

*“Because of the LORD’S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “*



Volume 1\* Issue 5  
May, 2023

First Troutman UMC  
Troutman, N.C.



***“For in him we live and move and are!”  
Acts 17:28 (TLB)***

Do you remember the first bicycle that your parents bought for you without training wheels? We were comfortable riding a tricycle with the support of the training wheels. But, a bicycle, we had never ridden one without the support. Patiently, your mom or dad tried to teach us the art of cycling. It did not take us long to figure out one thing that we must do if we were to stay on the bicycle: we must keep moving forward. If you ceased moving forward, we would fall and hurt ourselves.

So it is with the Christian walk with Jesus. We can never live this life on the highest level with Jesus unless we are continually growing and moving forward. We should be closer to God today in heart, soul, body, and mind, than at any other time so far in our lives.

We must not be backward looking people. Paul says in Philippians 3:13—*“Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: For-*

*getting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.” (NIV)* Paul had every reason to forget what was behind him. He had hunted down followers, he had disrupted churches, and killed followers of Christ. He had followers thrown in jail, and supported and watched the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Like Paul, we have all done things for which we are ashamed and live in the tension of what we have been and what we want to be. Because our hope is in Christ, however, we can let go of past guilt and look forward to what God will help us become.

We need not dwell on our past, instead we can concentrate on who we are now because of Christ’s sacrifice for us. We are forgiven and have been chosen by God, filled with His Spirit and can move into a life of faith and obedience. God does not want us to be backward looking, going through life looking in the rear view mirror. But we so often can’t help ourselves. We remember the hurts of the past and the mistakes we made. It’s time now to look ahead and focus on what is before us.

**Bible Study (Adults/Kids/Youth)**

Weds. May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31st  
6:30—7:30 PM

Bible Study Topic—James 24/7 living

**Wonderful Wednesday Meals**

Meals served from 5:30—6:20 PM  
Weds. May 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st

**Methodist Men**

Tuesday, May 16th, at 6:30 PM  
Meeting & eating At Talley House

**Angel’s Armoire Consignment Sale**

Thursday 5/4 - Saturday 5/6  
See Julie Yager to get plugged in.

**Compassion Crafters**

Thursday, 4th & 25th  
See Sonya Yager for More Details





**Fun May Facts** - *Blue Jeans* were officially invented in May of 1873 by Levi Strauss & Jacob Davis. The *Empire State Building* officially opened on May 1st, 1931. On May 14th, 1804, Lewis and Clark began their trip up the Missouri River. On May 20th, 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to mark a flight across the Atlantic Ocean. South Carolina became the 8th state to be admitted to the union on May 23rd, 1788. San Francisco's *Golden Gate Bridge* opened on May 27th, 1937.

**Troutman First UMC - Notable May Birthday's**

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| May 2nd - Ashley Poteat         | May 5th - Richard Dixon   |
| May 6th - Sandy Hartline Duteau | May 10th - Avery Dillon   |
| May 10th - Jerry Lippard        | May 12th - Teresa Houser  |
| May 13th - Mavis Gutierrez      | May 17th - Linda Franklin |
| May 25th - Pam Bendele          | May 26th - Mac McCabe     |
| May 27th - Sandy Marley         | May 29th - Wayne Rogers   |

**Troutman First UMC - Anniversaries**

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| May 17th - Jason & Julie Yager | May 18th - Ronnie & Olga Guill |
| May 25th - Josh & Angela Wyatt |                                |



**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

**CONTACT**



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## Upcoming Sermon Topics

May 7th - Fifth Sunday of Easter  
What is Grace (key doctrine of our belief)?  
Today we look at Prevenient Grace.

May 14th—Sixth Sunday of Easter &  
Mother's Day  
*Justifying Grace (acceptance of  
relationship with Jesus)*

May 21st —Ascension Sunday  
*Sanctifying Grace*  
Living a Life in Grace.

May 28th—Pentecost  
*The Work of the Holy Trinity*  
Particular attention to the Holy Spirit

*During the Month of May* – We will have a series of sermons on United Methodist Theology (*What We Believe*). How many of you know what our doctrine (core beliefs) are as United Methodists? What better way to find out than to hear in one of our sermons during the month of May. Hope to see you here in worship.

### Bible Study Series Month of May

We began a new bible study on Wednesday, April 26th on the book of James that is entitled “24/7—*Living the Christian Life*.” Per Charles Swindoll, “*the book of James looks and feels a lot like the Old Testament book of Proverbs dressed up in New Testament clothes.*” He goes on to say that its focus is on the practical action in the life of faith and encourages God’s people to act like God’s people. The pages of James are filled with direct commands to pursue a life of holiness. He makes no excuses for those who do not measure up. In the mind of the early church leader, Christians evidence their faith by walking in certain ways and not others. For James, a faith that does not produce real life change is a faith that is worthless (James 2:17).

April 26th — James “Living the Christian Life 24/7” - James 1:1-12—(We all face Trials and Temptations)

May 3rd - James “Living the Christian Life 24/7” - James 1:19-26—(Listening & Doing)

May 10th - James “Living the Christian Life 24/7” - James 2:1-13—(Favoritism Forbidden)

May 17th - James “Living the Christian Life 24/7” - James 2:14-26—(Faith & Deeds)

May 24th - James “Living the Christian Life 24/7” - James 3:1-17 (Taming the Tongue & Wisdom)

May 31st - James “Living the Christian Life 24/7” - James 4:1-17 (Submitting Yourself to God)

***The Circle Maker*** (Bible Study / Fast—Praying for Big Changes in our Church, Community & Our Life).



In June, Troutman First and Wesley Chapel will begin a study and prayer fast entitled “*The Circle Maker*.” In “*The Circle Maker*,” Pastor Mark Batterson shares powerful insights from the true legend of Honi the circle maker, a first-century Jewish sage whose bold prayer ended a

drought and saved a generation. Drawing inspiration from his own experiences as a circle maker, Batter will teach us how to pray in a new way by drawing prayer circles around your dreams, your family, your problems, and most importantly God’s promises. In the process, you’ll discover this simple yet life-changing truth: **GOD HONORS BOLD PRAYERS AND BOLD PRAYERS HONOR GOD.** Come discover that our God is big enough to enlarge our church, heal your marriage or your child. He is bigger than a positive MRI or a negative evaluation. Our God is bigger than our brokenness. I can’t wait to see how our MIGHTY GOD is going to move in our church, town, and our lives. AMEN!

**Welcome New Members**

***Spencer & Samantha Lasker (McKinley & Colton)***

Spencer & Samantha Lasker (McKinley & son Colton) joined our congregation  
on Sunday, April 16th, 2023.



Spencer & Samantha transfer from Pittstown United Methodist  
Church (Pittstown, New York).



Their son,  
Colton was  
also bap-  
tized on  
Sunday,  
April 16th.  
Help us wel-  
come them



**Open Door Friends Gathering**

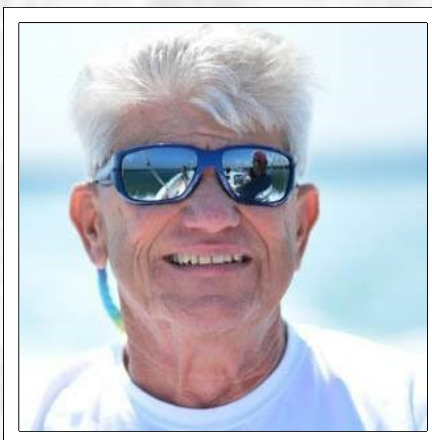
***Fellowship & Fun Gathering—Tuesday, May 9th***

**At Broad Street UMC (315 West Broad Street, Statesville, NC)**

10:00 AM Gathering - Light Brunch Snacks

*“Wildlife You May Know”* Program

Presented by Mr. Bob Senn



(Charlotte, NC)

### **Reflections from the Walk to Emmaus**

*“Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. “*

*“When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”*

***Luke 24:13-15; 30-32***

On April 20—23rd, four of our women from Troutman First United Methodist enjoyed the weekend retreat, **The Walk To Emmaus**. This walk was created by The Upper Room of The United Methodist Church and is a tool to equip and refresh church leaders / disciples of Jesus Christ. Here are some of the comments from those who attended the weekend retreat.

#### **Patty Pierce or “PJ”**

Friendships made, an opportunity to leave those worries behind, a chance to feel God & Jesus in a peaceful setting, hugs (I am officially all hugged out) to calm the soul, caring clergy who went above and beyond, Pastor Jeff and his excellent skills of making everyone feel that they are loved, my bunk mates, my sponsors, yummy food with carbs, interesting talks by laity and clergy, the Walk up the hill from the commissary, our table facilitators who loved on us continuously, the wonderful surprise at the church in Belwood, the loving support of past participants, and the chapels, oh those chapels and how they helped all of us!

#### **Sonya Yager**

Pastor Jeff asked me to write a couple of lines about my weekend at Emmaus. It would take a whole page to write my feelings. All I can say in a couple of lines is that you have to go and find out and experience it. It is inspirational, rewarding, gives you a broader view of life and the music ROCKS.

#### **Marchia Boone**

Walk 176 - Table of Mary

Even these above words humble me—they are like a part of God's name tag for me. As I look back over this past weekend, the emotions still wash over me. I must say that the time and experience at Emmaus was AWESOME. I felt the love and presence of the Holy Spirit very strongly...it was almost overwhelming. Worshiping along with the other women through singing and sharing life stories was amazing. We all quickly shared a strong connection with each other. Amazing to see and experience God in such a mighty way. During this time it was revealed to me that I am on the right track with my passion for service to my God, church and community. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have had this Emmaus Walk. Thank you Thank you Thank you sponsors.

#### **Alice Ward**

At a youth retreat, as a teenager, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. As life progressed, I collected baggage along the way and at times did not feel worthy of God's love. The Walk to Emmaus was the catalyst for accepting God's grace and my heart was wrapped in God's love.

Pure joy and love replaced the heavy burdens that I carried far too long. Now I am free to worship God wholeheartedly!







## **Crisis Pregnancy Center (Month of May Project)**

During the month of May, Troutman First will once again collect spare change in “baby bottles” for donation to the Iredell Crisis Pregnancy Center. Baby Bottles will be on the front pew of the sanctuary for you to pick-up during worship. Take those home with you and during the month of May, fill these bottles up with your loose change. The monies collected will then be presented to the center at the beginning of June. Thank you for the ways that you help worthwhile causes within our community and county. Blessings, Outreach Chair,

## **Back 2 School Bash 2023**

Back 2 School Bash will be held at Statesville High School on Saturday, July 29th at 9:00 Am until 1:00 PM. This event allows families to pick-up school supplies, get physicals for school children, get a pair of new athletic / tennis shoes & pairs of socks. Families also receive a free meal. Our church has participated in years past. We are asking our members once again by helping to purchase new pairs of athletic / tennis shoes for the event. We will have shoe tags for sizes needed within the next few weeks. They will be put on the altar of the church for you to pick-up, take and purchase a pair of shoes and socks and then return the shoes to our church. If you would rather donate money and have someone from outreach committee to shop for you, you may ear-mark your offering—Back 2 School Bash Shoes. Also, consider volunteering for this event. There are many ways you can get involved. Handing out school supplies or pairs of athletic shoes, greeting visitors at the food tent and handing out bags of food. Pray how you could help out. Let Leigh Payne or Pastor Jeff know if you could help.



*On Sunday, April 16th, Troutman First United Methodist welcomed Kenny & Elizaveta Llywelyn, and her brother Artem and his family from the Ukraine at our worship time. We appreciate Artem & his wife, and Elizaveta sharing in song and testimony. It is great seeing the work of God in any language. Thank you Troutman First for the way you assisted and helped*

*Artem and his family get from Ukraine to  
Statesville, North Carolina.*

**Greetings from the Children's Ministry**  
**April News from Alice Ward (Children's Coordinator)**

Greetings from Children's Ministry!

"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" 1 Corinthians 15:57."

On April 1st, we had our Storybook Easter Event in the Fellowship Hall due to rainy weather but that did not dampen our fun with at least 50 participants! Everyone enjoyed crafts, games, pizza, photo booth pictures, and exploring books. We also had visits from "The Wonky Donkey," the "Easter Bunny," and a storyteller who shared the "Jellybean Prayer" and read books to the children. "Storybook Characters" made an appearance as well. We ended the event with an Easter Egg Hunt and treat bags for the children. I would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who made this event possible!

It is exciting to hear that the Blessing Box is empty! Children are enjoying and reading books, thanks to your donations. Books will be placed in the box as needed. If you have used books or would like to donate new, please leave them on a pew in the Sanctuary.

In Sunday School, we will start a new series of lessons on the twelve disciples. We have learned about the Servanthood of Jesus and how he prepared the disciples for spreading the "Good News." Now, we want to see how they accomplished this task and how we might do the same. We are also learning the books of the New Testament. This month in Children's Church, we will do a series on "Who is the Holy Spirit" and Mother's Day.

Sometimes we experience the unexpected, something that was not planned. In my absence over the last three weeks, there have been many acts of love. Patty Pierce, Sonya Yager, and Leigh Payne took care of Sunday School and Children's Church, Gilda Pryor made sure the children's bulletins were ready for the children on Sunday, Pastor Jeff visited and prayed with me in the hospital, cards and prayers from members of TFUMC, and others, that I may be unaware of, I am so thankful to be a part of this caring family in Christ.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8. This past weekend I experienced the gift of Walk to Emmaus and God's amazing grace.

**Congregational Care**

Please remember these shut-ins during the month of May 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. Pam Bendele  
763 Georgie Street  
Troutman, NC 28166  
Birthday—May 25th

Ms, Phyllis "Jo" Levan  
Maple Leaf Care—Room 212  
1101 Maple Care Lane  
Statesville, NC 28625

Ms. Shirley Boger  
219 Skyuka Road  
Statesville, NC 28677

Mr. Gordon Hebbard  
115 Lauren Drive  
Statesville, NC 28677  
Health Concerns

The reason many miss the miracle is that we aren't looking and listening. The easy part of prayer is talking. It's much harder listening to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit. It is much harder looking for the answers. But two-thirds of praying hard is listening and looking.



### **News from Troutman First United Methodist Youth Group**

We have lots of fun and exciting things coming up soon with the youth! We can not wait to share everything with you all!

On Tuesday, April 18th I had the privilege of going to a workshop at the district office and I learned so much! I am excited to bring that into the life of our youth and church! We are finishing up our women of the Bible Study and will be starting a new one in the coming month. We are taking things “outside” of the normal and going to do an outreach study with the youth group. They are all very excited and eager to learn about taking our church outside the four walls and inviting others to do so as well.

The youth have come up with the names for the food pantry and youth group and we will be sharing them soon when all of the youth have had a chance to talk about them. We have a ton of different ideas for service projects and activities for the youth and can not wait to get them scheduled and in the works! We will be making a schedule of all of these after the consignment sale is over. We are busy gearing up for that and are excited for that to bring in some funds for our youth’s ideas!

This month we are starting our “YOUth Bio Spotlight”. The kids are excited about sharing some things about themselves so you can get to know them better. This month we will start with Melina. Melina’s Bio....



our “YOUth Bio Spotlight”. sharing some things about know them better. This Melina. Melina’s Bio....

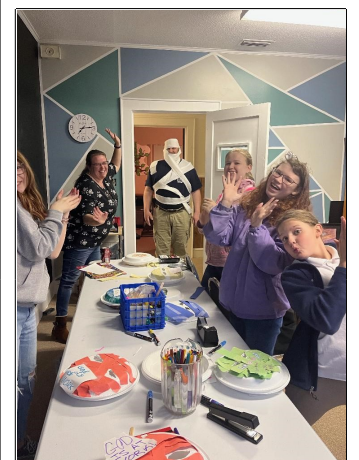
Melina has been in our youth group for the past two years and we have all enjoyed her very much. She is always willing to share things in her life and relate them to what we are studying in scripture. She has a very outgoing personality and she has the best ideas when it comes to decorating. She is off to UNCG in the fall to study Music Education. Melina is a super talented musician and plays the clarinet and is in our praise band. She is a cat person and is very chill. She is very confident in herself and we know that will take her very far. The sky is the limit for her and she will surpass that no problem! Sewing and crafting are some of her hobbies. She loves to hike and travel. She doesn’t like seafood but is a pizza connoisseur! If there was a flower to describe her it would be a sunflower. She has always been a ray of sunlight in our group and we will miss her when she goes off to college! She will always be welcomed back in our group when she visits and we wish her the best of luck. God Bless you Melina and thank you for sharing your time with us. We love you!

### **Graduation Sunday / Recognition**

Sunday, June 4th, we will recognize those associated with Troutman First United Methodist who are graduating from Kindergarten, Middle School, High School, and colleges or universities. If you have a child or grandchild that is graduating, please notify the office so that we can pay tribute to them on Graduation Sunday. We like to pay tribute to their accomplishments. Blessings to all our graduates of 2023.



*Reasons Why I Love My Church!  
We work, play, and support one another through good and bad times!*





Troutman First United Methodist  
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The MESSENGER

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HELLO  
MAY