

*Our Vision is to be Christ to each other
and our community— doing
justice, loving mercy and
walking humbly with our God.*



Welcome, New Member!

Kari Mason, who has been visiting with us for a while and is very active in our Young Families Sunday School class and sings in the choir joined Sunday, June 7. She is moving her membership from 2nd Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg. *Welcome to the Fernwood family, Kari!*

Church Conference via Drive Thru Ballot Drop Off DEACON SELECTION - THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday, June 14, from 10:00am-1:00pm, we are asking you to drive to the Church through our carport at the Dining Hall to **bring your ballot to select 5 Deacons to serve beginning in September**. You will be met at your car by a Deacon wearing a mask for your protection.



FACEBOOK LIVE
Bible Study
every Wednesday Night at 6:00pm

Sunday Morning Worship Time
every Sunday at 11am online
We will be uploading the video on our website each Sunday
and also will be on our Facebook page.

Virginia Creeper Trail Announcement

Due to our current pandemic, the Family Life Ministry team, along with the Ministry Council and staff has decided to cancel this event until next summer. Thanks for understanding in this matter.

Sermon Series

A Ministry of Color: Celebrating 25 Years of Fernwood's Faceted Glass Windows

Happy One Year Church Anniversary!

Reverend Matt Johnson, Senior Pastor

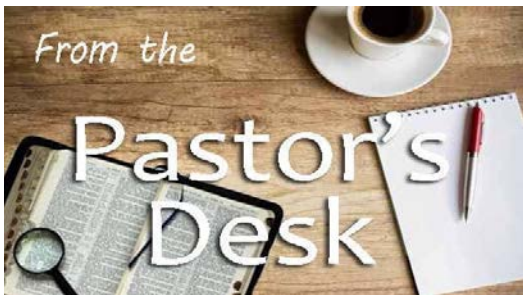
Thank you, Matt for all your hard work and dedication to the Fernwood family. We are truly blessed by God to have you.

The Choral Corner

Thank you to Randy Wright for beginning our Window Series last Sunday. The first window, which celebrates the Creation, reminds us of the glory of God and the splendor that was provided. For this week's selection in the Choral Corner, we will hear John Rutter's "Look at the World," which celebrates that splendor. Thanks to today's technical advances in film and photography, this YouTube clip gives us a visual reminder of some of God's work. The text is displayed on the screen. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4k8oVf9v78>

Stafford Turner



We have adjusted (as much as possible) to a "new normal" of life during a pandemic. Now we have been forced to confront again the racism that has dwelled in our country, very much like a virus, since before our nation's founding. It leaves some of us bewildered and confused. We don't know the answers and we don't know where to find them. These are times when it is easy to throw up our hands in despair.

But I would like to suggest that it is times just like these when we must be more committed than ever to live into our church's vision: To be Christ to each other and our community: Doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. The second half of the vision statement explains the first. How do we be Christ? We do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

But, for many of us, we don't know what justice in these times is supposed to look like. We want to be merciful, but we don't know where that mercy is most needed. This is where the call to walk humbly is most crucial. To be humble is to admit that we don't have all the answers. Our experience is not the breadth of human experience. Our lives have not encompassed all the possibilities of a human life. Our perspective is not the perspective of our neighbors.

In that spirit of open humility, I would like to invite you to read a book with me. Howard Thurman was a pastor, theologian, mystic, and civil rights pioneer. His book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, offers us a glimpse into the experience of African-Americans living with the reality of racism in America. He uses that experience to offer us the possibility of understanding the work of Jesus differently than some of us may have considered it before: a Jesus that identified most of all with the oppressed, the down-trodden, and the abused.

Will you read this book with me? We will begin our discussion via Zoom on Tuesdays, beginning July 7th at 7PM. It's easy to remember: 7/7 at 7! Get your copy and begin reading in a spirit of humility. It is my prayer that we will all learn more from it how to do justice now and love mercy now, and we will all become better equipped to be Christ to one another and our community in these days.

Matt

Deacon's Corner

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."
Galatians 5:22

I thank God every day for how you display these fruits of the Spirit. But now your Deacons are asking for your extra patience as we wait out this pandemic. We are watching South Carolina and Spartanburg's statistics. We are following the guidelines of the CDC for Churches. We are making decisions based on facts and on our love and concern for the well-being of our most vulnerable members.

Therefore, we have decided to continue our practice of social distancing at least through the month of July. We also have decided not to allow any outside use of our building during this same time frame. We are, however, allowing a couple of drive through events similar to our drive through Deacon selection.

This Sunday, June 14, from 10:00am-1:00pm, we are asking you to drive to the Church through our carport at the Dining Hall to ***bring your ballot to select 5 Deacons to serve beginning in September***. You will be met at your car by a Deacon wearing a mask for your protection. The following three Deacons will tabulate the results and contact those selected: Wendy Case, Kathy Hensley, and Gerald Keown. After those selected have been contacted you will be notified in the next newsletter or e-blast.

Since we don't know when this social distancing will be over, the Deacons discussed how we can continue the business of our Church. We have, therefore, made the following arrangements to allow you to hear the presentation from our Ad Hoc Committee on simplifying our current Church Procedures and ask questions.

We will have a Zoom meeting that you will be able to access through a link in the Newsletter. You may access this meeting through your computer, iPad or tablet, or telephone. You may even simply call in to listen and ask questions. Kathy Hensley, the Chair of this Committee, will present the changes and the reason for the changes. She will then open the meeting up for questions. The committee will assist her in answering all of your questions.

The Zoom meeting will be recorded. A copy of the meeting will be emailed to every Church member, for your viewing in case you are not able to join the meeting. It will also be posted on our web page. If any changes are made to the documents as a result of this meeting, a revised copy will be sent to all Church members via a link in our newsletter or by mail for those without email. We will then set a date to vote on the changes via another drive through vote like our Deacon selection. I hope each of you will participate in this meeting.

Finally, we will continue our Congregational Care calls. If you know of anyone who hasn't been getting a call and should, please let me know. I have personally enjoyed getting to know you better through these calls. You have made this distancing better for me by allowing me into your homes through these calls. Thank you for your love, joy, peace, and kindness. Continue your faithfulness in giving as we continue to be the Church to our communities.

Blessings, ***Wendy Case***, Deacon Chair

A Thank You Note

My Dear Fernwood Family,

Over the past 6 months I have experienced a peace like no other, as I was going through the unknowns of breast cancer. That peace came as a result of many of you praying for me and Lloyd and loving us in so many ways--"hand holding" by others, notes and cards, food, and phone calls. Thank you so much for the cards that you sent recently--I felt your hugs and love in each one of them. We miss you all and can hardly wait to really give and get hugs!

Blessed by you and blessings to you, ***Barbara Jean***

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OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Thurs: 8:30am to 4:30pm
Please call ahead for availability.
(864) 582-7467

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UPDATED HEALTH & SAFETY NEWS...

All in-person activities at Fernwood Baptist Church are cancelled until further notice. We are also asking that if you are coming to the church to drop off your offering or to pick up something, please know that Angie or Mary Helen will meet you at the door to help you. We are asking that no one enter the building during this time to keep us all healthy and safe. Thanks for understanding in this matter.

CURRENT OFFICE HOURS ARE:

Monday: 9am until 1pm

Wednesday: 9am until 1pm

Angie Quinn, Administrative Assistant **will be on vacation June 15-19. The Church office will be open Monday from 9am – 1pm and Wednesday from 9am – 1pm. Mary Helen will be here during these two days.**

Publication Notice

The next bi-weekly e-blast newsletter publication will be **Wednesday, June 26, 2020.** Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, June 25, 2020 at Noon.**

PLEASE NOTE: You may submit your information via email (angie@fernwoodchurch.org) or through the church office. Please do not submit any information over the phone. Information submitted after the deadline will not be published until the following issue (no exceptions). Thank you for your understanding!