

53 HENDRIX STREET
WAYNESVILLE, NC 28786
FUMCWNC.ORG

REV. ROBO 828-345-4652

AUGUST 2023

PASTOR: Rev. Jed Tate

828-226-1715
jedtate@gmail.com

Lay Leader/Treasurer: Susan Trantham
828-356-4652
PO Box 713, Canton, NC 28716

Trustee Chairman: Gerald Trantham
828-356-4652
PO Box 713, Canton, NC 28716

Leadership Team Chair/Newsletter:
Judy Ferguson
828-456-6944
jlf25c@gmail.com

Missions/SPRC/Church Secretary:
Beth Williams
828-550-4528
bwdwwms@aol.com

Music Director: Rick Boen
828-246-5486
rickenboen@bellsouth.net

**Finance Chairman/
Sound Engineer:**
Eduardo Villaveces
828-452-1950
evillaveces@gmail.com

Leadership Team/Bulletin Contact:
Dr. Smokey Dooly
828-316-1504
smokeydooly@gmail.com

**Sunday School Superintendent/Annual Conf.
Lay Representative**
Mark Dooly
828-316-1613
markdooly@yahoo.com

Financial Secretary
Tracy Edwards-Villaveces
828-452-1950
evillaveces@gmail.com

Communion Steward
Tryllis Audrey
828-627-1018
tryllisautrey1@gmail.com

Leadership Team Members:
Earl Cogdill
828-456-6735

Betty Gant
828-586-9100
gant34betty@yahoo.com

Rachel Burnette
828-289-1328

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dearest Faith,

A few invitations for you this month.

First, I hope you'll join me this week in saying thank you to Rick Boen. This Sunday will be Rick's last Sunday leading worship at Faith UMC, and we will miss him and Kay dearly. In my time here at Faith, Rick has been not only an incredibly supportive partner in ministry, but also a kind friend. I'm so thankful for his years in ministry at Faith and for his friendship, and I bet you feel the same way. Please join me in prayer and thanksgiving for Rick and Kay's continued ministry in service of God and God's people. And this Sunday, August 6th, I invite you to come and say thanks to Rick as he leads us in song, and we worship together!

On September 3rd, we will welcome a new pianist: Lauren Harris is a senior at Western Carolina University, majoring in music education. She has been playing piano for thirteen years, and she has been a church pianist for five years, most recently at her hometown church in Statesville. Lauren grew up in the Methodist church, and she's very much looking forward to joining us at Faith. Please join us in welcoming Lauren next month!

Finally, a reminder that Homecoming is coming soon! On August 13th, we'll join together in worship, and then share a meal together, and I can't wait to see you. Hope you can be with us on this special day.

Dearest Faith, as we continue to live and grow into these times of change and movement, may we be reminded that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). God brings us together in love so that we may worship together, have fellowship with each other, and care for God's people. Thanks be to God. See you on Sunday.

Grace and peace,
Jed

“Gather Around the Table “
Gerald and I received a birdfeeder for an anniversary gift. We have spent countless hours watching a multitude of different species dine at the table. We’ve noticed that it is not always the same “birds of a feather” who flock together to share those tiny morsels of wild bird seed. We don’t always recognize all of God’s colorful creations who visit for a meal but have found it interesting to watch their habits and interaction with one another. I thought about how we as individuals come to the Lord’s table for our communion meal. Each one of us different in all facets of life, but one common link as members of the body of Christ. Sharing the gift of the Sacraments of the bread and cup makes us one. Gender, ethnic background, education, age, denomination, none of this matters in the eyes of God. We are all his creation and all that he made is good, because He said so!
Next Sunday as we gather for communion, please remember that we do this in remembrance of the Son of God, Emmanuel, the Christ child who came to save His people.

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RICK’S REFRAIN

This will be my last “Rick’s Refrain” article. August 6, 2023, will be my last Sunday at Faith United Methodist Church. I will certainly miss the fellowship with friends at Faith that I have enjoyed over the last six years.

My prayer for Faith is that it will continue to enjoy God’s love under Jed’s leadership. His ministry has been a blessing to me as it has to all of you. Let him know how much you appreciate him and his family.

My next birthday is rapidly approaching, and this one has special significance as it will be the first one beginning with an “8”. I hope to keep playing piano and guitar as long as these arthritic fingers will cooperate.

I want to extend my thanks to all of you who have made our time at Faith a time of great blessing. May God continue to be in your midst.

Rick Boen



BETH'S MISSION MESSAGE

We are blessed to be able to support the United Methodist Church's emergency relief organization (UMCOR) which is working around the world assisting people who have suffered natural and/or man-made disasters. In the US there have been several tornadoes and floods; war between Russia and Ukraine brings horror stories to our TVs nightly.

UMCOR is supported by special donations. Administrative costs are covered by donations on particular Sundays so all gifts throughout the year go directly to the needs of God's people. During August let's collect funds for this worthy organization.



Stewardship News as of July 25, 2023

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

2023 Budget \$50,519.00	
Needed to through 7/23/23 for budget \$30,311.40.	
Received to date for budget	\$25,437.00
Behind Budget	\$ 4,874.40
Paid out to date for budget	\$20,988.94

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!

A gift has been given to the budget by Walter Lee in honor of Mark and Smokey for their assistance with his lily patch program.



JULY 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP 11 AM**

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

August 13 –Homecoming at Faith

Church will provide meats, bread and beverage. Please bring a side and dessert to share. We will dine in the Fellowship Hall.

August 15 – The Assumption

On August 15, 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 actually required, there is a longstanding tradition of blessing the summer harvest. There are even special “Assumption” recipes incorporated into family dinner such as Blueberry-Strawberry Cobbler in Honor of Our Lady, Assumptions Rolls, Baked Blueberry & Pecan Crusted French Toast and Assumption Cupcakes. Serving blueberries is an easy way to tie in since the color blue is symbolic of her mantle. Prayers are said for peace all over the world.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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



AUGUST ANNIVERSARY

- 14 – Rev. John & Grace Davis

Suggestions for school supplies for Pathways:
wide-ruled composition books, crayons,
markers, colored pencils, glue sticks,
Kleenex, highlighters, and dry erase
markers.