

Guilford College United Methodist Church
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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*



RISE AGAINST HUNGER: Volunteers are needed on Saturday, January 24th from 9 am to 12 pm to pack meals. These nutritious meals will be sent to places in the world where food is scarce. Please plan to join us as we will be packing 17,000 meals in the church Fellowship Hall.
Sign up and sign a waiver at this link:

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/guilfordumc26>

CROW'S NEST

Vol. XXVI, No. 2

www.guilfordcollegeumc.org

January 21, 2026

Pastor's Pen

Dear Church,

The next few weeks will be big and important ones in the life of our church. Not only will we dedicate our newly-renovated Fellowship Hall area on Sunday, February 1st, with an open house from 9:45-10:45am and a special service of dedication at 4pm, but we will also be re-launching our Wednesday night meal beginning at 5:45pm on February 4th.

As we re-launch the meal in an updated Fellowship Hall, we have also decided to give our Wednesday night dinner a new name: from henceforward, what used to be Wednesday Night Out will be called The Wednesday Welcome Table.

I want to share with you a few thoughts about why we are changing the name.

In the Gospels, meal times were ministry times. Many of Jesus' most profound teachings were offered as he was sharing a meal with either his disciples or with new people who wanted to get to know him. Each meal that Jesus shared was a sign, a kind of visual aid of God's kingdom – after all, Jesus offered a vision of heaven's kingdom as a great feast, where all God's people would eat together in fellowship.

All that's to say that in the Bible, the supper table is sacred. Communal dinners were intended to nourish both body and spirit. They were not just about eating food, but about welcoming new people, connecting with others, and growing closer to God.

We hope that our Wednesday night meal will be an intentional time of ministry like that. We want congregation members to see our Wednesday night meal as not just a convenient way to grab some food before moving on to various ministries, but as a ministry and in and of itself. Eating together in the spirit of Jesus is not a prelude to church – it IS what church is all about. The family that eats together, stays together.

With that in mind, we hope the Wednesday Welcome Table will live up to its name as a space of profound, gracious hospitality – where, to paraphrase the words of the Scripture, we can “welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us, to the glory of God” (Romans 15:7). We envision the WWT becoming a place and time where we can invite people from the community who need food or fellowship or faith; a place where new people to the church can connect and get to know others; a place where long-time members who could use a little companionship can look forward to spending time with their friends; and above all, a place where we can encounter God's kingdom together.

The Wednesday Welcome Table is for all who are hungry for good food and holy friendship. So we hope you'll join us beginning at 5:45pm on February 4th, and that you'll come hungry – ready to eat, and ready to welcome and to connect with the people around you. Of such feasts is the Kingdom of God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeremy

NOTICE: In case of inclement weather, please watch for a church email with updates about worship and other activities. Updates will also be on our website and Facebook.

Caring

Prayer Concerns: David Ward, Barbara McLeod, Greg Matthews, Carla Sutton, Marilyn Radley, Kathy Pierce, Bryan Cobb, Suzy Padgett, Kathy Graham, Marjorie Liles, Betty Kirkman, Harold Eagle, Becky Archer, Gina Murphy, Dot Brogan, Helen Phillips, Bill Blyshak, David Wasserboehr, Tom Jenkins, Lisa Hodges

Prayer Concerns – Extended Family: Wayne Leadbetter; Sarah Lemon; Mary Frances Edwards; Fay Holliday; Lee Hicks; Carla Morgan; David Robertson; Victoria Pigford; Nancy Krepps; Courtney Reavis; Nick King; Heather Taylor; Kathie Williams; Tom Winger; Tammy Smith; Peggy Conaway; Sue Yeeles; Jim Cashman; Alannah Romano, Jim Eldrett (Daryl Watkins' brother); Shilah George; Judy Journey; Debbie Sexton; Sammy Williams; Joanne Burgener; Y'Suan & H'Lai Mlo & family; Tammy Strickland, Kenneth Briggs; Azalea Marbury; Debra Rutt; Shannon Wilson

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; **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; **Spring Arbor** – Doris Linker; **Abbottswood** – Dot Brogan, Gay Brown; Barbara Price; **Heritage Green** - Carrie Gowen, **Well Spring** – Barbara Ebert; **Westchester Manor** – Susie Love, Tina Bell Midgett; **White Stone** – Barbara Price; **In Home** – Sue Causey, Terri Hastings, Helen Phillips, Betty Siders, Marion Sharpe

Sincere sympathy is expressed to Wes Gullett and family, in the death of his father, Robert Gullett. Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted.

Thank you note

Thank you so very much for the prayers, calls, cards, and generosity from members of our church following my recent back surgery. As I've been recovering, the support from everyone has been truly amazing. Lettie and I feel so fortunate to be part of this wonderful church, where we experience His love on a daily basis.

Bryan Cobb

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP – Age appropriate Children's Worship is provided during the 11:00 am worship for children in Grades 4-6. 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 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:

Jan. 25: Bryan Cobb, Charlie Groves
Feb. 1: Val Follo, Sandy Pearman

CELEBRATE THE FORMAL OPENING OF OUR NEW FELLOWSHIP HALL ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1st! – On Sunday, February 1st, you are invited to stop by between 9:45am and 10:45am to tour our newly renovated Fellowship Hall area and to share in an Open House with refreshments. Then, make plans to return that Sunday afternoon at 4pm for a Service of Dedication in the new space that will include special music, prayers of thanksgiving and consecration, a message from Pastor Jeremy, and the presence our new Northern Piedmont District Superintendent, Rev. Rodvegas Ingram. Come celebrate together!

Connecting

Wednesday Welcome Table

On Wednesday, February 4, at 5:45 pm we will begin our weekly Wednesday Night Out meal with a new name! The Wednesday Welcome Table will continue to feature a quality meal for the low price of \$7.00 and is intended to be a ministry not only for members of our church but also for folks from our community – anyone who is hungry for good food and holy friendship. Come eat together and welcome one another in Jesus' name.

**February 4, 5:45-6:45 pm
\$7.00 per meal
Fellowship Hall**

Lasagna with meat sauce, Garlic Bread, Salad Bar, Dessert (Sliced chicken will be available on Salad Bar)
Kids' meal: Chicken Nuggets, Apple Sauce, Chips



Thank you to the volunteers and a special Thank You to the donors who gave 55 units of Life Saving Blood during our January 15th Red Cross Blood Drive.

Our next blood drive will be held on February 19th. Go online to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment to donate. Should you have any questions, call/text David Saunders at 336-337-3126.

SEEKERS CLASS - If one of your New Year's Resolutions, is to spend more time in the Bible, then perhaps you would like to try the Seekers class. The class meets on Sunday morning at 9:45. We are digging and reflecting on the book of James. We would love to have you join us. Contact Sara Hardin at hardinx4@bellsouth.net if you have questions. We meet in Room B5.

SnYP (Students & Young Professionals) meets weekly on Wednesdays. Small group starts at 6:45! 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.

PASTOR JEREMY'S DISCIPLE SCHOOL has returned. All are welcome to join us in the sanctuary beginning at 6:45 pm for an hour in which we focus on how we can become better followers of Jesus together. Early in the year we are learning how we can draw closer to God through what John Wesley called "The Means of Grace": the gifts of Scripture, Prayer, Community, Fasting, Holy Communion, and Visiting the Poor. Disciple School meets roughly every other Wednesday, with future sessions planned for 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25, 4/08, 4/22 & 5/06.



JOURNEY GROUP REGISTRATION:

Registration for 2026 Journey Groups is now underway! Journey Groups are formed of 8-10 folks committed to journeying together for a year in holy

friendship, prayer and study. John Wesley referred to these small groups as "class meetings"—and small groups have been a part of our Methodist way from the beginning. If you're feeling led to go deeper in faith and connection this year please consider a Journey Group. This year there are 12 groups to choose from with a variety of times, days and people. See where you might find your place and register for your group at <https://guilfordcollegeumc.org/ministries/journey-groups-2026> Or see our station in the Information Center for a group listing and registration forms. Questions? Laurin is always happy to talk with you! lallred@guilfordcollegeumc.org

Messy Bun Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 pm at Mythos on Battleground Ave.. Snag your copy of *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood at the library or bookstore and we'll see you for dinner and discussion at Mythos on Battleground Ave. on Feb. 12!

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



FAITH FRIENDS (GRADES K-3) AND FAITH FILES (GRADES 4-6) – Both groups will resume meeting regularly on Wednesday, January 14 from 6:45-7:45 pm. Both kids' 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! If you have any questions, please contact Donna Ford, dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

Focused Book Discussion: Laurin is looking for two or more folks to read Rachel Gilmore's book, *Followers Under 40*, along with her and then commit to discussing the book and brainstorming about how we can best invite and live alongside younger adults in the church. Email Laurin at lallred@guilfordcollegeumc.org to join the discussion and get your free copy of the book.



2026 Flower Calendar

The calendar for 2026 to schedule altar flowers is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. If you would like to donate flowers for our altar to be used during worship services, please sign up by the date you would like on the calendar. These can be given in memory of someone or in honor of an event. We appreciate all who have donated flowers in the past.



WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL – Registrations are being received for the 2025-2026 school year. For enrollment information, please go to www.gcumckids.org or contact Shelby Hallquist preschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

Youth Snack Supper. Each Sunday we need volunteers to offer a simple snack supper. Please contact Lindsay Fusaiotti or sign up by clicking [SNACK SUPPER](#). You can sign up as an individual Sunday School class or small group.

YOUTH UPDATE



9:45am at Panera New Garden for the next four weeks.

On Sunday nights, the youth have been talking the last two weeks about how to change the world. One week they talked about the youth group's values (attributes important to the group). Some of the top values were: community, openness, welcoming, learning, and fun. This past week the students divided into groups to discuss possible solutions to social problems. Each group then proposed the solution. The solutions were:

- Refugee Resources – providing a safe 3rd space for refugees to learn from each other and community members
- Puppy Love – finding a way to get unwanted pets and people struggling with depression together
- Banning the “brotherly shove” in the NFL. Petition the NFL to ban this play due to the dangers.

The youth also gather every Wednesday night for fun night. This past Wednesday we had Al Barnett, youth coordinator with African Services Coalition. He talked to the youth about the services they provide refugees. He also talked about the importance of sleep, goals, and having a good team around you during your developmental years.

Thank you for Lucy Gray (10th Grade Grimsley HS) and Andy Watkins (10th Grade Northwest Guilford HS), for being our youth representatives on church council.

The youth will be going on a mission trip to western NC in June. We are looking for some adults to journey with us. Adults are needed to be worksite managers, cooking crew, and chaperones. Please contact Randy Wall (336-707-7183).

Upcoming events:

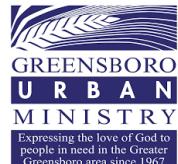
February 8th Super Bowl party at the Class residence.
March 20-22 IgniteUs Spring Youth Retreat

Serving

Notes of appreciation:



Each day at Sanctuary House, members and staff work together in a supportive, engaging, and inspiring environment to learn new skills, gain a greater sense of independence and pride, and prepare for a purposeful, rewarding life. When we watch someone move beyond their diagnosis of a mental illness and realize their potential, the joy of their new boundless opportunities is amazing. GCUMC you help make that happen! Your gift from the Christmas Eve offering will continue to make it possible for Sanctuary House to provide the highest quality services and opportunities to our members, their families, and the greater community. Warm thanks and gratitude from Terry Jackson (Chief Philanthropy Officer) and Sana Shumate (Development Coordinator) and everyone at Sanctuary House.



Dear Friends and Partners at Guilford College UMC, Throughout the year, your generosity brings much joy and a continued spirit of caring to the residents living at **Partnership Village**. Your regular presence is something we treasure. Special thanks to you for providing the beautiful Christmas gift bags with gift cards for the single adults at Partnership Village. Also, due to your generosity, we were able to deliver the extra gift bags to some of our former residents. Everyone expressed great appreciation for these holiday remembrances and the very helpful household items and gift cards. We are always grateful for your continued partnership and thank you for remembering our community in such caring and thoughtful ways! Blessings to each and all in the New Year, Gin Reid Hall on behalf of everyone at **Partnership Village**. The joy you bring means the world!!

Serve Breakfast at Potter's House Community Kitchen on the 4th Saturday of each month, 6:00-8:00 am. Join the Redfern family to serve breakfast at GUM, 305 Gate City Blvd. For more information contact Justin or Julie Redfern: Julie: 337-353-1773, juliecredfern@gmail.com; Justin: 336-541-0464, justin.redfern@yahoo.com. Carpooling/rides are available.



AFTER SCHOOL MINISTRY –

Volunteers are needed to assist the teachers and engage with the children from 2:00-6:00 p.m. one day per week. Excellent kiddos who are fun to be with! Please contact Donna Ford, dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org, or Shelby Hallquist, afterschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Oliver Burns

(Dennis & Beth Creamer's son-in-law)

Richard and Nancy Blackwelder

Carol Ingram

In memory of Robert Gullett

(Wes Gullett's father)

Richard and Nancy Blackwelder

Mike & Donna Garcia

Carol Ingram

Vicki Kidd

Grey Lane

Bob and Jimmy Stimpson

Terry and Joe Ann Weatherford

In Memory of H'Juan Mlo's brother

Harold and Mary Eagle

Bob and Jimmy Stimpson

In Memory of Bobbi Peabody

Jack and Nancy Vanstory

In Memory of Harold Proctor

Donna Bowman

Gay Brown

Harold and Mary Eagle

Tom and Debbie Jenkins

Leon and Annie Joyner

Helen Phillips

Jack and Nancy Vanstory

In Memory of Jerri Ramsey

Jack and Nancy Vanstory

In Memory of Mary Katherine Wells

(Carolyn Campbell's sister & Kathy Raper's aunt)

Richard and Nancy Blackwelder

Grey Lane

Bob and Jimmy Stimpson

**Brazos Abiertos has been awarded a \$5,000 grant as part of the
Immigrant Ministry Crisis Fund Grant Program**

The WNCC has established *The Immigrant Ministry Crisis Fund* as a designated fund of the Western North Carolina Conference established to provide financial support to United Methodist ministries in our conference directly impacted by the ongoing immigration crisis. These ministries, rooted in our United Methodist congregations, faithfully serve communities where immigrants are not only neighbors but active members and regular participants in the life of the church. Many have long maintained outreach ministries that offer hospitality, advocacy, and practical care to immigrant families.

In recent months, the escalated presence of immigration enforcement in our communities has caused some immigrant members to choose to remain at home, which in turn places financial strain on several of our ministries. By strengthening these ministries through financial gifts, we ensure that resources are placed in the hands of those within our connection who are most deeply embedded in this work and best equipped to offer compassionate, Christ-centered support. In a time when many immigrants face fear, uncertainty, and persecution, this fund stands as a tangible expression of our shared commitment to justice, mercy, and the sacred worth of every child of God.

Student Minister Andrés Pérez González applied for the grant in order to help the members of the Bilingual Faith Community Brazos Abiertos and those with whom we minister, with legal assistance, housing and essential bills for families who have experienced a loss of income because of fear-based work disruptions; mental health assistance including access to bilingual counseling resources; and funds to help sustain core ministry functions during a period of reduced attendance.

Please continue to pray for the immigrant community and the ministry of Brazos Abiertos.