

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

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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



CHURCH-WIDE ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Sunday, August 10, 6:30pm
Ice cream will be served in the Adult Hallway



Everyone is invited to come and enjoy
great fellowship and homemade ice cream with your church family.

We still need freezers filled with homemade ice cream. Would you bring
yours filled with your favorite flavor of ice cream and join us?

Please contact Donna Garcia, 336-708-7495, or Pastor Susan at
ssuarezwebster@guilfordcollegeumc.org if you will be bringing ice cream.

CROW'S NEST

Vol. XXV, No. 15

www.guilfordcollegeumc.org

August 6, 2025

Pastor's Pen

Dear Church,

Recently, as part of our Bible Year series, we have been discussing the historical experience endured by God's people that is referred to as The Exile. In the year 587 B.C., after a devastating siege, and after years of warnings from prophets such as Jeremiah, the armies of the Babylonian Empire utterly destroyed the holy city of Jerusalem, even going so far as to burn the great First Temple of Solomon to the ground.

The Bible's Book of Lamentations records the profound grief and pain that the people feel in the wake of this communal and national disaster. Speaking of the abandoned ruins of Jerusalem, the author of Lamentations writes, *"How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! . . . She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks . . . The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals . . . My eyes flow with rivers of tears because of the destruction of my people"* (Lamentations 1:1,4; 3:48).

Lamentations reads like some of the Bible's Psalms of raw complaint and lament. In fact, similar to a collection of Psalms, the book is composed of five poems of anguish. The first four of these poems are acrostics (which means each line begins with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet). It's as if Lamentations is attempting to catalogue the people's heartbreak from A to Z.

The presence of Lamentations in the Bible offers an important lesson to us amid our own heartbreaks. Many of us think that when we experience great tragedy or loss, we are supposed to be "strong." We think that being "strong" means controlling our emotions, not shedding any tears, and moving forward with life as if nothing has happened.

The Bible is far wiser than we. It knows that great griefs produce great emotions inside us. And it knows that the only healthy way to heal from such griefs is to face these emotions head-on, from A to Z, and then to find healthy ways to vent those emotions by bringing them to appropriate expression.

Reciting the words of Lamentations gave the people an ordered way to first name, and then to release, their communal pain. This is what it truly means to "be strong" – to face into and express our pain for the purpose of moving beyond it. Restoration begins with lamentation. Until then we are the unwitting prisoners of our unnamed pain.

Sometimes, when another person begins to weep in my presence, they will apologize for becoming emotional. I respond by reminding them that our religious tradition regards tears as a gift. Tears wash the pain downstream. Tears are a balm. Tears heal. In fact, I often tell people that it's our un-cried tears that do the most damage: the tears that remain locked up inside us, longing to be released, are those that harm us most.

Today in Jerusalem, religious pilgrims from three faith traditions frequently gather to pray at a site called the Western Wall which represents the last remains of the Second Temple, rebuilt at the end of the Exile. Sometimes this tall structure of blocks is referred to as "the Wailing Wall," because many of the pilgrims are moved to tears as they cry out to God at its base.

I have found that what many hurting people need is for someone to be their personal "wailing wall": someone who can give them space to get a handle on their pain by allowing them to put it into words. Someone with whom they feel safe enough to let their un-cried tears flow. Someone who can pray with them. Someone with whom they can lament.

Not long ago I was on the phone listening to a dear friend talk about the truly terrible, terrible time he was going through. Finally, my friend just lost it: the sobs started coming, and wouldn't stop. At first I wasn't sure what to say – but then God gave me the words. Instead of trying to stop the tears, I was prompted to gently encourage him to go even further. I heard myself saying, "Let it all out. It's ok, let it all out. Go to the bottom of it. Release the poison. Vent the pain."

He did just that, emptying the frozen pool of tears he had been carrying inside of him.

The next day, my friend told me he felt better than he had in weeks.

That is what it means to "be strong."

That is also how healing begins: with lamentation.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeremy

Caring

Prayer Concerns: Minerva Heavner, Lynette Whitaker, Doris Linker, Marjorie Liles, Charles Heavner, Patsy Wyatt, Harold Proctor, Helen Phillips, Harold Eagle, Maria Maynard, Gina Murphy, Terri Hastings, Bill Blyshak, David Wasserboehr, Becky Babaoff, Larry & Carole Stevens, Tom Jenkins, Diana Clark, Lisa Hodges, Jim & Nancy Baity

Prayer Concerns – Extended Family: Peggy Conaway; Robert Gullett; Hank Pearman, Jim Cashman; Steve Haines (Petersen's son-in-law), Sammy Rodriguez; Alannah Romano, Ron Moser; Jim Eldrett (Daryl Watkins' brother); Shilah George; Emily Franco (Jennifer Ward's daughter); Dawn Hand; Judy Journey; Debbie Sexton; Sammy Williams; Joanne Burgener; Y'Suan & H'Lai Mlo & family; Tammy Strickland, Travis Hicks' sister; Kenneth Briggs; Phillip Stone; Azalea Marbury; Joanne Burgener; Debra & Dan Rutt; Jerri Ramsey; Roxana Alvarado; Archie Bingham; Shannon Wilson; Jack Miller; Mark Ralls; Steve Troxler

Members In Home and Senior Living Facilities:

TerraBella – Paul Long; Linda Weaver; **Carolina Estates** – Barbara McLeod, Janie Shell, Lynn Wall; Sharon Kienholz; **Brookdale Lawndale** – Ann Brantley; **Brookdale NW-Patsy Wyatt**; **Clapps Nursing & Rehab, Pleasant Garden** – Sarah Gorham; **Friends Home Guilford** – Karen Lowder, Claudette Kayler, Diana Clark, Ellie Dawkins; Barbara Engle, Ellen Lancaster, Emogene Stewart. **Friends Home West** – Bill & Sarah Brubaker, Barbara Jones, Betty Kirkman, Pat Routh, Terry & Joe Ann Weatherford, Bill & Jan Dowdy; Ray & Judy Harris; **Greenhaven** – Becky Patterson; **Pennyburn** – Roland Sasseville; **Spring Arbor** – Doris Linker; **Abbottswood** – Dot Brogan, Gay Brown; **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

Sincere sympathy is expressed to Ann Sykes, Kara Campbell and Jerry Green, in the death of Janet Green; Marie Follo and family in the death of her father, Steve Fennell; to Harold Proctor and family in the death of his brother, Larry Proctor; to Becky Roberts and family in the death of her mother, Margaret Jones; to David Lehman and family in the loss of his daughter, Mary Lehman Johnson. Sympathy also to Beth Creamer, in the death of her mother and to Dennis Creamer in the death of his father. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Thank You Notes

Thank you for surrounding our family with love through the difficult time of Mom's passing. Cards, texts, emails, phone calls and lots of hugs show how this church demonstrates God's love. We love you!

Randy and Susan Marshall

Doug and Becky Roberts would like to thank the staff and our church family for the prayers, thoughts and cards following the death of Becky's mom, Margaret Jones.

Sunday Morning Transportation

If you or someone you know is unable to transport themselves to worship on Sunday mornings, please call the church office by Thursday each week, and we will be glad to arrange a ride to worship.

Sunday Morning Drivers:

Aug. 10 – Jim Irvin, Mike Garcia

Aug. 17 – Debbie Lambeth, Richard Blackwelder



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESS OF THE BACKPACKS – Sunday, August 24

We're sending GCUMC students of all ages, teachers

and administrative staff back to school with our prayers and blessings! Bring your backpacks to 11:00 am worship service to receive a blessing from our congregation as we cover you in prayer for the new year!

Connecting



Wednesday Night OUTSIDE:

On August 13, join us on the back field for dinner at 6:00 pm. After dinner there will be children's and youth activities and Disciple School for adults. Please bring a lawn chair. Fried chicken will be provided. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

August 13 – Last WNOoutside for the Summer



Our next Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, August 14 in room C1. To make an appointment to donate, go online to www.redcrossblood.org. If you have questions, contact David

Saunders at 336-337-3126.

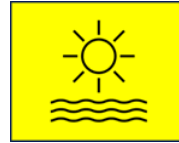


YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY

SCHOOL: Introducing the newest Sunday learning hour offering, "Navigators" – the class for young and youngish adults. Navigate life and your walk with Jesus with other young adults (singles & couples ages 20-35).

Because we've all got busy schedules, we will be using the YouVersion Bible App to select study and discussion plans that we can use when we're together, or keep up with when we need to be away.

Join Laurin in room B4. The third Sunday of each month will continue to Breakfast Bunch offsite and this group will join Breakfast Bunch on those weeks.



JOY Group Trip to Homeland Creamery

Thursday, August 14, 10:00 am

The JOY group is headed to Homeland Creamery for a morning of fellowship, fun, and of course, ice cream! This special outing promises to be a delightful way to soak up the summer sunshine, enjoy great company, and treat yourself to some of the best homemade ice cream around. Don't miss out on this event!

Meet at the church between 9:00 & 9:15 am and leave together by 9:30 am. Bring a bag lunch or snack to enjoy at the picnic tables while we cool off with some delicious, homemade ice cream. RSVP to Cyndi Allen, 703-615-7022 or cyndiandscott818@gmail.com by August 10.



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

Both groups will meet next

Wednesday, August 13 from 6:45-7:45 pm. We begin on the playground or game room, depending on the weather, and move to the second floor

of the children's building for group time. Bring a friend! If you have questions, please contact Donna Ford, dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

DISCIPLE SCHOOL WITH PASTOR

JEREMY – 6:45pm in the Sanctuary on select

Wednesdays - Join us throughout the summer as Pastor Jeremy leads us in discussing and reflecting further on the weekly readings for The Bible Year. All are welcome, and no advanced reading is necessary. Come join us to learn and to grow and to connect with others. Note: Disciple School will be offered on the following Wednesdays: **August 13th, and August 27th.**

MESSY BUN BOOK CLUB will meet on August 18 at 7:00 pm in the Hilltop Room. Our current book is "The Best Cook in the World", by Rick Bragg. We invite you to read the book, and then pick one of the tasty recipes featured in the book to make and bring to our meeting. Messy Bun Book Club is for women in the thick of life raising kids, working, or both! We meet every other month to eat together, talk books, and laugh. A lot. Join us

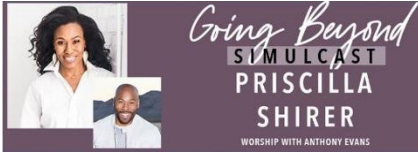


WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL – Registration is open for the 2025-2026 school year.

For enrollment information, please go to www.gcumckids.org or contact Shelby Hallquist

preschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

Connecting



You are invited to the 2025 Priscilla Shirer Live Simulcast at Guilford

College United Methodist Church on **Saturday, August 23, 2025**. Join other women from around the world for this inspiring one-day event with Priscilla Shirer. You are invited to be part of this global simulcast to deepen your faith in Christ.

The event begins at 9:00 a.m. and continues until 4:00 p.m. Doors open and check-in begins at 8:15 a.m. The event contains three teaching sessions featuring Priscilla Shirer and worship with Anthony Evans and the Priscilla Shirer Live praise team.

Tickets are \$30 per person which includes morning coffee, snacks, and lunch. Pre-registration and payment are required. Tickets are non-refundable.

Please contact Donna Ford at 336-292-5833 or dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org with questions.

We look forward to seeing you on August 23 for this spiritual day apart!

Click on the link below to register. We hope to see you for this Spirit-filled day of spiritual renewal! Bring friends!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR PRISCILLA SHIRER LIVE SIMULCAST](#)



REVELATION PART 3 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - In the Book of Revelation, God pulls back the curtain and allows us to have a glimpse of

things that are to come. In Part 3 (11 sessions), observe a detailed exploration of the Lamb's worthiness to open the scroll, the unfolding apocalyptic events, the ultimate triumph of good over evil, and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom, focusing on themes of judgment, redemption, and hope. Two options are available: Tuesday evenings via Zoom 6:00-7:45 PM starting September 16 AND Wednesday mornings in person and via Zoom 9:30-11:30 AM starting September 17. Cost of workbook is \$25.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR TUES PM STUDY](#)
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR WED AM STUDY](#)



JOY (Just Older Youth) Book Club

We're excited to share the upcoming schedule for the **JOY (Just Older Youth) Book Club**—a wonderful way to connect, reflect, and enjoy great stories together. Whether you've been with us from the start or are just thinking about joining, we'd love for you to be part of this special fellowship.

Come join us for fellowship, food, and a great book discussion! All meetings are held at **McAlister's Deli on New Garden Road**. We'd love to have you with us—whether you've read the book cover to cover or just want to listen

September 23, 2025 – 5:30 pm
Silver Alert by Lee Smith

November 18, 2025 – 5:30 pm
The Fellowship of Puzzlemakers by Samuel Burr

January 20, 2026 – 5:30 pm
The Poppy Fields by Nikki Erlick

March 24, 2026 – 5:30 pm
The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict

May 19, 2026 – 5:30 pm
Tom Lake: A Novel by Ann Patchett

Interested in joining?

Please contact **Cyndi Allen**

✉ cyndiandscott818@gmail.com (703) 615-7022

☎ Or call the church office



AFTER SCHOOL MINISTRY -

Registration is open for the 2025-2026 school year. We will be serving Claxton Elementary, Guilford Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, Pearce Elementary, and Greensboro Academy.

Transportation is provided from school to church in church vehicles. Activities include snack, outside play, weekly Bible chapel, homework assistance, reading, enrichment activities, and games all in a safe, nurturing Christian environment. For enrollment information, please go to www.gcumckids.org. We welcome volunteers each afternoon from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Please contact Donna Ford, dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org, or Shelby Hallquist, afterschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org, if you are interested in assisting.

Connecting

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2025



We had a wonderful week during our fifth year of our Summer Reading Program! We focused on being brave, kind, and compassionate as we learned more about friendship. One of the highlights of our program this year was having Dr. Laurie Scotton bring Anne's Little Free Bookmobile to our church! Students were able to select a book to take home

from the bookmobile and then they enjoyed reading their books in a "café" like atmosphere outside the Children's Building! One student selected the box set of The Chronicles of Narnia! It was so special seeing the children's excitement as they exited the bookmobile with their books! Over the three days, we had a total of forty children attend our program along with 28 volunteers!

A very special Thank You to Metta Ballard and Pat Gun who helped plan and lead our Devotions; to Pastor Susan, Cheryl Bullard and Jennifer Watkins who helped plan and lead our reading rotations; to Pastor Jeremy, Donna Ford with Jordan, and Sharon Bradshaw (author of Rainbow Circle's Big Worry!) for being very special guest readers; to Bill Brubaker who made it possible for many of our children to attend by providing transportation; to the Ladies Sunday School Class for helping to make sure our children had snacks; to Mirla



Montilla who translated for our Spanish speaking families; and to all of the many volunteers who helped lead our children through the rotations, making the program a success and setting the example of love, kindness, and friendship! It was a memorable week filled with making friends and keeping friends!



Jayne Morgan

Serving

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR NEWSCOMERS SCHOOL.

School supplies are needed for incoming students, 3rd grade to 12th grade at the Newcomers School: Lined paper, pencils, spiral notebooks, crayons, scissors, highlighters, glue, colored pencils, binders and backpacks are all needed. Place your donations in the box in the Information Center.



Foundations Class Serving

On July 26, the Foundations Class volunteered at Family Room Triad where they organized and sorted items for foster children. This organization supports families who foster and the children in their care. They provide everything a foster family would need to be able to take in foster children at a moment's notice. As they say, not everyone can foster. Everyone can help.



The **Backpack Ministry** served 20 students, mostly at Guilford Elementary School during the 2024-2025 school year. We are now ready to begin the 2025-2026 school year and wonder if you or your SS

class, book club or Journey group might like to sponsor a student. It has been calculated that \$400 a year will provide a student with some basic nutritional supplemental food for the weekend when they are not receiving breakfast and lunch at the school. Can you help with a donation to the Backpack Ministry at GCUMC? If you have questions about the ministry or would like to help, please contact Susan Marshall at stmarshas@gmail.com
Thank you!!!

Serving



Summer Serving Opportunity at Greensboro Urban Ministry

We still need volunteers for Wednesday, August 20.
2:00-5:00 pm Prepare Weaver House meal at GCUMC

5 volunteers are needed to purchase/prepare a simple meal with dessert for 80 people. Contact Pastor Susan if you can help prepare the meal at ssuarezwebster@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

5:00-8:00 pm Pick up meal at GCUMC kitchen, serve meal and clean up at Weaver House Shelter.

8 volunteers are needed (ages 12 and up) Contact Judy Newlin at newlinjf@gmail.com if you can pick up, serve and clean up for the meal at Weaver House, 305 W. Gate City Blvd.



Six volunteers helped sort food at Greensboro Urban Ministry on Friday, July 25.

On Saturday, August 2, a team of five volunteers made sandwiches to give out and rolled silverware for Potter's House, an important ministry at GUM.



Creation Care Corner

GCUMC was strongly represented and greatly appreciated at the Kayak Cleanup at Lake Townsend on July 31, 2025.



Nine of our members joined five others from the Greensboro community and kayaked the coves and banks of Lake Townsend recovering 73 pounds of trash. We picked up small litter in addition to a plastic chair, a tire, a rusted metal drum, a pole as well as a broken fishing pole!! Thank you to all that participated and helped clean up God's Creation as well as our drinking water source. If you couldn't join us in July, **SAVE THE DATE of September 16, 2025** to participate in the Kayak Cleanup of Lake Brandt event.

ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

The calendar for available dates for furnishing flowers for our altar is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. There are several dates open. If you would like to furnish flowers, please sign up by the date on the calendar. We appreciate all who have already donated flowers as we feel they add to our worship experience.

Serving

TWIN COMFORTERS AND LAMPS NEEDED:

In June and July, nine families have been assisted to move from sub-standard housing into homes that are safe and comfortable. These are families that need a new apartment or small home outfitted. The Team that works in this area to help people transition needs twin comforters and lamps at this time. If you have something you can donate, please bring them to Pastor Susan's office. Your support and generosity has helped so many families and we are grateful.

SERVING DAY

Mark your calendar for the next Church-wide Serving Day which has been scheduled for October 18. More information will be coming about several projects we will need help with.

HONORARIUMS

In Honor Bill and Jan Dowdy,
Barbara Jones, Cheryl and Hank Bullard
Joe Ann and Terry Weatherford
By Judie Davie Wright

Creation Care Corner

Join the Creation Care Team!



Are you passionate about caring for God's creation? Do you feel called to help our church become more mindful of sustainability, stewardship, and environmental responsibility?

If this is you, join our Creation Care Team -- we would love for you to be part of it! This group will explore ways our church community can live out our faith through actions that protect and preserve the earth—God's creation.

Whether you have ideas for reducing waste, enjoy gardening, or simply want to learn more, there's a place for you on the team.

Interested? Please reach out to Barbara McDonald @ barbs_baskets@yahoo.com or Pastora Susan @ ssuarezwebster@guilfordcollegeumc.org for more information. We'd be thrilled to have you join us on this important journey of faith and stewardship.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Beth Creamer's mother
Carol Ingram

In Memory of Meg Duncan's uncle
Mike and Donna Garcia

In Memory of Steve Fennell
Richard and Nancy Blackwelder
Mike and Donna Garcia
Carol Ingram
Vicki Kidd
Len and Sandra Myers
New Beginnings Class

In Memory of Janet Green
Mike and Donna Garcia
Carol Ingram
Vicki Kidd
Steve and Tina Sumner

In Memory of Mary Lehman Johnson
(Dave Lehman's daughter &
David Lehman, Jr.'s sister)
Harold and Mary Eagle
Mike and Donna Garcia
Carol Ingram
Vicki Kidd
Len and Sandra Myers
New Beginnings Class
Emogene Stewart
Bob and Jimmy Stimpson
Steve and Tina Sumner
Terry and Joe Ann Weatherford

In Memory of Sherry Jones
(Marsha Phillips' cousin)
Vicki Kidd

In Memory of Amy Longville
(Nancy Furnas' sister)
Jim and Nancy Baity
Pat Gunn
Bob and Jimmy Stimpson
Derek and Robin Young

In Memory of Angelika Otte
(Pam Ingram's mother)
Richard and Nancy Blackwelder
Bob and Jimmy Stimpson

In Memory of Frank Payne
(Cookie Freese' brother)
Jim and Nancy Baity
Pat Gunn
Bob and Jimmy Stimpson

In Memory of Larry Proctor
(Harold Proctor's brother)
Mike and Donna Garcia
J.T. and Susan Jenkins
Vicki Kidd
Len and Sandra Myers

In Memory of Susan Snyder
(Lisa Hodges' sister)
J.T. and Susan Jenkins
Bob and Jimmy Stimpson

In Memory of Colin and Susan Snyder
Sandra K. Panick

In Memory of Ken Sykes
"Happy Birthday in Heaven"
Ann Sykes

In Memory of Patricia Tarlton
(Susan Marshall's mother)
Richard and Nancy Blackwelder
Gay Brown
Mike and Donna Garcia
Pat Gunn
Carol Ingram
Vicki Kidd
J.T. and Susan Jenkins
Len and Sandra Myers
Bob and Jimmy Stimpson
Steve and Tina Sumner
Lewis and Pam Wilson
Derek and Robin Young

In Memory of Charles Wall
(Randy Wall's uncle)
Mike and Donna Garcia

Youth Update

The youth group had an amazing time on our summer mission trip to Asheville, NC. This trip brought together 3 youth groups – Williamson's Chapel UMC, Mt Tabor UMC, and us. In all, there were 81 people on this trip including the 38 we brought. The 3 youth directors planned and facilitated the trip with the help of 11 local Asheville UMC churches. This group of youth amazed me with their work ethic, openness, courage, comradery, and willingness to serve.



We split the 81 people into 8 work teams that went all over Asheville. Groups demolished a rotting front porch, built a front porch, cut down overgrown trees/brush, roasted coffee with formerly incarcerated people, ate with the homeless, painted a basement, cleaned out apartments, made planter boxes, removed fencing, and most importantly listened to people's stories. Stories of community, grief, suffering, pain, joy, and hope. Our group used a community shower trailer which simulated some of the experience after the flood. Another aspect of our trip was worship. Sunday night's music was led by 3 people from Williamson's Chapel UMC. An invitation was given for anyone to join them each night. Each night's worship had more and more students join the worship band. By Wednesday night, we had 15 youth and adults from all 3 churches leading worship.

We intentionally used local caterers each night for dinner, so we can pump money back into the local economy. The local restaurants have lost business during these 10 months without much tourism. Two of the caterers talked to us about how important it was to provide food for us. One sent this amazing note:

"I'm circling back to see how the meal was received, but really to thank you. I didn't realize what type of mission you were on this week. I, and I'm sure the families you are helping, are so grateful for the mindfulness you applied to your good works. I feel your group has truly walked the path of agape and Christian love with your efforts. You have helped our little store more than you know, and I cannot thank you enough." -- Dave Brown, owner of Doc Brown's BBQ.



This trip simulated the beauty of the "connectional system" in our denomination to me. 14 UM churches were involved in planning, participating, lodging, supporting, providing facilities, and/or providing

projects. The people we helped were isolated and now they are connected to one of the local churches. Abernathy UMC formed a connection with one of our teams by providing a hot breakfast each morning. Our church connected with the RV community of displaced hurricane victims that sprung up on the grounds of Covenant Community Church. I believe our world needs more meaningful connections and for a week in Asheville we participated in building it.

Lindsay Fusaiotti shared this at the church council meeting about the trip:

"Each night of the mission trip, we ended the day with worship and a speaker. When we arrived, Sunday, our first speaker was Bishop Ken Carter. He told us he felt this was the start of a revival and he was right. Each day we saw little pieces of how what we were doing would spark a revival in others and how God was at work through us. Our impact could be felt at each of the sights we visited to do work and even at the various churches that hosted us for events.





I was part of a team that helped build a deck on a house in the Leicester community. One of the churches in that area, called Big Sandy, allowed us into their church to eat lunch while we were working, to take breaks, use the restrooms, etc. This church was the cutest little church with about 20-25 members, but they did so much to make us feel welcome. They made all of the mission trip members bracelets, bringing candy and other snacks to us onsite, or stocking the freezer with amazing ice cream treats. One of their church members who helped plan some of the bigger projects made a video that was shared with their congregation of the work we were doing. We received a call on Thursday night asking if there were any availability to help a woman take down a fence that was blocking the flow of water. This site was

devasted by the hurricane and there were mudslides. She had the need to put up a fence and always knew it would be temporary, but due to the mud build up, it was causing the river to not flow properly or self-correct after the hurricane. Myself and Jim Sandknop took a group of 7 young adults to help take down this fence. This was not a job that we had originally planned on, but God knew. Somehow Jim was prepared with the correct tools, tools that were not needed for any of the other jobs. While we were at this house, Nicole the homeowner, noticed Jim's truck was full of trash collected from other job sites this week. Jim was planning to take that to a landfill and pay to have it dumped. Nicole offered for us to drop it near her house, where they would be coming by to pick up what was once a house that was destroyed by the mudslides and flooding. God had provided a way for Nicole to get the help she needed and in return offer us the help we needed. This was just one of the many ways we saw God at work this week.



Day after day, the youth and young adults saw their work from this week spark a revival in others to do the same, just as Bishop Carter had said. There are plans to continue to build off the work done that week. Several of the churches that hosted us have put plans in place to host other groups that want to come do work in the area. There will be another group coming up after us to put a cover on the porch that was just built. This group planted seeds that others are going to continue to water after we left. They started a revival! This trip was amazing, but I have to say that I felt it just a little bittersweet as I looked around at my team I was with for the week, which was made up of all seniors, and I found myself knowing how much I would miss them come the fall. These are amazing young adults who have already made a big impact in our church and this world and I know they are going to continue to do so wherever they go next. So for my group that week, the pauses to take in what we had done were perhaps a little longer, the hugs a little tighter, and the memories a little sweeter."



***We invite you to hear more from the youth and young adults this Sunday at 9:45am in the Sanctuary.

Upcoming

In August, we look forward to welcoming our incoming seventh graders to our youth group. Throughout August we will have small gatherings to meet each other. Sunday night youth group starts back up Sunday August 17.

--Randy Wall, Dir of Youth Ministries

