

“We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”

Romans 8:28

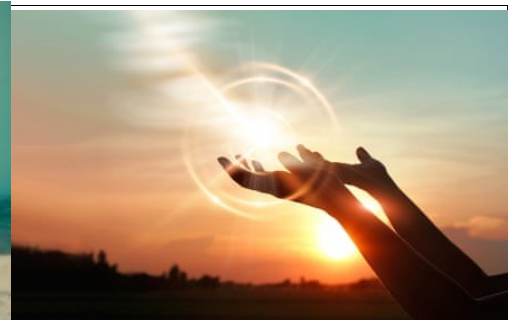
“Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.”

Matthew 6:34



Volume 1* Issue 3
March, 2023

First Troutman UMC
Troutman, N.C.



“Throw off everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles us.” (Hebrews 12:1)

Every day that we wake up, we have a chance to renew our minds in Christ. When we take the time to renew our mind, this allows Him to take all that hinders us so we can run *“the race marked for us.”* There are things that hinder us and trip us up, slows us down as we run the race. **Giving it to God** may seem scary to us at first, but our surrender will bring us freedom.

Runners preparing for a race or marathon, know that to run with perseverance they have to let go of everything. Some will even shave their hair on their entire body because a slick clean surface makes all the difference with wind resistance. Every day we must choose to let go of what is behind us, so we have a smooth surface surrendered to God. When we let go, we give God a clean slate to do His mighty work in our lives.

What does it mean then to **Let Go and Let God?** When we let go and let God, we are submitting fully to Him. We are letting go of whatever we've been trying to do on our own so God can do what only He can do. Surrendering to God is literally giving up. It is telling God that we are not big

enough to deal with our worries and that He must take over. For the first several weeks of Lent, we will be looking at areas of our lives that we need to let go and let God have complete control. Giving it to God simply means to put your complete faith in God to work things out for your good and to know that ultimately, it is His will and not your own, that determines the outcome.

Here are five quick ways to start each day giving complete control to God.

1. Start each day by giving it to God—start with a clean slate. Do not take yesterday's mistakes into a new day. Mentally shave off every single worry, doubt, fear, mistake and anxiety.
2. Start each day with prayer—speak to God. The day is full of responsibilities, but first talk to God. Acknowledge Him, tell Him that you love Him. Invite God's Spirit to guide you today. Before talking to anyone, talk to God, He will set your day on the right path.
3. Start each day with Scripture—open your Bible and read where you left off from previous day. The Bible is living and active and like cool water for your thirsty soul.

Continued on Page 4

Bible Study (Adults/Kids/Youth)

Weds. March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29th
6:30—7:30 PM

Bible Study Topic—Chosen Season #3

Wonderful Wednesday Meals

Meals served from 5:30—6:20 PM
Weds. March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29th

Methodist Men

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

Administrative Council Meeting

March 5th @ 11:30 AM after worship
All Leaders present to present area reports

Compassion Crafts (3/2 & 3/23)

Guest Speaker & Discernment Meal

Sunday, March 12th @ 10:15 AM
Meal After Church
Presentation of BE UMC @ 12:00 PM





Notable March Birthdays in Past years - Mar 1st (Justin Bieber, Musician); Mar 2nd (Jon Bon Jovi, Musician); Mar 6th (Shaquille O'Neal, Basketball Player); Mar 10th (Chuck Norris, Actor); Mar 15th (Eva Longoria, Actress); Mar 18th (Queen Latifah, Actress & Comedian); Mar 19th (Bruce Willis, Actor); Mar 22nd (Reese Witherspoon, Actress); Mar 25th (Elton John, Musician); Mar 26th (Jennifer Grey, Actress)

Troutman First UMC - Notable March Birthday's

March 3rd - Keegan Wyatt	March 6th - Mack Williams
March 11th - Brent Spath	March 12th - Patsy Biddy
March 12th - Aaron Larson	March 14th - Kim Sherrill
March 15th - Patt Ostwalt	March 17th - Patty Pierce
March 21st - Sara Dillon	March 22nd - Wynell Clement
March 22nd - Steve Bridges	March 27th - Shon White, Sr.
March 29th - Olga Guill	

Troutman First UMC - Anniversaries

March 12th - Jim & Nan Williams March 31st - Ed & Gilda Pryor

Troutman First UMC Mission Statement

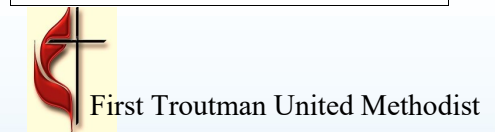
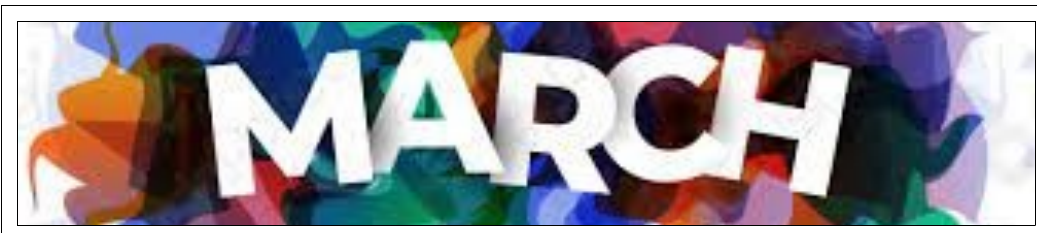
Discover

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.*



CONTACT



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www.firsttroutmanmethodist.com



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204 Mills Avenue

SOCIAL



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Giving Up & Giving it To God

Sermon Series



Upcoming Sermon Topics

March 5th—Second Sunday of Lent
Series—*Giving Up & Giving it to God*
“*Giving Up Expectation—Genesis 12:1-4*”

March 12th—Third Sunday of Lent
D.S. Rev. Lory Beth Huffman
Guest Speaker

March 19th—Fourth Sunday of Lent
Series—*Giving Up & Giving it to God*
“*Giving Up Our Lives—John 11:1-45*”

March 26th—Fifth Sunday of Lent
Alone Time in the Garden
Jesus shows the importance of spending time alone with Him in the garden
Matthew 26:36-56



During the Month of March – **This month on the second—fifth Sundays of Lent.** We will look at what it means to completely surrender and give our lives to God, allowing Him to have full control of all our lives: Family, Finances, Worries, etc.

Bible Study Series Month of March

March 2023 we will be watching Chosen Season #3 and discussing each episode. With each episode reviewed, we will look at the scripture passage for the basis of that episode and dive into interpretation and meaning for our lives today.

March 1st—Episode #2 (Season 3) - “*Two By Two*” - **Matthew 10:1; Luke 6:12-13; Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-2**

March 8th - Episode #3 (Season 3) - “*Physician, Heal Thy Self*” - **Luke 4:23**

March 15th - Episode #4 (Season 3) - “*Clean—Part #1*” - **Luke 9**

March 22nd - Episode #5 (Season 3) - “*Clean—Part #2*” - **Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:22-43, Luke 8:41-56**

March 29th - Episode #6 (Season 3) - “*Intensity in Tent City*” - **Mark 6:45; 7:31, 5:20 and Matthew 4:25**

Continued from Page (1)

4. Surround yourself each day with encouragement. You will never make it alone. Surround yourself with people who will speak truth into your life. Always be on the lookout for people who boost your faith and encourage your spirit.

5. Renew your mind continually—The world will try to add worries to your day, so it is important to maintain spiritual health. Continually surrender your worries to God. Trust and believe that God is for you. He loves you and only wants the best for you. When you let go, you can fully rest in His strength and grace. You do not have to worry. The creator of the Word is on your side.

Blessings,

Pastor Jeff Hamrick

March 12th (Special Sunday)

Sunday, March 12th, Troutman First Discernment team has invited our District Superintendent, Rev. Lory Beth Huffman to preach at our 10:15 AM worship service. After our worship service, the Discernment team invites you downstairs for soup, sandwiches and cookies and a time of fellowship. After our meal, we will return to the Sanctuary where Rev. Huffman will present to our congregation what it means to stay in the #UMC denomination. After her presentation, she will allow time for questions and answers that you may have as a congregation. Please everyone, this is a time for you to get questions answered. Make plans to stay and

Open Door Friends Gathering
Tuesday, March 14th @ 10:00 AM
At Rose Chapel UMC
813 Turnersburg Highway, 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 March will be an Easter Monolog presented by the Rev. Valerie Wilson (from Charlotte, NC). Refreshments will be served by the Rose Chapel UMC Senior group. Rev. Gary Camp, Pastor of Rose Chapel 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. Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 8th if possible. Hope to see you at our March gathering.



American Red Cross
Blood Mobile Drive
Thursday, March 16th
3:00 to 7:30 PM



For every pint of blood given, you help save (3) lives. Will you sign up to give this year at the blood drive.

We need volunteers to welcome and greet those who come to give blood. We also need those to help set-up and take down before and after the event.

If you could sit at the refreshment table and greet blood donors, you would share hospitality to a stranger.

We also need people to call potential blood donors and see if they would sign-up. Could you help out. If so, please see Leigh Payne at church.

Costa Rica 2024 Mission Trip

The Statesville / Troutman UMC Mission Network is planning a "Rice and Bean" mission trip to Costa Rica for 2024. Plans are underway for a 6/8/24 trip thru 6/15/24. The cost of the trip will be around \$1,900 per person. The group will do as much fund raising as possible. This cost does not include souvenirs, excursions, restaurants, etc.. If any church would like a presentation of this trip, a representative would be happy to come and share a slide presentation with your church. If you would like to have someone come to our church, please let me know. The coordinator of the trip needs a number by the end of March of those who might be interested in participating in this mission trip. Passports will be needed for the trip. What do you say, anyone interested in working to feed children and families in Costa Rica with the Rice and Beans Mission Trip?

News from Troutman First United Methodist Youth Group

March is coming in like a lamb but the Youth are coming in like Lions!

We are on a roll with all of our new friends! We now have 8 youth and that is such a blessing!

The next step is planning a meeting for all parents. We have several things planned and ideas coming in and cannot wait to share it all!

Watch out in the coming months for a “More about” section of the newsletter that will highlight one of our youth each month so you can get to know them more! We will also be actively involved with parts of worship and other activities happening in our Church!!

Thank you so much for your continued support for these beautiful young boys and ladies that God has given us!!!

Blessings from Julie Yager and the Youth

Ways to A Small to Mid-Size Church can Serve the Community

How could they engage the Troutman community in any significant way? With the right approach, it is possible for a small group of people to make a big impact. It will take focus and clarity about what we are trying to accomplish, but the small church can make a big impact in the world through partnerships, creative use of resources, and a focus on relational ministry. Small congregations have unique strengths that can result in strong and effective community outreach ministry.

Focus. A small congregation has to be more disciplined about not “biting off more than it can chew.” Identifying just one thing to focus on (tutor kids at the local public school, collect diapers, sponsor a community garden) may well help you be more successful, as you will have clear outcomes in front of you. Internal ministry programs may have many bells and whistles, so we think we need to do that with work in our community as well — right? Wrong! Sometimes simpler is just what the community needs.

Relationships. Another advantage of being small is that your church may be better at relational ministry than larger churches, and it is the relationships that you can build with people in your community that will make the greatest impact. People who are drawn to attend smaller churches are often there because of the “family” feel; in your small congregation, you can really get to know each other, go deep in your relationships, and bear one another’s burdens. Carrying that affinity for relationship into the community may well help you make a greater impact than if you brought hundreds of volunteers or thousands of dollars. Everything you’ve learned within your own congregation about really listening to one another and devoting time to relationships will bless your community in myriad ways.

Partnerships. Small churches often have no choice but to partner with others to carry out ministry. Partnerships, if done well, can result in exponentially greater impact. You aren’t limited to the gifts within your own church. You can seek others, particularly when working on complex community issues where expertise, connections, and resources are needed. A small group of people who are willing can make a big difference!

Ownership. In a small church, members may also feel a greater sense of ownership for the ministry. Without many paid staff, it is up to church members to develop the vision and the plan, find partners, and enlist other members to get involved. You can’t just look around and say, “Pastor So-and-So is going to do that.” In a small church, when you look around, you might only see yourself and a few of your friends. If you don’t do it, no one else will! This strong ownership by lay leaders can help ministry be sustainable over the long term.

Accountability. Finally, those in small churches may be better able to hold each other accountable for following through on ministry goals and commitments because you are small. If just a few of you are working on a project and two of you don’t show up, it’s pretty obvious who isn’t holding up their end of the work! It is harder to be anonymous and go back on what you’ve agreed to. It is harder to give up when your friends are on your case!

Small churches are all too aware of the challenges facing their ministries — limited funds, members, and facilities. But even in the face of such challenges, your small church can start some very powerful community ministries. Take stock of what you *do* have rather than what you don’t have, and build on those assets. Be creative about finding partners, raising money, and securing in-kind donations. And most importantly, keep going. Some of the most successful community ministries are small and focused and don’t require lots of money and people. More ideas coming next month.

Portions of excerpt from Lewis Center for Church Leadership.



Iredell Christian Ministries - March 2023

During the month of March, the (12) United Methodist Churches in Statesville / Troutman will be collecting Macaroni and Cheese & Ramen Noodles for Iredell Christian Ministries. Items collected will be given to Iredell Christian Ministries (Statesville). The last Sunday, March 26th, will be the last day to collect items for this project. Bring items to the church in the month of March and leave on first two pews to the left of the altar. Thank you for the way you reach out!

Literacy Event (Book Box)

In the month of March, the outreach team and children's department 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 in memory of Danny's wife, Jean Ervin. 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. So, start filling up the pews with children's books (new or used). The books collected will be used to rotate in and out of the "Book" blessing box.



Troutman Help Ministries Collection

Help Ministries has asked Troutman First and area churches to collect for the month of March condiments: mustard, ketchup, salad dressing, steak sauce, BBQ sauce, etc.. At the end of the month, all items collected will be taken to Help Ministries here in Troutman for families who are in need.

Easter Egg Hunt (Candy fillers for Easter Eggs)

First Troutman UMC Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 1st from 10:30 AM till 12:00 PM. Will you consider leaving a financial contribution in the offering plate to help purchase candies for prize fillers in the Easter Eggs that will be hidden for kids to find. We will be collecting money through Wednesday, March 22nd. Then the children's committee will purchase candy to stuff the Easter Eggs. If you can help stuff Easter Eggs, please let Alice Ward know.

Greetings from the Children's Ministry

March News from Alice Ward (Children's Coordinator)

Greetings from Children's Ministry!

"Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 (Common English Bible). This month, the Deep Blue Kids Bibles were presented to Mavis Edmonds, Kasey Larson, Keisel Larson, Mabry Stolp, Kadyr Wyatt, and Jackson Yager. I would like to thank the presenters and congregation for making this such a special occasion for the children. I can still hear the congregation singing "Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life."

In Sunday School, we re learning about the Servanthood for Kids: The Life of Jesus and will finish this series this month. The children also made Valentines for our shut ins. In Children's Church, we also began a new series of lessons on learning about The Creation Story and will also finish this series this month. The Sunday School, Children's Church, and Wednesday Night lessons are now meeting in the classroom next to the kitchen.

Our table is getting full children on Sundays! We need lighter weight tables and chairs that are age appropriate. If you would like to donate towards this project, the children and I would appreciate it.

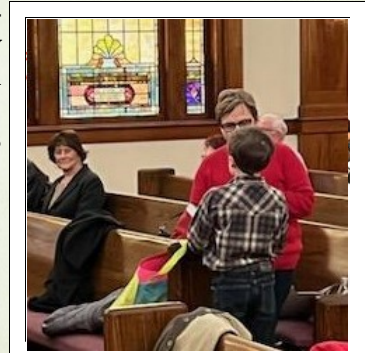
Troutman First will dedicate the Blessing Box on March 26th after church. This box will be dedicated in honor of Jean Ervin, a very special lady. For the month of March, we will be collecting new and used books that are in good condition. You may place your donations on the pews. If you would like to dress up as your favorite storybook character, we would love for the children and the "young at heart members" to participate on March 26th.

Our Easter event will be on April 1st from 10:30am to 12:00pm. We will continue the Storybook literacy activities and again, children and adults may dress up as storybook characters. Activities include: exploring books through storytelling, crafts, games, hunting for eggs, and eating pizza.

I would like to invite you to work with our precious children. Come join us for lots of fun, fellowship, and building of faith. They bring us such joy!

Alice Ward, Children's Coordinator

**Troutman First
UMC**



Congregational Care

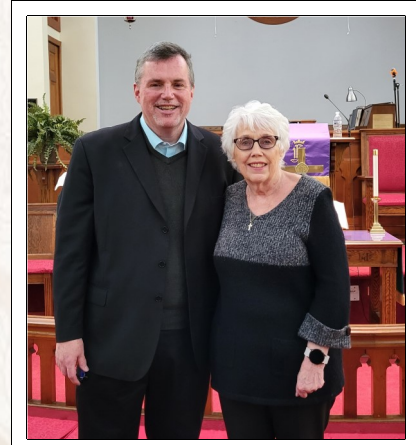
Please remember these shut-ins during the month of March by sending them a card letting them know you are praying for them. These notes are always encouragement and support to our friends as they wish they could be with us for worship. Some are recovering at home, while others are in nursing facilities.

Ms. Janet Dengler
188 Woodfield Drive
Statesville, NC 28677

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

Mr. Melvin Ervin
233 Lytton Street
Troutman, NC 28166

Troutman First UMC Welcomes our
Newest Member—Ms. Becky Bost
Becky transfers from Fern Hill Baptist



Hymn Writer Horatio Spafford—author of *“It Is Well With My Soul”*

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.”*

Horatio Gates Spafford was born in New York, on 20th October 1828, but it was in Chicago that he became well-known for his clear Christian testimony. He and his wife Anna were active in their church, and their home was always open to visitors. They counted the world-famous evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, among their friends. They were blest with five children and considerable wealth. Horatio was a lawyer and owned a great deal of property in his home city.

Not unlike Job in the Old Testament of the Bible, tragedy came in great measure to this happy home. When four years old, their son, Horatio Jnr, died suddenly of scarlet fever. Then only a year later, in October 1871, a massive fire swept through downtown Chicago, devastating the city, including many properties owned by Horatio. That day, almost 300 people lost their lives, and around 100,000 were made homeless. Despite their own substantial financial loss, the Spafford’s sought to demonstrate the love of Christ, by assisting those who were grief-stricken and in great need. Two years later, in 1873, Spafford decided his family should take a holiday in England, knowing that his friend, the evangelist D. L. Moody, would be preaching there in the autumn. Horatio was delayed because of business, so he sent his family ahead: his wife and their four remaining children, all daughters, 11 year old Anna, 9 year old Margaret Lee, 5 year old Elizabeth, and 2 year old Tanetta.

On 22nd November 1873, while crossing the Atlantic on the steamship, Ville du Havre, their vessel was struck by an iron sailing ship. Two hundred and twenty-six people lost their lives, as the Ville du Havre sank within only twelve minutes. All four of Horatio Spafford’s daughters perished, but remarkably Anna Spafford survived the tragedy. Those rescued, including Anna, who was found unconscious, floating on a plank of wood, subsequently arrived in Cardiff, South Wales. Upon arrival there, Anna immediately sent a telegram to her husband, which included the words “Saved alone....”

Receiving Anna’s message, he set off at once to be reunited with his wife. One particular day, during the voyage, the captain summoned him to the bridge of the vessel. Pointing to his charts, he explained that they were then passing over the very spot where the Ville du Havre had sunk, and where his daughters had died. It is said that Spafford returned to his cabin and wrote the hymn “It is well with my soul” there and then, the first line of which is, “When peace like a river, attendeth my way..” There are other accounts that say that it was written at a later date, but obviously, the voyage was one of deep suffering and is the clear inspiration of the moving and well-loved hymn. Horatio’s faith in God never faltered. He later wrote to Anna’s half-sister, “On Thursday last, we passed over the spot where she went down, in mid-ocean, the waters three miles deep. But I do not think of our dear ones there. They are safe..... dear lambs”.

After Anna was rescued, Pastor Nathaniel Weiss, one of the ministers traveling with the surviving group, remembered hearing Anna say, “God gave me four daughters. Now they have been taken from me. Someday I will understand why. Naturally, Anna was utterly devastated, but she testified that in her grief and despair, she had been conscious of a soft voice speaking to her, “You were saved for a purpose!” She remembered something a friend had once said, “It’s easy to be grateful and good when you have so much, but take care that you are not a fair-weather friend to God.” Following this deep tragedy, Anna gave birth to three more children, but she and Horatio were not spared even more sadness, as on February 11th, 1880, their only son, Horatio (named after the brother who had died, and also after his father), he also died at the age of four. What a wonderful hymn of faith that was compiled out of such deep grief!





Hotdog & Ham Biscuit Sale at Dixie Horse Auction

Be watching for more details, but the Methodist Men's group will be selling Hot Dogs and Ham Biscuits on Friday, March 24th & Saturday, March 25th at the Gas Station across from the Iredell Fairgrounds. Proceeds made from the sell of Hotdogs and Ham Biscuits will go for Church Projects & Methodist Men's Mission activities. Start taking orders for a delicious hotdog or a ham biscuit or two. If you have orders for delivery or want to stop by on one of those days and enjoy lunch. Come support the Men's group.

Troutman First Easter Egg Hunt

Mark Your Calendars -

Saturday, April 1st

10:30 Am to 12:00 PM

Troutman First UMC

204 Mills Avenue

Call (704) 528-5110 For More Info.

Storybook Easter Egg Event

Activities include: exploring books with a time of storytelling, crafts, games, egg hunt, and pizza and snacks.

Kids can dress as their favorite storybook character or just come enjoy the activities planned for the morning.

Everyone is invited and welcomed.



Prayer List at TFUMC

Please join us in prayer for the following people:

Joe Burchette (cancer—Adenocarcinoma)

Jennifer Buell (lymphoma)

Family of Jack Ervin (Daughter Ellen)

Jerry & Dianne Lippard

Ms. Jean Brown (Hickory Frye Hospital)

David Dobrozsi

Mr. & Mrs. Mac McCabe

Ashley Bradburn

Edrie Schade

Ms. Dottie Bradburn Boucher

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

Conflict in Ukraine & Russia

David Brown (continued recovery)

Turkey / Syria Crisis

Carleen Willard's Son (Jerry)

Loraine (Rosemary Alexander's sister—cancer)

EC Marley

Gordon Hebbard (radiation)

Elizabeth McKay

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

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