

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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FUMCWNC.ORG

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AUGUST 2022

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

Dearest Faith,

In recent days I have been reflecting on the gift of community. Each of us has our own challenges, fears, and worries. Each of us carries a burden that sometimes (or often) feels like it is too heavy to hold on our own. And yet God draws us together into community, and gives us the gift of each other, the gift of the Church.

In this community, we care for each other and pray for each other and, as much as we can, we help each other bear those heavy burdens. We rejoice and celebrate together, and we worship together. We give and we serve together. "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 131:1)

I am thankful for the community that is Faith UMC. What a gift it is that we get to live together as God's people.

Grace and peace,
Jed

MESSAGE FROM LAY LEADER

"Here's Your Sign"

Recently, on a trip to Asheville, I spotted a small church sign. In large print, it screamed out to travelers YOU MAKE THE CHOICE. GOD MAKES THE CHANGE.

Immediately, thought of the song – Change My Heart, Oh God! The music and words remained on my mind and in my heart throughout the afternoon.

"Change my heart oh, God, make it ever true. Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You.

You are the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart oh God, make it ever true. Change my heart oh God, may I be like You."

You know, this just might be the perfect prayer for us during this divisive time in our lives, our church and our world! Flawed and faithful, ST



RICK'S REFRAIN

As I have pondered what to talk about in my article this month, I have drawn a blank. I've had the title and date at the top of a blank page for several days. In times like these, it is often best to consider our blessings. Mine are many.

I am thankful that my arthritic fingers can still type these words and still work the piano keys with some degree of success. Guitar playing is difficult now, but I'm still able to do that some.

I am grateful that God has given me a wonderful wife. I am daily blessed by her love for and her patience with me.

I also feel blessed by being part of not one, but two wonderful churches. Each congregation has its own character but offers a measure of love and caring as places where God's Word is preached and fellowship with God's people enriches our lives.

It is truly great to live in a country where we can worship freely. As many of our personal freedoms continue to erode, we still have this ultimate opportunity.

With the sad financial state of our country, it is becoming increasingly difficult to pay for necessities such as food, housing and transportation. But we have not missed any meals (though my waistline would probably revel in moderation). Our mortgage

payment has risen but is still manageable. Our vehicles are aging, but somewhat thrifty, so infrequent gas purchases help with that expense.

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the country. Right from our front door, we can enjoy God's handiwork in creation as we view the mountains, the trees and the flowers. God's blessings to us are great and I am truly thankful.

Psalm 100:4 has these words: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Eugene Peterson's translation/paraphrase, states this same verse as: "Enter with the password: "Thank you!" Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him." What a wonderful God we serve.



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

August is traditionally the month with the most birthdays. Our focus will be on birthday cake kits. I have plenty of foil pans and two-gallon bags, so please donate cake mixes, canned frostings, and birthday candles. I will assemble and deliver to Haywood Christian Ministry. We will also continue to gather school supplies for Pathways. Natural and manmade disasters continue to plague this world, and UMCOR needs financial support as well as our prayers.



Stewardship News as of July 24, 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 for budget	\$35,071.80
Received to date for budget	\$25,619.00
Behind budget	\$ 9,452.80
Paid out to date for budget	\$31,629.22

We thank you for your faithfulness!

UPDATE ON TOWER GARDEN AT PATHWAYS

Our tower garden has been on quite an adventure! We are very excited to share that our Chef Neil has been able to get it going again, with the help of the Haywood County Schools' Community Learning Center. The students at the CLC are those that would have otherwise dropped out, but the teachers at the CLC are working to engage them in real-life education while also helping them complete their education.

One of the things they do is gardening and cooking, which fits so nicely with what we do. We are partnering in many ways, but the tower garden is one specific way. Mark Ethridge, one of the teachers, has been a teacher in Haywood County for many years. He has a full understanding of the tower garden and as a result, is teaching not only our staff, but also his students how to utilize it. As you can see in the pictures it is cleaned up and ready to go. Currently, the seedlings for the herbs to be grown in it are being produced at the CLC as the students learn the scientific part of the germination process. When the seedlings are ready, they will be planted in the tower garden, providing HPC with our very own homegrown herbs—just as we originally imagined. CLC students will be able to come and tend to it and hopefully will also be engaged as a cook team at HPC, utilizing the very herbs they produced.

You can see that the tower garden has been placed outside in the family dorm outside area. This was purposefully done in order to keep the parents and children engaged in learning about the farm to table process of growing food. You can see in the pictures they started a few of their own plants in the traditional flower beds and have been harvesting cucumbers and potatoes. They are excited to see what the tower garden brings and how it works.

When we have plants back in it, I'll be sure to send you additional pictures. Thank you for always checking in.

Mandy Haithcox
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AUGUST 2022 DATES TO REMEMBER

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

August 1 - August begins with Lammas Day, Loaf Mass Day, the day when a loaf baked with flour from newly harvested corn would be brought into church and blessed. It's one of the oldest points of contact between the agricultural world and the Church.

Christians also have church processions to bakeries, where those working therein are blessed by Christian clergy.

August 14 – Faith Homecoming

August 15 – Feast of the Assumption

The Feast of the Assumption (or simply, “The Assumption”) is widely celebrated all over Christendom. This holy day marks the occasion of the Virgin Mary’s bodily ascent to heaven at the end of her life. Assumption celebrations are accompanied by festivals, colorful street processions, fireworks, and pageantry. While a “feast” isn’t required, there is a longstanding tradition of blessing the summer harvest. There are even special “Assumption” recipes incorporated into family dinners. Sounds heavenly! The devoted light candles, attend masses, and say prayers for peace all over the world.

When someone is added to Faith’s Prayer List and you’d like that person to receive a card(s), please send that person’s address to jlf21@charter.net or text to 828-456-5227.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 3 – Smokey Dooly
- 3 - Grace Davis
- 10 – Chrystie Minchew
- 27 – Bina Cogdill



AUGUST ANNIVERSARY

- 14 – John & Grace Davis