

FOLLOWING CHRIST FROM CITY CENTER

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New handicapped restroom!
 The restroom is located in the old janitor's closet - next to the women's restroom outside the fellowship hall. The drywall, plumbing, and first coat of paint are complete. New fixtures, a wider door, countertops, and flooring will be coming soon!

Letter from the Pastor

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

I feel like I am in that episode of I Love Lucy where she and Ethel have gotten a job at a candy factory. They are working the line as the chocolate covered confections move to the final step of being placed into a box. At first, they manage to place every piece in place. Then trouble begins. First one piece, then several, then a never-ending flow of candy moves down the belt as Lucy tries everything to keep them from falling - even stuffing pieces into her clothes and mouth.

Many days have felt like we are working a conveyer belt that is moving so fast that all we are doing is making a mess. We get tired of things not going our way. It is easy to say, "That's it. I quit. I'll wait until we're through this mess." We drop everything that we can and even some of the important things hit the ground.

Jesus knew that days would not always be easy for those who sought to be his disciples and learn from him; that is why they were invited to take up a cross, the path that led to suffering and shame. Following Christ means that we take the path of sacrificial love that he is taking.

The only way to walk with Jesus is to hear his voice and know where he is leading. Our lives require spiritual disciplines even more when the days are overwhelming.

I am asking that each of us consider where we are on the path of discipleship. Are we taking times for worship and prayer? What is our daily routine for studying? How are we seeking to serve others? Do we give as generously as we have received? Are we bearing witness to our faith in the world?

Earlier this year, many of us began in small groups along the path of discipleship before everything became a mess. Strive to hear the voice of Jesus every day. Prayerfully consider taking part in the opportunities, mostly off campus and virtual, that are being offered through our church ministries. Let us join the path of discipleship, even during the difficult days and seek to follow Jesus wherever he may lead.

Grace and Peace,

James

Flowers for our Worship Services

September 6	Available
September 13	Available
September 20	Available
September 27	Available

Keep in mind multiple families can share Sunday flowers if there is a special date you have in mind. Call the Church Office to sign up! 864-229-7551

Stewardship and Finance

Financial Report as of August 23, 2020

	Actual	Budget
YTD INCOME:	\$396,800	\$593,334
YTD EXPENSES:	\$379,148	\$593,334
YTD SURPLUS		
OR (DEFICIT):	\$ 17,652	

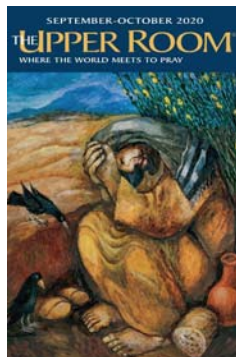
One month of apportionments have been paid.



Celebration Circle members and all interested in connecting through Zoom are invited to participate in our September meeting. Join us at **6 pm on Tuesday, September 8**, for an hour of fellowship and faith as Michelle Stallworth leads us in a devotional, and we plan ways to share the love of Christ in our community.

Susanna Circle

Susanna Circle will meet at the Wesley Commons Pavilion at 10:00 am Tuesday, September 1st.



The September/ October Upper Room devotionals are available in the church office for \$1.00 for regular print and \$1.50 for large print.

The Upper Room is temporarily making available a downloadable PDF at:

<https://www.upperroom.org/special-editions>

Men N Ministry

Men's Bible Study is BACK!

When and Where: Thursdays, 7 am @ Fat Daddy's
 Group Leader: Mark Askew
 First Meeting: September 10

October Connection

Deadline for the next *Connection* is **September 20th**.

Submit to: churchoffice@mainstreetgreenwood.org

Main Street Mission Opportunities

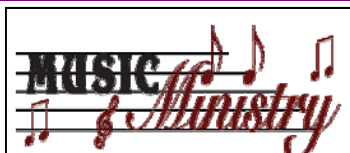


Our Staff the Bus school supply drive sponsored by the Missions/Outreach Committee was a great success! Supplies were collected on August 15 at the church and then delivered to Woodfields Elementary August 17. Many thanks to all members & friends who donated supplies! Main Street is serving Christ from City Center!!!!



This year's Spelling Bee will be virtual on September 29, 2020. Main Street has a team and is asking for donations for "buy backs". Buy backs are \$20 and are used to keep our team in the Bee when they miss a word. All the money raised stays in Greenwood and provides help to children who need dental work, glasses, etc. The goal is to remove children's health barriers to learning. You may send donations to the church — Attn. John McFadden. Thank you!

John McFadden
Director



It is good to praise the *Lord* and make music to Your Name, *O Most High.*
Psalm 92:1

Since our last Connection, several people have asked for an update about live streaming, especially from the sanctuary for our 11:00 am service. We are currently waiting on equipment that is on back order. We are on the installers schedule, and we anticipate live streaming to be up and running in the next several weeks.

Volunteers will be needed to operate the new system and training will be gladly provided. Please see Pastor Gray or myself for more information.



In-person meeting opportunities:

During September, we will continue to meet outdoors for occasional in-person activities. Please be respectful of distancing guidelines!

- Wednesday, September 9 – 7:00PM to 8:00PM at Grace Street Park
- Saturday, September 19 – 10:00AM at the Heritage Trail to walk the trail together
- Wednesday, September 30 – 7:00PM for putt-putt at Expo 300

Sundays @4:00:
Elevate Youth Zoom meetings

On Sunday afternoons at 4:00, join via Zoom for a time of fellowship and devotion. Links to join the Zoom meetings will be sent on Remind each week.

Group Text for Youth:

New to Elevate Youth? Contact Preston at 864-993-0463 to be added to our group text of youth! Instructions for digital group games are sent to this thread on Wednesdays – winners will receive a gift card prize in the mail. Join to stay in touch with the group!

For the congregation:

Please take some time each week to pray for our youth and college students as they return to school - this will be a great way to continue loving and supporting them during our time of distancing!



Fall Children's Consignment Store
September 22nd-26th
Drop-off dates:
September 16th-19th
Volunteers Shop
Tuesday, the 22nd
Consignors Shop
Wednesday the 23rd

Mud Pies 1st Day of School is August 31.
Your prayers are appreciated.

Please support our Charleston Wrap Fundraiser! Mud Pies receives 40% of all sales! Check it out ONLINE @ <http://www.charlestonwrapstore.com>
Please use our Organization ID so we get credit for our preschool: 11731

With Heartfelt Sympathy

In Memoriam
Andrew "Andy" Horace Warner
July 14, 2020

In Memoriam
Abner Eugene "Gene" Still, Jr.
August 2, 2020

In Memoriam
Peggy Bishop Swofford
August 4, 2020

In Memoriam
David Stuart
August 6, 2020

In Memoriam
Elizabeth Stockman Cureton
August 14, 2020

Continuing Prayer Concerns: Ruby Minor, Frances Garren, Charles and Sarah Alice Schulze, Betty Scott, Jackie Daniel, Rev. Needham Williamson, Gerry Partridge, Jack & Amanda Muren and baby Mazie, Kathleen Collins, (Lois Nisonger's daughter), Linda Miller, Bob Walters, Steven Stewart, Kathy Bailey, Pierce & Betty Stockman, Ned Birchmore, Lamar Maxie, Randy Rouse, Marian Adams, John Lumley, Mike Johnson, Peggy Ackerman, Patricia Lindell, Bobby Pittavino, Hennie Cox, Barbara Fisher, Gene Wilson, and Lori Proctor.

Christian Love and Sympathy is extended to:

Phyllis Jenkins, Kim Clark, and family on the death Phyllis' husband and Kim's father, Joe Jenkins, on August 25, 2020 in Greenwood.



We have been staying in touch and sharing God's love with our children when we can't be together physically.



Peyton and Ryder are making mask lanyards to wear back to school.

On August 6, cookie kits were delivered to the "sweet" families in our children's ministry. Such fun and delicious!

CELEBRATIONS

September Birthdays

- 2 Margaret Whitt Burnette, Preston Goforth
- 3 Hennie Cox, Ed Munnerlyn, Shirley Pate, Jamison Tinsley, Addison Leopard
- 4 Helen Spencer
- 5 Chuck Bell, Arthur Radcliffe
- 6 Brandi Davis
- 7 Lena Meredith
- 9 Bayne Rowland, Brent Rowland, Robert Bailey, Barry Campbell, Ruple Harley, Chrissy Andrews
- 10 Glenn Williams, William Culbertson, Jean Griffin, Sam Valkenburg
- 11 Stephanie Smith, Laura Katherine McCallum, Coleson Marino
- 12 Jeff Smith, Caroline Chappell, Ansley Workman
- 13 Wesley Kelly
- 14 Cindy Logan, James McCoy-Bruce, Ben Funderburk
- 15 Benjo Smith
- 16 Steve Ackerman, Sally Maxie, Brittany Smith, Ruby Gentry, Helen Haendle, Brenda Sams
- 18 Donna Childress, Angie Baker
- 19 Tom Goeden
- 20 Steven Stewart
- 21 Cheryl McCord, Stephen Davis, Tucker Meredith
- 22 Bob Cureton, Brenda Wall, Jo Patterson, Richie Pinckney, Melissa Funderburk, Bobby Chandler
- 23 Claudia Cason
- 24 Lamar Maxie, Nancy Moore
- 25 Fred Wactor, Billy Nicholson
- 26 Jo Wilson, Gary Clark, Marler Askew
- 27 Barbara Gates, Mike Games
- 28 Betty Strange
- 29 Rhonda McGinnis, Christine Wilson
- 30 Margaret Gearhart, Kim Gultch, Kayla Hall, Layton Logan, Nita Rudy



September Anniversaries

- 1 Joebie and Marian Adams
- 4 Russell and Vena McMahan
- 8 Buck and Jean Griffin
- 9 Tyler and Samantha Shelley
- 18 John and Holly Bracknell
- 21 Brian and Chrissy Andrews
- 26 Gary and Kim Clark
- 28 Wesley and Kristen Brooks
- 29 Tanner and Hannah Workman
Albert and Melissa Dukes



New Members



The Albon family (Susan, Margaret, Josh, & Brian) joined Main Street on August 16, 2020. They come to us from Wesleyan Chapel in Wilmington, North Carolina. Josh and Margaret are happy to be part of Elevate Youth. Susan grew up at Main Street—so welcome home, Susan and family!



Jordan and Ella helping at "Stuff the Bus".



Members of Main Street praying for a safe and successful year for Woodfields.



Goal of our ENGAGE SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES:
Connect people to Christ and to each other!

Gray Stallworth
Pastor of Discipleship

Are you active and effective in sharing with others your faith, your resources, and your love?
Philemon 1:6


Engage Small Groups—September 2020

We are excited that we have multiple options this fall for our small groups. There will be a morning and evening “Back Porch Women’s Study” as well as both a morning and evening “the Essentials - A Sermon-based Small Group.” In addition to this there will be a group that meets at Grace St Park for a devotion and a walk! Pastor James will do a Bible Study as well. So take a look at the menu of options and get registered! You can call the office or register online at <https://mainstreetgreenwood.org/small-group-registration-fall-2020/>

Monday	The Essentials Evening Group	A sermon based group discussion	6 pm—Begins September 14	Group Leader: Glenn Williams	Zoom Only
Tuesday	A. Rooted Principles	A group for a devotional, prayer requests, a “walk in the park” and a closing prayer.	8 am—Begins September 8	Group Leader: Gray Stallworth	Grace Street Park
	B. Morning Back Porch Women’s Bible Study	A group of women discussing a topic of mutual interest.	9 am— Begins September 15	Group Leader: Rhonda McGinnis	“Out back” at various member’s homes.
Wednesday	A. Evening Back Porch Women’s Bible Study	A group of women discussing the video series “No Other Gods: The Unrivaled Pursuit of Christ”.	6 pm—Begins September 9	Group Leader: Mary Kate Skinner	“Out back” at various member’s homes. (Zoom optional)
	B. Bible Study with Pastor James	Interactive discussion of Biblical texts.	6 pm—Begins September 9	Group Leader: Pastor James	Zoom Only
Thursday	A. Men’s Bible Study	A group of men gathering for discussion and study.	7 am—Begins September 10	Group Leader: Mark Askew	Fat Daddy’s
	B. The Essentials Morning Group	A sermon based group discussion.	11 am—Begins September 10	Group Leader: John McFadden	Zoom Only
September - November	Tables of 6	Fellowship Group that meets over a meal.	Group determines days and times (3 times in 3 months)	?????	Group determines location

* Social distancing will be observed in all groups, and registration is critical due to size limits. Many thanks for your help.

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>* Due to these adjusting days to accommodate getting together, please keep in mind this calendar is subject to change. Change will happen. And we will keep you updated. Thank you for your patience as we all go through this together!</p>		<p>1 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Susanna Circle @ Wesley Commons Pavilion 6:30 pm Wesley Fellowship 7:00 pm Seeking First 2.0 with Pastor James on our website: www.mainstreetgreenwood.org</p>	<p>2 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm</p>	<p>3 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 4:00 pm Children's Ministries Video on our website: www.mainstreetgreenwood.org</p>	<p>4 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery Worship</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 8:30 am Early Service Live Stream 11:00 am Traditional Worship Sunday School Zoom Classes: Cornerstone, Drake and Dula 4:00 pm Elevate Youth Zoom</p>	<p>7 Labor Day</p>  <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>8 8:00 am Rooted Principles @ Grace Street Park 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Wesley Fellowship 7:00 pm Seeking First 2.0 with Pastor James on our website: www.mainstreetgreenwood.org</p>	<p>9 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study @ Mary Kate Skinner's 6:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor James 7:00 pm Youth meet at Grace Street Park</p>	<p>10 7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Fat Daddy's 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 11:00 am The Essentials Zoom 4:00 pm Children's Ministries Video on our website: www.mainstreetgreenwood.org</p>	<p>11 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery Worship</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 8:30 am Early Service Live Stream 11:00 am Traditional Worship Sunday School Zoom Classes: Cornerstone, Drake and Dula 4:00 pm Elevate Youth Zoom</p>	<p>14 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm The Essentials Zoom</p>	<p>15 8:00 am Rooted Principles @ Grace Street Park 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Wesley Fellowship 7:00 pm Seeking First 2.0 with Pastor James on our website: www.mainstreetgreenwood.org</p>	<p>16 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study @ Mary Kate Skinner's 6:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor James</p>	<p>17 7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Fat Daddy's 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 11:00 am The Essentials Zoom 4:00 pm Children's Ministries Video on our website: www.mainstreetgreenwood.org</p>	<p>18 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery Worship</p>	<p>19 10:00 am Youth Walk at Heritage Trail</p>
<p>20 8:30 am Early Service Live Stream 11:00 am Traditional Worship Sunday School Zoom Classes: Cornerstone, Drake and Dula 4:00 pm Elevate Youth Zoom</p>	<p>21 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 5:00 pm Worship Committee 6:00 pm The Essentials Zoom</p>	<p>22 Mud Pies Consignment Sale 8:00 am Rooted Principles @ Grace Street Park 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Wesley Fellowship 7:00 pm Seeking First 2.0 with Pastor James on our website: www.mainstreetgreenwood.org</p>	<p>23 Mud Pies Consignment Sale 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study @ Mary Kate Skinner's 6:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor James</p>	<p>24 Mud Pies Consignment Sale 7:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Fat Daddy's 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 11:00 am The Essentials Zoom 4:00 pm Children's Ministries Video on our website: www.mainstreetgreenwood.org</p>	<p>25 Mud Pies Consignment Sale 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery Worship</p>	<p>26 Mud Pies Consignment Sale</p>
<p>27 8:30 am Early Service Live Stream 11:00 am Traditional Worship Sunday School Zoom Classes: Cornerstone, Drake and Dula 4:00 pm Elevate Youth Zoom</p>	<p>28 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm The Essentials Zoom</p>	<p>29 8:00 am Rooted Principles @ Grace Street Park 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Seeking First 2.0 with Pastor James on our website: www.mainstreetgreenwood.org</p>	<p>30 9:00 am Mud Pies Preschool 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study @ Mary Kate Skinner's 6:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor James 7:00 pm Charge Conference 7:00 pm Youth Putt-putt @ Expo 300</p>			



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The Connection

A monthly publication connecting members and friends of Main Street United Methodist Church.

Main Street United Methodist Church

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Preston Goforth, Director of Youth & Student Ministries

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