



The Circuit Rider

September 2023

As long as the earth exists, seedtime and harvest, cold and hot, summer and autumn, day and night will not cease. Genesis 8:22

I'm finding it hard to believe September is already here. It seems only yesterday we were welcoming tourists, watering flower beds, picking tomatoes, freezing corn, and setting off fireworks in celebration of our nation's independence.

Now we find ourselves looking ahead to raking colorful leaves, National Grandparents Day (September 10th), National Neighbor Day (September 28th), crisp mountain apples, freshly harvested peanuts, sweatshirts, sweaters, and all the other symbolic meaning a September day delivers.

Other than shrinking daylight hours and pumpkins appearing on every farmer's market lawn, what will the Fall season bring?

Every season ushers with it opportunities for us, as the Body of Christ, to grow in faith and in our personal relationships. With every turn of the calendar, we're reminded that it's a new day to consider our faith journey and redefine what the Holy Spirit is leading us to embrace as we seek to live with God's purpose(s) for our lives.

As most of you know, Jane and I are getting an early start on the chilly nighttime temperatures and Pumpkin Spice Lattes cruising through Alaska. In fact, some of you asked what our plans include.

I'm going to try both lobster (which I never have), and I'm going to try salmon (which I simply don't like but agreed to try again). We're going dog mushing and whale watching.

I also plan to turn down the inner noise, turn off the laptop, and increase God's presence in quiet reflection. For those that know me, you'll know that it's difficult for me to sit in peaceful contemplation for any amount of time, most especially a *long* period of time. Still, my plan is to retreat into some quiet places and ponder on my need for self-care, my

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Sunday Services

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Blended Worship

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family's importance in my life, and the admiration I hold for each of you. I'll pray every day as I listen for God to answer back, reflect how our lives have transitioned this past year, and how those turning points has changed us.

Like the altering of a season, many of us have experienced the significant colors of life turn dark and fall without sound. Others have seen growth occur with the brilliance of the figurative leaves delivering a brightness only the joys of life's moments can deliver.

Through all the many changes, good and sad, we've stood together, supporting each other at every interval. But then, that should not surprise us. That is exactly what Camp United Methodist Church has done for the past 225 years. As the Body of Christ, the people of this church have always stepped together through any changes, trusting all we faced was set by God's great design.

I honestly believe our best years are in front of us and that God wants us to experience the beauty and the blessings we each hold. I trust the direction the Maker sets for our futures, for where our seasons change, God does not. Our world rests in the hands of the One that created it.

So, friends, open your arms wide and embrace our approaching season for God promises to equip, guide, and love us with generous grace.

With heartfelt affection for each of you,

Pastor Terry

LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

When Labor Day Meant Something

Somewhere along the line, Labor Day lost its meaning. Today the holiday stands for little more than end of summer and the start of school, weekend-long sales, and maybe a barbecue or parade. It is no longer political. Many politicians and commentators do their best to avoid any mention of organized labor when observing the holiday, maybe giving an obligatory nod to that abstract entity, "the American Worker."

Labor Day, though, was meant to honor not just the individual worker, but what workers accomplish together through activism and organizing. Indeed, Labor Day in the 1880s, its first decade, was in many cities more like a general strike—often with the waving red flag of socialism and radical speakers critiquing capitalism—than a leisurely day off. So, to really talk about this holiday, we have to talk about those-which-must-not-be-named: unions and the labor movement.

The labor movement fought for fair wages and to improve working conditions, as is well known, but it was its political efforts that did nothing less than transform American society. **Organized labor was critical in the fight against child labor and for the eight-hour workday and the New Deal, which gave us Social Security and unemployment insurance. Union workers sacrificed in America's historic production effort in World War II and pushed for Great Society legislation in the 1960s.**

Chad Broughton
<https://www.theatlantic.com>

AdMinistry Team's Update on August 10th, 2023 Meeting

Our realtors, having received no interest or inquiries about the 11-acre parcel of land which we listed with them, have asked if we would be willing to lower the price, which we had set at \$400,000. The land has been publicized and builders have been made aware of it, so the relators believe we priced it too high. Before dealing with the price, it was decided to investigate engaging a logging service to bring down some of the trees and garner some funds from selling them. We are aware of two contacts who can guide that decision. Tom Evans and Jill Greene will research that possibility and report back at the next AdMinistry Meeting.

It was suggested that the financial status of the church, where we report less income than expenses in the bulletin every week, needs to be more thoroughly discussed with the congregation. We should be transparent about the fact that we have a substantial reserve, and that we have filed a request with the IRS under the Employee Retention Credit. We also plan to run a more formal Stewardship Campaign this fall. At the same time, it would be useful to step back and summarize where we are in terms of the Ministries we provide in our post-disaffiliation world. It was decided to present a "State of The Church" briefing on these issues following a future Worship Service and invite all who are interested to stay for a few minutes for that purpose.

Due to the amazing amount of donations provided over the last two months, it was recognized that it would not be possible set up the entire yard sale on the morning of the event. Instead, it was decided to take the following actions:

- 1) we will ask volunteers to put up tents and bring out tables on Thursday the 17th
- 2) the volunteers will then bring out the donations to display them on the tables on Friday the 18th
- 3) the Shallotte Police Department will be asked to park a car in our parking lot to provide overnight security, and
- 4) volunteers will be asked to arrive beginning at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday the 19th to set up the bake sale and silent auction.

Rae Mathews, Wiley Ballard and Jack Rector have completed our required annual internal audit. The findings were very positive in terms of accurate record keeping and appropriate safeguards. The audit team made three recommendations:

- 1) the consolidation of restricted funds into the General Fund
- 2) to separate the books of the church from those of Mothers Morning Out
- 3) to encourage the congregation to give to the General Fund rather than to Restricted Funds.

While those recommendations were taken under advisement for future consideration, the Internal Audit was accepted with thanks by the AdMinistry Team.

Tom Evans, Chair
AdMin Team



Happy September everyone! The children's ministry staff and volunteers have been busy and hard at work with planning a wonderful fall semester! We will kick off our new children's church curriculum with the theme of Friendship for the month of September.

Camp Kids will return weekly on Wednesday, September 13th from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Educational Wing. All children ages birth-fifth grade are invited to join us! We will have a time of music, dinner, fellowship and a Bible lesson each week. Pickup and drop off will be at the back door of the Educational Wing.

Be on the lookout for some new additions to our acolyte team! We are excited to offer training this month for any children between the grades of 1-8. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn a few UMC traditions and to serve their church.

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to volunteer with our Camp children in some capacity! It is not too late to express an interest in volunteering with our children. Spots are still available during children's church on Sunday mornings. We ask for volunteers to make a once every 3 month commitment (this is only 4 times a year). Please prayerfully consider joining this ministry.

Have a wonderful and safe September, Camp Family!

In Christ,

Allison Hunter
Director of Children's Ministry



The youth had a great time at an escape room (*from which they did escape*) and enjoyed pizza and ice cream on August 19th. The next day, we had a fun time of fellowship at the End of Summer Bash.



Camp's Escape Winners

Youth Sunday Nights will resume at 5:30 PM on Sept. 10th. The format will be a little different this year, we continue to have fellowship and dinner at each meeting but we will also have a service project one Sunday Night each month. Our lessons will be based on one year of devotions with our first topic love, followed by gratitude and forgiveness.

We have had a wonderful summer with fun events but are excited to get back to our weekly schedule.

Dean and Anna Anderson

MISSIONS

UNION SCHOOL BREAKFAST

August 22, 2023

Members of Camp's Nurture and Outreach committees hosted a Back- to-School breakfast for the teachers, administrators and workers of Union Elementary School.

Pastor Terry offered thanks for the "calling" they answered in providing quality education to our children and challenged them to "embrace the relationships they'll make with parents, students, and each other."

Sam Jennings, Principal of UES, offered thanks for Camp hosting the event and for the overwhelming support Camp UMC is providing. He also challenged the teachers and staff to "soak up the prayers" and live into the love offered throughout the community.



Prayer Partners for Union Elementary School and Mother's Morning Out Ministry officially starts October 1st. If you still need to sign up to be a Prayer Partner, please let me know. Thank you for your support and dedication to our Prayer Partner Ministry.

In His Love,
Bonnie Stanley-Verzella
verzellagal@gmail.com
(910) 579 -5170



August 5th Distribution

Camp UMC served 86 families (12 new). 293 individuals (100 children 117 adults 76 seniors). Thirteen (13) Hispanic bags were distributed.

GREAT JOB everyone!!!!!!

Gary Conselmo, Chair



If you have filled your Agape Boxes and would like to bring them in before October, you can place them in the narthex. They will be returned to the church for the blessing during the special October 1st World Communion Sunday.

NOTE: Do not wrap the items. The boxes must go through customs and the items will need to be inspected.

Merry Christmas in Armenian

Shnorhavor Amanor yev Surb Tznund
or

Շնորհավոր Ամանոր և Սուրբ Ծնունդ

It means Congratulations for the Holy Birth.



We will conduct our quarterly trash pick up on September 9th at 8:30 AM! All are welcome to participate! Reach out to Hart Merriam if you need additional information.

hartandsusan@gmail.com or
(540) 797-4388

ARMENIA AND NAGOMO-KARBAKH

CUMC is currently busy collecting items for our Project Agape Christmas boxes, are ministry in Armenia. The following article we give you an in-depth look at the suffering the people of this area has endured through the years.

“Upon the disintegration of the Transcaucasian Federation with the proclamation of the independent Democratic Republic of Georgia on May 26, 1918, both Azerbaijan and Armenia proclaimed their independence on the same day, May 28, 1918. Each of these countries laid claim to the territory which they saw as historically and ethnically theirs; these territorial disputes led to the Armenian–Azerbaijani War between 1918 and 1920, a series of conflicts that ended only when both Armenia and Azerbaijan were annexed by the Soviet Union. In 1924, the Soviet Union created the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region within Azerbaijan when over 94% of the region's population was Armenian”. Wikipedia

“Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a dispute over the contested territory of Nagorno-Karabakh since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The territory of Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. It has an ethnic Armenian majority, however, and is backed by Armenia. Nagorno-Karabakh’s effort to secede in 1988 was the catalyst for the war that ended with a Russian-brokered ceasefire in 1994. After the fighting ended, Armenian forces wholly or partially asserted control over the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts”. *(There were clashes over Nagomo-Karabakh in 2008, 2010, 2016 and 2020.)*



On April 23, 2023 Azerbaijani forces installed a checkpoint along the Lachin Corridor on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border, which controlled the flow of goods into the Nagorno-Karabakh region which impedes the provision of humanitarian aid. www.securitycouncilreport.org

The ongoing blockade of the Lachin Corridor is endangering the lives of thousands of people in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The human rights organization called on Azerbaijan’s authorities and Russian peacekeepers to immediately unblock the route and bring an end to the unfolding humanitarian crisis. The situation has left some 120,000 ethnic Armenian residents in Nagorno-Karabakh without access to essential goods and services, including life-saving medication and health care. www.amnesty.org

With all the years of wars and skirmishes, the situation for the Armenians in Armenia and in Nagomo-Karabakh is disquieting. Project AGAPE is the only humanitarian group working in the Nagorno-Karabakh. westnash.org

NEW LIFE PRAISE BAND

Getting to Know the New Life Praise Band Members



Katie Mae Garner is one of the vocalists with the New Life Praise Band. See below to learn a little more about her.

Where were you born and raised? **I was born and raised in Supply, NC close to Holden Beach. Left for college in Raleigh at Meredith for 5 years, but returned home after and currently reside in Shallotte.**

What are three things you would like the congregation to know about you? **I have 2 beautiful children: Maggie Gray (8) and Parker (6). I love animals and I really enjoy food and eating at different restaurants.**

How long have you attended Camp UMC? **35 Years. I was born into Camp and baptized here.**

What musical instruments do you play? **I took guitar and piano lessons growing up, but all that I can do now is loosely follow piano music to sing to.**

What is your favorite genre of music? **I like all types of music. You can find me listening to very inappropriate rap, then the next song will be praise and worship. My father raised me listening to all different types of music. (Minus the rap - I acquired that on my own).**

What is your favorite musical group? **That's too hard to narrow down. As of late, I have really been liking some Taylor Swift because Maggie Gray enjoys her and will be singing along with me!**

What is your favorite Praise music song? **Currently- "In Jesus Name" by Katie Nichole - so powerful.**



On August 17th, the ladies gathered for a night of food, fellowship, and fun. We watched the movie "Where the Crawdads Sing".

NEXT MEETING September 21st

We will meet at Roberto's at 5:00 PM.



Seasoned Adults Learning together

The next SALT meeting will be on
September 18th @5:00 PM:

Devotion by Lynda Eagle

Program: discussing the upcoming year.

Meal: Sliders by Publix, chips, cookies, and tea.



Prayer Shawl Ministry invites anyone who knits or crochets to join them on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM at the home of Virginia Winfree. Next meeting August 29th . If you want to learn, they can teach you! Contact Virginia Winfree at 910-754-4962.

BAREFOOT TO LEAD CAMP'S STEWARDSHIP EFFORT



Longtime, faithful member and former Chairperson of the Camp's Church Council, Poli Barefoot, has volunteered to serve as the Chairperson of Camp's Consecration Sunday Stewardship program for 2023 season.

Consecration Sunday approaches financing the ministries of our local congregation by teaching stewardship from a spiritual perspective rather than a fundraising perspective.

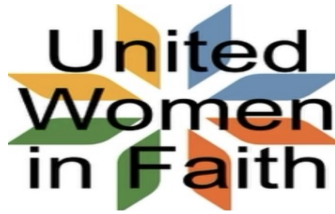
During the coming season, we'll focus our attention on one question, *"What is God calling me to do?"* rather than, *"What does the church need in order to pay its bills?"*

You'll soon be hearing more about our seasonal campaign. Consecration Sunday will take place on December 3rd during our 10:00 AM morning worship. Rev. Lynn Benson, Director of Legacy Giving with the United Methodist Foundation will serve as our guest pastor.

HOLY LAND TRIP



On October 19th at 7:00 PM, you're invited to join us for an informative discussion on your opportunity to explore this fascinating area and learn the history of where Jesus introduced himself to the world as our Savior, learn about our faith as Christians, and dive deeply into the faith of our Jewish and Muslim friends. The meeting will be held in the YFC.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SUNDAY will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, September 10th, with our women leading the worship service. Our special guest speaker will be Rev. Trish Archer from Wilmington. The overall theme for her message will be the "the lifelong journey as disciples of Christ." After serving for 25 years in various ministry areas, in 2017 she was appointed to Passion in Partnership, a ministry of coaching and leadership development for both clergy and laity. Our prayer shawl angels have been busy making a special gift for everyone who attends.



Rev. Archer

SUSANNA WESLEY CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, September 12th, at 10:00 AM in the Salmon Classroom. We invite all women who are interested in a morning circle to attend. Our circle donated a basket to be auctioned off at the Epicurean Evening for The Methodist Home for Children. The theme for our basket was "PICNIC" and we loaded the basket with items such as red-checked tablecloth, paper ware, goodies, wine and everything else you need for a picnic (including insect repellent). We used a basket that was hand-woven by Jane Nichols (deceased) and refurbished by Margaret Hardin. Our circle works hard and plays hard (as noted by all our FUN summer activities.! Hope to see you September 12th!

JOY CIRCLE will resume its meetings on Monday, September 11th at 6:00 PM. Please bring your own dinner and we will provide beverages and dessert. We will use this as a planning meeting for the rest of 2023. All women of the church are invited! Contact is Laura Beaty at laurazbeaty@gmail.com or 336-403-5311.

GLORIFY GOD THRU SONG



*Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord,
Psalm 150:6, NLT.*

Let us all Glorify God through song on Sept. 16, 2023 from 3:00-5:00 PM. All are welcome and invited to come out and enjoy a glorious time of music and fellowship at the OIB Town Center Amphitheater hosted by Camp UMC's Agape' and Music Ministries. Noted Composer, Alan Pote, will be there to share his musical talents with a 100+ choir; along with the Embracing Christ Choir, Coastal Harmonizers, and the New Life Praise Band. Bring your lawn chairs and sit back, relax, and enjoy this time of worship. For beach lovers, the beach is a two minute walk from the park. We look forward to you worshipping with us!

YARD SALE UPDATE

Camp experienced a wonderful sense of community on August 19thth, with the success of the Yard Sale/Bake Sale/Silent Auction. This event was staged to raise money to help fund the badly needed kitchen renovation.

For over two months people donated items and dedicated volunteers priced and organized the items. On Thursday the August 17thth a team of about 20 people raised a dozen tents all over the grounds and brought out almost every table in the Church. An even larger team worked all day on August 18th^h to bring out all that was donated to display on those tables. The donations were with tarps and left out overnight, for the sale to be held the following morning. *(Amazingly, not a single item went missing that night)*

Finally, on Saturday morning, baked goods and Silent Auction items were displayed and the sale began. Literally hundreds of people from our community prowled the grounds looking for bargains and treasures among the books and hardware and furniture and linens and games and holiday decorations and luggage and kitchen ware and more that covered all of those tables. The baked goods sold out in no time. The silent auction sold time in ocean view beach houses, quilts, silver coins, Kayaks, bicycles and more. Sales were also very brisk for all of the yard sale donations.

BOTTOM LINE: Sales topped \$17,000.

On Sunday, August 20thth, those who donated or helped with this event were asked to stand during the church service to accept the applause of a grateful congregation, and almost everybody stood. This project was more than just an economic success, it was a wonderful team effort that built an even stronger sense of family in our church community.

Thanks are due everyone who contributed to this effort.

Tom Evans



Bake Sale Team



Furniture Team



Treasure Seekers

SEMINAR

On August 12th, Camp UMC members Doug Jones (far back left) and Steve Varnam (back center) joined other Harbor District participants at Ocean View UMC in Oak Island for an all day seminar, Living Our United Methodist Beliefs. The seminar led potential lay leaders through the history of the Methodist Church from the 1700s to where the church is today.



Thank you

To the Camp United Family:

Oh my goodness, what can we say? "Thank You" doesn't even begin to express our gratitude for the love and prayerful support you each have given to Doug and our family. We will always remember your kind words and actions, especially toward Mom. Doug was truly blessed to have spent the last ten years as part of such a loving and caring community in Christ. Thank you and God bless you all.!

Doug Lutzky's family

BAPTISM



On July 30th, Miles, the son of James Morse and Kaylan Edwards, was baptized

A MONTHS OF SUNDAYS

You, your family, and ALL of your neighbors are invited to join Camp United Methodist Church in celebrating a **Month of Sundays** as we take our Sunday afternoons and join together in fun and fellowship. Here's a sneak peek of the activities that we'll be doing. More information to come.

October 1st

Blessing of the



As part of our Month of Sundays' celebrations in October, and in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (*the patron saint of animals and the environment*), Camp UMC will host a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, the 1st of October starting at 4:00 PM outside our church. Furry, scaled, or winged – all critters are welcome to receive a special blessing from Pastor Terry.

October 8th



On October 8th at 4:00 PM you're invited to join with our friends from Seaside UMC to meet **Project Agape** Director, Nara Melkonyan from Armenia for a welcome reception to the North Carolina Conference. Nara will spend a few minutes detailing the most current events the people are enduring and thanking Camp for undertaking as a project this year their need for Christmas boxes filled with expressions of Christ's love for the children of Armenia.

Project AGAPE is a ministry to Armenia and to some of our most desperate Christian brothers and sisters – and is a collaborative effort of the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences of The United Methodist Church in a joint effort with the Armenian Apostolic Church.

All of our work in Armenia is totally funded by your financial support and 100% of your gift goes to the ministry.

October 15th

Sing A-Learn/Sing A-Long

October 22nd

Trunk or Treat with the Children

October 29th

Speed Dating Event (We kid you not.)



6	Taylor Thompson	13	Carol Kendall
7	Kevin Littlejohn	14	Reid Chambley
8	Rebecca Smith	14	Cathy Landrum
9	Eric Freeman	15	Patrick Inman
10	Sheryl Jones	17	Shannon Revell
11	Lauren Sidelinger	22	Betsy Ward
13	Beth Bingenheimer	23	Peggy Coda
13	Becky Hewett	23	Sue Johnson

Greg & Debbie Rupp	1 (33)
Hank & Fran Hecht	2 (41)
Dick & Joyce Erickson	2 (56)
Bob & Tracy Hibbard	5 (31)
Ron & Eileen Markum	16 (38)
Ralph & Carol Kendall	17 (35)
David & Kate Inman	18 (24)
Ana & Bert Parker	26 (3)
Jack & Shannon Revell	27 (1)
David & Catherine LaBianca	28 (37)



DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

Sept. 4th	Labor Day	Office Closed
Sept. 7th	Methodist Home Dinner	5:30-10:00 PM Wilmington
Sept. 9th	Trash Pickup	8:30 AM
Sept. 10th	Women in Faith Sunday	
Sept. 14th	AdMinistry Meeting	6:30 PM YFC
Sept. 16th	GLORIFY GOD THROUGH SONG	3:00-5:00 PM OIB Park
Sept. 17th	Agape Meeting	11:45 AM Salmon Room
Sept. 18th	SALT Event	5:00 PM
Sept. 21st	Ladies Night Out	5:00 PM Roberto's



September

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00 Sun. Sch. 10:00 Worship 10:00 Children Church & Nursery	6:30 Prayer & Communion	Bulletin Deadline 9:30 Prayer Shawl at Mrs. Winfree's				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 CAMP'S FOOD PANTRY DAY
3 Communion	4 Labor Day Office closed	5	6 5:55 Adult Choir	7 5:30-10:00 Methodist Home Dinner	8 4:30 Friday Night Meals	9 8:30 Trash Pickup
10 Women in Faith Sunday	11 6:00 Joy Circle	12 10:00 Susanna Wesley Circle 2:00 Baskets	13 5:30 Camp Kids, Kid Singers and Study Starts 5:55 Adult Choir	14 6:30 AdMin Mtg.	15 4:30 Friday Night Meals	16 3:00-5:00 Glorify God Thru Song
17 11:45 Agape Mtg.	18 5:00 SALT Activity	19 6:00 Israel Trip Presentation	20 5:30 Camp Kids 5:55 Adult Choir	21 5:00 Ladies Night Out	22 4:30 Friday Night Meals	23
24	25 4:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 UMM	26	27 5:30 Camp Kids 5:55 Adult Choir	28	29 4:30 Friday Night Meals	30 MMOM 30th Anniversary Celebration