

**SUMMER SERVICE OF PRAISE:** Traveling a lot this summer? Away for the weekends? Desiring a more casual, alternative worship experience? Join us every Wednesday at 6pm in the FUMC sanctuary for our midweek worship celebration! Our Summer Service of Praise is an informal time of singing, prayer, Scripture, and brief faith message. For more information or to offer your gifts of singing, instrumentation, dance, and/or other creative art, talk to Pastor Kim!

**FACEBOOK FAN?:** If you would like to post something on the FUMC Facebook page to share with our faith community, please submit your post to Angie at [fumcangiesmith@gmail.com](mailto:fumcangiesmith@gmail.com). We'd love to see your pics of our church-wide activities and ministries!

**MEMORIAL GIFTS:** If you would like to give an "in memory" gift to FUMC, you may designate it to any area listed below: Contingency Fund, Endowment Fund, Memorial Fund, Music Fund, Adult Exercise Class, Salkehatchie Summer Service, Bus Fund, Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, Building Upkeep Fund, Parsonage Upkeep Fund, Grounds Upkeep Fund, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and named Scholarships. Call the church office for more information.

**GOOD NEIGHBOR:** The Men's Class at FUMC is offering a helping hand. Do you need any help to change a light bulb, clean the gutters, rake the yard, wash the car, or go to the store? Whatever your need, give us a chance to be a good neighbor to you. We're not professionals and we'll not bill you for services, but we are handy at doing many things. Our intent is not to take any work away from our local businesses and service professionals, but to simply offer a helping hand. This service is available to all FUMC members, and anyone you know who is in need of help. You may contact Roger Wolfe at 843-537-7496.

**ON-SITE EXERCISE ANYONE?** Please join our Senior Exercise Class every Tuesday at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. Standing exercises and chair exercises are both offered. Stretch bands and light weights are provided. Call the church office for more information.

**PICKLEBALL LEAGUE!** Please join us every week at the Cheraw Tennis Courts as "church ladies" from the Cheraw Community practice and play Pickleball. Please consult the weekly calendar for day and time. Talk to Pastor Kim for details.

**UMW RADA PRODUCTS:** The UMW have RADA Products for sale. See JoAnne Morgan or call her at (843-537-3537) if you are interested in purchasing any of these new items.

**A MINISTRY OF SERVICE:** Our Nurture and Care Committee offers a transport ministry by members of First UMC. If you or a loved one needs a ride to a doctor's appointment or medical errand, please call the church office. We have several volunteers on the roster ready and willing to give you a lift, physically and spiritually! Call the church office today and let our sisters and brothers in Christ serve you!

**DID YOU KNOW?:** First UMC offers a Nurture and Care Ministry. If you have a loved one who could use a visit and a word of cheer, and/or if you know of a shut-in who needs some caring company, please contact Trina Mills at 843-537-9502 or 843-910-0518 or call the church office.

***NOTE FROM PASTOR PHIL THRAILKILL, U.M. RETIRED***

Dear First Methodist,

The news is that I'm back in one piece and readjusting to life in the U.S. after a month teaching Luke in Nigeria. And when people ask, "How was it?" I say, "It was a world class Christian adventure. Bathing out of a bucket for a month brought back all my Boy Scout skills!" The first two weeks were in an isolated location in the east of the country, and the second two weeks in urbanized Lagos (destined – I am told – to be the most populous city in the world by 2050.)

There's no doubt that we are a fractured republic and at each other's throats about everything. But there's nothing like a month in Africa to restore one's perspective. A fifty mile trip here takes about an hour, not six and a half. You don't have to carry your own toilet paper. No group is raiding villages, stealing cattle, and killing Christians. And while we surely have some public corruption and graft, it's not a national sport. We here, as Christians in these United States, enjoy the choicest bounties of life, liberty, and – to paraphrase Jefferson – a call to live a holy and happy life. So love our great God, love your neighbor (the next person in front of you), and find ways to rebuild the social capital of friendship and community service. Many in Nigeria still see us as a light of hope and freedom. Perhaps they see something we have missed, maybe even forgotten.

I return blessed, stirred, chastened, and hopeful. I have invitations to return to both schools in 2020, and just today a formal invitation arrived to teach Luke in January in Liberia.

So thanks for your prayers. And thanks for your investment in the new thing God is doing in the midst of my seventh decade. July 5<sup>th</sup> was the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my adult conversion, and it was appropriate I celebrated it in front of twenty-one graduate students, all of whom are pastors. I look forward to hearing from you and to encouraging one another to be both better and bolder for Jesus Christ. What a privilege to be loyal locally and engaged globally.

One of your missionaries,

Pastor Phil Thrailkill