

The Methodist Messenger

NOVEMBER 2020

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.

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.

FROM
THE
PASTOR



"Gratitude goes beyond the 'mine' and the 'thine' and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy." Henri Nouwen

November is a month when we take the time to notice and celebrate gratitude. Although there has been a long history of celebrating a festival of Thanksgiving in the month of November, it wasn't until 1863, during the middle of the Civil War, that Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national holiday of Thanksgiving.

We often mark our thanksgiving by what we have, by the things in our lives for which we are grateful. We might consider ourselves blessed that we have a loving family, or plenty of food, clean water, so many things that we know we often take for granted that others around the world often live without.

But while it is important to recognize the good things in our lives and to remember our sisters and brothers who might not have those things, is this gratitude of comparison really the heart of blessing or thanksgiving?

The bold beginning of Thanksgiving as a national holiday in the midst of the Civil War reminds us that we can live gratitude even in the midst of difficulty, that we can find blessing even in the midst of pain. Perhaps our blessings have less to do with the list of all the things we have and more to do with the very gift of life, the gift of love, and the gift of God's loving presence with us.

Mary embodies this spirit, when she sings in thanksgiving for her blessings in the midst of dealing with all the fallout of her pregnancy with Jesus: a fiancé who isn't sure if he can trust her and stay with her, a community judging her harshly as an unwed teenage mother in a time when that was considered unacceptable.

All that is true, and yet she sings: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed." (Luke 1:46-48). Her spirit rejoices and she boldly claims herself as blessed in the midst of it all because she trusts that God is with her and doing something amazing.

How can we cultivate this practice of gratitude? Not through comparisons but through the awareness of God with us this Thanksgiving season.

As you reflect back over the year or perhaps over your life, where have you seen and noticed God's presence with you? May we sing with Mary this Thanksgiving season, aware and grateful for the ways God is present and at work in all of our lives!

Pastor Terry

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday morning Bible Study Class will begin a new 6 week study beginning November 4th. Masks and social distancing are observed.

BIBLE STUDY/HOLY COMMUNION

The Wednesday evening Holy Communion Service/Bible Study on the book of Galatians begins at 6:00. p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

A Sunday School Class for adults is held in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday School for children ages 3-12 years at 9:00 a.m. is held in a classroom upstairs over the Preschool each Sunday. Snacks are provided. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTIANS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

It would be a classic understatement to affirm that “these are not normal times.” Acknowledging our current situation and listening to the advice of those who, by their training and experience, are in the best position to give us guidance, our Sunday School Class has been meeting and will continue to meet on Zoom. Yes, we miss being together in person but a plus of Zoom is that our class members can join on Sunday morning from wherever they happen to be. Members who have moved away can continue to participate and new members who live at a distance can join.

Our goals for the shared time together have been and continue to be: 1) informative - *a stretching of the mind*; 2) inspirational - *a stretching of the soul*; 3) related to everyday living - *a stretching of personal behavior*; 4) positive - *an affirmation of each uniquely beautiful person that God is in the process of constructing*; 5) based on a strong Scriptural foundation - *understanding words not in isolation but in context with all other words of Scripture*. It is not necessary that we agree on everything that comes before us. It is necessary that all of our deliberation be *characterized by respect for each other*.

Since the class was formed in 2002 we have dealt with a wide variety of issues that confront us in our walk as Christians. Most of the time the Scripture that we are considering on a given day is related to the lectionary for that day. In mid-October we began including a modern affirmation of what we believe which enables a fresh view and starting point for discussion. Christians Under Construction is open to any and all who would like to be a part of it. If you would like to be included in the class at 9:00 on Sunday morning, let Carolyn know of your desire and she will include you in the weekly invitation. – Bob Hankins

WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The members had their first in-person (in several months) gathering in the Parlor in October. Carolyn Hankins led the program for World Thank offering. The funds raised support UMW projects on a global basis. Debbie Conway shared pictures from *Response* magazine putting faces to the work being done.

The Harbor District UMW annual meeting will not be an in-person event this year. Pre-recorded for viewing by anyone interested, the officers gathered to share information and hear from Dr. Bruce Stanley, head of Methodist Home for Children. Whiteville UMW donated four Walmart gift cards to assist youth and/or foster parents with expenses as children spend more time at home.

We decided to have a Party in the Parlor on Saturday, October 24, to “attend” the annual meeting. Following that, Debbie Conway led us in making cards and filling bags with items for particular people in our congregation. We are thankful for these individuals, as well as all our church family, and will take time to tell them so.

Because of the late October gathering, there will not be a November meeting.

Debbie Sellars, President; Debbie Conway, Vice President
Vickie Pait, Secretary (she took meeting minutes via Zoom)
Carolyn Hankins, Treasurer

OUTREACH

This month’s activities reflect reality: the easy we do immediately, the more difficult takes some time, the truly challenging is a work yet in progress.

The easy: We provided facial tissues to Primary, Edgewood, and Central Middle Schools. Each school received 120 boxes to help classroom teachers with supplies not part of the school budget. WUMWomen had provided tissues for Whiteville High last month. The school nurses expressed to JoAnne Biser their appreciation for our gift. Meals are being provided for some families with special challenges to put action to our encouragement that “you are not alone.” God calls us to action beyond prayers and words. Thanks for those participating.

The more difficult: The Outreach team prepared a 2021 budget request for the Finance Committee. We looked at activities we were unable to hold during Covid-19 and thus had a reduction in expenses. Thinking in part of 2021 the same restrictions on larger gatherings would still be in place, we reduced our requests for some line items. At the Finance Committee meeting, the church budget was still higher than we hoped. Because of the Pridgen Endowment money received each year, which is not part of the church budget, we again reduced our asking knowing there were resources for us to continue actually giving to Families First and supplement other local projects if needed.

The truly challenging: We have looked for a way to utilize our Fellowship Hall and WiFi to provide space for children to come and work on school studies in the afternoon. An experienced partner to help with program leadership has not been found but we continue to be open to possibilities. As colder weather approaches we are aware of the homeless people in the community and are looking for a community effort to provide housing. The pandemic adds another layer of challenge to this task for temporary housing. Your prayers and suggestions are most welcome!

Carolyn Hankins,
Outreach team leader

PARISH NURSING

The October 5th WUMC Flu and Pneumonia Clinic proved to be a great team effort! It was accessed by 45 adults from WUMC and the greater Whiteville community. Ten volunteer team members assisted with the successful endeavor! Hats off to pharmacist Ben Sauls for his expertise in giving all the shots and to the other volunteers who worked tirelessly during the afternoon to keep the clinic running safely and smoothly! And thanks to everyone who opted pro-actively to get flu and pneumonia shots at not only the church clinic, but other sites, including doctor’s offices, the Health Department, drug stores, work sites, etc.

Julie Foster, Social Worker/Community Educator, recently provided an interesting program addressing the ubiquitous incidence of anxiety, depression and other mental health issues related to the current corona virus pandemic. She talked about familiar signs and symptoms in identifying areas of concern in our own lives and the lives of others. She also discussed the role of Trillium Health Resources in meeting some of the growing mental health needs across the lifespan in Columbus County.

The program was held in the WUMC Fellowship Hall on October 14th and was hosted by the Outreach Committee in partnership with the Columbus County FAITH Collaborative and Trillium Health Resources. Ms. Foster and other Trillium Health Resources staff are available to provide educational programs and workshops for faith communities/churches, business and civic groups, organizations and schools. For additional information call: 866-998-2597.

Cast all your anxiety on God, because he cares for you.
– I Peter 5:7, NRSV

Blessings and peace,
Patricia Ray, Parish Nurse

Dr. Terry Hunt, Pastor
910-374-0706

Kathy Graham, Administrative Assistant
Monday-Thursday/8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Layton Dowless, Custodian
Monday-Friday/7:30-11:30 a.m.

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

Whiteville United Methodist Church
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(910) 642-3376
website: www.whitevilleumc.org
email: wumc@whitevilleumc.org



If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor/memory of someone special, please place this form along with your payment in the collection plate or bring it to the Church Office. The cost is **\$8.00 each**. If you are using a check please indicate “Poinsettia” in the memo.

**The absolute deadline for ordering
your poinsettia
is Wednesday, November 25th.**
(Please print clearly.)

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

Given by: _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

**Hard copies of this form are available
in the Narthex and on the table
across from the Church Office.**

ELECTRONIC ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

The Finance and Stewardship Committees are pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic online giving option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. **If you are currently giving on a weekly basis through writing or automatically sending checks, we encourage you to continue your method of giving.** When travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services or giving in your usual manner this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. This will also give family and friends who live in other areas of the country, who watch online, or listen to our radio ministry, the opportunity to give on a regular basis or special occasion such as giving to a memorial or food pantry.

You can give online or through text-to-give option using your cell phone. Begin by visiting the church website: whitevilleumc.org. Just click on the "Donate" button that is found at the top right corner of the home page. Select the option you would like to do and follow simple directions. Either option allows you to make donations to the church as a one-time gift or recurring gift.

Feel free to call the church office (642-3376) anytime for support and any questions. Thank you all and God bless.

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

1 st	Jessie Edwards
2 nd	Marly Gore Jake Bullard
3 rd	Kristen Williamson Dowdy
7 th	Bill Ashley Les High
9 th	Ruth Kuykendall
12 th	Andrew Sauls
15 th	Emily Harris
16 th	Marty Ward
17 th	John McGougan
19 th	Mary Jo Williamson
22 nd	Robert Dew
23 rd	Janice Simms
25 th	Phyllis Maultsby Kathy Simmons
27 th	Jimmy Oakley
29 th	Tyler Hood

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Operation Christmas Child Kick-Off has begun!

This year, because of Covid-- 19, we will NOT be a drop-off location for Columbus County. **You may bring your filled shoe-boxes to the church until November 22 which is Shoe-Box Dedication Sunday.** This is a wonderful time to get items. Many stores have school supplies on clearance. Have fun shopping as we send these gifts of love and the message of Jesus Christ around the world. For more information, please contact Wendy Hood at 840-1527 or whood@ec.rr.com.

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR SHOE BOXES:

TOYS: small cars, balls, dolls, plastic kazoo's, harmonicas, yoyos, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), slinkies, jump ropes, jacks, puzzles, toy jewelry, sunglasses, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, markers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, writing pads, paper, solar calculators, small picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS: toothbrush, washcloth, soap, comb, hairbrush, deodorant, hair clips, plastic drinking cups, sewing kits, etc.

CLOTHES: shirt, hat, visor, socks, underwear, gloves, scarves, caps, shoes, flip flops, etc.

STUFFED ANIMAL/SOMETHING TO LOVE: Beanie Babies, teddy bear, soft baby doll, etc.

(EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!)

LETTER (with picture if possible) to personalize your shoe boxes. We are representatives of Jesus Christ with our shoe boxes. The children want to know who cares enough to send them these gift filled shoe boxes!

POSTAGE MONEY = \$9.00

DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- * CANDY
- * TOOTHPASTE
- * USED ITEMS
- * WAR-RELATED ITEMS (toy guns, knives, etc.)
- * PERISHIBLE ITEMS (chocolate, canned food, crackers, etc.)
- * LIQUIDS (glue, shampoo, lotion, bubbles, etc.)
- * MEDICINE (vitamins, cough drops, ointments, etc.)
- * BREAKABLE ITEMS (mirrors, china dolls, snow globes, etc.)

NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	2 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	3 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	4 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Holy Communion	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	9 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	10 5:00 p.m. Worship Meeting/Parlor 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	11 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Holy Communion	12	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	16 6:30 p.m. Church Council/Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	17 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	18 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Holy Communion	19	20	21
22 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship/ Operation Christmas Child Shoe-box Dedication	23 11:00 a.m. Sunshine Circle 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	24 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	25 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor 6:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Holy Communion Last day to order Poinsettias!	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship/ Hanging of the Greens	30 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall					

Acolytes: 1st - Peyton Hunt; 8th - Grace High; 15th - Emily Sauls; 22nd - Andrew Bullard; 29th - Anna and Sophie Bivens.
 Soundboard: 1st - Darryl Diefes; 8th - Suzanne Hall; 15th - Lynne Inman; 22nd - Kathy and Terry Simmons; 29th - TBD.
 Greeters: TBD.