Monthly Newsletter of Main Street United Methodist Church

The Main Stream

November 17, 2026 – Volume 2026, Issue 11



I had the blessing of doing some work in tobacco briefly when I was a teenager. I wish every person could have this experience at least once. It will definitely open your eyes to the amount of work that is involved in farming. It might even make you pray a different kind of blessing at your meals, something like, "Thank you, Lord, for this meal and the hands that prepared it from field to table." Because of my experiences, I always notice fields and what is planted (or what is growing wild) in them.

This spring, I noticed a field near me that had been sown with new tobacco plants. I watched those plants through the season from seedlings to young plants to mature plants and then through the long process of priming. (If you are not familiar with that, tobacco plants are harvested in sections from the bottom level to the top, over several weeks of priming).

As I watched the plants grow through the summer into the early fall, I was reminded of God's goodness. The good earth, with all its nutrients, the sunshine, and the water from the rain all had a part to play in the maturing fruitfulness of these plants. I found myself moved to pray for the farmers and workers that worked this field through the season. I prayed that their families would be supported by the fruitfulness of this field.

These plants made me think of the way God works in our lives. We are given the sunshine of Christ's love, the experience of being unconditionally loved by God in Christ, the rain of Christ's life-giving, sustaining, and perfecting Spirit, the nourishment and nutrients of God's Word through Scripture and Life Together as the Church. In this season of thankfulness and gratitude, how has God blessed you? For what blessings (especially the "ordinary blessings") can you give God thanks? Like the tobacco plants receiving nutrients from the good earth, how has God provided nourishment and nurture for your life? How are you living your thankfulness to Jesus Christ for his gift of life, salvation, guidance, direction, sustaining grace, and a home "not made with hands, but eternal in the heavens?" I encourage you to take some time to name your blessings, to literally write them down in a journal or on a notepad, or if you like technology, in your device. And then consider how Jesus is calling you to share those blessings with those you love, your church, and your community. Today, I give thanks for you!

Pastor Sammy

Advent at Main Street UMC

Friday, November 20
7:00pm — Kernersville Stocking Fund Concert in the Sanctuary

Sunday, November 29
8:30, 8:45, 10:55am — regular worship services *(Nursery available)*
10:00am — Kids make Advent Wreaths in Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 30
10:00am — decorate the Commons

Wednesday, December 3
5:00pm — Oasis service

Saturday, December 5
9:30am — Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 6
8:30, 8:45, 10:55am — regular worship services *(Nursery available)*
NOON — Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due

Monday, December 7
4:00pm – Home Friends cards due

Tuesday, December 8
7:00pm — Service of Hope and Healing *(Nursery available upon request)*

Wednesday, December 9
5:00pm — Oasis service

Sunday, December 13
8:30, 8:45, 10:55am — regular worship services *(Nursery available)*

Wednesday, December 16
5:00pm — Oasis service

Thursday, December 17
6:30pm — NOW and Preschool Christmas Program in Sanctuary *(Nursery available)*

Friday, December 18
NOON — cookies due for Bethany Café

Sunday, December 20
10:30am — One Combined Service of Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary *(Nursery available at 10:15am)*

Thursday, Dec. 24 — *Christmas Eve*
4:00pm — Family Christmas Eve Service
7:00pm — Traditional Candlelight Service
11:00pm — Traditional Candlelight Service



On December 24, we have three special services that are a part of Main Street's Christmas Eve tradition.

Join us at 4:00pm for our Family Christmas Eve Service. This service is led by our youth and is a perfect opportunity for all the children in attendance to become a part of the story! You won't want to miss it!

Our Christmas Eve Services will continue at 7:00pm and 11:00pm with our Traditional Candlelight Services. These touching and poignant services with Holy Communion are the perfect way to remember and reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



CANTATA SUNDAY

Our anticipated Christmas Cantata Sunday is fast approaching! We will again celebrate a Lessons and Carols service, entitled ***"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing",*** which will take place in our Sanctuary on Sunday, **December 20 at 10:30am** as one combined service for our whole congregation to attend.

Our Adult Choir Ministry, including our Young Adult Ensemble, is hard at work preparing the music for this service which will feature some of the "greatest hits" of the Advent and Christmas season -- "Mary, Did You Know?", "O Holy Night", "The March of the Kings" and of course "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".

Accompanied by Brass 5 and led by an intergenerational array of narrators, this service of Ancient Word from the Ancient of Days will deeply touch and inspire our hearts as we contemplate anew the story of EMMANUEL coming to earth to save and encourage our souls. With the congregation joining in on some of the most beloved Christmas Carols of the season as well, we will all become a COMMUNITY of ANGELS, singing together the story of Jesus's birth.

Mark your calendars now to attend this beautiful and contemplative service which will definitely lead us into Christmas Eve with great cheer and glad tidings of JOY!

tuesdays together in faith

Tuesdays Together in Faith will begin a 4-week video study, The Marvel and Miracle of Advent with Christine Caine & Lisa Harper on December 1. You are invited to join the group on Tuesdays at 10:30am in Room 320.

There is a personal study book to accompany the study. If you are interested in the book (not required to attend the study sessions), please contact Susan Furmage (slfurmage@gmail.com or text 336-671-1244).

CONSECRATION DINNER

NOVEMBER 22 AT 5:00PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL
CHURCHWIDE POTLUCK



What better way to celebrate Consecration Sunday, than to come together with our church family to share delicious food and fellowship?

Please plan to join us at our Consecration Dinner on **November 22** in the Fellowship Hall for a huge church family potluck meal to mark the culmination of our "Connect" stewardship campaign.

The Member Care Team will provide tea and lemonade, but we'll need a variety of main dishes, side dishes, and desserts to make this a true potluck dinner. Please bring your food contributions to the JC Groce classroom (adjoining the Fellowship Hall) beginning at 5:00, and label any serving utensils you bring. The blessing will be in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30, and weather permitting, folks will be directed to enter through the outside doors near the library entrance to enter the classroom serving area. Don't miss this opportunity to share God's bountiful blessings, and your cooking talents, while catching up with your church family at 5:00 on November 22.

To help us better plan, please sign up by November 20 to let us know you plan to attend. Sign up at mainstreetumc.org and click "signups" on the red stripe.

Crisis Control MINISTRY

Honor Cards

Crisis Control Ministry's Holiday Cards are the perfect way to spread holiday cheer while giving back to the community. All proceeds from the holiday card donations are used locally to help our neighbors in Forsyth and Stokes Counties meet essential life needs.
MSUMC has Crisis Control Honor Cards available for purchase at the Welcome Desk in the Commons for $5 each.

Connect with Christ
Connect with Each Other
Connect with Our Community

2027 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged to support our 2027 budget and building funds.
As of Nov. 16, we have $ 292,828 pledged towards our goal. It's not too late to submit your pledge; forms are available in the Narthex and online at mainstreetumc.org under "Give" on the red stripe.

Sharing in Joy:

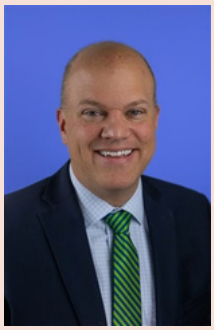
- Congratulations to Dave & Polly Black on the marriage of their son, Andrew Black, to Samantha Freeman.
- Congratulations to Barry & Jane Greeson on the marriage of their daughter, Erika Greeson, to Jimmy Chaszar.

GriefShare®
Grief Support Group
Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. In this 13-week group, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind. We are pleased to offer a GriefShare group at Main Street, facilitated by Main Street member and Compassion in Action team member, Emily Dreshfield.

When: Thursdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm
January 7-April 8
Contact: Emily Dreshfield at emily.dreshfield@gmail.com
Register: griefshare.org/findagroup
Cost: $20 for workbook (scholarships available)

CONSECRATION SUNDAY SPEAKER



We are excited to welcome Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti to Main Street on Nov. 22 as we celebrate Consecration Sunday at all three worship services.

Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti is the Yadkin Valley District Superintendent. He and his wife, Mary Allen Conforti, have three children. Mark's ministry experience includes rural churches, being the associate pastor at a very large church, and leading a downtown "tall steeple" church. He seeks to bring to the District Superintendency a pastor's heart, a strategic mind, and a commitment to the connection of The United Methodist Church. Mark is passionate about the local church making disciples of Jesus Christ.



For over 30 years, many of Kernersville's children and their families have been able to wake up on Christmas Morning with gifts under the tree and a special Christmas Feast on the table. This is made possible by the generosity of community members and the donations from our Annual Kernersville Christmas Stocking Fund Charity Concert.

This concert will again be presented in our Sanctuary here at Main Street UMC on Friday, **November 20** at 7pm featuring the Chorus and Recorder Club from Piney Grove Elementary School, Triad Baptist Academy Choirs and a select Choir from Heart of the Triad Community Chorus. Start your holiday season off by attending this special night of fundraising, music and merriment!

As November brings cooler days and falling leaves, our hearts naturally turn toward Thanksgiving. Let us give thanks not only for our families, friends, and food, but for the living earth that sustains us. Faithful stewardship transforms our thankfulness into practical love for others. Simple steps to consider:

- **Leave the Leaves:** Instead of bagging fallen leaves, let them rest in garden beds or chop them up for mulch. They provide vital winter shelter for beneficial insects and enrich the soil naturally.
- **Seal the Warmth:** Check windows and doors for drafts to conserve heating energy before winter sets in.
- **Enjoy Nature:** Take a 10-minute nature break, eat lunch outside, or take a walk with someone and bask in God’s beautiful creation.

--Submitted by Tracy Roberson

Caretakers of God’s Creation

Main Street's Missional Giving

I am continually thankful for the love, faithfulness, and generosity that characterize our Main Street United Methodist Church. Through your prayers, service, and financial support, God is using our congregation to make a difference both in our community and around the world.

As we reflect on Christ's command to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), we are reminded that missions are at the very heart of God's work. While not everyone is called to travel to distant places, every believer can play a part in sharing the gospel. One of the most powerful ways we do this is through mission giving.

Your mission gifts help support missions such as Crisis Control, Next Step Ministries, disaster relief, Shepherd Center and many others locally and globally. Each dollar given becomes a seed planted in God's kingdom, producing fruit that can impact lives for eternity. Whether your gift is large or small, when offered in faith and obedience, it becomes part of God's greater purpose. Together, our collective generosity enables ministry that none of us could accomplish alone.

As we look ahead, let us continue to be a church known not only for what happens within our walls, but for the lives being transformed beyond them. Let us give with joyful hearts, trusting God to multiply our efforts and use our resources for His glory as we Connect with Christ, Connect with each other and Connect with Community.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness.

Peace,
Tina Crew, Business Manager

$17,625	Appalachia Service Project
1038	Angel Flight
420	Big Hope Min. in Dominican Republic
1000	Black & Blue Program of Forsyth County
3500	CareNet Counseling
825	Children of Zion in Kville
100	City Lights Ministry W-S
9454	Crisis Control
1000	Egbe School in Nigeria
1000	Kairos Prison Ministry
2817	Kernersville Stocking Fund
150	Kiwanis Club Golf Tournament
250	Kville Christian Ministers Fellowship
500	KMS gift cards
3862	MSUMC Preschool
100	New Story Church
625	Next Step Ministry
375	Re3 Hope Center
100	Room at the Inn
810	Salvation Army
625	Samaritan Ministry
400	Second Harvest Food Bank
6990	Shepherd's Center
125	Trans World Radio
1700	Ukraine Relief
3443	UMCOR
902	Venezuela Relief

$ 60,156 Year-to-Date TOTAL

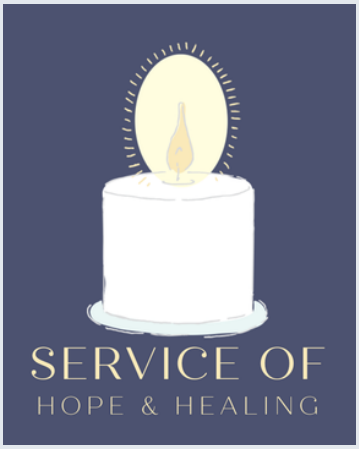
Non-Monetary Donations in 2026

- 2,845 lbs of food donated to Crisis Control
- Donations to Booksapalooza
- Clothing and food donated to Project Re3 Hope Center
- Baby items donated to Next Step Ministry

CHAPEL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS



United Women in Faith Circle #5 is selling beautiful MSUMC ornaments again this year. These ornaments are made of solid pewter and are made in the USA. We have about 25 ornaments left from last year's order of "Chapel in the Snow". We will ask for a suggested donation of $25 each and these will be available in the Commons on November 22, 29 and December 6 (or until we sell out). Proceeds from this sale will go to missions of the church and our community.



Service of Hope and Healing

The holidays are approaching and for some of us they may look different this year. The loss of a loved one, a diagnosis, divorce, loss of a job, or other major life event may have changed our lives. Grief, sadness, tiredness, and anxiety are a few words that may describe the feelings you are experiencing. You may feel the need for gentle instead of jolly. Your Pastors and *Compassion in Action* team invite you to approach the holidays with HOPE.

Please join us for a *Service of Hope and Healing* on **December 8 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.**

Come hear the music, a message of hope, receive Communion, and have the opportunity for prayer and lighting a candle for loved ones, for a gentle entry into the holidays.

Welcome Ellen!

Many of you may recognize Ellen Mantell since she has been helping out with our Wednesday Connect Dinners for a few weeks. We are happy to announce that Ellen has agreed to join our Church Staff as our new Kitchen Hostess so she is now PERMANENT! Be sure to introduce yourself to Ellen when you see her and welcome her to Main Street UMC!





Be part of our Advent tradition!

We're looking for readers of all ages to help us light the Advent wreath during worship services this season. Let Victoria know if you would like to share in this special time of reflection as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. We'd love to have you be part of it!



Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to join the Altar Guild on Saturday, **December 5** starting at 9:30am as we come together to decorate our church Sanctuary and Narthex for the holiday season. What a fun way to catch the holiday spirit!

WEDNESDAY
CONNECT DINNER

Don't cook on Wednesdays, come have dinner with us from 5:30-6:30pm! Dining together is a great opportunity for fellowship, but if you need to get your meal "to-go", then we can do that, too! We have disposable takeout containers, but we encourage you to bring your own re-usable containers for "to-go" meals.

Nov. 18--Chicken Casserole
with New Horizons SS serving
Nov. 25--no meal
Dec. 2--Pork Loin
with Seafarers SS class serving
Dec. 9--Cook's Choice
with Becoming/Grose-Kirkman serving
Dec. 16--Chicken
with Cornerstone SS class serving

The suggested donation is $6.00 per adult and $3.00 per child (10 and under). We accept cash or check. A gluten-free option is available upon request.

Reservations for dining in-person or "to-go" must be made by NOON on Monday: use the Wednesday Dinner reservation form on our website under the red "signups" stripe or contact the church office at 336-993-3411 or email cynthia.weinstein@mainstreetumc.org



You are cordially invited to celebrate the holiday season with us at Main Street UMC! Join our sweet preschoolers, the Carol Choir, and the NOW Band for a special Christmas performance, "Sing We Now of Christmas." Mark your calendars for **Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary for an evening filled with festive music, joy, and community spirit. Everyone is welcome—bring your family, friends, and neighbors to share in this joyful celebration!

We extend our sympathies to:

- Jennifer Raiford Graves upon the death of her cousin, Cole Johnson.
- Mike Tozer upon the death of his mother, Dolores "Dee" Tozer.
- Rev. Dr. Richard Horn (Care Net) upon the death of his wife, Cheryl S. Horn.
- Helen Holt and Anne Southern upon the death of their son-in-law/husband, Terry Southern.

Prayer Shawl Holiday Plans

Main Street's Prayer Shawl group will meet on **December 10** at 9:30am in the Church Library. This will be a day to bring Brunch goodies to celebrate another successful Prayer Shawl year. Contact Patty Rapp (336-314-0681) for details.



Christmas Cards for Our Home Friends and Members over the age of 90

Let's continue the wonderful Main Street tradition of showing love and care for each other. As you begin to write your Christmas cards, please remember these members. The Member Care committee and Compassion Team will be collecting Christmas cards in the Narthex and will deliver them.

While we encourage you to send cards to all those who are close to you, please bring cards addressed only to those on the list below for the committee to deliver. Thank you for honoring this request and for making the Christmas season a little brighter for our Home Friends and members over the age of 90.

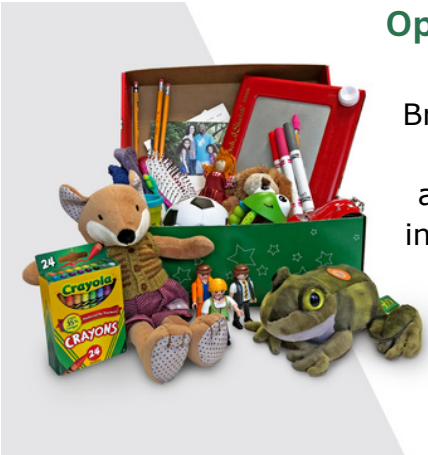
A card collection box will be in the Narthex from November 15 through December 7

Jack & Barbara Barrier
Martha Crawford
Katie Dalton
Ken & Pat Drewry
Betty Edwards
Ed & Pauline Finn
Faye Friddle
Roger & Margaret Grubbs
Barbara Hall
Margie Hilton
Helen Holt
Janet Jones
Jean Ladd
Ed Lang
Ann Martin
Leon & Lou Martin
Joe & Rose Marie Mitchell
Bill & Patsy Pegg
Jim Petriski
Hank & Barbara Pfuhl
Linda Sherrill
Elva Sieg
Laura Smith
Richard & Betty Stafford
Jane Staples
Mabeth Thomas
Reggie Turner
Audrey Ward
Kitty Weaver
Dave Wilmoth

You are welcome to prepare cards for two former pastors/widows who are now homebound:
Clara Ellis
Frank & Claudia Grice



Calling all to get into the Christmas spirit by decorating our beautiful Commons and hallways for the Holy Days. We will gather in the Commons on Monday, **November 30** at 10:00am to start the decorating. There will be cookies and cocoa and wonderful fellowship as we begin our Advent Season.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Bring joy to a child--pack a shoebox with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and LOVE! Check out the display table in the Narthex for more information. You can start bringing your filled boxes to the church at any time (place them under the table in the Narthex). Deadline to return filled boxes to the church is **NOON on December 6.**

COLLECTION BOXES

are in the Main Entrance to the Commons for:

- **BOOKSAPALOOZA** – donate new or used books
- **HOPE CENTER** – donate empty egg cartons, clothing, groceries, housewares
- **CRISIS CONTROL** – donate non-perishable food, each month has an item to focus on; December's item is spices.
- **GOT SNEAKERS** – donate used sneakers to be repurposed.

Schedule Changes

- We will NOT HAVE our Oasis service on November 25.
- We will NOT HAVE our Wednesday Connect Dinner on November 25.
- There will be NO Men's Breakfast on November 27.
- The Church Office will be CLOSED on November 27 and 28.





Thank you for your generous response to cookies for Bethany Café guests for the past several years! We always receive grateful responses from delivery and in-house guests for this effort. We would like to continue our tradition of providing homemade cookies to our Bethany Cafe guests December 19, 2026. We need the cookies in a quart zip loc bag, labeled with the type of cookie, and **delivered to the church office by noon Friday, December 18**. Thank you for your continued support which allows Bethany Café to be a blessing to our community.



$10 Poinsettia Orders due by November 29

As in years past, we will decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias. A poinsettia may be placed in the church in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. These poinsettias can be ordered through the church office for $10.00 each. Orders are due no later than **November 29**. You can write a note on an offering envelope and place your payment in the offering plate or bring your payment to the Church Office. If you would rather make a memorial donation instead of purchasing a poinsettia, there is also an option on the "sign up" to make an Honorarium/Memorial contribution to the Kernersville Christmas Stocking Fund. Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary and Chapel in early December and we will list the gifts (both poinsettias and stocking fund memorials) in the December 15 newsletter.



MSUMC is excited to offer an opportunity to all "artistic members" to join in on sharing your talents with the congregation in the FIRST FINE ARTS SHOW coming in April 2027. There has been growing interest in showing some of our local talent, so a committee has been formed to plan this show.
If you are interested in showing and/or selling your work, contact Susan Furmage at slfurmage@gmail.com and further details will be provided as available.

KIDS CONNECT

December 2026



ELEMENTARY

We wrapped up November with the first week of Advent and the truth that God gives us HOPE. In the second week of Advent, we'll discover through Mary's story how Jesus brings PEACE. Next, we'll explore how the birth of Jesus brings us JOY. Then we'll see through the eyes of the shepherds how Jesus shows us God's LOVE. And while we know attendance during the last week of December is always a wild card, we're excited for kids to discover how Jesus brings us LIFE to the fullest, both now and forever.

WHAT'S NEW?

Join us on Dec. 24th at 4:00 pm for our Family Christmas Eve Service!



Kids Connect

PRESCHOOL

Christmas is one of the busiest times of the year, but we want preschoolers to know that Christmas is really about God's love shown through His Son. And that starts with us. So, in the middle of this crazy, beautiful season, let's pause to remember that God invites US to come and see His Son. Let's pray for our leaders and parents—that we can collectively help preschoolers to see how special Jesus is— because Jesus is God's Son.

A Record of our Faithfulness

OUR PRESENCE:	10-25-2026	11-1-2026	11-8-2026	11-15-2026
Sunday School	91	109	105	107
8:30am In-Person Worship	90	86	82	65
8:45 Jubilee In-Person Worship	62	62	72	72
10:55am In-Person Worship	139	159	107	108
In-Person Worship Totals	**291**	**307**	**261**	**245**
8:45am Jubilee Live Stream Worship *(unique views)*	28	23	18	8
10:55am LiveStream Worship *(unique views)*	64	82	43	53
Total Live Stream Unique Views	92	105	61	61
Live Streaming Totals *(unique views x 1.8)*	166	189	110	110
Attendance Totals	**457**	**496**	**371**	**355**
OUR GIFTS as of:	10-25-2026	11-1-2026	11-8-2026	11-15-2026
Building Fund Weekly Contributions	**7250**	**885**	**1360**	**7805**
Weekly Contributions to Budget	**39,440**	**6548**	**11,497**	**24,236**
Budget Contributions YTD	**732,399**	**738,947**	**750,444**	**774,681**

Main Street Ministries as of October 31

Regular Giving $ 767,654
Expenses $ 841,054
Over/(Under) $ (73,400)
Budget $ 907,150

Building Fund as of October 31

Building Fund Giving $ 115,577
Building Loan Payments $ 120,000
Over/(Under) $ (4,443)
Loan Balance $ 1,106,087

PUBLICATION DEADLINE

Newsletter articles are due by noon on the FIRST FRIDAY of every month for publication in the mid-month newsletter.

Main Street
United Methodist Church
336-993-3411
306 South Main Street
Kernersville, NC 27284

Let's Worship Together

Come and Worship with us at one or all of our services:

- Less-Formal Traditional Worship Service*: Sundays at 8:30am in the Sanctuary
- Jubilee Contemporary Worship Service*: Sundays at 8:45am in the Chapel
- Traditional Worship Service*: Sundays at 10:55am in the Sanctuary
- Oasis Mid-Week Service of Meditation: Wednesdays at 5:00pm (September-May)
- Night of Worship (NOW) service*: Third Sundays at 6:00pm in the Chapel

** childcare is provided at these services*

Main Street UMC Staff

Lanny Lancaster, Senior Pastor
Sarah McIntosh, Associate Pastor
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth Ministries
Victoria Smathers, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Jill Gardner, Director of Music Ministries
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director

Tina Crew, Business Manager
Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant
Cynthia Weinstein, Admin. Assistant
Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Dir.
Ellen Mantell, Kitchen Hostess
Anthony Simmonds, Custodian

The Main Stream is published monthly by Main Street United Methodist Church located at 306 South Main Street, Kernersville, NC 27284. All information herein is expressly for the use of our friends and members. Articles and comments may be directed to the editor at betsy.tang@mainstreetumc.org.