

August 2018

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Dear Beloved of Young Harris,

It is that time of year when all worlds collide in to one glorious, hope-filled, energetic crescendo in Athens! It is a time to be alive and to go for it! Much like the hope and energy of children who graduate to a new grade we have new challenges and opportunities to take on! Much like that child who moves toward a new level of their venture, we are soon to be "going for it" here at Young Harris UMC too!

We will begin venturing ministerially in September by launching a third worship service on September 9 at 9 a.m. in the Ebenezer (Garden Club) Worship Space. I invite you to consider helping seed this service with a commitment of your presence. Such a commitment would be in addition to your ongoing commitment of presence at our 11 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary. After significant prayer and conversations with our Ministry Team, I believe this is the direction God is asking us to venture toward, for the sake of those who otherwise may not hear the Message of Christ. The Church calls us to offer our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Please, consider offering one or more of these for this ground-breaking cause - we want you to participate.

If that isn't enough, our plate is filling up with wonderful opportunities that are old and new to Young Harris, too! We have just become chartered officially as the new home to Cub Scout Pack 310! Speaking of plates, we will be starting up our Fall Wednesday Night Supper program! Chuck Clark and one of his five beloved daughters, Susan, will be our chefs extraordinaire for these meals! I won't even mention that we are tackling Confirmation, but, well, we are!

More information is below for all that will be happening! There is much to be prayerful for at Young Harris Memorial UMC. There is much to venture for in our city. We are blessed immeasurably at YHMUMC! Let's go for it, in Jesus' name, led by the Holy Spirit, for His glory!

In Christ,  
Pastor David

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## **What's Happening at Young Harris UMC**

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### **Vision Task Force Hard at Work**

Pastor David and seven members of Young Harris Memorial are praying and responding

presently to help Young Harris Memorial UMC articulate her Mission & Vision. The goal is to meet weekly during the six weeks to bring feedback from you, the congregation and the surrounding community to this end.

What is God calling us to be? How are we to best express that call? We need your input. If you have any input or just want to be heard in this conversation, our Vision Task Force would love to hear from you. They are:

- Annelle Nelms
- Russ Field
- Angela Baza
- Douglas Linares
- Steve Middlebrooks
- Misty Crowley
- Sara Tabb
- David Wofford

We hope that as vision statement, a mission statement, and two to three achievable goals emerge, we will be able to offer these for consideration to you, the congregation. It would be wonderful to be able to present this to our charge conference for approval in October if at all possible. Thank you for your prayers regarding this critical piece of work and thank you to those participating on this called task force.

# 2020 VISION TEAM



## Wednesday Night Suppers - Beginning September 12

Mark your calendars! Wednesday Night Suppers return to Young Harris UMC on September 12 at 5:30 p.m. Susan Clark and Chuck Clark will be cooking tasty meals and Pastor David will be leading us with a simple Bible study from the text, "Experiencing God," by Henry Blackaby.

We will be organizing cleaning teams soon. If you're interested in helping by taking up money for the dinners or leading a clean-up team, please speak with Pastor David or Patti.



## Young Harris UMC and Scouting

During their July meeting, the Northeast Georgia Council for the Boy Scouts of America, approved Young Harris Memorial UMC to charter Pack 310! Previously, on June 6, our Church Council approved a motion to proceed with chartering a newly formed Cub Scout Pack at Young Harris Memorial UMC! This Pack, which plans to have multiple gender-specific dens, will be targeting our local

neighborhood and the Chase Street Elementary School community.

We will receive ample and experienced leadership from our Young Harris UMC members (and experienced Scouts), Daryll Victorio and Camille May! Please pray for how you can support scouting at Young Harris UMC and how Scouting can impact our neighborhood! Recruitment will be next week as Clarke County Schools will return to class. We will be placing an emphasis upon recruitment at Chase Street Elementary School.

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### **2018 Charge Conference - October 21, 5 p.m. (location TBD)**

We will participate in an "Area Charge Conference" with the Athens Area of our District on Sunday, October 21 at 5:00 p.m. Last year, Dr. Clark chose to make it his priority to have individual charge conferences at EVERY congregation. However, with almost 90 congregations in our Athens-Elberton District, this can be daunting.



Young Harris Memorial UMC's 2018 Charge Conference will take place at a location to be named alongside our sister congregations in the Athens Area, who include Chapelwood, Oconee Street, St. James, Tuckston, Resurrection (formerly Gateway), and Athens First. This will be a time of celebration for the ministry of 2018 and a time of prayer and preparation for the work before us during 2019.

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### **Promotion Sunday - August 5**



The children of Young Harris Memorial UMC will be "moving up" to the next grade level in Sunday School. This is also the first Sunday of our new Sunday School Curriculum. Trackers of Truth is the newly created children's curriculum being offered by Seedbed.com, the publisher for

Asbury Theological Seminary.

Parents are encouraged to visit: [www.SeedbedKids.com](http://www.SeedbedKids.com) and create an account for free family discipleship tools, including the weekly animated video shown in class, character podcast, and scripture memory songs from seeds family worship.

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### **Blessing of the Backpacks - THIS SUNDAY!!!**

During the Children's Moment on August 5, every person returning back to school (yes! that includes college age) bring your backpack to church.

Pastor David and the congregation will say a blessing over you and your backpack for a good school year and to keep you safe.



Let's keep each student who will be returning to school in the Athens-Area schools in our prayers this year! Clarke County Schools will return August 7. Oconee Schools returned August 1. Madison County Schools will return August 3.



Join Young Harris UMC at World of Wonders park for a fun celebration before school starts again.

Invite your friends, your neighbors, your family! Come run, play, climb, eat and help pass out hot dogs to people at the park.

### World of Wonders Park

@

325 Whit Davis Rd, Athens, GA

**FREE Hot Dogs, Chips and Drink for everyone at the park!**

## youth MINISTRY

### Remaining Summer Activity Calendar for 2018

**Sunday, August 5** - Bowling night! (bring food \$)

**Friday, September 28-30** - Camp Glisson confirmation weekend retreat!

One of the most effective ways to impact the life of a youth in our congregation and our community for Jesus Christ is to offer them your real presence. If you are interested in serving in this way, please speak with Pastor David or with Blake.

### **YOUTH CONFIRMATION begin September 9!**

There will be a confirmation class this fall with Confirmation Sunday to be held during a COMBINED 11 o'clock worship service on November 4. Confirmation will be 8-weeks long and will be from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons, just before MYF.

We will use **Phil Tallon's "The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith"** as our curriculum and our time together will include going on a Confirmation Retreat to Camp Glisson and to a couple of non-United Methodist communities of worship. If you know someone who is interested in taking Confirmation Class, please contact



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September 2 (Labor Day Weekend) - No MYF on this day

## Women and Men at Young Harris UMC

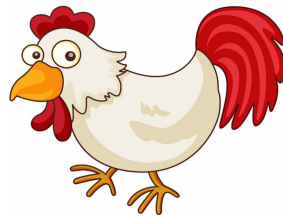


**Women's Circles** for UMW are held the 2nd Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at Em's Kitchen for Circle 1 and 2:00 p.m. for Circle 2 in the Family Life Center. The 2nd Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Circle 3 meets in the Family Life Center. For more information contact Geneva Milliner.

The first Monday of the month at Em's Kitchen, 11:00 a.m. there is a Women's prayer Luncheon. All Women are welcome.

## Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets each Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in the FLC, Dining Room.

We are back and in full swing! We invite YOU to attend our Wednesday morning breakfast! You will be fed twice! Once with an amazing breakfast and again with the Word of God!



## Men's BBQ will be October 3

It's never too early to mark you calendars to participate in the October 3 BBQ in the fall!

## Missions Opportunities & Updates

### Nicaragua Update

As a heads up, while our missionaries were not able to travel to serve with some of the folks at Oconee Street UMC in Nicaragua at the end of June as we had planned, we were able to send funds to supply and build an outdoor kitchen our sister church in Salinas Grande. We are hearing reports that some of those supplies and medical supplies have been purchased and have been delivered to Salinas Grande.



There is significant civil unrest in nearby Leon, which is making mission trips dangerous presently. While we and many other congregations are unable to be present, we can be in prayer for what is happening there. Stay tuned, as we wait

for instructions for how we can best serve our brothers and sisters in Christ in Nicaragua and, specifically, Salinas Grande. So, let us pray for a peaceful and appropriate solution to the politically tense reality there.

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**The Following Sundays will include giving opportunities to these organizations:**

**August 26** - UGA Wesley Foundation's Offering  
**September 16** - UMCH's "Work Day Offering"  
**October 21** - Aldersgate/Collinswood Offering  
**December 24** - Our Daily Bread's "Christmas Eve Offering"



**Serve Meals at Our Daily Bread**

If you are interested in volunteering, we would like for you to participate! Every month a group of volunteers get together to serve a meal to the less fortunate of the Athens Community. Praise God for our Young Harris faithful servants.

**One Community Garden** volunteers will be working 8-10 a.m. Saturdays and 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. We also need individuals who are willing to harvest and water for 30 minutes to an hour on other days. Recently, with all of the rain, we have a need for someone to help weed-eat and/or help us to pull weeds.

If you enjoy gardening or if you would like to learn a little bit about gardening, we would like to help you become involved in this ministry. To sign up, email Mike ([caidaz@gmail.com](mailto:caidaz@gmail.com)) or Allison ([afloydwriter@yahoo.com](mailto:afloydwriter@yahoo.com))



**Special General Conference Called**

The Council of Bishops have called a special General Conference to be held February of 2019 to discuss a way forward for the United Methodist Church amid disagreements regarding the UMC Book of Discipline's definition of Christian marriage and the stated

qualifications for the ordination of United Methodist clergy. Both issues stem from the long-standing debate regarding human sexuality.

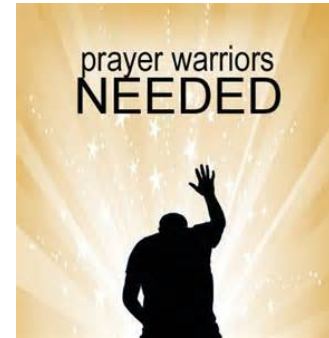
The called General Conference will include those delegates who were elected to attend and participate in the 2016 General Conference that was held in Portland, Oregon. This General Conference will be held in St. Louis, Missouri.

The purpose of this General Conference will be "to receive and act on a report from The Commission of a Way Forward based on the recommendations by the Council of Bishops. Please pray for The United Methodist Church as we inch

closer toward this special General Conference. For more information or to read the proposals being presented to the General Conference go to [CLICK THE WEBSITE HERE.](#)

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**Please contact the church office with prayers and praises so we may pray! Many members of our church need your special prayers.**



**Prayer for the following:**

Faye Lester, Peg Christian, Mildred Edwards, Betty Mann, Joann Escoe, Gwen Aaron, Pat Osley, Gwen Holmes, Kaeti Lindsay Shurling, Evelyn Echols, Roy and Jean Welch

- Pray for the Contemporary Service starting Sept. 9 at 9:00 a.m.
  - Pray for the Latino Ministry as we come upon our first year of Hispanic worship YHMUMC.
  - Pray for our members and friends who are "shut-in" presently.
  - Pray for the ministry to children and youth at YHMUMC.
  - Pray for Christ to be known in the world.
  - Pray for our nation and other nations.
  - Pray for God's hand to be upon our leaders.
  - Pray for the United Methodist Church's Way Forward.
  - Pray for the called UMC General Conference to be held in February.
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*Birthdays  
of the  
Month*

**August Birthdays**

Don LaRue - 8/8  
Alberto Alvarado - 8/10  
Carlos Luna - 8/14  
Livi Richt - 8/19  
Dawn Church - 8/20  
Hannah Wofford - 8/21  
Nicole Pastor - 8/31

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**August Pictures of the Month**

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**The Journey of Hope**, a non-profit who tours the lower 48 states to raise awareness for persons with disabilities, rode into Athens on July 30 and spent the night in our Family Life Center! All 35 riders and guides rode from Rutlege, Georgia on Monday, were sponsored by our Men's Club for meals and hospitality, and then rode to Clemson, South Carolina on Tuesday.

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**Rekindle the Flame Conference, 2018** held their Cuba/Brazil Mission Luncheon in our Family Life Center on Friday, July 13. There were 250 people who shared in a wonderful BBQ spread catered for the Conference by Two Brothers BBQ from the Eastside of Atlanta. Dozens of Young Harris faithful helped to welcome the attendees from around the world while also enjoying a fantastic meal!

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Submit your favorite Young Harris UMC pictures to [dwofford@yhmumc.com](mailto:dwofford@yhmumc.com) or [psimpson@yhmumc.com](mailto:psimpson@yhmumc.com). It may just get chosen!

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