



*The Methodist Messenger*  
NOVEMBER 2019  
Whiteville United Methodist Church



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

#### CHRISTIAN UNITY AND JOHN WESLEY

November includes Thanksgiving Day. In Whiteville, the Community Thanksgiving Service of Worship customarily precedes Thanksgiving Day. The community worship service is usually held on the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving Day.

For many years, the Community Thanksgiving Service of Worship involved First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Whiteville United Methodist Church. In recent years, this short list has been expanded to include New Hope Baptist Church, Office of the Chaplain (Columbus Regional Healthcare System), Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, St. Mark AME Zion Church, and other local congregations.

The Community Thanksgiving Service of Worship brings up the matter of how we United Methodist Christians should view other Christians and their churches. That same issue has been raised by several recent events.

#### **Barn Burning in July**

Last July 19-20 a Barn Burners event was held at The Farm at Union Valley, which is located west of Whiteville. The event offered worship services on Friday and Saturday evening, and a pastors breakfast on Saturday morning. The Barn Burners worship services featured a Christian rock band, which had a foot-tapping sound and a hopeful message. The services also had heartfelt teaching, preaching, testifying, and praying. The morning breakfast had a Pentecostal historian of revival movements speak about God visiting, and revisiting, certain places and spaces -- during Biblical times and during more recent times. (Since Pentecostals are not noted for their interest in and study of history, this was an especially interesting talk.) During the same breakfast meeting for pastors, an African American man -- who had played college basketball and who is now discerning a call to ordained ministry -- stood and declared that Christians should be "unoffendable." "Unoffendable." That was his word. And that was a good word. It presents a challenge for all of us. This pastor, in this all-too-easily-offended age of ours, will never forget it. The breakfast meeting also contained a high quality, honest conversation, among area pastors, on seeking visible Christian unity in Columbus County. The Barn Burners weekend offered much that should be supported and embraced by United Methodists.

#### **With the Bishop**

On October 1, the United Methodist pastors of the Harbor District met with Bishop Hope Morgan Ward for an extended conversation at Warsaw United Methodist Church in Warsaw, NC. Throughout the history of the Church, bishops have been called by God, in part, to be a source of unity for their churches and for the Church universal. And Bishop Hope was exactly that during that October afternoon in Warsaw. She spoke thankfully about her years as a bishop leading the North Carolina Conference. She also listed the ten (10), wide-ranging activities she planned for the year to come and for her retirement on August 31, 2020. From following the Lectionary readings each week to volunteering one day a month for hurricane-recovery work to continuing to chip away at racism to preparing to deliver the Episcopal Address at the 2020 General Conference, Bishop Hope will be busy in the year, and the years, to come. As she engaged us in conversation, we clergy were more unified.

#### **With an Evangelist**

After meeting with our bishop, I drove (with Marsha) to Festival Park near downtown Fayetteville. There Franklin Graham's Decision America/Tar Heel State Tour held an evangelistic, or crusade, service. Hundreds, probably thousands, of people were gathered there. They must have represented tens, if not hundreds, of different congregations and denominations. What a collection of folks! The service was opened by music by Jeremy Camp, who is an excellent contemporary Christian musician. In his sermon, Franklin Graham thoughtfully preached on an Old Testament passage that underscored military life and its virtues. He clearly witnessed to Jesus Christ, to the love of God for all, and to God's gift of new life upon repentance. Most Methodists, methinks, would approve of Graham's tour, while not necessarily agreeing with every word he has said over the years.

#### **Wesley's Case for Unity**

The United Methodist Church, at its best, teaches United Methodists to be tolerant of, and generous toward, Christians from other denominations, communions, and traditions. In a state of generosity and tolerance, we can see that countless others are brothers and sisters in Christ, that our first word to non-United Methodist Christians is Yes, not No.

This openness to other Christians is probably made possible by Rev. John Wesley's sermon entitled "Catholic Spirit" (perhaps first preached on November 23, 1740). It is based on II Kings 10:15. The Wesleyan take away from that verse goes like this: "Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?...If it be, give me thine hand." (Albert C. Outler, editor, The Works of John Wesley, Volume 2 [Sermons II], p. 81) The other best known, and most influential, part of the sermon is the first sentence of this quotation: "Though we can't think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt we may." (p. 82)

Rev. Wesley encouraged a "catholic spirit" among Methodists. That is, he noted a faithful Methodist's "heart is enlarged toward all mankind, those he knows and those he does not; he embraces with strong and cordial affection neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. This is catholic or universal love. And he that has this is of a catholic spirit." (p. 94)

**A Firm Foundation (of belief, worship, and congregation) and a "Catholic Spirit"**

At the end of his sermon, Rev. John Wesley made it clear that being a Methodist with "catholic spirit" means that that Methodist has settled belief, preferred worship, and a congregational home. **On settled belief**, Rev. Wesley preached: "A man with a truly catholic spirit has not now his religion to seek. He is fixed as the sun in his judgment concerning the main branches of Christian doctrine." **And on preferred worship**, he preached: "[T]he man with a truly catholic spirit, having weighed all things in the balance of the sanctuary, has no doubt, no scruple at all concerning that particular mode of worship wherein he joins. He is clearly convinced that this manner of worshiping God is both scriptural and rational." **And on a congregational home**, he preached: "...a man of a truly catholic spirit...is fixed in his congregation as well as his principles. He is united to one, not only in spirit, but by all the outward ties of Christian fellowship.... There he receives the Supper of the Lord. There he pours out his soul in public prayer, and joins in public praise and thanksgiving. There he rejoices to hear the word of reconciliation, the gospel of the grace of God.... [There] he watches over [others] in love, as they do over his soul, admonishing, exhorting, comforting, reproofing, and every way building up each other in the faith." (pp. 93-4)

According to Rev. John Wesley, the most loving, outreaching, unifying Methodists were those who were clearly committed in their belief, worship, and congregation. The most loving, outreaching, unifying Methodists were not loosey-goosey and unsure in their belief, worship, and congregation.

So, in Whiteville, in Columbus County, or wherever you are, as the churchly sons and daughters of Rev. John Wesley, be agents of Christian unity! Be committed to Wesleyan doctrine, Methodist worship, and one local church. And at the same time, be brothers and sisters to all Christians. In this day of multiplying divisions, you will honor God, His Son Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,  
Pastor Paul

**THE GOSPEL TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST'S  
CHURCH FOR UNITED METHODISTS:**

A Presentation by Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker,  
a Response by Dr. J. Warren Smith (Duke

Divinity School), and  
a Question/Comment Session

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November 15, 2019/Friday

1:00-5:00 p.m.

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First United Methodist Church  
Wilson, NC

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Please spread the word about this theological event through social media and plain-old word of mouth. Be sure to encourage friends and family members to attend.

**CALLED TO PREACH**

A Lay Servant Ministry Course  
Taught by Rev. M. Francis Daniel

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November 16, 2019/Saturday

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Burgaw United Methodist Church  
Burgaw, NC

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Find more details, and register,  
at the Harbor District website.

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING  
SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

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November 24, 2019/Sunday

6:00 p.m.

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First Baptist Church  
412 North Madison Street  
Whiteville, NC

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Rev. Joseph J. Yaeger  
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church  
Preaching

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Refreshments will follow  
the Service of Worship.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

### Calling All Men

**Fellowship** is the focus for the upcoming year, and activities include but are not limited to:

- **Guest Speakers** with inspirational messages, community updates from town and county leaders, living and eating healthy, etc., and speakers who simply entertain.
- **Day Trips** to activities and entertainment venues, such as a show or shopping or golf, or even fishing.
- **Excursions** that may include overnight to maybe the Outer Banks, Charleston, or Savannah, to name a few.
- **Spiritual Growth** to include short-term studies to help us understand how God wants us to respond to the complex issues we face today as men, as husbands, as fathers & grandfathers.

Your individual participation and input are very important, so please be part of making our *family of men* a resource not just for WUMC, but for our community!

### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study class will not meet the Wednesday (November 27) before Thanksgiving. This Bible Study Class has 35 women from many churches enrolled for the study of Genesis. What a blessing these Christian sisters are!! Please pray for our continued study of the Bible and the grace and faith we are receiving from learning His Word.

Thanks, Florence

### SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE

The Singing Christmas Tree performance will be held at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church in Fayetteville on December 8, Sunday, at 4:00 p.m. The WUMC van will leave at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are limited. Please call the Church Office at 642-3376 to get on the list.

### THANK YOU

To Our friends at the Methodist church,

Thank you all for such a beautiful warm **HOMECOMING**. You were all so welcoming, warm, and loving. We were so touched and blessed to be a part of such a beautiful day!

We still have such a special place in our hearts for this church and all the beautiful memories and special people!

Love and peace,  
Ann Williams and Jane Harris

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Harbor District Annual Meeting was held on October 26, Saturday, at Trinity UMC in Wilmington. Several of our members were in attendance. Our November meeting will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup>, Monday, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Ann Sauls has the devotion, and Peggy Huffman is the hostess. We will work on Christmas Remembrances. Our installation of officers will be at our December meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### NURTURE COMMITTEE

The Homecoming meal on October 13 was a very enjoyable event for everyone in attendance. Our committee did a great job of decorating and setting up for our annual get-together. It all went very smoothly from start to finish! Thanks to all of our committee and the Worship Committee for bringing the nice prizes that we gave away at the meal. Our next event is putting up and decorating the Chrismon Tree before the first Sunday of Advent. Debbie Conway, Chair

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



Whiteville United  
Methodist Church  
902 Pinckney Street  
Whiteville, NC 28472

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

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

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

Rev. Paul T. Stallworth, Pastor

Whiteville United Methodist Church  
email: [wumc@whitevilleumc.org](mailto:wumc@whitevilleumc.org)  
mail: 902 Pinckney Street/Whiteville, NC 28472  
telephone: (910) 642-3376  
website: [www.whitevilleumc.org](http://www.whitevilleumc.org)

Our Service of Worship is broadcast on WTXY 1540 AM and 103.9 FM from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Also it is available online at [www.Kool1039radio.com](http://www.Kool1039radio.com). Click on the “Web Audio Player” applet. To listen to the entire service, go to: <https://lynx.prostreaming.net:2199/start/unitedmethodist/> and click on the Web Audio Player applet. For either choice, you may need to enable Adobe Flash. There is now a link to the radio station on our church webpage [www.whitevilleumc.org](http://www.whitevilleumc.org). Click on “Stream Live Service Sundays at 10:00 a.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.