

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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NOVEMBER 2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dearest Faith,

This past week our church leadership met with district superintendent Rev. Jae Lee for our Charge Conference. I'm grateful to Susan Trantham for all her work in preparing reports, to Smokey Dooly who handled the technology that allowed Judy Ferguson to be present with us via Zoom, and to all of you who continue to contribute so much to the mission and ministry of Faith United Methodist Church.

As I write this note, I'm reminded of Paul's words in his second letter to the Thessalonians, "We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore, we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4)."

During Charge Conference, in my report, I had the privilege of "boasting" about the ways I've gotten to watch God move at Faith UMC:

Our congregation, like most churches, is recovering from the effects of the pandemic, and like other United Methodist churches, we feel the impact of challenges within the denomination. However, the ministry of Faith continues to strengthen. Sunday morning attendance averages around 15 to 20 and giving remains strong. We have renewed the practice of receiving Holy Communion every month. And the children now serve as acolytes each Sunday. As we are able, worship services are recorded and posted to the website for those who cannot attend in person. We have begun research and initial planning for live streaming services for those who are home-bound.

In mission, Faith continues to give to the people in need in both our surrounding community and the world (thanks to Beth Williams for your leadership here). Financially, we have supported Haywood Christian Ministries, UMCOR, and flood relief efforts in Kentucky. Every first Sunday of the month, we collect food for those in need in partnership with Haywood Christian Ministries. Additionally, we collect school supplies to donate to families staying at the Haywood Pathways Center.

I give thanks to God for you, Faith UMC, and I'm thankful for all the ways you love God and love people.

Grace and peace,

Jed

MESSAGE FROM THE LAY LEADER

Last month as we were concluding our vacation at Topsail, I spent one day reflecting on our time with family and friends. As I sat on the porch swing, I watched as the sea oats danced in the light breeze. The Tar heel blue sky had a happy yellow sun and a few broad strokes of white puffy clouds. I noticed there were only a few folks on the beach, so I decided to take a stroll. As I headed to the south end of the island, I noticed the footprints of an adult and small child.

I thought of how many times I had walked the same path with my children. What a joy for a parent and child to walk hand in hand.

I began to think of how it is walking life's path with God. As his children, we can be assured he is right beside us as we take each step. He steadies us when we stumble, lifts us up when we fall, and carries us when our strength is gone. We serve and trust a God who sees our tears, feels our pain, and walks with us through every valley.

Isaiah 40:31 says, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Take a moment today to reflect on your walk with God! Susan



RICK'S REFRAIN

Will return next month.



BETH'S MISSION MESSAGE

Our missions first Sunday collection theme is canned meats. This might be tuna, chicken, ham or even chili. Could even be stretched to include canned pasta. Thankful for all of you! In December we will be collecting items that will round out holiday dinners--mashed potatoes, stuffing mixes, canned vegetables, dessert mixes, etc.



BETH'S SPRC MESSAGE

In October we were able to surprise Pastor Jed with an increase to his compensation package and an appreciation dinner. Thank you, Pastor Jed!

Church Council Meeting-10/16/22

Present were Pastor Jed, Rick, Smokey, Mark, Tracy, Earl, Tracy, Betty, Rachael, Susan, Gerald, Tryllis and Beth. Judy was present on Zoom.

Pastor opened with prayer.

Charge conference preparation—October 23, 2022, at 230 pm. DS Jae Lee will be with us Pastor asked about format. We will have reports and election of church council members. Judy is willing to stay as chairman and everyone else is willing to continue in current roles.

Other business—

HVAC—both units need repairs. The AC guy says new units will not be much more than trying to repair our units. This led to a discussion concerning the wisdom of putting money into the facility if we are planning to join the Global Methodist denomination.

Pastor Jed will invite Rev. Lee to come speak to the church. If we separate Jed will not be able to be our pastor as he is commissioned through the UMC. The building currently belongs to UMC, but they may be willing to sell to us. Smokey recommended waiting a little while to see how the Global Methodist denomination works out.

Judy asks if worship services might be on Zoom so she and others might attend virtually. Pastor Jed will consult with Eduardo to see what might be done.

Susan then asked Pastor Jed to step out for a moment. A discussion concerning his salary followed. Rachael made a motion to increase his annual salary by \$2000.00.

Mark seconded and motion was approved unanimously. We then discussed Pastor Appreciation Month. Cards and gifts from the congregation will be presented on October 30. Susan will send a reminder. Susan closed with prayer.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10

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



Stewardship News as of October 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 10/23/22 for budget	\$50,269.58
Received to date for budget	\$35,692.00
Behind budget	\$14,577.58
Paid out to date for budget	\$40,801.63

We thank you for your faithfulness!

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday,
November 6th.

Remember to turn back your clocks one hour before going to bed on Saturday night!

Please recognize our veterans –
Bill Benson, Thurman Blaine, Walter Lee,
Doyce Rogers, and Gerald Trantham

We will decorate the church for Advent on
Saturday, November 26th. Time to be
determined!

**NOVEMBER 2022 DATES TO
REMEMBER**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP 11 AM**

November 1 - All Saints' Day, also called All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, or Feast of All Saints, in the Christian church, a

day commemorating all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have attained heaven. It is celebrated on November 1 in the Western churches.

November 2 - All Souls' Day, also known as the **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed** and the **Day of the Dead**, is a day of prayer and remembrance for the faithful departed All Souls' Day. Adherents of All Souls' Day traditions often remember deceased friends and relatives in various ways on the day. Through prayer, intercessions, alms and visits to cemeteries, people commemorate the poor souls in purgatory and gain them indulgences. Beliefs and practices associated with All Souls' Day vary widely among Christian denominations.

November 11 - Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, we stand united in respect for you, our veterans.

This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on Nov. 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" to account for all veterans in all wars.

We celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

November 20-26 – National Bible Week

National Bible Week is the week of Thanksgiving Day, from November 20 to 26 this year. Christians in the U.S. spend this week honoring the Holy Bible and reciting hymns, prayers, proverbs, and prophecies of the great religious text. Brought into observance by former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941, National Bible Week recognizes the non-believers and offers readings and guidance from the pages of the Bible.

Starting from the Sunday preceding Thanksgiving, the church holds events to encourage reading, listening, and comprehending the basic teachings of the Bible. As the holy season transcends upon us, the penultimate month of the year is a great time to come together as a community and share our faith in the name of Jesus.

November 20 – Christ the King Day

Christ the King Day is a Catholic celebration that takes place on the last Sunday of the liturgical year in the Catholic faith — on November 20 this year. Originally a Roman Catholic feast, it is now observed by Christians of all denominations to recognize and honor Jesus Christ as the 'King of Kings.' The church's aim to remind the increasingly secular world of the importance of God and his teachings is one of the key reasons for the celebration.

November 24 – Thanksgiving Day

Annual national holiday in the United States celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people. The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, and the traditional fare of the Thanksgiving meal typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, the and pumpkin pie. With respect to vehicular travel, the holiday is often busiest of the year, as family members gather with one another.

Plymouth's Thanksgiving began with a few colonists going out "fowling," possibly for turkeys but more probably for the easier prey of geese and ducks, since they "in one day killed as much as...served the company almost a week." Next, 90 or so Wampanoag made a surprise appearance at the settlement's gate, doubtlessly unnerving the 50 or so colonists. Nevertheless, over the next few days the two groups socialized without incident. The Wampanoag contributed venison to the feast, which included the fowl and probably fish, eels, shellfish, stews, vegetables, and beer. Since Plymouth had

few buildings and manufactured goods, most people ate outside while sitting on the ground or on barrels with plates on their laps. The men fired guns, ran races, and drank liquor, struggling to speak in broken English and Wampanoag. This was a rather disorderly affair, but it sealed a treaty between the two groups that lasted until King Philip's War (1675–76), in which hundreds of colonists and thousands of Native Americans lost their lives.

November 27 – Advent – first Sunday
Advent Sunday, also called the First Sunday of Advent or First Advent Sunday, among the Western Christian Churches, is the first day of the liturgical year and the start of the season of Advent. The First Sunday of Advent is considered the most important of the four Advent Sundays because it is when the preparations for Christmas and the Advent of Jesus Christ begin. This is the day when people start looking forward to the Second Coming of Christ. On the First Sunday of Advent, Christians start lighting their Advent wreaths, and praying their Advent daily devotional. Believers may also erect their Christmas tree or Chrismon tree, light a Christingle as well as engage in other ways of preparing for Christmas, such as setting up Christmas decorations, a custom that is sometimes done liturgically through a hanging of the greens ceremony.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind

us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Though the Mercy Home Advent wreath does not include a white candle, this is a tradition that has become popular in modern day adaptations.

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

Celebrating Advent is an excellent way to prepare your mind and heart for Christmas.



November 26 – Decorate Faith for Advent

November 30 – St. Andrew's Day

also called the Feast of Saint Andrew or Anderman, is the feast day of Andrew the Apostle. Saint Andrew is the disciple in the New Testament who introduced his brother, the Apostle Peter, to Jesus, the Messiah.

He is only mentioned in the Bible a few times, but he played an important role in the New Testament as an early follower of Christ. He is referred to as the First Called in the Orthodox tradition, because the book of John states that Andrew became a disciple of Christ before any of the other apostles.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7 - Rachel Burnette
19 - Justin Scarborough



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY - NONE