



# THE BEACON

WATAUGA FIRST  
United Methodist Church

Rev. Sheila Fiorella, Pastor

April 2019

Equipping and Empowering Laity is at the Core of the Revitalization Underway at First UMC Watauga

March 05, 2019



Fresh paint and new carpet in the church nursery and improved lighting in the parking lot are some of the immediately visible parts of a revitaliza-

tion project underway at First UMC of Watauga. But those outwardly obvious updates are just part of the story. The core of the revitalization efforts are the initiatives now in place to more fully equip and empower laypersons as they seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Sheila Fiorella, in her second year as pastor, is excited about the changes she's seeing within the church. "We just started experimenting," she said. "I shared with the leadership team that my priorities were Christ, worship and evangelism."

A renewed focus on young people is part of the disciple making revitalization efforts underway at First Watauga. As this photo shows, sometimes you have to crawl inside your bubble to engage in some out of the box transformation.

Sheila said she encourages church members to "start new adventures, following the call God has placed on their hearts."

The church has launched a New Day Worship Experience on Wednesday evenings and has begun to air

some of its worship services on Facebook Live. New fellowship opportunities are also offered, including women's luncheons designed for worship, support and encouragement, plus a young adult ministry established by one of the young adults in the congregation. The church also seeks to partner with the school district and Texas Health Resources to address mental and behavioral health issues within the community.

The CTC's WIG of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is in full force at First Watauga for God is on the move and at work in the church, Sheila said. "Pleasing God is our motivation, as well as leading new people to the Christ we know and love."

For more about the church, visit [fumcow.com](http://fumcow.com) or [facebook.com/WataugaUnitedMethodist](https://facebook.com/WataugaUnitedMethodist).



A renewed focus on young people is part of the disciple making revitalization efforts underway at First Watauga. As this photo shows, sometimes you have to crawl inside your bubble to engage in some out of the box transformation.

Holy Communion Sunday, 7 April 2019

***Worship God, Learn the Scripture, Live it in the world.***

**Don't  
Forget**

Date	Ushers	Liturgists	Acolytes	Counters
7 Apr	Rosemary Norris and Wendy Garcia	Ron McLeroy	Jacob Hoppe	Duane Buckley and Henry Harrison
14 Apr	Yoma and Don Johnson	Nikki McLeroy	Emma Corrigan	Carol McKone and Jim Bates
21 Apr	Yoma Johnson and Susan Tucker	Melanie Bell	Landon Corrigan	Lori Duncan and Duane Buckley
28 Apr	Debbie and Henry Harrison	Betty King	Barb Buckley	Doris Maxwell and Paul Killion



**Palm Sunday Services**

Sunday, 14 April 2019  
at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM



Wednesday Night Bible Study		Potluck Dinner
		At 6:00 PM
3 Apr	Baked Potatoes	Bible Study
10 Apr	Pizza	At 6:45 PM
17 Apr	Soup	New Worship
24 Apr	Sub Sandwiches	At 7:30 PM

**Mission Statement**

Making disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the  
world.

**Vision Statement**

Worship God,  
Learn the Scripture,  
Live it in the World

**STAFF:**

**Rev. Sheila Fiorella**  
*Senior Pastor*

**Darin Hoppe**  
*Director of Music Ministries*

**Tristan Tian**  
*Piano Accompanist*

**Rae Bridegam**  
*Admin Assistant  
Newsletter Editor*

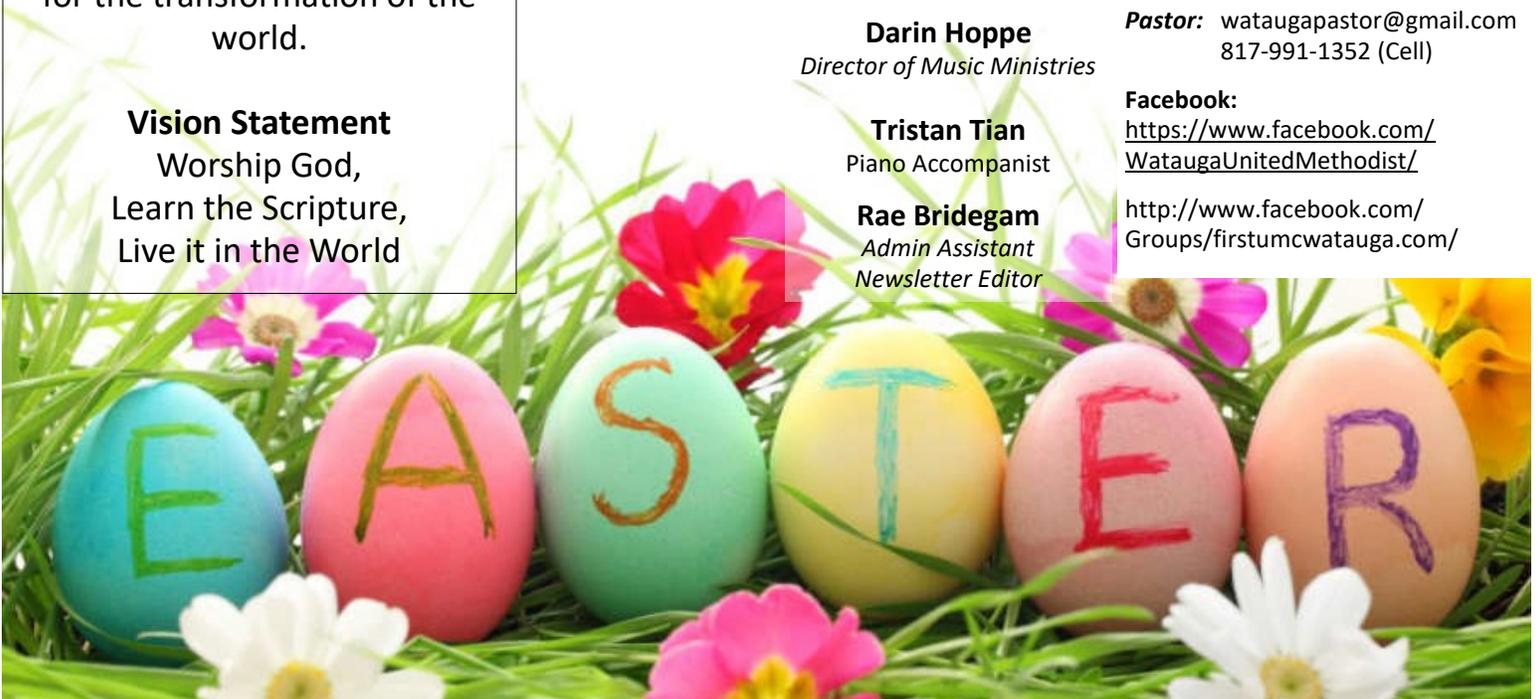
**CONTACTS:**

**Office:** fumcwatauga@att.net  
817-485-031

**Pastor:** wataugapastor@gmail.com  
817-991-1352 (Cell)

**Facebook:**  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
WataugaUnitedMethodist/](https://www.facebook.com/WataugaUnitedMethodist/)

[http://www.facebook.com/  
Groups/firstumcwatauga.com/](http://www.facebook.com/Groups/firstumcwatauga.com/)



# *A Message from Our Pastor*

First United Methodist Church of Watauga (FUMCOW)  
A Safe Space Where Everyone Knows Your Name

What does that mean? A "Safe Space?" I first referred to the church being a safe space when I was officiating at the funeral of a man who had grown up in our church and whose parents still attend. There was a packed Sanctuary, filled with his many friends, some of whom do not attend church. This does not mean that they are not Christian. In fact, their displays of love and words of affection for the young man who died and for each other were very Christ-like indeed.

Many, MANY friends came forward to speak. Some used language that you usually don't hear on a Sunday morning. I assured them, "That's alright. This is a safe space. You can be real."

Isn't that what we all want, if we're honest? Real, authentic relationships that we can have with God and with one another. To know that we're not being judged for our words, our skin color, the number of tattoos and/or piercings we have (there were many in the room that day) or don't have. To know that we can be vulnerable with one another. To be known, warts and all, and still be loved.

Jesus created that safe space wherever he went. Whether it was the synagogue, the Temple, the leper colony, or the red-light district, Jesus allowed people to be themselves, free of condemnation. He looked at them, as he looks at us, as God's children, deeply loved by our Loving Parent who surrounds us. He didn't expect us to clean up. Didn't expect all our rough edges to be smooth. Jesus simply loved, and laughed, and even cried with those who followed him.

It was interesting to me that day that the young men who attended the funeral all wore suits and ties, a sign of respect for coming into the house of God. Those of us who are regular members of the congregation were much more casual. But that's what is so neat about our

relationship with Christ. We can come to him dressed in our Sunday best, or dressed in filthy rags. We can come to him as a registered Democrat, Republican, Independent or with no political party affiliation at all. We can come to him as a Progressive, Centrist, or Traditionalist. We can come to Jesus with 6 figures on our paycheck or with a Social Security check with 3 digits.

Still, the offer is to all. "Come to me, all of you who are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." "Ask, seek, knock, and I will open the door." "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Our church is and will continue to be a Safe Space for all people to find Peace. To find Hope. To find Love. To find Faith. To find Christ.

Hope to see you Easter Sunday, April 21, at 7, 8:30, or 10:30 am! Why not recommend us to a friend who is seeking relationships where they can be real? Jesus will meet us all here.

Rev. Sheila

## Easter Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, 21 April 2019  
at 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, and 10:30 AM



Bring a cut flower for yourself and one to share for the 10:30 AM worship service. We will decorate our cross with the flowers for Easter.

## Church Work Day

Saturday, 6 April 2019

Starting at 9:00 AM

There is a job for everyone. Come for the work and stay for the fellowship; and as always, a little fun is had by all. Here are the top five projects needed to complete:

1. Remove Community Garden
2. Trim Bushes all around the church
3. Fix holes on Soffit in front of Chapel
4. Change stained tiles in Chapel
5. Fix hole on back wall under bench in Chapel



Thanks,  
Troy Johnson  
rockinrbltbone@aol.com



Watauga Mayor ProTem David Griffin visited with us recently. We discussed the mission of the Shop and other missions/outreaches of our Church. He's going to spread the word about the Shop, how to donate food or money toward Snack Packs, and make sure all local schools are covered.

Anyone have a CHALKBOARD or WHITEBOARD they would like to donate? We want to use a couple to increase our temporary signage and visibility from the street. New customers are coming in, and some of them say they plan to attend a church service in the future. We hand out a bulletin whenever we get a chance!

Some of our "repeat" customers say... "I really look forward to coming in." "It's a 'Happy Place,' soothes my troubled mind & soul." "I can feel the love and genuine concern of the volunteers."

Thanks!  
Ruth Strong

# Wednesday Bible Study

One of the Bible Studies has finished the study on the Holy Spirit and started a new study 27 March. The study, *Women Who Believed God*, is an eight-week study about women in the Bible. The Bible gives us story after story of ordinary women who, daring to trust God, influenced their families and communities. These women faced the same challenges we face today: illness, death, war, loneliness, injustice, and difficult relationships. Yet they chose to believe God in those circumstances—and as a result, the world was changed. You can follow in their footsteps. Find encouragement and strength to have powerful faith as you study the intriguing lives of "Women Who Believed God." Come join us Wednesday night at 6:45 PM.

Alice Garrett



## Easter Potluck Dinner and Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, 14 April 2019, at 11:45 AM

Don't forget to bring wrapped candy and plastic Easter eggs so we can have them ready for the BIG hunt. This is a good time to invite your friends and family to come join us and have some good food, fun, and fellowship.



Thank you,  
Yoma Johnson



# Confirmation

## Confirmation 2019

It's time for Confirmation 2019 this month! You know, the fundamental truths of the faith are supposed to be permanently etched into us. However, a lifetime of learning, loving, and living the scriptures requires that at some point, we really begin to understand where they come from and what they mean.

In Confirmation, we'll be taking a closer look at the core beliefs of the Christian faith, the big ideas of the faith. Our hope is that it will bring the Church's teachings to life for our young people. Each lesson will provide a clear, compelling introduction to Christian belief.

We will be learning the answers to important questions about God, for as many of you know, obeying Jesus takes a lifetime of learning. Our prayer is that our young people will let God's grace shape and change them. This is what it means to be a disciple.

If you have a 6th grader who would like to participate in Confirmation 2019 (or an older child or grandchild who has not gone through Confirmation yet), contact Rev. Sheila by texting 817-991-1352 or at [wataugapastor@gmail.com](mailto:wataugapastor@gmail.com) to register him or her. Classes will be led by Rev. Sheila and will begin April 28 at 9:20 am. They will continue each Sunday through June 2.

Young people who choose to profess their faith publicly (it is the youth's decision and no one else's) will do so on Sunday, June 9 (the day of Pentecost).

# Thank you!

A Great Big Thank You to our church family for all the love and support you gave and give to our family, after the loss of my sister, Velada Thompson. Velada's daughter, Kim, and her family also are very appreciative. God is good and His love shines through each one of you and touches others. Once again, thank you for the food, cards, thoughts, and prayers.

Love to all,  
Yoma, Don, Troy and Toby Johnson

# From the Finance Team

It is hard to believe that a quarter of the year has passed by so quickly. The budget is on track. In fact, we are a little under budget and pledge contributions are also on track. We want to say thank you for all your contributions. Wednesday night New Day Worship is fresh and new and is growing by a music led experience and a new way to bring the message by Rev. Sheila.

Last week we added on-line giving to our web site, [fumcow.com](http://fumcow.com), as well as to our Facebook pages: Watauga-First United Methodist Church and [newdayumc.com](http://newdayumc.com). Once you are on the web page or Facebook it is easy to use. Just click on Give and create yourself an account and you're set. Next you enter the dollar amount you want to give and from the dropdown box click on where you want your money to go (i.e. General fund or New Day Worship or others). Then you are on the way to giving on-line. Tithely is the administrator handling our account and contributions are then deposited in our bank account the next day. Once you have created an account there are options that can make giving easier, such as recurring gifts and others that you may want to use. We are excited about this new feature to make giving easier for our members along with those who follow us on live video.

It has been a long time coming but before Easter our parking lot will get a face lift with new striping and the area around the dumpster repaired. This money is coming out of the designated funds of capital improvements and the Trustees maintenance fund. Thanks for all of those who worked hard to get this project accomplished.

The Lord is growing and working in our church. Let us take the light outside the walls and let it shine. God bless and guide you and your family throughout the New Year!

Thank you ALL for what you do at FUMC of Watauga.

Your Finance chairman,  
*Duane R Buckley*  
[buckleydr@aol.com](mailto:buckleydr@aol.com)



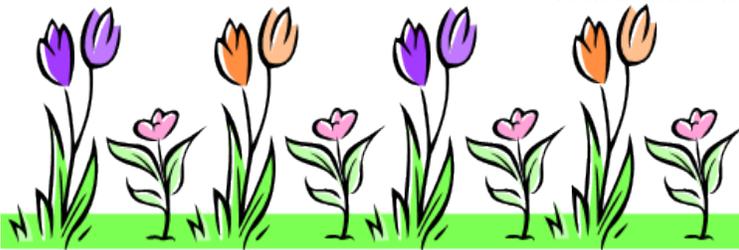
We are in need of ushers.

What do ushers do?

Ushers stand by the north entrance and the double door entrance into sanctuary, greet members and guests, and hand out bulletins to them. They close the doors when the chimes begin, count the attendance, help any guests that might need to know where the nursery or restroom is, and take up the offering and then return it to pastor as the doxology begins. After the worship service, ushers pick up attendance books, unwanted bulletins and trash, dispose of trash, and take attendance books to the workroom. They then tear out papers for those that keep the records.

If you are able to do this once a month, please contact Yoma Johnson at [yjohnson003@sbcglobal.net](mailto:yjohnson003@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you,  
Yoma Johnson



Glen Lake Camp

Summer 2019 is Almost Here!

We are so excited about our Summer Camps!

If you have not shared our Summer Camp opportunities with your church and your friends, now is the time. If you are considering volunteering with us this summer, now is the time to register. If you have not registered your child(ren) yet, now is the time.

We want campers to know that because of Christ they can lead, show love, and use the gifts they have been given, no matter what their age. This summer at Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center we are going to do this by focusing on the knowledge that through Christ you are old enough, big enough, and you have the gifts God gave you to lead MORE THAN ENOUGH.

**For more information, go to:**

<https://vimeo.com/320329893>

**To register, go to:**

<https://www.glenlake.org/summer>

Youth "Sex Camp"  
26-27 April 2019

Faith and My Sexuality for Youth

Youth Discipleship of St. Barnabas United Methodist Church is offering "Sex Camp" (formerly known as *Right Choices*) for 7th-12th graders. They have invited our youth in those grades to attend. This weekend allows us to address human sexuality and how God plays a role in our lives, sharing accurate information pertaining to human development, relationships and decision-making. To sign up your youth, go to:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/6403fe89401/b39a5b68-32f2-444f-98c5-cebe9a6a3ec3.pdf>.

Registration forms must be returned by 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 14.

# Upcoming Events in Our Church

Weekend Snack Packs - Please help feed children.  
 Each Sunday at 11:45 AM in Room 107.  
 Donate food and/or help pack the bags.  
 A list of items can be found in lobby.



Help the Presbyterian Night Shelter!  
 Make sandwiches for those in need.  
 First Monday of each month  
 Starts at 6:00 PM in the church's kitchen.  
 It's great fun and you can make new friends.

New Day Gatherings—Wednesday Nights  
 6:00 PM Community Potluck  
 6:45 PM Bible Connection Groups  
 7:30 PM New Day Worship with Rev. Sheila  
 "A Safe Space Where Everyone Knows Your Name."



Congregational Care Workshop  
 Friday and Saturday, 3-4 May 2019  
 Arborlawn UMC  
 4406, 5001 Briarhaven Rd  
 Fort Worth, TX 76109  
 Congregational Care Ministry training  
 by one of the nation's leading experts  
 on Congregational Care, Rev. Karen  
 Lampe.

Olivia Perricone	04/02
Howard Carroll	04/03
Lori Duncan	04/03
Nick Gentry	04/07
Lonnie Jones Sr.	04/07
Ronald McLeroy	04/08
Talikavili Vaitai	04/08
Jacob Hoppe	04/12
Ben King	04/12
Jennifer Guerra	04/13
Nicholas Curnutt	04/14
Suzanne Flake	04/16
Barbara McDade	04/17
Christine Banks	04/18
Carol McKone	04/18
Eula Mitchell	04/18
David Adair	04/19
Clay Eakins	04/20
Michael Bledsoe	04/29
Katie Sylvester	04/29

Laity Summit  
 Sunday, 9 June 2019, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
 Texas Hall at the University of Texas at Arlington  
 For more information and to register, go to:  
[https://www.ctcumc.org/2019laitysummit?ct=t\(East\\_District\\_Newsletter\\_Volume\\_5\\_Issue\\_10\\_5\\_2017\\_](https://www.ctcumc.org/2019laitysummit?ct=t(East_District_Newsletter_Volume_5_Issue_10_5_2017_)



If your birthdate is incorrect  
 or is not listed, please email  
 the church office at  
[fumcwatauga@att.net](mailto:fumcwatauga@att.net)



The East District hosts AC19 (and AC20!).  
 9-12 June 2019

We are asking for volunteers from across the  
 District to volunteer as hospitality, greeters,  
 tellers, and recording secretaries. This is an  
 opportunity for East District to share the joy

with our friends in other Districts across the CTC. Sign up to help by going to:  
[https://form.jotform.com/90584620071150?ct=t\(East\\_District\\_Newsletter\\_Volume\\_5\\_Issue\\_10\\_5\\_2017\\_\)](https://form.jotform.com/90584620071150?ct=t(East_District_Newsletter_Volume_5_Issue_10_5_2017_))  
 or emailing [pattiewood@ctcumc.org](mailto:pattiewood@ctcumc.org). Pattie will be in touch in the coming months.



The Lord is growing and  
 working in our church. Let  
 us take the light outside  
 the walls and let it shine.  
 Thank you All for what you  
 do at FUMC Watauga!

Do you know how to sing?  
 Our choir director would love to have you join the choir and/or  
 the bells. Contact Darin Hoppe at [darinhoppe@gmail.com](mailto:darinhoppe@gmail.com).



Your Communication  
 leader,  
*Duane R Buckley*  
[buckleydr@aol.com](mailto:buckleydr@aol.com)



First United Methodist Church of Watauga  
6112 Watauga Road  
Watauga, TX 76148

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### **THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WATAUGA WELCOMES ALL TO COME AND JOIN US**

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION SERVICE

8:30 A.M. AND 10:30 A.M.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:15 A.M.

#### NEW DAY GATHERINGS

6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK 6:00 TO 6:45,  
BIBLE CONNECTION GROUPS, 6:45 TO 7:30,  
NEW DAY WORSHIP 7:30 TO 8:00



## THE BEACON



**Rev. Sheila Fiorella,**  
Pastor

**Cell: 817-991-1352**  
wataugapastor@gmail.com

**Office: 817-485-0312**  
fumcwatauga@att.net

**Facebook:**

[https://www.facebook.com/  
WataugaUnitedMethodist/](https://www.facebook.com/WataugaUnitedMethodist/)

**Website:**

<http://fumcow.com>