

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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FUMCWNC.ORG

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JULY 2022

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

Dearest Faith,

I'm writing this note to you a couple weeks before our first Sunday together, and already a number of you have reached out to welcome me to Faith and help me enter into the life of the church as your new pastor. It was such a joyful occasion when you hosted my family for a meet and greet - your hospitality made us feel at home! And I am so grateful to all of you who have helped me begin to learn about the heart of Faith. I can't wait to learn more about what God has done and continues to do here. I am honored to be your pastor, and I can't wait to see and experience what God does next at Faith United Methodist Church.

Grace and peace,
Jed

MESSAGE FROM LAY LEADER

"Expect the Extraordinary"

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

Mark 1:17 (NIV)

In this verse, the miraculous happened: the ordinary became extraordinary.

A normal workday for the ordinary duo brothers, Simon and Andrew, turned into something extraordinary! These two were called by Jesus to leave their trade of fishing the Sea of Galilee and begin a new job - fishing for people. There was no job interview, no on the job training, just one sentence - "come, follow me." How simple is that?

Just like Simon and Andrew, Jesus has called us. The question is "What is Jesus calling us to do?"

I hope you will be in prayer this month about this question. And when you receive an answer from on high, your response will be "Lord, I am ready to serve you!"

Blessings!

Susan



RICK'S REFRAIN

"God is So Good" is a chorus we used to sing at a previous church. In another church, this one United Methodist, a common greeting was "God is good." The normal response was "All the time." God has been good to Faith UMC in a wonderful way with Terry Rowland becoming our pastor for the latter part of this church year. We have been inspired by his presence, his humor and especially his sermons as he has preached messages that speak to our hearts and lives in such a useful and meaningful way. Terry will be greatly missed in the pulpit, but we are happy that he will still grace us with his presence, along with his wife, daughter and grandson who are such an integral part of Faith UMC. The joy and hope that radiates from these friends truly makes our busy lives more palatable.

Now the time has come for Terry to turn over pastoral duties to Jed Tate. Jed comes to us with his wife and two children, and we must do our utmost to make them feel welcome and loved. God moves in mysterious ways (especially in UMC churches), and we must be good stewards of His provisions for us. New perspectives will burst forth and new interpretations of God's plan for each of us. But as Jed is "rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15) in our midst, we should be holding him up in prayer and seeking God's blessings for all of us. This is a sad time for United Methodists as tenets of our faith are challenged and decisions must be reached on the direction of each congregation. Will we stand by a traditional, conservative, Wesleyan approach to scripture or accept a more liberal, modern, enlightened view? Who should be ordained as deacons and elders? What is our belief for the fate of the unborn? Our personal views should be informed by God's Word and bathed in prayer before decisions are made at the Church level.

Please pray for our congregation as a whole and for each individual as directional decisions must be made. God still answers prayer. In my own life, I

have had to learn that "no" and "maybe later" are answers that are just as valid as "yes". Let's seek God's face and wisdom in these troubled days.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10

Smokey has Sunday School lessons for children ages 4 to 12 each week and Mark has adult lessons.



BETH'S MISSION MESSAGE

Our July theme is condiments. You immediately thought of ketchup, mustard, mayo, maybe even pickle relish. Let's stretch that definition to include salad dressings, BBQ sauces, oils, spices; anything that flavors something else. This will all go to help our Haywood neighbors through Haywood Christian ministry. Looking ahead to August we will be collecting supplies for birthday cake kits.





Stewardship News as of June, 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 6/26/22 for budget	\$30,395.56
Received to date for budget	\$22,618.00
Behind budget	7,777.56
Paid out to date for budget	\$30,193.88

We thank you for your faithfulness!



BETH’S PPRC MESSAGE

As we transition from one preacher to another, we will have a singing service on July 3rd. Rick says he can play anything in our hymnals; if you want to sing something else get him the music. Then on July 10 we will welcome Rev. Jed Tate as he leads us in worship.

CONFERENCE ANNUAL REPORT FROM MARK

I am putting forward a few notes on the WNC United Methodist Annual Conference

The business portion was spread around several reports that needed no action, and most of the reports highlighted strong feel-

good stories of the wonderful activities of various congregations.

The earliest portions of the actual resolutions and actions that delegates had to vote on were primarily procedural. These types of votes will be stand and be counted. If you agree, say “Aye”. That type will be vocal. If you agree, raise your hand. From there, we went on to endorsements of the output of various committees. We voted on a schedule of compensation for pastors, an overall budget, on changes to the pension plan keeping up with the latest version of tax law, and other minutiae wherein no one had any real alternative to the committee’s work.

The real meat of the conference was also somewhat surprisingly perfunctory. The split of the denomination hung over the proceedings all through the weekend, but mostly in the background, largely in the emotional turmoil that pervaded the conference. The attendees felt relief, nostalgia, happiness, sadness, sometimes all at the same time. The one emotion that really surprised me was actual anger. Even more shocking was who manifested it. The very people who have directed the course of the United Methodist Church over the last few years in a direction that has caused the creation of the Global Methodist Church – the winners, effectively – seemed to have a mad on from Friday through Sunday.

The split created some ironic moments, such as, during the same report, a speaker stated emphatically that there had been no changes to the Discipline and that all Churches and Clergy were held fully accountable to every article in it, and that no changes whatsoever were contemplated and also said that the church judiciary was

currently deciding whether the upcoming General Conference was a rescheduling of the 2020 conference and we could keep the current delegates or if we skipped 2020, this was a new conference, and we would have to elect new delegates and reintroduce “all that beautiful tolerance legislation.”

That split came to the forefront in two referendums on Saturday afternoon. The first was on the closure of several churches in the district. The number was, I am told, higher than usual, and the speaker emphasized Covid as the primary cause for the high number almost seeming to discourage ANY contemplation of another possible cause for declining interest in this particular denomination. The second was acting on the resolutions for dissolution. There were eighteen congregations leaving, and all were let go with almost no dissent. It was pointed out that these leaving represented less than two per cent of the total churches in the district and less than one per cent of the average Sunday attendance. However, I heard several delegates say that their congregation was in the process and several others say that their small congregation had been kept in the dark and were in for a shock when they reported back. In spite of all the emotion, both of those referendums passed almost unanimously.

There followed a bit of legal wrangling about whether the temporary, sunset-claused, negotiated path to dissolution is the only path available or if the Discipline has an older, less onerous path pre-existing that can be adapted from its original purpose. That discussion was rendered moot by the announcement that the district

had already asked for a ruling from the judiciary council.

We then closed with a series of worship services.

The Annual Conference lacked any actual fireworks, and the tensions may have been held in check, but the event nonetheless handed each and every congregation, including ours, a stark choice about what it means to be to be a loving, loyal, and obedient member of the Body of Christ. This choice will require prayer, much thought and soul-searching, prayer again, frank discussions, and then more prayer.

JULY 2022 DATE TO REMEMBER

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM

July 3 – St. Thomas History

The Feast of St Thomas, celebrated on July 3, is observed across the world. The day celebrates St Thomas's life and deeds. In the 1st Century A.D, he traveled to India where he preached Christianity. The occasion has become an opportunity for people to commit to preserving faith and culture. While Christians observe it to pay homage to one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus Christ, Hindus remember him for saving their ancient country from a terrible famine. He was said to have lived in India as a missionary among the Jewish, where he spread Christianity to make the religion popular among service-oriented sections of society.

July 4 – Independence Day

Independence Day (colloquially the **Fourth of July**) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The Second Continental Congress declared that the Thirteen

Colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. The Congress had voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2, but it was not declared until July 4.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the national day of the United States



3 – Judy Ferguson
21 – Don Williams



19 - Gordon & Donna Wheeler



IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME
Memorial Day Remembrance at Faith