

✠ SCRIPTURE READING

*Matthew 20:1-16*

SERMON

“Sour grapes”

Rev. Howard James

✠ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Grace Greater than Our Sin”

UMH #365

(You are invited to pray at the Communion railing.)

✠ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We go out from here as workers in God’s upside-down kingdom, where the last are first and the first are last, where needs are met in miraculous ways, and there is grace enough for all! May the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit surround and sustain us in the coming days. Amen.

✠ POSTLUDE

“Voluntary” G. Carissimi

Nan Leggett, Organist

✠ Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God.*

**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Greeters.....	Rob Conway & Tom Leggett
Music Director.....	L.A. Cothorn
Organist.....	Nan Leggett
Pianist.....	Geneva Ashley
Altar Committee.....	Suzanne Hall, Celia Lynch, Margie Rabon, Sandy Turner and Gina Deans
Soundboard.....	

# WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

902 Pinckney Street

Whiteville, NC 28472

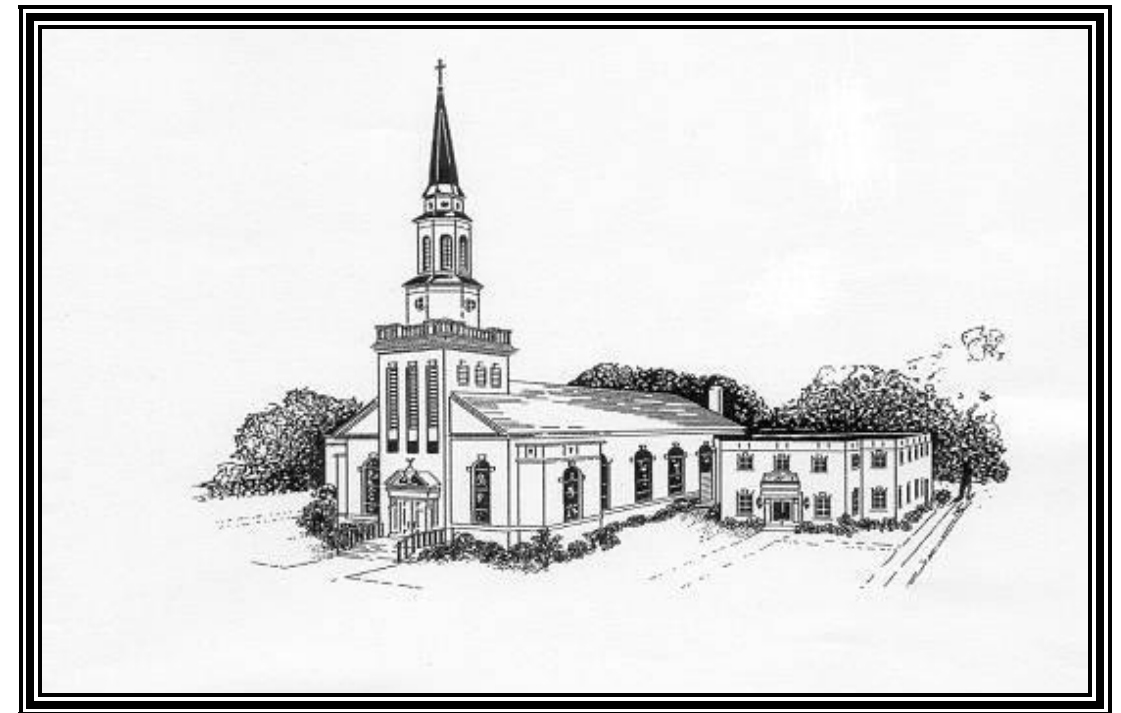
(910) 642-3376

wumc@whitevilleumc.org

Rev. Howard James

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023



**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.

## **Welcome to Whiteville United Methodist Church**

Thank you for worshiping with us today! We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, program, and ministry life here.

We hope the worship will inspire and comfort you as we hear God's message proclaimed. During this time, now more than ever, may the grace and love of Christ surround you.

### **SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Please use a microphone.)

Rob Conway

**PRELUDE** "Song of Thankfulness and Praise" setting by Hopson

Nan Leggett, Organist

### **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

(Symbolizing the presence of the Spirit of the Lord in our service.)

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **WELCOME**

### **✠ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come! Come and worship!

**People: You who woke early and you who slept late; you who come often, and you who don't.**

Leader: Whether we are first or last or somewhere in between.

**People: There is room for all of us in God's kingdom, and more than enough grace to go around.**

**All: Let's worship God together!**

### **✠ HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Come! Come! Everybody Worship"

TFWS# 2271

### **✠ UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus calls all his laborers to work in his fields. Those who woke early, those who came late. Those who feel wronged and those who feel overlooked. Those who struggle to feed their families and those who use their wages to increase your love. Jesus calls us to roll up our sleeves and join him in the fields. He is waiting for us as we share in the work we do here and now. In Jesus name we pray. Amen!

### **✠ APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **✠ GLORIA PATRI**

"Glory be to the Father"

UMH# 70

### **✠ WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND RESPONSE**

Leader: God is merciful and compassionate. He does not count the time, but the quality of the heart. Forgive us, Lord, for we have been so petty about your love.

**People: God heals and restores us. He showers his blessings on all who seek God. We rejoice that God has given us such love and mercy. Let us reach out with that same love and hope to others in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

### **✠ THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE**

Piano Selection

### **PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER**

### **OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

L.A. Cothorn, Piano

"Yearning" by Mark Hayes

### **✠ PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

"Praise God"

UMH# 95

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

### **✠ HYMN OF PREPARATION**

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

UMH# 496

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Welcome to Whiteville United Methodist Church.**

Visitors, please complete a Visitor's Card, which can be found in the pew rack, and place it in the offertory basket in the Narthex. We are happy to have you here with us today. Thank you.

**Flu Clinic** Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 12:00-4:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please call Pat Ray for an appointment, forms can be picked up in the church office. **Please note change to date!**

**Memorial Service** for Robert "Bob" Hankins Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Visitation 1:00-1:45 in the fellowship hall, memorial service 2:00 in the sanctuary. **Please note change to visitation meeting place.**

**Homecoming** will be Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Food and fellowship to follow in the fellowship hall. Please bring a covered dish.

**We are still experiencing problems** with our church email. We are trying to work around this problem by sending messages via call multiplier. This program allows us to send messages via text if we have a working cell number available for recipients. If you are not receiving bulletins or newsletters via email, those can also be accessed through our website. Thank you all and we apologize for the inconvenience.

**Prayer Concerns:** Jim Rabon, Rick Kimball, Lindsey Felton, Darryl & Wanda Diefes, Lynda Thompson, Dan Biser, Marie Burnham Thompson, Alma Deans, Thetus Sessions, Chandler Britt, Dan Smith, Sara Brooks, Ralph & Peggy Huffman, Carolyn & David Nix, Melinda Cook, Margaret Hicks, Bob Deans, Tony Gore, Wayne Overcash, Jan Avant, Jim Hill, Grant Smith, John and Louise Barkley, Marty Ward.

**Prayer Requests:** Contact the Church Office at [wumc@whitevilleumc.org](mailto:wumc@whitevilleumc.org) to add or remove names.

### **Ongoing ministries:**

**Adult Sunday School:** Meet in classroom @ 9:00 a.m.

**Children's Sunday School (ages 3-12):** Upstairs classroom @ 9:00 a.m.

**Caregivers Support Group:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month @ 1:00 p.m. in the parlor

**Reaching Out:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month @ 6 p.m. at Dale's Seafood

**Fifty-Plus Exercise Class:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the parlor

**Choir Rehearsals:** Wednesdays @ 7 p.m.

### **Ministries that will resume in the fall:**

**Handbell Rehearsals:** Wednesdays

**Boy Scouts [ages 11-18]** Mondays @ 7:00 p.m.

**Cub Scouts [ages 6-10]** Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** @ 9:30 a.m.

**Preschool [ages 2-4]** Monday – Friday 8:15-11:30 a.m.

<i>2023 Church Budget</i>	<i>\$292,488.00</i>
<i>As of 09/17, Needed</i>	<i>\$208,125.00</i>
<i>As of 09/17, Received</i>	<i>\$149,474.00</i>
<i>Needed Each Sunday</i>	<i>\$5,625.00</i>
<i>Received on 09/17</i>	<i>\$3,562.00</i>
<i>Attendance 09/17</i>	<i>43</i>