

Wrightsboro Connection



Thoughts from Pastor David...

It seems like we just finished celebrating Advent and Christmas, but in just a couple of weeks we will enter into the season of Lent. You may recall that Lent is the period of time when we prepare for the celebration of Easter. It consists of forty days (not counting Sundays, because each Sunday is considered a "little Easter"), beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday before Easter Sunday. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts. This time of fasting was often preceded by a huge feast and party on Tuesday, which came to be known as "Fat Tuesday". In French, this translates into Mardi Gras, which is still celebrated in New Orleans and many other cities around the world on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. We will gather for a traditional Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm, after our usual Family Night dinner. This powerful and moving worship service focuses upon the confession of our sins and our mortality. A unique feature is the ashes, which have a long history in both Jewish and Christian worship as a sign of mortality and repentance. Participants are offered the imposition of ashes on their foreheads as a sign of their repentance and an acknowledgment of their mortality. We use ashes that come from the burning of the palm branches that were used in the Palm Sunday service last year, reminding us that through the triumph of Christ

our sins are forgiven and eternal life is assured. I hope you will plan to attend this meaningful and moving service.

If you can't make the 6:30 pm service, I will be offering another worship opportunity from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Feel free to stop by the sanctuary for a brief devotion and time of prayer, including the imposition of ashes if you wish. And as always, feel to bring a friend, neighbor or co-worker with you.

Many people choose to give up something for Lent as a way to help them focus on the sacrifice Jesus made for us. When we give up something we really like, we are reminded of the reason for the sacrifice every time we deny ourselves that small pleasure. It is a very minor form of sacrifice and suffering to help us remember the tremendous sacrifice and suffering Jesus willingly endured for us. An alternative to giving up something is to take on something new - maybe a special service project for others or reading a new devotion. If you have never made a Lenten sacrifice, I encourage you to do so - you will be blessed!

As we enter into the holy season of Lent, let's use this time to prepare ourselves spiritually for Easter. Let's take a good look at our lives, our hearts, and our relationship with Christ. Are we being faithful disciples? Are we becoming more and more like Christ? What mistakes have we made in the past, and how can we do better in the future? Let's remember that Christ gave His all for us - He expects us to do the same for Him.

February Birthdays

1 James Fisk
2 Lucy Lee
6 AJ Tate
6 Courtney Mullinax
6 James Lee
7 Suzanne Timmons
8 Noel Waldon
9 Samuel Crowder
12 Jennifer Jordan
13 Frances Hunt
18 Marie Crump
18 Stacy Bryn
20 Elizabeth Weary
21 Naamah Noble
24 Lynn Wall
26 Eddie Hayes

Prayer Chain

Have a prayer concern? Who do you contact?

Email Aileen Jennings, at aileen928@gmail.com, who will email it out to the prayer chain. If you would like to receive the prayer chain email contact the church office . Just remember that you are committing to pray for the members of our church and their family and friends.

In Case of Emergency

The defibrillator is now located in the cabinet marked AED on the wall in the hallway beside the sanctuary.

Also, we have consolidated all our first aid supplies - first aid kit, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, glucose meter, glucose tablets and Propel or something similar for sudden blood sugar drops. All these items are now located in the cabinet in the Welcome Center, behind the door with the "First Aid" sign.



The 2018 Altar Flowers chart is posted in the hallway across from the restrooms. Please sign up if you would like to provide flowers in the Sanctuary on a Sunday during 2018.

Available Dates:

February 4, 18,, 25
March 11, 18, 25
April 1, 22, 29

The cost of flowers is \$49.00. You can mark your check or envelope "flowers" and place it in the offering plate or drop it by the church office. If you have any questions or special requests, please contact the church office.

Facebook



Yes, Wrightsboro United Methodist Church has a facebook page! Some of you have already liked our page and we thank you. If you have not already done so, please take time to go and "like" our page. Also, you can really help us get the word out about what we are doing here at Wrightsboro UMC by not only liking the posts but also by sharing the posts. This will increase the number of people exponentially who see our posts. Another way you can help is when a question is posted, answer the question. This will help open up the communication. Lastly, if you have some time on your hands and would like to help keep our social media current, please contact the church office.

DVD Ministry

Each week, John Fuller records our 10:50am Worship Service. If you missed worship or would like to share the service with a friend or family member, copies are available. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby; put your name and date of the service and we will get a copy to you. A donation of \$5.00 is appreciated to cover the cost of supplies

I have loved
YOU *with an*
EVERLASTING
Love.
I have DRAWN
YOU *with*
loving-kindness
Jeremiah 31:3

Family Night

Thank you again to everybody who helped me in January. I do appreciate that a lot. I am still in need of volunteers for cooks and cleaner. Please come see me.

February menus:

7th Ham & Potato Casserole

14th Lasagna

21st Soups

28th Chili & Hotdogs

Did you know that when you make a purchase on Amazon.com that you can support Wrightsboro UMC?
www.smile.amazon.com



Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty".
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "the least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinky should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

So now
faith, hope, and love
abide, these three; but
the greatest of these
is love.



1 Corinthians 13:13

Wrightsboro Youth

Greetings from the Youth Group! It took us a little while to get going again between the holidays and the snow, but we are back in the groove again. We are still meeting on Wednesday nights and we welcome all youth and their friends to join us for games and a devotion after dinner. But this past week of January we teamed up with Grace United Methodist Youth Group. Here is a little of the background. St Stephen AME and Grace UMC are two strong churches that stand on the corners of the Brooklyn Arts District and downtown Wilmington. Both have a strong youth ministry and decided to combine their efforts to grow both in Christ word and to be an active part of helping the community they serve. We, the Wrightsboro UMC youth group joined the third week and now we have a vibrant Community Teen Worship Service. All tweens and teens are invited to join the Crossroads group for dinner, worship, and games every Sunday night from 5:30-7:00 at Grace Gym on the corner of Grace and Walnut streets. Then each month join the teens as they reach out to mission and help those in the neighborhood they both serve.

February Anniversaries

2 Joe & Barbara Hodges

14 Charles & Betsy Casey

19 Eric & Wanda Robertson



Scouting at Wrightsboro February 2018

* This past month both the Cub Scout Pack and the Boy Scout Troop spent most of their time working on awards and rank advancements as we are entering into our busy season.

* On Tuesday February 6th the Northeast Cape Fear Council is having its annual District Banquette where we will be celebrating the 2017 scouting year and there will be several members of Pack 220 and Troop 257 leadership getting awards. The members of Troop 257 will be doing the cooking that night. This is being held at Northside Baptist Church.

* Congratulations to Grayson Donahue and Joseph Crowder for completing NYLT, National Youth Leadership Training that was taught over two weekends (six days) at Camp Bowers in White Oak, NC. This program is designed to strengthen leadership skills.

* The month of February is the birth month of Scouting. Scouting in the United States of America will turn 108 years. What a Blessing the Lord has given us, not only as a program altogether but also how the Pack and Troop have been able to call Wrightsboro United Methodist home for 17 years +/- . Thank you WUMC. There are no details as of yet on Scout Sunday.

* On the weekend of February 16, 17, and 18 the Troop is traveling to Boone, NC to go skiing.

* On Friday February 23rd the Pack is going to be showing the movie "Down and Derby". This is a movie that the pack has been showing for almost a decade. It is a comedy based on the how competitive dads can be when it come to the Pine Wood Derby. Come join in the fun. Things should kick off around 6:30 PM that night.

* The next day Saturday February 24th the Troop will be hosting the Pine Wood Derby race for the pack. This is always a fun event. This will be at Wrightsboro Baptist Church.

Blessings All,

Scouting Rocks and God Rules.



MARK THESE EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR

February 13 UMW Meeting: Tuesday at 6:30PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having a light supper and a brief meeting. Our focus will be the assembling of Sewing Kits (an UMCOR) project that fosters

independence rather than dependence. Women can make clothing in their own size and in the style of their culture. The sewing skills learned allow these women to practice valuable income-generating skills.

* Sewing Kit items include: 3 yards of Fabric-already donated; 1 pair scissors (fabric scissors only); 1 package needles (assorted hand needles, at least 10 in original packaging only- no craft needles; 1 spool thread (medium to large spool- no travel kit thread, please); 5-8 buttons (5/8-inch size or larger- no loose buttons and leave buttons in original packaging or fasten all together. Items included in the sewing kit can be brought to the meeting or left in the container near the UMW Book Collection.

***February 24:** Saturday at Faith Harbor UMC. 9am - 1pm. The showing of The Way Home: Women talk about Race in America which is "a documentary film that features diverse women talking about and across racial division in this country." Time is allotted for discussion after the showing of the film. Registration form: <http://harborumw.nccumc.net/files/2018/01/2018-Social-Justice.pdf>

***February 24:** Saturday - Women's Retreat at Wrightsville UMC-Wrightsville UMC in Wilmington will be holding a women's retreat entitled "Dancing In The Rain: Lean On God's Trust" from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Guest speaker will be Lisa Shea. Program will also include several interesting breakout sessions. Cost is \$30. Open to the public, so bring a friend.

March 3: Saturday- Harbor District UMW Mission Studies Harbor UMW 9am - All day workshop on Climate Justice, Living in Covenant Communities, and Missionary Conference. Further information will be distributed when it is available.

At our January meeting the officers for 2018 were inducted; they are Eva Czepiel- President, Lou Kueffer- vice-president, Marsha Hays-Secretary. We voted to complete at least 3 projects this year: sewing kits, school kits and the third to be determined later.

UMW Continued-

We voted to fund the purchase of titles to expand our collection for the UMW Reading Program. The UMW Reading Program is an emphasis of the Harbor District for this year. A printed list of titles purchased has been placed with the UMW collection in the library in the Welcome Center and has been emailed to all women in the church. A full list of title for the UMW Reading Program.



Greetings Brother and Sisters in Christ, The Wrightsboro Methodist Men met on January 14th for our monthly Men's Breakfast. I have been bestowed the Honor and Privilege to serve as President of the WUMM again for the coming year. A lot of great ideas are swirling and keep your eyes open and prayers coming to make 2018 a year to remember. Our attendance has been increasing and we enjoyed the company of a couple of our Christian Sisters! As the Men have stated before, ALL are Welcome!! Invite a Friend! Please come and ENJOY!!

Upcoming events are on the horizon, with our Annual Widow's Dinner and our Shrimp and Oyster Feast. Keep your eyes open as these dates have not been set yet and will most likely occur in March.

We have at least 5 Graduating Seniors this year, so we will need to get BUSY!! We also look forward to working with the WUMW on some projects!

Until Next Time-Be A Light Shining for Christ!!! It's SO Much Fun to Stay Busy with the Lord's Work!! I Invite Everyone to participate in All our activities!! GOD is WORTH IT!! God is GOOD All the Time!! Keep Looking Up!! Brad Shoaf- WUMM PresidentUMM

**Second Sunday Breakfast
February 11 at 7:30am
All men are invited.
Bring a friend!**

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Greetings Church Family - Thank you for allowing us to serve the church in this way each month. We consider it a privilege to be charged with such responsibility, and we make every effort to be good stewards. At all times, financial information is available in the church office or by request.

For the month of December 2017:

Total funds taken in:	\$ 50,600.57
Of note, this figure includes the following amounts collected:	
Food Pantry	\$ 615.16
ELF Fundraiser	\$2,837.00
Fellowship Hall Renov	\$7,106.75
Family Night	\$ 709.00
Total funds spent paying bills:	\$30,741.76
Surplus for end of month, December 2017	\$19,858.81

The above information is the reflection of a single month's activity.

The full year view for 2017 includes tithes and offerings toward budget of \$354,378.46. Our total expenditures were \$349,361.42. While we did not meet our projected budget, of \$391,090.00, we did increase our tithing over 2016 by 2%. Because of the reduced payroll expense, from being understaffed the early part of the year, we were able to live within our means. Since we are now fully staffed, our 2018 spending will be more in line with our budget.

Administrative Council accepted the proposed budget for 2018, at \$377,844. We are confident that the continued support and generosity of our church members and attendees will bring this to fruition.

Our current mortgage payout is \$750,275.65.

Total received on Fellowship Hall Renovations thru December was \$42,333.75 and the total spent has been \$21,168.22 for the same period.

Apportionments were paid in FULL for 2017.

Thank you for your faithful tithes, your donations, your gifts, and your prayers.

Jim Timmons
Finance Chair

GIVING MADE EASY

Do you find yourself wanting to praise the Lord by giving back to Him a portion of the many blessings He has so generously showered upon you? Have you been sitting in the pew when the collection plate is being passed and you realize you have little or no cash and you don't carry a checkbook? Have you been out of town or sick on Sunday and not sure how to handle your weekly tithe in those instances? We have all been there.

The church office will provide you a self-addressed envelope upon request, if you wish to mail a check. But why not utilize the online giving option? Online giving is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It can be accessed by going to the church website, www.wrightsboroumc.org, and choosing the red Give button in the upper right corner, or by clicking the link, "click here to give online", in the weekly announcement email.

Simply pick the amount of your tithe or offering and where you wish the funds to be applied, check out and you are done. You can even elect to set it up as a recurring payment to ensure the funds are sent each week without any extra work on your part.

What an easy way to ensure the missions of WUMC are able to continue and grow. I am proud that we offer multiple options for our congregation, and I encourage you to at least check it out to see if it would be a good fit for you.

Jim Timmons
Finance Committee Chair



**February 10, 2018
10:00 to 11:00 AM
Fellowship Hall**

Prayer Shawls are found in Old Testament references and were used during worship and private prayer times. Today, our Prayer Shawls are symbolic of God's presence in our lives and the prayers of our church family that surround you.

*For you formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb."
Psalm 139:13*

DO YOU LOVE TO KNIT OR CROCHET, OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN? USE YOUR TALENT TO PROVIDE COMFORT TO THOSE IN NEED! PRAYER IS WORKED INTO EVERY SHAWL, SO THE RECIPIENT IS LITERALLY WRAPPED IN PRAYER. PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS MINISTRY!

Yarn: Provided
Knitting needles: Provided
Crochet hooks: Provided
Looms: Provided
Instructions/Patterns: Provided

Wrightsboro's Prayer Shawl Ministry is open to all who knit or crochet regardless of any limitations. You probably know that the ministry provides shawls of comfort for those going through a difficult time.

I plan to include other "needs" items to knit or crochet as an additional gift of this ministry of hats and scarves, prayer bears, and twiddle or sensory muffs.

When we gather each month, we light a candle and offer our prayers for those we know and for those we shall never meet. Our hour together is mostly prayer, inspiration, and fellowship. Our ministry is a simple and silent ministry where most of our work is done in the comfort of our homes and at our own pace. We knit, crochet, and pray for those in need of God's love. We create the projects of our ministry with love, prayer, and the talents given to us by God.

Also, if you have a yarn stash that needs to find a home, we would be happy to take it off your hands. Yarn donations are always needed. For more information contact: Debbie Grigsby @ 910-685-4494

Missions at Wrightsboro UMC

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Wrightsboro hosted a meal packaging event on Saturday, January 20. Over 11,000 meals were assembled to be sent to countries where the need is greatest. The fellowship hall and kitchen were packed with volunteers from our church as well as many people from different communities. The meals were put together, weighed, heat-sealed and packed for shipment. It was a time of fellowship and serving. Thank you if you volunteered in any way or made donations so this great ministry could happen.

TRIP TO MERCI

On Sat., Feb 3, a group from WUMC spent the day volunteering at the MERCI Warehouse in Goldsboro. It was a wonderful day of mission helping to ready various kits and products for shipment to places in need. With all the natural disasters in the US and places around the world in 2017 there is a great deal of work to be done. We plan to go every month if there is enough volunteer interest. See a member of the missions team if you would be interested in going in March.

FAMILY PROMISE

WUMC will once again be working with Family Promise to provide for homeless families. We will be a support church furnishing meals for a host church. Volunteers will be needed to deliver hot meals on our assigned night.

CRAFTY FRIDAY

The Crafty Friday ladies continue to support the missions of the church. At present we have knitted over 100 hats for the Armenian Agape shoe boxes. Currently, we are working on Valentine treats for the staff at Wrightsboro Elementary. We welcome anyone to join the group at 9:30 Friday mornings.

We love because
He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

Harbor District News & Updates

UMC/AMEZ Joint Worship Service

On Jan 13 (MLK Weekend), pastors and laity from United Methodist churches in Harbor District joined pastors and laity from area AMEZ churches for a joint worship service at 5th Ave United Methodist Church in downtown Wilmington. AMEZ Bishop Kenneth Monroe was the guest preacher. Harbor District continues to partner with our AMEZ brother and sisters by working together in our communities and offering various joint events. We encourage churches to partner with an AMEZ church in their community.

District Hurricane Matthew Adopt A House Project

Conference and district disaster response representatives are currently working to identify a family/home within the district boundaries that our district will "adopt" and assist with rebuilding. We anticipate having more details on this exciting upcoming project by mid-February and will provide an update as soon as we have that information.

Concert at St. Paul's UMC

Elisabeth von Trapp will be in concert at St. Paul's UMC on Thur, Feb 1 at 7:30 pm. Elisabeth is the granddaughter of Captain and Maria Von Trapp, whose family story inspired the movie "The Sound of Music." She is an accomplished vocalist, instrumentalist and composer who has performed extensively throughout Europe and the United States. Her selections include classical, Broadway, her own compositions, as well as favorite selections from the movie. The concert is open and free to the public, however donations will be received and CD's will be sold. Church address is 300 Harper Ave, Carolina Beach

Feb 10 - Military Veterans Resource Fair

Faith Harbor UMC in Topsail is sponsoring a resource fair for veterans on Feb 10 from 10am to 3pm at the Holly Ridge Community Center, Holly Ridge, NC. Organizations that provide support services to veterans in the community can set up an information booth at this event. If you are a part of a church or other organization, which would like to participate, please contact Arness Krause at amk@lhuronptrs.com to reserve your space.

Feb 20 - Winter United Methodist Business Leaders Network Luncheon

The UMBLN will hold its Winter Luncheon on Tues, Feb 20th at Wesley Memorial UMC in Wilmington from 12:00pm to 1:30pm. Guest speaker will be Bishop Hope Morgan Ward. For more information and to register see the "Events" page of www.umbln.org

Laity Leaders Workshops

Harbor District will be holding training workshops to equip Laity Leaders who will be serving in the following positions in 2018: S/PPRC Chair; S/PPRC Members; Church Council Chair and Lay Leader. This training will cover essential information that these leaders will need to know as they serve in their roles in 2018. Although this training is primarily designed for those laity who are new to their position, it will also provide a good refresher (as well as some updates) to those who are not new to their position. Any church member or pastor is welcome to attend if they are interested. Choose from the following workshop dates:

- Feb 8 (Thur) Lake Waccamaw UMC 5pm to 7pm
- Feb 10 (Sat) Warsaw UMC 10am to 12pm
- Feb 10 (Sat) First UMC (Clinton) 1:30pm to 3:30pm
- Feb 11 (Sun) Wesley Memorial UMC (Wilm) from 2pm to 4pm
- Feb 13 (Tue) This workshop will be done as an online webinar. Participants will need a computer connected with a WiFi connection to participate.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

<https://goo.gl/forms/oipngMIVP99dG4mV2>

Harbor District News & Updates Continued

Mar 17 - Lay Servant Ministries Spiritual Gifts Course

Have you ever wondered what God is calling you to do? Have you wished that you more clearly understood what your spiritual gifts are and what God wants you to do with them. If so, this course is for you. You'll identify your unique gifts and become more familiar with the many ministry options through which you can use your gifts to serve your church and community. This course will be held at Whiteville UMC in Whiteville on March 17 (9am -5pm). The church address is 902 Pinckney St, Whiteville, NC Registration cost is \$25 - which includes a lunch. To Register go to

<https://harbordistrictnc.org/mar-17-spiritual-gifts-course-offered/>

Lay Speaker Certification

Harbor District's Committee on Lay Servant Ministries will be evaluating candidates for Lay Speaker Certification in the coming weeks. Those candidates who have completed the required coursework (7 courses - Basic, Discovering Spiritual Gifts, UM Polity, UM History, Leading Prayer, Leading Worship, Preaching) and have been approved by their church's charge conference as a Lay Speaker candidate should register to be scheduled to appear before the committee. These evaluations include an assessment of preaching ability as well as an interview. Candidates can register <https://goo.gl/forms/UCIPiscPiCLU5inC2>

Harbor District Critical Missional Needs

Harbor District's "Mission Strategy Team" works with the District Superintendent (our head mission strategist) to identify the critical missional needs within the boundaries of our

district - as well as some international needs that we can address. The "DMST" also helps to connect the 99 United Methodist churches in our district with serving those needs. There are 12 critical missional needs areas in the Harbor District, which have been identified by the Mission Strategy Team over the course of the past few years (2012 to present). The needs were identified as the result of discussions with a multitude of community leaders and our own clergy and laity.

- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Hunger/Food Insecurity
- Sub-Standard Literacy/Education Levels of Children Living in Poverty
- Negative Effects of Fatherlessness
- Joblessness
- Strained Race Relations
- Care & Support of Law Enforcement officers
- Care & Support of Military Veterans
- Large Number of Unchurched Millennials
- Homelessness
- The Opioid Epidemic
- International Missions Needs (Mission Of Hope)

Harbor District is one of eight districts in the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. There are nearly 100 churches in the Harbor District within a footprint that spans parts of nine counties. Through our connectional structure and relationships, the United Methodist churches in our district work side by side to further God's Kingdom across Southeastern North Carolina and beyond. Blessed with many gifted clergy and laity, we strive to maintain an outward focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Check out our web site for more information: www.harbordistrictnc.org

Wrightsboro United Methodist Church
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Mission Statement

To reach out and to serve all people with
Christ's love and acceptance through
faith, study, and action