




Valdese First United Methodist Church
PO Box 637
217 St. Germain Ave., SE
Valdese, NC 28690
(828) 874-0006
faith@fumcvaldese.com

Connect with us:
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HAPPY Mother's DAY!

My mom is amazing because:



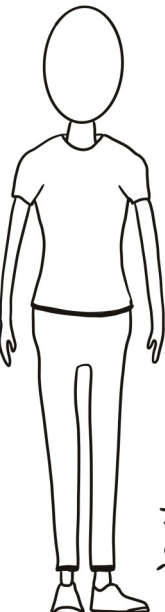
Draw your mom a special picture of her favorite thing!

My mom's name is _____ but I call her _____!

You are the _____ mom in the whole _____!

I love you more than _____ and _____ and I think you're funny when _____.

Thank you for always _____.

This is my mom 

[My favorite thing to do with my mom is: _____]

Love you always, _____!

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Kingdom Kid News

The Lent and Easter Season was just incredible!! We started out the season with Lent Adventures! We had soooooo much fun making Easter cookies, crafts, snacks and some awesome games!! Then we took children and families and went to Hickory for lunch at Chick Fil A and then to the movie and saw "The King of Kings". Just a wonderful animated movie telling the story of Jesus! On Palm Sunday, GracePointe lead us in worship to the song, "That's My King"! We are so thankful for these young ladies and their willingness to lead us in worship!! Then we had our Easter Egg Hunt. We had an unbelievable number of children, families, and volunteers that Saturday. We needed two trips to Food Lion and refilled eggs so all the children would have a chance to hunt eggs. Wow, just Wow!! Yay God!! Then on Easter, we celebrated the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ!!! Just an incredible time for everyone at our church!!!

Hard to believe that May is here!!! One of my favorite months. I have already begun to hear talking of summer plans and the excitement that the school year is quickly coming to a close. With summer approaching our thoughts turn to VBS!!! We are so excited to begin making our plans for this year's VBS. Our theme is YEE HAW! It will be July 22-24, a Tuesday thru Thursday!! Start sharing with your friends and SAVE THE DATE!!!! As you can see, we have a great time at First Valdese!! We have a great time each Sunday!! Come join us!!

Love, Ms. Susan

Follow Jesus.
Make Disciples.
Change the World!

The Messenger

May 2025

FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
VALDESE,
NC



- ◆ Pastor
Bill Roberts
- ◆ Director of
Music
Nancy Epley
- ◆ Organist
Nancy Epley
- ◆ Secretary
Joan Hogan
- ◆ Custodian
Pat Pons
- ◆ Groundskeeper
Larry Holden
- ◆ Youth Pastor
Tamika Garrison

A number of years ago at the church I was then serving, our Children and Youth Director, Linda Ketchie, offered the devotion at the beginning of a Church Council meeting. It wasn't a Bible lesson, as is what I generally would do. But, I believe it was founded in Scripture just the same. The title of the reading is *Ministry or Job?*, and while I don't know the name of its author, I truly wish that I did. I am grateful to them. It is a lesson each Christian needs to be reminded of from time to time, including and especially me.

Ministry or Job?

Some people have a job in the church. Others invite themselves into a ministry. What's the difference you ask?

- ◆ If you are doing it just because no one else will, it's a job. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.
- ◆ If you quit because someone criticized you, it's a job. If you keep on serving, it's a ministry.
- ◆ If you'll do it as long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it's a job. If you are committed to stay even if it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.
- ◆ If you quit because no one thanked you or praised you, it's a job. If you stick with it even though no one recognized your efforts, it's a ministry.
- ◆ It's hard to get excited about a job. It is almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.
- ◆ If your concern is success, it's a job. If your concern is faithfulness and service, it's a ministry.
- ◆ If God calls you to a ministry, don't treat it like a job!

Linda then closed with this prayer: "Lord, strengthen your servants and move us to a true sense of ministry and service, through your grace and mercy. Amen."

There isn't much I could add. In fact, I'm sure I couldn't have said it any better than this. I'll simply close by saying that, knowing that we are to be a priesthood of all believers, we need to ask ourselves to which ministries God is calling us. Perhaps we each need to try several to find the right one. There is nothing wrong with trying many tasks to find the one that fits your gifts.

Doing nothing is never the right answer. Doing nothing doesn't mean you aren't called. It may simply mean you've stopped listening to God.

The Lord be with you!

Bill Roberts

Rev. Bill Roberts

Dinner Church



Dinner Church continues to grow (45-47 in April), it continues to be a place for all to gather around the table for food, fellowship, devotions and in April, we had Communion. If you haven't joined us, prayerfully consider if this is a place where you can share your spiritual gift with others. -Jen Boggs

The United Methodist Men will have their monthly breakfast meeting on Sunday, May 4th at 8:30 am.

Youth

Our May meetings are on the 6th & 20th beginning at 5:30 pm.

If you have a chance to join these young folks in their discussion, you will be greatly blessed.

Grace & Peace be with you,
Tamika Garrison

Check out the gallery page on our webpage at:
<https://www.valdesefumc.org/gallery>



Have you wondered what this box located in the Fellowship Hall is used for? The donation box in the social hall is primarily used by visitors pass through our church during events such as Lunch & Learn and Dinner Church, as well as many other events. There is an information sheet about our outreach missions as well as some envelopes! Offerings & Tithes can also be placed in this box! This is for anyone to use! Thank You!

MUSIC NOTES

Beginning with Ash Wednesday through the period of Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we have been in a period of renewal restoration as we awaited the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We have heard the music of the season, engaged in our Maundy Thursday service of communion and foot washing, Good Friday Tenebrae service and the beautiful service of Easter morning. How wonderful it is to engage with First Baptist Church for our sunrise service! As we move forward, let's not forget the "reason for the season" - our Risen Lord and the promise of eternal life..



In His Name, Nancy

The Pass Along Box

Please continue to bring devotionals, Advent booklets, and other reading materials for the Pass Along Project.
-Norma Rains

Opening mail everyday can be quite boring and mundane. What a blessing when I opened an envelope and found this sweet piece of paper. There was nothing written on it, only this beautiful hand drawn heart and saying.. Doris Johnson, thank you for brightening my day.
Love, Joan

Be the reason someone smiles today.



David Christy

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Sunday, May 18
3 - 5 pm Drop-In

First UMC Gastonia
190 East Franklin Blvd
Gastonia, NC

David is departing our "picturesque" Catawba Valley District, and we're taking some time to say goodbye!

There will be time to visit, reminisce, and bid fond farewells.
Gifts are optional, but your presence is priceless!

Note: If you'd like to contribute to the district gift or if you can't attend and would like to leave a gift or card, please email Jana Alexander (JAlexander@vncumc.org).

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Food Truck coming on Tuesday, May 27th!
We need Volunteers! Please plan to be at the church by 7:30 am. Bring wheelbarrows, buggies, strong back, laughter and prayer.



United Women in Faith (UWFaith) May Meetings

May 12th @ 1:00 pm: UWFaith Circle #3
May 12th @ 6:00 pm: UWFaith Circle #2
May 12th @ 6:30 pm: UWFaith Circle #6

The May General Meeting will be on Monday, May 26th at 6:00 pm

Janet continues to seek out a District Communications Coordinator! If you are looking for a place to use your computer skills, please reach out to Janet.

A Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Lord,
Please watch over and support all mothers on earth and in heaven...
and help them to know how much they are loved and appreciated on Mother's Day and every day.





Prayer Group
Monday evenings at 6:00 pm
Meet in the Sanctuary

May Fellowship Meals

May 7th: Covered Dish
May 14th: Taco Bar, Chips with Cheese/Salsa
May 21st: Grilled Hotdogs with fixings—Meal hosted by UMM
May 28th: Dan's Country Style Stek, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans and Roll

May will conclude our weekly Fellowship Meals until Fall 2025!
Meals are: \$7/plate for adults and \$4/plate for kids
No Charge for Covered Dish

Pay weekly or prepay for the month by using the brown envelopes in the pews or pay at the door.



Lemonade on the Lawn

Begins May 18

see Bobbie Seagle if you would like to sign up for a Sunday

Who can name these beautiful twins!



Unified Mission Churches

Waldensian Presbyterian Church
Food Pantry Ministry
Collection for
May: Canned Fruit



Operation Christmas Child
May: Hygiene Items
(No Soaps)



Change the World Offering
May 21



All Operation Christmas Child items can be given during our Change the World Offering Sundays (red wagon) or left in the tote in the Narthex.

First Baptist Church—Valdese
Twice Blessed Closet



Donations needed for gently worn clothes. Most needed are baby clothes, children clothes and young adults; however, all clothing items are greatly appreciated. If you have items to donate, please bring to the church office and we will get the items to FBC-Valdese or if you want to take them to FBC, they take donations on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm.

East Burke Christian Ministries
May: Flour



Easter 2025 at FUMC-Valdese

I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped with the Easter Egg Hunt!! This is becoming a great event for children and families!! We could not do this without you! Thank you to the UMM for cooking hotdogs, the ladies that made all the trimmings, served all the children and families! All of you just ROCK! We were able to hand out gifts bags to each child, giving them information about our church and children's programs. A special thank you to these volunteers for the gift bags! Jesus told us to serve others! We have some awesome servants at First Valdese!! Love to all, Susan



A message from Beth Heile and Friends of the Valdese Rec (FVR)

FVR is hosting free Lunch & Learns for Adults in our fellowship hall. These occur the 3rd Thursday of each month.

May 15, 2025
Carolina Caring
Advanced Care Directives

To RSVP for lunch, email friendsofthevaldeserec@gmail.com or call church office 874-0006 by Tuesday before the event.

You may attend if you do not RSVP, but lunch is only guaranteed for those who reply.

