

# Englewood United Methodist Church Newsletter

Published Monthly Vol. XXIV No. 6



Rev. Nathan Wittman  
*Lead Pastor*  
nwittman@englewood-umc.com

Rev. Savanna Becker  
*Minister of Christian Education*  
sbecker@englewood-umc.com

Christian Davenport  
*Office Administrator*  
cdavenport@englewood-umc.com

Nancy Porter  
*Secretary*  
nporter@englewood-umc.com

**JUNE 1, 2023**

300 S. Circle Drive

Mail: P.O. Box 7128

Rocky Mount, NC 27804-0128

Phone: (252) 443-2926

Church Email: nporter@englewood-umc.com

Web Site: www.englewood-umc.com

## The Church - A Summer Sermon Series

It has been a delight wrestling with Bible stories from Sunday school and my prayer is that our sermon series, Bible Stories Revisited, has been just as much a blessing for you, too. As this sermon series comes to a close on June 11<sup>th</sup>, I wanted to give you an extended forecast look at what is coming next from the pulpit. First, I wanted to offer a little context as to why.

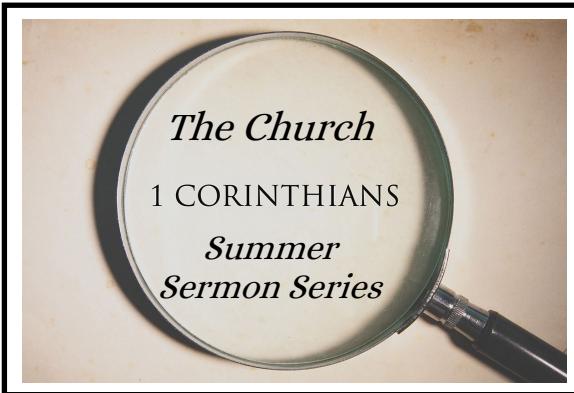
Recently, I was invited to submit some writings to Abingdon Press with the possibility of being asked to create a curriculum for their Adult Bible Studies. They have received my submission and let me know that I will be writing the Student Guide for Summer 2025. My due date is a little ways off, but I wanted to get a head start and begin wrestling with the scripture involved. After an outline I began to think to myself, "Hey! This could become a sermon series." By doing so, you, too, can be a part of the writing process.

Starting June 18<sup>th</sup> we will start a summer series called *The Church*. We will be wrestling with 1 Corinthians, Paul's letter to a church struggling with life together amongst diverse folks. We will begin with *Reading Other People's Mail*, a discussion on the context of our text before wrestling with various themes like being baptized with the Holy Spirit,

wisdom, finding unity, how not to partake in the Lord's Supper, spiritual gifts, and the resurrection. While wrestling with practical matters and heavenly matters, our goal will be to envision what we should seek to be as Christ's church.

I am so very excited to wrestle with this and include you in the process of creating the curriculum. My hope is not only that you will grow from this series, but that you can offer feedback to me and help me grow in what I produce. Let's be the church together!

*Pastor Nathan*



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Turning 40 can be a tough one, but surrounded by your love through the many, many cards I have received made it so much easier. I continue to praise God for the tremendous fellowship of this congregation and the many ways you support me and make me feel appreciated.

God bless!

Pastor Nathan



### **Our Sympathy Is Expressed To:**

*The Family and Friends of Ruby Baker Hearne upon her death on May 8, 2023.*

### **In Memoriam**

### **RUBY BAKER HEARNE**

### **May 8, 2023**

To Pastor Nathan & Congregation of Englewood United Methodist Church,

The family of Earl Overton would like to express their gratitude for all the outpouring of blessings, honor and love you showered for Earl and his family. Earl loved this church and everyone in it and we are sure he will be watching over everyone.



There are not enough words to say thank you.

As Earl would say, have a Zippy-Do-Dah Fabulous Day.

I want to thank everyone who helped me after my fall. It was great how much as a group helped me. I'm healing well according to the doctor. Thanks for the prayers, cards, and food. What a loving church!

In Christ,  
Sue McMillan

### **Thank You!**

"Blessed beyond measure" is the phrase that keeps coming to our minds when we think about our baby shower on May 7<sup>th</sup>! We are truly overwhelmed by the love and generosity of our church family as we prepare for our new addition. Thanks to you, our nursery is full of beautiful furniture, adorable clothes, and all the supplies we'll need once our baby arrives. Thank you especially to the United Women in Faith who organized and hosted the shower. Everything was wonderful, and we can't imagine a more perfect way to celebrate our growing family. We are so blessed by your support and encouragement, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome our son into a church family that already loves him so much!

Love,  
Adam, Savanna and Baby Becker



*Congratulations to  
Ellen Hicks  
and  
Austin Tolbert  
who were united in marriage  
on May 20, 2023 at  
Washington Park  
Washington, North Carolina.*

*Ellen is the daughter of Jimmy & Lisa Hicks.  
Austin is the son of Heidi Vaught.*



*Congratulations to  
Landon James Quigley  
and  
Emily Grace Cross  
who were united in marriage  
on June 3, 2023 at  
Edenton Baptist Church,  
Edenton, North Carolina.  
Nathan is the son of Jay & Amy Quigley.  
Emily is the daughter of  
Martin & Kelly Cross.*

# **Happy Birthday!**

### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

03	Helen Bronner	17	Elliott Mills
06	Larry Boyd III	23	Roger Domina
07	Boyd Wilson III	26	Jeffery de los Santos
09	Eddie Doll, Jr.	26	Rev. Dr. Billy Seate
09	William League	27	Sharon Lugar
09	Kenneth Snowden	29	Phyllis Horns
10	Jonathan Scoggins	30	Michael Davis
15	Barbara Batts	30	Doug Geeting
15	Alexander Stanislaw		

Dear EUMC Church Family,

Thank you for the calls, food, and cards during my recent surgery and recovery. I feel truly blessed to be a part of the EUMC family.

Thank you,  
Dessie Clark

Flower Ministry,

Thanks for the beautiful flowers that were donated by Amy and Jay Quigley and also for the other bud vase that was delivered.

Fondly,  
Sylvia & Crayton Overton



United  
Women  
in Faith

### United Women in Faith News

The Women of the Way and Lydia's Sisters Circles will not meet during the summer months. They will return on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. All women of the church are invited to join one of the Circles.



### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

*The Prayer Shawl Ministry  
is taking the summer off.  
We will return on Tuesday,  
September 5<sup>th</sup>.*



*Do you know someone who would be comforted by receiving a Prayer Shawl or a Blanket? Forms are available on the table outside the church office for you to request shawls/blankets. You may call the church office at 252-443-2926. You may also contact Betty Poplin at 252-985-0950.*



### **ENGLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST MEN**

The Englewood United Methodist Men will not meet during the summer months. We will return on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>! All men in the church are welcome to join us for dinner, a devotion and a guest speaker. Please mark your calendar.

Peter Varney



Senior Adult  
Fellowship

### **SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP**

The Senior Adult Fellowship will meet in the Fellowship Hall for Bingo at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

### FAITH CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES OF NASH COUNTY - JUNE NEEDS

Starting Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, the "Meals of the Month" donation will be **Peanut Butter, Jelly, and Saltines**.

There is a LOVE CAN located in the area beneath the name tags in the church lobby, labeled "**FCM MEALS OF THE MONTH**". So when you're in the grocery store, just pick up an extra jar/box and donate these food items to help stock their food pantry throughout the month of June.



Faith Christian Ministries needs this food more than ever! I will continue to pick it up and take it to Nashville. Remember, the majority of the people served by this non-profit Christian agency come from Rocky Mount but FCM serves the entire Nash County.

This is another wonderful opportunity for this generous congregation to help others who can't help themselves.

Sharon Roth

### **Women of The Way Circle**

The Women of the Way Circle joined together for food and fellowship on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Olive Garden Restaurant. We were honored to have our church staff, Christian Davenport and Nancy Porter, and our ministers, Nathan Wittman and Savanna Becker plus Laura Wittman,

present with us so could show our appreciation for all they do. It was announced that this circle would kick off a new church project entitled "**Wilma's Teddy Bears**" in September to honor our lost member, Wilma Rundell. Each circle member was asked to bring a stuffed bear to the September meeting where they will be blessed and hugged and then placed in the pews in the sanctuary where any member who wishes to give a bear to someone who needs a hug can take the bear. After September, any church member who wishes to contribute a bear to the circle for this project may do so.

A blessing was offered by Nathan Wittman and then all enjoyed our time for fellowship and food. The circle will recess for June thru' August but will resume our regular meeting format in September. The UMW is open to all women of the church and we invite you to come join us in the Aldersgate classroom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m., beginning on September 19<sup>th</sup>.



### **2023 FLOWER CALENDAR**

There are still dates available for you to reserve that special Sunday to provide flowers for worship in the sanctuary in memory/honor of your loved ones or in honor of a special event in your family.

*The following Sundays are available:*

*July 2, July 16, July 23,  
August 6, August 20, August 27,  
September 24,  
October 8, October 15, October 22, October 29,  
November 26,  
December 3, December 10, December 31.*

The 2023 Flower Calendar is now online on the church website ([www.englewood-umc.com](http://www.englewood-umc.com)) or you may call the church office to reserve your special Sunday.



## SERMON SERIES

When was the last time you read the story of Noah's Ark? Or really thought about David and Goliath? We are revisiting these childhood Bible stories as grownups! From May 7<sup>th</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup>, Pastors Nathan and Savanna will lead us in exploring some of the Bible stories we remember from Sunday School in new and exciting ways. From Creation and Noah's Ark to Daniel and the Lions' Den, we'll take a deeper look at these passages and discover that their impact extends beyond childhood. We can't wait to go on this adventure with you!

## COMING SOON: BUILDING OUR ARK!

Our Englewood UMC Courtyard Playground Project is underway! We are so excited for this space that will truly be a place for ALL - the young and the young at heart! The ark is designed to nurture the creativity, playful spirit, and imagination of our children. Just think of all the Bible stories we can reenact and teach about on this boat! It will also be a beautiful place for all of us to spend time and be inspired by God's creation. We hope everyone will be "on board" with us on the exciting new adventure!

You may have questions about the funding of this project and the timeline for its construction. Here's an overview, and if you have more questions, feel free to contact Barbara Batts and Savanna Becker - we LOVE sharing about this project!

- Projected cost for the Courtyard Playground Project: \$28,615
- Funds already contributed for this project: \$28,128
- Construction of the space is expected to begin in the first two weeks of June and will be completed by July 15, 2023.

The construction of the ark is the first part of our vision for the Courtyard area. Once it is completed, there will be opportunities for everyone to get involved by contributing and nurturing plants for the landscaping, as well as donating funds to future projects in the space. If you would like to contribute funds to the Courtyard project, we'd love to have your help! You can make donations to the church, marked with "Courtyard Project".



### **Thank You from Autism Family Support Groups**

We had a wonderful event thanks to our group members from EUMC and our Bailey group.

A BIG shout out to our church members for your support, able bodies, and donations!



Whether you WALKED, ROLLED OR RAN, each step was appreciated. We also thank the Rocky Mount Fire Department for being with us for our event. All sizes of us enjoyed them!

Friendly  
Reminder

The deadline for receiving information to be included in the JULY Newsletter is  
Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

### **Father's Day Pictures**

Father's Day is coming up, and we would like to honor our fathers in a slideshow of pictures on Father's Day in worship!

You can submit pictures by email to [sbecker@englewood-umc.com](mailto:sbecker@englewood-umc.com) or by bringing hard copies to the church office. We do have pictures that have been submitted in previous years, but if you want to make sure we have yours on file, you can call the church office or email Savanna to check.

The deadline for receiving Father's Day pictures is June 8<sup>th</sup>.





## WORKDAY WEDNESDAYS

Workday Wednesdays are back for our EUMC Youth this summer, and we can't wait! For 6 Wednesdays this summer, our youth will participate in mission projects right here in eastern North Carolina. This year we'll be partnering with Ripple Effects, Joyland Preschool, and The MERCI Center in Goldsboro, as well as working on projects here at Englewood UMC. These are the dates for this year's Workday Wednesdays:

June 7

June 21

June 28

July 12

July 19

July 26

There is no cost for our youth to participate in Workday Wednesdays, thanks to the generous support of our congregation and our fundraisers, but we ask that youth sign up ahead of time to let us know who will be participate in each week's workday. Youth can sign up using this link to sign up by Monday of each week: <https://www.signupgenious.com/go/10C0D44AEAB2FABFFC16-workday1>



### JOYFULLY TOGETHER: OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.

Get ready for our next Joyfully Together Fellowship Event: an Outdoor Movie Night on Saturday, June 17th at 8:00 p.m. We'll have a family-friendly movie for everyone to enjoy together, and of course we'll also have popcorn, snacks, and drinks available. Bring your own chair, sit outside, and have a great time with your church family!

### **TRUSTEES REPORTING PROGRESS!**

Change is inevitable and so please help us keep our new Code safe. You may call the church office to receive our new code which is updated quarterly.

REMEMBER: The door to the fellowship hall entrance is locked for our protection. Please enter by the entrances at Adult Sunday School classrooms halls where someone can help you or the main church entrance if you don't have the new code. Yes, get the code, keep us safe and again, thank you for understanding.



Thank you church for all your suggestions. We are acting on them and will welcome your eyes as We are all Trustees of this wonderful Church.

We are also excited to be on the way to building THE ARK. Please pray for our Courtyard project!

We are happy to announce that a new changing table was suggested for our Men's Restroom by one of our Dads. It will be up soon.

Yes, we are busy responding and welcome any volunteers to assist. Much thanks goes to The ENGLEWOOD ANGELS who moved the Courtyard Concrete!!!

Please let Barbara Batts or other trustees know of you willingness to serve as a Sunday Volunteer.

Trustees are: Jack Ellis, Lea Ann Nichols, Lee Pullen, Jerry Lee Ezzell, Lisa Hicks, Terry Woodley, Brian Collins, Janet Hagan and Barbara Batts.



## Children's Sunday School

Children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are invited to join us on the children's hall for a time of learning, fellowship, and fun on Sunday mornings at 9:30! Our younger children will have a special activity in our nursery, while our older children journey through the Bible one week at a time. Our theme for June is IDENTITY! Here's what we'll be learning about each week:

Date	Topic	Helper
June 4	I Am (Exodus 3:13-15)	Susan Hayes
June 11	Good Shepherd (Psalm 23)	Patsy Smith
June 18	Abba (Mark 14:32-42)	Lu Czar
June 25	Alpha and Omega (Revelation 22:1-13)	Helper Needed



## Children's Church

Our children and adult leaders are having such a wonderful time learning about God's Word in Children's Church during worship on Sunday mornings! Children are invited to join us in worship with their families at 10:30 a.m. After a special children's message just for them, our children can go back to the children's hall for more awesome activities! Parents can pick up children on the children's hall after worship ends.

### Children's Church Schedule

This year in Children's Church we're going on a Bible Hero Adventure, focusing on a different hero in the Bible each month and what they teach us about God. These imperfect people will point us to our perfect Savior, Jesus, who loves us all and can use all of us to serve God's kingdom! In June we're learning all about SAMSON!

Date	Topic	Leader
June 4	God gives us instructions (Judges 13:6-25)	Beth Ezzell
June 11	We are not defined by our mistakes! (Judges 15:9-20)	Phyllis Woodley
June 18	There are rules for a reason (Judges 16:4-22)	Savanna Becker
June 25	God answered Samson's last prayer (Judges 16:23-30)	Jessica Ezzell

### Saturday Morning CAFE (Children And Families @ Englewood)

We'll take a break from our Saturday Morning CAFE (Children And Families @ Englewood) during the summer because of all the wonderful Children's Ministry activities we have planned. Don't miss Vacation Bible School on June 12-15 and Art Camp on July 24-26! You can mark your calendars for our next CAFE, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 16 at 10:00 a.m. on the Children's Hall.



## Vacation Bible School

June 12-15 | 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Get ready for an out-of-this-world adventure at Stellar VBS!! On June 12-15 from 5:30-8:00 each night, we'll go on an intergalactic adventure to explore God's awesome creation, learn about God's love that's bigger than the whole universe, and discover how we can shine Jesus' light in our world! Registration is open online for children who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger: [www.englewood-umc.com/vbs](http://www.englewood-umc.com/vbs).

Grownups can join us on this amazing adventure too!! How can you help?

- Sign up to help the week of VBS as a crew leader, station leader, food coordinator, photographer, or registration helper
- Donate supplies and food items (lists are in the church lobby)
- Invite children you know to participate
- PRAY for us as we're preparing and for everyone who will experience this week with us!





## UMYF JUNE SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 4</b>	9:30 am 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sunday School & Worship Youth Group
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>June 7</b>	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Workday Wednesday #1
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 11</b>	9:30 am 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sunday School & Worship Graduate Recognition & Youth Group
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 18</b>	9:30 am	Sunday School & Worship No Youth Group Tonight - Father's Day
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>June 21</b>	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Workday Wednesday #2
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 25</b>	9:30 am 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sunday School & Worship Youth Group
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>June 28</b>	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Workday Wednesday #3

### **UMYF Dinner Signups**

Our UMYF meets on Sundays from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for dinner, Bible study, games, and fellowship. If you are able to provide a meal for our UMYF one Sunday evening, our group would really appreciate your help! You can either bring the meal or donate financially toward our meal fund. The sign-up list is in the church lobby. Thank you for your ongoing support of our UMYF!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Provided By</b>
June 4	Sandwiches	Harriet Buss
June 11	Senior Cookout	United Women in Faith
June 18	No Meal Needed	
June 25	Comfort Food	

### **Yard Sale & Bake Sale Thank You**



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Youth Yard Sale Fundraiser and Children's Bake Sale Fundraiser! If you volunteered, rented a space, donated items, or came to shop - you helped make a difference for our children and youth! We raised over \$1,300 for our Youth Ministry Fund to support our summer activities, and also raised funds to provide for our children's activities.

Our next yard sale will be on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.



### **Blessed ART the Children Art Camp**

**July 24-26 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

We're already SO excited about our Art Camp this summer! This is a wonderful chance for our children to explore their own creativity and feel connected to the creativity of God. Throughout the week we'll have a variety of art projects for our kids to enjoy, and at the end of the camp we'll have an art show where everyone is invited to come and see all that they've created!

Children who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are welcome at Art Camp! We'll have the children in groups by age, from our older elementary down to our toddlers, with projects designed just for them. Registration is open for Art Camp online, so you can sign up today, and don't forget to invite your friends!

Register at [www.englewood-umc.com/art-camp](http://www.englewood-umc.com/art-camp).

