Guilford College United Methodist Church 1205 Fleming Road Greensboro, NC 27410 (336) 292-5833 Non-Profit Org. US POSTAGE PAID Permit #146 Greensboro, NC

Return Service Requested



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



March 28, Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion and stripping of the altar

March 29, Good Friday, 12:00 pm - Good Friday service commemorating the death of Jesus

March 31, Easter Sunrise Service, 7:00 am - Outdoor worship with Holy Communion celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

March 31, Resurrection Sunday, 9:00 & 11:00 am - Worship in the Sanctuary with the NC Brass Quintet. Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and new life in Christ!

Coffee and Fellowship – There will be light refreshments in the fellowship hall at 10:00.

Flowering the Cross

We will be placing fresh flowers on the cross on the front lawn on Easter Sunday. If you would like to participate, please bring any fresh flowers you may have and you may add them before or after worship services.



CROW'S NEST

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www.guilfordcollegeumc.org

March 27, 2024

Pastor's Pen...

Dear Church,

A few weeks ago I shared with our Church Council our congregation's Statistical Report for last year, 2023. Some of these figures were so encouraging that our Council members asked me to share these statistics more widely with you through a Pastors Pen: they point to the ways that God has been at work in our church over the past year. Here are a few highlights:

- In 2023 our average Sunday, in-person worship attendance was 281 persons, up from an average of 236 in 2022 (when we were still feeling the after-effects of the pandemic). More recently that figure has been around 300 in-person worshippers each Sunday.
- In 2023 our median online worship attendance each week was 211 persons, up from around 150 persons the year before. (The actual weekly online average was 300 people, but this was inflated a little by some very special services: for instance, on Easter, 1045 people (!) worshipped online through our church.) In a real way, our church now has 3 worship services each Sunday: the 8:30am service, the 11:00am service, and the Online Worship service.
- Adding the above figures together means that the total average/median number of folks who are worshipping with us, inperson and online, on any given week in 2023 was 492 persons: the highest figure we have had in a long time.
- We welcomed 37 new people into membership in the Church in 2023. 11 of those folks were persons who publicly professed their faith in Christ for the first time. Of the above, 7 persons were baptized. We also baptized an additional 4 children who are now on our preparatory roll for membership.
- In 2023, 31 persons transferred their membership from our congregation to other churches or denominations for whatever reason— we also lost 11 church members through transfer to the church in heaven. Our current overall total church membership figure stands at 932 persons.
- We counted 47 total events and ministries from our church in 2023 that involved outreach to the community, or that sought to promote justice, or that offered mercy to those in need.
- 476 individuals or households gave financially or made an offering to the church's ministries in 2023, an increase from 441 the year before.
- Our congregation gave \$254,284 in total to benevolent and charitable causes in 2023. This is a figure roughly equal to 25% of our 2023 church operating budget.

This past Sunday, after a spiritually spectacular Palm Sunday service, one of the guest musicians made a point to pull me aside. He told me, "Pastor, I enjoy playing in all churches, but I just wanted to tell you that this church is really special: whenever I am here there is such a special spirit of love and welcome that it really moves me. I love getting to play here and pray your church continues to grow."

I agree. And I also love getting to serve here and pray these beautiful things continue as well.

Clarence Jordan wrote once that,
"The proof that God raised, lesus

"The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb,

but the full hearts of his transformed disciples.

The crowning evidence that he lives is not a vacant grave,

but a Spirit-filled fellowship.

Not a rolled-away stone.

but a carried-away church.

We are the evidence of the resurrection.

Look at what he has done to us and is doing through us."

Thank you for being the living proof that Christ is alive and well.

After all, look at what he has done to us and is doing through us!

He is Risen, Indeed!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jeremy

Caring

<u>Prayer Concerns</u>: Charlene Robson, Gretchen Waldrop, Becky Babaoff, Maria Maynard, Tom Jenkins, Claudette Kayler, Phil Price, Suzie Padgett, Gayle Class, Carole Stevens, Theron Miller, Theresa Wilson, Marjorie Liles, Betty Siders, Rick Amos, Harold Proctor, Dave Phillips, Terri Hastings, Y'Wing Enuol, Steve Fennell, Susie Love, Bob Free, Bob & Marsha Cooley, Helen Phillips, Bill & Helen Blyshak, the United Methodist Church, the Montagnard people in Central highlands of Vietnam, our nation and world.

Prayer Concerns – Extended Family:
Conaway's son-in-law, Shaun Armistead; Shirley Morris Bell,
Anita Sandknop's stepmother; Joy Southerland; Wayne
Sykes; Lee Hicks; Rick Amos' mother, Hettie Amos & his
sister, Sharon Smith; Patricia (Elizabeth Raynor's mother);
Jack Poland; Y'Suan Mlo, Y'Bion & Levi Mlo's brother; Liz;
Tammy Strickland, Travis Hicks' sister; Austin Clark; Y'Kar
Mlo; Sue McFerrin; Ann Yannayon, and her daughter,
Brittany Burke, friends of Vicki Kidd; Christopher Blyshak

<u>Caring</u>

Sincere Sympathy is expressed to Helen Phillips and famly, in the death of her husband, Austin Phillips, who died on March 24, and her son, H.A. Phillips, Jr., who passed away on March 18.

Sympathy also to Jayne Morgan, and family, in the death of her mother, Pat Blyler.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Members In Home and Senior Living Facilities:

Terra Bella – Kay Rankin; Adams Farm Rehab. – Phil Price; Carolina Estates: Paul Long, Barbara McLeod, Janie Shell, Lynn Wall; The Carrilon – Ann Brantley, Tina Bell Midgett; Clapps Nursing & Rehab, Pleasant Garden – Anne Mullis; Friends Home Guilford – Karen Lowder, Claudette Kayler, Diana Clark, Barbara Engle; Friends Home West – Betty Kirkman, Barbara Jones, Pat Routh; Harmony – Sarah Gorham, Margaret Joyce; Greenhaven – Becky Patterson; Penn Nursing Center – Jim James, Pennybyrn – Roland Sasseville; Abbottswood – Dot Brogan; Gay Brown; Heritage Green – Loretta Eichhorn, Carrie Gowen; Spring Arbor – Bob Free, Well Spring – Barbara Ebert; Whitestone – Sheron Morgan; Walnut Cove Health & Rehab – Steve Fennell; In Home – Sue Causey, Terri Hastings, Susie Love, Austin & Helen Phillips

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:

March 31 – Mike Ballard, Mike Duncan April 7 – Richard Blackwelder, Keith Orth

Thank You Note,

"Thankful" and "grateful" come to mind when Harold and I think about the numerous cards, offers to help, phone calls and most importantly, the prayers given for both of us. We are so very blessed to have such wonderful, caring Christian friends who are acting out God's grace. Our journey continues. Bless you all!

Sandy & Harold



The EASTER MISSION OFFERING will benefit the Client Choice Food Pantry at Greensboro Urban Ministries. GUM is serving over 200 NEW families each month. Clients really appreciate the fresh

produce! GUM spends at least \$1,000/month to make this available. In 2023, we raised over \$21,000 to GUM help purchase produce for 21 weeks! Let's top that this year!

Consider what you can share this year as we provide food for those who are hungry. You can give in any of the following ways: Text GiveGCUMC to 73256. Then click on the link provided. Visit our website www.guilfordcollegeumc.org and look for the dropdown option Easter Mission Offering. Make out a check and place in the memo line: Easter Mission Offering or give cash in an envelope that is marked for the Easter Mission Offering. THE EASTER MISSION OFFERING will be received any time during Lent and through Resurrection Sunday.

<u>Church Office</u> will be closed on Monday, April 1, for Easter Monday.

Connecting



The Youth of Guilford College United Methodist Church cordially invite those 65 and older to our Spring

Fling Luncheon on Sunday, April 7th following our 11am worship service. We'll have a picnic themed meal followed by a variety of activities. This event is to promote interaction between our church Youth and those 65 and older (spouses younger than 65 are welcome too).

Please RSVP to Randy Wall by Monday, April 1. You can reach Randy by email,

<u>rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org</u> OR RSVP through the church office, 336-292-5833.

PASTOR JEREMY'S JOURNEY TO NORTHERN IRELAND & PRESENTATION

Pastor Jeremy will be away the week after Easter participating in a learning cohort journey to Belfast in Northern Ireland. As part of a grant-funded program that focuses on teaching pastors how to be peacemakers in a divided world, Pastor Jeremy and other ministers in our Conference will be learning from church and government leaders who helped bring an end to decades of sectarian conflict and violence in Northern Ireland. Pastor Jeremy plans to share a presentation about his trip and the lessons he learned after WNO on Wednesday evening, April 17th at 6:45pm in the sanctuary.



Snyp (Students and Young Professionals)- Snyp is moving to bi-weekly! I'm so excited at the connections being made and the discussions we've had together in our meetings so far. In order to do even more of that, we will be moving to a bi-weekly

schedule. Our meetings for the next month will be Wednesdays at 6:45 on April 3rd, and April 17th. Head to Laurin's office (B4) after the meal!



Wednesday Night Out 5:45-6:45 pm, Fellowship Hall Cost - \$6.00 per meal

Wednesday, April 3

Lasagna, Italian Sausage, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert Pizza for kids

Volunteer Group: Christian Fellowship Class

Wednesday, April 10

BBQ Pulled Pork, Buttered Red Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Salad, Rolls, Dessert Pizza for kids

Volunteer Group: New Discovery Class

ADULT PILGRIMAGE AND RETREAT

Back by popular demand, this year for the adults! We will be traveling to Black Mountain, NC to participate in the Way in the Wilderness's Pilgrimage of Hope experience. Join us Friday afternoon, April 12 - Sunday afternoon, April 14 for a time set apart for connection



with God and creation. This retreat is capped at 20 adults. Registration is open through March 31.

There is still space!

Questions? Contact Laurin Allred at lallred@quilfordcollegeumc.org.



Thank you to our volunteers, Jan Dowdy, Nancy Furnas, Judy Haberer, and Susan Whitesides for helping make our March 21st Blood Drive a success. We collected 32

units of Life Saving Blood. Our next blood drive will be held on **Thursday, April 18.** Please go online to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment. If you have questions, you may call/text David Saunders at 336-337-3126.

Connecting

OUTDOOR FUN DAY KIDS & FAMILIES

Sunday, April 14 3:00-4:30 pm

Ride your bikes, scooters, roller skates/blades, hover boards and play games in the blocked off and secured back parking lot. Parents can bring chairs to gather for fellowship on the back field.

SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN -

Please consider donating to the church's Education Scholarship Fund. Our scholarship funds allow children the opportunity to attend events, camps and other trips which they otherwise would not experience without this financial support. Donations may be deposited in the Sunday morning offering or directed to the church office. Please indicate the intent of your donation by writing **Education Scholarship Fund** on the envelope or memo line. Thank you for supporting children!



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

Both groups meet from 6:45-7:45 pm for Bible story, games and activities on the second floor of the children's building. We begin on the playground (weather permitting)

or the game room. Come and join the fun and bring a friend! If you have questions, contact Donna Ford, dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

SUNDAY MORNINGS for Grades K-6 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Rooms C12 and C14. Devotions, games and fellowship! Bring a friend! CHILDREN'S WORSHIP is provided for Grades K-6 children during the 11:00 a.m. worship in Room C14. Children are escorted to C14 after they are dismissed from the Sanctuary and return to the Parlor for parents to pick up at the end of worship. CHILD CARE for children age 4 and under in Room C8 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Church Key Fobs

If any church members currently possessing a door entry Key Fob have not stopped by the church office to update your Fob, please do so ASAP. You will need to have the Key Fob with you at the time of the update. If you have a church Key Fob you are no longer using, please return it to Amy Wall in the church office. Key Fobs that have not completed the update (as of March 20) have been marked inactive. Eventually they will be deleted, so please help us keep an accurate account of the GCUMC Key Fobs still in use. If you have questions, contact Amy Wall, awall@guilfordcollegeumc.org or call (336) 292-5833 ext. 23.



CAMP GUILROCK DAY CAMP

Current Grades K-5 children during 2023-2024 school year (Rising Grades 1-6 children)

A five-day experience (July 8-12)! Monday thru Thursday will

be at Camp GuilRock. Friday, July 12, is a Fabulous Fun Friday held at an offsite fun venue and picnic. 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 for an additional cost, and advance notice is



required. Please let Donna know if you anticipate needing extended care on the registration form. Scan the QR code to access online registration and required health form. Registration deadline is May 31.

NOONTIME PRAYER ON WEDNESDAYS

Come and join us for an hour of prayer as we hold up others in our church family and community who need healing and encouragement. If you have a prayer concern, you can let the church office know or write to one of the pastors.

<u>itroxler@guilfordcollegeumc.org</u> or <u>ssuarezwebster@guilfordcollegeumc.org</u>

Connecting



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

CURRENT AGE 3-GRADE 6 Come and bring friends to this summer underwater

adventure where we are diving into friendship with God!

JUNE 24-26, 2024 (Monday-Wednesday) Possible finale off-site on Thursday, June 27 Supper 5:30-6:15 p.m. - VBS 6:15-8:05 p.m.

This is a family friendly event. Families are



encouraged to participate together if possible. We will have shepherds for children who do not have a parent/guardian participate with them. Scan the QR code to register and complete consent form.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Scan the QR code below to sign up to assist with VBS as a Shepherd for a Child, Crafts/Science or Games activities. Thank you!

THANK YOU to each volunteer who helped at the Rise Against Hunger Event on March 16th. The Hamilton College students who were on their Alternative Spring Break from upstate NY helped unpack the truck before leaving to go back to college for which we are grateful. There were 112 volunteers serving from the church in addition to students from Western Guilford H.S., Grimsley H.S., Northern Middle, Jefferson Elementary Beta Club and a Girl Scout Troop who all helped to get 14,104 meals packed to send to the Philippines. This Lent we have united to get food to those who are hungry and served the Lord as we have done so!

We also appreciate those who helped unload, set up, guide and take down the Rise Against Hunger event at Jefferson Elementary. We had around 160 total volunteers who were mostly 4th & 5th graders! We packed 8,000 meals in just a couple of hours!

ATTENTION SENIOR ADULTS!

Join us on an exciting new journey with

JOY- Just Older Youth!

JOY is vibrant community of seniors coming together for activities, social connections, and unforgettable experiences!



Our adventure kicks off with our first gathering on

April 19th at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Enjoy a delightful lunch, bask in wonderful company, and engage in uplifting conversations as we look ahead to creating fantastic opportunities for the upcoming summer season.

If you are an older adult who resonates with our mission, come join the spirit of **JOY**, where every moment promises joy, friendship, and new discoveries!

If you would like to attend and need transportation, please call the church office

336-292-5833

HONORARIUM

In Honor of Hank and Cheryl Bullard

Judith Fields Davie

Servina

GCUMC FINANCIAL REPORT

2024 YEAR PROJECTED vs. 2024 YEAR ACTUAL:

YEAR PROJECTED:

Total 2024 budget: \$1,162,700.00 Amount needed to date for 2024 budget: 193,783.33 Amount received as of 2/29/24 for budget: 179,213.58 Difference: 14,569.75)

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

YEAR ACTUAL:

Amount received for budget as of 2/29/24: \$ 179,213.58 Expenses as of 2/29/24: 183,618.95 Difference: 4,405.37)

Hygiene Kits to Welcome Newcomers!

In April, we hope to put together hygiene kits for 100 people! You helped last year and almost all of the kits have



been distributed to refugee families as we set up their homes. We have a volunteer group ready to help pack the first round of kits on April 19.

What can we use?

Full size only, please: shampoo or shampoo & conditioner, bars of soap or bath wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes (in packs of 1,2,4 or 6). Bonus items: washcloths!

Please bring any of these items and place them in the box in the Information Center. Many thanks!

The Refugee Ministry Team

MARCH MADNESS A HUGE SUCCESS!

In support of your favorite teams you filled 8 GUM boxes to overflowing so that 980 pounds of food was donated to the Client Choice Pantry at Greensboro Urban Ministries. As far as the filled boxes go, it seems to be a tie between the Tarheels and the Wolfpack for generous food giving! Congratulations for feeding the hungry!





Help Support Kenya

The Kenya Mission Team is preparing to travel in June and we need your help. We are collecting



supplies that will be distributed to our brothers and sisters in need while we are in country. Place your donations in the baskets in the Information Center.

March - eye glasses. Please consider donating new or gently used reading glasses or prescription glasses that you no longer need.

April - crayons and wooden pencils. We are asking for the standard 8 pack box of crayons and and standard wooden pencils with attached eraser -

May - toothbrushes. Please bring new individually wrapped toothbrushes to be distributed during medical camps.

If you have any questions, please contact Cathey Miller. Asante sana! Thank you very much!

2024 Grant Awards:



UMCOR offers The Mustard Seed Grant to **United Methodist** churches who partner with refugee resettlement agencies in their community to

embrace and welcome newcomers. Church World Service and GCUMC will receive a grant award of \$2,000 to help the Immigrant Solidarity program in the Triad which is offered by CWS.



The Revnolds Ministry Fund which is administered by the office of the United Methodist Foundation of

Western North Carolina received 70 applications totaling approximately \$1,143,349.36 in requested funds in February. After a team of dedicated volunteers reviewed and prayerfully considered all applications, the team gathered to make difficult decisions regarding which applications best match the intentions and parameters of the Reynolds Ministry Fund. The Reynolds Ministry Team and the United Methodist Foundation recently informed GCUMC that our ministry initiative, Summer Reading Program, has been awarded \$3400 to be used during this calendar year.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Anna Alexander

Lisa Beck

Donna Bowman

Ellie Dawkins

Charlie and Sherry Groves

Pat Gunn

Bob R. Jones

Tyrone and Carolyn McDuffie

Marion McNeal

George F. Nolde, III

Mary Rogers, Lorie Ledford & Reflections Salon

In Memory of Pat Blyler (Jayne Morgan's mother)

Richard and Nancy Blackwelder Mike and Donna Garcia Carol Ingram Vicki Kidd Len and Sandra Myers

In Memory of Larry Glover

Tyrone and Carolyn McDuffie Derek and Robin Young

<u>In Memory of Jenelle Goller,</u> (Scott Goller's mother)

Tyrone and Carolyn McDuffie

In Memory of Rev. Archie McRee

Bob and Jimmy Stimpson

In Memory of Austin Phillips, Sr.

Mike and Donna Garcia Vicki Kidd

In Memory of H.A. Phillips, Jr.

Mike and Donna Garcia Vicki Kidd Derek and Robin Young

April Birthdays

April 1	Jordan Minor, Janice Wood
April 2	Sammy Bowen, Anthony Crump
April 3	Susan Dorr, Joseph Owooh, Carla Sutton
April 5	Evan Aydelette, Ryan Carney, Danny Smith, Johnny Smith
April 6	Marie Evans, Dan Stanfield, Bill Weaver
April 7	Kennedy Butala, Eleanor Keene, Carol Simpson
April 8	Lyndall Cantrell, Demetri Carr, Kent Carter, Kristine Soper
April 10	Y-Nguh Buonkrong, Kaye Czahor
April 11	Jim Baity, Cathy Beaver, Brendan Garner, Larry Strader, Ken Stutts
April 12	MacKenzie Rider, Dana Tanner
April 14	Sue Causey, Connor Hodgin, Cooper Johnston, Allen Sharpe, Curtis Smith
April 15	Harold Eagle, Luke Johnson, Sawyer Matas, Andrew Sacrinty, Nora Shearer, Andrea Strauss
April 16	Jeffrey Cheek, Meg Duncan, Val Follo, Caroline Garcia, Erin Kohn,
April 17	Steve Freese
April 18	Daniel Draper, Kristen Porter, David Saunders
April 19	Ronica Bowen, Y'Josue M'lo, Haley Symonds
April 20	Rick Amos, Diane Chase, Livi Gray, Raffaele Owooh
April 21	Bob Hanna
April 22	Monica Bush, Charles Heavner, Alec LaVergne, Sterling Sharpe, Hattie Stump
April 23	Tal Jobe, Daryl Watkins
April 24	Karin Flippen, David Long, Sarah MacEldowney, Gracie Simmons, Casey Wells
April 25	Danielle Foster, Grady Gonzalez, Kristen Harper, Grant Holmes, Jeannie Symonds
April 26	Ava Hepler
April 27	Bob Clark, Mary Eagle
April 28	Megan Chamberlain, Julia Hess, Richard McDowell, Don Tise
April 29	Michael Grunwald, Judy Harris, Brian Lasley, Y'Bion M'lo
April 30	Jeff Dixon

Youth IgniteUs Update





March 15th, a group of 36 youth and 4 adults went to Camp Hanes for a conference youth event called IgniteUs. There were 240 youth from 28 churches across our conference at this event. The theme of the retreat was Perfectly Imperfect. This theme really hit home for the youth. There is tremendous pressure on youth today to be perfect athletically, academically, and in their appearance. Life is continuous performance full of pressure to seem perfect. Below are responses of the youth to what the theme meant to them:

- Nobody is perfect and God still loves us
- In God's eyes, we're just where we need to be
- As Christians we think we need to be perfect all the time, we all make mistakes and that's okay
- · Even though we are flawed, God can still work through us
- You are perfect just the way you are
- We can exist, screw up, and still be perfected by God

This event was planned by talented youth across our conference. The youth staff (including our own Ethan Shearer, Zac Wall, Taylor Meister, Jackson Raper, and former youth Simon Hudson-Smith) did an amazing job leading the worship services, reflection groups, workshops, free-time tournaments, speaking about their faith, and cabin times. Here are some pictures of each of them leading activities.









In addition, our very own Andres led worship with the help of our youth music workshop group (Jackson Raper on electric guitar, Raegan Gillman on bass guitar, Callie Class on flute, Lauren Allred on piano, Della Troxler and Patricia Lupuishi on vocals). By Saturday night we had five other youth join us from other churches to play on drums, piano, clarinet, and acoustic guitar.

I am also very proud of our youth group identity. They were unashamed in who they are: weird, diverse, loving, and welcoming. They invited people from anywhere to join them at meals, volleyball, four square, soccer, and worship. This welcoming attitude spread contagiously throughout the retreat to others. This was our first trip with youth who are part of Brazos Abiertos. The group were amazing in including Deigo in everything. Half of the guys stayed in a bilingual cabin and spoke Spanish often. In fact the bilingual cabin won the cabin Olympics with leadership from our very own Will Redfern. At



the first worship service, Deigo stayed off to the side of our group, but by the end he was arm in arm with the rest of us. We still have far to go in our ability to easily communicate, but we made great steps to ensure everyone belongs in our group.

Regular Youth Update

On Good Friday, we will have a mission day with other youth groups in Winston Salem. This event will be from 8:30am-2pm. Our mission is to journey with others in bringing the hope of Christ. No youth group on Easter