. When clients move out of their center at Fifth Street, they often are in need furniture. If you have slightly used furniture that would be good for an individual or family to use as they start a residence of their own; please contact Leigh Payne or church office.

Boy Scouts Love Offering

On Sunday, February 5th, the Boy Scouts will be worshipping with us at Troutman First. We will be taking up a love offering for the Cub Scout group. This love offering will help pay dues for scout families who may be having difficulty in paying yearly scouting dues. If no families are in need of financial assistance, the monies collected will be given to the Scouting Troop & Pack #174 for use for ongoing projects and activities during the year. Come Sunday, February 5th, worship with the scouts and show them that they are appreciated. We are fortunate to have Troop & Pack #174 associated with First Troutman. Thank you to all the troop leaders and the scouts involved in this ministry.

Literacy Event (Book Box)

Beginning February 26th, the children's department and the outreach team will be collecting Children's books for our "Book Blessing Box" in our children's playground. Danny Ervin & Jim Wollin crafted our blessing "book" box for the playground. Also, thank you youth & children for painting the box. The books may be new or slightly used. We encourage you to bring them to worship with you. Leave them in the pews (similar to what we did with the stuffed animals). On March 26th, we will bless the books, and end our service in the playground where we will dedicate the "book" blessing box. The books collected will be placed in the box for children to take a book and (or) leave a book for other kids.

Troutman Help Ministries Collection

Help Ministries has asked Troutman First and area churches to collect breakfast items for the Help Ministries Food pantry during the month of February. Items suggested are: Cereal, grits, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, and pop tarts. If you can donate, please bring them to the church during the Sundays in February. At the end of the month, all items collected will be taken to Help Ministries here in Troutman.

Greetings from the Children's Ministry

February News from Alice Ward (Children's Coordinator)

Greetings from Children's Ministry!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such of these." (Matthew 19:14 NIV) In January, we were blessed with 15 children who participated in Sunday School, Children's Church, or the Wednesday Night Meals! Let us keep inviting these precious children to Troutman First UMC.

In Sunday School, we learned about Epiphany (The Baptism of Jesus and The Magi Visit the Messiah) and the New Year's "One Thing" that we could do this year to draw us closer to God. We also began a series of lessons called Servanthood for Kids: The Life of Jesus. In Children's Church, we also began a new series of lessons on The Creation Story.

As an outreach to the community, books will be selected and placed in the Blessing Box this month. If you are interested in children's literacy and would like to help, please contact the church office or Alice Ward. When it gets warmer, we will have a dedication for the Blessing Box. In addition to the dedication, we would like to celebrate your favorite storybook character and provide literacy activities for the children. We will need volunteers to read books and help with activities.

The Bibles have finally arrived and will be presented soon to some of the children in church. Parents will be contacted for more details.

As we plan for the coming year, I would like to invite you to work with children. Come join us for lots of fun, fellowship, and building of faith with these wonderful children. They bring us such joy!



Alice Ward, Children's Coordinator

Troutman First UMC

Congregational Care

Please remember these shut-ins during the month of February by sending them a card letting them know you are praying for them. These notes are always encouragement and support to our friends as they wish they could be with us for worship. Some are recovering at home, while others are in nursing facilities.

Ms. Carleen Willard
502B North Ash Ave.
Newton, NC 28658
Birthday Feb 11th

Mr. Jack Ervin
P.O. Box 394
Troutman, NC 28166

Ms. Maxine Warren
Room #12
2806 Peachtree Road
Statesville, NC 28625
Birthday—Feb. 28th

Mr. Pete Plyler
716 E. Monbo Road
Troutman, NC 28166
COVID Homebound Member

Ms. Jean Brown
P.O. Box 402
Troutman, NC 28166
Recent illness

Ms. Marsha Johnston
647 Georgie Street
Troutman, NC 28166

Hymn Writer Biography—Featured this Month (Ms. Fanny Crosby)

2 Timothy 1:12—“Nevertheless, I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

Fanny Crosby lived in the Manhattan slums and worked in rescue missions. She was close friends with Ms. Phoebe Knapp (who lavishly lived in a Brooklyn neighborhood). Ms. Knapp played for Fanny a new composition of her own. While the blind hymnist listened, Fanny immediately clasped her hands and exclaimed, “why, that says, “Blessed Assurance!” She quickly composed the words, and thus the great hymn of the church was born.

At age sixty, she began working in the downtown rescue missions, spending several days a week in lower Manhattan, witnessing to the down and out. Despite her fame as a hymn writer, she chose to live in near poverty in the New York Ghettos, for she felt a calling to minister to the needy. Just a few blocks from her little tenant apartment were the Bowery, a haunt for alcoholics and where every kind of vice flourished. There Fanny would go day after day and later would write “*Rescue the Perishing*.”

Even in her blindness, she realized this was part of His (God’s) plan. When Fanny was about six-weeks-old, her parents realized with alarm that something was wrong with her eyes. The local doctor was away but the Crosby’s found a man – no one afterwards recalled his name – who claimed to be a physician. He put a hot poultice on the baby’s inflamed eyes, it was supposed to draw out the infection. The infection did not clear up; however, white scars appeared. In the months that followed, the baby registered responses to objects held before her. As it turned out, Fanny was not totally blind. Even in old age, she could discern day from night. But her main vision was gone. From this accident in her childhood, she would write the hymn, “*All the Way My Savior Leads Me*.”

Yet this stimulated other gifts, such as her phenomenal memory. As a child, Fanny memorized whole sections of the Bible including most of the Pentateuch (Genesis – Deuteronomy), the four Gospels, all of Proverbs, most of the Psalms, and vast portions of other books. Whenever, she wanted to read a passage, she just turned there in the mental “Bible” and read it verbatim. “This Holy Book,” she said, when eighty-five, has nurtured my entire life.”

Years later, Fanny viewed her blindness as a special gift from God. She believed He had given her a particular “soul vision” which equipped her for a special work. “It was the best thing that could have happened to me,” she declared. “How in the world could I have lived such a helpful life had I not been blind?” Fanny Crosby was 95 years old when she passed. She wrote over 8,000 hymns, and was blind at the age of (6) and spent her life working for God’s kingdom by ministering to the lost and dying.



289
FANNY J. CROSBY
Blessed Assurance
THOMAS F. KNAPP

1. Hous-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fare-taste of
2. Per-fect-ness-ness, per-fect de-light, Vi-sions of rap-ture now
3. Per-fect-ness-ness, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

glo-ry di-vine! Hear of sal-vation, per-cha-se of God,
burst on my sight; An-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove
hap-py and blest; Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bore,

Chorus



Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars

February 5th —Boy Scout Sunday

(Communion during worship)

February 19th —Staff Parish Committee Meeting after worship

February 21st—Methodist Men's at Talley House @ 6:30 PM

(Eat, Devotional & Business Meeting)

February 26th—Discernment Team Meeting after Worship



Prayer List at TFUMC

Please join us in prayer for the following people:

Joe Burchette (cancer—Adenocarcinoma)

Mr. Jack Ervin (recent hospitalization)

Ms. Jean Brown (recent tests)

Mr. & Mrs. Mac McCabe

Edrie Schade

Ms. Elsie Crater (Virgil Crater's mother—rehab)

David Brown (continued recovery)

Carleen Willard's Children (Yvonne & Jerry)

Lorraine (Rosemary Alexander's sister—cancer)

Jennifer Buell (lymphoma)

Jerry & Dianne Lippard

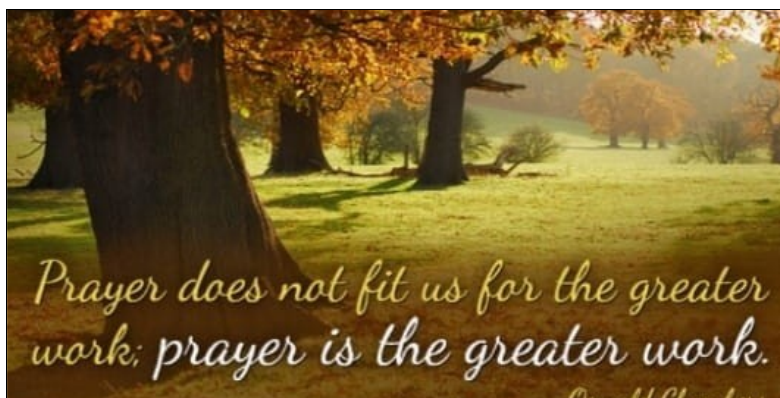
David Dobrozi

Ashley Bradburn

Ms. Dottie Bradburn Boucher

Conflict in Ukraine & Russia

Those battling COVID / flu



Shut-ins (Ms. Maxine Warren, Ms. Phyllis "Jo" Levan, Mr. Don Levan, Mr. Jack Ervin, Ms. Shirley Boger, Ms. Carleen Willard, Mr. Melvin Ervin, Ms. Pam Bendele)

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The MESSENGER

Volume 1 * Issue 2
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