

The Methodist Messenger

OCTOBER 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.

Vision of Hope

Some time ago I read a book entitled, “The Boys in the Boat”. The book tells the story of the University of Washington’s 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin in 1936. The emotional heart of the story lies with one rower, Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not for glory, but to regain his shattered self-regard and to find a place he can call home. The crew is assembled by an enigmatic coach and mentored by a visionary, eccentric British boat builder, but it is their trust in each other that makes them a victorious team. They remind the country of what can be done when everyone quite literally pulls together – a perfect melding of commitment, determination, and optimism. Drawing on the boys’ own diaries and journals, their photos and memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, *The Boys in the Boat*, is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times – the improbable, intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, showed the world what true grit really meant.

Our society has become increasingly complex with the advent of so much electronic technology being used to guide our lives. Smart phones are an essential part of the daily life of so many people these days – for communicating, appointment keeping, buying and bill paying, keeping up with the weather, and so on. Some people who accidentally leave their phone at home have been known to suffer cell phone anxiety disorder. Some psychologists have claimed that the smartphone is “possibly the biggest non-drug addiction of the 21st century,” and that college students may spend up to nine hours every day on their phones that can lead to dependence on such technologies as a driver of modern life and an example of “a paradox of technology” that is both freeing and enslaving. In the midst of such realities, young people today are struggling to find meaning in life. The church has a tremendous opportunity and challenge to be the place where people’s hearts are touched, and their minds stretched that enable them to live life fully. The church that is of Christ ought to be the place where people can find unconditional acceptance and true Christian love and meaning and purpose in life. The church ought to be the place where people can find hope in the most desperate of times. In many ways this is a fantastic time to be alive. God has called the church to witness to the world that true life comes from knowing Jesus Christ and following him.

Our Methodist founder John Wesley’s fear was not that the people called Methodists would cease to exist, but that they would have the “form of religion” without the power of the Holy Spirit. The question I would like to pose to our church is, where is our church going in this exciting time? What kind of new future are we going to create that will enable young people to have a life that’s truly life? Are we praying for the Holy Spirit’s power to guide us into God’s future? Surely in the church we have the language to talk about the future. Surely we have language in the Bible which can hold a vision of hope for a better world.

I believe that God is calling Whiteville UMC to be a thriving community of believers focused on openly inviting children, young adults, families, and the non-affiliated into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church while continuing to nurture and support one another.

Jesus said it best: “I came so that they could have life – indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.” (John 10:10 CEB)

Pastor Terry

FLU/PNEUMONIA SHOTS

Pharmacist Ben Sauls will partner with the Health and Wellness Community to provide flu and pneumonia shots on Monday, October 5 from 12 noon until 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pneumonia shots are by prior request only. Contact Pat Ray at 770-1078 or 642-4813 to set up an appointment.

Social distancing will be practiced and masks are encouraged. Vaccine applications are available in the Church Office or on the table in the hallway to fill out ahead of time.

WUMC NEWSLETTER GOING DIGITAL!

In order to enjoy bulk mail prices via the U.S. Postal Service, 200 pieces of mail are required. At this point, we are under that quota. Included in the price of mailing newsletters each month is the cost of paper and use of the copier for many pages, in addition to the time used to fold, sort by zip code, bundle, and deliver to the post office.

Most people are growing accustomed to receiving these types of information in their email in-boxes rather than their physical mailboxes.

As with our bulletins each week, WUMC will begin to use PDF format to email the monthly newsletter. The use of email for our bulletins has been a huge success and we expect the same success with the monthly newsletter.

Don't worry! If you prefer a hard copy, they will be available in the narthex and on the table outside of the church office each month. Also, the "shut-in" members who enjoy their bulletins each week via postal mail, will continue to receive their newsletter in the mail.

In order to be included in the group emailing, please be sure your email address is up to date with the church office. You may call 642-3376 or email your address to wumc@whitevilleunc.org.

We look forward to beginning this new delivery system for the November newsletter.

FINANCE REPORT

We continue to struggle under the Covid pandemic. Financial support began a downtrend after a June and July rally. So far this year we have spent about \$1,400 more than we have received. Offerings were only \$1,715 on September 20. Compared to last year they are down \$13,364 (7%) and are \$47,031 behind budget. We continue to defer conference apportionments and as many budgeted items as possible to make ends meet. We are working on forgiveness of the \$25,690 SBA payroll protection loan, but that will not fully offset our budget shortage. If you are not attending worship service, please continue to support the church by mailing or delivering your tithes and offerings to the church office. We are considering a computer program for online giving. As the sports metaphor goes, we need to "give 110%!" Thank you for your continued support during these trying times.

We resumed counting worship service attendance at the beginning of August and attendance has averaged 47. We were averaging 81 before the pandemic.

The 2021 budget approval process is underway with hopes of reducing the budget by 5%. Last year we reduced it

4% and still came up 7% short. Our demographics show that we are an aging congregation with more and more members relying on retirement funds. We need to work on that by bringing in new members.

Thanks to the worship committee and the radio ministry for enabling our worship services to be broadcast on YouTube. Please stay safe and trust in God's guidance as we slowly resume our worship, fellowship, and ministries.

– Tom Leggett, Finance Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

As we approach the annual return to fall, we continue to be unsure of what the next weeks or months will bring. Due to the pandemic and the most recent racial injustices that have caused brokenheartedness, chaos, and confusion, I have been reminded (again) of the importance of listening and learning, of looking inward, and of standing for what is good and right. Dr. Hunt recently began a Sermon Series on Sunday mornings "Why Should We Trust God" and on Wednesday nights, he is leading a Bible Study on Galatians before Holy Communion is celebrated. What wonderful reminders – in all types of circumstances and conditions, we can hold fast to hope for what the future will bring.

On behalf of the Worship Committee, we continue to be touched by the kindness and generosity of others. We deeply appreciate so many who place flowers on our altar throughout the year. Never do they go unnoticed! Also, a special "thank you" for the beautiful music, both on the organ and piano, and for several of our church members who recently sang anthems during our Worship Service. From these smallest acts of love, we are all grateful!

At our September meeting, we briefly discussed the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Plans are in progress and should be finalized at our next meeting which will be Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

– Betty Gray, Chair

THANK YOU

"Thank you" seems so inadequate to all of you for the kind and loving gestures you provided our family with the passing of Frank. I have received so many cards and notes that have helped me through this very difficult time. The flowers and food were so very much appreciated by all of our family. This has been a life changing event and it was so comforting to know that we have had so many of our church family to reach out to us. May God Bless each of you.

– Sylvia, Jan and Beth and families

WEDNESDAY EVENING

BIBLE STUDY/HOLY COMMUNION

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

NEW CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A Sunday School Class for children ages 3-12 years is held at 9:00 a.m. in the classroom upstairs over the preschool room. Snacks are provided.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

An adult Sunday School class is being held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome!

The current Adult Sunday School Class quarterly is available on the table outside the Church Office. You may pick up your copy from there. Thank you!

PARISH NURSING

The annual Flu Clinic is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 12 noon – 4:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. We are grateful to Ben Sauls, pharmacist/owner at Lake Waccamaw Village Pharmacy, for volunteering to administer the flu shots, plus a few pneumonia shots this year. Appointment slots are already filled for the entire afternoon. Flu shots are even more important for the health and well-being of everyone during the current pandemic. Persons with Flu and/or Pneumonia appointments are asked to stop by the church office for a clinic form to complete and bring with them on clinic day. Additionally, you will save time at your appointment if you attach copies of your insurance cards to the completed forms.

October is National Depression Education and Awareness (NDEA) month nationwide. Recent observation and countywide surveys indicate continued needs to provide solutions for mental health issues, including anxiety, depression and suicide prevention. So Whiteville UMC Outreach Committee is joining with Columbus FAITH Collaborative for Mental Health and Trillium Health Resources to provide education opportunities and awareness activities that focus specifically on anxiety, depression and suicide prevention throughout Columbus County and beyond. The local mental health groups agree with NDEA that “depression can wear you out at the exact time you need all of your strength to fight. Trying to cope is extremely tiring – and it’s often difficult to know when others are suffering.” Local efforts kicked off September 23 with QPR Training, which stands for Question, Persuade, and Refers. The training is 100% virtual, open to anyone 18 and older, and it is free. Wylanda Jones, Training Coordinator for Trillium Health Resources, will be the instructor for the QPR virtual training sessions. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade and refer someone to seek help. Additional courses will be offered on anxiety and depression in upcoming months.

An important resource/hot line to keep readily accessible for mental health referrals is the 24-hr. Access to Care line: 1-877-685-2415.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. – Jeremiah 29: 11, NRSV

Blessings and peace,
Patricia Ray, Parish Nurse

OUTREACH

The team had an opportunity in late August to visit via Zoom with Mozart Adevu, a missionary in Ghana for whom our church continues financial support. Mozart works with several communities to promote sustainable agriculture. The process takes years to show the benefits of changes in farming methods. Initially, Mozart told us, the men would come to his sessions. But once the women saw the improvement in crops and animals, they began to come too and the project takes off. He is planning for the time of his retirement and with funding from UMCOR has sent men to Japan for nine months of training. This is definitely a life and world-changing program spread by the diligence, vision and enthusiasm of one missionary!

Moringa is part of what he teaches about and has promoted there and in the United States for years. The tree is totally edible (roots to leaves) and has several valuable nutrients for health. Rev. Terry Hunt heard Mozart talk to the NC Conference staff and has been experiencing benefits from taking moringa for six years now.

Selma Adevu is a medical student in Ghana entering her third semester of training. Because clinical trials were not being provided, her class was not attending school. In order to take final exams, they were called back for some in person clinical experience prior to testing. Lodging is not provided as part of the schooling, so Selma and another student share an apartment and meal preparation. Her ultimate goal is to be a pediatrician and help provide better childcare in her country. Whiteville UMC sends \$1,000 per year for financial support to Selma.

The team met on August 31 to review previous endeavors this year, to share fond memories of past projects to give Rev. Hunt an idea of the array of outreach we have done, and to look at our budget request for 2021. During the sharing, we heard about Build A Bed, mission trips to Frakes in Kentucky, Rise Against Hunger (then Stop Hunger Now) community meal packing mornings, and other things. An event for RAH had to be cancelled in April and we do not see it being rescheduled in the immediate future due to Covid-19.

We are actively looking for a way to use our Fellowship Hall to provide space and WiFi connectivity for students doing virtual studies. This would take place in the afternoon so as not to interfere with the preschool schedule, and we want to contract with a group having leadership in running a similar program. Past our budget funding, Rev. Hunt says there would be grant monies available for such a program. We have contacted The DREAM Center, Carol Caldwell for her expertise, and Edgewood Elementary School. None are able to work with us because of staff constraints. We will continue to explore ways to be of service in the local community.

We’d be happy to share more information with you about the local, national and global work we support through your giving and interest in being the hands and feet of Jesus in our world.

– Carolyn Hankins, Outreach Chair



Whiteville United
Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

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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.

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
902 Pinckney Street/Whiteville, NC 28472
(910) 642-3376
website: www.whitevilleumc.org
email: wumc@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. 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 web page at www.whitevilleumc.org. Click on "Stream Live Service Sundays at 10:00 a.m."