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Flat Rock United Methodist Church
6720 Highway 158 - PO Box 116
Stokesdale, NC 27357



DECEMBER, 2016

“Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by nurturing the congregation, ministering to the community and around the world, and by providing a place for inspiring worship, study and authentic Christian fellowship.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The clergy of this area got together and formulated a letter in response to the KKK rally that will be held on December 3. The text of the letter is below, if you have not seen it in the newspaper. However, we did not want to leave things there.

We will be hosting the Gathering for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love at Mission First (1520 S. Scales St, Reidsville 27320). The event will take place December 3rd at noon. I would like to invite you to take the opportunity to join together in unity with a large group of fellow believers to celebrate Christ's love for us all.

(Pastor Tim's letter is on the 3rd page because of its length).



Advent is the season when we prepare ourselves to receive God's gift of Jesus. It is a time of "getting ready" for the celebration of Christmas.

Week One - Advent — Hope

First Sunday of Advent — Sunday, November 27, 2016

Who are the people in our world who need hope?
 What are the hopes we have for our world today?

Second Week of Advent - Love

Second Sunday of Advent — December 4, 2016

What are our hopes for how people today can receive the message of God's love?

How do we help others know God's love?

Third Week of Advent — Joy

Third Sunday of Advent — Sunday, December 11, 2016

What are our hopes for joy in our world today?
 How do we help others know that God gives joy?

Fourth Week of Advent — Peace

Fourth Sunday of Advent — Sunday, December 18, 2016

What are our hopes for peace in our world today?
 How do we help others know God's desire for peace in our world?

Sunday, December 25, 2016—Christmas Day

What are our hopes on this Christmas Day for our world?
 How can we help people remember God's promises after Christmas Day is over?



This Christmas we return to the scene of a humble manger where the great Light of the world was born. We join with the shepherds and angels-in awe of God's Love come to earth. Amidst the noise and distractions, we still our hearts as we bow before Him and worship the one true King.

“Come Let Us Adore”

The Christmas cantata is Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 pm. It will be filled with all your beloved Christmas carols. Stay with us afterwards for refreshments and fellowship. Also, be sure to invite all your relatives and neighbors.

Good Samaritan Food Pantry

For the month of December, please read your bulletin for the food item which we will furnish for the item from our church. Everyone knows the need is great, especially during the winter months. THANK you for your help each month and for this entire 2016 year.

The clothes closet for the Good Samaritan is closed for December. If you are interested in this community ministry, please contact Danita Penry (336-972-2713). They could use help.



If you are be led to help others, the Angel Tree is up at the Stokesdale Fire Station and ready to select them. Gifts need returned, unwrapped and labeled by December 17.

May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow** with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

~ Romans 15:13 (NIV)



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Hannah Dunlap	Dec. 1		
Ethan Cox	2		
Dean Cousino	5		
Sherita Avant	7	Steve Subotnik	20
Imogene Fields	8	Emily Subotnik	22
Amy Joyner	10	Anne Thacker	24
Daniele Haynes	11	Luisa Combs	27
Darlene Joyner	12	Nancy Farrar	27
Zack Griffin	13	Chrissy Woods	31
Denise Pegram	13		

ANNIVERSARY

Jesse & Jennifer O’Neal	December 6
Josh & Pita Pegram	11
Dan & Thea Joyner	17
Bobby & Meg Norris	18
Ray & Jill Joyner	20

WEEKLY MINISTRIES		
Sun	8:30 am	Adult Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Coffee and Fellowship
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship (Communion on 1st Sundays)
	4:-5:00 pm	Liturgical Dance Team Practice
	5:15—6:30 pm	UMYF Meeting
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study at Countryside Village
Wed	9:00 am	Coffee and fellowship with Pastor Tim at BJ’s
Wed	6:30 pm	“Covent” Bible Study

Worship Helpers for December

Ushers: Vernon Bessling & Helen Gall

DATE	NURSERY	CHILDREN’S CHURCH
Dec. 4	Lisa Hutchins & Dakota Williams	Emily Fields & Faith Williams
Dec. 11	Bobbie Williams & Jerry Pegram	Lisa Hutchens & Ethan Cox
Dec. 18	Margaret Norris & Dakota Williams	Bobbie Williams & Charlie Fields
Dec. 25	Mandy Williams & Jerry Pegram	No children’s church



MISSIONS:

If you would like to exchange Christmas cards with your Church family, put them in the Church Christmas Card Mailbox in the foyer. No postage is required, but you can make a donation for delivering your cards. This will go to MEALS-ON-WHEELS.

Cemetery

From time to time we find blown off cemetery wreaths around the church and have no idea whose they belong to. We place them on the back portion of the building under the eaves where you can put them back on the grave sites. We are sorry when this happens but during high winds and storms and unless you have them secured, they have a tendency to come off. Thanks!

Memorials:

In memory of Clarence and Edith Farrar, and Sarah Tompson, and in honor of Reade Tompson from Wayne and Nancy Farrar. To the Cemetery Fund in memory of Walt and Ellie Thomas from Mr. Gordon Thomas and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Thomas.

United Methodist Women

We will meet December 10, 2016 in the Christian Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. with Imogene and Emily Fields as hostess also doing devotions, program and response moment. During the Christmas season I would like to wish everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Margaret Norris / UMW President

THANKS to all that came to our bazaar this year. The money raised goes to Missions around this area which will help a lot.

UPCOMING EVENTS *mark your calendars		
December 3	Noon	Gathering for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love at Mission First, Reidsville, NC
December 4		Second Sunday of Advent
December 4		Flat Rock’s Mailbox opened
December 10		UMW Meeting
December 10	2:00 pm	Stokesdale 
December 11		Third Sunday of Advent
December 14	7:00 pm	Choir @Countryside singing “Come Let Us Adore Him” cantata.
December 18		4th Sunday of Advent
December 18	5:00 pm	Christmas Cantata by our choir with refreshments after. Bring family and neighbors.
December 24		Christmas Eve
December 25		Christmas Day (regular Sunday worship hours)
December 26	Noon	Newsletter deadline
December 31		New Years Eve

To reach me, Editor: Helen Gall
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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

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The recent Presidential election has thrown into stark relief economic, social, and racial divides that often had gone unacknowledged. All you have to do is turn on the evening news or look at your social media feeds to be reminded that passions run high for many people. There are people who feel energized because they feel that their voices have been heard; perhaps for the first time in a great while. There is also a palpable fear among others of a loss of freedom and safety. Most disturbingly, there has been an increase in racist and anti-immigrant sentiment expressed. With this division in mind, we – the undersigned clergy of the Guilford and Rockingham County area- felt the need to respond.

The news that the Ku Klux Klan in nearby Pelham, NC is planning a victory parade is deeply disheartening. The KKK is an organization that is dedicated to advancing the cause of white supremacy and separating white people from people of color. The current iteration of the KKK rose in response to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s. Since that time, the KKK has been active in opposition to African Americans, immigrants, Jews, LGBT people, and Catholics. According to the KKK website, the goal of the organization is to “restore America to a white Christian nation” and “prevent mixed race marriages” and teaching whites not to “mix with the darker races.” Heartbreakingly, they refer to children of mixed racial background as “mongrel children.” This is merely a drop in the bucket of the depths of hate for those who are not white that you will find on their website. They find justification for all this hatred from the Bible.

The Bible is clear on these matters. The people of Israel were reminded in their law to “love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33-34) Jesus summed up the Christian life with two commandments: to love God and love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12: 30-31) The Apostle Paul reminds us that “there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.” (Colossians 3:11) Lastly, we must remember the admonition that “the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness had blinded his eyes.” (1 John 2:11)

We, as leaders of faith communities, cannot remain silent in the face of such open bigotry and hatred. We cannot let this twisting and misuse of the Holy Scriptures to stand unchallenged. We will not allow the voice of racism, hate, and division to shout down the good news of the Gospel for all. We affirm that all people, regardless of racial, economic, or social background are beloved children of God of sacred worth. We implore you, regardless of your political inclinations, to commit yourselves to the cause of peace, kindness and especially love. Let us love one another, because God is love. (1 John 4:8)

Rev. Timothy C. Drum, II (Flat Rock UMC)

Rev. Gayle Brown (Retired Baptist)

Rev. Morris Brown (Woodmont UMC)

Rev. Steve Huntley (Honorably Retired PCUSA)

Rev. Rodvegas Ingram (Salem & St. John UMCs)

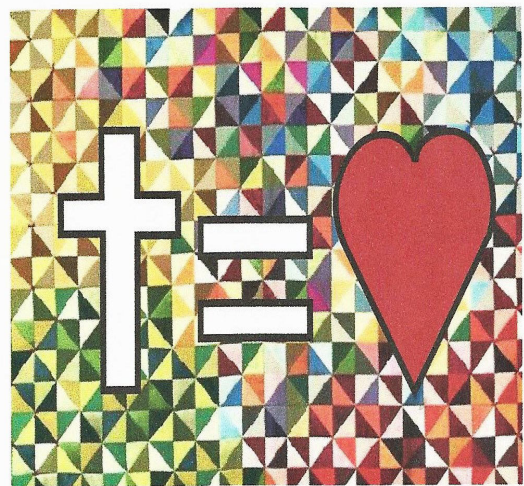
Rev. Wanda Lancaster (Gideon Grove & Palestine UMCs)

Rev. Johnathan Marlowe (Midway & Chapel Hill UMCs)

Rev. Philip Setzer (Mt. Zion UMC)

December 3, 2016
12:00—1:00 pm

Mission First Campus
1520 S. Scales Street
Reidsville, NC 27320



A GATHERING
for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love