



*The Methodist Messenger*  
SEPTEMBER 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.

### Troubling Times and Waters

Over and over recently, in this time of Covid-19 isolation and social unrest, the image of troubled waters has come to my mind. The term evokes for me everything from the classic Simon and Garfunkel song to gospel stories of Jesus and his disciples on a boat in a storm on the lake. Water in the Bible can symbolize chaos or deep power, beyond human control. It can also be a place of passage into freedom, such as the Jordan River or the Red Sea.

In John 5, the pool at Beth-zatha (known also as Bethesda) was a place of healing. The people believed that when the water was troubled, it held special healing power. Folk would wait by the side of the pool for the water to be disturbed, and the first one in would get the healing. There is some speculation about what was really going on in the pool. A late addition to the scripture said an angel would come and disturb the water. Others have proposed that it was the rhythm of a natural spring.

Especially in the moment we are living as a nation, Covid-19 pandemic, political rivalry, and social upheaval, the thought of water being stirred up as a sign of healing is powerful. Deep power, moving, with room for us to enter and cross over is frightening and inviting all at once. I think of courageous, enslaved Black people who decided to risk their lives for the sake of freedom, escaping their slavery and claiming the life they knew God intended for them. They knew, as I hope we might also trust, that the God who is troubling the waters is the same God who has promised to lead us through the water. We have trouble aplenty, to be sure, and the waters in this moment are roiled and frightening. But our God is able, and the cause of moving into freedom for all of God's people is just. So, may we sing with the brave ones of the past:

Wade in the water  
Wade in the water, children  
Wade in the water  
God's gonna trouble the water

Take heart and courage today in the life of those who have crossed through these waters before us and in the power of our gracious God.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Terry

### WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY/HOLY COMMUNION

The Wednesday evening Holy Communion Service will begin with Bible Study on the book of Galatians starting Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m.

### NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINS

A new Sunday School Class for children ages 3-12 years will begin on Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Snacks will be provided.

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

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!

### NEW PASCHAL CANDLE

A special thank you to Janice and Dick Simms for the purchase of a beautiful new Paschal Candle in loving memory of their son, Mark.

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW will gather in the Parlor on Monday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. Following guidelines for gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic, we will wear masks and refrain from socializing over refreshments. The devotion will be given by Pat Ray. Program will focus on the Reading Program with books from the 2021 UMW list available for you to read at home. Peggy Huffman leads

our Program Resources area and maintains the UMW library in the Parlor. Children and youth books are an emphasis in the Reading Program and a children's book will be read to the group.

All are welcome but we need to plan. Please let Debbie Sellars (910-840-5941) know if you plan to attend in person or if you would like to join us via Zoom. We very much look forward to being together again in person or in a virtual format!

– Carolyn Hankins

### PARISH NURSING

Kudos to Peggy Huffman, other volunteers and donors for an excellent August 2020 American Red Cross blood drive! Our goal was 42 units and 53 units were collected – success in spite of the current pandemic! We appreciate Peggy's continued leadership with the blood drives and look forward to the next blood drive in February.

Have you heard the news about Take the Lake 2020? According to the event flyer, this year TTL will be a virtual event. It is already underway and ends on Labor Day Monday, September 7. But it is not too late to get on board. Find out all the details and register at [www.takethelake.org/](http://www.takethelake.org/). You can also get your questions answered at this website.

The heart of Take the Lake is promoting health and wellness in our community. Although this year the event looks a little different, we are not going to let COVID 19 stop us from achieving our goals. We have until Labor Day Monday to complete as many personal fitness goals as we choose. Walk, Run, Hike, Bike, Swim or Paddle. All events are free. Thanks to Stuart High Rogers for sharing this information with us!

– Patricia Ray, Parish Nurse

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.  
I John 4:7 (NRSV)*

### SAVE THE DATE!

Flu and pneumonia shots will be available on Monday, October 5 in the Fellowship Hall. Details to come!

### FINANCE REPORT

Thank you for your continued support during these trying times. We resumed counting worship service attendance at the beginning of August. Attendance has averaged 46 compared to 75 last August. Financially we are \$8,501 (5%) behind last year's giving. We are hopeful that the SBA Payroll Protection Program loan proceeds will make up for any shortage. We have continued to pay our staff as required by the loan terms.

The finance committee has moved the 2021 budget approval process to late September. This will allow more time to access the effect of the pandemic on our stewardship. We are recommending that committees attempt to reduce their budgets by 3 - 5%. This is based on our current position and the fact that we came up 5% short of budget last year.

We continue to be blessed to have Olive Shuping fill in as treasurer during Tammie Anderson's absence.

Please stay safe and trust that with God's guidance we will soon be able to resume our full worship, fellowship, and ministries.

– Tom Leggett, Finance Chair

### UNITED METHODIST MEN

In my 76 years on this earth, I have never known a time like this, and that is probably true for most of us. No training, either in school or the corporate world, and no experience, has prepared me. Our grown children are seeing their careers at risk, and our grandchildren are exposed to harm in their own communities, that can be as deadly as a war zone. Culture Shock has become the norm. School administrators were not trained for this and our government has become paralyzed. Yet, our leaders are expected to provide instant solutions. What are we to do?

All of this sounds very negative, but we have good news. The same good news that Jesus shared on this very same earth, many years ago, and the same good news that the Apostle Paul shared in Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Let's let Paul's words be our guide. Let's let sharing the Good News and being a Beacon of God's Love be our marching orders, regardless of the circumstance. This can be a terrific time for prayer, meditation and preparation both for now and for action when the Pandemic subsides. Be assured, as we go through this, we are even now ready to support and assist in whatever needs we become aware of.

– Biff Simmons, President

### A WORD FROM THE STALLSWORTHS

We would like to thank you, Whiteville United Methodist Church, one more time for the eight years of living the Christian life together. We are grateful to God for your faith, your Spirit-given gifts, your good works, your encouragement, and your humor.

On August 8, a Saturday, we made our fifth and last trip to Wilson. So, we have completed the move. As you can imagine, we are now settling into the house -- one box at a time! Our contact information follows.

2400 Foxcroft Road NW/Wilson, NC 27896

Telephone Number: 252.640.2755

Marsha's Email Address: [mlstallsworth@gmail.com](mailto:mlstallsworth@gmail.com)

Paul's Email Address: [paulstallsworth@nccumc.org](mailto:paulstallsworth@nccumc.org)

We wish God's continuing providence over the Whiteville Church with the solid, faithful leadership of Dr. Terry Hunt. Continue faithful.

With love and in Christ,  
Marsha and Paul Stallsworth

### BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

1 <sup>st</sup>	Lindbergh Holden	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mitchell Williamson
	Sylvia Walters	17 <sup>th</sup>	Shepherd Edwards
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sue Griffin Lennon	18 <sup>th</sup>	Dan Biser
8 <sup>th</sup>	Sara Brooks	29 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Rabon
	Debbie Conway	24 <sup>th</sup>	Suzanne Hall
10 <sup>th</sup>	Heather LaMora	27 <sup>th</sup>	Chuck Wheeler

# September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2  6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Galatians)/Holy Communion	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	7  Labor Day Church Office Closed	8	9 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor  6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Galatians)/Holy Communion	10	11	12
13 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	14  6:30 p.m. United Methodist Women/Parlor  7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/Fellowship Hall	15  5:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting/Fellowship Hall	16 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor  6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Galatians)/Holy Communion	17	18	19
20 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	21  7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/Fellowship Hall	22	23 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor  6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Galatians)/Holy Communion	24	25	26
27 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	28  6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting  7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/Fellowship Hall	29	30 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor  6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Galatians)/Holy Communion			

Acolytes: 6<sup>th</sup> - Peyton Hunt; 13<sup>th</sup> - Emily Sauls; 20<sup>th</sup> - Grace High; 27<sup>th</sup> - Andrew Bullard.

Soundboard: 6<sup>th</sup> - Darryl Diefes; 13<sup>th</sup> - Suzanne Hall; 20<sup>th</sup> - Lynn Inman; 27<sup>th</sup> - Kathy and Terry Simmons.

Greeters: TBD.



Whiteville United  
Methodist Church  
902 Pinckney Street  
Whiteville, NC 28472

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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WHITEVILLE, NC

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](http://www.whitevilleumc.org)  
email: [wumc@whitevilleumc.org](mailto: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](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 web page at [www.whitevilleumc.org](http://www.whitevilleumc.org). Click on "Stream Live Service Sundays at 10:00 a.m."