



Salem Scoop

Notes from Lake Junaluska

"But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us." (Eph 2:13-14)

Between Annual Conference & Music & Worship Arts Week, a lot happened at Lake Junaluska in June. John Wesley and our Methodist roots were a key highlight during WNC Annual Conference (from Bible study to trendy cardboard cut-outs). Our very own Johnathan Wesley Greer not only attended Worship Arts Week, but even led in worship one morning. Here are just a few pics and an excerpt from our Bishop, Ken Carter, shared with us at Annual Conference.



(excerpts from Bishop Ken Carter)

John Wesley had a short list of what unites us: core beliefs about God and Jesus, the scriptures, and a life filled with, in his words, "the energy of love." Love of God, love of neighbor, love of enemy—love for all people. These are easy words to speak, harder to put into practice.

Our differences are mostly in the category of what Wesley called "opinions." Opinions are contrasted with doctrines. Opinions are about nonessential matters; doctrines are core convictions about God. We each have opinions. Our opinions differ. And our opinions could be wrong.

Here is some good news for a world polarized by conflict and selfish desires: The church's unifying foundation is not your opinion and not mine. The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord. That is the core belief.

Then what did Jesus teach us? With whom did he associate? What was his mission? And what was his gift to you and me? A clear picture emerges after reading from the first public sermon of Jesus in Luke 4:16-20.

Most Methodists will find a unity. Some will depart. We have much more in common than what divides us. Our unity is found most deeply in the shared mission given to us by Jesus. Almost all of what divides us is opinion. Opinions are important. You probably love some of your opinions, and I love some of mine. But opinions were never intended to divide Christ's body. There's nothing holy about our opinions.

So yes, our work is to ask God for more experiences of unity and fewer experiences of division. And unity is for the sake of the mission. "Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world."

...We are on a journey from one place to another. We are experiencing change, from what has been to what will be. Some of where we have been is a space to which we do not want to return. It was a space for racism and exclusion. And in the last year we have been through a lot. Some would use the language of trauma. Fightings without and

fears within.... Our doctrine is not changing, it will not change. Yes, we are on journey to removing the racism and exclusion as our practice of discipleship and sanctification. If you are called to depart, go quickly and go in peace. We want you to stay and be a part of this. Help us be a community of accountability and support.

(Bishop Ken Carter, AC 2023)



Youth News!

Calling all youth... invite a friend and Join us for youth gatherings twice a month on Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30pm in the Yth Rm. See our July schedule below.

Calendar Dates:

July 10 - Meal @ BUCM 9:30-12:30

July 12 - Yth Rm, 6:30pm

*July 23-29 Mission Trip (White Lake, NC)

(No Wed Yth Mtg July 26)

(Communion @
June Messy Church)



SUMMER FOOD OUTREACH

During the months of July, & August our youth have connected with Burke United Christian Ministries for our congregation to prepare and serve lunch on the second Monday of each month (7/10, 8/14).

The menu and food are provided by BUCM, but we cook and serve. This is a great opportunity for anyone to serve. Please call or email the church office if you can help. Let us know what month you are available & if you can serve entire shift or half (9:30-11 or 11-12:30)



Annual Conference 2023

by Doris Ingram

It was my great privilege to represent Salem United Methodist Church as the delegate to Annual Conference 2023 at Lake Junaluska. This was my second year to represent the church at Lake Junaluska. My nephew, Zane Whitener, served as an at-large delegate to the Catawba Valley District. I feel it is such a big responsibility to represent the church by attending the meetings, being aware of the information that will be presented to the delegation, and being prepared to vote on the issues as presented. This was the first year some of the voting was done on our cell phones. It went smoother than I thought it might. Although there were many other votes, this particular voting was to elect three lay delegates to serve at General Conference & Jurisdictional Conference in 2024.



In May, there was a called online Annual Conference Meeting to vote on churches in the WNC Conference who had chosen to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. There were 192 churches who met the conditions to be able to petition for disaffiliation from the UMC, and all those were approved in May. Since this vote happened prior to the AC2023 at Lake Junaluska, the conference was not burdened with having to make that vote there. Also, since those approvals had taken place prior to annual conference at Lake Junaluska, it was communicated to those churches that their delegates would not need to attend AC2023. I wondered how the absence of those delegates might affect the conference.

The entire conference felt Spirit-filled to me. The worship sessions were beautiful. The business meetings moved smoothly. There was such a sweet air of brotherly love throughout the conference. This was in part due to Bishop Ken Carter who does wonderful work in keeping our mission in front of us, conducting the meetings, and giving all an opportunity to be heard. He makes his work look easy, but it is clearly not easy. He is just very skilled at it. Every time he spoke, he made me proud to be United Methodist.

During the conference, Lighthouse Churches were recognized. Pastors and delegates from 82 churches were invited to stand in recognition of the decision those churches had made to be a beacon of love and acceptance to people in the community who found themselves in need of a place to worship. That was a proud moment for me.

One of the things I love about going to annual conference is seeing old friends and making new ones. And they are all United Methodists!

The theme of the conference was **Grace, Connection, Holiness**. We were each given a small rock with those words on it. The prayer was that we would "experience God's gracious presence, our connection with God in Christ as our foundation, and thus our connection with others; and, in the power of the Spirit, live out our call to holiness in the world".

I have kept my rock. I will use it to continue to remind myself that we are sent out to serve. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as delegate to AC2023.

The Neighboring Movement

1200 S Broadway
Wichita, KS 67211
(316) 619-4940

CHECK OUT OUR OTHER RESOURCES:

THE
**NEIGHBORING
MOVEMENT.**

[HTTPS://NEIGHBORINGMOVEMENT.ORG/](https://neighboringmovement.org/)

Check out our website to find
our weekly blog, our
neighborhood shop, and more!

Good neighboring is the act of connecting with the people who live near to you by fostering long-term relationships, focusing on the gifts neighbors possess, and following joy toward authenticity.

A **good neighbor** is defined as a person who intentionally develops relationships with the people living near them while focusing on giftedness, joy, and abundance.

- Joy: Living authentically as God created you
- Relationship: Connecting with those who live near you to share talents and to give and receive care.
- Abundance: Discovering gifts in ALL people and sharing them with the community

Something BIG is coming to SUMC... & you are invited!

We have received a grant and are about to launch a 4 month Neighboring Experiment with the NC Rural Center and the Neighboring Movement. (neighboringmovement.org). What is neighboring you ask? *See the info above and on p4 for more about neighboring and a program overview.*

**The initial part of this begins with a 4 week small group that introduces you to components of the program (joy, relationship, abundance). This is open to everyone and we need as many as possible to participate.*

You have 2 options to attend. After worship in the sanctuary **OR** Monday @ 6pm in the Yth Room. The 4 week schedule is as follows:
Sunday, 11:35am – July 16, 23, 30, Aug 6 Monday, 6pm: July 17, 24, 31, Aug 7
(Email or text Pastor Norm & let him know you want to participate)

You don't have to continue to be part of the Neighboring Group after those 4 weeks. But, hopefully many of you will.
After the initial 4 wks.... the weekly gatherings will move to Monday evening to coincide with monthly ZOOM calls we'll have occasionally with churches from around the Eastern U.S.

**In August we will also have a Good Neighbor Worship Series!*



GOOD NEIGHBOR EXPERIMENT

Overview

The Neighboring Movement is a nonprofit started in Wichita, Kansas by neighbors who desired to live out their Christian faith within the context of a neighborhood. Since 2015, we have been researching neighboring initiatives, experimenting in our own neighborhood called SoCe (south central), and teaching about neighboring across the country. The Good Neighbor Experiment (GNE) is the culmination of what we have learned formatted into resources for churches and a training experience for congregational teams.

The Good Neighbor Experiment:

GNE is made up of an introduction series called The Key Ingredients of Neighboring and three small group sections we call Labs. Each Lab is five weeks long and includes experiments to help you grow in your faith and your ability to be a good neighbor. Doing the weekly experiments is the key to getting the most out of GNE.

Key Ingredients of Neighboring

The Key Ingredients of Neighboring (KIN) are Joy, Relationship, and Abundance. In this introduction series, you will have sermon guides, worship resources, and adult small group materials to share neighboring with your whole church and recruit a neighboring team for the next steps.

Joy Lab

In the Joy Lab, your small groups will be introduced to the ReCycle, a tool for personal discernment and community decision-making. Using the ReCycle, participants will seek joy by living authentically within their values and identity as children of God.

Relationship Lab

The Relationship Lab focuses on neighboring where you live with your literal, actual neighbors. Using practical neighboring tips, participants will move from stranger to acquaintance, and acquaintance to relationship as they connect with the neighbors who live in the 8 homes closest to their own.

Abundance Lab

In the Abundance Lab, your congregation will learn about Asset Based Community Development. Small groups will do learning conversations within and outside the congregation and map the community assets. In this five-week study you will discover, connect, and mobilize the gifts of your community.

Each lab includes scripture readings, spiritual practices, and neighboring stories and activities for small groups, Sunday School classes, home groups, and church leadership teams and boards. There is a detailed Leader's guide for each Lab. All parts of this cohort- the worship and sunday school series, the 15 weeks of lab content, regular coaching by a trained GNE facilitator, online kickoff events and celebrations, and our alumni network- are designed for you, your church, and your neighborhood to experience transformation over time through intentional neighboring.

MUSIC



SPOTLIGHT

Reminders

Piano Update

As of July 1, est. \$6,000 has been received.

Special Thank You from Johnathan Greer, Director of Music Ministries. From a director's standpoint, I want to thank the church for taking a risk and purchasing a new piano. It has added so much to the services now. If it wasn't for your gifts and going above and beyond we would still be using the upright that wouldn't hold a tune and needed a lot of work.

PS: It is Sue Approved.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ice Cream Social - July 23

following

the morning worship service. Bring your favorite Ice Cream and come "Chill" outside with us!

Everyone is welcome. Learn more about the music program at Salem.

Would you like to go to Lake Junaluska? October 13-15 Open to Choir or Praise Team

Would like a head count by the End of August! To learn more reach out to Johnathan Greer.

<https://lakejunaluska.com/spiritual-renewal/adult-ministry/choir-music-weekend/>

Cost roughly: \$311 Lodging, Meals and Registration

Meet SUMC Praise Team:

Johnathan Greer (Lead Vocals, Keys, Organ)
Kevin Fite (Vocals)
Hadley Fite (Percussion/Vocals)
Vicki Reinke (Vocals)
Kathryn Jones (Vocals)
Ryan Collins (Guitar)
Sue Bunch (Piano)

Special Thanks:

Huge thank you to Bob Harbor and Kevin Fite for keeping the tech side going smoothly we appreciate all the hard work and dedication each Sunday.

Rehearsals

Praise Team Practice: Wed - 5:45 pm-6:45 pm

Choir Practice: Wed - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm



#SUMCMUSIC

To learn more about the music program please reach out to
Johnathan Greer, Director of Music Ministries music@sumcm.org or 704-530-9687 (call or text)

WNCC Lighthouse Congregation

You may notice a new lighthouse symbol around or in our communication. On May 7, our Church Council agreed unanimously to become a Lighthouse Congregation of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.



Lighthouse Congregations are local churches in the WNCC that are particularly equipped to welcome anyone whose church has closed or disaffiliated. These United Methodist faith communities are a resting place and refuge from the storm of disaffiliation with people who will offer care and a haven of peace and grace. By becoming a Lighthouse congregation, we are simply supporting our Mission Statement and being "Love in Action!"

We join with FUMC Morganton, Glen Alpine, and Abernethy Memorial, among those Lighthouse Congregations in Burke County. In doing so, we commit to serving those who have lost their church homes through disaffiliation or closure by keeping our focus on Christ's mission and by remaining United Methodist.

Thank you for your help in this work by providing a welcoming place, offering compassion to one another, and inviting others into ministry opportunities.

www.wnccumc.org/lighthouse-congregations

WORSHIP SERIES: Daring to Dance

...I have loved you with a love that lasts forever.

And so with unfailing love, I have drawn you to myself.

⁴ Again, I will build you up, and you will be rebuilt, virgin Israel.

Again, you will play your tambourines and dance with joy. (Jer. 31:3-4)

Have you ever heard a song come on the radio or your playlist and your body can't be still - it just has to move? That's a form of joy and God loves for us to live with joy. A popular maxim suggests: "to dance is to live." Dance is used to strengthen the body, to tell stories, to communicate with the spiritual world, and to express joy. While some might suggest they can't dance or don't have any rhythm, each of us has our own groove. Scientists point out that babies have an impulse for rhythm and humans are attuned to the music of the heartbeat and breath at birth. When God's joy breaks loose, how will we express it?

God's resurrection power sets us free to live boldly and freely as glimpses of the kingdom. If you've found your desire for dancing lacking lately, dare to dance again with the assurance that if we put one foot in front of the other in the presence of other daring dancers, we'll eventually "catch the Spirit." Join us for this series beginning June 11. Let God take the lead and dare to dance a life of resurrection joy.

July 2 - Sit it Out to Dance

"How can I understand, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:31)

July 9 - Can these Bones Live

What does it take to dance together?

July 15 - Break Forth in Dance

"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" (Psalm 98)

RUN AT THE RIVER

FREE 5K COMMUNITY FUN RUN

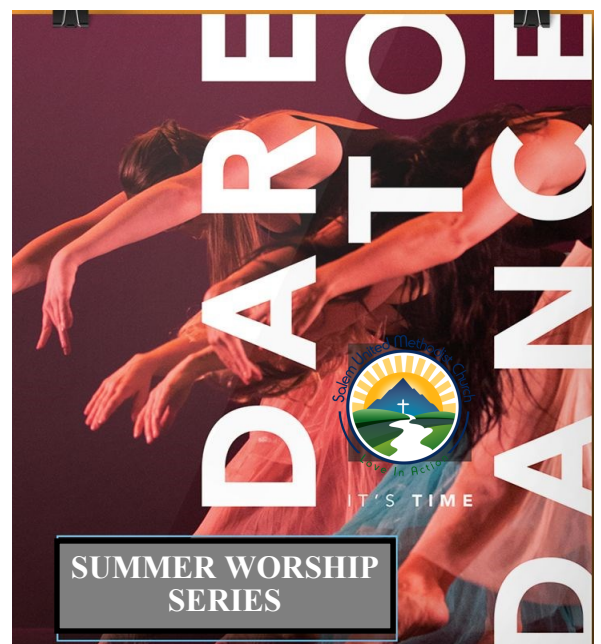
FIRST TUESDAYS: APRIL-OCTOBER
CATAWBA MEADOWS PARK
MORGANTON, NC



Join your community at Catawba Meadows Park for a fun 5K run the first Tuesday of each month during Daylight Savings Time. Start time is at 6:15 PM*. Please arrive early to sign in and warm up. We'll run a clearly marked 5K course on the greenway with timing at the finish.

All ages and abilities are welcome! Strollers, dogs, and kids are A-OK. No cost, no frills. You have enough T-shirts. Try for your best time or just enjoy the company!

*July 4 edition will start at 8:15 AM



Prayer Requests & Concerns: Gerald & Mozelle Duckworth, Steve & Jane Stroup, Kevin & Joann Patton, Fred Causby, Shirley Causby, Laqueta Carroll, Zach & Lucy Cagle, Alan Byrd, Cary Clark, Billie & Garland Ross Lou Lovelace, Muriel McNeilly, Barbara Harbour, Wanda & Gary Byrd, Linda Wilson, Kelly Basting, Linda Henson, Bill Hutchins, Bernice Peabody, Keith & Candace Brown
 Home Bound: Millie Avery, Leota Garrison, Brenda Autrey, Jackie Pruett, Janet Koon
 Nursing Home Residents: - Hope Ridge Family Care – Doris Garrison

Monthly Greeter list

1 st Sunday-	Jack Bridges	2 nd Sunday-	Charles Autrey
3 rd Sunday-	Holly Keller	4 th Sunday-	Kevin Reinke
5 th Sunday-	Jodi Brown	Alternate-	Bruce Pollard

Reading the Torah Together in 1 Year

Space these out and read some of the passage each day or all at once. You have a full week to read the chapters. But it's usually better to at least divide it into 2 days.

Schedule Week of:

July 2 - Lev 12- 13:59	July 9 - Lev 14 - 15:33
July 16 - Lev 16 - 18:30	July 23- Lev 19 - 20:27
July 30 - Lev 21 - 24	Aug 6 - Lev 25- 27
Aug 13 - Num 1- 4:20	Aug 20 - Num 4:21- 7
Aug 27 - Num 8 - 12	

Ladies of all ages are welcome to participate in the UWF. Our next meeting is July 6 @ 7pm in the FH.



United
Women
in Faith



2	Miranda Cole
3	Steven St. Louis
6	Tracy Benfield
9	Keith Garrison
17	Alana Parks
20	Shirley Causby
24	Tim McGhinnis
25	Beulah Duckworth

ANNIVERSARIES

17	Ronny & Caroline Causby
20	Cary Clark & Lisa Propst

Our Financial Stewardship:

Thru June 27, 2023

Weekly budget need: \$4,064.08
 Yearly Budget needed: \$211,332.00
 Budgeted need to date: \$105,666.08
 Total Received for Budget: **\$91,279.70**
 Ministry Expenses to Date: **\$97,348.13**

We are \$14,386.38 behind budget for the year!
We are \$6,068.43 behind expenses for the year.

Other Ministry Gifts Received to Date for 2023:

Backpack Ministry:	\$415.00
Building Fund (Cemetery, Building):	\$2,090.00
Piano	\$5,850.00
UMCOR	\$415.00

Gifts given in Memory or in Honor (June)

Joann Byrd	by John & Kathy Stroup
Johnathan Greer	by Norm & Kathryn Jones
	by Mary Ann Propst, Lisa Propst, Cary Clark
	by Robert & Jackie Pruett
Harry Ingram	by Doris Ingram
Azalie Carswell Brittain	by Gerald & Kay Duckworth
Virginia Robinson & Johnathan Greer	by Margaret Shell
Joan Borden	by Bruce & Kay Pollard
Roger Lessard	by Susan Tucker
Robert & Noel Tucker	by Arnold Tucker
Norman Duckworth	by Beulah Duckworth
	by Debbie Duckworth
Sue Bunch	by Wes Bunch
Jimmy & Marie Causby	by Martin & Beth Whitaker
Choir Members	by Marylou & Richard Carson
Beulah Duckworth	by Debbie Duckworth

Thank you

Salem UMC Thank you for remembering me during my graduation. My plans now are to join the US Air Force to serve our country proudly. Thank again.
 —Dawson Carswell

Thank you for the overwhelming outpouring of support, prayers, and cards during my surgery and recovery. Your love and prayers mean so much!
 —Virginia Robinson

If only there was something that I could say or do, some way that I could express our families thoughts for the comfort and thoughts and prayers and visits, and being there for Joann in her time of need. The service was beautiful and yet, just knowing that there are those that care will help to ease the loss that our family bears. Love and thanks
 — Alan Byrd

Dear Salem UMMen's Fellowship, Thank you all for your generous gift. I will use it wisely in the next chapter of my life following graduation. Many Thanks,
 - Lucas Brown

CHURCH STAFF

Norm Jones, Jr.—Pastor (rev.norm@alumni.duke.edu)
Johnathan Greer, Dir. of Music Ministry (music@sumcm.org)
Sue Bunch, Pianist (s_bunch@att.net)
Zachary Cagle, Office Admin. (salemumchurch@ymail.com)



July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Lev 12– 13:59 9:30 Sunday School 10:35am Worship	3 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg) 5:45pm NO Messy Church (FH)	4 Free River Run 5k 8:15a @Catawba Meadows INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 5:45pm Praise team (Sanct) 7pm Choir (Sanct)	6 7pm UWF Mtg(FH)	7	8
9 Lev 14 - 15:33 9:30 Sunday School 10:35am Worship 11:35a Outreach/ Witness Mtg (Sanct)	10 9:30am Meal @ BUCM 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg) 6pm	11	12 5:45pm Praise team (Sanct) 6:30pm Youth (Yth Rm) 7pm Choir (Sanct)	13	14	15
16 Lev 16 - 18:30 9:30 Sunday School 10:35am Worship 11:35 Neighbor train- ing (Sanct) 4pm Church Council (FH)	17 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg) 6pm Neighbor training (yth Rm)	18	19 5:45pm Praise team (Sanct) 7pm Choir (Sanct)	20	21	22
23 Lev 19 - 20:27 8:45 Men's breakfast (FH) 9:30 Sunday School 10:35am Worship 11:35 Neighbor train- ing (Sanct) *11:40am Music & Ice Cream (FH)	24 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg) 6pm Neighbor training (yth Rm)	25	26 5:45pm Praise team (Sanct) 7pm Choir (Sanct)	27	28	29
*July 23–29 Joint Youth/UMC Mission Trip (White Lake, NC)						
30 Lev 21 - 24 8:45 Men's breakfast (FH) 9:30 Sunday School 10:35am Worship 11:35 Neighbor train- ing (Sanct)	31 6pm Neighbor training (yth Rm)		5:45pm Praise team (Sanct) 7pm Choir (Sanct)			