

Guilford College United Methodist Church  
1205 Fleming Road  
Greensboro, NC 27410  
(336) 292-5833

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Greensboro, NC

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Guilford College United Methodist Church strives to be a vibrant Christian community that **transforms** lives, **strengthens** believers, and **equips** disciples to **live beyond ourselves** in the light of Jesus Christ.

**Guilford College UMC**  
**Living Beyond Ourselves**



Thank you to our volunteers and a special thank you to our blood donors. We collected 37 units of life saving blood during our April 16<sup>th</sup> Red Cross Blood Drive. 424 units were collected in 2025 at blood drives held here at GCUMC! What a blessing to those needing the “Gift of Life.”

Our next blood drive will be held on Thursday, May 21. If you would like to donate, please, go online to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule your appointment to donate. Should you have any questions, call/text David Saunders at 336-337-3126.

# CROW'S NEST

Vol. XXVI, No. 9

[www.guilfordcollegeumc.org](http://www.guilfordcollegeumc.org)

April 29, 2026

## **Pastor's Pen:**

Dear Friends,

The Faith In Action Serving Days during the month of April have been a time of serving and distributing the love of Christ in multiple areas around our community and as far west as Spruce Pine, NC. The fourteen unique projects, some of them with multiple layers of opportunities for service, turned out to yield completed tasks, new acquaintances, and renewed commitment to service as well as a lot of joy. The verses that come to my mind when describing the Faith In Action Serving Days come from Jesus' sermon on the mount:

"You are the salt of the earth. "You are the light of the world. ....let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13,14 ,16 (NIV)

Volunteers on a monthly basis help the Red Cross with the Blood Drive but in April, we counted those volunteers towards the Faith In Action Serving Days. Thirty-seven units of blood, the gift that gives life to those who are struggling in Intensive Care Units and other hospital units were offered to the Red Cross.

On April 18<sup>th</sup> there were 12 volunteers who collected food donations at the Food Lion on West Market Street. The donations came in at 1331 pounds of food and \$103 for Greensboro Urban Ministry. Other volunteers went during that week to GUM to organize and restock the Client Choice Food Pantry.

Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> was the day that the mission team of 13 members left to travel to Spruce Pine. They were able to help Jerry and his wife where last fall they had framed their house with the Greensboro Builders Association. Over this past weekend they finished a ramp on this house. They also did some landscaping which was desperately needed after the flooding last year. As they fellowshiped and bonded with this precious family, they praised God for the opportunity to be the light of Christ in the mountains of North Carolina.

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> was a big day of service! The Creation Care Team organized and led two activities. One was out in the river where they cleaned out trash, which had collected in the traps. The other project was at Reconsidered Goods where they organized and classified craft items that could be recycled for new art projects. The Creation Care team has another kayak cleanup project planned for May 6<sup>th</sup> at Lake Brandt from 6 pm to 8 pm. Would you like to help?

A group of 5 volunteers cleaned the vans and cars at Sanctuary House which are used for helping transport clients to their appointments. The preschool/church playground at our church was cleaned as were the mailboxes and signs. Breakfast was served at Potter's House with 132 people getting a hot breakfast. Hygiene and Cleaning kits were assembled and readied so that they can be placed in the homes that the Families in Transition teams outfit and prepare for newcomers or people who are getting into an apartment after being without housing. Items for setting up such apartments were organized and two apartments were set up for new families.

The Camp Guilrock team completed several projects with the help of church volunteers who collaborated with Camp staff and Scout Troop 149. Their photos showed smiles and hard work out in the sun. We were grateful for mild temperatures.

Sunday brought our worship services and we gave praise to the Lord that we are his instruments of Salt and Light in the world. A team of 5 volunteers set up and decorated another home for a family who would be moving in.

April 27<sup>th</sup> was the final project for this series of Faith In Action serving days. A team prepared a delicious meal for the families at the Pathways family shelter and another team took the meal to the shelter and served it.

The total of volunteers during the Days of Service was 124. It is difficult to calculate how many lives were touched by the love and service of the volunteers. May we continue to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. By God's grace, we will let our light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify Father God in heaven.

Thank you/Gracias for putting your Faith In Action during the Days of Service.  
In faith, hope and love, Pastor Susan

# Caring

**Prayer Concerns:** Jack Vanstory, Kelly Alston, Greg Fischer, Tom Patterson, Ellen Lancaster, Brooke Follo, Barbara McLeod, Debbie Jenkins, Mike Ballard, Dorothy Zur, Lynette Whitaker, Maria Maynard, Greg Matthews, Helen Phillips, Bill Blyshak, David Wasserboehr, Tom Jenkins, Lisa Hodges, Jim & Nancy Baity

## **Sunday Morning Transportation**

If you are unable to transport yourself to worship on Sunday mornings, please call the church office by Thursday each week, and we will be glad to arrange a ride for you to worship.

## **Sunday Morning Drivers:**

May 3: Cindy Johnson, Jim Irvin  
May 10: Mike Ballard, Val Follo

**Prayer Concerns – Extended Family:** Parker Orth; Rose Mallard; Joyce Colier; Freddy Foshay; Sutton Phillips; Linda Payne; Maureen Parker; B.J. & Sean Sullivan; Wyatt Daufeldt; Michael Patterson; Nanette Price; Landon Cottrell; Darla Freeman; Sarah Lemon, Fay Holliday; Carla Morgan; Heather Taylor; Kathie Williams; Tammy Smith; Peggy Conaway; Jim Cashman; Jim Eldrett; Shilah George; Judy Journey; Y’Suan & H’Lai Mlo & family; Tammy Strickland, Kenneth Briggs; Azalea Marbury; Debra Rutt; Shannon Wilson

## **Welcome New Members!**

A sincere welcome is extended to the following members who joined GCUMC on April 12:

**Sharon Kienholz** – 4434 Old Battleground Rd. #303, Greensboro 27410, # 619-250-2817

**Nancy Porter** – 1305 Andover Ct., High Point, NC 27265, #304-439-0608

**Lupe & Jennifer Hernández** – 3405 Bardwell Rd., Greensboro 27410, (L) #956-465-3448; (J) #956-459-2468

**Rashidi Kabwe & Christine Abangela** – 5916 Ballinger Rd., Greensboro 27410, #336-988-3822

## **Members In Home and Senior Living Facilities:**

**TerraBella** – Paul Long; **Carolina Estates** – Barbara McLeod, Lynn Wall; **Sharon Kienholz**; **Brookdale Lawndale** – Ann Brantley; **Brookdale NW** - Patsy Wyatt; **Carolina Pines** – Janie Shell; **Clapps Nursing & Rehab, Pleasant Garden** – Sarah Gorham; **Countryside Manor** – Margaret Joyce; **Friends Home Guilford** – Bill & Sarah Brubaker, Karen Lowder, Claudette Kayler, Ellie Dawkins; Linda Metcalf, Barbara Engle, Ray & Judy Harris, Wes Kirkman, Ellen Lancaster, Marilyn & Scott Radley, Emogene Stewart, Rak Kreager; **Friends Home West** – Barbara Jones, Pat Routh, Terry & Joe Ann Weatherford, Bill & Jan Dowdy; **Greenhaven** – Becky Patterson; **Spring Arbor** – Doris Linker; **Abbottswood** – Dot Brogan, Gay Brown; Betty Gordon, Barbara Price; **Heritage Green** - Carrie Gowen, **Well Spring** – Barbara Ebert; **Westchester Manor** – Susie Love, Tina Bell Midgett; **In Home** – Sue Causey, Terri Hastings, Helen Phillips, Betty Siders, Marion Sharpe

**Congratulations** to Y’Josue and Carolina Mlo on the birth of their son, Joshua Mlo. Grandparents are Y’Bion and H’Juan Mlo. May God bless you all!

## **CHILDREN’S WORSHIP** – Age appropriate

Children’s Worship is provided during the 11:00 am worship for children in Grades K-6. Children are dismissed to Children’s Worship after the children’s message in the Sanctuary and remain there until the end of worship. Parents may pick up children from the Parlor just outside the Sanctuary. Child care for younger children is available in room C8, first floor children’s building.

**SUNDAY KIDS ZONE** for Grades K-6 is provided in Room C14, Second Floor Children’s Building from 9:45-10:45 am. Children explore a devotional message and connect through games and activities.

# Connecting

## Wednesday Welcome Table

May 6, 5:45-6:45 pm, \$7.00 per meal  
Music by Handbell Choir

BBQ Pulled Pork, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans,  
Rolls, Dessert: Banana Pudding  
Kids' Meal: Chicken Nuggets, Applesauce & Chips

May 13 **Last WWT for the Spring**  
Music by Northwest Guilford Jazz Ensemble

Chicken Marsala w/Pasta & Mixed Vegetables,  
Rolls, Dessert  
Kids' Meal: Pizza



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22-24, 2026  
Age 3 as of June 1 through  
completed Grade 6  
Dinner 5:30-6:15 p.m.  
Activities 6:15-8:05 p.m.  
No cost for dinner and activities

This is a family friendly event for families to participate and enjoy the fun together! There will be shepherds for children who do not have an adult attending with them (please advise need). Scan QR code to register.



**PASTOR JEREMY'S DISCIPLE SCHOOL** Disciple School will meet at 6:45 pm on Wednesday, May 6, in the James Tew Classroom. Classes will continue during the Summer, and dates will be announced.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES** - If your family has a 2026 high school graduate, we would like to celebrate with you. Please send Randy Wall their name, school, and a photo of the graduate to [rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org).

**The Eve Rebekah Circle** is inviting everyone to attend their meeting on Tuesday, May 12, at 10:00 am. Max Carter, a local historian, author, and expert on everything Quaker will be sharing an engaging and meaningful presentation. The presentation will include a discussion about the Underground Railroad and the Witness Tree located on the campus of Guilford College, the Battle of New Garden/Guilford Courthouse and its effect on the surrounding community that we now call home, as well as other topics of interest.

Come and enjoy a time of learning, reflection, and fellowship together. The event will begin at 10:00 in the fellowship hall and conclude around 11:30. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

## SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN -

Please consider donating to the church's Education Scholarship fund. Our scholarship fund allows children the opportunity to attend events and camps which they otherwise would not experience without this financial support. Donations may be deposited in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, directed to the church office, or online by selecting Education Scholarships. Please mark your donations "Education Scholarship Fund" for proper distribution. Thank you for this valuable support

## Room/Space Reservations

If you or your group would like to use any space in our church facility, please contact Amy Wall in the church office so it can be scheduled and proper forms filled out. Thank you for your cooperation.



**KID'S MUSIC CLUB** – The Kid's Music Club for grades 1 - 6 meets on Wednesdays at 6:10 pm in the choir room.

Our focus during the Spring will be on Hand Chimes. Children will be transported to Faith Files or Faith Friends after Music Club if the parents wish. Come join us!

# Connecting

## Youth News



The Spring Fling luncheon was a great event between the youth and “just older youth”. We had over 90 people attend this event. After the event, the youth talked about how much fun they had and who they met. The lingo activity created by Lucy Gray (10<sup>th</sup> grader) was especially interactive and fun. Thank you to:

- Mary Beth Williams for being our chef
- Kary Gray, Amy Wall, Grey Lane, Margaret Troxler, Wilder Rodriguez Santos, and Lindsay Fusaiotti for all of their support of the youth
- The youth that served at this event (Christian, Marley, Andy, Lukas, Jack, Cameron, Maddie, Della, Callie, Houstyn, Enoch, Jackson, Addy, Collin, and Lucy)

I hope there are more opportunities in the future for our church to gather like this.

### SUMMER TRIP

Harvest of Hope Mission trip July 22-25 at Pfeiffer University. This mission trip will concentrate on food insecurity issues. Students will glean local fields and distribute food. Lodging will be in dormitories. Please register by clicking [Harvest of Hope](#). Please register ASAP.

**SnYP-** (short for Students & Young Professionals) meets weekly on Wednesday. Small group starts at 6:45 and meets in the Hilltop Room (A9)! Not sure if SnYP is for you? SnYP is for college students, young adults navigating the working and grown-up world and others who want to journey together in a supportive, inquisitive, and fun environment. We are currently studying the book of James using the Lectio Divina method. Hungry? Join us for dinner at the Wednesday Welcome Table at 5:45.

### Praise and Worship Line Dancing at GCUMC

Psalm 149:3 – Let them praise His name with dancing  
2 Samuel 6:14 – David danced before the Lord with all his might  
Ecclesiastes 3:4 – A time to mourn and a time to dance

If line dancing is something that you’ve been wanting to try, now is the time! It’s a great way to get exercise, push away the blues, and meet some new friends. It’s good for all ages and you don’t need a partner. We will start off with a 15-20 minute devotion and then learn some fun and easy line dances that will be done to Christian music like Mercy Me and Zach Williams. We’ll meet in C1 on the first floor of the Children’s Building on May 3 and May 17 from 3:30-5:00. Contact Sara Hardin at [hardinx4@bellsouth.net](mailto:hardinx4@bellsouth.net) with any questions or for more information.



### Join the Joy Book Club

We will meet on Monday, May 18 at 5:30 pm at McAlisters on New Garden Rd. Come join us to talk

about *Tom Lake: A Novel*, by Ann Patchett. If you can’t make it this time, but are interested in joining another time, here is the list of the books we have scheduled:

July 14: *Where the Rivers Merge*, by Mary Alice Monroe

Sept. 14: *The Correspondent*, by Virginia Evans

Nov. 10: *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*, by Allison Pataki

We look forward to seeing you there! Feel free to contact Cyndi Allen [cyndiandscott818@gmail.com](mailto:cyndiandscott818@gmail.com).



### FAITH FRIENDS (GRADES K-3) AND FAITH FILES (GRADES 4-6) – Both

groups meet each Wednesday, from 6:45-7:45 pm. Both groups provide an environment for children to pray for each other, encourage each other, learn about

God and each other, and have great fun together! Faith Files (Grades 4-6) is enjoying “*Bible Explorers*” where we learn about the Bible through games, music, activities, and digging into their own Bibles given to them by the church. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Ford, [dford@quilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:dford@quilfordcollegeumc.org).

# Connecting



## CAMP GUILROCK DAY CAMP

- Current Grades K-5 children during 2025-2026 school year (Rising Grades 1-6 children during the summer 2026) – A five day experience (July 13-17)! Monday thru Thursday will be at Camp GuilRock. Friday, July 17, is a fabulous fun Friday held at Kaleideum in Winston Salem. Children will gather at 8:10 a.m. to travel to camp or the Friday location. We will return to the church each afternoon by 3:45 p.m. Extended afternoon care is available, and advance notice is required. Please let Donna know if you anticipate needing extended care on the registration and consent form. Scan the QR code to access online registration and required health form  
**Registration deadline is May 31.**



# Serving

## GCUMC FINANCIAL REPORT March 31, 2026

### 2025 YEAR PROJECTED vs. 2025 YEAR ACTUAL:

#### YEAR PROJECTED:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Total 2026 budget:                        | \$ 1,246,671.49   |
| Amount needed to date for 2026 budget:    | 311,667.62        |
| Amount received as of 3/31/26 for budget: | <u>278,481.75</u> |
| Difference:                               | (\$ 33,185.87)    |

\*(amount between projected budget needs to-date and actual received)

#### YEAR ACTUAL:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Amount received for budget as of 3/31/26: | \$ 278,481.75     |
| Expenses as of 3/31/26:                   | <u>311,732.38</u> |
| Difference:                               | (\$ 33,250.63)    |

**PRISCILLA SHIRER LIVE SIMULCAST WOMEN'S DAY APART** – Save the date of Saturday, August 22, for a full-day women's spiritual renewal day at GCUMC. We will soak in uplifting worship and Bible teaching as we encourage and fellowship together. It will be good for your soul.

#### Invitation to Adults:

**Youth Snack Supper.** We need people to help us with Sunday night youth dinners. You can cater or cook the meal. We also ask that you stay and eat with us. This is an excellent opportunity for adults and youth to connect over food. Please contact Randy Wall or Lindsay Fusaiotti to sign up.

### Needs for Kenya Trip



-Reading Glasses (No Prescription glasses)



-Individually wrapped toothbrushes



-8-pack Crayons



-Wooden Pencils (not mechanical)

Please bring your items and place in the designated receptacles in the Information Center.

**Familites in Transition Team** – Because of your generosity, Families in Transition can continue setting up apartments for individuals and families transitioning from homelessness, as well as refugees building new lives. Our most urgent needs right now include:

- Twin comforters
- Small trash cans
- Small cooking pots
- Baking dishes
- Mixing bowls
- Small paring knives
- Lamps

If you have furniture you would like to donate, please contact Judy Piper (336-312-5562) or Ronica Bowen (336-202-0460). We are especially in need of couches, dining room tables & chairs and beds—but every donation makes a difference.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and compassion. Your support truly changes lives and brings hope to the families we serve.

## MEMORIALS

### In Memory of Diana Clark

*Donna Bowman*

*Sandy Riffe*

### In Memory of Harold Eagle

*Fred and Betsy Ashworth*

*Jim and Nancy Baity*

*Donna Bowman*

*Gay Brown*

*Jim and Janice Caskie*

*Joe and Sandra Cox*

*Sharon Crocker*

*Windsor and Katharine Eagle*

*Charles and Katherine Forbes*

*Nancy Furnas*

*Mike and Donna Garcia*

*Lori Good*

*Mark and Michele Gorham*

*Sarah Gorham*

*Frank and Doris Grant*

*Charlie and Sherry Groves*

*Pat Gunn*

*John and Lisa Hodges*

*Carol Ingram*

*Tom and Debbie Jenkins*

*Tal and Linda Jobe*

*Len and Sandra Myers*

*New Beginnings Class*

*Martin and Pamela Perry*

*Judy Piper*

*Beverly Sledge*

*Bob and Jimmy Stimpson*

*Steve and Tina Sumner*

*Hank and Marizell Thompson*

*Jack and Nancy Vanstory*

*David and Mary Katherine Ward*

*Lewis and Pam Wilson*

*Derek and Robin Young*

### In Memory of Nickey Hart

(Lewis Wilson's sister)

*Pat Gunn*

## MEMORIALS

### In Memory of Mike Dominy

(LouAnne Hicks' uncle)

*Mike and Donna Garcia*

### In Memory of Harold Proctor

*Charles and Katherine Forbes*

*Pat Gunn*

### In Memory of Lorraine Sandknop

*Pat Gunn*

## **“Let His Love Be Found in You”**

Jesus calls us as disciples saying: “Come and follow me.”

Will you be His faithful servant? Will you trust Him and believe?

All along life’s journey, each and every day, Christ is here beside you, showing you the way.

When you learn to listen you will hear him speak, and He’ll give you the hope and strength you seek.

Walk in faith; know God’s grace.

Serve our Lord in all you do.

Trust in Christ; share His light.

Let His love be found in you.

When the Savior calls you, follow where He leads.

Go and share His promise; reach to those in need.

Treat them all with kindness; teach them to forgive.

Help them find all the peace and love He gives.

Words by Don Besig & Nancy Prich

## Creation Care Clean Up Day



**Join GCUMC Creation Care Team and the City of GSO to clean up Lake Brandt at a Kayaking Cleanup Event!** Make a splash for a good cause! Join us for the **Lake Brandt Kayak Cleanup** on **Wednesday, May 6, from 6–8 PM** at the Lake Brandt Marina ([5945 Lake Brandt Road, Greensboro, NC 27455](https://www.google.com/maps/place/5945+Lake+Brandt+Road,+Greensboro,+NC+27455)). This free event is open to participants **ages 10+** (with adult supervision) and is a great opportunity to help protect one of our local drinking water reservoirs and celebrate Drinking Water Week.

We'll be paddling out to collect litter in hard-to-reach areas — kayaking experience is **required**. Don't have a kayak? No problem! A limited number of boats are available for use, but we encourage you to bring your own if you can. All cleanup supplies, including **buckets, trash bags, gloves, vests, and grabbers**, will be provided. Just bring your paddle power and passion for clean water!

**Space is limited, so sign up early and help us keep Lake Brandt beautiful and healthy!** If you have any questions or want to register, please contact Barbara McDonald at [barbs\\_baskets@yahoo.com](mailto:barbs_baskets@yahoo.com) or 336-686-4060.

## Creation Care Corner



**Powering a Cleaner Future:** From remote controls and toys to flashlights and phones, batteries power much of our daily lives. But when they're tossed in the trash, they can become an environmental hazard. Recycling household batteries is a simple step that makes a big difference—for our communities and for the planet. Recycling household batteries: protects the environment; conserves valuable resources; reduces fire risk; and supports a circular economy. The Creation Care Team will make this a bit easier for you to recycle your household batteries if you do not already have a recycling system. We have placed containers in the Information Center and upstairs in the balcony. You may bring in your household batteries (A, AA, AAA, 9 Volt, hearing aid/watch, C, D only). We will monitor the container and recycle the batteries appropriately. If you'd like further information on where you can personally recycle your batteries, contact Carol Randecker at [cjrandecker@msn.com](mailto:cjrandecker@msn.com) or stop her in the hallway.

By taking a few simple steps to recycle household batteries, each of us can contribute to a healthier environment and a more sustainable future.



## May Birthdays

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 1  | Watson Crump, Davis Derrico, Dot Forsythe, Gary Glover, Becky Saunders       |
| May 2  | Cyndi Allen, Gloria Brown, Caleb DeBrew, Elli Muggia, Nancy Porter           |
| May 5  | Michael Foster, Margie Glenn, Amy Moriarty                                   |
| May 6  | Trevor Beck, Ami Ingram, Ezetta Sumner                                       |
| May 7  | Justin Bondurant   |
| May 8  | Beth Creamer, Salem Flores, Bill Royal                                       |
| May 9  | Suzy-Sky Maseko, Linda Metcalf, Kori Petersen, Bill Watkins, Caroline Wells  |
| May 10 | Phyllis Dandison, Colton Laramay, Morris Newlin                              |
| May 11 | Larry Cline, Dorothy Crews, Andy Manry, Anne Prudente                        |
| May 13 | Lorena Hall, Steve Sumner  |
| May 15 | Dick Class, H'Nen Enuol, Nico Muggia   |
| May 17 | Rafael Polito-Cox, Janet Dietz, Dylan Francisco, Joanne Muire                |
| May 18 | Lenn Nelson, Pat Routh, Cathy Taney  |
| May 19 | Martha Fogleman, Conrad Gamble, Vann Gamble, Martha Sacrinty, Maddie Shearer |
| May 20 | Steve Tucker, Sydney Turner, Lynette Whitaker                                |
| May 21 | Maddy Strauss  |
| May 23 | Callie Class, Tony Jones   |
| May 24 | Rene Lojko, Kevin Williams   |
| May 25 | Jeff Graham, Susan Hardison, Randy Kohn                                      |
| May 26 | Mandy Branch, Kayler DeBrew,   |
| May 28 | Emily Langenfeld, Hillary Stone  |
| May 29 | Jillian Bacon, Nina Gray, Barbara McDonald                                   |
| May 30 | Joel Sutton, Marizell Thompson   |
| May 31 | Tom Gibson   |

## CONFERENCE RESOURCE CENTER

The WNCC Resource Center is proud to be a free lending library for all churches in the Western North Carolina Conference. The mission of the Resource Center is to provide a deep well of engaging, relevant books and media supporting the mission of the local church in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Circulation of library resources increased by 10 percent from 2022 to 2025. As of January 2026, the Resource Center features 4,163 resources on its shelves, including books, small group study kits, DVDs, Vacation Bible School starter kits, stewardship campaign programs, congregational care resources, and curriculum for all ages and stages of life. Additionally, congregations continue to enjoy borrowing the Resource Center's two 24-foot portable canvas labyrinths.

The Resource Center continues to purchase new resources recommended by staff, clergy, and laity for use by churches and individuals for education, leadership training, and spiritual formation of children, youth, and adults. In 2025, 134 new resources were added to the library catalog. Library materials are managed and supported by Surpass software. The online catalog, <https://wncc.library.site>, is open to all for browsing, but you must have a patron account to make reservations. Contact the Resource Center to set up a free patron account today.

In looking ahead through 2026 and 2027, the Resource Center will continue to innovate and look for new ways to support local churches through strategic partnerships. For example, the Resource Center will continue to partner with the WNCC Children's and Youth Ministry Networks to offer Safe Sanctuaries trainings, as needed. Learn more about Safe Sanctuaries resources at <https://www.wnccumc.org/safesanctuaries> and keep up with new partnerships and opportunities as they arise throughout the year at <https://www.wnccumc.org/resourcecenter>.

In addition to the lending library, the Resource Center also maintains an online learning platform for the conference. A variety of online training opportunities are available, such as Safe Sanctuaries and Orientation to Ministry, as well as recordings, resources, and links from the Equip and Connect laity leadership trainings. Learn more and sign up for a free user account at <https://www.wnccumc.org/onlinelearning>.

The conference's online learning platform is powered by Cornerstone, and the current multi-year contract with Cornerstone will end in 2027; so, a major focus of the year ahead will be researching online learning management system (LMS) options and determining the best possible solution for the conference's needs moving forward.

Clergy and laity alike can turn to the Resource Center staff for help and guidance in selecting resources and identifying training that fit their needs. Contact the Resource Center at [resourcecenter@wnccumc.org](mailto:resourcecenter@wnccumc.org) or 704-535-2260 with any library, labyrinth, online learning, or Safe Sanctuaries questions.

Havaleh Havelka, Training and Resource Specialist