

CORNERSTONE

THE QUIET MINISTRY

As Stephen Ministers, we call ourselves the “Quiet Ministry” because we ARE very quiet in our approach to our work, our commitment to our Church, our faith, and to each other. We practice silence through our commitment to confidentiality regarding any personal concerns you may share with us, as well as any of your personal identifying information.

Perhaps you have heard of Stephen Ministry, as our banner beautifully proclaims in the entryway of our Church. However, you may not realize what it means to be a Stephen Ministry Church or what it means to actually have a Stephen Minister.

Some members of our congregation have expressed interest in becoming Stephen Ministers and joining our team through the training program that we offer at our Church. Others may be interested in talking with one of us to share whatever concerns or troubles you may be experiencing, so that we may walk alongside you and help you find approaches to peace in your journey.

Things to Think About as You Consider Having a Stephen Minister

- Have you ever had a person with whom you can discuss anything that is on your mind without reservations or hesitation?

(Continued on page 2: Stephen Ministry)



OCTOBER EVENTS

- 4 World Communion Sunday
- 5 UMM Dinner & Meeting 6pm
LIFT 7pm
- 8 PEO Meeting 12pm
- 11 Pennies for Hunger
- 12 Stephen Ministry Meeting 10am
- 14-15 Lydia Abbey Craft Meeting 9am- 3pm
- 15 Preschool HoeDown 9am
- 18 Christmas Cantata Rehearsal 12:15pm
Church Council 2pm
- 19 Our New Normal Meeting 10am
- 20 JOY Group 10am
- 24 Trunk or Treat 6-8pm
- 25 Trustee Meeting 12:15pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:30 am Casual Worship
- 9:30 am Breakfast
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Choir Practice
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship &
Children's Church
- 5:00 pm MYF

Mon- Thurs: Preschool 9am- 12pm

Mon: Boy Scouts 7pm

Tues: Pickleball 1pm

Gamblers Anonymous 7pm

Wed: Adult Bible Study 9:30am-11am

Worship at PNV 10:30am

K-5 Alive 4:30- 6:30pm

Handbells 6:15pm

Choir Practice 7pm

Thurs: Buddy Backpacks 9am

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

Worship is always joyful at Porters Neck Village on Wednesdays and sometimes extra joyful when the children of team members visit from out of town. On this day, what a joy it was to have Phyllis Blake's daughter Kelly (left) and Dot Spencer's daughter Susan (right) join them for worship.



(Continued from page 1: Stephen Ministry)

- Have you had the experience of someone listening so carefully to you, without interruption or comment, that you feel comfortable simply continuing to share your thoughts and feelings?
- While being with this person, have you experienced acceptance, kindness, and caring as you continue with your story?
- Have you felt free from judgment by this person?

These are some of the qualities that a Stephen Minister can offer in a relationship with you.

Please contact Jamie Treadaway, Miriam Shipp, or Pastor Rick for more information!

MEN GATHERING IN FAITH AND SERVICE

The United Methodist Men continue to find meaningful ways to connect, grow in faith, and serve our church and community.

At the September UMM meeting, the men welcomed several new members and enjoyed an evening of fellowship and thoughtful conversation.

Following dinner, Pastor Rick led the group in an engaging discussion about the Old Testament prophets and what it might mean to consider the role of prophets in our world today. Each table first worked through a series of questions before coming together to share their thoughts and perspectives.

The UMM is also grateful for the tremendous support of the congregation for the August Shrimperoo. With the help of the UMM, the ladies of the church, and so many members of our church family, the event raised



\$3,964.93 for local missions. Thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success!

The men will also gather for a church workday on Saturday, October 10, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The primary focus will be moving the wooden choir risers and other items from the equipment/HVAC room to the storage building near the picnic shelter, along with additional cleanup around the storage area. Many hands make light work, so anyone willing to lend a hand is welcome!

The next UMM meeting will be Monday, October 5, at 6:00 p.m. Following dinner, Andy Wood will share his knowledge and insight on environmental issues affecting us all. His presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and is open to the entire congregation and visitors. We hope you'll join us!

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Martin & Jennifer Guderian
- 5 Carl & Valerie Rogerson
- 5 Cindy & David Murray
- 9 Jill & Jonathan Street
- 11 Derek & Beth Gardner
- 12 Blake & Melanie Nelson
- 25 Kate & Dennis Laderwager



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 David Corley
- 1 John Carpitella
- 3 Gregory Gore
- 5 Bev Buyers
- 7 Connie Flores
- 11 Teresa Fountain
- 13 Robert Blake
- 13 Jennifer Guderian
- 13 Asher Harrell
- 14 Beth Sanders
- 15 Nona Rogers
- 17 Vicki Thompson
- 19 Devin Kelly
- 21 Elsie Kelly
- 24 Kim Carter
- 25 Brenda Blake
- 25 Jonathan Street
- 27 David Skipper
- 28 Nancy Pearson
- 29 Gary Teachey
- 29 Pat King
- 30 Avery Huffman

COME JOIN THE JOY!

Have you recently started attending our church and are looking for a small group where you can get to know others and have some fun? Or maybe you've been attending for a long time and are looking for a new opportunity for fellowship. Either way, we hope you'll consider joining us at our next JOY Group meeting on Tuesday, October 20, at 10:00 a.m. in Lee Hall.

We begin each gathering with prayer requests and a short devotional, then break into small groups with a variety of games to enjoy. We wrap up around noon, and for those who would like to continue the fellowship over a meal, we'll head to Outback for lunch.

REFUGEE UPDATE

The Zazai family continues to make progress, and we are grateful for the many ways our church family has been able to walk alongside them.

Islam continues taking driving lessons around his work schedule and is preparing for his driving test, currently scheduled for the end of September. If he passes, his next challenge will be finding a vehicle.

The Refugee Assistance Team will provide some assistance, but we ask church members and friends to consider whether they have a vehicle they would be willing to donate or sell at a reasonable price. A vehicle would make getting to work and managing daily life much easier.

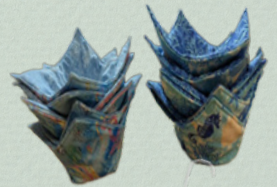
Please let a member of the Refugee Assistance Team know if you hear of an opportunity.

All five children are now enrolled in school and riding the bus from their apartment complex. Yaseen, the youngest, initially missed bus registration, but team members provided transportation until the issue was corrected. He is now approved to ride the bus each day.

The children are making wonderful progress with their English. One team member continues working with Halima to improve her English-speaking skills, which will open additional employment opportunities. In the meantime, she continues to share her sewing talents through Halima's Creations at The Village, 5935 Carolina Beach Rd., Wilmington.

The family is also adjusting to the loss of SNAP benefits, which reduced their monthly food resources by more than \$800. Thanks to generous contributions to the Refugee Assistance Fund, the team has been able to provide essential groceries every other week.

Halima and Islam are deeply grateful for the kindness, generosity, and prayers of our church family and friends. Thank you for continuing to support the Zazai family in so many meaningful ways.





LYDIA ABBEY CRAFT CIRCLE'S ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR

The Lydia Abbey Craft Circle's Annual Fall Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Lee Hall. It is the Circle's only fundraiser, and the ladies work hard all year to transform Lee Hall into a holiday extravaganza featuring homemade crafts, homemade baked goods, Attic Treasures, and a Holiday Café offering breakfast and lunch options. All proceeds go toward missions and the upkeep of our treasured Chapel.

The ladies cannot undertake this huge event without your help! It truly takes a village to make the Fall Bazaar a success. There are numerous ways you can help:

- Shop at the Bazaar. This is a great time to start tackling your Christmas shopping list—and buy a little something for yourself, too!
- Spread the word. Most of our turnout comes through word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends, family, and neighbors.
- Show off your muscles. We need LOTS of help moving heavy items. The ladies

cannot do this by themselves!

- Share your talents. Customers are always excited about the homemade baked goods provided by our congregation, and we are happy to accept donated crafts that you make.
- Support Attic Treasures. This is the perfect time to clean out your attic or garage and donate gently used items that you no longer need or use.

Please consider helping us with this huge event. More detailed information about how you can help will be included in upcoming weekly emails and Sunday bulletins.

You can always learn more by contacting Michelle Pearsall at mitchpearsall@yahoo.com or 910-200-9909.

Thank you for supporting the Lydia Abbey Craft Circle's Fall Bazaar!

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Fall Sunday School classes are underway, with something for everyone! Whether you are an adult looking for fellowship and Bible study or a family seeking a class for your children, we invite you to join us.

Adult classes begin at 9:45 a.m.:

Bible Class — Conference Room

Upper Room — Chapel

Cross Connections — Lee Hall, Room 202 (upstairs)

Children's classes begin at 10:00 a.m.:

Preschool — Lee Hall, Room 5

Kindergarten–Grade 3 — Lee Hall, Room 201 (upstairs)

Grades 4–6 — Lee Hall Children's Library (upstairs)

All are welcome! If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Jamie.

ADULT CLASSES • 9:45 AM
 Bible • Upper Room • Cross Connections

CHILDREN'S CLASSES • 10:00 AM
 Preschool • K–3rd • 4th–6th

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

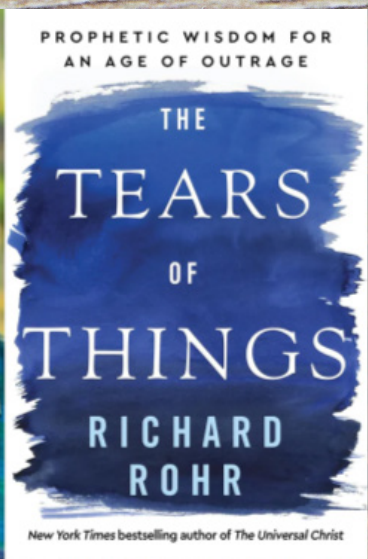
The Women's Bible Study kicked off a new season on September 16 with 11 ladies around the table—and one new “gal” joining us for the first time! After a summer break, there was plenty of catching up and sharing. We didn't quite make it all the way around the table, mostly because one vacation story was so entertaining that it included a full “reenactment”! Apparently, some vacations are best told with a little acting.

We'd love to have more ladies join us! We're always happy to add another chair as we finish our current study, The Cross, before moving into an Advent study.

The group meets Wednesdays 9:30–11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in Lee Hall. Our time together includes sharing, prayer, Bible study, encouragement, and plenty of laughter. Each lesson stands on its own, so you're welcome to join us whenever your schedule allows. Reminder: We will not meet on October 14, which is Craft Circle day.

“IT IS WRITTEN, ‘ONE DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.’ ”

- MATTHEW 4:4



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We're back in action after our summer break, with the usual group and a new face, Rem Hamilton, joining us!

This fall, we're studying Richard Rohr's book on prophetic wisdom, *The Tears of Things*. We hope the book will help us learn, as the prophets did, to turn our anger over injustice into tears of compassion—and to channel that compassion into peaceful action as we work toward bringing the Kingdom of God “on earth as it is in heaven.”

LIFT

LADIES IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER

We had a wonderful first meeting, and we'd love for you to **join us at our next gathering on Monday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m. upstairs in Lee Hall!**

This is a change from our usual meeting schedule so that we can gather together and help make sandwiches for the Good Shepherd House.

LIFT is a welcoming group of women who gather each month to encourage one another through food, fellowship, and Bible study. Whether you're new to Wesleyan Chapel UMC or have been attending for years, LIFT is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your relationship with God and build meaningful friendships with other women in our church family.

Bring yourself, invite a friend, and enjoy an evening of laughter, meaningful conversation, and spiritual growth in a warm and supportive environment.

We hope you'll join us on October 5 as we grow together in faith and friendship. There is always a place for you at LIFT!

K-5 ALIVE KICKS OFF WITH 21 CHILDREN!

K-5 Alive kicked off its fall semester on Wednesday, September 2, with 21 children enrolled! Children in kindergarten through fifth grade gather every Wednesday from 4:30–6:30 p.m. for faith, fun, friendship, and food. This fall, the children are exploring “The 13 Most Important Things...” through engaging Bible lessons, hands-on crafts, Christmas music, games, and meaningful conversations. They are discovering important Bible stories and learning how these lessons can help them grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus. Each evening includes a delicious dinner and plenty of time to build friendships. Throughout the semester, the children will also learn songs for a **special Christmas program** to share with our church family on **December 6**. We are excited about the wonderful start to K-5 Alive and look forward to a semester filled with learning, laughter, friendship, and spiritual growth!



CHILDREN LEADING IN WORSHIP

Children's Church has a new addition this fall: Worship Team Leaders! Each Sunday, children can choose how they would like to participate in the worship service. Opportunities include chiming in during the Trinity, leading the welcome, reading the Call to Worship, inviting the group to pass the peace, helping with the offering, and assisting with music. As the year progresses, we hope to add even more opportunities for children to take on leadership roles.

Giving children an active role in worship helps them feel like an important part of the service—not just observers, but participants and leaders.

Children's Church is designed primarily for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, although younger and older children are welcome, too. During the 11:00 a.m. service, children worship together in the chapel using a format similar to the sanctuary service, including the same Scripture and lesson. Worshiping together in a service designed with and for children gives the experience its own special character. Adults are always welcome to join us, too!



YOUTH GROUP KICKS OFF ITS FALL SEASON!

Youth Group kicked off its fall season on September 13 with 10 youth and five adults gathered for an evening of faith, fellowship, food, and fun!

Our fall theme is “Balance: Keeping God at the Center.” During our first lesson, we looked at how we spend our time and discussed the importance of keeping God at the center of everything we do—even amid busy schedules filled with school, work, sports, and other activities.

Everyone was challenged to begin each morning by saying, “God, lead my day,” before doing anything else. This simple statement reminds us to invite God into our plans and allow Him to guide our choices throughout the day.

In the coming weeks, we’ll continue exploring what it means to live a balanced life with God at the center. We look forward to growing together through meaningful lessons, games, dinner, and fellowship!



Our new preschool year is off to a wonderful start, and we are grateful for all that God is doing in the lives of our children, families, and teachers. We are excited for a year filled with learning, growing, friendship, and fun!

We are especially pleased to welcome two new members to our preschool teaching team. Sara Pedrozo has joined our 2-year-old class as a teacher, helping create a loving, nurturing environment where our youngest learners can grow. Caitlin Veale has joined us as our new floater, assisting in our 3- and 4-year-old classes and throughout the preschool wherever she is needed.

Please join us in giving Sara and Caitlin a warm welcome to our preschool family! We are thankful for their willingness to serve our children and families and look forward to a wonderful school year together.



A SMILE GOES A LONG WAY

Sunday mornings at our church are full of smiles—and if you look around, you'll see them everywhere. Be sure to add a few of your own!

Visitors often comment on the warm welcome they experience through handshakes, conversations, introductions, and the special sense of community they feel when they walk through our doors. These may seem like simple things that we naturally do because we're a friendly church, but they can make a lasting impression on someone who is visiting for the first time.

So keep looking for those smiles—and sharing yours!

Take a moment to introduce yourself to someone nearby and learn a little about them, even if they aren't a visitor.

They may be a returning member who has been away for a while or simply someone you haven't had a chance to meet.

Let's continue making everyone feel welcome on Sunday mornings. We're already pretty good at it—so keep smiling!

THANK YOU!



Dear Wesleyan Chapel UMC

Thank you for: giving us an awesome
space to learn and grow through
our 4-H club!

Love, Coastal Clovers
4-H Club

Thank You



PROJECT AGAPE Christmas Boxes

Thank you to everyone who donated items or money, or packed a box! We had 11 boxes turned in this year. A packing party was held on September 29, where additional boxes were packed using donated items, and all the boxes were checked in preparation for delivery to the MERCI Center in Goldsboro. We will be taking the boxes to Goldsboro on a date to be announced later this month. All boxes received at the MERCI Center must be checked to ensure they do not contain any prohibited items and that everything is listed on the checklist attached to the box.

When we deliver our boxes to the MERCI Center, we will spend the day helping check the other boxes they have received. If you are interested in going with us that day, please contact Beth Sanders at efsanders@charter.net or 910-470-2725.

PENNIES FOR HUNGER

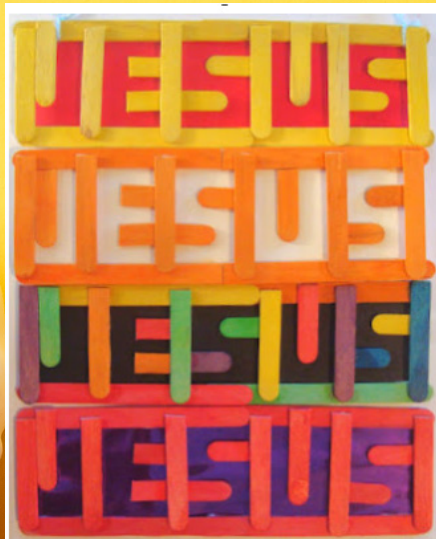
2nd Sunday Each Month
Next Collection date: October 11
September Collection \$265.18
2026 Total: \$3,153.44



This month, we will be contributing to the Community Holiday Assistance Program (CHAP) Christmas meals, which will be our 8th donation of the year. Our Pennies for Hunger Program has grown so much over the years. Three years ago, our goal was to contribute each year to eight ministries that support people experiencing food insecurity. Fast forward to today, and with three months still to go, we have already achieved that goal!

Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry. So many lives are touched because of your generosity.

Pennies Fact: While rounding to the nearest nickel is relatively new to us, it has been used on U.S. military bases overseas since 1980, when the Department of Defense abolished the use of pennies there. The reason? Pennies were so heavy that it was too expensive to ship them overseas.



THE “CREATE THE NAME JESUS” CHALLENGE

How creative can you get with the name JESUS? We’re inviting individuals, families, Sunday School classes, small groups, youth groups, and creative teams to take the challenge!

Create the name JESUS using whatever safe, clean materials inspire you. Draw it, paint it, build it, sew it, shape it, glue it, or create it from something completely unexpected. Use paper, fabric, metal, plastic, recycled materials, craft supplies, nature items—or just about anything you can safely shape into something wonderful.

A few ideas to get you started:

Build the letters with buttons, beads, craft sticks, or other objects.

Create a collage using different materials and textures.

Shape the letters from wire, foil, or metal.

Form the name with flowers, leaves, shells, or other nature items.

Make a colorful, kid-style version.

Recycle bottle caps, cardboard, or other household items.

Or come up with an idea that’s entirely your own!

Size: Your finished artwork may be no larger than 8½" × 11" and no more than 2" deep.

You may submit one piece per person or one collaborative piece per group. Most importantly, have fun and let your creativity shine! We can’t wait to see all the different ways our church family brings the name JESUS to life. Need some inspiration? Check out some examples on this page!



MUSIC MINISTRY: MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE

The Chancel Choir is back! After a short summer break, our dedicated choir members have returned to weekly rehearsals and are ready to lead us in worship each Sunday morning during the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service. New singers are always welcome! **Rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room,** located in the hallway next to the sanctuary. Come join us—we'd love to have you!

The Handbell Choir is also off to a great start, and we're happy to welcome Laurie Monnier to the group. Laurie brings previous handbell choir experience and has already joined the bells in worship. The Handbell Choir ministered in both services on September 20, and there are still openings for anyone who can read music. **Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:15–7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

Christmas Is Coming!

The Christmas season is already underway in our Music Ministry! On September 20, 39 singers from Wesleyan Chapel UMC, Hampstead UMC, and Faith Harbor UMC gathered for the first rehearsal of *Noel, Jesus Is Born*, a beautiful Christmas cantata by Lanny Wolfe, orchestrated by Don Marsh.

The Cantata will be presented on Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m. in the Wesleyan Chapel Sanctuary. The first rehearsal was an amazing start, and we're excited to share this special music with our church family. *Mark your calendar now and plan to arrive early!* Following the Cantata, everyone is invited to Lee Hall for a festive Christmas fellowship featuring plenty of desserts.

Would you like to be part of the Christmas Choir? Join us for rehearsal on October 18 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Lunch will be provided, followed by rehearsal from 1:00–2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come be part of this joyful celebration!



 **RISE AGAINST HUNGER**
EXPERIENCE



OUR RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEALS ARE ON THEIR WAY!

We have exciting news! The meals packaged by our Wesleyan Chapel volunteers through Rise Against Hunger have shipped and are headed to the Philippines. The Philippines is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, which can disrupt communities and livelihoods and make food insecurity even more challenging. The meals we packaged will help provide consistent nourishment to families while supporting educational and livelihood programs that give people opportunities to build healthier, more secure futures.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this ministry possible. What a wonderful reminder that our hands of service can make an impact around the world!



WESLEYAN CHAPEL HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sharing Holiday Blessings

Wesleyan Chapel will once again join area churches and organizations through the Community Holiday Assistance Program (CHAP) to help local families in need during the holiday season. Last year, CHAP served 300 families—1,540 people, including 651 children and 889 adults. This year, the need is expected to be even greater.

Thanksgiving

CHAP will provide families with vouchers for a Thanksgiving meal from Harris Teeter, including a turkey and traditional sides. Vouchers will be distributed November 21 at Blake's Chapel.

Our current need is monetary donations or Harris Teeter gift cards to help cover the cost of the meals. Last year, the cost was \$70 per family and is expected to increase this year.

Christmas

CHAP Holiday Mart: We will help stock the Holiday Mart with gifts for children from infants through high school. Parents will select gifts for their children at the Holiday Mart on December 12 at Blake's Chapel.

You can help by purchasing age-appropriate toys or selecting gift slips available before and after worship on November 15, 22, and 29.

Methodist Home for Children

Individuals and groups may also "adopt" children through the Methodist Home for Children and provide gifts from their wish lists. Child-specific gift slips will be available. Contact Beth Sanders if you are interested.

Ways to Give & Serve

There are many ways to help make the holidays brighter for local families:

- *Thanksgiving: Monetary donations or Harris Teeter gift cards are needed by November 15.*
- *Christmas: Purchase gifts or provide monetary donations by December 6.*
- Volunteer: Help with shopping, preparing and delivering gifts, setting up the Holiday Mart on December 10–11, or assisting on distribution day, December 12.
- Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate, dropped off at the Church Office, or made online using Fund #16 – CHAP. Checks should indicate "CHAP" and the specific ministry in the memo line.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Beth Sanders at 910-470-2725 or efsanders@charter.net.

Thank you for helping Wesleyan Chapel share the joy of Christmas and make the holidays brighter for families in our community!

TRUNK OR TREAT: A SWEET EVENING OF COMMUNITY FUN!

Join us on October 24, 5:30–7:30 p.m. for Trunk or Treat! This FREE community event is a fun night for the whole family, with decorated trunks, plenty of candy, hot dogs, snow cones, and cotton candy. Invite your friends and neighbors, bring the family, and come enjoy an evening of fun, treats, and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

October Ministry Item of the Month: CANDY!

Help us make Trunk or Treat extra sweet by donating bags of individually wrapped candy. Candy donations can be placed in any of the Ministry Bins around the church. Every bag helps us welcome our community and make the evening special for the children who join us!

We'll also need volunteers to decorate trunks, help with concessions, set up, and clean up. Whether you love creating a fun trunk or would rather lend a hand behind the scenes, there's a place for you!

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Jamie Wrede, Director of Children & Youth.

Thank you for helping us create a welcoming evening where we can share Christ's love, connect with our community, and have a little fun along the way!





Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10255 US Highway 17 N

Wilmington, NC 28411

Change Service Requested



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Wesleyan Chapel

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October Worship Schedule

8:30 am Casual Worship

9:30 am Breakfast

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Traditional Worship and
Children's Church

Watch Sunday sermons live or later!

Visit wesleyanchapel.org and click on the link for our YouTube Channel. Follow us on Facebook!

www.wesleyanchapel.org • churchoffice@wesleyanchapel.org • (910) 686-4041