

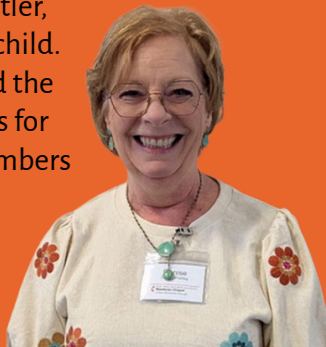
CORNERSTONE

A JOYFUL DAY of New Members and Baptisms





What a beautiful day it was for the church and the Strong family. Both Mom Whitney and daughter Hailey were baptized, and along with Dad Travis, they all joined the church. Thanks be to God for the blessing of being “water-washed and spirit-filled!”

What a joyful day it was on September 14th when 11 people joined Wesleyan Chapel! New members, pictured from left to right, are Tom and Karin Atkins, John and JoAnn Carpitella, Kay Lascek, Dot Spencer (a member supporting friends), Jeanne Cutler, Travis, Whitney, Hailey Strong, and Jean Schild. Denise Freitag (pictured separately) joined the 8:30 service that same day. We give thanks for all these new Wesleyan Chapel family members and rejoice in being in ministry together.



OCTOBER EVENTS

- 5 Communion Sunday 
- 6 UMM Dinner & Meeting 6pm
LIFT 7pm
- 8-9 Lydia Abbey Crafting 9am- 3pm
- 12 Pennies for Hunger
Church Council 12:15pm
Christmas Choir Rehearsal 12:30pm
- 14 Stephen Ministry Meeting 10am
- 16 Preschool Hoedown 9am
- 20 Our New Normal 10am
- 21 JOY Group 10am
- 25 Trunk or Treat 6pm
- 26 Lydia Abbey Bazaar donations
- 27-31 Lydia Abbey Bazaar setup
- 30 Charge Conference 6:15pm
- 31 Halloween 

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:30 am Casual Worship
- 9:30 am Breakfast
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11: 00 am Traditional Worship & Children's Church

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



OCT ANNIVERSARIES

Martin & Jennifer Guderian	3
Carl & Valerie Rogerson	5
Cynthia & David Murray	5
Derek & Beth Gardner	11
Blake & Melanie Nelson	12
Kim & Jamie Huene	23
Kathy & Dennis Laderwager	25

OCT BIRTHDAYS

Missy Boyette	1
David Corley	1
Bev Buyers	5
Connie Flores	7
Teresa Fountain	11
Robert Blake	13
Jennifer Guderian	13
Beth Sanders	14
Nona Rogers	15
Vicki Thompson	17
Devin Kelly	19
Elsie Kelly	21
David Trent	22
Kim Carter	24
Brenda Blake	25
David Skipper	27
Macey Huene	28
Nancy Pearson	28
Pat King	29
Gary Teachey	29
Avery Huffman	30

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE TEAM

The family continues to adjust to life in the U.S. after nine months. Halima has been progressing in her English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, while Islam grows more comfortable in his medical assistant role. Four of the five children are back in school, with the youngest at home, and the team has helped provide backpacks, supplies, and other necessities for the year.

Halima is also continuing her sewing and crocheting projects, including items soon to be displayed at Recollections Vintage Village. Special requests can be made by contacting Cindy Murray (cmurray2427@gmail.com) or Dennis Laderwager (bigreader54@yahoo.com). Donations of yarn, fabric, Hobby Lobby gift cards, and daily bus passes for Islam's commute are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support! If you feel called to assist the Refugee Assistance Team, please contact Cindy.

PNV

Pastor Rick delivered a sermon at Porters Neck Village this summer on "Keep on Keeping On" and then led the congregation in singing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

There will be no worship on Wednesday, October 22, at Porters Neck Village, but all of Wesleyan Chapel is invited to join the residents at their annual Senior Wellness Fair, which runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Our New Normal Gathering

Our New Normal grief support group met on September 15 with 12 people in attendance, including one new member. Pastor Rick led us in a devotion on Psalm 46, reminding us of the comfort and strength we find in God's presence, even in the midst of life's challenges. It was a meaningful time of fellowship, reflection, and encouragement.

We invite you to join us for our next gathering on Monday, October 20. Whether you've attended before or are considering coming for the first time, you'll find a

welcoming space for prayer, conversation, and support as we walk this journey together. (September's meeting pictured below left)

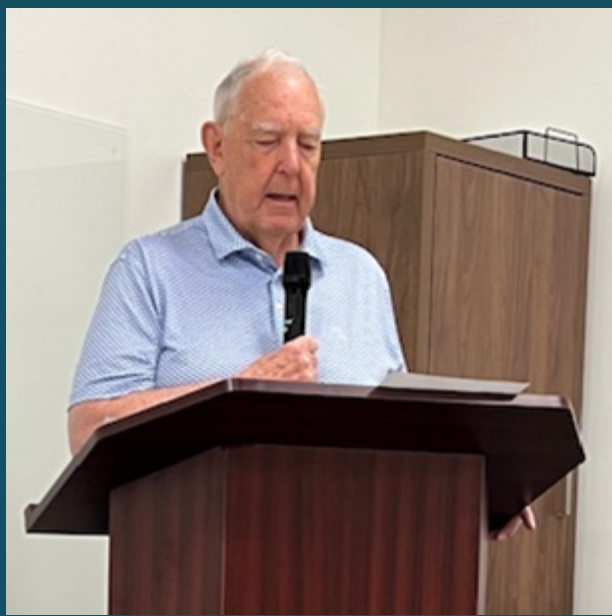


JOY Group (Just Older Youth)

Looking for fellowship and fun? Join the JOY Group on Tuesday, October 21, at 10:00 a.m. in Lee Hall. Each meeting begins with prayer requests and a short devotional, followed by small-group games until noon. Those who wish to continue fellowship over lunch are invited to Double Happiness. New and long-time members alike are welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS, AL HOWARD, CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER!

The North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church has certified Al Howard as an official lay speaker for the conference. Al completed all the coursework requirements and passed the interview process with flying colors. Al leads prayer (as seen in the photo) and preaches regularly at Porters Neck Village as well as periodically at Wesleyan Chapel. We give thanks for Al's living into his call to this important ministry.



SENIOR WELLNESS FAIR

Wednesday, October 22

10am-2pm

Porters Neck Village

1200 Porters Neck Road

Learn how to improve your health & wellness while finding ways to live a purposeful life. Visit our vendors and speak with professionals about a variety of topics

Breakout sessions with medical professional including:

- Dr. Dustin Hoffman, Orthopedic Surgeon EmergeOrtho
- Melissa Batchelor, PhD., RN, Dementia Care Educator
- Mary Rudyk, MD, Geriatric Medicine, Novant

Be your best self at every age

For more information, contact msherman@portersneckvillage.org

MUSIC MINISTRY



What a joyful blessing it was to welcome back the Chancel Choir at the 11:00 a.m. worship service, accompanied by our talented Brass ensemble. Their music lifted our hearts and ushered us into a beautiful time of praise, reminding us that God's presence is truly made known through song. Following

worship, the choir enjoyed a time of fellowship over a hot luncheon and then turned their focus toward preparing for the Christmas season.

We warmly invite anyone who loves to sing to join the Chancel Choir. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. No prior choir experience is required—just a willing heart to make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Our Handbell Choir has also resumed rehearsals and is seeking two additional ringers to complete the group. Rehearsals take place on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The only prerequisite is the ability to read music. If you've ever wanted to be

part of this unique ministry, now is a perfect time to join.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our Summer Choir, who faithfully led us in worship throughout the past months. Your voices and commitment were a blessing to all.

As Scripture reminds us, "Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works" (Psalm 105:2). Music is one of the most powerful ways we glorify God, and we are grateful for every person who shares their gifts in worship.



United Methodist Men's Update

The United Methodist Men met on September 8, 2025, with 16 men in attendance. The evening began with a delicious meal prepared by Victoria and David Hoover, served by Jimmy Schiff and Ken Jolly. Pastor Rick France led the group in devotion and prayer, sharing a preview of his upcoming Wednesday and Thursday Bible studies. Jimmy Schiff provided the final financial report for August's Shrimperoo, followed by discussion of potential improvements for the 2026 event. The August meeting minutes were approved.

Looking ahead, the UMM will host a **Church Fall Workday on October 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Projects include sealing the newly pressure-washed wooden stairs outside the kitchen, repairing playground fence posts, and painting the metal railing along the back of the sanctuary. All church members are invited to participate.

Additionally, the UMM will provide **breakfast and lunch at the November Craft Bazaar**, led by Carl Ward, with a detailed plan to be reviewed at the **next UMM meeting on October 6 at 6:00 p.m.**

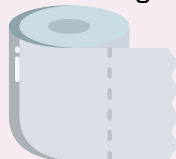
Looking further ahead, on **November 3**, we will once again host **Rev. Dr. Wesley Magruder**, Director of Church World Service in Wilmington. The congregation is invited to attend **at 7:00 p.m.** to hear his presentation on the status of refugee resettlement in our community. UMM members will meet at 6:00 p.m. as usual.

Ministry Item of the Month – October

Be the Light! A youth-focused organization connected with the Harrelson Center, made up of multiple church youth leaders from across the Wilmington area hosts two events each year where youth groups gather to serve in mission projects.

This year, their **Evening of Gratitude** will be held on **November 2, at 5 p.m. at 5810 Oleander Dr, Wilmington.** They will assemble welcome baskets for Family Promise and holiday bags for Coastal Buds. Our youth are collecting the following items to support this effort:

- Hot chocolate (8-pack boxes)
- Paper towels (6-pack)
- Toilet paper (4-pack)



Please help our youth shine God's light by bringing your donations to any of the collection bins at the church.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All women are invited to join us **Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room** for fellowship, prayer, and study. This year we are exploring **"Let It Go" by Karen Ehman**, with each session beginning with a video to inspire discussion. Sessions are facilitated by Karen France, Jennifer Hooks, and Miriam Shipp. Come share in the joy of growing together in faith!

Good Samaritan House



Fridays 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

As we enter the final stage of our long, gradual closing, we've been celebrating many "last times," including a free clothing day and our most recent seasonal changeover on **September 15**, moving out summer and spring items and bringing down fall, winter, and Halloween merchandise. We will continue restocking until all clothing and holiday items are in place, with **our last day open anticipated in November. Please note we will be closed October 31 and November 1** for the annual Bazaar, featuring crafts, baked goods, and attic treasures.



**YOU'RE INVITED
OCT 6TH @ 7PM**

**ROOM 202
LEE HALL**

Donations: We are no longer accepting clothing, and the final days for household donations are October 10-11. We are deeply grateful to all who have supported this ministry over the past 32 years. Your generosity has blessed countless individuals and allowed us to share God's love throughout our community.

PENNIES FOR HUNGER

2nd Sunday Each Month

Next Collection date: Oct 12

September Collection: \$ 691.67

2025 Total: \$3,618.72



WOW! September brought a fantastic collection—possibly our largest ever! So far this year, donations totaling **\$400 each** have been sent to **eight different ministries!** With three more collections remaining, we are on track to match last year's total ministries supported.

Fun fact: The phrase “*In God We Trust*” was first authorized by the Coinage Act of 1864, appearing initially on a two-cent coin and later on the Lincoln penny. Thank you for your continued support in helping fight local hunger!



Seeing Gray in God's Politics

Our study of God's politics is off to a strong start, exploring the “gray” in a world of black and white. As children of God, we are called to build His kingdom on earth. While there is truth in both progressive and conservative perspectives, neither fully defines Christianity.

Membership in the men's Wednesday morning class and Thursday evening class is always open—come join the discussion!

Buddy Backpacks

The Buddy Backpacks program is back in full swing with 30 volunteers organized into teams for shopping, packing, and delivery. Our first deliveries were made to Topsail High on September 4 and Cape Fear Elementary on September 9, providing weekend meals for families, snack bags for students, and “power packs” that supply seven meals per student. By helping nearly 40% of students at Cape Fear and 14% at Topsail who face food insecurity, this ministry offers stability, hope, and allows children to focus on school rather than hunger. Thank you to all who support this important work—for as Jesus reminds us, when we feed the hungry, we feed Him.

Fall K-5 Alive is underway! We have 19 children, 11 adult volunteers, and 4 youth volunteers participating. The children are learning the story of Christmas, making ornaments to be sold at the Annual Bazaar, creating their own Advent Calendars, and preparing the musical, *A Quizzical Christmas*. Through these activities, they are discovering the joy of God's love and the true meaning of the season.

Mark your calendars to see them share this musical on December 7!



Project ACAPE

Thank you to everyone who donated items, money, or packed a box—this year we received 11 individual boxes, more than in recent years! On September 29, a packing party was held to prepare additional boxes and ensure all were ready for delivery to the MERCI Center in Goldsboro. Each box will be checked at the center to confirm it contains only approved items and matches the attached checklist. We will spend the day assisting with this process when the boxes are delivered later this month. If you would like to

join us in Goldsboro, please contact Beth Sanders at efsanders@charter.net or 910-470-2725.



Children's Sunday School students and teachers experience unleavened bread, just as the Hebrews would have taken with them when leaving Egypt.



Children's Church: Growing in Faith and Joy

Children's Church is growing—one recent Sunday, we even needed two pews to fit everyone! It is such a joy to see children excited to attend a worship service designed just for them.

After beginning in the sanctuary with their families, children (primarily grades K–5) gather following the Passing of the Peace and walk together to the Chapel. There, worship is tailored for them: music is child-friendly, announcements are shared by the children, the affirmation of faith is one they wrote, and scripture and sermons are often acted out. Once a month, Communion is celebrated with explanations to help the children understand the meaning of this special sacrament.

All children—and any curious adults—are welcome to join us on Sundays!

Children's Ministry

Our children's program is off to a joyful start this fall! We had a great turnout at our Back-to-School Sunday and Foam Party, and we're excited to see so many kids participating in our new Sunday School classes at 10:00 a.m. Children in grades K–2 meet in Room 201 upstairs in Lee Hall, while grades 3–5 meet in the Children's Library. Parents are invited to enjoy breakfast fellowship or join the Cross Connections class during this time.

Looking ahead, don't forget **Trunk or Treat on October 25, 6–8 p.m.!** We need candy donations, decorated trunks, and volunteers to help make it a fun and welcoming night for all. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me" (Matthew 19:14), and through these ministries, we are nurturing young hearts in faith, joy, and love.



Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF)

Our youth kicked off the fall season with a Back-to-School Arcade Party and are excited for a year filled with fellowship, fun, and mission! **MYF meets Sundays, 5:00–6:30 p.m.**, and all middle and high school students are invited—bring a friend!

This fall, our study focuses on coping with stress and feeling overwhelmed, using both Scripture and practical tools for mental and spiritual health. Through games, discussions, and contemplative prayer, we are learning to lean on God's strength, remembering Jesus' promise: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Mark your calendars: Sandwich Making on October 5, Trunk or Treat on October 25, and Pumpkin Carving on October 26. As a fundraiser, MYF is selling church t-shirts and hoodies designed by our own youth, Ben Reynolds. Sign up to order in the narthex, outside Room 2 in Lee Hall, or see Jamie Wrede.

T-SHIRT & HOODIE Sale



**SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!
PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY! SEE
JAMIE WREDE FOR DETAILS**



Keeping the rhythm of worship! Leah Wrede, Ali Lynch, Kelsa Baker, Hailey Strong, Geneva Jayroe, and Lily Shively lead the beat for a hymn during Children's Church.

LYDIA ABBEY FALL BAZAAR

The Lydia Abbey Craft Circle is hosting its annual Fall Bazaar on **Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Lee Hall.** This is the Circle's only annual fundraiser, featuring handcrafted items, home-baked goods, and transformed Preschool/Sunday School rooms into charming Attic Treasure Rooms. The United Methodist Men will provide breakfast and lunch, and all proceeds support missions and the upkeep of our cherished Chapel.

Your participation is key to the success of the Bazaar! You can contribute by donating crafts,

attic treasures, or baked goods, helping with setup or cleanup, or simply attending to enjoy the event. **Drop-off dates for attic treasures are Oct. 26 (12-4), Oct. 27 (10-7), and Oct. 28 (10-4) in Lee Hall.** Please follow guidelines: items must be clean, gently used, in working order, and free of rust, cracks, or unpleasant odors. Certain items, including bicycles, large furniture, electronics, lamps, and dated books, cannot be accepted.

Good selling items include books, toys, games, craft items, small appliances, home décor, gardening items, puzzles, and sports equipment. **To volunteer or ask questions, email Michelle Pearsall at mitchpearsall@yahoo.com.** We are grateful for your support of Wesleyan Chapel and the United Methodist Women—together, we make this event a blessing for our church and community.

For a complete schedule of setup/teardown, unacceptable donations, and more, please see the weekly email or contact Michelle Pearsall!



Rise Against Hunger Update: Meals Shipped to Ukraine

We are excited to share that the 20,000 meals packaged during our recent Rise Against Hunger Experience have now been shipped—and their destination is Ukraine.

As the ongoing conflict has displaced millions and disrupted food supplies, many people in Ukraine no longer have reliable access to nutritious food. The meals we packed will go directly to support internally displaced people, refugees, and communities in urgent need through Rise Against Hunger's emergency response efforts.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered time, energy, and resources to make this possible. Together, we are helping to provide hope and nourishment at a critical moment.

VISITOR RETENTION

In September, 10 new members joined our Wesleyan Chapel congregation! Each one began their journey with us as a visitor on a Sunday morning. Perhaps it was your smile, your handshake, or your words of encouragement that helped them decide to make Wesleyan Chapel their church home. It truly takes a congregation of friendly people to grow a church, and we thank you for being part of that ministry of hospitality.

As we continue, let's be intentional about welcoming visitors each Sunday—offer a smile, extend a handshake, share a kind word, or even invite them to breakfast or Sunday School. The Welcome Team also follows up with every visitor who fills out a yellow Connection Card. Together, let us remain a welcoming congregation of God's people.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10255 US Highway 17 N

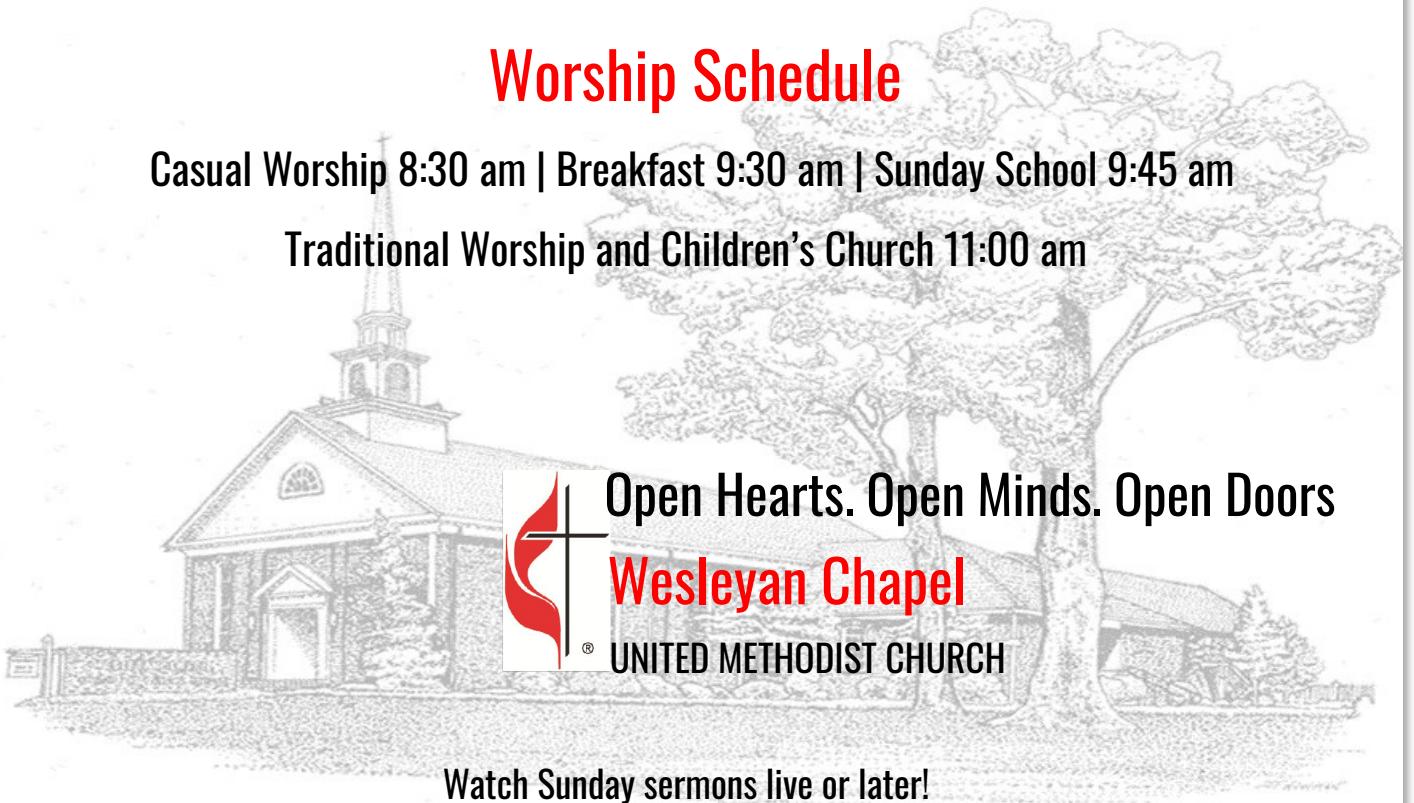
Wilmington, NC 28411

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



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors

Wesleyan Chapel

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Watch Sunday sermons live or later!

Visit wesleyanchapel.org and click on the link for our YouTube Channel.

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