

The Methodist Messenger
January/February 2022
Whiteville United Methodist Church

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Holy Communion Service/Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.



WHAT STORY WILL NARRATE YOUR LIFE IN 2022?

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

- Romans 8:28

Is life something that happens to you, or are you actively engaged in giving direction to your life's path? If I'm not careful a great part of my life can take on the shape of the next crisis or issue that pops up. Now don't get me wrong, those types of issues need attention, however, they should not be what gives direction to my life. There should be a larger context in which my life is lived.

As each of us enters this New Year of 2022, we have a choice to make: Which story will give shape to your life? What are possible stories that narrate how you live your life? Where do you find these over-arching narratives that can give context and shape to the trajectory and daily activity of our life? Well, some possible sources are the media, career, family, tragedy, or political/sociological ideology. However, I want to suggest to you that while these are all valid parts of life, and can be truly influential, perhaps they are not the best areas to look for the story that will narrate your life on a day-to-day basis.

There is a greater narrative into which all the rest actually fits – God's story. In the Bible we find the God who created you is the one who wants to be the source of your story. Once you embrace God as the source of the story that will narrate all the rest of your life, then everything else begins to take on a different shape. Priorities change. Direction change.

Fulfillment is found in that which transcends this world, instead of in that which ends with this world.

This year, why not allow the story of your redemption to be that which narrates the rest of your life's activities. It will permeate all parts of your life – your work, your family, and your leisure time. And as you find new direction, may you find blessings as well.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Terry

Reaching people, to Reach People, to Teach People

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Recently, the congregation at Whiteville United Methodist Church sang "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this place," and I was immediately reminded of how much He has been in our midst during this Christmas season. From our sanctuary being beautifully adorned with Christmas greenery, poinsettias, and our familiar Chrismon Tree, the Nativity Scene and the Christmas story were shared with the congregation once again. There is nothing quite like this time of year. With beautiful musical selections, either by or under the leadership of Gus Cothorn and Nan Leggett, members of the Chancel Choir and the Jane Wyche Schulken Handbell Choir also prepared us spiritually during the weeks leading up to Jesus' birthday on the 25th.

Beginning in January, Ms. Carol Worrell will replace me as Chair of the Worship Committee.

So - as we look toward the coming year, let us remember that each day is a gift and if our church is going to continue to strengthen its ministry, she will certainly appreciate and need active volunteers to continue to serve. Thank you for the support you have given me these past few years and now, please join me in welcoming Carol into this role as she shares her ideas and works with those who serve on this committee.

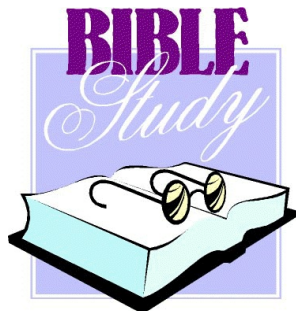
The Worship Committee will meet in early February. (A specific date and time will be announced soon.) At this time, our responsibilities for the upcoming Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission will be discussed, as well as those services associated with Lent and Easter.

Betty Gray, Chair

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning Bible study will resume January 5 and will meet every Wednesday in January and February. The Bible Study sent Christmas cards to many shut ins in the community including all in our church. We continue to study the book of Daniel. We hope all have a blessed and prosperous New Year.

Love in Christ, Florence
Marlowe



It's Never Too Late

It's never too late to answer God's call in your heart. The Lord told the Prophet Isaiah to proclaim: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine (Isaiah 43:1 ESV). It's never too late, until your last breath, to accept Jesus as your Savior. Jesus said: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6 ESV).

It's never too late to pray for a closer relationship with God and worship Him. Jesus said: "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you (Matthew 6:33 ESV). It's never too late to reach out and help someone else come to know Christ. Jesus said to the disciples: "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation (Mark 16:15 ESV).

It's never too late to completely surrender your life to God. Apostle Paul told the church at Corinth: "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him" (1 Corinthians 7:17 ESV). It's never too late to begin to live for Christ. Jesus told the disciples: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you" (John 15:16 ESV).

It's never too late. Begin today.

Judy, a sister in Christ



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Preschool will resume Tuesday, Jan. 3rd. Please keep the children and their teachers in your prayers as they begin the New Year with many fun and exciting activities.

Applications for the 2022/2023 school year are expected to be available in the church office beginning in February.

Thank you Mrs. Suzanne Hall for sharing “The Legend of the Candy Cane” with many of our children during the month of December. The children loved having special story time and a sweet treat with Mrs. Suzanne. The children were also able to bless the congregation through song during the month of December. It was a precious performance enjoyed by all.



JANUARY

4th Florence Marlowe
5th Grant Merritt
9th Alan Pait
10th Hannah Deans
14th Greg Williamson
17th Sabra Allen
18th Carol Worrell
19th Mary Smith
Emily Sauls
22nd Kyle Hood
27th Carly High
31st JoAnne Biser

FEBRUARY

6th Jo Bullard
7th Debbie Sellars
Dick Simms
Jennifer Williamson
8th William Delaney
9th Dixie Batten
14th Forrest Williamson
18th Deanna Dew Duncan
19th Wanda Diefes
23rd Daphne Delaney
Linda Overcash
24th Hackney Deans



FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry received many donations from Whiteville High School National Honor Society. Students gave non perishable foods last semester by the car loads. We are so grateful to them and our very own Gina Deans for those gifts.

The ladies bible study made bags for Christmas filled with all kinds of personal goodies and encouragement cards. These were enjoyed and appreciated by all.



-Beth Bullard

A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright,
even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you
when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
for the year ahead.

METHODIST WOMEN

Our December meeting held on Dec. 13th was very well-attended. Several members shared with the group what Methodist Women had meant to them on a personal level. It was an inspiring and enjoyable time together. Our next meeting will be Monday, Jan. 10 at 6:30 pm in the parlor. We will be discussing the needs of the Afterschool program at the Dream Center and planning our February meeting when we will go to the Dream Center in the afternoon and meet the children and do some hands-on work with them. That date and time TBA.

We are preparing for our soup fundraiser which will be in February. Order forms will be available through email, in the upcoming bulletins and in the church Narthex. We ask that orders be turned in no later than Sunday Feb. 13th. Pickup will be in Fellowship Hall on Friday, Feb. 18th and Saturday, Feb. 19th from 10:00 – 12:00 am. We had a very successful fundraiser last year- we hope to make it a repeat!

Debbie Conway, President

Serving in Jan./ Feb.

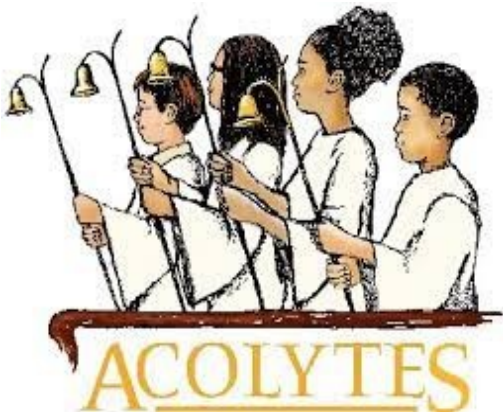
Acolytes

January

- 2- Peyton Hunt
- 9- Andrew Bullard
- 16- Andrew Sauls
- 23- Emily Sauls
- 30- Peyton Hunt

February

- 6- Andrew Bullard
- 13- Andrew Sauls
- 20- Emily Sauls
- 27- Peyton Hunt



NURTURE COMMITTEE

Thanks to all who helped put up and decorate the Chrismon tree in the sanctuary. It is beautiful! We will be taking it down and putting it away until next year, sometime during the week of January 3rd. We have no other planned activities until the Lenten season when we hope to be able to have the Lenten lunches again. We would like to welcome our new committee members- Ann Simmons and Sandy Turner. Anne Williamson and Louise Barkley are moving on to other committees- we thank you for your faithful participation on the Nurture Committee!

Debbie Conway, Chair



*Sweet pictures with friends in front of the Chrismon tree.



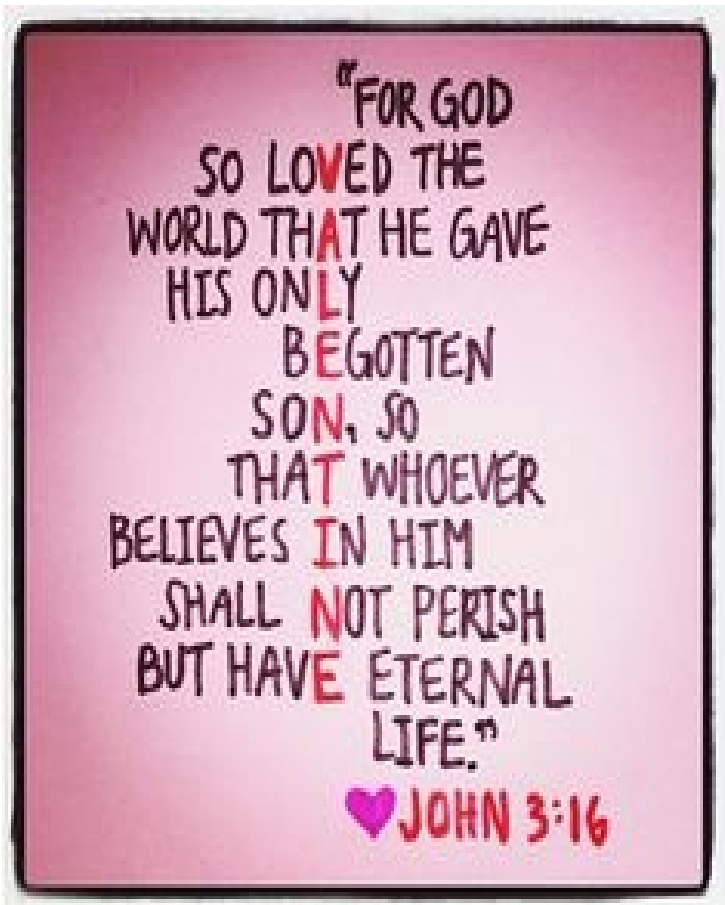
STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thanks to your generosity in December, our finances finished the year better than anticipated. Preliminary results show total offerings and other income of \$275,726. This allowed us to pay all our expenses and 75% of our Conference Apportionments. Offerings were \$5,503 more than last year, but \$27,373 less than budget. Thanks again for our leadership committees who tightened their belts during these tough times.

Our in-person worship service attendance for the year averaged 57 and the YouTube average views were 34.

We are grateful to all our members for sharing in helping us meet our financial needs this year. We praise God for your Stewardship.

Tom Leggett, Finance Chairperson



PARISH NURSING

Please mark your calendars for the next American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, February 10, at 2:00 pm through 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Peggy Huffman is heading the Blood Drive Committee again as our fearless leader.

Please consider donating blood or volunteer to help in another capacity such as registration or to provide snacks to all donors. Peggy and other committee members will be securing names and contact information very soon for both blood donors and other helpers. Let's make this blood drive the biggest one yet — to God's glory and the health of our community!

A huge thank you to all who helped brighten the lives of others with a card, visit or phone call, especially during advent and the Christmas season!

Happy new year to everyone! If we make new year resolutions for 2022, we may need to review health and wellness needs to ensure we are growing healthier as we seek God's guidance in our lives.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Psalm 98:1

Peace and Joy,

Patricia Ray, MPH, BSN, RN



OUTREACH TEAM

As we begin 2022, we express appreciation for the support of the congregation in past giving to local, national and global projects to enrich the lives of others. Your love and caring reflects the light and example of Jesus with all of God's children. Thank you!

One of the ways our connectional United Methodist Church combines gifts into "one pot" to enable specific projects in through five Special Sunday offerings. The first is **Human Relations Sunday on January 16**. Monies raised with this giving opportunity support Community Developers, Volunteer Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. You can learn more in a bulletin insert on January 9.

In 2022 we will use UMCOR disaster relief paths to help those impacted by tornados, floods and other natural disasters. When volunteers are able to travel to Kentucky, Pastor Terry is looking to lead a work team from our area.

For our local area, we will continue the work led by Pat Ray, our Parish Nurse. The County Health Department does not receive as much recognition as the hospital; we will consider expressing our support for their staff in a way similar to the project last fall for CRHC when we sent greeting cards and snacks.

As we gather in our organizational meeting in January, our plans will be more specific. Watch the bulletin and next newsletter for details of how you can help.

United Methodist Women also does outreach giving throughout the year. The ladies will hold their fundraising event – a frozen soup sale – in February. Order forms for various soups will be available shortly.

Carolyn Hankins, Outreach Team leader

Dates to Remember

Daring to Dream- Wednesdays @ 6 p.m.

Methodist Women- Jan. 10th @ 6:30 p.m.

Human Relations Sunday- Jan. 16th @ 10 a.m

Blood Drive- Feb. 10th 2:00-6:30

Sermon Series on "Daring to Dream for God, 2022"

Appreciative Inquiry

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10).

Beginning Sunday, January 2, 2022, I will begin a Sermon Series ***"Daring to Dream for God, 2022"*** that will last five Weeks. Each Wednesday Night at 6:00 pm, following each sermon, I am asking people to come and vision for the future of Whiteville UMC using the Appreciative Inquiry process; *Define, Discover, Dream, Design, and Destiny*. I have used and taught this process in my former role as Leadership Team Coordinator for the North Carolina Annual Conference in many churches throughout our annual conference and denomination.

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is a process that invites people to look deeply into what most "gives life" and what can create "abundant life" in their lives and congregational settings. It is centered in the art and practice of asking life-centered questions that can strengthen our congregation's ability to realize its full potential.

When connected to the Holy Spirit, AI provides a framework for envisioning a church, ministry or life-setting that is centered in seeing and telling the 'Good News' of the Gospel message as lived in the lives of its people. In over 27 years of pastoral ministry, I have not discovered any organizational methodology that better connects our theology with our pastoral practice.

AI counteracts deficit-based thinking, which often is catalyzed by the commonly used approach of problem-solving. Constantly pinpointing weaknesses leaves a church focused on its lack of resources rather than the abundance of blessings which God has created. Negative thinking takes away the capacity to create new visions and new images of a vibrant future. It can stifle hope and produce a community lacking in energy and enthusiasm.

AI instead asks people to take a deep inventory of their personal and communal experiences. It embraces the power and inspiration of stories, inviting people throughout an organization to recount the events and times that have had the most vitality and inspiration. The compelling insights and images are brought together to form a vision for positive change and a fuller life.

I ask that everyone will be in prayer for our congregation and each member as we vision together God's Preferred Future for Whiteville United Methodist Church.

-Pastor Terry

"If your vision is for a year, plant wheat. If your vision is for a decade, plant trees. If your vision is for a lifetime, plant people."

❄️ January 2022 ❄️

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship.	3 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	4 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	5 9:30 a.m. Bible Study /Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	10 6:30 p.m. Methodist Women/ Parlor 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	11 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	12 9:30 a.m. Bible Study /Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship/ Human Relations Sunday	17 MLK Day 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	18 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	19 9:30 a.m. Bible Study /Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	24 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	25 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	26 9:30 a.m. Bible Study /Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	27	28	29
30	31					

♥ February 2022 ♥

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship.	7 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	8 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	9 9:30 a.m. Bible Study /Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	10 2:00-6:30 p.m. Blood Drive	11	12
13 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	14 Valentine's Day 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall 	15 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	16 9:30 a.m. Bible Study /Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	17	18	19
20 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	21 President's Day 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	22 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	23 9:30 a.m. Bible Study /Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	24	25	26
27 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	28 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall					



WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTACT AND VISITATION LIST

Name	Address - Whiteville 28472 unless otherwise noted	Phone -Area code 910 H=home C=Cell / Notes
Sabra Allen	623 Blue Jean Road	H: 207-6432 C: 317-6191
Jan Avant	West Bladen Assisted Living - PO Box 669 714 Bladen St, Bladenboro NC 28320	Jan - C: 874-7345 Call facility for appointment 863-4500
Bill and Sue Ball	274 Hillcrest Lane	Sue 642-2947
John and Louise Barkley	707 Evergreen St	John 640-6301 Louise 840-1895
Sara Brooks	713 Bryce St	H: 642-4192, C: 641-7825
Jane “Jo” Bullard	303 Jefferson St	H: 642-6160 C: 640-9230
Louise Brinson	West Bladen Assisted Living - PO Box 669 714 Bladen St, Bladenboro NC 28320	Call facility for appointment 863-4500
Lewellyn David	Liberty Commons, 1402 Pinckney St	C: 910-995-5611
Layton and Libby Dowless	53 Sherwood Rd,	C: 770-2062
Betty Hamilton	PO Box 297; 136 Maple St Brunswick 28424	H: 642-2689 C: 840-1221
Emily Harris	Lumberton Health and Rehab 1555 Willis Ave, Lumberton 28358	Mail only
Margaret Hicks	104 E Frink St	C: 200-7580 (text only-hearing impaired) H: 642-2760
Lindbergh Holden	3366 James B White Hwy North	H: 642-2463
Wendy Hood	30 Mahan Street	C: 840-1527
Clara Hunsucker	Liberty Commons, 1402 Pinckney St	C: 840-7776

Mary Hutchins	170 Peppertree Crossing Avenue, Brunswick, GA 31525	C: 840-9777
Judy Kachinka	West Bladen Assisted Living - PO Box 669 714 Bladen St, Bladenboro NC 28320	Contact through Jan Avant
Tammy McCullum, son Tristen	443 S Franklin Street	C: 704-564-7424
Sarah Meares	Elizaabethtown Healthcare PO Box 1449; 206 Mercer Mill Road Elizabethtown 28337	C: 207-1076 Very poor vision makes use of phone difficult
Jimmy and Nancy Oakley	113 E Calhoun St	H: 207-6867 Nancy C: 207-3927
Lucille Raynor	3507 James B White Hwy South	Mail only
Thetus Sessions	638 Warrior Trail	642-2693
Phil Stoll	538 Woodfield Rd	642-5265
Ann Suggs	1270 Beaverdam Rd, Chadbourn 28431	H: 653-3711
Marty Ward	PO Box 489; 251 Country Club Rd.	H: 642-3086
Ruth Walsh	411 Inman Lake Rd	H: 642:2537 C: 445-1942
Ann White	112 N Franklin St	H: 642-2537
Linda Whitehead	Liberty Commons, 1402 Pinckney St	
Ann Worthington	Carpenter Place Rehab and Living Center 600 Fieldwood Lane, Matthews NC 28105	C: 840-2980

Whiteville United Methodist Church

902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

"WE ARE THE BIBLES
THE WORLD IS READING;
WE ARE THE CREEDS
THE WORLD IS NEEDING;
WE ARE THE SERMONS
THE WORLD IS HEEDING."

BILLY GRAHAM

CrossCards

Mrs. Morgan Simmons, Administrative Assistant
Monday-Thursday/8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
12 noon-12:30 p.m. Lunch

Mr. Chalmers Waddell, Custodian
Monday-Friday/7:30-12:30 a.m.

Ms. Tammie Anderson, Treasurer
Friday/4:00-6:00 p.m. (or later)

Office (910) 642-3376
email: wumc@whitevilleumc.org
website: www.whitevilleumc.org
Rev. Dr. Terry Hunt

Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church

As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ's name.