

# CORNERSTONE

## BACK TO SCHOOL, BACK TO CHURCH!

September 7 will be a big day at Wesleyan Chapel as we celebrate the start of a new school year! Bring your backpacks and join in a special blessing for all who have returned to school—students, teachers, and administrators. There will be special children’s moments and a blessing of the backpacks in both services, as well as children’s church at 11:00. Everyone will receive a backpack charm along with the blessing. The worship theme for the day is Shaping Disciples (Jeremiah 18), and there may even be Play-Doh involved!

After the 11:00 service, children and parents are invited to Lee Hall for pizza and a foam party. Don’t forget your bathing suits and towels! A special youth kick-off event will be held at 5:00 p.m.

Parents, bring your children to the new Sunday School classes to get the year started right, and check out the new Cross Connections class upstairs in Lee Hall. There will be a class for Kindergarten–2nd grade and another for 3rd–5th graders. Both groups will study Big Faith, where they will learn to trust in God and God’s character. Breakfast begins at 9:30, and Sunday School begins at 10:00. Let’s pack these classrooms for fellowship and fun learning together!

All congregation members are invited to participate in this special day by bringing a box of tissues and/or a package of skinny EXPO

dry-erase markers. Please place them on the altar; they will be blessed and delivered to the teachers at our Buddy Backpack partner school, Cape Fear Elementary, as a welcome-back gift.



## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 1 Labor Day- Church Office Closed
- 2 Preschool Open House 9am- 12pm  
Cub Scout Parent Meeting 6pm
- 3 Preschool first day of school
- 4 District Clergy & Luncheon 9am
- 7 Communion Sunday  
Back to School Foam Party 12pm  
Back to School MYF Party 5pm
- 8 UMM Dinner & Meeting 6pm  
LIFT 7pm
- 9 Stephen Ministry Meeting 10am
- 10-11 Lydia Abbey Crafting 9am- 3pm
- 10 K-5 Alive begins 4:30pm
- 14 Pennies for Hunger
- 15 Our New Normal 10am
- 16 JOY Group 10am

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

Mondays- Thursdays: Preschool 9 am- 12 pm

Mondays: Boy Scouts 7 pm

Tuesdays: Pickleball 1 pm

Cub Scouts 6pm (Beginning Sept 9)

Gamblers Anonymous 7 pm

Wednesdays: Worship at PNV 10 am

Men's & Women's Bible Study 9:30 am

K-5 Alive Weekly 4:30 pm

Handbell Practice 6:15 pm

Choir Practice 7:00 pm

Thursdays: Buddy Backpacks 9am- 12pm

Fridays: Good Sam House 9 am- 12 pm

Saturdays: Good Sam House 9 am - 3 pm

*For the complete, up-to-date church calendar, please go online to [wesleyanchapel.org](http://wesleyanchapel.org)*

## SEPT ANNIVERSARIES

Jessica & Mark Williams	4
Bill & Sandra Stephenson	5
Chris & Jamie Wrede	21
Miriam Shipp	29
Steve & Wanda Swain	29

## SEPT BIRTHDAYS

Nanette Strawn	1
Gracie Gray	4
Sydney Ledermann	5
Sue Keylor	7
Paley Thorn	8
Walker Wagner	9
Rena Gyorke	10
Lou Reynolds	11
Eddie Blake	12
Brooks Wicker	16
Marsha Ray	16
Dennis McCall	17
Kerry Overman	18
Rod Gyorke	18
Bill Paris	19
Jay Reynolds	21
Susan Reynolds	22
Kathy Mignogna	24
Brenda Tuttle	28
Joan Jolly	28
Kay Howard	28
Larry Bailey	28
Karen Morgan	29
Mary Fanady	29
Carrie Dixon	30
Catherine Huffman	30
Gladys Booz	30
Vance Moore	30



YOU'RE INVITED  
SEPT 8TH @ 7PM

ROOM 202  
LEE HALL

## How Are You Called to Serve?

The Leadership and Nominations Committee is in the final stages of making recommendations for leadership and church committee positions for 2026. These appointments must be finalized and approved by the Church Council by the end of September in order to be ready for Charge Conference in October.

If you feel called to serve on an administrative committee, please reach out to Pastor Susanne or Lay Leader Arnold Lynch.

One particular need is for a new Church Treasurer beginning in 2026. If you are interested in this position, please connect with our current treasurer, Brian Both, who can share details about the role. While the church is not a business, there are certainly business components to our ministry that must be attended to regularly. If administration is your gift, please prayerfully consider serving in this important way.

## Here We Grow Again!

We welcome Pat and Bruce Myers, who became professing members of the Wesleyan Chapel family on July 13, transferring from the Lutheran denomination. Pat and Bruce are regulars at the 8:30 service, and we give thanks for their ministry among us!



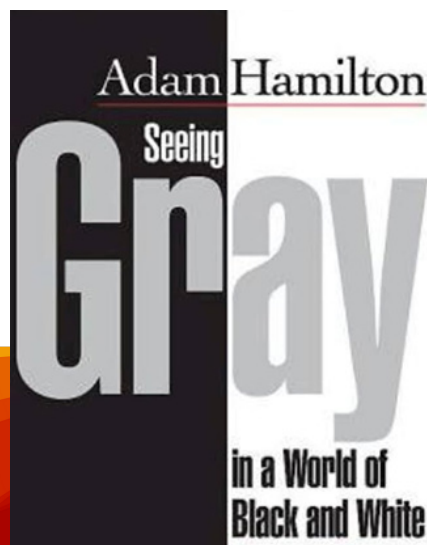
We look forward to welcoming more new members in September. If you have been attending regularly and would like to talk about becoming a professing member, please reach out to Pastor Susanne at [susanne.priddy@nccumc.org](mailto:susanne.priddy@nccumc.org)

## Thursday Evening Fall Study

Pastor Rick will be offering an eight-week class using UMC Pastor Adam Hamilton's book, guiding us in discussions on religion, morality, and God's politics. This study is designed to help bridge divides among Christians, explore what the Bible says about these issues, and encourage us to listen to one another with open hearts and open minds.

The class will begin on Thursday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. and continue for eight weeks. The book is available on Amazon, or Pastor Rick can order a copy for you if needed.

Please register on Realm or let Pastor Rick know of your interest.



## Our New Normal

After a summer break, Our New Normal, the grief support group for widows and widowers, met on August 18 at 10:00 am in the Conference Room. Together we shared fellowship, encouragement, and a reminder that while memories remain close to our hearts, God's love holds those we miss in eternal care: *I thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new.*

*I thought about you yesterday, and days before that, too. I think of you in silence, I often speak your name.*

*All I have are memories, and your picture in a frame.*

*Your memory is my keepsake, with which I'll never part.*

*God has you in His keeping; I have you in my heart.*

Blessings, Gladys Booz

## LYDIA ABBEY CRAFT CIRCLE

What a wonderfully fun and productive Craft Camp we enjoyed in July! Lee Hall was full of energy, with an average of 29 attendees each day, including several new visiting crafters who shared their talents with us.

We began the week with 56 projects in various stages, and by the end, 18 of them had been completed. Lunchtimes were a highlight, offering both fellowship and a chance to connect with new

friends. Our traditional mid-week Salad Day Buffet was as delicious as ever, and each day we shared a meaningful Crafter's Blessing written by one of our former circle members.

Adding extra fun to the week, we were welcomed by Betti Lou, our host, dressed in a flawless poodle skirt. She decorated the lunch tables with vintage treasures from the 1950s–70s, sparking both nostalgia and laughter. Games included identifying these items and matching crafters to their childhood photos—what fun memories! Throughout the week, Betti Lou returned in different creative “incarnations.”

Looking ahead to Bazaar '25, we are now meeting on the 2nd and 4th

Wednesdays and

Thursdays of each

month. Our next

sessions will be

September 10, 11, 24,  
and 25 in the Chapel  
from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM.

## Refugee Assistance Team Update

English lessons continue for Halima, with the children often joining in. She is once again busy sewing and crocheting (see pictures below), thanks to a donated replacement sewing machine, and is currently working on a Star Wars quilt!

Islam began full-time work as a medical assistant at NHRMC in August. He is grateful for the opportunity and benefits, though the long commute by bike and bus is challenging. The children are now back in school, with the youngest entering kindergarten and pre-K.

Our most urgent needs are daily bus passes, along with fabric, wool, and sewing supplies. To order a custom creation, contact Cindy Murray ([cmurray2427@gmail.com](mailto:cmurray2427@gmail.com)) or Dennis Laderwager ([bigreader54@yahoo.com](mailto:bigreader54@yahoo.com)). Donations may be brought to the church.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers and support as this family continues building a new life. If you feel called to join the Refugee Assistance Team, please reach out to Cindy Murray.



## UMM August Updates

On August 2, the United Methodist Men (UMM) held our 2025 Gene Parker Memorial Shrimperoo in Lee Hall.

What a blessing it was to have Gene's family present (see photo). We served approximately 160 shrimp plates, complete with shrimp, cole slaw, corn on the cob, hush puppies, dessert (provided by the ladies of the church), and tea/lemonade.

We want to thank all the men who worked so diligently to set up the dining facilities, prepare and serve the food, and clean up after the event. We also want to thank the ladies who prepared the delicious desserts. Most importantly, we wish to thank our church family for your tremendous support, which made this event such a success.

The annual Shrimperoo is the UMM's primary fundraiser, providing funds for donations to church missions.

Our next meeting will be **September 8 at 6 p.m.**, with dinner followed by our business meeting and an after-action review of this year's Shrimperoo.

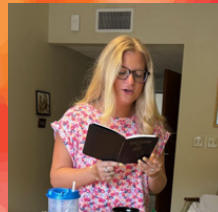


## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 - CHANCEL CHOIR KICK-OFF

We are planning an exciting day of worship on September 7. The Chancel Choir will be back in full, and brass will accompany our hymns and special music. It will be a wonderful day of worship!

Following the service, the Chancel Choir will share lunch together and begin work on *Let There Be Light*—our Christmas Cantata, which will be presented on Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m., accompanied by an orchestra.

If you would like to be a part of this special presentation, please stay after church and join us for lunch and rehearsal. We will rehearse from 1:00–2:30 p.m. All are welcome!



We said goodbye to Gracie Gray on August 10 after a wonderful summer internship with us. Gracie is now in her second year of seminary at Duke Divinity School. She and Ethan Adamson will be married in December—please keep them in prayer as they begin their journey together.

Thank you to all who contributed to the love offering for Gracie. We recently received a heartfelt note of thanks from her:

*Dear WCCMC,*

Thank you so much for such a wonderful summer! My time with your congregation was filled with growth, love, and affirmation of my call to ministry. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to serve both for and with your church family. Ethan and I have made friendships that will last for years, and for that we are truly thankful.

I also want to express my deep gratitude for your generosity—through both your love offering and your abundant kindness. Not a day went by this summer when I didn't feel loved and appreciated.

I am praying for each person I had the pleasure of meeting, that you will continue to be faithful servants and that your faith will grow stronger each day along with this beautiful church.

God bless, and please stay in touch! With love and blessings,

*Gracie*

## PENNIES FOR HUNGER

2nd Sunday Each Month

Next Collection date: Sept 14

August Collection: \$ 294.00

2025 Total: \$2,927.05



For many years, your generosity has allowed us to fund **seven food-oriented ministries each year**. Thanks to your continued support, we have been able to increase the number of organizations we serve. We have now fully funded the original seven ministries, **giving \$400 each to Mother Hubbard Cupboard, Four C's Food Pantry, Rise Against Hunger, Pender County Meals on Wheels, Living Hope, Share the Table, and CHAP Thanksgiving**. Additional funds raised from this point forward will support even more food-focused efforts.

The recent sermon series by Pastor Susanne highlighted the ongoing need to help alleviate food insecurity in our community. Thank you to all who have contributed!

Our next collection date is September 14. We accept pennies, other coins, paper money, checks, and online contributions.

**Pennies Fact:** Most Indian cents minted during the Civil War were used primarily to pay Union soldiers.

## JOY Group (Just Older Youth)

JOY Group will meet on Tuesday, September 16, at 10:00 a.m. in Lee Hall. After a short devotional, we will break into small groups to play games. If you are looking for fun and fellowship, we hope you will join us!

For those interested in continuing fellowship over a meal, we will go to lunch at Cape Fear Seafood.

if you'd like to do more. Monetary donations are also welcome to help cover the \$5 shipping fee and to purchase additional items; please mark gifts "Project AGAPE."

Last year we packed 34 boxes, and our goal is to do the same this year. A packing party will be held on Tuesday, September 30, to assemble the boxes. Please watch the Weekly Vine and bulletin for more details.

All supplies and completed boxes are due by September 15, as they must be delivered to the MERCI Center in Goldsboro in early October. Boxes may be left on the table outside the choir room or dropped off at the church office.

For more information, contact Beth Sanders at [efsanders@charter.net](mailto:efsanders@charter.net) or 910-470-2725.

## Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study begins Wednesday, September 10, from 9:30–11:00 a.m. We will use UMC Pastor Adam Hamilton's book to guide our discussion on faith, morality, and God's politics. The study is designed to help bridge divides among Christians, hear what Scripture teaches on these issues, and encourage us to listen with open hearts and open minds to one another.

## *Good Samaritan House*

We are wrapping up our summer clothing sale with our semiannual Bag Sale—all the clothing you can fit into a paper grocery bag for just \$3.00.

A modified changeover will take place on September 15, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. While we will not be doing a full cleaning, we will be clearing out the remaining summer clothing and bringing down the fall and winter items.

**Donations:** We are no longer accepting clothing donations. However, as we continue our gradual closing, we would love to receive items for our household room to provide variety. The most popular items include decorative pieces, cookware, towels, sheet sets, puzzles, and children's toys/building sets. Please ensure all items are in good condition—no excessive wear, missing parts, or chips.

Thank you to all our donors who have faithfully supported us through the years!

## Project AGAPE Christmas Boxes UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who contributed supplies for the AGAPE Christmas boxes in August by taking ornaments with needed items. We will continue collecting through September 15, so there is still time to give if you haven't had a chance—or

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church did not take the summer off! Each Sunday at the 11:00 a.m. service, the (mostly) K–5 children leave for their own worship service in the chapel. Following the same basic order of worship and the scripture for the day, the children hear the songs and stories of Jesus at a level they can understand.

Yes, it can get a little noisy, and everyone has the chance to share about their lives, but the children experience the Biblical lessons in a meaningful—and hopefully memorable—way. The picture shows the children exploring the John 21 story of the disciples catching 153 fish in their nets. Each child drew a part of the story, and when the pieces were put together, the story came alive with little people representing the disciples and Jesus. Peter and Jesus even had that conversation about loving Jesus and feeding His sheep.

Each week is a stand-alone lesson, so children can join in whenever they are at church.



*Sharing in the scripture lesson of the day are (from L to R) youth helper Ali Lynch, Hailey Strong, Lily Shively, Geneva Jayroe, Leah Wrede, and Leslie Ann Pinkham.*

## Rise Against Hunger

A giant, heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who supported our Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event this year! Your monetary contributions allowed us to fully fund the event, and the volunteer support was incredible. Thanks to your generosity and hard work, 20,000 meals will be shipped to communities in need.

We'll provide an update with more specifics about where the meals are sent once that information is available. For more information about Rise Against Hunger, visit [riseagainsthunger.org](http://riseagainsthunger.org)



## VISITOR RETENTION

The Welcome Team encourages all members to acknowledge the Sunday morning visitors who join us for worship. A smile, handshake, or a few kind words can make someone feel our friendliness and acceptance.

We have several visitors each Sunday, and they are observing how we interact and notice them. If you see a first-time visitor without a welcome bag, please grab one to give them.

Let's help visitors feel at home—invite them to breakfast, sit with them at a table, and introduce them to others. Our goal is to make visitors want to return and experience the warmth and care of our church community. We can do this!

## P.E.O. AT WESLEYAN CHAPEL

P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) meets at Wesleyan Chapel on the second Thursday of each month, and we are grateful for the hospitality and kindness shown to our chapter. Founded in 1869, P.E.O. is one of the longest-standing women's organizations, with over 200,000 members in the U.S. and Canada. Our mission—Where women motivate, educate, and celebrate women—guides our work to empower women through education. To date, P.E.O. has provided nearly half a billion dollars in grants, scholarships, awards, and loans, and we also support Cottey College in Missouri. Chapter members meet for business, fellowship, and fundraising to help women achieve their educational goals. To learn more about P.E.O. and Chapter AA, contact Becky Sammons at (352) 283-4993.

## THANK YOU- FROM THE YMCA

We wanted to take a moment to thank you for allowing us to use the church facility for our summer camp — it was an incredible summer filled with energy, learning, and connection. Throughout the camp, the space was filled with laughter, team-building activities, and meaningful moments for the kids. From creative workshops and games to times of reflection and group discussion, the church truly became a hub for growth and community.

We're especially grateful for the hospitality and support we received from the church family. Your generosity in sharing the space made it possible for us to create a safe, welcoming environment where campers could thrive.

Thank you again for partnering with us in making this summer camp a success.



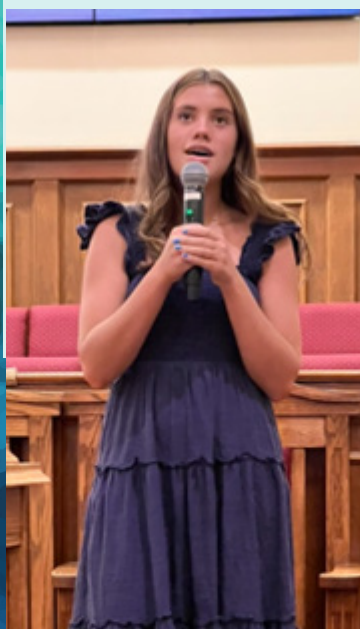
## K-5 Alive

Have you registered your child yet? We have a fun **Fall K-5 Alive** planned, where we'll share the true story of Christmas!



We will meet weekly on **Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** Children will learn the Christmas story, make an Advent calendar, sing songs, and enjoy dinner together each week.

**Come join the fun—it starts September 10!**



**Paley Thorn** blessed the 8:30 service on August 17 with her beautiful voice, singing *It Is Well*.

## THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!

During the week of June 23-27, the Bibles and hymnals were removed from the pews and refurbished. They were then placed back in the pews. These are the volunteers who made it happen: Rena Gyorke (director), Cathy Bailey, Terry Baxley, Joy Dawson, Mary Fanady, Connie Fletcher, Connie Flores, Linda McCall, Grayson Reville, Beth Sanders, and Al Howard.

The work of the church isn't always fun or fancy! The simple tasks enhance our worship.

In Gratitude,  
Kay Howard (Project Instigator)



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**WESLEYAN CHAPEL**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10255 US Highway 17 N

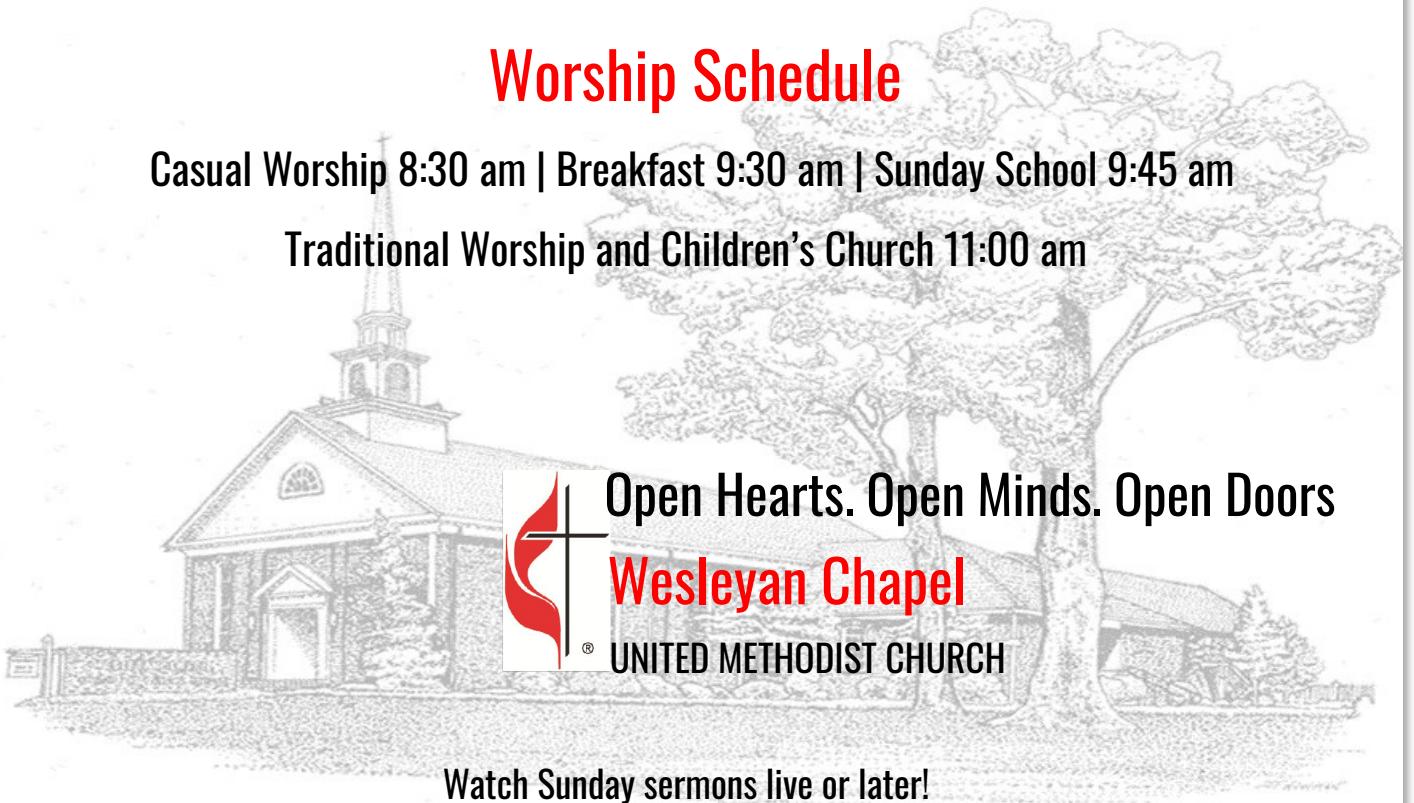
Wilmington, NC 28411

**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](http://wesleyanchapel.org) and click on the link for our YouTube Channel.

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