

# Camp UMC

## September Circuit Rider

### Pastoral Report

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease.”- Genesis 8:22

“As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colours enough to paint the beautiful things I see”- Vincent Van Gogh

I was honored to be asked to pray a blessing over the teachers, administrators, and staff at Union Elementary School on August 18th. As I stood there, recalling my life as the child of a teacher, which included attending the teacher workdays (whether I wanted to or not!), it struck me that the season of summer, for all intents and purposes, is over. For some of you, that brings great sadness; for others, it brings boundless joy. I tend to fall into the camp of the renowned artist Vincent van Gogh. There is something special about the transition from summer to fall. The mornings are crisper, the evenings lend themselves to sitting on porches and patios, and churches around the world spring back to life! Sunday worship, Wonderful Wednesdays, Book/Bible Studies, Children and Youth ministry, choir practices, etc. It is enough to take your breath away! There really is something for everyone at Camp United Methodist Church. So, friends, I want to extend an invitation to you: I want you to extend an invitation to a friend, neighbor, or complete stranger to come to one of our worship and-or learning opportunities. Perhaps you start with worship, but wherever you choose to start, just do it. The number one reason folks start attending a particular place of worship is because someone invited them. This September, be that someone. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**Pastor Clay**

# Staff Ministries

Join us and bring a friend for **Wonderful Wednesday**, starting September 10th! All are invited and there is something for everyone! Bible Study ~ **We Believe; How the Nicene Creed Can Deepen Your Faith** by Michael Carpenter. This book study will break down various sections of the Nicene Creed which is very similar to the Apostles Creed. Two times to choose from: 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (Contact Tamy Munns for a book.)



Thank you to all of our leaders for blessing the backpacks on August 24.

## Youth

Youth Group returns  
September 7

Join us every Sunday from  
5:30–7pm in the YFC for  
food, fellowship, and  
devotion.

Contact Anna Anderson for  
more information.

# Music

## CHANCEL CHOIR CALLING YOU!

The Chancel Choir invites YOU to come “check us out” to see if you’d like to be a part of this growing group! The choir meets on Wednesdays from 5:55 to 7:30 pm in the Salmon Room. We praise God as we prepare music for worship, combining texts and notes...and a bit of fun and laughter, too! We help lead in worship every Sunday and spend time learning music for the Christmas Cantata. We even separate men and women for portions of some practices to get a head start on new music. If you love to sing, come give our dedicated group a try. Hope to see you soon!!!

Contact Wes & Betsy Ward for more info.



# Adult

Join us for the next **Ladies Night Out** on September 18 @ 5 pm at Inlet View. Dutch style dinner open to all women. Salt & UMM will have a **Fish Fry** on Sept 22 @ 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Fried fish, slaw, hushpuppies, and homemade desserts are on the menu. No cost for the event, but donations are greatly appreciated. Contact Tamy Munns for additional information.

# Children

**Wonderful Wednesday** will begin for the children on September 10th. Hours are 5:30–7:00 and we meet in the children's wing. This year is going to be filled with love, laughter, learning and adventure! We would love to have children age 3 through 5th grade join us. Meals are provided.

## **Opportunities with Camp's Children:**

**Sponsor a Wednesday night** main course. We serve a set menu of chicken nuggets from Burger King (due to student allergy, it must be BK nuggets), pizza, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The Summerlin family and Jerome's generously donate meals on the third Wednesday of the month. Don't have time to pick up or deliver a meal? Donations are accepted. We appreciate everyone's support.

Help with the nursery or **Children's Church** on a Sunday morning. No instruction required. We simply need an extra set of hands. If you are interested please let Thommi know.

On **Saturday, October 25th** we will have our big fall event: Trunks of Treats, from 1pm–3pm. Set up will be in the parking lot on Bobby's side of the sanctuary. We will use the spaces closest to the treeline. (There is a Harbor District Women's meeting in the Fellowship Hall that morning, and we have asked that they park on the river side of the church). The time may seem late, but this is to accommodate our children and families who are involved in sports early in the day. Come out and decorate your trunk! We will also be having a bake sale, sponsored by our Mother's Morning Out Ministry staff.

Contact Thommi Hendricks for additional information.

## Financial Committee Update

Camp UMC continues to be in a stable financial position. We are meeting all our financial obligations and staying close to our 2025 budget expectations. However, our projected budget for 2025 (approved by church council) includes spending \$93,698 from our “Reserves” this year. We are very fortunate to have financial reserves, yet it is unsustainable to spend down this much money from “Reserves” on an annual basis. Bottom line, we are spending more money each month than is being donated to the church.

After Camp UMC voted not to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church in February of 2023, we became a substantially smaller church than we had previously been. Likewise, our budget was greatly reduced. We collectively tightened our belts in 2023 and had fund raising events. Then in 2024 and again in 2025, we have allowed our budget to increase, since we were doing well as a church and we have “Reserves” in the bank. However, our weekly offering is not keeping pace with these budget increases. We are spending down our reserves. If this direction does not change as we close out the year, we will need to reduce our 2026 Budget and have reduced spending in 2026.

Collectively, we are the most caring and giving church that I have ever been a part of. Our outreach to the community is UNBELIEVABLE - Friday Night Meals, Food Pantry, Mothers Morning Out, Street Reach, Emergency Funds, Christmas Shoe boxes, Blood Drives, Ladies on the Bus, Methodist Men’s repair projects, Vacation Bible School, Community Easter Egg Hunt & Halloween Trunk or Treat, just to name a few. The list goes on. In my opinion, we need to grow as a community of believers, if we are going to continue to meet these needs and others, in the same manner that we are currently supporting.

**Harold Beaty**- Finance Chair

**Next Church Council Meeting:** September 11 @ 6:30 pm

Tom Evans– Chair of the Church Council

# Volunteer Today!

We are in need of people to **open/close** the church on Sunday mornings. Training is provided and a month commitment is all that's required. Contact Deana Milliken for more info.



Help is needed with the **Sunday Morning Camera**. If you are interested in helping to record the Sunday service video, please contact Tamy Munns

## Love working with children?

We are in need of volunteers on Sunday morning during the worship service to help in the nursery.

Contact Thommi Hendricks to get plugged in.

Are you a **liturgist** during Sunday morning worship? Do you want to be? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, we have an evening planned for you! Join us on Tuesday, September 9th, at 6:30 in the Sanctuary for **Liturgist Training**. We will talk about the importance of the role of the liturgist, walk through a sample order of worship, and have some fun, too! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Clay or Ramona Parker.

## Wish to add something to the newsletter?

Please send your submissions to Hart Merriam by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

\*\*All underlined names provide you a direct link to their contact info. \*\*



## Camp Church Picnic

**September 21 after church**

Bring a friend, side dish, and a beach chair for an afternoon of food and fellowship.

We will gather at the OIB Community Center immediately following the church service.

Susanna Wesley ~  
Women in Faith

meets September 9th  
at 10:00 a.m. in the  
Fellowship Hall. All  
ladies are invited.



## Epicurean Event

Epicurean Evening to benefit Methodist Home for Children (MHC)

EPIC Evening for an EPIC Cause! Please join us for an exciting opportunity to help our children! This gala event will be held at the Burney Center at UNCW on Thursday, September 4, 2025. The church bus will depart Camp UMC at 4:30PM. There will be a silent auction, tasting, and drinks at 5:30 pm followed by a program at 7 pm.

The best chefs in Wilmington donate their time and their best dishes! Camp UMC will sponsor at least two tables at this event.

The cost per ticket is \$200 per person. The proceeds from one table will support one child for one year! You may register and pay online or make a donation at [WilmingtonEE.com](http://WilmingtonEE.com) or write a check to the Methodist Home for Children, 1041 Washington St, Raleigh, NC 27605-1259. (Indicate on your reservation that you are a member of Camp UMC.) Contact Hart Merriam at for additional information.

# Outreach

## Become a Reading Buddy...

Local elementary schools are in need of volunteers to share the gift of reading with children.

[Click the link for more info.](#)

## Friday Night Meals

We are seeking volunteers to assist with meal prep on Thursday nights.

Contact [Francis](#) or [Mary Lee](#) on how you can get plugged into the ministry.

## Prayer Partners

Packets were put together for the upcoming school year. You can start grabbing your packets August 24 in the Narthex. You may sign up for more than Prayer Partner. Contact [Bonnie Verzella](#) for more details.



## The Lord's Food Pantry

Camp's Distribution Day for the Lord's Food Pantry is September 6 from 8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, meet at 3610 Express Dr.

SBIC August Updates: [Newsletter](#)

Contact [Gary Concelmo](#) about ways to get involved.

## COMING SOON **Camp MMOM Boston**

**butt sale.** Pre orders will be taken beginning on Sunday, September 14th and will run until September 25th.

Cost is \$35.00 Pick up will be on Friday, October 3rd from 12:00-3:00 on the side of the sanctuary near Bobby's gravel lot. If you would like to place an order see a MMOM staff member. Proceeds will be used for supplies, mission projects and special events. Questions? Email Thommi



Thank you for all of your generous school supply donations.

The Outreach Committee will be collecting **Agape Boxes** (Armenian children Christmas boxes) the month of September. **Sunday, September 7th**, 100 boxes will be placed on the altar to be picked up by our congregation, to fill and bring back, no later than September 28th. Information ( age, sex, suggested items) will be in and on each box. Dollar Tree and Walmart have most of these items. You do not need to include all on the list. Space is limited. They request that \$5 be placed in an envelope in each box, to help with cost of shipment. The boxes will be taken to the Mercy Center in Goldsboro that week. They will be shipped to Armenia and given to the children before Christmas.

**Thank you to all who contributed to our school supplies collection.** We had an overwhelming response to this project.

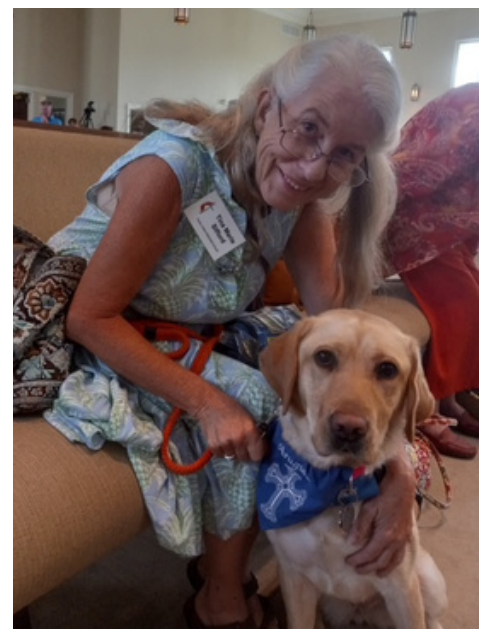
Supplies were taken to Union School and Shallotte Middle School for needy children. Our congregation always steps up to the needs of others.

Barbara, Howard, and Ray McKinnon

## Baskets and Bible Study

meets Tuesdays from  
2:00p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the  
Fellowship Hall starting  
September 9th . All crafters  
are welcome to attend.

### **TinaMarie Sifford and Ru-Ru**



TinaMarie Sifford recently received a new service dog. “Arugula”, who will go by the nickname “Ru-Ru”, is a two year old Labrador who is full of energy. TinaMarie traveled to the South East Regional Training Center in Orlando FL near the end of May where she participated in the training process and was matched up with Ru-Ru. She submitted her application for a service dog in 2023. It took two years to from start to finish to complete the process. She was required to complete many forms and provide documents such as medical information and audiology reports. She and Ru-Ru arrived at home on June 7th. Ru-Ru was at Camp for Sunday worship on June 8th and Tina Marie could tell she immediately felt at home.

As a service dog, Ru-Ru assists TinaMarie with her hearing disability. She has an orange leash which identifies her as a service dog. Ru-Ru alerts TinaMarie by nudging her on the knee or shoulder when the door bell rings, or when her cellphone rings. TinaMarie will respond to Ru-Ru saying “What?” and Ru-Ru will lead her to the door or to her phone. Ru-Ru is rewarded with a kibble and “Great Job”. TinaMarie is starting to train her to assist with recognizing her name. Ru-Ru will then alert her when someone is calling out “Tina” while out in public.

TinaMarie is very thankful for all the assistance and companionship that Ru-Ru provides.

# Anniversaries

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jack & Shannon Revell 9/27/2022 | David & Kate Inman 9/18/1999     |
| Ana & Bert Parker 9/26/2020     | Jamey & Steve Motter 9/26/1992   |
| Chad & Meghan Wilson 9/19/2020  | Debbie & Greg Rupp 9/1/1990      |
| Diane Memory 9/5/2020           | Carol & Carol Kendall 9/17/1988  |
| James Memory 9/5/2020           | Phil Giallombardo & Jocelyn      |
| Josh Kane 9/28/2014             | Kearns 9/10/1988                 |
| Stephanie Kane 9/28/2014        | Catherine & David LaBianca       |
| Jennifer Bernhard-Smith         | 9/28/1986                        |
| 9/16/2005                       | Eileen & Ronnie Markum 9/16/1985 |
| Michael Smith 9/16/2005         | Fran & Hank Hecht 9/2/1982       |
| Molly Scott Kittinger 9/14/2002 | Dick & Joyce Erickson 9/2/1967   |

# Birthdays



|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Taylor Thompson 6         | Patrick Inman 15   |
| DeLana Holden 7           | Lauren Ferguson 17 |
| Rebecca Smith 8           | Shannon Revell 17  |
| Eric Freeman 9            | Tammy Albright 19  |
| Sue Madison 9             | Freeda Long 21     |
| Sheryl Jones 10           | Betsy Ward 22      |
| Elisabeth Bingenheimer 13 | Peggy Coda 23      |
| Becky Hewett 13           | Sue Johnson 23     |
| Carol Kendall 13          | David Dove 28      |
| Bob Von Sprecken 13       | Bruce Baker 29     |
| Reid Chambley 14          | Cary Cheers 29     |
| Cheryl Cheers 15          |                    |

# Save the Date:

## This Month:

- September 1: SALT Planning Meeting @ 4 pm in YFC**
- September 4: Cottage Meeting @ 6 pm in Winding River**
- September 4: Trustees Meeting @ 6pm in Salmon Room**
- September 9: Women in Faith Meeting @ 10 am in Fellowship Hall**
- September 9: Liturgist Training @ 6:30 pm in Sanctuary**
- September 10: Wonderful Wednesday Bible Study returns**
- September 11: Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall**
- September 14: Church Picnic @ OIB**
- September 15: SALT Activity @ 5pm**
- September 18: Ladies Night Out @ 5pm at Inlet View**
- September 18: Cottage Meeting @ 6pm in OIB**
- September 21: Church Wide Picnic @ 11:30 at the OIB Community Center**
- September 22: SALT & UMM Fish Fry @ 6pm in the Fellowship Hall**

## Upcoming

- October 11: Adopt a Highway Trash Pickup @ 9am**
- October 16: Ladies Night Out @ 5pm**
- October 20: SALT Activity @ 11:30am**
- October 25: Trunk or Treat from 1-3 pm**
- October 27: UMM @ 6pm in Fellowship Hall**
- November 7-9: Youth @ Pilgrimage**
- November 9: Women In Faith Soup Fundraiser @ 11am**
- November 17: SALT Thanksgiving Meal @ 5pm in Fellowship Hall**
- November 22: Cookie Walk & Craft Fair**
- November 30: Hanging of the Greens Service**
- December 7: Christmas Cantata**
- December 14: Children's Christmas Program**