

The Methodist Messenger

JUNE 2021

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.



Listening is Learning

“Fools find no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing their opinions.”

-- Proverbs 18:2

More times than I can count, I have witnessed or held conversations in which it was clear that someone was not listening to the person with whom they were speaking, but rather waiting impatiently to voice what they planned to say all along, as if presuming to know what the other person had to say.

Too often it seems that we talk past each other and thus fail to listen to the truth that others speak to us. But is this evidence of Christ being formed in us?

I would offer that one of the greatest services we can give to one another is the gift of listening. Indeed, listening serves as one of the foundational elements of Christian community. Just as our love for God begins with learning to listen to God's Word and Holy Spirit, so too is the beginning of love for our neighbors found in learning to listen to them.

In an examination of Christian service in his seminal work *Life Together*, theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer argues, “[Christians] forget that listening can be a greater service than speaking. Many people seek a sympathetic ear and do not find it among Christians, because the Christians are talking even when they should be listening. But Christians who can no longer listen to one another will soon no longer be listening to God either; they will always be talking even in the presence of God. The death of the spiritual life starts here

In these difficult days, our inclination can be to “circle the wagons” to safeguard our sense of normalcy as well as our worldview when faced with new information that challenges how we see things around us.

However, to stop listening and thus stop learning undermines the call to be crucified and raised with Christ into newness of life. Bonhoeffer warns sharply that this signals the death of our spiritual life because we cease also to listen to God, prizing more dearly our preconceived notions of the world than the revelation of truth that God may be speaking to us through another.

True listening that seeks understanding honors those with whom we dialogue as beloved children of God, and not first as enemies. Impatient, inattentive listening serves only to dismiss another person, and ultimately reveals more about our relationship to God than what we perceive as the error of their thinking or disposition.

In such a hyper-partisan time as this, it is imperative that we pray for humility and for the life of Christ to be formed in us so that we may open our ears and hearts to one another, particularly to those with whom we disagree. Of course, this does not preclude the necessity of calling a lie a lie or of struggling for truth in a world that is upside down. Just the opposite, it calls us as followers of Christ to hone our discernment and patience so that we may hear the pleas of those who suffer, listen to those who share views other than our own, and thus grow closer to God by courageously coming to the end of ourselves.

Pastor Terry

“Reaching People, to Teach People, to Reach People”

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

This year has been a good one for UMW. Through the hard work of Carolyn Hankins and Bev Justice we were able to meet each month via Zoom and finally in person. Now it is time for our summer break. Enjoy this time with your family and friends. Mark your calendars for Monday, September 13, 2021. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. for dinner. I look forward to seeing each of you then!

Debbie Sellars, President

FINANCE REPORT

Our attendance is slowly improving with an average of 58 so far this year. Those watching on YouTube are also increasing with an average of 33 views per Sunday.

As of May 15, our expenses have exceeded income by \$416. Conference apportionments have been deferred to insure we have adequate funds for our June property and liability insurance premium of approximately \$15,000. Even though offerings are \$7,589 higher than last year, we are \$15,309 behind budget. Hopefully we will see increased attendance and offerings as we defeat the pandemic.

The 2020 audit has been completed as required by the conference. Olive Shuping was in charge of the audit and did a thorough job. She has previously served as our church treasurer. She found our finances to be in compliance with our policies and general accounting procedures. She did highlight some incorrect accounting entries. Corrections have been made and the causes addressed.

Tom Leggett, Chairperson

SERVING IN JUNE

Acolytes

6th Peyton Hunt

13th Emily Sauls

20th Grace High

27th Emily McLam

Soundboard

Lynne Inman

Suzanne Hall

Terry Simmons

Robert Page

OUTREACH TEAM NOTES FOR JUNE

Mission of Hope in Sierra Leone is centered in the city of Rotifunk, population about 6 million people. For all these people, there is one medical doctor per 50,000 people. (In the United States the ratio is about one medical doctor per 302 citizens.)

During the worship service on May 16, Amy Sessions shared some of her experience with Mission of Hope. Three years ago, the hospital was seen as a place of death due to the Ebola crisis. People avoided coming to the hospital. Clean water, electricity, safety measures and very limited staff were major problems to be addressed before Mission of Hope would be more beneficial to people in the area. These needs have been resolved to a good extent and with medical staff and volunteers going to villages in the vicinity the fear of the hospital has been overcome.



In Sierra Leone, 1 in 9 babies dies at birth, birth weights average under 5 pounds, and 1 in 100 mothers don't survive complications of childbirth. The Madonna Project

brings hope to mothers and their babies. Services provided include prenatal clinics with screenings and teachings, ultrasounds, hospital delivery, nourishing meals, and post delivery care all at NO COST to the patients: Last year over 300 women were cared for through the Madonna project. The cost to "sponsor" a mother is \$90.

Already a volunteer on two mission trips to Sierra Leone, Amy has been asked to lead a group later this fall. She is eager to visit once again those who have previously welcomed her to their villages. Amy showed us pictures of a light-skinned baby (the baby was an albino) while recalling the mother telling Amy the child could be hers.

Our church is pleased to support Mission of Hope - Rotifunk and the hospital serving so many people. You can see a video by searching for Mission of Hope Rotifunk. If anyone would like to support the Madonna Project, a check can be made to Whiteville United Methodist Women and funds will be forwarded.

*I hope you know how amazing you are.
You are helping lift families out of a world of hunger and
poverty and into a world of hope and opportunity.
Thank you so much.*

Carolyn Hankins, Outreach team leader

NURTURE COMMITTEE

We are excited about getting closer to being able to do more things that our committee had done before COVID! For Mother's Day we gave out pens and bookmarks that we had ordered last year but didn't get to give out. We have a special gift for the men on Father's Day also. Hopefully we will be able to begin planning for events like Homecoming in the fall. We thank God for guiding us through the pandemic and I know we have a greater appreciation for things like being together and hugging! We also would like to thank Kathy Graham for all of her assistance and support during her 16 year tenure as Administrative Assistant at our church. We are sad for us but happy for her! Happy Retirement- we love you Kathy!

– Debbie Conway, Chair

SPRC

The Staff Parish Relations Committee accepted the resignation of Kathy Graham on March 1st and it will become effective on June 16th. She is retiring after 16 years with the church. We ran ads in the newspaper and online and had several applications submitted. We reviewed the applications and selected three applicants to interview. We selected Morgan Simmons to fill the Administrative Assistant position. She will begin training with Kathy on June 1st and continue until June 14th. We appreciate the many years of faithful service that Kathy has given to our church and wish her the best in her retirement! We all will miss her!

– Rob Conway, Chair

PARISH NURSE NOTES

The next Red Cross Blood Drive for Whiteville United Methodist Church is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 1:30 to 6:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Peggy Huffman will once again chair the event. Please mark your calendars now, if you plan to donate blood or volunteer in another capacity. We always look forward to serving not only our church family but also the greater Columbus County community by securing blood donations for seriously ill or injured individuals. Don't miss out on this important opportunity to share our love for God and others with actions rather than words. It is truly a life changing event for both givers and receivers.

We shall attempt to resume 50 Plus Exercise classes by September 13. The previous routine will probably remain: 15 minutes for devotions and prayer, and 45 minutes of chair and low impact exercise routines on two days each week. If you plan to join the group, you will need a note from your personal physician to participate. Hopefully, Lunch and Learn will return to our healthy living activities as well sometime in the fall. Stay tuned for more details!

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

– Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Patricia Ray, Parish Nurse

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Whiteville United Methodist Church

June 21 – 24

5:15 p.m. till 8:00 p.m.

Ages 4 – Adult



“Fishers of Men”

Supper provided.
Pre-registration at
the Church Fellowship Hall
on Sunday, June 20 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

For more information call the
Church Office at 642-3376.

WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESCHOOL AND PLAYGROUP

On May 26, 2021 a beautiful graduation service was celebrated in our sanctuary! Twenty preschool children graduated to kindergarten. In the playgroup, seven from the three-year-old class moved up to the preschool class, and eight two-year-old children moved up to the three year old class.

The 2020/2021 school year has been a challenge due to the pandemic. Our devoted director, Karen Dawsey and committed teachers, Lisa Worley, Anna Pless, Morgan Simmons, Stephanie Rockwell, Morgan Fowler, Kristie Georgis, and Jessica McPherson have met that challenge and more.

The children received solid academic and Christian teachings throughout the year, made close friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime. Congratulations, Kiddos!

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” – Proverbs 22:6

JUNE 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	3 6:30 p.m. SPRC/Parlor	4	5
6 <i>Graduation Sunday</i> 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 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	14 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Court of Honor Fellowship Hall	15	16 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	17	18	19
20 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	21 5:15 p.m. VBS	22 5:15 p.m. VBS	23 5:15 p.m. VBS 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	24 5:30 p.m. VBS	25	26
27 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	28	29	30 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study			