

Guilford College United Methodist Church
1205 Fleming Road
Greensboro, NC 27410
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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



Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, October 12, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm
GCUMC Fellowship Hall

If you would like to donate, please contact David Saunders at 336-644-1678 or
dsaunders13@triad.rr.com, or visit redcrossblood.org and search for our
October 12 blood drive.

Church Office Hours

The church office is open from 9:00 am-2:00 pm Monday through Thursday.
Please ring the doorbell if you visit the church at other times during the business day.
Everyone coming into the church office must wear a face covering and follow
social distancing guidelines. All visitors, even folks with a key fob, should enter
through the church office door to sign in on our visitor log.

CROW'S NEST

Vol. XX, No. 15

www.guilfordcollegeumc.org

September 23, 2020

Pastor's Pen....

Dear Church,

The Troxler family's recent television viewing has revolved around a show called "Eco-Challenge Fiji: The World's Toughest Race." The show is hosted by survival expert Bear Grylls, and it tracks over sixty teams, each made up of four adventure racers from all around the world, as they set out on a grueling ten-day trek that leads them across the ocean, down rivers, onto mountain-bikes, hiking in the jungle, and even up waterfalls. The race is like wilderness survival school and multiple iron-man triathlons and back-to-back marathons all rolled into one.

The World's Toughest Race includes not only unbelievable physical endurance, but also real human drama. (We joked that at least one of us cried during every episode.) One father is making the race alongside his two grown daughters. Another young man is helping his own dad through the race as his dad enters the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Two young women from India are competing to show the young girls of their country how strong they can become. A team of older guys called "The Stray Dogs" enters in order to push themselves one last time even in the autumn season of their lives. Other contestants have undertaken the race after suffering wounds of war, or a heart-breaking grief, or a period of depression in order to prove to themselves and others the depths of their resilience.

We have marveled at the stamina and courage of these racers as they keep moving forward through pain and suffering. They simply refuse to give up until their body or the time limit gives them no choice. It's inspiring to watch, especially amid this time that we are living through.

One of the things that has struck me about the show, again and again, is the realization that many of the competitors could never complete the world's toughest race if it were only a solo sport. So many times there will be a moment where a racer has reached his or her limit, and feels unable to carry on: they become injured, or overheated, or hypothermic, or simply physically and emotionally exhausted. But what happens in those moments is that their team-mates patiently surround them, encourage them, and minister to them, and help them either to keep going - or on a few occasions to wisely recognize that the time has come to bow out. And then the exhausted racer finds a deeper well of strength within him or herself to either keep going or to make a hard but right decision. Many of the racers refuse to quit simply because they don't want to let down their team-mates. Friendship and community offer a depth of enduring strength that solo toughness alone never could.

I've come to see the world's toughest race as a kind of beautiful parable for life, and especially for this season of life we have been living through. For over seven months now, we have been engaged in our own grueling trek through the challenges presented to us by the coronavirus. Many of us have had moments where it felt like we had "hit the wall," and just couldn't keep doing this, day after day, anymore. Inevitably, what has helped us to keep going has been our "team-mates": a visit with family, a call from a friend, a note from a church member, an encouraging word from the other side of a computer screen. Even in a time of physical distancing, it's really socially closening that has helped us to endure.

It's hard to know right now whether we are nearing the end of this punishing race, or whether there still might be miles to go on the other side of the next ridge. So I want to encourage you to not grow weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9), and to not neglect to connect with each other (Hebrews 10:25), but to press on towards what lies ahead. (Philippians 3:12-14).

Now, more than ever, we all have to be in this thing together. So please especially keep seeking creative ways to encourage and to be encouraged by your "team-mates." Take note of the opportunities to gather virtually and in-person that are found in this newsletter and in our email communications and on our YouTube channel, especially the upcoming life-changing Disciple I Bible Study, the Blood Drive on the 12th, and the in-person sanctuary worship and livestream that begins October 4th.

The best part of the show on the World's Toughest Race comes at the end, when you see the sense of relief and joy on the racers' faces. Each team gathers together to hug one another in gratitude for what they have helped each other to accomplish. The challenges of the race have helped them to grow and have changed them: completing the world's toughest race has turned them into the world's most joyful people.

Strengthened by heaven's toughest grace to face the world's toughest race- forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward for what lies ahead - let us too press on, **together**, for an even greater prize: the goal of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jeremy

Caring

Prayer Concerns: Michael and Cari Ruley, Sandra Myers, Denisa LeHeup, Janet Vanhook, Doug Coley, Wes Gullett, Samantha Gullett, Laura Tew, Patty Elkins, John Hodges, Marion McNeal, Helen Blyshak, Betty Kirkman, Pat Gunn, Scott Allen, Claudette Kayler, Diana Clark, John Hanner, Corey Marion, Nick Lubchenko, Cindy Beck, doctors, nurses, health care workers, all fears & realities brought on by COVID 19; the United Methodist Church, students, educators, parents and school administrators, our nation and world.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Ralph and Nancy Munday, in the death of Ralph's brother. Blessed are they who die in Christ to live again.

Prayer Concerns – Extended Family: Sabrina Isenhour's mother, Linda; Susan Suarez Webster's mother, Judith Suarez; Charlie & Sherry Groves', son, Charlie II; Gloria Brown's mother, Gailya Miazza; Michael Eagle; Carol Ingram's brother, Gene Briggs; Wenken Ling Bowen, George Bowen's sister-in-law; Annette Lasley's sister, Cynthia Stone; Chris Blyshak, son of Bill & Helen Blyshak; Wayne Leadbetter; Mary Lehman, Dave & Mary Lehman's daughter; Helen Palmer, Jay Yow, Denisa LeHeup's brother; Gwen Parker, Myra Andress' s mother; Edna Patterson, David Patterson's mother; Richard Krepps, Pat Gunn's brother.

Dear friends at GCUMC,

I have been overwhelmed by your prayers and kindness. Your phone calls, get well cards and food gifts truly have been a blessing.

With God's help, I will get well and be with you again.

I miss you.

Helen Blyshak

Dear Friends at GCUMC,

This thank you is sent to you with much gratitude for all you do to enhance the lives of people living in the community at Partnership Village.

Because of your generosity, 15 children, from grades 2-10 were able to enjoy attending Camp Weaver's Overnight Camp this summer. They have each expressed the joy of this experience and often stop by and ask, "Can I go back to Camp Weaver for another week this summer?" In spite of the COVID-19 Pandemic, each camper seems to have had a wonderful time.

Our life experiences shape who we are, what we dream, and what we believe is possible. Thank you for helping to make this amazing experience possible?

With heartfelt thanks,

Gin Reid Hall, Director

Partnership Village

Thanks from Tabitha Ministry: Keith who works with the Tabitha Ministry and came to pick up the many items that were collected during the Fill the Pews project wrote: "Thank you and your church so much! What a blessing!! It felt like Christmas.



Connecting

Members In Home and Senior Living Facilities: **Blumenthal's** – Mary Kelly; **Brighton Gardens** – Becky Patterson, George Holmes; Kay Rankin; **Carolina Estates:** John Hanner; **Carriage House** – Anne Mullis; **Friends Home Guilford** – Pat Kittrell, Florence Hardison, Blanche Rogers, Claudette Kayler; **Friends Home West** – Betty Kirkman, Barbara Jones; Walter & Esther Jones; **Pennybyrn** – Pat Francisco, Roland Sasseville; **Richland Place** – Martha Stone; **Abbottswood** – Dot Brogan, Cletis Richard, **Heritage Green** – Gay Fischer; **Brookdale, High Point** – Jean Wilson; **Well Spring** – Barbara Ebert; **Whitestone** – Russ Hudson, Laura Tew; **In Home** – Terri Hastings, Barbara Leadbetter



"Mercy's Well" to perform next Sunday, September 27th, at 6:30 pm in Outdoor Worship

This beloved gospel group is returning to bless GUMC. Please bring a chair, wear your mask, and sit six feet apart.

Connecting

WNO Take-Out Meals
5:30-6:30 pm Drive Up
Reservations Required by 12:00 noon on Mondays
All meals \$5.00

Wednesday, September 30

Option 1: Meatloaf, Broccoli, Baked Potato Casserole,
Side Salad, Vanilla Cake

Option 2: Gluten Free Garden Salad with Chicken

Option 3: Kids (under 10): Hotdog, Chips, Salad, Dessert

Wednesday, October 7

Option 1: Baked Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Side Salad,
Chocolate Mousse Cake

Option 2: Gluten Free Garden Salad with Chicken

Option 3: Kids (under 10): Hotdog, Chips, Salad, Dessert

Remember to enter at the Ballinger Rd. entrance to pick up your meals.

Meetings and Gatherings at the Church

We have updated our Church's Healthy Gathering Covenant (copy enclosed in this newsletter) to reflect larger group meetings both inside and outside at the church. If your Sunday School Class, Journey Group, Committee Meeting, Bible Study or Social Gathering would like to meet at the church whether indoors, outdoors or even a Hybrid meeting with some members in person and some on Zoom, please contact the church office to reserve the space. Indoor space is granted based on social distancing, so we are limited in the number of rooms we can use for groups larger than 8. We appreciate your patience as we work through this new way of using our space. But as the scripture says in Hebrews 10:25, "Let us not give up on meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..."

Updated Directories have Arrived



If you or your family had your photo taken for our LifeTouch Church Photo Directory in either 2017, 2018 or 2020 we have a copy of the Directory for you. You can stop by the Church office to pick up your copy Monday – Thursday from 9am – 2pm. Please help us distribute these Directories

quickly to our church family.

Youth Update

It is good to be meeting again. Our kick-off event went well with 34 youth showing up for our first meeting. In the coming weeks, the youth will have lots of opportunities to connect with each other and God. We invite the youth to come and eat together for lunch on Wednesdays and Fridays. It gives them a chance to enjoy their lunch while socializing with their peers socially distanced. If you swing by the church during lunch you will likely see us eating al fresco in the parking lot

October brings an invasion of **pumpkins** to the church's front yard. We will need help from the whole church in unloading the pumpkins on October 10th and selling the pumpkins over the next three weeks. This year the youth leadership team has agreed to turn this fundraiser into a mission project. Since we don't know when we can resume mission or spiritual growth trips, the team decided to donate half of the proceeds to Greensboro Urban Ministry. Please sign up.

If you are interested in working with our ministry to college-age students, please give me a call or shoot me an email (rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org).

Schedule

- 9/25 11:00AM-1:00PM
Lunch Bunch
- 9/27 4:00PM-5:30PM
UMYF COOK OUT
- 9/30 11:00AM-1:00PM
Lunch Bunch
- 10/1 6:30PM-7:30PM
Thursday Fun Night
- 10/2 11:00AM-1:00PM
Lunch Bunch
- 10/4 4:00PM-5:30PM UMYF

Guilford West Missional Network invites you to the Fall Worship series: One in the Lord

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 7PM

With the theme verse "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" from Romans 12:21, the second service in this series will feature Rev. Linda Moore and Rev. Veranita Alvord, with music from the Greensboro Korean Youth Band and Muirs Chapel.

The worship video will be available through Zoom or St. Timothy UMC's YouTube **channel live!**

Access the links here:

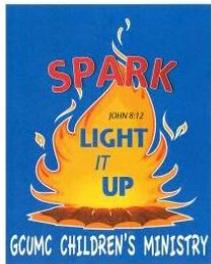
<https://oneinthelord.weebly.com/>

Learning



GRADES K-3
Sundays via Zoom
9:45-10:15 a.m.

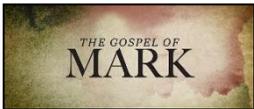
GRADES 4-6
Sundays via Zoom
10:15-11:00 am



Check out these awesome mid-week connections for kids with games, devotions, fun, and friends. Bring a chair or blanket and wear a face covering.

FAITH FRIENDS
Grades K-3
Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm on
the Back Field

FAITH FILES
Grades 4-6
Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm on
the Back Field



MARK – THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN

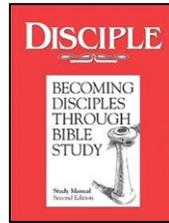
The most important question you will ever answer is this: Who do you believe Jesus Christ is? With all the opinions floating around - He's a good man, a teacher, a prophet, the Son of God - how can you know who is right? Mark's account of Jesus' life gives you the answer, and it is more action-packed and fast-paced than the other three Gospel records. Rather than rehearsing what people said about Jesus, Mark shows you what Jesus actually did. As you learn to carefully observe Mark's report, you'll discover that Jesus left no doubt about who He claimed to be. His miracles demonstrated His authority over sickness and infirmity, spiritual darkness, dead religion, threats from nature, and even death itself. Women's study. Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:00 p.m. beginning September 22 (9 weeks)

OR

Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:45 a.m. beginning September 23 (9 weeks)

Workbook \$20

Contact Donna Ford, dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org, or 336-292-5833 to register or for more information



DISCIPLE is a Bible study that provides an overview of the whole Bible. DISCIPLE includes personal Bible reading and study of the participant and dynamic group discussions to aid understanding of the Bible. DISCIPLE is an exceptional way to explore the Bible and connect with God and others.

Weekly group sessions will be held on Thursday evenings beginning October 1 at 6:30 p.m. DISCIPLE will begin with a Zoom weekly format for group discussion.

Contact Donna Ford, dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org or 336-292-5833, or Bill Brubaker, wbrubaker@bellsouth.net or 336-292-5656, for more information.

Serving

Jefferson Elementary School Volunteers

Thank you to all of you who have already signed up to volunteer at Jefferson Elementary School. We are currently working with the school principal on a plan to serve the teachers and students. If you have not yet signed up and are interested in serving, please write to Lindsay Fusaiotti at lindsayfusaiotti@gmail.com.

Prayers requested for our partner schools:

Please pray for teachers, students and the families in our partner schools: Jefferson Elementary, Guilford Elementary, and Newcomers Schools. Pray for health, protection and patience with online classes and wisdom about children and teachers going back into in-person classes.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

Sprucing Up the Hallways

We are slowly opening up our building to small groups for socially distanced meetings. If you are in charge of a bulletin board or a class mailbox or the like, could you please drop by the church to clean it out, spruce it up or update it. Our classrooms will be set up for social distance, so even the classrooms can be cleaned out to assist us with easy sanitizing. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Serving



Since July, the activities at Partnership Village with limited numbers of children and physical distancing have been offered once a month. The partnership there continues to touch the residents and relationships are being made with the kids. Thank you for this ministry.



Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes

Start shopping now to fill your shoeboxes. Collection Sunday is planned for November 22, and in early December we will plan to visit the Charlotte Processing Center. Contact Margaret Woodrum at mwoodrum@bellsouth.net or <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/the-greatest-journey>. Please pray for this ministry, children and leaders.

Due to the COVID 19 outbreak, we will not be having our Fall Festival this year; but please support our Youth's Pumpkin Patch by shopping and volunteering to work in the Patch.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Rex Adams (Betty Smith's brother)

*Mary Jane Gordon
Steve and Tina Sumner
Derek and Robin Young*

In Memory of Paul Brantley

Phil Colvard

In Memory of Louise Michaels

*(Nancy Baity's sister)
Mary Jane Gordon*

In Memory of Dallas Hanover

*Doug and Nancy Coley
Mary Jane Gordon*

In Memory of Ann Sykes' sister and brother-in-law

Steve and Tina Sumner

In Memory of Anne Townsend

*(Mark Townsend's mother)
Steve and Tina Sumner*

In Memory of Jim Wilson

*Ashley C. Anderson
David and Kelly Bowman
Doug and Nancy Coley
Eleanor Dawkins
Harold and Mary Eagle
Peggy and Brad Flynn
Mary Jane Gordon
Scott and Debbie Hancock
Len and Sandra Myers
Steve and Tina Sumner
Betty M. Wilson
Derek and Robin Young*

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of Anna Alexander's 90th Birthday

*Donna Bowman
Mary Jane Gordon*

In Honor of Martha Johnson's 95th Birthday

*Donna Bowman
Mary Jane Gordon*

RICKEY VAUGHN TO PROVIDE MUSIC AT 8:45AM OUTDOOR WORSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 27TH - Church Member Rickey Vaughn is planning to visit from Roxboro on September 27th and play music as part of the 8:45am morning outdoor worship. We hope you might come to support him and be blessed by him.

NEXT STEPS IN WORSHIP AT GCUMC

Dear Church,

I am excited to share with you the news that limited sanctuary worship is returning at GCUMC at 11am on October 4th!

Our Church leaders have based this decision upon prayer, the improving trends related to the coronavirus pandemic in our community, the revised stipulations of the Governor's recent Phase 2.5 emergency order, and the suggested guidelines of our Western NC United Methodist Conference.

Here's what we envision: we will resume sanctuary worship at 11am on October 4th with a limited attendance of 30 folks in the pews. We are keeping it to this relatively small number on the first Sunday to honor suggestions from the Governor and Bishop, and also to help us learn how to direct foot traffic and worship together in the best possible way. Please keep in mind that this is a first step: our hope is that as we get the hang of worshipping in a socially distanced manner, and if things continue to improve, that we can expand this number in the coming weeks.

At the same time those 30 folks are worshipping in the sanctuary, we will also offer overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall to allow an additional group of 25 folks to watch a livestream of the service together.

Worshippers who enter the sanctuary will be directed to their seats by the ushers, and will be seated in a physically distanced way at each end of the pews, with at least one pew between themselves and the persons in front of and behind them. They will also be asked to wash their hands with sanitizer as they enter, and to wear masks throughout the service. Worshippers in the Fellowship Hall will also be seated at least 6 feet apart from people outside their own household.

For at least the first few weeks, we will be asking people to sign up online in advance in order to attend sanctuary worship or fellowship hall worship. (We will reserve a few additional spots for visitors from the community who might show up.) We will be sending out the link to sign up each Thursday around noon through the weekly email that we are calling The Link @ GCUMC.

If you aren't able to get a place the first Sunday, don't be discouraged: even if we are full, we hope the numbers will expand, and that people will be willing to forego coming in-person the following week to allow others to attend in their place. You will also still be welcome to attend either of our outdoor worship services at 8:45am on the front lawn, or 6:30pm on the back field – we plan to continue both of these services as long as the weather allows us to.

You are also welcome to continue to join us for online worship- although our online worship will be undergoing its own significant change next month. To this point our online worship services have been pre-recorded on Saturday and have premiered at Sunday morning at 8:45am on our website and at 11:00am on YouTube. Beginning next Sunday, October 4th, our online worship service will consist of a livestream of the 11am Sunday sanctuary worship that will be broadcast live on our YouTube Channel and our website. (After the conclusion of the livestream, the video will be available on the website and YouTube for later viewing and any time you choose.) The service, even though live, will still include some of the pre-recorded elements you have come to know and love, such as performances by our choir.

We recognize this arrangement may result in some short-term inconvenience for those of you who like to watch the online service beginning at 8:45am each Sunday morning, and who now are going to have to wait until 11am. Perhaps in time we may be able to offer some kind of online worship at 8:45am as well, but for right now this is the best we are able to do: maybe you might consider becoming a drive-in worshipper at our outdoor service at that time.

We are excited to have people worshipping in the sanctuary and indoors again, and are looking forward to what our new livestream service will bring. At the same time, we want to encourage each of you to continue to worship in whatever way is best for you and for your health situation. Please pray for us and for each other: and whether we are in the sanctuary or the fellowship hall or on the lawn or the back field or at our kitchen table, let's praise and worship God together!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jeremy

Guilford College United Methodist Church

Healthy Gatherings Covenant

WE WILL BE GRACIOUS: We covenant to be patient, gracious, and forgiving with each other amid the unique challenges we face in gathering together in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WE WILL STAY HOME IF SICK OR EXPOSED: We covenant not to attend any activities at or of the church if we are sick, experiencing symptoms of illness, or if we believe we have been exposed to someone who is sick. If we get sick soon after one of our gatherings, we will alert our group or church leader(s) to the possibility we have exposed others. Furthermore, if our age or health condition makes us especially vulnerable to the virus, we will strongly consider staying at home.

WE WILL KEEP A HEALTHY DISTANCE: We covenant to remain at least 6 feet apart from people who are not part of our immediate household. We covenant not to hug or shake hands or even touch elbows with each other, but to find other creative ways to greet each other warmly.

WE WILL WEAR MASKS: We covenant to wear masks or face coverings while on the church campus. We will only remove our masks if we are both outdoors and also seated at least six feet apart.

WE WILL WASH OUR HANDS: We covenant to thoroughly wash or disinfect our hands immediately upon entering one of the church buildings or church gatherings.

WE WILL LIMIT THE SIZE OF OUR GATHERINGS: We covenant to follow the guidelines limiting the size of our group (*25 persons or less while socially distanced indoors and less than 50 socially distanced people outdoors, unless we are sharing in congregational worship*) and bathroom usage (*only one person in the bathroom at a time*).

WE WILL LIMIT THE LENGTH OF OUR GATHERINGS: We covenant to limit the time of our group gatherings to 1 hour or less indoors and 1 ½ hours or less outdoors.

WE WILL LIMIT THE SHARING OF FOOD AND DRINK: We covenant to only share food and drink if it is pre-packaged and if we are outdoors and are sitting at least six feet apart.

WE WILL USE ONLY DESIGNATED SPACES: We covenant to use only the designated entrance, pre-scheduled meeting space, and designated exit at the church for our group activity.

WE WILL TAKE ATTENDANCE: We covenant to have our group leader take attendance at each gathering and to follow the designated method of reporting this information, for the purpose of tracking and tracing in the event of the outbreak of illness.

WE WILL CLEAN UP AFTER OURSELVES: We covenant to follow any and all posted guidelines for cleaning/sanitizing the meeting space after our group completes its gathering.

WE WILL PRAY: We covenant to pray for a cure and a vaccine for coronavirus-19, to pray for its victims, to pray for all health care professionals and public servants who are leading the struggle against the virus, and to pray to find creative ways to serve the mission of Christ and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Group Representative Signature: _____

Date: _____