

CORNERSTONE

BUDDY BACKPACKS CELEBRATES 11 YEARS

The Backpack program at Wesleyan Chapel, started by Phyllis Blake, celebrated its

11th anniversary this year! In the beginning, we served only Topsail High students weekend meals and some snacks. Several years ago, we added Cape Fear Elementary students and expanded our program to include nutritious shelf-stable foods for not only the students but for their families as well. In addition, we provide some pantry staples, as well as hygiene items, such as toilet tissue, shampoo, shower gel, soap, and toothpaste. This year, we provided over 16,600 meals to 70 family members in our two schools. We also provided daily snacks to another 15 students at a cost of a little over \$12,600. This was made possible by our partnership with the Food Bank of North Carolina, which gave us \$6400 (plus an extra \$700 for monthly fresh produce boxes), \$525.60 from United Way, a one-time grant of \$250 from Congregations4Children (C4C), and your generous financial support. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who shopped, packed, and delivered groceries to our schools, donating more than 350 hours!

This year, we provided 16,600 meals.

In another bit of really good news, we just received a \$2,200 grant from Food Lion for the upcoming school year. Also, C4C has agreed to support us again this year with an initial \$250 grant. In these challenging times, these grants and your ever-generous help will enable us to continue this vital ministry of providing a sense of comfort and security to those in our community who are food insecure.

ANNUAL NC UMC CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church was held in Greenville, NC, June 11-14.

Thanks to our participants who represented Wesleyan Chapel (Jennifer Hooks) and the Harbor District (Kay & Al Howard and Mike Priddy), along with Clergy member Rev. Susanne Priddy. The NC Annual (Continued on page 2- Annual Conference)



JULY EVENTS

- 4 Independence Day
- 6 Communion Sunday
Summer Choir Begins 10:30 am
- 7 UMM Dinner & Meeting 6 pm
- 8 4-H Coastal Critters 3:30 pm
- 12 MYF Church Work Day 9 am- 12 pm
- 13 Pennies for Hunger
- 15 4-H Coastal Critters 3:30 pm
- 21-25 Lydia Abbey Craft Camp 9 am - 3pm
- 27 MYF Pool Party
- 31 4-H Coastal Critters 3:30 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:30 am Casual Worship
- 9:30 am Breakfast
- 9:45 am Sunday School- Upper Room and Children ONLY
- 10:30 am Choir Practice
- 11: 00 am Traditional Worship & Children's Church

For the complete, up-to-date church calendar, please go online to wesleyanchapel.org

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Jake & Jennifer Hooks
- 11 Janet & Dalton Scales
- 14 Jimmy & Paula Schiff
- 17 Andrea & Craig Heppe
- 18 Renee & Casey Richard
- 19 Dave Corley & Maryann Nunnally
- 21 Hill & Michelle Pearsall
- 22 Ralph & Susan Reynolds
- 30 Al & Kay Howard

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jolene Ward
- 2 Paula Schiff
- 5 Erin Mann
- 6 Beckett Thorn
- 7 Hill Pearsall
- 7 Fritz Wisecup
- 8 Stephanie Kelly
- 11 Denise Barnes
- 12 Mary Morris
- 13 Dee Dee Egan
- 15 Kimber Herring
- 15 Sue Shepard
- 16 Courtney Kaefer
- 16 Chris Wrede
- 19 Diane Alvine
- 19 Patti Mazzara
- 21 Teresa Benson
- 21 Mason Cavanaugh
- 22 Barbara Cavanaugh
- 31 Virginia Wszalek

ANNUAL CONFERENCE *(Continued from front page)*

Conference attends to the business of clergy and churches in eastern North Carolina (from Burlington to the coast), including finance, rules, pension, insurance, and more. It also celebrates and highlights all the connectional ministries of the conference, including anti-racism work, youth programs, disaster relief, and many more!

UMM JUNE MEETING RECAP

An hour before the June meeting, the men met to prepare sandwiches and bag lunches that would be delivered on Tuesday to the Good Shepherd House. Thank you to those men who helped with getting the food and assembling the lunch bags.

Thank you to Jimmy Schiff and Dickie Spears for preparing our meal and to the Boy Scouts, who donated the potatoes, green beans, and hush puppies from their Saturday BBQ event to the UMM. Leftover food from the UMM meal was delivered on Tuesday to the Livingstone Ministry off Sloop Point Road, in Hampstead, for distribution to people in the community who need food assistance.

After the meal, Dickie Spears led the meeting. Several church members, family members, and friends were mentioned and lifted in our prayers. Upon completion of the business meeting, our newest member, Dennis Laderwager, spoke with the group regarding his spiritual journey entitled "Mountaintop or Molehill." Everyone in attendance was moved by his powerful message.

NEXT MEETING: July 7 at 6 pm



Join us as we plan and prepare for the Gene Parker Memorial Shrimperoo on August 2, 3-6 pm. Everyone who can attend is asked to be there! We will have a short meeting later in July (date to be identified) to finalize event details. Tickets will also be distributed. Don't wait to get this year's Shrimperoo tickets!



Boys and Girls Homes of NC would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Wesleyan Chapel UMC church for making our foster care program your Ministry for April. So many foster children will benefit from all the items that were donated, and we are so grateful!

WELCOME BACK, CATHY!

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has recently approved job-sharing for our current Sexton, Rob Emery, and our former Sexton, Cathy Emery. Rob and Cathy will be Co-Sextons for the Church and share the 20-hour-a-week job to keep our facilities clean. We are grateful for their work and happy to welcome Cathy back on board.



Refugee Assistance Team



Thanks to your generosity, the Refugee Assistance Team delivered over \$1,300 in gift cards to Church World Service. The gift cards we collected will help provide much-needed grocery and transportation assistance to refugees who have resettled in Wilmington. Pictured here is the small but mighty staff of Church World Service in Wilmington.

As reported last month, the Wesleyan Chapel team of nine is working with a Middle Eastern refugee family of seven. With Church World Service (CWS), the team is helping to acclimate the family to life in the U.S. We are happy to report that several plans made in May are coming to fruition.

At the top of the team's list was to help Halima learn English. Five Wesleyan team members developed an approach for English orientation and have already begun meeting with Halima on Tuesdays and Thursdays for an

hour and a half. Some of the children present during the sessions are also benefiting. Having established a set schedule, the team is hoping to make good progress as they move forward.

The youngest of the 5 children is eligible for WIC benefits, requiring registration assistance as well as transportation to submit the completed paperwork to the Department of Social Services. WIC is the supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children for families with limited income. In addition, the same child is also eligible for preschool enrollment. Assistance was also provided to process the enrollment paperwork.

By far the most urgent matter is locating a position for Islam that will provide support for the family and movement toward self-sufficiency. Because of the urgency, CWS is taking the lead in assisting Islam with his search. Our team has provided transportation to a local job fair and a few interviews, but nothing has materialized due to the position's location or limited working hours. The team continues to conduct job search activities, providing CWS job descriptions that may be suitable for Islam. Halima has recently acquired a sewing machine, initiated by a team member, and since Halima has done seamstress work in the past, this may prove to be another income opportunity for the family.

The team wants to thank the Wesleyan Chapel family and friends for your support and generosity. We ask for your continued prayers as the road ahead for the family is sure to have its challenges.



Duke Pastoral Intern Gracie Gray preached an excellent sermon at Porters Neck Village on June 18. Worship at PNV is offered each Wednesday at 10 a.m., led by Pastor Susanne and a beautiful, faithful team of WCUMC volunteers (Al & Kay Howard, Rena Gyorke, Phyllis & Robert Blake, Pat King, Dot Spencer, Jean Schild, Jamie Treadaway). We give thanks to a new volunteer for several weeks this summer, while school is out, Ali Lynch. Ali blessed worshippers on June 18, playing Amazing Grace on the ukulele.



Maryann Nunnally preached a powerful sermon on Father's Day, June 15, emphasizing how our Heavenly Father is the model for earthly fathers. Maryann has been a lay speaker for many years, and we give thanks for her ministry among us.



YMCA Summer Camp

The kids have been loving water week as we went to the splash pad, the water park, crafted some ocean animals, and made new friends.

It has been a great start to the summer, and we are excited to get into our nature and competition weeks coming up! We have a few spots left during some weeks if anyone is still interested in joining the fun!

LYDIA ABBEY CRAFTING

Ladies, it is just around the corner, that wonderful week of crafts, fun, and fellowship called Craft Camp. We hope that you will come and join us at craft camp July 21st – 25th, from 9:00 - 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall, as we spend the entire week working on craft projects for this year's bazaar.

We have a variety of projects, including sewing, stitching, gluing, and painting, from base coats to detailed ones, to keep us busy and prepare us for the bazaar. There are jobs to fit the skill levels of all, and we have been known to find hidden talents you didn't know you had.

We hope you can join us and spend some time together. Be sure to bring lunch if you can stay all day, but feel free to spend just an hour or two if that fits your schedule. Wednesday lunch is a salad buffet; everyone brings a favorite salad to share. We even have games to keep our minds sharp and prizes for the winners.

REQUEST: We are in need of 10 dried okras. If you grow okra and are willing to share, please contact Michelle Pearsall at 910-200-9909 or mitchpearsall@yahoo.com. Thank you!!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The United Methodist Men's Bible Study finished off our Spring session with a wonderful Bible study, led by our talented intern Gracie Gray. She presented a thought-provoking lesson from the Book of Genesis, telling of the promises kept to Jacob by his sons, and the dramatic send-off he was given. We will be taking the summer off and resuming our studies in September.

JOY GROUP

Are you looking for ways to stay cool during this hot, humid weather we are having? If you enjoy games and fellowship time with others, then the JOY group may be just what you need. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month

at 10:00 in Lee Hall; our next meeting is Tuesday, July 15th. We begin each session with a short devotion and then break into smaller groups to play games. We finish around noon, and for those who are interested in continuing our fellowship time, we go out for lunch at a local restaurant. This month we will be going to Outback.

MUSIC AT OUR CHURCH

A big "Thank You" to our faithful servants who have given of their time and talents this past year in the Handbell and Chancel Choirs! You have blessed us with your ministry. Enjoy your short summer break, and I look forward to even greater things in the coming new year. Thank you, Greg Gore, for your continued ministry and musical artistry to our church each week.

07.06.25
Summer Choir begins at 10:30am!

If you would like to sing in the choir but cannot commit to a weeknight rehearsal, Summer Choir is for you! Join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 to rehearse a special anthem for the 11:00 AM service. No commitments - just come when you are available to sing. YOU are Welcome!!!

Mark your calendars: Christmas at Wesleyan Chapel
Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 PM

"And There Was Light"

A Christmas Cantata by Joseph Martin presented by the Chancel Choir and Orchestra





Wesleyan Chapel UMC is once again partnering with Rise Against Hunger in the global movement to end hunger. Join us in packaging 20,000 meals to support nutrition, education, and health for children and families facing hunger right

now around the world. Register on the page below for this fun, high-impact event and consider a donation towards our event goal! We are looking to raise \$4,750 to provide supplies for meals. Donate to WCUMC (Rise Against Hunger) or via the link below. Reach out to Carrie Dixon for more information, Dixon184@yahoo.com. <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/WesleyanChapelUMC>

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025, 10 AM - 12 PM IN LEE HALL

Trustees & Facilities Update

- YMCA Summer Camp Return: Wesleyan Chapel UMC welcomed the YMCA back for Summer Camp 2025. Pastor Rick and Program Director Heather Rabil confirmed a \$5,000 donation agreement, with \$500 designated as non-refundable.
- United Methodist Men: UMM continues light maintenance, including installing handrails in various restrooms. The group also approved the purchase of a new gas grill with a cover.
- Lee Hall Security: A set schedule for opening and closing the doors in Lee Hall has been established to improve security and consistency.
- Church Bus Update: With the lease nearing its end, the Trustees have voted to accept the buyout proposal for the church bus.
- Facility Use Policy: A proposal from the Altar Guild to update the Facility Use Policy has been accepted.
- Restroom Lighting: Trustees approved a plan to replace standard light switches with motion-detection sensors in all restrooms. AB Blake Electrical installed the sensors, donating the labor cost and the church reimbursing for materials used. It should be noted that in order to see a cost benefit, restroom users should still press the light button as they exit to turn off the light.
- Boy Scout Storage: The request for use of the onsite shed by the Boy Scouts was approved. Troop leaders have agreed to repair and maintain the shed as needed.

Pictured below: The Watford and Thorn families after Bryn and Beckett became two of the newest members of Wesleyan Chapel.



PENNIES FOR HUNGER

2nd Sunday of Each Month

Next Collection date: July 13

June Collection: \$ 358.15

2025 Total: \$2,010.40

For many years, we collected enough money to fund seven ministries, \$400.00 each year. Last year, we had a banner year and were able to fund 11 ministries \$400.00 each. We are now at the halfway point of the year, and if we continue at the same level of giving, we will collect over \$4,000, which would allow us to fund 10 ministries this year. Your generosity is such a blessing to each of these ministries as they work to provide food to those who are food insecure. We have sent \$400 donations to the following ministries: Mother Hubbard Cupboard, Four C's Food Pantry, Rise Against Hunger, Pender County Meals on Wheels, and Living Hope.

Pennies Fact: The Flying Eagle cent is a one-cent piece struck by the Mint of the United States as a pattern coin in 1856 and was in circulation for two years, 1857 and 1858. The coin was designed by Mint Chief Engraver James B. Longacre, with the eagle in flight based on the work of Longacre's predecessor, Christian Gobrecht. It was notable for its change in composition - 88% copper and 12% nickel.

Green Org Spotlight:

Freecycle is an organization that facilitates the free gifting of used items to prevent them from ending up in a landfill. Founded in Tucson, AZ, in 2003, this nonprofit website connects members in "town groups" of local communities. Currently, there are 3547 members in the Wilmington, NC, Freecycle group. Members can post offers of free items and also "wanted" posts of needed items, and local moderators approve these posts to keep out inappropriate content. I have both gifted and received many items over the years, many of which have been used in decorations for VBS or other church events. It's a great way to reduce our consumption and reuse or repurpose items, as well as build our community. - Chris Wrede





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our Children's Ministry was really busy preparing for our Vacation Bible School, which took place June 23-27, with 79 children registered. This year's theme was True North, where kids discovered that they could trust Jesus in a wild world! We spent the week prior decorating the entire church. Thank you to all who came out and helped decorate! We will share more on the success of the week next month.

Children's Church

Children's Church continues right through the summer months! Leaving the Sanctuary toward the beginning of the 11 am service, children from about age 5 through middle school are invited to worship in the Chapel. A kid-friendly service that both teaches and includes everyone in the worship experience is provided as a way to prepare children for understanding "the big church". Our music is a bit more active and rhythmic with instruments. Our sermons are dramatic to be more memorable and meaningful for the age level. Our prayers are sincere, and our call to worship is simple. Our offering plate is passed to "add words" of a helpful thing to be done or a joy that can be shared. Our announcements come from each participant! Our Communion is shared as we gather around the table. Children, youth volunteers, and adult helpers are all welcome on any Sunday. Special thanks go to "subs" Jamie Wrede and Kay Howard for helping lead the group.



MYF AT WCUMC

On June 8, we had a Trifecta Sunday, celebrating Pentecost, our graduates, and our confirmands. Congratulations, Emily Rogerson and Caroline Huffman! Welcome our newest members: Beckett Thorn, Bryn Watford, and Ali Lynch. This concluded our normal Sunday evenings and will start back up on September 7 at 5 pm. During the summer, we plan to have a few mission opportunities and fun activities. Save the dates: July 12, we will have a church workday from 9 am-12 pm; July 27, a pool party at the Jolly home; August 17, District Youth Beach Bash; August 23, RISE Against Hunger; and September 7, our Back to School party at the Retro Meadery Arcade!



WELCOME TEAM UPDATE – VISITOR CONNECTIONS

We're blessed to have visitors nearly every Sunday—some of whom are becoming regular attenders! When a yellow Connection Card is filled out and placed in the offering plate, that person receives a warm, friendly email during the week, along with an invitation to return.

These emails often receive heartfelt responses, mentioning our welcoming congregation and meaningful worship experience. What wonderful feedback!

This is great news for the Welcome Team, whose mission is to connect with newcomers, introduce them to church programs, and provide helpful information about life at Wesleyan Chapel.

Let's all continue to offer friendly greetings and warm smiles each Sunday—you're making a difference!

Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with everyone who walks through our doors.

4-H Coastal Clovers: 4th Summer!

The Coastal Clovers 4-H Club is gearing up for its 4th year this summer, with 22 youth members on the roster. This year, club members will be learning all about leadership - exploring areas such as public speaking, running a business meeting, character traits of leaders, and more. We are excited to work with these youth to develop valuable life skills through fun, hands-on activities.

4-H is the largest youth organization in the United States with more than 7 million participants. The Coastal Clovers 4-H Club is a part of New Hanover County 4-H, which is supported by North Carolina State University and New Hanover County. The club is led by volunteers Leslie Dill and Liz Rappold, both alumni of Ohio 4-H, along with co-leaders Laura Shrader and Phoebe Tiso. For more information about 4-H, visit <https://nc4h.ces.ncsu.edu/>.

Below is a photo of the club members after working together to put together 25 Breakfast Bundles for Nourish NC to wrap up the 2024 year.



Cub Scout Pack 234 had a very busy and productive 2024 season! Pack 234 had 14 members for the 2024 year and looks forward to adding more Cub Scouts in 2025. They just concluded their programming year with their Spring Camping trip to Camp McNeill, located in White Oak, NC. Pack 234 is now on summer break, gearing up for several summer outings and next fall's programming. They will resume their regular programming on September 23rd, coinciding with the school year.

Pack 234 would like to thank the Wesleyan United Methodist Church for its continued support, which has helped positively impact our youth.

MINISTRY ITEM OF THE MONTH

For July, Wesleyan Chapel will continue our ministry donations to the Living Hope Day Shelter of Wilmington: 2-3 man tents (available on Amazon for about \$20), disposable plates/bowls/napkins/cups for hot food/liquid, bug spray, creamer/sugar, and deodorant. Please bring donations to any of the ministry bins. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need!

Pictured at right, the Lynch family, after Ali became the third newest member at Wesleyan Chapel on June 8.





Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10255 US Highway 17 N

Wilmington, NC 28411

Change Service Requested

Worship Schedule

Casual Worship 8:30 am | Breakfast 9:30 am | Sunday School 9:45 am

Traditional Worship and Children's Church 11:00 am



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Wesleyan Chapel

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Watch Sunday sermons live or later!

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