

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**



**RISE AGAINST HUNGER: Volunteers are needed on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 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

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

January 7, 2026

## Pastor's Pen

Dear Church,

One of my mentors used to say that whenever we start a new endeavor, we should "begin with the End in mind."

What he meant was that, whenever we undertake something new, we should start by thinking about what good outcome or ultimate goal we want to achieve at the end of the process – and then we work backwards from that "end" or destination to figure out how we get from "here" to "there."

I remember reading once that when former basketball coach of (Un-Named University) Mike Krzyzewski began his tenure as coach of the US Olympic team, he started the first Team USA practice by having the players rehearse how they were going to receive their gold medals at the conclusion of the tournament. Coach K even had the players practice standing on the podium as the national anthem played. He wanted the team to "begin with the end in mind": to help the players to visualize the goal they were working towards. Throughout the many hard practices and games that would follow, the power of that final vision would exert a kind of magnetic pull that would keep the team focused and moving forward until its accomplishment.

This past Sunday we talked about the final vision of the Book of Revelation. In many ways that last vision is the ultimate "end" or outcome of our spiritual journey. Our goal, our destination, our greatest hope, is to be made part of a redeemed creation in which human beings live in peace with God and with each other.

The end we seek is to know the life of heaven – and keeping that vision before us is what helps us to stay on track.

Way back in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Italian writer Dante Alighieri had a Revelation-like vision like that, which he recorded in the epic poem, "The Divine Comedy." At the end of The Divine Comedy, the poet Dante ascends to heaven, and is guided through the celestial spheres of paradise by a woman named Beatrice, who symbolizes divine revelation and grace.

At the conclusion of his journey, Dante is granted what is sometimes called the Beatific vision. The poet raises his eyes and beholds God. He gazes into the Eternal Light of Truth. He is nearly blinded by the splendor. He struggles to put into words the brilliance he is shown – describing it, he says, is like trying to square a circle.

Dante beholds Infinite Goodness – and it is as if his eyes are made one with that pure Beneficence. He sees all created things held together within that great Good Light, bound to one another by Love, as if they are each just different pages in the same one vast book. He realizes that within God, all seemingly separate things find their deepest union.

Then Dante perceives, within the radiant depths of that Infinite Light, three distinct circles of three different colors, each reflecting the light of the others. The three lights seem to represent the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, perfectly being with each other and relating to each other. And in the middle of the second of those three lights he sees the silhouette of a human being: Christ.

In the poem's last lines, as he is pondering this great mystery, Dante's vision begins to fade- but at that same moment, he feels his will and his desire merge and suddenly click into perfect alignment with the divine love that he has just beheld. Another kind of mirrored holy trinity has been created within himself:

what he wants,  
and what he chooses,  
now perfectly match what God's love desires for him-  
those three strands are woven together.

The same Love  
that moves the sun and other stars,  
now directs his soul.

He is one with God and God's creation.  
His journey is complete.

THAT is our ultimate End.  
Keep that End in your mind;  
and let Christ guide you from here to There.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jeremy

# Caring

**Prayer Concerns:** Barbara McLeod, Greg Matthews, Carla Sutton, Gayle Class, Vicki Kidd, Barbara Price, Bryan Cobb, Suzy Padgett, Kathy Graham, Marjorie Liles, Harold Eagle, Maria Maynard, Gina Murphy, Dot Brogan, Helen Phillips, Bill Blyshak, David Wasserboehr, Tom Jenkins, Lisa Hodges

**Prayer Concerns – Extended Family:** 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 Sandy Proctor and family in the death of Harold Proctor, to Bill Peabody and family in the death of Bobbi Peabody; to Ann Sykes in the death of her brother-in-law, Wayne Sykes; to H'Juan Mlo in the death of her brother; Carolyn Campbell in the death of her sister, Mary Katherine Wells and to Dennis and Beth Creamer in the death of their son-in-law, Oliver Burns... Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted.

## **Thank You Notes**

Thanks to Robin Young and the Congregational Care team for their calls, cards and gifts throughout the year. You have been so kind to me and have helped me feel connected to our church congregation.  
Bill Blyshak

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Thank you just doesn't seem enough to say how grateful I am to have you in my life! The cards (many!), the constant calls & texts of encouragement & care...wow. It was so needed. And Jeremy was there as a friend & being exactly what a great pastor should be! Pastor Susan's visits gave me strength, too!

I know Harold was so pleased at how yall were praying for us both, and taking care of me. He's still with me, though! Faith in action! Thank you for being a loving and praying church.

Sandy (& Harold)

**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. 11: Val Follo, Tal Jobe

Jan. 18: Mike Garcia, Jim Taney

**The Church office** will be closed on Monday, January 19 for the Martin Luther King holiday observance.

# Connecting



Our first Red Cross Blood Drive for 2026 will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2:00-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to be donor, please go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment.. If you have questions, contact David Saunders at 336-337-3126.



Welcome Friends & Family of GCUMC  
We welcome you as the Greensboro Swarm hosts the Osceola Magic Knicks on **Saturday, January 17 at 6:00 pm at the Novant Fieldhouse!**

**Giveaway**-First 500 fans will receive a Jaylen Sims Bobblehead

**Autograph Saturdays**-After the game, fans will get to snag signatures & photos from their favorite Swarm players!

You can get tickets by visiting this direct link:

<https://swarm.spinzo.com/greensboro-swarm-vs-osceola-magic-2026-01-17-DUGXX?group=guilford-college-methodist-church-zb8y> or going to our website and clicking the "Greensboro Swarm" logo on the home page.

**2026 Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Service – Save the Date. Saturday, January 17, 2026, 10:00 am, University City UMC, Charlotte, NC.**

Join the Western NC Conference of the UMC for *Standing Strong and Moving Forward*, our 2026 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program. This special gathering will be a time of worship, reflection, and recommitment to the work of justice, love and hope. Together, as followers of Christ and heirs of Dr. King's legacy, we will honor his life and renew our dedication to creating a better world.

**Choir Rehearsals** resumed on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. **Handbell rehearsals** will begin on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 pm in the choir room.

**SnYP** (Students & Young Professionals) will start meeting weekly on Wednesday, January 14. 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.

## Brazos Abiertos



Las Posadas was a beautiful and meaningful expression of shared faith and community.

Gathering to share tamales, celebrate Holy Communion, hear a meditation

on Mary, and walk together in the traditional way—singing and knocking on doors—reminded us that hospitality is lived, not just spoken.



The meditation gently invited us to see Mary not only as a figure from the past, but as a living story that continues among us today. By listening for her voice in the lives of women who carry life while being denied welcome, we were reminded that God chooses to enter the world through vulnerability and presence rather than power. Without naming easy answers, the reflection called us to ask whether we will be a

people who close doors or a community that makes room, trusting that Emmanuel—God with us—meets us even when we fall short and continues to be born among us.

The coming together of the Brazos Abiertos community and the community of Guilford College UMC in this bilingual service was a powerful sign of unity: different stories, one table; different languages, one song. In that shared space, the gospel felt tangible, and hope was strengthened as we practiced welcome together.



¡Feliz Navidad!

# Connecting

**Messy Bun Book Club** will meet on Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 pm. 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!

**Save the Date!**  
**Northern Piedmont District  
Leadership Training**

**Sunday, January 25, 2026, 3:00pm to 5:30pm**  
at  
**Christ United Methodist Church**  
410 N. Holden Road  
Greensboro, NC 27410

Opportunity for leadership training for Church Council, Lay Leaders, Staff/Pastor Parish Relations, Finance, Trustees

\*More information will be forthcoming.

**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.



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Mark Your Calendars for Children's Events in 2026!

- **Easter Egg Hunt** – Sunday, March 29 – 3:30-5:30 pm. (age 3 thru current Grade 6)
- **Vacation Bible School** – June 22-24 Evenings (age 3-thru current Grade 6)
- **Day Camp at Camp GuilRock** – July 13-17 (Current Grades K-5)



**JOY BOOK CLUB** will meet on Tuesday, January 20, at 5:30 pm at McAlister's on New Garden Road.

We will be discussing *The Poppy Fields* by Nikki Erlick. Come join us for fellowship and discussion.



## WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL –

Registrations are being received for the 2025-2026 school year. For enrollment information, please go to [www.gcumckids.org](http://www.gcumckids.org) or contact Shelby Hallquist

[preschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:preschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org).

# Serving

## **Prepare & Serve Dinner at Potter's House Saturday, January 31, 2026**

### **Prepare evening meal – 2:00-5:00 pm**

Prepare food at GCUMC kitchen or prepare at home & bring to church

- 3 people age 12 & above to prepare main dish casserole at GCUMC
- Prepare bag salad, dessert, salad dressing or corn muffins. Indicate how many servings you will provide. We expect to serve 80.
- Meal will be ready to transport to Potter's House at **5:15 pm**
- **Contact Lisa Kobrin at 336-558-9506 or [kobrinlb@gmail.com](mailto:kobrinlb@gmail.com)** for information

### **Serve meal at Potter's House, 5:45-7:30 pm**

305 W. Gate City Blvd., 336-271-5959

- 8-10 people needed age 12 & up. Meet at church at 5:15 to carpool or 5:45 at GUM
- Set up & serve meal for 80 adults
- Dinner is served at 6:30 pm. Clean up after
- **For more info contact: July Newlin at 336-707-1541 or [newlinjf@gmail.com](mailto:newlinjf@gmail.com)**



## **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](mailto:dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org), or Shelby Hallquist,  
[afterschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:afterschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org).

**Serve Breakfast at Potter's House Community Kitchen on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:juliecredfern@gmail.com); Justin: 336-541-0464, [justin.redfern@yahoo.com](mailto:justin.redfern@yahoo.com). Carpooling/rides are available.

## **HONORARIUM**

In Honor of Pastors and Staff  
*Vicki Kidd*

## MEMORIALS

In Memory of Mike Beck  
*Steve and Tina Sumner*

In Memory of Helen Blyshak  
*Bill Blyshak, Lisa Thomas and Christopher Blyshak*

In Memory of Gary Brown  
*Mike and Donna Garcia*

In Memory of Larry Glover  
*Lisa Mahaffey*

In Memory of Keith Gunn  
*Mike and Donna Garcia*

In Memory of Deborah Hooper  
*James E. Hooper*

In Memory of Tom Ossman  
*Linda P. Meyer*

In Memory of Bobbi Peabody  
*Carol Ingram*  
*Vicki Kidd*  
*Donna Steele*

In Memory of Jamie Pearman  
*Carol Ingram*  
*Bob and Jimmy Stimpson*

In Memory of H'Juan Mlo's brother  
*Mike and Donna Garcia*  
*Pat Gunn*  
*Vicki Kidd*  
*Len and Sandra Myers*

In Memory of Harold Proctor  
*Jim and Nancy Baity*

*Richard and Nancy Blackwelder*  
*Dan and Lindsay Fusaiotti*  
*Mike and Donna Garcia*  
*Pat Gunn*

*Minerva Heavner*  
*Carol Ingram*

*J.T. and Susan Jenkins*  
*Vicki Kidd*

*Len and Sandra Myers*  
*Stan and Melva Sharpe*

*Donna Steele*

*Bob and Jimmy Stimpson*  
*Hank and Marizell Thompson*  
*Steve and Sharon Troxler*  
*Terry and Joe Ann Weatherford*  
*Lewis and Pam Wilson*  
*Dorothy Zur*

In Memory of Harvey Mosher  
(Cliff Mosher's brother)  
*J.T. and Susan Jenkins*

In Memory of Wayne Sykes  
(Ann Sykes' brother-in-law)  
*Vicki Kidd*

In Memory of Mary Katherine Wells  
(Carolyn Campbell's sister)  
*Mike and Donna Garcia*  
*Vicki Kidd*  
*Len and Sandra Myers*  
*New Beginnings Class*  
*Donna Steele*

In Memory of Jim and Alice Wilson  
*Mike and Donna Garcia*