

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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FUMCWNC.ORG

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MAY 2022

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#### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

Something to think about:

On Wednesday night Vickie and I attended a meeting at First UMC Waynesville. The subject was the huge storm on the horizon of the United Methodist Church. This storm revolves around the issue of homosexuality. Can a United Methodist Church support and perform the marriage of a gay couple? Can a married homosexual couple be appointed to serve as your pastor. Can a practicing homosexual person be appointed to serve as your pastor? Some churches say no, some churches say yes.

It seems the official stance of the United Methodist Church is yes, there will be full acceptance of practicing homosexual clergy in our conference and gay weddings will be allowed in our churches. In response to this a new church is being formed. It will be called the Global Methodist Church and it will officially begin on May 1, 2022. Eventually, every church will be able to choose: We will remain a United Methodist Church or we will move to the Global Methodist Church. Moving isn't quite that easy and steps must be taken by any church wishing to move its affiliation. This will all be played out over the next few years, but I thought you should know what is coming in the days ahead. This storm will not pass away quietly. Terry

#### MESSAGE FROM LAY LEADER

##### Working Together

Last Fall we put up a bird feeder in the back yard. You never know how many furry and feathered friends you have until you set up an all you can eat buffet. We have been entertained by a number of grey squirrels, racoons, foxes, a variety of birds, deer and turkeys.

The other day, we watched in wonder as a group of these friends gathered around the buffet table, a huge tree stump. A grey squirrel had wound himself around the bottom of the feeder and was using his little paw to distribute the feed from the ring around the feeder down to the stump below. His friends waited patiently as he prepared the table for each of them. Shortly after his shift ended, another friend took his place, and the job began again. What a novel idea, working together!

Ecclesiastes 4:9 tells us that when individuals work together, they can double their strength and get much more done as a team. They also reap the value of having worked in unison, thus creating harmony instead of disorder. Working as one people begins with the efforts of each person, as they work with another person.

Maybe there is a lesson to be learned from those cute little critters on Trantham Hill.

Blessings from a flawed and faithful disciple, Susan



## RICK'S REFRAIN

Having been involved in Church Music all of my adult life, I am always amazed at the mental triggers that pull musical lyrics and music from the deep, dark recesses of my aging brain. I'll enumerate a few of these as examples.

We were recently watching an episode of "The Chosen" on the Up Faith and Family Network. The May 2022 person portraying Matthew (of New Testament fame) spoke of the compelling look of Jesus, drawing him in. This scene triggered recall of one of my favorite songs from the Easter cantata "No Greater Love." The song "His Wonderful Look of Love" recounts how "His Wonderful Look of Love...made the teardrops start, broke and won my heart." What a vivid musical theme pointing to the love emanating from our Lord's countenance.

On Easter Sunday, Terry preached on "Peace Like a River" using Isaiah 48:17-19 as his text. Not knowing ahead of time what his theme would be, the song (you guessed it) "Peace Like a River" kept popping into my mind as he preached. I attempted to play that song by ear for the Postlude. On April 24, Terry's message "Jesus Pulls Disciples into Ministry" used the text Acts 1:1-8. This immediately brought to my mind the old (1963) anthem "Ye Shall Be Witnesses." Although many of us are pulled into witnessing only while kicking and

screaming, Terry made the point that we can tell others our story. Jesus uses imperfect people to share his perfect gospel of love, forgiveness and salvation.

When I play or sing "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" God touches my heart with one of the most picturesque texts in our hymnals. Playing or singing "Via Dolorosa" can quickly send me on an emotional trip as I think of the suffering of our Christ providing a way for salvation and unspeakable joy for me, for you, and for all of us. Many other songs speak volumes to my heart. God draws on our experiences in life: teaching, music, studying His Word and sharing with others to enrich our lives and provide blessings for ourselves and those with whom we share.

I'd like to mention one last song to conclude this article. In the song "The Love of God," the last stanza contains these words: "Could we with ink the oceans fill and were the skies of parchment made. Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade. To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry. Nor could the scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky." This is probably based on John 21:25 which says "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written." (NIV) We serve a great and wonderful God!

## Easter Time at Faith





**BETH'S MISSION MESSAGE**

Our May theme for Haywood Christian Ministry food collection is canned fruits and vegetables. Let's fill the shelves in the food pantry.

As always, I am thankful for your support, Beth

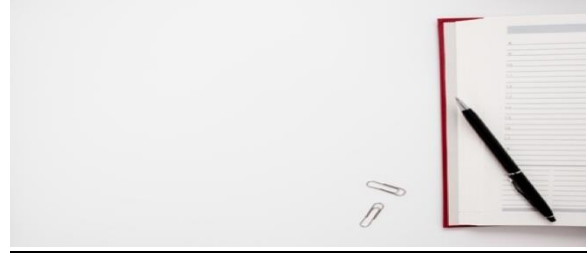


**Stewardship News as of April 29 ,2022**

**"I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with my Prayers, my Presence, my Gifts, my Service, and my Witness."**

**2022 Budget \$58,453.00**

Needed thru 4/29/22 for budget	\$19,874.02
Received to date for budget	\$13,847.00
Behind Budget	\$ 6,027.02
Paid out to date for budget	\$21,690.44



**PPRC MESSAGE**

Thank God for answered prayers!

We look forward to welcoming Rev. Jed Tate as our incoming pastor, effective July 1, 2022. He lives on Eagles Nest and is the IT Manager of the Applications Services Team at Western Carolina University. He and his wife Teresa have two children, Samuel and Edie. She is the Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications at Lake Junaluska. He will be quarter time preacher for Faith but is looking forward to meeting us and hearing about the ways that God's grace is moving at Faith. He has a compassion for the homeless. I fully expect he will challenge us and encourage our growth as a congregation and as Christians.

Rev. Tate's first Sunday at Faith will be July 10<sup>th</sup>.



**Rev. Jed Tate**

**Email:** jedtate@gmail.com  
**Mobile Phone:** 828-226-1715

**Address:** 325 Eagles Nest Rd, Waynesville, NC, 28786

**Spouse:** Teresa Tate

**Spouse's Employment:** Assistant Director of Marketing and Communication at Lake Junaluska

**Names/Ages of Children:** Samuel (9), Edie (7)

**What are the theological themes in your previous appointments in the UMC?**

While not an appointment in the UMC, over the past eleven years, I have served as one of the pastors at the Bethel House, a faith community of people living with poverty and homelessness. Theological themes include the movement of God's saving grace in our lives and the lives of people around us, Jesus's invitation for each of us to follow him and be formed as his disciples, and our calling to love God and others with our whole selves.

**In what specific ways have you led your congregations to fulfill their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?**

The Bethel House congregation meets every Sunday morning to rejoice together, pray together, care for each other, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I lead prayer weekly, and preach every two to three weeks, frequently drawing upon Methodist tradition and Wesleyan understandings of grace and salvation. Sermons can become conversational, which provides an opportunity to engage with people's experiences of God's grace and their needs for care. Additionally, I have taught spiritual practices such as the Examen prayer and lectio divina.

**Describe your leadership style and any specialized trainings in which you have participated?**

My leadership style centers on engaging and trusting the wisdom and skills of my

team. As a student at Duke Divinity, I completed a course on Christian leadership and administration, and received a certificate in Technology of Participation (ToP) Facilitation Methods. Also, in my higher education career, I served in a number of leadership roles such as chair of the Staff Senate and board chair of the Wesley Foundation at Western Carolina University.

**If you had a career prior to serving as a pastor, what was it?**

I have worked in the field of higher education information technology, first as a web developer, then as the manager of the web team, and now as the manager of the Applications Services team.

**If you are bi-vocational, what is your other employment?**

I am currently the IT Manager of the Applications Services team at Western Carolina University, managing a team of application developers who are responsible for the primary business systems of the university.

**Could you describe your faith journey in Christ Jesus?**

My faith journey began in my late 20s when I first became aware of a longing for God. I didn't grow up in the church, and I didn't know Jesus at that time, but I prayed that night even if I didn't really understand what that meant. Soon, the Holy Spirit surrounded me with people who pointed me to Jesus and invited me to church. I learned about God's grace from Pastor Rob Fuquay, and there I began to believe that Christ had taken away my sins, which I would profess at my baptism when I was 30. I remember listening to Pastor Chuck Wilson preach about God's love, and the

ways in which we are called to love each other. God led me at this time to prison and homeless shelters, and eventually to the Open Door (and later, the Bethel House). Here I encountered God's love in new ways, growing me in love, and calling me into ministry.

**What do you want to let your SPRC know about you? Do you have special needs or requests from your congregation?**

I am so excited about joining the Faith UMC community, and I can't wait to meet all of you. Relationship is important to me, and I am looking forward to getting to know you, and hearing about the ways that God's grace is moving at Faith. While I am quarter time in my appointment and need to be faithful to my commitments to my family and my other vocation, I am looking forward to finding times we can visit and get to know each other in the coming months.

**MAY 2022 DATES TO REMEMBER**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM**

**May 8 - Mother's Day**

Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

**May 10 – National Day of Prayer**

The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation."

**May 21 – Armed Forces Day**

Unlike Veterans Day (previously observed as Armistice Day - the end of World War I), which honors those who wore the cloth of our nation at war, and unlike Memorial Day, which honors

those who died wearing the cloth of our nation at war, Armed Forces Day is the proper day to honor all the men and women currently serving in the military.

The creation of a single day celebration for all five branches of the United States military made sense due to its unification under the Department of Defense.

**May 30 – Memorial Day**

Memorial Day is a somber holiday dedicated to honor military fallen, with a special focus on those killed during military service or through enemy contact.



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 5 - Betty Gant
- 13 - Frances Scruggs
- 18 - Earl Cogdill



**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 6 - Gerald & Susan Trantham
- 7 - Charles & Carolyn Taylor
- 31 - Earl & Bina Cogdill

