



919/489-6557

www.epworth-umc.org

JUNE 21, 2017

SPECIAL THANKS to Brent, Libby, and Erin Engel, Maureen Oakes, and Steve Smith for their excellent leadership of our services last Sunday! For churches in our Conference who were in need of a sermon while the pastors were away at Annual Conference, Bishop Ward provided the following message:

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate the family of United Methodist people in the North Carolina Annual Conference and we celebrate our partnership with United Methodist people around the world. Together, we are a strong chain in ministry, sharing the love of God and the grace of Jesus Christ out into the world.

With glad and generous hearts, we began our Annual Conference session. These beautiful hearts, made by a mission partner in Haiti, were gifts given to every person who came forward for Holy Communion in the opening worship. As we received the bread and the cup, we received this tangible reminder of the heart of God. This heart of God - always generous, always compassionate, never failing in mercy - is the fount of all our life in ministry together.

As United Methodists in eastern North Carolina, we share with glad and generous hearts out into the world. Our founder John Wesley said, "The world is my parish." He meant that "wherever in the world I am, that is my parish. That is the place where I share this overwhelming love of God. That is the place where my heart over flows, my cup overflows, my life overflows in mission."

That is the place where we engage in ministry. We begin in our local places and then we extend that life out into all the world. We commission missionaries and we support them in places all around the world. Volunteer and mission teams have experiences of the overflowing heart. We find our hearts filled to overflowing whenever we engage in God's world in helpful ministry with God's people. This mission is the heart of who we are as United Methodist people.

Our theme for this quadrennium is the great generosity of God flowing from God's overwhelming heart of compassion and we focus together on making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of this entire world. We believe that will happen in every place as we do five things. We help every congregation be a healthy community of Christ followers. We help leaders grow in their capacity to shepherd God's people, lay and clergy leaders in every place. We go across the street to the nearest and most in-need of the public schools in our community and we partner with them to meet the needs of children. Through Congregations for Children initiative with public schools, 83% of our churches are in meaningful partnership, overflowing to the children in our communities who are in need.

We also focus on health and wellness. The early Methodists claimed this as a central piece of Methodist ministry, believing that abundant life is offered now as we are alive in this world, even as a foretaste of heavenly abundant and eternal life. Health and abundant life is God's gift to all people and we want to be a part of cultivating that in every community.

And fifth, we focus on unity and reconciliation. We want to be a people in love with one another. Jesus said, *"The world will know who I am because of the way you love one another."* We want to be never-failing in our love for one another so that in our communities, people will turn toward our churches and say, as the ancient Christians said, *"See how they love one another."*

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Together, we are God's people, engaged in these five ways: healthy congregations, effective leaders, congregations for children, health and wellness, and unity. As I thought and prayed and read through the scriptures, looking for scriptural evidence of God's overwhelming love, I was overwhelmed, because it seems to be on every page of the Bible; the stories of God's abundant grace, God's ever-flowing heart. I delighted in a verse which I discovered - my strength, my heart may fail, the psalmist says in Psalm 73, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. We are weak, but God is strong. Our ministry flows because Jesus, who was rich, became poor for our sakes, so that we who are poor might become rich, in all the abundant blessing before God.

Perhaps the best-loved Psalm of all is Psalm 23, the Shepherd's Psalm. Remember it with me and give thanks for the images of God's great abundance.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. There is no need for me to be afraid, to think that there is scarcity because God leads me beside still waters and toward green pastures. God restores my soul. Even if I walk through the darkest valley, even the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil because God is with me. God's presence never fails us. The psalmist is right. What a beautiful expression of God abundance. My cup over flows, the psalmist says. Surely goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Goodness, mercy, overflowing to us. Our cups run over. May that be the centerpiece of our meditations during these days. Our cups overflow.

Let us name the ways in which we are blessed. God gives us strength and life day by day; to love and serve God, to love one another well and to live outward into the world with grace and with overwhelming compassion. As you reach out into the world, into your community, may the Holy Spirit be with you. May you be blessed as you are a blessing and may you serve day by day with glad and generous hearts.

SUNDAY, June 25, 2017

8:30 and 11:00 Worship

Sermon: Rev. Karen H. Whitaker

Scripture: Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17 Romans 6: 1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39

Hymns "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" "God Will Take Care of You"
"Take My Life and Let It Be"

9:00 Worship

Sermon: "Paradox" Rev. Dr. Sangwoo Kim

Scripture: Romans 6: 1b-11, Matthew 10: 24-39

Songs: "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" "You Are My All in All"
"Jesus, Name above All Names" "Lifesong"

Ushers: John Rasmussen, Fred Mowry, Jerry McDaniel, Jay Hallan

Liturgists 8:30: Maureen Oakes 11:00 Justin Whitaker

Offering Counters Mike Hanson, Brent Engel

Altar Guild: Pat McIndoo and Nalda Brown Bus Driver: Kathy Chaney

Nursery: Marcey Harp, Meredith Seagroves, Sarah Gurley, Meg Bass

Acolyte: Henri Nadworny Youth Reader: Caleb Engel

Crucifer: Dalton McCurdy Greeters: Joe and Barbara Collie.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Judy and Greg Bolt.

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Marcey Harp, Nursery Director nursery@epworth-umc.org

Marlin Lennon, Jr., Sexton

VBSS (Vacation Bible Second Saturdays) continues on July 8 and August 12, 9 a.m. - 12:30. Be sure your children are registered! Forms are available in the farthex and narthex.

VOLUNTEER AT THE FOOD BANK! Elementary school-age children, youth and adults are invited to meet at the Food Bank, 2700 Angier Avenue, from 10:00 a.m. until noon on Saturday, June 24 to help as needed. One thing to remember...you must wear close-toed shoes....not sandals. Contact Amanda if you have questions.

"GROWING THROUGH GRIEF" SCHEDULE (meetings are at St. Paul's Lutheran Church) Ann Ritter from UNC Hospice will be the featured speaker at two Growing thru Grief programs: "Identifying Your Strengths" on June 20 and "Traits of Your Loved Ones that You Might Develop" on the 27th. There will be no meeting on July 4. On the 18th, Stacy Baker from Duke HomeCare and Hospice will discuss "The Necessity of Stillness," and on August 1, Julia Corley from Duke HomeCare and Hospice will talk about "Grief Embodied." During weeks without a formal presenter, we focus on small group discussion. Growing thru Grief is a free, open, confidential program sponsored by a coalition of area religious and civic organizations to provide support and comfort to those who mourn. Small group discussions are a strength of each of these meetings. Meetings are held year-round on Tuesdays, except holidays.

SEWING SISTERS will meet on Saturday, July 15, 9:30 til noon in room 2/3. All are welcome!



YOUTH NEWS & NOTES



U.M.Y.F.

Reminder that due to vacations, camps and other travel opportunities over the summer for our youth and their families, AND so our counselors can have a well-deserved break, U.M.Y.F. will not meet every Sunday night. To stay connected during the summer, we will have some spontaneous luncheon outings following the 11:00 worship service, and we are planning for the following activities, so stay tuned for dates and more details:



Frankie's Fun Park
Day at the Lake
Summer Lock-In



SUNDAY SCHOOL

June 25th: Keepin' our eyes and hearts open!

July 2nd: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

NOTE: Please remember your Sunday School offering!



SAINTS FOR THE WEEK:

Caleb Engel, Ben Engel and Erin Engel for serving as acolyte/crucifer/youth reader during the 11:00 worship service! Erin Engel for leading the childrens time for the worship services! Anna Darr for singing in the Chancel Choir during the 11:00 worship service!

ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER/READER SCHEDULE:

We recognize that summer schedules can change and you may not be available to serve on an assigned date, so please find a substitute and contact Joyce and the church office so we will know of the change.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Reader</u>
June 25 th	Henri Nadworny	Dalton McCurdy	Caleb Engel
July 2 nd	Michael Mumford	Erin Engel	Ian Kim
July 9 th	Katherine Lantzy	Hannah Morris	Julia Boltz


IMPORTANT INFORMATION & DATES TO REMEMBER

On June 24th (THIS Saturday): Help at the Food Bank! Contact Amanda know if you are interested.

June 25th (THIS Sunday): Mission Celebration Luncheon following the 11:00 worship service to learn more about Epworth's mission work in Haiti, and Ben and Caleb Engel will be giving a presentation about their trip to work with children in South Africa. Please RSVP for the luncheon by calling the church office (919-489-6557) or email Libby Engel (libbyengel@nc.rr.com). Hope to see you there!!

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer! Relax, rejuvenate, and remember how special you are, and to share the gifts that God has given you to help make our world a better and safer place, the gifts of peace, joy, hope and love! Remember---God's love knows no boundaries...let's keep making those boundaries even wider!

JUNE/JULY 2017

25 8:30, 9:00, and 11:00 WORSHIP 9:50 Sunday School 10:15 Summer Choir 12:15 Mission Celebration Lunch 6:30 Aesthetics Committee	26 6:30 Branding Committee	27 10:30 Staff Mtg 1:30 Care Group 6:00 Yoga	28 3:30 Prayer Group	29 7:00 AA	30	JULY 1
2 8:30, 9:00, and 11:00 WORSHIP 9:50 Sunday School 10:15 Summer Choir	3	4 Church Office Closed 	5 3:30 Prayer Group	6 7:00 AA	7	8 9:00 - 12:30 VBSS
9 8:30, 9:00, and 11:00 WORSHIP 9:50 Sunday School 10:15 Summer Choir	10	11 10:30 Staff Mtg 1:30 Care Group 6:00 Yoga 7:00 Outreach	12 3:30 Prayer Group 6:30 UMMen	13 7:00 AA	14	15 9:30 Sewing Sisters

Epworth United Methodist Church declares itself a Reconciling Congregation, seeking to welcome all persons, regardless of age, race, ethnicities, disabilities, gender or sexual orientation, into the discipleship of Christian living and proclaim our commitment to seek the reconciliation of all persons to God and to each other through Jesus Christ.