



The Methodist Messenger
AUGUST 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.

SUNDAY EVENING FILM SERIES

Whiteville United Methodist Church

The Parlor

August 4/6:00 p.m.

"God's Not Dead 3: A Light in Darkness" (2018)

A fire severely damages a church building on a college campus. In response, university leaders try to move the church off campus, and the ensuing conflict brings together two estranged brothers.

August 11/6:00 p.m.

"Miracles from Heaven" (2013, released 2016)

A girl with a medical condition cannot digest food. Never giving up, her mother searches for a cure for her daughter. After enduring an accident, the girl tells of a visit to heaven and begins to recover from her long illness.

August 18/6:00 p.m.

"The Case for Christ: The Film" (2017)

In 1980, Lee Strobel's gifts as an investigative reporter earn him the position of legal editor for the Chicago Tribune. Strobel reacts to his wife's Christian faith by trying to disprove it. He flips, and everything changes.

August 25/6:00 p.m.

"Paul, Apostle of Christ" (2018)

St. Luke journeys to Rome to visit St. Paul in prison. Paul awaits execution at the hands of the Roman Empire and Luke commits himself to write a second book, this one on the early Church.

PICKING UP LITTER, MOWING A LAWN,
AND THINKING ABOUT REALITY

Since moving to Whiteville in 2012, Marsha and I have several times a week, if not daily, walked a certain path in our fair city. One or both of us, accompanied by the Lady on a leash, stroll and/or jog from Frink and Pinckney north toward Columbus County Social Services, and then we return home by hoofing it on the opposite side of the street. Our routine path consists of sidewalks, streets, and shoulders.

On these mostly morning outings, we use plastic grocery bags in which to place litter that is found along the way. Litter. Lots of litter. Mostly fast-food bags and cups. (Folks around here eat a lot of McDonald's hamburgers and Bojangles' chicken.) But also cans (beer and soft drink), water bottles, and plenty of miniature airline-sized Fireball Cinnamon Whiskey bottles. Stray wrappers (especially the morning after Halloween night). Blowing pieces of paper.

Receipts. Bills. Unmailed government cards and letters. Political signs (both the cardboard and the metal stake). Garbage, which is headed for the dump station on the other side of Social Services, and has blown or bounced off the bed of a pickup. And unmentionables in a family-oriented church newsletter. All that litter. Right there, on Pinckney Street, day after day.

We are willing, if not glad, to pick up the litter most days. After all, streets without litter look more attractive. Streets with litter look, well, trashy. All of us prefer attractive over trashy. (Do I hear an Amen?) That is reality. (Might this be a reminder that not everything is a matter of opinion?)

Over the years, as a Pinckney Street walker, this pastor has come to dislike very much a particular situation. (Hey, the first step in turning around my "issue" is admitting I have it....) That particular situation is: a guy/gal who pushes or drives a lawnmower, and he/she runs over litter. That means, for example, mowing a lawn, a person sees one, white, McDonald's paper cup in front of the lawnmower, and yet he/she mows over it. Chop, chop, chop. (Literally.) So, the lawn, which before had one, single, large piece of litter, now has 23 small, shredded pieces of litter. Sure, the person mowing that lawn was able to complete the mowing job in record time, and he/she has packed up the pickup and trailer and is long gone. But the 23 pieces of a cup just sit there on the lawn -- or blow about in the breeze. That particular situation presents a challenge to a litter picker-upper and to his disposition. Calling this scenario a "nightmare," for one picking up litter, is probably a stretch. But there is no reason for this to happen -- especially time after time.

It would be so much better if the one mowing the lawn would simply stop mowing for a moment, lean over, pick up the litter, and hold it for a later disposal. That beats the 23-small-shredded-pieces-of-litter routine. And certainly, the lawn looks a lot better. And to be sure, that keeps the litter picker-upper in a much better mood, especially when both the morning temperature and humidity are well over 80 and the sweat is already flowing freely.

This rule -- pick up the litter before mowing the area -- applies to all who mow lawns. To individual citizens. To city employees. To county employees. To state employees. To landscaping-company employees. To businesses-with-large lawns employees. To cemetery (contracted?) employees.

This rule -- pick up the litter before mowing the territory -- is not found in, or supported by, Scripture or Church Tradition. As far as I know, it is not backed up by scientific studies or theories. But this rule does emerge from reality, from observation, from natural law. (Even though natural

law is something we Protestants try to ignore, it is irrepressible. As America's Founders recognized.) The observable natural law is that our actions, and inactions, have consequences -- observable consequences. Litter pickup before mowing results in a more handsome lawn or parkway. No litter pickup before mowing results in a very trashy lawn or parkway. That is not the conclusion of a reality show. That is reality itself.

So. Pick up the litter. Hold (or dispose of) the litter. Then and only then, mow. Finally, dispose of the litter.

This will not necessarily make for a "wonderful world" (Louis Armstrong, Sam Cooke, and Herman's Hermits). But it will help to move Whiteville up a notch in attractiveness.

One more comment. (Pastors often have that "one more comment." Right?) Doing a task correctly -- or nearly correctly -- the first time helps everybody involved. That's reality, too.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The WUMW will be resuming our meetings from the summer break a month earlier this year. We will gather on August 5, Monday, in the Parlor at 6:30 p.m. Marsha Stallworth will have the devotion, and Nan Leggett will be the hostess. We will be putting together supplies for the teachers at Edgewood Elementary to help fill needs for their classrooms. We are asking our members to bring some of the following things to the meeting: bottles of hand sanitizer (the kind with the squirt-top dispenser), square boxes of tissues, and disinfectant wipes. We invite all women of the church to come! We would happily accept any donations from anyone in the church -- some of those articles or a monetary donation. Donations can be left in the Narthex or the Church Office. Thank you for being such a generous congregation!

– Debbie Conway, Chair

THANK YOU!

Once a year the young people of our church, and often times from other churches, conduct our worship service on Sunday morning. On July 15th, under the direction of Heather LaMora, our Youth took the lead. We, the church, appreciate them taking an active role so that we are reminded, once again, that the story of God is being passed to the next generation. Through their prayers, readings of scripture, and the message preached from the pulpit, it is evident that God is working and molding their lives.

On behalf of the Worship Committee, thank you - our next generation of adult leadership. Truly, this is a special opportunity for all of us!

– Betty Gray, Chair

THE ANNUAL AUDIT

The Annual Audit of Whiteville United Methodist Church's financial records is complete. This year's Audit Committee is composed of Dial Gray, Chair, John Gayle Barkley, Ann Pait, Olive Shuping, and Lewis Sauls. In addition to those on the committee who contributed their time and worked so diligently to complete this task by the August 1, 2019 deadline, a sincere "thank you" also goes to Kathy Graham, Tammie Anderson, and Tom Leggett for their assistance and support.

– Dial Gray, Chair

WITNESS COMMITTEE

Summer is flying by and school bells will be ringing soon! The Witness Committee needs your help. We are asking for monetary donations to buy uniforms and other school items for students with needs. If you are able to contribute, we would greatly appreciate it.

– Katie McLam, Chair

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2nd - Thomas McLam

5th - Greyanna Ashley

Ryan Power

6th - Phil Stoll

12th - Aaron Barnhill

18th - Nicolas Bell

19th - John Duncan

Peter Stallsworth

20th - Brad Corwell

25th - Layton Dowless

28th - Marty Sellers

30th - Rob Conway

31st - Margie Rabon

Olivia Jane Dowdy



Save the Date!

Thursday, August 29, 2019
American Red Cross Blood Drive
WUMC Fellowship Hall
2:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

REMEMBERING LINDA MUSGRAVE
(1934-2018)

During a Service of Holy Communion
August 28/Wednesday
6:00 p.m.

FREE BASIC COMPUTER CLASS

A free Basic Computer Skills course, offered by Southeastern Community College, will begin on August 20th in the Fellowship Hall. You can register in the first class beginning at 9:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Dale Cichero dalesmail2015@gmail.com.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

August continues the "Month by Month" school supplies suggestion for OCC items. Currently, WalMart and CVS have many school supplies for a dollar and under. Remember Shoe Box Dedication Sunday at WUMC is November 24.

Our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) team met much earlier this year. We came up with an idea borrowed from other churches of year-round collection for OCC. We called it OCC Month by Month. This idea was born out of the necessity: being short of items to completely fill some of our shoeboxes. We tried to come up with items you can find on sale during the month listed. This is the list we came up with for our church:

February: Wow Items (dolls, stuffed animals, matchbox cars, etc.)

March: Clothes, scarves, mittens, toboggans, etc.

April: Wow Items

May: Hygiene items (wash cloths, soap, toothbrushes, multiple small drinking cups, etc.)

June: Flashlights, batteries, solar calculators

July: School Supplies (notebooks or notepads, pencils, pens, pencil sharpeners, etc.)

August: School supplies (markers, colored pencils, rulers, scissors, etc.)

September: Flip flops or shoes, sunglasses, clothes, plastic shoeboxes

October: Letters, pictures, toys, multiple small drinking cups

November: Shipping cost or other monetary donations; BUILD A BOX; labels for following your shoebox online

What will you give of yourself to do the Lord's work?

– Wendy Hood



Whiteville United
Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

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Mrs. Kathy Graham, Administrative Assistant
July and August
Monday-Thursday/8:30 a.m.- 12:30 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
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The Whiteville United Methodist Church's Service of Worship is broadcast live 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.wtxy1540.com: click on "Click to Listen Live" under "United Methodist Church of Whiteville" at 10:00 a.m. to hear the complete audio of the service.

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.