

Ecclesia

FEBRUARY 2023



FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
SALISBURY, NC
EST. 1783

IN THIS ISSUE



THE HIGHLIGHTS

On the Covers

Front: Youth Winter Retreat!

Back: Vintage aerial image of Salisbury

Page 6

Scouting for Food, Scout Sunday on February 5

Page 7

Summer Ministry - Save the Dates!

Page 12

Lenten Preview

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YouTube Channel
FUMC Salisbury



Sermon Podcast
Salisbury Sermons
on Anchor; Apple Podcasts;
Google Podcasts;
Pocket Casts;
RadioPublic; and Spotify



Facebook
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@fumcsalisbury



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REMARKS

If you read these “reMarks” articles every month, you know that I typically write about a Biblical idea, a theological theme, or a church leadership topic. This time, I’m writing more personally, about a friend. This article has taken different shapes over the past few weeks, because my friend’s health deteriorated rapidly from an aggressive cancer. He died on Friday, January 20. However, his impact will remain vibrantly within me and a countless number of people. Let me tell you about Robert “BJ” Jackson.

BJ was a dedicated & superb church musician. He grew up in a loving family in Homestead, Florida, where they were constantly active at their local United Methodist church. From an early age, his talent for singing was obvious. As a college student at the University of Florida (UF), BJ majored in pharmacy, sang in the glee club, and was active at University United Methodist Church & Student Center (UUMC). During this time, BJ and others formed the Maranatha Choir, a group of college students who would sing every Sunday morning for worship and tour at the end of each semester. During the last semester of his senior year, BJ gave up a lucrative career as a pharmacist, became a music major, and set out on a career in church music ministry.

In 1980, UUMC called him back to serve as the music director. Over the next 30 years, BJ would embody that local church’s purpose of “connecting Christ, campus, and community.” BJ led with tremendous energy, professionalism, integrity, and love. His infectious spirit drew people, including me.

I arrived on the UF campus in 1996, confident that I would be a math teacher. When I graduated in 2000, I was an active leader at UUMC, sang tenor in the Maranatha Choir, served for nearly two years as a lay supply pastor, and was on my way to seminary. What caused such a change? Answer: my experiences of God through the campus ministry at UUMC. And without a doubt, BJ’s leadership set the scene for this to happen. It wasn’t just how he directed the singing an anthem’s musical notes; rather, it was allowing himself, his whole life, to be a vessel for the Holy Spirit. BJ genuinely experienced God’s love in his life, granting him the assurance that he’s was God’s beloved. With that came tremendous freedom – free to love God through servant leadership, freedom to love other people.

I could write so much more, though I’m saving it for his memorial service on February 11. Five years ago, coming off a battle with cancer, BJ asked me to preach whenever that time would come. Through the years, he kept reminding me. Since then, he would have heart-related illness, and then this recent cancer diagnosis. It’s almost like BJ presciently sensed his time on earth was coming to a close. So now is the time for me and those who loved him to collect the memories, recall the lessons, look upon old photos, watch concert footage, and be thankful for the life and ministry of Robert “BJ” Jackson. He would want us to keep singing and to keep loving each other.

To put it simply: I’m grieving the loss of an incredibly special friend. In deep and unspeakable ways, I am sensing God’s comforting presence through prayer, and also singing old Maranatha anthems to myself. For example, we sang a choral arrangement of Psalm 121, “I lift up mine eyes to hills. From where comes my help? My help, it comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.” In this grief, I am looking to the Lord for healing and strength. I see it and feel it coming.

Mark Conforti



JUSTICE-SEEKING PEOPLE OF GOD

#BeUMC

UMC.org/BeUMC



Core Value: Justice-Seeking

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 5:24

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.

Matthew 22:37-39

Often, our ideas about justice are connected to our politics. Our faith, however, calls us to seek justice for all people. Prophets like Amos talked about it. Jesus worked for it. Our United Methodist Church advocates for it around the world.

We challenge unjust systems and work to secure equal opportunities for all.



DID YOU KNOW?

The United Methodist Building is the only non-government building on Capitol Hill.

"As a public witness to justice and peace, the United Methodist Building offers an ecumenical and interfaith setting for rich dialogue and social action."

<https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/the-united-methodist-building>

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The #BeUMC campaign reminds us of who we are at our best. As people of God called The United Methodist Church, we're faithful followers of Jesus seeking to make the world a better place.

#BeUMC



CHURCH HISTORY

"looking back... moving forward"

During the long history of institutional Methodism, our denomination has experienced many disagreements and divisions. Methodists split over slavery, lay leadership, bishops, and racism. Occasionally, after an extended period of separation, splintered denominations reunited. This happened in 1939 with the reunion of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church.

Today's dividing issues are homosexuality and church polity. The seed of discontent traces to the 1960s. Charles Keysor, an Illinois Methodist pastor, launched a movement to reverse what he considered Methodism's "rising tide of liberalism." He was a fundamentalist, believed in the inerrancy of the Bible, and used his training as a journalist to launch a new publication called GOOD NEWS. By the early 1980s, Good News had its own publishing house in competition with the Methodist Publishing House.

Other caucus groups espousing both traditional and progressive theologies soon appeared. What had once been a diversified denomination with a big theological umbrella became a deeply divided collection of special interest groups. Over the last 50 years, extreme positions on both ends of this theological spectrum hardened. Reconciliation has become increasingly difficult.

The spark that ignited the current demand for division came in 2016. The UMC's Western Jurisdiction consecrated the Rev. Karen Oliveto - an openly lesbian woman, as a bishop. The Book of Discipline did not change, but enforcement of its prohibitions against LGBTQ clergy proved impossible.

That event motivated conservatives to unite under a new organization called The Wesley Covenant Association or WCA. It first met in 2016 and laid the groundwork for a new denomination. They called their new church The Global Methodist Church or GMC. It officially launched on March 1, 2022.

A divorce is never pretty. Angry words have been exchanged. Feelings have been hurt. Congregations are divided. Truth is usually the first victim of any legal separation. That is the case with Methodism's current splintering.

Covid-19 has exacerbated the separation. The General Conference has final authority over all UMC legislation. It has not met since 2019 due to the pandemic and will not meet until 2024. It alone has the authority to speak for the whole church. That administrative silence has created a leadership vacuum.

The 2019 General Conference did approve a process for disaffiliation for any church that wants to leave the denomination. This process requires a two third affirmative vote of an individual congregation's entire membership and the payment of all connectional related financial obligations. This obligation includes 100% apportionment payment for the current conference year and the next year, payment of any unfunded pension liabilities, and payment of all legal expenses involved in the disaffiliation. The full details of this separation document appear in a Book of Discipline insert as ¶12553. Full compliance with this paragraph will allow a congregation to leave the UMC and retain property ownership. This exit process must be completed before December 31, 2023.

Some disaffiliating churches have already indicated their intention to join the GMC. A few exiting churches intend to join a yet to be named progressive Methodist Church. Many, however, are uncertain about their future and will continue as independent churches. Most congregations will remain part of the UMC. One thing is certain. In the future, The United Methodist Church will be weaker in both its mission and outreach after even one local church departs.

Fred Jordan, *Church Historian*

COMMUNITY MEAL

COMMUNITY MEAL UPDATE

Our free community meal is on a temporary hiatus for February.

VALENTINE DINNER FEB. 11

Dine with us!

The Adam & Eve Sunday School Class is sponsoring a Valentine Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Cherries Cafe in Clemmons will be catering a baked spaghetti meal. Reservations can be made by contacting Anne Goodman or Nancy Sherriff.

Valentine Dinner

February 11, 6:00pm

Fellowship Hall

\$12 per person

Make your reservations by Feb. 5

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

SCOUTING FOR FOOD COLLECTION

February 4 & 5

Our Scouts are Scouting for Food,
all non-perishable donations are great!

Requested Items from Rowan Helping Ministries:

Low-Sodium canned goods, pasta/tomato sauce,
peanut butter, jelly, grits, cereal, canned vegetables,
soups, protein bars, granola bars, laundry detergent



WAYS TO DONATE

Drop off food under the
Portico on Fisher Street
Saturday February 4,
8am-noon

OR

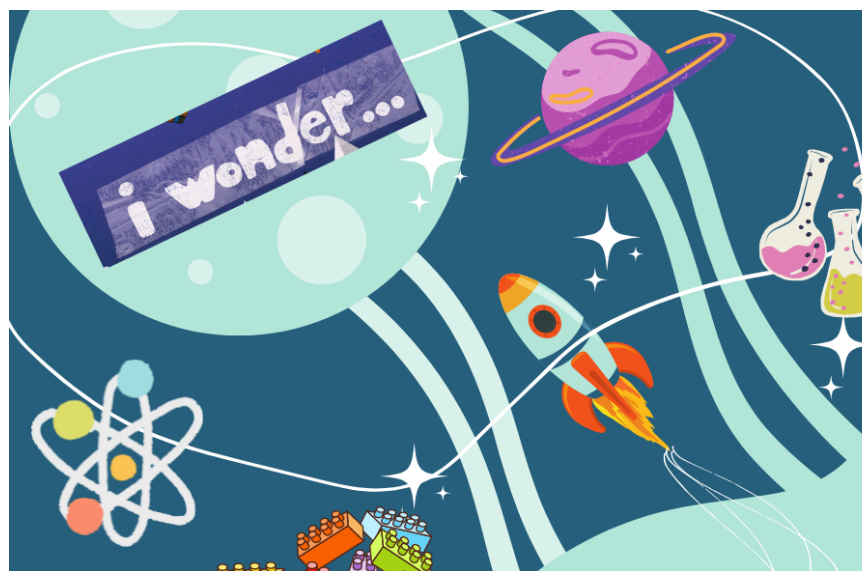
Bring your food donations
to worship with you on
Sunday, February 5

Call Scout Leader BK (704-433-8151) to come pick up the food you want to donate if you're unable to leave your house to donate!

SUMMER MINISTRY ANNOUCEMENTS

Camp Discovery July 2- 7

Interested in being a mentor or
helping with Camp this year?
Contact bailee@fumcsalisbury.org



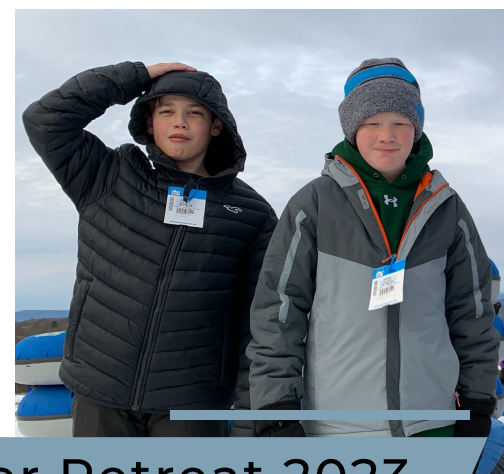
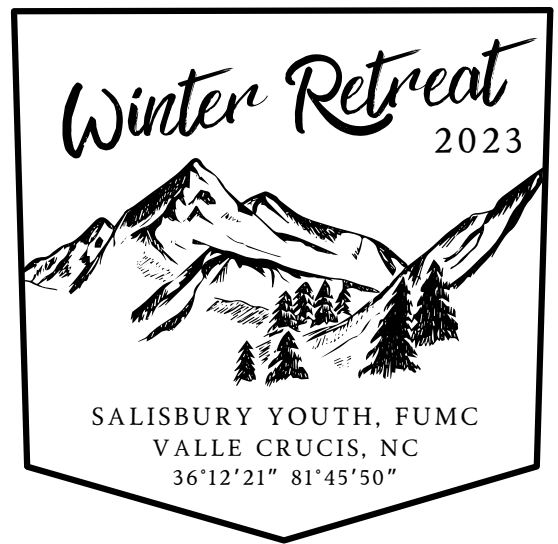
*Simply
Summer*
July 16 - 19
Theme: I Wonder

Mission (road)Trip June 5-10

Intergenerational road trip
that's one part service, and
one part education.

Youth & Adults -
apply to be on the team at
fumcsalisbury.org/missiontrip

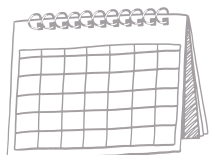




Youth Winter Retreat 2023

YOUTH MINISTRY

Salisbury Youth 6-12 GRADE MINISTRY



YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR
SPRING 2022

FEBRUARY

5 - YOUTH GROUP

12- no youth group
(*Superbowl*)

18-19 - LOCK IN

19 - no youth group
(*lock in night before*)

26 - YOUTH GROUP

MARCH

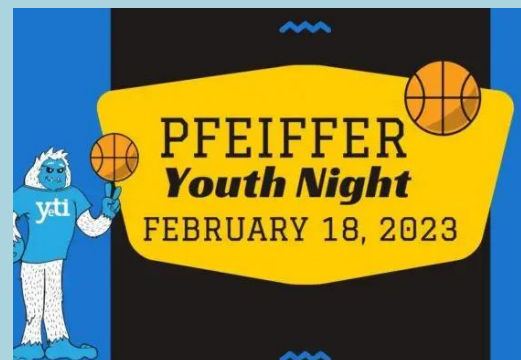
5 - YOUTH GROUP

12 - no youth group
(*spring break*)

19 - YOUTH GROUP

26 - YOUTH GROUP

Newsletter



YOUTH GROUP LOCK IN!

February 18

all youth, 6-12 grade

Tailgating & watching the Pfeiffer Men's Basketball game and spending the night at church! Details will be sent out in the Youth Group newsletter



Winter Retreat 2023

We enjoyed another annual Winter Retreat with eight youth and three adults attending this year. Some of the group went skiing for a day, and had quite the adventure on the side of Beech Mountain. The rest enjoyed snow tubing on the same day. We visited an alpaca farm, ate some great food, played games together late into the night, and enjoyed the bonding experience retreats can afford.

It was a joy for me to watch younger students join the group for the first time, and our older students become leaders within the group. We spent our devotional time talking about the calling to be a disciple, and unpacked some "church language" we often use but don't always explain.

FEBRUARY

18- Preschool Playdate @
11AM

26 - Club 45/ Youth @ 5PM -
7PM



Hey Parents,
Kids Connection meets every
Sunday from 10:30AM -
10:50AM in the Nest!
All K - 3rd graders are
welcome!

**EASTER
CANDY
DONATIONS
NEEDED!**



**WE ARE IN NEED OF PEANUT FREE CANDY TO
STUFF IN EGGS.**

**PLEASE PLACE ALL DONATIONS
IN THE BIN OUTSIDE OF THE VOLUNTEER'S
OFFICE BY MARCH 24TH.
THANK YOU!**



SOLAR PANELS

Repairs were recently made to the solar panels on the Fellowship Hall roof which brought several units back online that had been out of commission. The solar panel project is generating energy to save the church money on electricity while doing some good for the planet at the same time!

Solar Panel Benefits:

\$11,509.20 saved

CO2 Emission Saved

129,929.29 lb

Equivalent Trees Planted

981.73

(over approximately 3.5 years)



CARING FOR CAREGIVERS MINISTRY

Senior Joy, our new ministry for caregivers and those who receive their care, will meet Thursdays from 1:00pm – 3:00pm in the United Women of Faith Conference Room (B110).

Please contact Barbara Senter-Cordts at barbarasenter@gmail.com for more information.

Lent at FUMC

LENTEN PREVIEW

LENT BEGINS

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Tuesday, February 21

Ash Wednesday
February 22

COMING UP THIS YEAR DURING LENT

A Lenten sermon series on UMC Membership Vows

Lent at Home kits available

Egg My Yard egg hunts

Easter flower sales

HOLY WEEK APRIL 2 - 9

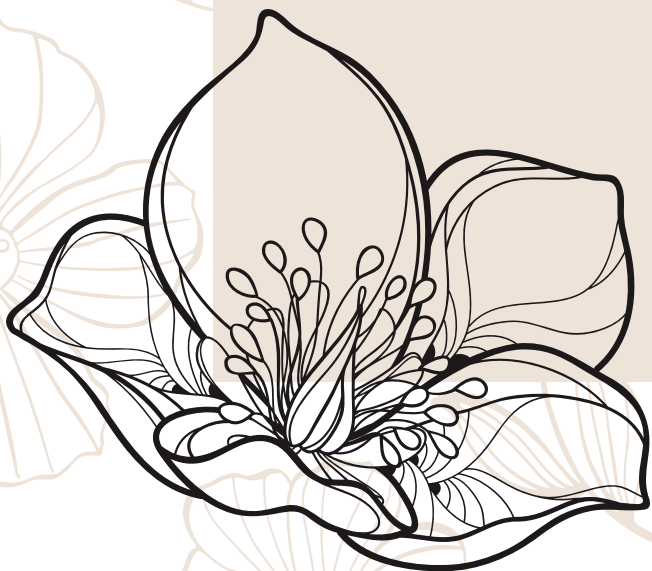
Palm Sunday
April 2

Lenten Prayer Stations
April 5

Maundy Thursday
April 6

Good Friday
April 7

Easter Day
April 9



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 James Johnson

2

3 Andy Swanson
Sutton Webb

4 Caroline Clark
Carolyn Elgin

5 Rachel Buchanan
Mo Culler
Ken Hollar

6 Samuel Howe
Earle Koontz
Garrett Miller

7 Court Drake

8 Connor Conforti

9 Regina Faggart

10 Michael Anderson
Glener Gilland
Carole Young

11 Mary Sue Leonard
Betsy Mowery

12

13 Ryan Anderson

14

15 Scotti Webb

16 Barry Gainer
Nicholas Peltz
Amelia Steinman
Will Steinman

17 Lauren Williams

18

19 Spencer West

20

21 William Clark
Kaleb Robinson
Mary Beth Scibilia
Mel Smith

22 Bill Linn

23

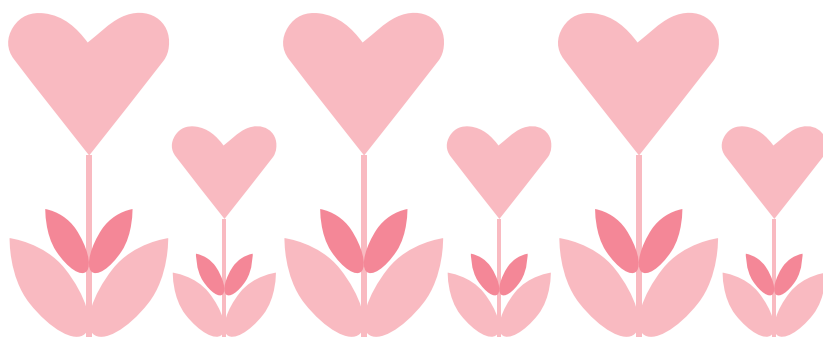
24 Jeff Matthews

25 Ben Weisensel

26 Barbara Saleeby
Pete Stout

27 Laura Koontz
Hannah Lineberry
Robert McGee

28 Faye Cline
Debbie Kolkebeck
Will Koontz



CELEBRATING BAPTISMS



In January we celebrated the baptisms of three children in our congregation. We rejoice with the families of

Hadley Ann

Daughter of Rev. Katie & Andy Lineberger

Asher Lee

Son of Rev. Katie & Andy Lineberger

&

Avery Paige

Daughter of Jessica & Cameron Potts



COMING UP...

Women's Beach Retreat

MARCH 16-19

You're invited to pray for the group of ladies going on this year's retreat!

Holy Week

APRIL 2-9

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week leading up to Easter Day

Scholarship Apps

DUE MID-APRIL

HS Seniors - your church scholarship applications are due in April

Do you have an article for the Ecclesia?

Send them to Jenni@fumcsalisbury.org with "(Month to be printed) Ecclesia" in the subject line.

Articles can be submitted by the first Friday of the month prior to when you would like it printed.

Access the Church Calendar Any Time

Access the church calendar any time! Just go to fumcsalisbury.org and look under the Connect tab. There you can also find a digital version of the Ecclesia.



FUMC FAMILY & EXTENDED FAMILY TRANSITIONS

IN REMEMBRANCE

Please keep these families in your prayers.

JEAN STAFFORD CORPENING

May 16, 1930 - December 26, 2022

JAMES CECIL MAPLES

February 25, 1937 - January 04, 2023

Brother of Barbara Senter Cordts

THOMAS HERMAN LANGFORD

July 29, 1930 - January 11, 2023

Father of Glenn, Gary & Drew Anne

BARBARA GRUBB WHITE

February 20, 1941 - January 12, 2023

Best Friend of Henry Buck

ROBERT "BJ" JACKSON

March 26, 1951 - January 20, 2023

Friend of Pastor Mark

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted..." ~ Psalm 34:18

THANK YOU!



THANK YOU to the following people who have served by chairing committees:

Endowment

Jesse McCartney

Finance

Phillip Floyd

Staff-Parish Relations

Chuck Bowman

Trustees

Dennis Barber

The 2023 Church Profile, which lists those currently serving on church leadership committees, has been published. Copies are available at the church, and online at <http://www.fumcsalisbury.org/leadership-team.html>

DIRECTORY UPDATES



Access the online directory anytime by going to fumcsalisbury.ctrn.co, following the link on our website (under 'Connect'), or downloading the Online Member Directory app on your smartphone or tablet. Enter the access code **fumcsalisbury** and your unique username and password.

You can update your information at any time, if you would like assistance in updating your information please contact the church office.

ECCLÉSIA

NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*making and nurturing Christian disciples
through the presence and power of God*

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