



The Methodist Messenger

MARCH 2020

Whiteville United Methodist Church

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Communion Service - 6:00 p.m.



COMMUNITY SERVICES OF WORSHIP
ON THE WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT 2020

Whiteville United Methodist Church

Worship at 12:00 Noon

Lunch at 12:30 p.m.

March 4/Wednesday of Lent I

Dr. Fred Senter, Supply Pastor

First Baptist Church

Whiteville, NC

March 11/Wednesday of Lent II

Dr. Joseph D. Washburn, Pastor

First Presbyterian Church

Whiteville, NC

March 18/Wednesday of Lent III

Rev. Joseph J. Yaeger, Pastor

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church

Whiteville, NC

March 25/Wednesday of Lent IV

Rev. Andy Anderson, Pastor

Father's Cup Overflow Ministries

Little River, SC

April 1/Wednesday of Lent V

Rev. Jeremy Simmons, Manager of Spiritual Care

Columbus Regional Healthcare System

Whiteville, NC

April 8/Wednesday after Palm Sunday/Holy Wednesday

Rev. Bob Hankins, Pastor

Hallsboro United Methodist Church

Hallsboro, NC

2020 CAROLYN T. HIGH PREACHING MISSION

Whiteville United Methodist Church
Whiteville, NC

The Reverend Dr. F. Belton Joyner, Jr.
Bahama, NC
Preacher

MARCH 8/SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Morning Service of Worship

"There's a 25 in There Somewhere"/Luke 19:1-10
and

6:30 p.m. Evening Service of Worship

"God Doesn't Always Make Sense"/Ezekiel 37:1-14

MARCH 9/MONDAY

6:30 p.m. Evening Service of Worship

"Can I Repent Just a Little?"/Matthew 4:12-23

Each Service of Worship will include
very special music.

The Reverend Dr. F. Belton Joyner, Jr.
has served as:

- *the Pastor of Oleander-Pine Valley Methodist Charge
in Wilmington (1961-1965);
- *the Pastor of Mount Bethel Methodist Church
in Bahama (1965-1968);
- *Staff on the North Carolina Conference
Council on Ministries
in Raleigh (1968-1974);
- *the Pastor of Mebane United Methodist Church
in Mebane (1974-1978);
- *the Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church
in Durham (1978-1985);
- *the Executive Director of the NC Conference
Council on Ministries
in Raleigh (1985-1989);
- *the District Superintendent of the Raleigh District
in Raleigh (1989-1995);
- *the Assistant to the Bishop and Director of
Ministerial Relations
in Garner (1995-2001);
- *a "retired" pastor (2001); and
- *the Acting District Superintendent of the
Elizabeth City District
in Elizabeth City (2008).

Please invite family members and friends to attend.

ALBERT THE GREAT PRAYS

In 1981, the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD) was founded to strive to reform and renew the public witness of mainline/oldline Protestant churches in the United States (including The United Methodist Church). Back then and now, as you might guess, IRD has been somewhat controversial.

On April 8, 1983, IRD held a conference in Washington, DC. During the conference, Dr. Albert C. Outler -- who could be considered the father of The United Methodist Church, and who taught theology for years at the Perkins School of Theology (Southern Methodist University) -- offered an invocation during the IRD conference.

In the 1960s, while preparing to help establish The United Methodist Church, Dr. Outler helped to bake "theological pluralism" (i.e., many theological perspectives welcomed in the church) and the "Wesleyan quadrilateral" (the method of discerning Christian truth from the Bible, Church Tradition, reason, and experience) into the new denomination. That meant that he opened United Methodist doors to much conversation about most, if not all, topics. Therefore, it was fitting and proper for Dr. Outler to pray during a conference that would feature various points of view.

Early in January, while rummaging through some files, this pastor found the text of Dr. Outler's invocation at the 1983 conference. It is worthy of publication in our newsletter and our attention.

According to a copy of his typed prayer, Dr. Outler faithfully and beautifully prayed: "Almighty and gracious God, all-governing Father, before whom the tides of history ebb and flow, righteous judge of all the nations (and all of us), we gather together in thy solemn presence to praise and glorify thy Holy Name, to thank thee for all thy unmerited mercies, and to invoke thy blessings and guidance upon our endeavors in this conference. Thou knowest how tragic and untoward a time it is; what sad confusions roil the counsels of the nations and of the churches as well, how holy causes -- peace and justice, dignity and freedom -- are at grave risk, when men and women of good will are honestly perplexed, when violent men and women make free as if to mock thy righteousness with impunity. And yet we know that it also is a time of thy Providence and therefore, for us a time of obedience, courage and hope. Grant us, therefore, we beseech thee, rich gifts of thy Peace (which the world can neither give nor take away) and of thy grace (to lift us above self-interest). As we grapple with the grave and urgent issues confronting us and our world, keep us mindful of the love that abides turmoil without which all other gifts are finally fruitless. Guide us, then, in seeking out the truth without fear or favor -- and so be confident -- and yet also direct us in our speaking the truth, as we know it, in love -- and so be gracious. Save us, as we would be saved, from loveless truth that wounds and from mindless love that deceives. Lift our horizons of concern to encompass all thy People in all their needs, and make us good stewards of all thy bounties of talents and opportunities. Stir in us, by thy Holy Spirit, the spirit of a careful conscience, of temperate speech and of humble hearts. So make us agents of thy Righteousness, instruments of thy peace -- to the end that these hours together may redound to thy honor and glory, and as yet another triumph of the grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose Name and Spirit we pray. Amen."

"Save us, as we would be saved, from loveless truth that wounds and from mindless love that deceives." It doesn't get better than that. Thanks be to God for such wisdom.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

GOD IN WORD AND SACRAMENTS

"[Martin] Luther is adamant: God has promised to be found in his word and sacraments, so don't go looking elsewhere. To look elsewhere is sin and idolatry. As he puts it in 'The Sacraments of the Body and Blood of Christ' (1526): '[God] is present everywhere, but he does not wish that you grope for him everywhere. Grope rather where the Word is, and there you will lay hold of him in the right way. Otherwise you are tempting God and committing idolatry. For this reason he has set down for us a definite way to show us how and where to find him, namely the Word.'" --Dr. Todd Hains of Bellingham, Washington in First Things (February 2020, p. 4)

CHRIST'S CHURCH

Matthew 14:22-32 reports on Jesus Christ saving His Church of twelve disciples (later apostles) in a boat, which was threatened by death in a stormy Sea of Galilee. George Weigel's Evangelical Catholicism: Deep Reform in the 21st Century Church (Basic Books, 2013) opens Chapter Four, "True Reform in the Church," by considering Christ and His apostolic Church in the boat. Mr. Weigel notes: "Throughout its history, the Church has frequently been in difficulty; those difficulties often come because of that 'little faith' or lack of faith for which Jesus chides Peter. A Church in difficulty or crisis is, typically, a frightened Church: a Church that has lost sight of the Lord, that has fixed its gaze on another horizon, and that is awash in troubles because it is no longer looking as closely or intently as it should at the Risen One who comes to his people in ways they often do not expect. Then the situation is rectified and the disciples' fears are relieved (as Catholic crises through the centuries will be rectified and Catholic fears for the future relieved) by the Lord's initiative: the Risen One, the Son of God, gets into the boat of the Church, on the Sea of Galilee and throughout the millennia, and puts things right.

"Through this story, Matthew's gospel constantly reminds the Church that, for all our cleverness and skill, we are impotent in matters of salvation -- that we are the saved, not the saviors, and that all attempts at self-justification come to naught. Put another way, the Church is Christ's Church, not ours, and we start sinking when we try to make it ours." (pp. 90-91, emphasis added)

ALTAR COMMITTEE

The Altar Committee would like to thank all those who have placed beautiful arrangements on the altar. Flower arrangements are placed on the altar each week to the glory of God and in honor/memory of a loved one. There are still some openings on the Altar Flower Chart, located in the Church Office. Stop by, or call (642-3376), to sign up.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Let us strengthen our relationship with God during the upcoming Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission and this year's Lenten season. In addition to hearing Reverend Belton Joyner's messages March 8th and 9th during the Preaching Mission, I'm sure wonderful music will be presented by WUMC's Chancel

Choir, the Stallion Small Ensemble from South Columbus High School in Tabor City, directed by Mr. Jimmy Price, and the Edgewood Elementary Chorus from Edgewood Elementary School in Whiteville, directed by Mr. L. A. Cothorn.

On Ash Wednesday (February 26th), we began celebrating Lent, which is a season of self-reflection, preparation, and repentance, when we seek to live and love as faithful disciples. By observing these 40 days, Christians acknowledge Jesus Christ's completion of His earthly journey through His life, death, and resurrection. As outlined in the this newsletter, our Lenten Community Services begin on March 4th and will continue through April 8th. During this Lenten Season of 2020, let us be true worshippers of God and worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). As we pray, read, and sing God's Word, participate in communion, and serve others, we are worshipping God in the way He has designed. Let us joyfully come together for these special services, as well as those which will be celebrated during Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

The Worship Committee will meet next on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in the Pastor's Study at 5:00 pm.

– Betty Gray, Chair

SUNSHINE CIRCLE

Members will gather in the Fellowship Hall on March 16, Monday, at 11:00 am. The devotion and program will be led by Dixie Batten with Marsha Stallworth providing the beverage and dessert.

The February meeting, at which Operation Gratitude kits for deployed Military Personnel were completed, featured Jeremy Simmons, Chaplain at CRHC. He spoke on Advance Directives which are important, helpful wishes for a person of any age to share with family, doctors, church and others. The preparation guideline *Five Wishes* is available on the table across from the Church Office.

The March 17th Hospice meal will be provided by Pat Ray.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

We enjoyed decorating for the UMM Valentine's Dinner held on Sunday, February 16th. What a special night – great food, wonderful entertainment, and an outstanding opportunity for Christian fellowship! Thank you to the Methodist Men for all the work they did to make it such a great success!

We have the plans set for the 6 Lenten lunches coming soon. The first Lenten service and lunch is Wednesday, March 4th. Our church offers so many ways to nourish our bodies and spirits! Please make plans to attend.

– Debbie Conway, Chair



Whiteville United
Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

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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
mail: 902 Pinckney Street/Whiteville, NC 28472
telephone: (910) 642-3376
website: 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. 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. 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.