

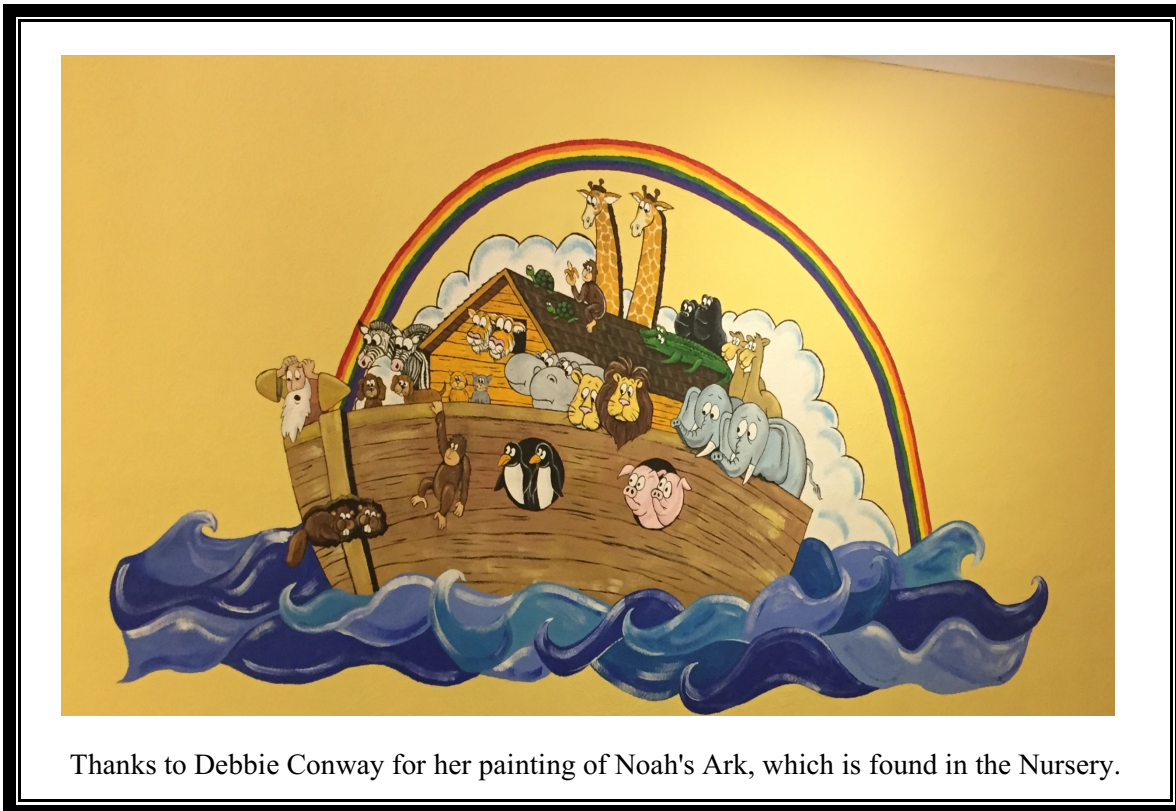


The Methodist Messenger
OCTOBER 2017



Whiteville United Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472
910.642.3376
wumc@whitevilleumc.org

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Communion Service - 6:30 p.m.



2017 HOMECOMING
Whiteville United Methodist Church

October 8/Sunday
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Homecoming Service of Worship with Rev. Edie Gleaves,
Harbor District Superintendent, Preaching
11:00+ a.m. Homecoming Feast in the Fellowship Hall

Spread the word!
Invite one and all!
Pick up postcard invitations from the Church Office,
address them to family and friends, and mail them!

This will be a wonderful time in our Lord and with one another!

2017 CHARGE CONFERENCE
Whiteville United Methodist Church

The Parlor
October 23 -- Monday
6:30 p.m.

All Church Council members are encouraged
to participate and all church members and
friends are invited to attend.

DOES UNITED METHODIST DOCTRINE LIVE
LOUDLY WITHIN US?

Recently, Professor Amy Coney Barrett, who teaches at the University of Notre Dame Law School, was interviewed by the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. Why? Because Prof. Barrett had been nominated to become a federal judge.

During the course of the interview, Senator Dianne Feinstein expressed concern about Prof. Barrett's Christian faith with these words: "Dogma and law are two different things. I think, whatever a religion is, it has its own dogma. The law is totally different; in your case, professor, when you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you, and that's of concern when you come to big issues that large numbers of people have fought for, for years, in this country." (Thanks to Dr. David F. Watson's "The Dogma Lives Loudly," September 12, 2017 [www.ministrymatters.com] for the quotation and for the idea for this column.)

Using the word "dogma," Sen. Feinstein was probably trying to "scare the horses," so to speak. The senator seemed to be suggesting that the professor was the only one in the room who had "dogma." Well, as a matter of fact, every person in that room -- from esteemed senators, to less esteemed senators, to staff members, to clerks, to journalists, to spectators -- had "dogma." The question, for each person, was what kind of dogma he or she possessed. Some probably had Roman Catholic dogma. Others Evangelical Protestant dogma. Others Oldline Protestant. Others Jewish. Others New Age. Others secular political. Others secular economic. Others secular cultural. And on and on.

That suggests we United Methodists can, and should, have United Methodist dogma. But as you know, "dogma" is not one of our commonly used words. Professor Geoffrey Wainwright (a British Methodist) at Duke Divinity School once used the word "dogma" in a way that is helpful to United Methodists. He classified The Apostles' Creed and The Nicene Creed as statements of dogma for all churches and all Christians, including The United Methodist Church and United Methodists.

Within The United Methodist Church, the word "doctrine" is much more common than "dogma." Over the

last four months, during the sermon series on The Confession of Faith, the word "doctrine" has been used quite a bit around here. So when Sen. Feinstein claimed to Prof. Barrett, "the dogma lives loudly within you," it caused this pastor to think, Does United Methodist doctrine live loudly within us?

In our conversations with others, when we refer to God, are we clearly pointing to the One who is named Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Or are we talking about some kind of a vague spirit who is a part of our personal spirituality?

Do we today live like Jesus Christ is our Savior and our Lord, and our Judge at the end of time?

Do we allow the Holy Spirit to convince us of our sins?

Do we look to the Bible, well understood by the Church, to provide the final word on what we believe and how we live?

Do we see the Church as gathered and sustained by God through time -- not just a religious organization of nice people who avoid difficult topics?

Are we growing in our understanding of God reaching out, to the Church and to us, through Holy Baptism and Holy Communion?

Do we admit the destructive, overwhelming effects of sin on us and on all of creation?

Can we confess that only through Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is sin defeated and people (including us) redeemed?

Can we joyfully declare that we are justified (pardoned) by the love of God through trusting in the death of Christ for us?

Do we attempt good works, not just feel-good works, often?

Are we striving, every day, to increase in our love of God and others?

Do we live in a humble way that implies a future, final judgment awaits us?

Is the public worship of God essential and central in our lives?

Is observance of the Lord's day a part of our weekly living?

Do we treat wealth and possessions as ours, to do with as we please, or as God's gifts to us, to use for God's honor and the good of others and the mission of the Church?

Can we discuss political matters without lapsing into fear mongering and name calling?

The bottom line is this: we can strive for United Methodist doctrine to live loudly within us. If we do, one in a more exalted position than Sen. Feinstein will be pleased.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

A JOKE FOR THE ROAD

Peter L. Berger (1929-2017) was a world-class sociologist. Also, he was a longtime friend of, and collaborator with, Richard John Neuhaus. Berger loved a good joke. Such as: "There are three universal social lies: 'The check is in the mail;' 'it's only until the divorce;' and 'I will be brief.'" (from James Nuechterlein's "Remembering Peter Berger," First Things, October 2017, p. 12)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

October is a very busy month for Whiteville United Methodist Women. On Monday, October 2, we will have our monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Our program will be on "World Thank Offering" and "Penny and a Prayer" presented by Carolyn Hankins. We need to be prepared to make our pledge for 2018 so that the budget for 2018 can be formalized. The devotion will be presented by Carolyn Hankins, and Nan Leggett will be the hostess for this meeting. Officers for 2018 will be elected at this meeting.

On Saturday, October 9, members will attend the North Carolina Annual Conference of United Methodist Women to be held at Methodist University in Fayetteville. If you have not planned to attend, it is not too late. One can register on site at the day of the meeting.

On Saturday, October 21, we will attend the Harbor District United Methodist Women Annual Meeting, which will be held at Hampstead United Methodist Church from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please plan to let us know if you can attend this meeting at our October meeting or let Dixie Batten know by October 15th.

The UMW local meeting for November will be on Monday, November 6. - Dixie Batten, President WUMW

UNITED METHODIST MEN

WUMM will meet at Joe's Barbecue on Thursday, October 5, at 6:30 p.m. for our meal. We will have a planning meeting for election of new officers and upcoming programs. Please make plans to join us for our meeting of good food and fellowship.

- Brad Crowell, President WUMM

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Preparations are being made for our annual "Homecoming" which will be on Sunday, October 8. This annual celebration is traditionally held on the second Sunday in October. Our regular schedule will be as follows: Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and the Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Suzanne Hall and her youth Sunday School Class are distributing printed invitations to church members so this special day can be shared with friends and family by postal mail or, better yet, by hand-delivery. These cards are also available in the Narthex on Sundays. We encourage everyone to spread the word so others can plan to share this day with us. This year we are fortunate to have Reverend Edith ("Edie") Gleaves, District

Superintendent of the Harbor District, as our guest speaker.

We welcome all visitors to join us for a covered-dish meal in the Fellowship Hall after the Worship Service.

The Worship Committee will meet again on Thursday, November 9, at 5:00 p.m. in the Pastor's Study.
- Betty Gray, Chair

NURTURE COMMITTEE

We are gearing up for the upcoming Fall and Winter activities.

We had a meeting on August 30 with all members in attendance.

I would like to thank all of our committee members for their willing and faithful service! We discussed the 2018 Budget to be submitted to the Finance Committee. We also discussed our plans for the Homecoming meal on October 8th. We will be giving away our "Door Prizes" again this year during the meal, which will add some additional fun to the day of fellowship.

I urge all of you to plan to attend and bring some visitors for this great event in the life of our church! I just pray that we don't have an unwanted visitor like we did last year! (Hurricane Matthew) Even with Matthew in attendance and no electricity, we still managed to have an enjoyable meal and a good time with about 20 people there!
- Debbie Conway, Chair

REACHING OUT

The October meeting of Reaching Out will be Tuesday, October 24, at Dale's Seafood in Whiteville at 6:00 p.m. Brooke Hinson, Hospice coordinator for Columbus and Bladen County, will be the guest speaker for this evening. Reaching Out is for widowers and widows to enjoy fellowship and food, as well as grow spiritually and receive education about the community.

- Dixie Batten

LAY LEADERS

Wanda and Darryl would like to thank the members of our church who have faithfully served the church, particularly those committee members and their chairs who have worked hard on getting ready for a new season. Their help and timeliness in submitting their portion of 2018 Church Budget is greatly appreciated.

The Nominations Committee has been busy searching for folks willing to serve Christ through positions in the church. If you have not been actively involved in service in WUMC, we challenge you to prayerfully consider to what avenue of service God may be calling you and where your gifts, talents and abilities may contribute to the life of the church and its ministries.

Speaking of...once again we find ourselves needing someone who would be willing to serve as a soundboard operator during a Sunday worship service. Excellent training will be provided free of charge! If you would like to serve in this capacity, please call Wanda at 640-2292 or email us at ddiefes@ec.rr.com.

- Wanda and Darryl Diefes, Co-Lay Leaders



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.

The Service of Worship is broadcast on WTXY 1540 AM 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.

Mrs. Kathy Graham, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Layton Dowless, Custodian

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Office (910) 642-3376

wumc@whitevilleumc.org

www.whitevilleumc.org

Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth, Pastor