

Englewood United Methodist Church Newsletter

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MARCH 1, 2023
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LIGHTHOUSE CONGREGATION

As I write this, I'm still recovering from a day spent interviewing candidates for ministry in The United Methodist Church. As a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry, it's my duty to ask the tough questions, ensuring that they have a strong Wesleyan understanding of theology, and to encourage the candidates in the call that the Holy Spirit has placed upon them. It is an important time of discernment where we identify whether these folks before us are ready for ministry. That, on its own, makes for a busy and demanding day. But there was no way to ignore an extra bit of heaviness that lingered over the rooms we gathered in. So many of our candidates were broken by the disaffiliation conversations that were happening at their churches. They remained faithful to those churches despite harsh words. They remained faithful to The United Methodist Church, whose mission they felt called to. But, sadly, those churches, caught up in misinformation from The Global Methodist Church and fear, were not faithful to them. And yet, though tears were shed and hearts broken, these candidates continued to stand strong in the call they knew the Holy Spirit had placed within their hearts.

This shadow of disaffiliation has loomed over all our churches to various degrees these past couple of years. After the called Annual Conference in November of last year, I have encountered so much brokenness. Aside from a handful of examples, those congregations that moved to have a vote on disaffiliation have been torn in two, whether they voted to stay or to leave. I've heard stories of family members refusing to talk to each other and dear friends that refuse to worship with each other after lines were drawn in the sand and opinions tallied. The overall church is usually left wounded as members leave based on the decision. And some of those churches who have left are still waiting on pastors from the GMC, leaderless and without direction or knowing what's next.

It should be of no surprise, then, that after some churches chose to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, a great number of people refused to leave with them. The number continues to grow every day and is somewhere between 600 and 700 folks. They are scarred by what has happened during the process of their church leaving. Some are wary of joining another United Methodist Church, afraid they might have those conversations all over again. And so they have transferred their membership to the NC Conference of The United Methodist Church, remaining a part of the denomination they believe in, but still searching for a place to land at a local church.

It was for these people that our conference created The United

Methodist Collective of North Carolina. Rev. Laura Wittman heads up the ministry and leads four pastors called Collective Chaplains who connect with the remnant that feels displaced. They provide pastoral care, visit, administer the sacraments, and sometimes connect them to local churches. Alongside this, the conference has shared the opportunity for United Methodist Churches to become Lighthouse Congregations. Rev. Laura shared this opportunity with us at our last Church Council meeting and we were so enthused about it that we voted to become one.

What is a Lighthouse Congregation? Let me start off with what it is not. The arguments swirling around disaffiliation all center on our brothers and sisters who identify as LGBT and whether our churches should be fully inclusive or not, especially when it comes to the areas of marriage and ordination. **Lighthouse Congregations have nothing to do with this ongoing debate, and becoming one does not mean we are taking a stance one way or the other on this issue.** What becoming a Lighthouse Congregation does mean is that we recognize the hurt of those displaced by their disaffiliating churches and we want to be a



beacon of hope to them. We are saying that we will be intentional in our hospitality, welcoming them if they join us for worship and working to connect them with our members. We'll be intentional with offering worship opportunities, both in person and online, and offering fellowship around the Communion table. When it comes to our many ministry opportunities, we'll be intentional about advertising opportunities to join us. Finally, we will be intentional about meeting with these folks in the communities around us, like a gathering at the local coffee shop. And to ensure that they feel like this is a safe place for them worship and connect, becoming a Lighthouse Congregation means that we will remain a United Methodist Church, that this is a place where they don't have to fear encountering the painful conversations around disaffiliation.

I am proud that our council made the decision to become a Lighthouse Congregation. I am excited that when people are looking for a church to settle down in the conference will recommend us as a place to connect. I, also, cannot wait to see the ways that the wonderful love of this congregation reaches out to heal the deep hurt of the folks around us. As our church has become a Lighthouse Congregation, perhaps the question to ask ourselves is how we, too, will be a beacon of God's love to all God's people.

Pastor Nathan



Our Sympathy Is Expressed To:

Judy & Earl Overton and family upon the death of Judy's mother, **Rachel Olivia Frazier McClintock** on January 31, 2023.

Sharon & Jeff Muller and family upon the death of Sharon's father, **Charles Wesley Lockwood, Jr.** on February 1, 2023.

James White & Leslie Belfance upon the death of James' father, **James (Jim) Edward White III** on February 11, 2023.

The family and friends of **Gail Holder Jenkins** upon her death on February 15, 2023.

Laura Earp and family upon the death of her aunt, **Ruth "Elaine" Hardy Griffin** on February 20, 2023.

Ouida Matthews & Glenda Hortman and family upon the death of Ouida's daughter and Glenda's niece, **Nancy Matthews Wood** on February 24, 2023



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

02	Laurel Currie	18	Shelton Meade
02	Samuel High	18	Lee Pullen
02	James Horan	19	Laura Earp
03	Joshua Lee	20	Glenda Hortman
05	Deborah High	20	John Wilson
05	Alex Trull	21	Theresa Nettin
06	Amy Quigley	22	Jane Seeger
07	Kathryn Wright	23	Brad Dunn
08	Sawyer Mills	23	Kevin Holt
08	Ryan Nichols	23	Mary K. Landis
08	Lindsay Stanislaw	23	John Vickers
10	Jack Watson-Batts	24	Nancy Johnston
11	Brooklyn Batts	24	Douglas Lynch
11	Leslie Belfance	24	Mauguerite Wilson
13	Robert Coats	26	Michael Bunn
15	Jay Quigley	27	Everette Stanislaw
17	Brian Collins	27	Seth Varney
17	Patsy Smith	29	Gus Kanai
18	Rick Cline	31	Harriett Dobbins

Please note...If your name does not appear on the birthday list, it is because we do not have this information in our records. We ask that you let the church office know the month and date of your birth so our list will be complete. Thank you for your help in updating our records!

In Memoriam

GAIL HOLDER JENKINS

February 15, 2023



Caring Card Ministry

If you have greeting cards that you would like to share, please bring them to the table outside of the church office. We need many types including get-well, thinking of you and sympathy. Thank you for helping with this very meaningful mission! The Caring Card Ministry is very busy!

The deadline for receiving

information to be included in the

APRIL Newsletter

is Monday, March 20th



Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry Ladies,

I have always heard prayers come in different volumes, shapes and possible sizes. I know Bill's blanket with all your prayers pulled him through several tough times the past few weeks. Your kindness in remembering him is truly appreciated and just want you to know he still sleeps with his blanket every night. Thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts.

Love and hugs,
Rachel & Bill Dix

It is not often that a project touches as many hearts as our **Souper Bowl of Caring**. This project was dear to the hearts of the Batts' Family as their focus on missions began in the Soup Kitchen located in the basement of the Good Shepherd Church many years ago. Dad often took us to help serve and spend the night. We saw it appropriate to honor his mission service with our donation to purchase a shopping cart.

The opportunities for increasing The Outreach growth by our church created a wonderful memory for our family. We certainly encourage continuing support for the United Community Ministries.

In appreciation,
John David & Michael Batts & families

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Ladies of the EUMC Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry,

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. We were given one of your precious shawls by Coats Veterinary when our sweet puppy passed on. How comforting it was to me, and so unexpected but so kind of you. This shawl truly took away a little of my grief, and I will cherish it always! Bless you all.

Fondly,
Cyndy Scalf

Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry Ladies,

Thank you for the beautiful daisy blanket. I love a blanket and have used it every night wrapped up on the couch! Thank you for your prayers and your love and thoughtfulness.

Sandra Davis

Members of the EUMC Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry,

Thank you for your blessings and beautiful baby blanket for our sweet, new baby boy, Collier Allen James. We appreciate your prayers and well wishes for our family and Baby Cole. Sending lots of light and love to your families this holiday season.

With love,
Crystal, Benton & Baby Cole James

LENTEN WORSHIP & LUNCH

Beginning Wednesday, March 1st at 12:00 p.m., we will once again have our Lenten Worship & Lunch. We will join with Lakeside Baptist, The Mills Church, Saint Andrews Episcopal Church and First United Methodist Church as we worship together and then have lunch (provided by the host church). This will allow time for anyone who wants to attend during their lunch break from work. Mark your calendars and plan to be a part of this time of worship and fellowship during the Lenten Season.

Date	Location	Speaker
March 1	Englewood UMC	Rev. Dr. Jody Wright
March 8	Lakeside Baptist Church	Rev. David Joyner
March 15	The Mills Church	Rev. George Greer
March 22	Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church	Rev. Laura Wittman
March 29	First UMC	Rev. Nathan Wittman

SAVE THE DATE!



United Women in Faith will be hosting a baby shower for Savanna on Sunday afternoon, May 7th and all the women in the church are invited! More details will be in the April Newsletter.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith News

March 21	10:00 a.m.	Women of the Way Circle - Aldersgate Classroom
March 23	6:00 p.m.	Lydia's Sisters' Circle - Fellowship Hall (Set up for tea.)
March 25	11:00 a.m.	Lydia's Sisters' Tea - Fellowship Hall



Lydia's Sisters' Tea

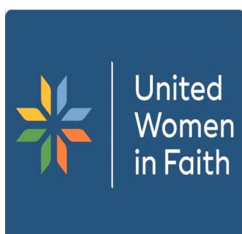
Saturday, March 25th
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Englewood UMC Fellowship Hall
Tickets are \$15 each and will be sold in the church lobby from March 5th to March 19th before and after worship on Sundays.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesday, March 7	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Church Parlor (Blankets)
Tuesday, March 14	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Church Parlor (Shawls)

Shawls and blankets will be placed on the altar rail for blessing on Sunday, March 12th.

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.



United Women in Faith

Women of The Way Circle

The Women of the Way Circle met February 21st in the Aldersgate Classroom. Sharon Roth gave the devotion "Jesus Knows More about Your Job than You Do". The context taken from **Luke 5:1-11** tells us to respond like Peter when we hear our Lord's voice telling us how to do "our jobs". The speaker today was Eddie Thomas, coordinator for Community Christian Service. This volunteer organization, comprised of Christian men from various churches, is devoted to preparing and installing ramps for handicapped individuals to help them with ease of access to/from their homes. In 2022, they installed 57 ramps and repurposed 10. All this is done at no cost to the individual, but donations are accepted.

An update was given on those circle members who have incurred medical issues.

The circle continues to support Faith Christian Ministries with food products and The Lighthouse with paper products. Terrie Buckner reported that there will be dishcloth bunnies for sale at the Lydia's Circle Tea. She asked that any member who has time to stay after the meeting and help her make dishcloth bunnies. A discussion ensued on what to charge for the dishcloths and it was decided to charge \$3.

The UMM gave \$4,000 to support Backpack Buddies and we will continue to pack on the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of each month. A discussion was held on hosting a Spring Dinner for the ladies of The Lighthouse. Embra Pullen, once again, volunteered to chair this event. The dinner will be held at 5:00 p.m. on March 28th in the Fellowship Hall.

This circle meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate Classroom. All women of the church are invited to join us.



ENGLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Englewood United Methodist Men will meet on Tuesday, March 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker is Ken Hunter who will speak on the condition of the local economy.

I hope you will come and join us. We will have a great meal very reasonably priced at \$5.00 (free for first time visitors). We serve dinner at 6:00 p.m., receive a brief devotion, and then hear from our speaker. Please mark your calendar.

Peter Varney

SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP



The Senior Adult Fellowship will meet in the Fellowship Hall for Bingo at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1st and at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15th.

Note change in time due to Lenten Worship & Lunch at noon.

We Are The Trustees Together!

As we join together to carry out the Mission of the Church we invite our entire congregation, children, youth and adults, to become a trustee. There are notebooks to allow us to record any maintenance concerns that you may find. The notebooks are located outside the church office and in the Narthex.

We want to hear from you. If you have questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact the following Trustees. We need everyone to care and support EUMC as we grow in mission together. The following are your trustees:

Barbara Batts, Chairperson

Jack Ellis

Lea Ann Nichols

Lee Pullen

Jerry Lee Ezzell

Lisa Hicks

Terry Woodley

Brian Collins

Janet Hagan

FAITH CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

OF NASH COUNTY - FEBRUARY NEEDS

Thank you for continuing to support this mission project by donating food to feed the hungry in Nash County. We are sending 1 to 1½ Love Cans of food to Faith Christian Ministries each month. Won't you please consider adding more food to our donation boxes? This agency supports all of Nash County, not just Nashville.

Starting Sunday, March 5th, the "Meals of the Month" donation will be **Tuna and Tuna Helper**. There is a Love Can located in the area beneath the name tags in the church lobby, labeled "**FCM MEALS OF THE MONTH**". Please donate these items to help stock their pantry throughout the month of March. This is another wonderful opportunity for this generous congregation to help others who can't help themselves.



2023 FLOWER CALENDAR



The 2023 Flower Calendar is now available for your use in reserving that special Sunday to place flowers in the sanctuary in memory of your loved ones or in honor of a special event in your family. The 2023 Flower Calendar is now online on the church website (www.Englewood-UMC.com). Under the Worship heading click on Flowers. Scroll down for instructions to use the calendar to reserve a date. Click on the Sunday you would like to provide flowers. If the date is available, provide your name, email and the message you would like placed in the bulletin regarding the person(s) or event being honored by the flowers. Click 'Submit'. You should get an email confirmation that your date has been reserved. If you have questions or are unable to make your reservation, call the church office (252-443-2926) and we will be happy to help you. If the Sunday you would like to reserve has already been scheduled and you would like to place flowers in the narthex, please call the church office. As in the past you will receive an email or phone call reminder the week before your scheduled Sunday.

Please Note: Flowers placed in the sanctuary should be no more than 36" wide and 25" high.

2023 "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING"



The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in our 2023 Souper Bowl of Caring. We partnered with United Community Ministries to collect food and other items they needed to continue serving our community. There was a wide variety of items donated from their wish list which was valued around \$1,000. This will benefit the Bassett Center Shelter for Families, the homeless shelter for individuals and the Soup Kitchen where they provide meals on a daily basis for those in need. We also collected monetary donations for use in keeping their mission going.

We could never have met our goal without the help of everyone. To all of you who purchased shopping carts for \$200, our Sunday School Classes that contributed and everyone who donated - Thank You!

A special thank you to Barbara Batts for being our head cheer leader and organizer, Rod Buckner for being our voice in getting the message out, and Mike Williams for making sure that we had all those shopping carts to fill up (he and Beverly also delivered all the items to The Bassett Center). And we could not have done it without the help and support from Pastor Nathan, Pastor Savanna, Christian and Nancy so a big thank you to them.

Once again you have been the hands of Jesus in providing help to those in need in our own community. Thank you!

Patsy Smith, Outreach Chairperson



Children's Sunday School

Children 5th 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 March is PARABLES! Here's what we'll be learning about each week:

Date	Topic	Helper
March 5	The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)	Susan Hayes
March 12	The Two Houses (Matthew 7:24-27)	Patsy Smith
March 19	The Sower and the Seed (Matthew 13:1-9)	Helper Needed
March 26	The Last Supper (Mark 14:12-26)	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. During Children's Church time, we have a Nursery for infants through Pre-K and Children's Church for K-5th Grade.

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 March we're learning all about JOSEPH!

Date	Topic	Leader
March 5	Life isn't fair, but God always is (Genesis 37:12-36)	Beth Ezzell
March 12	God blesses us, even when life isn't fair (Genesis 39:1-21)	Savanna Becker
March 19	God is always with us! (Genesis 40:2-23)	Phyllis Woodley
March 26	People may forget us, but God never will (Genesis 41:1-16, 25-40)	Jessica Ezzell

Saturday Morning CAFE (Children And Families @ Englewood)

Our Saturday Morning CAFE (Children And Families @ Englewood) is an opportunity for our children and their families to get together and explore our faith in fresh ways. The CAFE is for families with children in 5th grade and younger, and is designed for grownups to stay and enjoy the activities with us.

Our next CAFE will be on Saturday, March 11th at 10:00 a.m. and our theme is Spring! We'll learn about how God gives us new life, just like nature gets new life in the springtime. We'll also have snacks and other activities that focus on our theme. We hope we'll see all of our children and families there!



Autism Family Support Groups



TC Family Autism Group
EUMC

Autism Family Support Groups now meet at EUMC and La Hermosa Church in Bailey! Both groups are having great success in meeting the needs of our families with special programs that are requested by the families. Both groups offer a meal and childcare at no cost. Meals begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:15 p.m.

Our EUMC group will meet on Friday, March 31st.

We also have exciting news concerning our "Walk and Roll" Fundraiser to be held on April 29th. Everyone is invited to walk, run, pedal trikes, bike rides in your wagon, etc.! There is only a \$5.00 fee per family and a donation from individuals. This year we will have music, a food truck, community service vehicles, face painting and much more.

Our new T-Shirts have arrived and are available for donations of any amount!
Just contact Barbara Batts to reserve yours (252-450-5000)!!!



UMYF MARCH SCHEDULE

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>March 5</i>	9:30 am 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sunday School & Worship Confirmation Class Youth Group
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>March 12</i>	9:30 am 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sunday School & Worship Confirmation Class Youth Group
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>March 19</i>	9:30 am 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sunday School & Worship Confirmation Class Youth Group
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>March 26</i>	9:30 am 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Sunday School & Worship Confirmation Class Youth Group
<i>Friday, March 31 - Sunday, April 2</i>			Confirmation Retreat

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!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Provided By</u>
March 5	Mexican Food	_____
March 12	Comfort Food	_____
March 19	Breakfast Food	Barbara Batts
March 26	Sandwiches	_____

PANCAKE SUPPER THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported our EUMC Youth by participating in our Pancake Supper Fundraiser! The money we raised goes into our Youth Mission Fund, which will be used for our summer mission experiences like Workday Wednesdays. We have a great summer ahead, and it wouldn't be possible without your help!



Our Confirmation Class will go on a retreat to The Refuge Retreat Center in Ayden, NC, on March 31st - April 2nd. During the retreat we will learn more about the foundations of our faith, grow stronger as a group, worship together, and make our own Confirmation stoles! Please pray for this group to have a meaningful experience over the weekend and through this Confirmation experience as a whole.

EASTER EGG HUNT - APRIL 8TH

It's almost time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! All children and families are invited to join us on Saturday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m. for this fun event. We'll hear the Easter story together, hunt for Easter eggs, and finish the morning off with games and crafts! Don't forget to invite your friends!! Here are some ways our church family can help:



- Donate candy for the eggs by April 5th (individually wrapped candy only, and smaller candy fits better in the eggs)
- Come help us stuff the eggs on Wednesday, April 5th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (*after Senior Adult Fellowship*).
- Volunteer for the day of the event - We can always use adult volunteers to hide the eggs, supervise the egg hunt, and help with games and crafts!