

Guilford College United Methodist Church
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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



BRINGING IN THE HARVEST SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 4

GCUMC has a long history of supporting the client choice food pantry at Greensboro Urban Ministry. The pantry currently needs **peanut butter, pasta, and bags of rice**. No glass or expired items, please. You may place your donations in the large GUM boxes in the Information Center beginning September 27. Thank you all for your continued commitment to helping feed those in need in our community!



CROW'S NEST

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www.guilfordcollegeumc.org

September 23, 2026

Pastor's Pen

Dear Church,

Early this summer, while walking my dog in the park, I came upon a strange scene.

Beside the road, in a patch of grass, an older woman was on her knees on the ground, yelping. "Ow! OUCH! Ohh! Oh no!" Nearby there were two people calling out to her, saying things like, "I'm so sorry. Watch out! Come this way." The woman stood up and stumbled in the couples' direction, bewildered and shocked, waving her arms in the air.

What in the world was going on? It was only as I got closer and overheard their conversation that I realized what was happening.

The poor woman had stepped on the entrance to a yellow jackets' nest. The little buzzing wasps (as opposed to bees – they're different) were circling around the woman, menacing her, stinging her, aggressively defending their territory. The couple nearby was trying to be helpful, but recognized they couldn't get any closer to the woman, or to the nest, without exposing themselves as well – so they got as close as they could, and were offering what encouragement they could.

I stayed around long enough to make sure that the woman was ok, and had not suffered any kind of allergic reaction. She was shaken up, but seemed all right. The kind couple let her talk for a minute and share the story. They resolved together to go tell one of the rangers about the nest, so no one else might stumble upon it and suffer the same fate.

I've thought about that scene often over the past few months. It seems to me a kind of mini-parable about certain types of experiences that we go through in life.

Sometimes, life is no "walk in the park": instead, through no fault of our own, we stumble over a "yellow jackets' nest" that we had no idea was there.

Sometimes, tragically, like those wasps, others misunderstand our intentions and attack us or lash out at us, largely out of self-protection and fear.

Sometimes, when we get overwhelmed, or when our anxieties get kicked up, it can feel like we are surrounded by a stinging swarm: we feel paralyzed, or rattled. We stagger, not knowing which way to go or what to do to escape.

Sometimes we come across someone who is hurting, and there is very little we can do to fix the situation they are in. All we can do is to be a witness to their pain, to get as close as we can, to call out encouragement, and to listen to them when they need to tell the story. Like the couple in the park, even we can't DO anything FOR them, we can BE WITH them. And sometimes, after it's all over, the best thing we can do, when we can't change the bad thing that has happened to us, is to try to make sure that same bad thing doesn't happen to someone else.

Over the last few weeks my mind has often circled back not only to that day in the park, but also back to the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10. In particular, I keep thinking of that moment when Martha crashes out from feeling overwhelmed by too much anxiety and too much to do and not enough help.

Martha in that moment looks for all the world like a woman being attacked by yellow jackets, swinging blindly in all directions. "Ow! OUCH! Ohh! Oh no!" But Jesus sees what is happening; comes closer to her; soothes her; and calls her away from the swarm of stinging worries that circle in her head: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things – but there is need of only one thing."

Jesus redeems our accidents, and heals all our stings.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jeremy

Caring

Prayer Concerns: Robyn Martin, Sandra Myers, Geri Cope, Mike Ballard, Donna Garcia, Y'Wing Enuol, Tom Jenkins, Becky Pearce, Mike Duncan, Tom Patterson, Mike Ballard, Brooke Follo, Lynette Whitaker, Helen Phillips

Congratulations to Dot Brogan, one of our dedicated church members, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on September 29th. May God continue to bless you richly, Dot!

Prayer Concerns – Extended Family: Johnny Ramsey; Debbie Lazenby; Sharon Forst; Martina; Gayle Parrish; Steve Troxler; Lily Cheek; Jasmine; Susan Scott; Freddy Foshay; Mo Scalf; Sutton Phillips; Linda Payne; Heather Rittner; Michael Patterson; David Castro; Darla Freeman; Sarah Lemon, Fay Holliday; Carla Morgan; Heather Taylor; Peggy Conaway; Jim Cashman; Jim Eldrett; Y'Suan & H'Lai Mlo & family; Tammy Strickland, Shannon Wilson; Kathy McFillin; Wally Jarrell

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:

September 27: Tal Jobe, Bob Beasley
October 4: Richard Blackwelder, Charlie Groves

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; **Countryside Manor** – Margaret Joyce; **Friends Home Guilford** – Bill & Sarah Brubaker, Karen Lowder, Claudette Kayler, Ellie Dawkins; Linda Metcalf, Barbara Engle, Ray & Judy Harris, Wes Kirkman, Marilyn & Scott Radley, Emogene Stewart, Rak Kreager; **Friends Home West** – Barbara Jones, Pat Routh, Terry & Joe Ann Weatherford, Bill & Jan Dowdy; **Greenhaven** – Becky Patterson; **Spring Arbor** – Charles Forbes; Doris Linker; **Abbottswood** – Dot Brogan, Gay Brown; Betty Gordon, Barbara Price; **Heritage Green** - Carrie Gowen; **Well Spring** – Barbara Ebert; **Westchester Manor** – Susie Love, Tina Bell Midgett; **In Home** – Bill Blyshak, Sue Causey, Terri Hastings, Helen Phillips, Betty Siders, Marion Sharpe

A memorial service for Ellen Lancaster will be held on Saturday, October 17, at 2:00 pm. A reception will be held in the fellowship hall following the service.

GCUMC Friends,

Laity Sunday this year is scheduled on October 18. It is the day in the United Methodist Church that we celebrate the laity of our church and both services that day will be led by church members. It is also a day that we want to recognize one or two of our dedicated members for a Laity Service award. If there is a church member that you feel serves the Lord and our church in an exceptional way, please submit their name to be considered for recognition. Please include a brief description of some of the ways you have witnessed their service within our church and community, and why you believe them to be worthy of recognition. The deadline for submission is TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 and should be sent to donnawgarcia@aol.com. The lay leaders and ministers review each one of your worthy recommendations and appreciate all of your responses!



If you would like to be a part of our church's e-mail prayer ministry, please contact the church office and we will be happy to place you on the list to receive notices about specific prayer concerns.

Connecting

Stewardship: Everything I Have Is a Gift from God

Over the next five weeks, we'll take some time to talk about **stewardship**—what it means to faithfully and generously use the time, talents, and treasures God has placed in our hands.

We begin with a simple, yet powerful reminder: **everything I have is a gift from God.** Our families, our abilities, our resources, our opportunities, and even each new day are blessings from God. As we begin this stewardship journey, let's pause to give thanks for all that God has given us and ask ourselves, *"How can I use what God has given me to make a difference in the lives of others and in the life of our church?"*

In a few weeks, you will receive a Commitment Packet in the mail. We hope this information helps you reflect on how God calls us to be stewards, managers, and caretakers of all He has entrusted to us. Please note that Commitment Sunday is October 25.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above." — James 1:17

From Finance Committee:

At the close of August, our Ministry and Operations finances were continuing on a similar trend as the previous few months. We have a year-to-date deficit of about \$36K, which we expect to be reduced by year-end pledge and gift activity. This included some unexpected electrical repairs that arose from recent storm damage. The Finance Committee is monitoring our financial position on a monthly basis. We are so blessed as you continue to support the important work and operation of the church.

Announced changes to the Finance department continue, with recruiting well underway for the new Administrator position. We have also begun our relationship with MinistryWorks, a church-focused accounting firm. We are extremely grateful for Gloria Brown's long and wonderful service to us all. If anyone has a question about our current status, please contact Bryan Cobb.



SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING

– Sunday, September 27, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. and Thursday, October 1, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. You may pick whichever date works best for you. Both sessions will be held in Room C1, first floor children's building. This

training is essential for staff, volunteers, parents, SPRC, lay leaders, church council members, Preschool staff, After School staff, van drivers, anyone who is engaged in any way with children or youth, is in a position of leadership in the church or is a parent or guardian of children or youth. The training presents and discusses the required best practices to follow to provide children, youth, staff and volunteers a safe place in which to assemble, worship, learn and grow.

CHILDREN'S INFORMATION - It is important that we have current information for children attending any of our ministry events - including allergies, emergency contacts, list of authorized adults who may pick up children, and other necessary information that enables us to give the exceptional care you expect and which we are accustomed to providing. This is an element of the GCUMC Safe Sanctuary policy and practices that is needed from parents and guardians. Please provide this required information by completing the online form at the link provided.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY INFO FORM](#)

Wednesday Welcome Table: Our next Wednesday meal will be on Wednesday, October 7. A salad bar and a children's option will be available. Cost is \$8.00 per meal. We are looking forward to sharing meals with both old and new friends in a community of faith and fellowship!



Classes are held on Wednesday, at 6:30 pm in rooms B5 & B6. If you know an adult who would like to learn English, please bring them to the Preschool

entrance so we can register them. We plan to offer a series of eight classes. Contact Pastor Susan if you have questions, at

ssuarezwebster@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

Connecting



Brazos Abiertos is a bilingual (Spanish/English) faith community that, in partnership with Guilford College UMC, extends the open arms of Jesus Christ to the people of

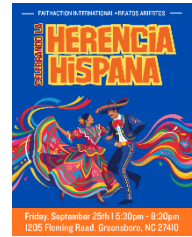
Greensboro. We seek to offer a safe haven where people who identify as Latinas/os can experience welcome and embrace, wrestle with their faith, grow in community, and experience the transformative love of Jesus working in and through our stories and lives.

Don't miss the opportunity to taste some of the delicious foods from Latin America and to support us by attending the Hispanic Heritage celebration on Friday, September 25 at 5:30 pm.

If you have any questions about the Brazos Abiertos Faith Community, Pastor Susan Suarez Webster is always available to answer them.
ssuarezwebster@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

Brazos Abiertos invites you to join us for a Hispanic Heritage Festival on Friday, September 25 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. **Brazos**

Abiertos is partnering with Faith Action International to share some Hispanic Latino culture at this event. Foods will be available from Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela as well as some entertainment. Health partners will be available to share information and resources.



Donations will be accepted and will benefit the ministry budget of Brazos Abiertos.



BACKPACK PROGRAM 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Our church supports Guilford Elementary School's children who need extra food for the weekend during the school year with the Backpack Program. During the 25-

26 school year we helped twenty-two students/families at various times with weekly food bags. Invitations to church events and special treats for holidays are also part of the program. We estimate the cost for one child for the school year to be \$300. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Please mark "Backpack" on your check. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Marshall 336-207-2172.

"THE POWER OF BEING WITH": PASTOR JEREMY'S DISCIPLE SCHOOL

- This fall, Pastor Jeremy will offer his Disciple School roughly every other Wednesday (on the same nights as the Wednesday Welcome Table) from 6:45pm – 7:45pm in the James Tew classroom located on the long adult education hallway. Disciple School is a time when we talk about how we can grow together as disciples of Jesus. All are welcome, and no advance reading or preparation is required. In the coming weeks we will be drawing on a course developed by Rev. Sam Wells to focus on "The Power of Being With." Specifically, we will focus on how we can, in the midst of our busy lives, learn how to be a little more like Mary and a little less like Martha –to be more still, and to offer more loving attention towards the things and people that matter most in our lives. *(Future Disciple School sessions will be held on 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, & 12/2.*



FALL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

COLOSSIANS & PHILEMON (9 week study)

What does it mean to be "complete in Christ?" Is Christ your "all in all?" Does He meet all your needs? Don't let anyone delude you with man-made philosophies or traditions that contradict the Word of God. Two options are available: Tuesday evenings via Zoom 6:00-7:45 p.m. starting September 22 AND Wednesday mornings in person and via Zoom 9:30-11:30 a.m. starting September 23. Cost of workbook is \$25. Please contact Donna Ford at 336-292-5833 or dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org if you have questions.



FAITH FRIENDS (Grades K-3) and **FAITH FILES** (Grades 4-6) meets weekly on Wednesday evening from 6:45-7:45 pm. Both groups gather on the playground before heading inside for Bible story, games and activities. These mid-week kids'

groups provide support and discipleship for children along with monthly opportunities to help serve others in our community. See you soon!

Connecting



WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL – Registration is open for the 2026-2027 school year. For enrollment information, please go to www.gcumckids.org or contact Shelby Hallquist preschool@guilfordcollegeumc.org.



All ladies are invited to a luncheon at Sarah's Kabob's at 5540 W. Market Street on Thursday, November 12th. We will gather at 11:30 in a room in the back, check the menu, and all go and order our meal.

Please RSVP to Sandy Riffe, 336-255-7078, by text or leave a message with your name by **NOV. 5th**. Make plans to enjoy food and fellowship and get to know other ladies in our church.



Thank You to our volunteers and special thanks to our blood donors who donated 42 units of life saving blood during our September 17th

blood drive. Our next Red Cross blood drive will be held on Thursday, October 15. Please go online to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment to donate.



Join the Joy Book Club

Nov. 10: *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*, by Allison Pataki
We look forward to seeing you! Feel free to contact Cyndi Allen cyndiandscott818@gmail.com.

Young Adult Bible Study: Young Adults (18-35ish) are invited to a weekly Sunday evening Bible Study. Start your week off right (or end it well!) by getting into the Bible and conversation. We meet at 6:00 pm on Sundays in the Hilltop Room. What do you need to participate? A Bible and journal—though we have some if you need them! Downloading the Connected Faith app will also be helpful if you want to keep up with the daily readings and spiritual faith practices throughout the week. Questions or want to be added to the communication list? Find Laurin: text 336-688-8396/email lallred@guilfordcollegeumc.org /GroupMe DM/Discord (lorphia13)/ Ready to dive in?

WEDNESDAY EVENING SnYP (Students & Young Professionals): SnYP will begin meeting for the fall on September 2nd! Gather at 5:45 for dinner in the Rock or Fellowship Hall, and stick around for group at 6:45 in the Hilltop Room (A9). Wednesday Evening SnYP is our weekly connection and community point for students, young adults, and those just beginning their working careers (roughly ages 20s.) What to expect on a Wednesday? Food, fellowship, fun and games, deep—and sometimes really silly—conversation, and a supportive group of friends who love and show up for each other. Get in on the communication loop with GroupMe. Snap the QR code on Laurin's office door!



AFTER SCHOOL MINISTRY –

Registration is open for the 2026-2027 school year. *Super Kids After School* serves children attending Claxton Elementary, Guilford Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, and Pearce Elementary.

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

Connecting

YOUTH UPDATE



The pumpkins are coming! This is our annual fundraiser. The pumpkin unload is scheduled for Sunday, October 4th at 12:30pm. This is a great day to serve with each other. We will need lots of

volunteers to unload a full truck of pumpkins (over 2,500 pumpkins). There are jobs for everyone. Make sure to bring work gloves and suitable clothing because we unload rain or shine. Please bring a wheelbarrow if you can.

We are also looking for someone gifted in making a picture area. Lots of people come every year to take their picture in the patch.

We will sell pumpkins everyday up to Oct 31. We need at least two volunteers for each shift, so ask a friend to sell with you. This is a great opportunity to interact with the community. You can sign up in person at the church, call the church office, or click the QR code. If you have to leave early or arrive late, just make a note on the sign up and we will find someone to fill the remaining time.



In the last 4 weeks, our youth group has seen 46 students at one of our meetings. These 46 students go to 21 different area schools. 22 of these students are brand new to our group. Please pray for our group as we welcome, learn from each other, and provide a place of belonging.

Sunday night Youth Group meets from 5pm-7pm
Wednesday Fun Night meets from 6:45pm-7:45pm

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP – Age appropriate

Children's Worship is provided during the 11:00 am worship for children in Grades K-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.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Bill Blyshak

Pat Gunn

William Wrightman, III

In Memory of Harold Eagle

Jeff Bennett

In Memory of Ellen Lancaster

Bob and Jean Beasley

Randy and Lynne Beck

Richard and Nancy Blackwelder

Bruce and Judith Burns

Allen and Teri Cheek

Bette Franken

Mike and Donna Garcia

Pat Gunn

Debbie Hancock

Michael and Susan Harris

New Discovery Class

Tom and Joy Southerland

St. Matthews UMC, Morganton, N C

Donna Steele

John and Patty Stone

Hank and Marizell Thompson

Terry and Joe Ann Weatherford

In Memory of Laura Teter

Brian and Sandy Pradko

In Memory of David Ward

John and Lisa Hodges

Barbara Jones

Tom and Joy Southerland

Donna Steele

Connecting

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.

WIFI AT THE CHURCH - In an attempt to enhance the WIFI connections at the church we have added a new network option. The new 2G option may have a broader range. When at the church please login to either the **GCUMC-2G-Guest** or the **GCUMC-Guest** network. Password: churchgcumc

There are two of the original lights taken down during the renovation of the fellowship hall still available for a donation. If you would like one, please contact Susan Jenkins by October 10th. susanjenkins16@icloud.com

Serving

COSTUME COMEBACK EXTENDED:
Give Halloween Costumes a Second Life!
Deadline to donate is **Sunday, Sept. 27**



Did you know that hundreds of Halloween costumes end up in the landfill every year? This year, the City of Greensboro is encouraging the community to help reduce waste by giving gently used costumes a second life. Donate clean, gently used Halloween costumes and accessories by placing them in the collection bin or on the hanging rack located in the Information Center. Your donation can help another family celebrate Halloween while keeping reusable items out of the landfill. It's an easy way to reduce waste, save resources, and support a more sustainable community. After cleaning out your closets, be sure to spread the word! Share this opportunity with your friends, neighbors, and family, and help make this year's Costume Comeback a spooky success for both our community and the environment.

SAVE THE DATE

POTATO DROP
Saturday, October 24
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Invite a friend to help so they can meet others at our church!



FAMILIES IN TRANSITION TEAM – NEW NEWS!

Many thanks! We are still setting up apartments at a furious pace! Each family continues to be deeply grateful—and it's all possible because of **your generosity**. At this point we need:

Lamps	Dish sets
Towels & wash cloths	Mixing bowls
Queen & twin bed sheets	Pots & pans
Queen & twin bedspreads	
Baking dishes & pans	

Furniture donations:

Couches, dining room tables and chairs, and beds are especially needed—but every item makes a difference. To donate furniture, please contact: Judy Piper or Ronica Bowen. Thank you for your continued faithfulness and compassion. Your support truly changes lives and brings hope to the families we serve.



**Fall Food Drive for Greensboro
Urban Ministry**
Saturday, October 24
Food Lion on W. Market Street

Volunteers are needed to collect food at Food Lion. Several 2-hr. shifts are available and also volunteers are needed to drop off collected food at GUM. Please contact Teri Cheek at 336-202-8395 with any questions and to volunteer.

Faith in Action

SERVING DAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

FAITH IN ACTION SERVING DAY: A HUGE THANKS to the **210 volunteers** who engaged with community partners, helped clean up the creek, packed shoeboxes, offered hospitality for newcoming refugee families, painted the storage room, beautified the campus, repaired benches at Camp Guilrock, cut mesh bags for the potato drop, walked or donated to GUM through the Steps of Hope 5K walk, donated food, prepared and served meals and played with children at the shelter. Truly we experienced God at work as we took our worship outside of the sanctuary. As we functioned as the hands and feet of Christ, the Lord has blessed others through our service.



If you would still like to order a T-shirt, you can do so until October 18th at: <https://www.customink.com/g/mfy0-00d3-mmhp> The shirts will be delivered to the church and we will let you know sometime after that date.





October Birthdays

Oct. 1	Caroline Donato, Norah Martin, Nedine Stump, Amy Wall
Oct. 2	Jim Irvin
Oct. 4	Elias Ingold, Milan Planez, Becky Roberts
Oct. 6	Karli Eller, Susan Rashidi
Oct. 7	Christina Fastige
Oct. 8	Cathy Bentsen
Oct. 9	Kathy Graham
Oct. 10	Y'Khuin Buonkrong, Mark Gorham, Jodi Knox
Oct. 11	Alyssa Bacon, Georgeanna Bowen, Lily Fillippa, Emily Gullett, Christine Kabwe
Oct. 12	Haley Ramsey, Reagan Walcot
Oct. 13	Natalie Wilson, Marie Follo, Rak Kreager, Rachel Maseko
Oct. 14	Emily Chilton
Oct. 15	Chelsea Campbell, Jeff Francisco, Wyatt Herbert
Oct. 16	Susan Marshall
Oct. 17	Nancy Baity, Y'Yop Enuol, Cookie Freese
Oct. 18	Robert Martin
Oct. 19	Jeff Campbell, Rie Ingold
Oct. 20	Joey Bailey, Jan Dowdy, Cindy Johnson, Lauryn Morgan, Lisa Shaw
Oct. 21	Michaela Brandt, Bryce Goller
Oct. 22	Marsha Jensen, Joe Ann Weatherford
Oct. 23	Marcia Petersen, Nancy Vanstory
Oct. 24	Liz Gamble
Oct. 25	Linda Jobe, Melissa Shearer
Oct. 26	Cathey Miller, Dorothy Zur
Oct. 27	Johnny Baynes, Danielle Gonzalez, Annette Lasley, Cameron Morgan, David Wall, Jennifer Watkins
Oct. 28	Meg Clapp, Cliff Mosher, Linda Royal
Oct. 29	Bob Beasley, Pat Gunn, Zachary Wall
Oct. 30	David Cosgrove, Madison Lohr
Oct. 31	Cathy Allen, Gertrude Ofori