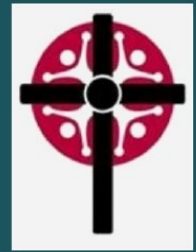


Connections

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
Ardmore United Methodist Church



May 2024

Bee Grateful

For the past four years, I have been learning to keep honey bees. Out on a farm I work with, we have boxes for a number of hives. But over the past few years, my bees haven't made it through the winter into Spring. This year, one finally made it.

As Josh Dalton and I walked around the church one night talking Trustee projects, he pointed out a hive of honey bees, going into a little hole and probably filling a large space over the side entrance next to the elevator. This space is three stories high, so it would be quite a feat to get to the entrance, or look in the space. But they are definitely honey bees. We may need to call an exterminator, or pest removal company, but I suggested we wait. March 15-May 1st is swarm season, a time when a colony of bees leave their home for a new location; there are many ideas about why this happens, but no one is quite sure.

Sure enough, on Maundy Thursday, a swarm gathered in a ball on the outside wall of the Sanctuary between stained glass windows. I called my beekeeping friends, and by the time they arrived, the swarm flew off over the roof to find new housing in Ardmore. The next week, we discovered 5 more swarms, and I got lucky enough to "catch" 4 of them. Each swarm has a queen bee, who has rubbed against other bees, then led them out with her scent in a cloud of wings until they settle down, usually on a limb or bush. Using my "bee suit" I was able to gently brush them into a bait hive, and waited to make sure the bees would stay—which means that I had brushed the queen into the box. Then later, sometimes after dark when the bees all go inside, I would put the bait hive into a netting bag with a locking draw string (this would prevent any bees that might come out from flying around my car) then put them in my trunk and take the hive boxes. Some of these swarms flew off, but three stayed and I have invited them to stay in my hive boxes.

I'm no Bee Master. Actually, no one is. Bees have their own reasons, their own work, community, organization. I bragged to some friends that I had caught some United Methodist bees, but then I realized that these swarms may have been trying to "disaffiliate" from the UMC. Who knows. The key to beekeeping is to provide a hospitable environment that they might like and stick around. Sometimes it works. Beekeeping is a cooperative adventure. If the hive is happy and healthy, we can harvest some of their honey. But honey is food, so come August we have to make sure they have enough to make it through a long winter. Perhaps this is a big metaphor for our work at Ardmore: providing an environment where some might find a community to be a part of. We don't "catch" a hive, but we can try and hold onto them for a while. Maybe by giving them something to do, something meaningful in community, we can encourage others to join in the work of feeding, storing, raising a new generation of leaders in the church.

There are lots of ways to think through this metaphor. And don't get me started on the puns... General Conference in the United Methodist Church will be over soon. Reports I have received indicate a time of renewal and hope for the church, as we turn the page on a wintery season of disaffiliations. No doubt, General Conference is a messy process for such a large, worldwide group of United Methodists. But perhaps we can take a hint from the bees, begin again, reestablish communities of faith that are healthy, busy caring for one another, and doing the work of raising the next generation in the hive. We look forward to an opportunity to talk about all of this in the coming weeks. Or, if we prefer, we can talk beekeeping. Thanks for the bees, Ardmore. And, for your continued commitment to be the Church. We have a rich 100 year history to celebrate, and it's time to start preparing for those that will come in the next 100 years.

Peace, Pastor Kelly



The Realtor, 1924

A group of Methodists who hoped to organize a new church in 1924 could benefit from having a variety of individuals with broad business experience who possessed a range of skills, including those with knowledge of real estate and insurance. Fortunately, such a man was involved in the efforts to found a Methodist Church in Ardmore: Charles Cleveland Smithdeal.

C. C. Smithdeal was born in Davie County in 1887. A 1911 graduate of Guilford College, he founded Smithdeal Realty and Insurance Company in 1914. He served in World War 1 in the Roentgenological (X-Ray) unit until June 1919, and upon his return, married Gladys Pfaff of Pfafftown. They would be blessed with three children: Charles, Fay (Deans), and Dick Smithdeal. By 1923, he and his brother had built homes in the "Melrose" section of Ardmore, and he helped organize the Lions Club, serving as its president in 1925

A former quarterly conference delegate from Centenary, Smithdeal was interested in starting a Methodist church in Ardmore. He was part of a group who visited Presiding Elder, Rev. W. A. Newell, in the late summer of 1924 to ask for help in obtaining a location and a founding pastor for the church. They explored locations, including an apple orchard on the newly-named Hawthorne Road (owned by Dr. Kerr, and donated to the church in October), and requested as their pastor the "founder of churches." Smithdeal was a leader among the temporary board of trustees who began meeting on October 1, and also served on the building committee that started meeting on October 21. The Smithdeals would offer their home on Elizabeth Avenue for the organizational meeting on October 26, where 54 Methodists attended and planned to join the new Ardmore M.E., South, Church. Mr. Smithdeal would remain quite active at Ardmore for more than fifty years, most notably serving numerous terms as Chairman of the Board of Stewards, Chairman of the Trustees, and the church's first historian and author of the first written history, "Ardmore: Birth of a Church", published in 1972. The influence of the Smithdeal family would continue for most of Ardmore's first century.

Next: The "Founder of Churches": Dr. Joseph S. Hiatt

Your church historian, Barbara Foster

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church requires that every pastor be appointed for one year at a time. I am excited to inform the congregational members of Ardmore UMC that Reverend Kelly Carpenter will again be appointed Pastor of Ardmore UMC , effective July 1, 2024. Please join me in congratulating Pastor Kelly Carpenter in his continued appointment to Ardmore UMC.

Peace and blessings,

Eddie Foster SPRC Chair

Ardmore Celebrates “A Century of Love; Moving Forward in Faith”

This October, Ardmore UMC will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding. In preparation for this momentous occasion, the Event Team has planned a full slate of events to help our church and surrounding community recognize our rich history, honor our enduring legacy, and envision our future with renewed faith and commitment.



With hearts full of gratitude and joy for the countless blessings we have received, we invite everyone to join in the upcoming celebrations listed below as we mark a century since our church first opened its doors transforming the Ardmore community and beyond. Let us come together to honor our past, celebrate our present, and inspire one another as we step forward into the next century of our church's journey.

May 17 Outdoor Movie Night
featuring church history trivia game with prizes

June 14 WS Dash Game
attendees are encouraged to wear 100th-anniversary t-shirts

August 11 End-of-Summer Block Party
featuring praise team concert, church-wide scavenger hunt, and Ardmore community outreach/involvement

September Meet & Eats
featuring recipes from past Ardmore cookbooks

October Weekly Worship Features

October 12 Playground Party
featuring 100th-anniversary themed craft, games, and snacks

October 22 Young at Heart Luncheon
featuring a storytelling panel with longtime members and relatives of church founders

October 26 100th Anniversary Celebration

October 27 100th Anniversary Worship Service

October 27 Ardmore Trunk or Treat

Thank you to the 100th Anniversary Event Committee for their planning and service:
Mary Jo Brewer, Jennifer Chapman, Jackie Connelly, Jessica Dalton, Barbara Foster,
Debbie Gough, Patti Heath, Lauren Jones, Nick Nicholson, and Tasha Strupe.

“Senior Moments”

May Day! May Day! May Day! Help!!! I can't keep up with the calendar. It's May already...isn't it a beautiful time of the year!!! The trees and flowers are so lovely...and the birds are singing beautifully. Ardmore UMC is buzzing with activity...and bees.

Have you been to a “Meet & Eat” event yet? I went last Sunday and had a great time; I enjoyed dinner with some new members...good food and good fellowship. Look out for information about these events. So far, we have them in the fall and spring, but maybe we will plan some for the summer. It's a great way to get to know our Ardmore members, new and not so new members. Speaking of new members, have you met our new members? We have many new members at Ardmore, and I hope that you are getting to know them. Don't be shy (like me), step out of your comfort zone and introduce yourself to visitors and new members. They are in both services and are anxious to get to know our members and be a part of Ardmore UMC. Participating in activities other than Sunday services is a good way to get to know them... Food Pantry, Playground Parties, Cookies in the Courtyard, Meet & Eat, Bible Study groups, UWF circles and Methodist Men groups. By the way, the Liturgy study, Thursday mornings, 10:30 a.m. - noon, is interesting and well-attended, similar to the Lenten study. Look for these opportunities to learn and fellowship with others.

Our Young at Heart event in April had to be changed but it worked out beautifully. “Miz Eudora Rumpf” had to be out of town and couldn't be with us in April, but she will be here in May. Scott Andree Bowen, one of our members who is a Regional Manager at Second Harvest Food Bank, spoke and shared lots of information about the Food Bank. Thank you, Scott, for a great program. Our May luncheon/program will be **May 28, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. in the Bob Martin Fellowship Hall.** We will have lunch and the cost is **\$12/person.** As I said, “Miz Eudora Rumpf” will be our speaker and she will entertain us with her life experience stories. Put May 28 on your calendar now and bring friends with you. I will send an email and make calls so that you can make your reservations. Or you can make your reservations by contacting me at maryjo@ardmoreumc.org, 336-723-5566 or 336-403-1871.

As we prepare to celebrate our 100th anniversary at Ardmore UMC, look for information and activities related to it. We will incorporate Ardmore's history and future in many activities. Don't forget to share pictures, mementos and memories that you may have. Have you seen the bulletin board between the preschool office and the elevator (next to the mission closet)? “If we celebrate the years behind us, they become steppingstones of strength and joy for the years ahead” (unknown).

Happy Mother's Day!!! May is a special month when we celebrate our mothers. It's special to remember your mother, whether she is still with you or not. Make memories as long as you can and cherish your memories from the past.

Love and Blessings to All!

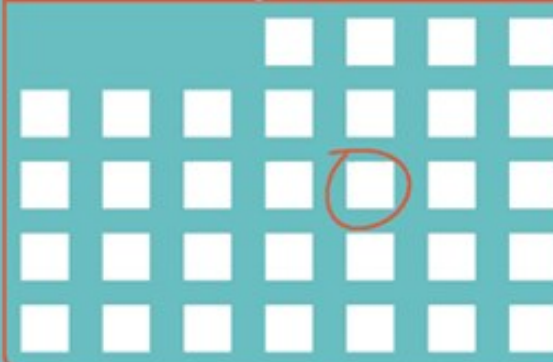
Mary Jo



UPCOMING EVENTS

at Ardmore UMC

May 2024



UNITED METHODIST MEN

DINNER & MEETING
MAY 21ST AT 6:30PM



MAY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 5/2 - Finance (7pm)
- 5/6 - Mission Engagement (6:30pm)
- 5/13 - Trustees (6PM)
- 5/18 - Events Team (9:30AM)

Thursday, May 9th

GAME
NIGHT

6:30pm - 8:30pm

ARDMORE TTWS PRESCHOOL GRADUATION



THURSDAY, MAY 23RD

YOUNG AT HEART

Older Adult Ministry

Tuesday, May 28th

11:45AM in Bob Martin Hall

Lunch is \$12 Per Person

RSVP to Mary Jo Brewer at mbrewer1227@gmail.com

BELLS OF CHRIST CONCERT

MAY 30TH @ 6:30PM

Greetings to and from Ardmore United Women in Faith!

The month, the lovely month, of May has arrived. One very special day falls on May 12. Of course it is Mothers' Day. This day brings to mind images of warmth and love and nurturing, all associated with the concept of motherhood.



United
Women
in Faith

For me, these images are also closely tied to the mothering work of United Women in Faith. After all, our Vision states that we are turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world. That sounds pretty maternal.

In April, the United Women in Faith of our Yadkin Valley District met at Fair Grove Church in Thomasville for the 2024 district Prayer Breakfast. This is always a meaningful event. This year it was unique, because the YVD United Women in Faith were hosted graciously by the Fair Grove Church United Women in Faith. The UWFaith of Fair Grove Church have opted to remain in the UWF organization even though their congregation has disaffiliated and is seeking admission to the Global Methodist Church. This is an example of how our United Women in Faith can and will remain a strong, supportive sisterhood regardless of the decisions taken by the congregational governments. We were blessed to have Rev. Marilyn Weiler as our speaker. As always, our sisters who have gone on ahead were remembered individually. The Hands On Project for the breakfast was donations of crock pots for the Yadkin Valley Faith and Food Initiative for the summer youth camp. Ardmore UWFaith donated two pots. It is not too late to support this project. If you feel led to contribute financially, you may give your donation to me, Mary Jo Brewer, Cathy Amos (Lydia Circle treasurer), or Patty Pate (Unit treasurer), or any other UWFaith member. Your donation, in any amount, will go as reimbursement for the crock pots we've given. Just be sure it is designated for the "Crock Pot Fund." Thank you!

On May 6, the UWF Board will meet at 11:00 in the Reception Room. One topic to be addressed will be the May 16 Food Pantry meal which the Ardmore UWFaith will prepare and serve.

Remember to order your geraniums for pickup at the church on May 3...in time for Mothers' Day! The deadline to order is April 30.

I do hope some of you will consider joining me at heavenly Lake Junaluska for the Western NC Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat set for Thursday, June 13 through Saturday, June 15. This year the theme is "Bringing LIGHT Into a Darkened World." And guess what?...the retreat leader will be our own Rev. Marilyn Weiler! Registration does close on June 10. Questions? Please contact me or leave a message in the church office for a call back.

So much to do; so many opportunities to serve. It is gratifying to know that our Lord finds us so capable of doing His work!

Till June then...Blessings! Nancy Norton, President Ardmore United Women in Faith

May Food Pantry Needs

Canned Meats & Vegetables
Baby and Adult Diapers

May Food Pantry Dates

Thursday, May 2nd
Thursday, May 16th

Clothing Closet

Spring and Summer Clothing
will be accepted on
Wednesday, May 1st.
Place clothing items in the bin
in the
Mission Engagement Closet.

From Carolyn Coram who works tirelessly on AUMC's American Red Cross Blood Drives

Wow, thank you Blood Drive volunteers, donors, scheduled and unscheduled. I received a call from The American Red Cross asking me "How in the World did you folks get 29 units of blood with 20 appointments?"

My response...."At Ardmore UMC God turns wine into blood." They loved it.

It was the increase in power red donors 🍌 and the walk-ins of folks who wanted to donate but had other commitments Saturday. These individuals remained determined to make it happen 🍌.

I have listed our totals for the 5 Ardmore UMC Blood Drives to date:

150 units collected 161 donors 32 average units per blood drive

The results are based on the collection goals set for us by The American Red Cross. Our trending downward made a welcome upturn this Saturday.

Our next scheduled Blood Drive is Monday, September 23. The Red Cross is HOPEFUL we will offer a drive this summer. I am contemplating June (56 days from Saturday's Blood Drive) when our blood donors can once again give blood.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you EVERYONE for this challenging (with regard to responding donors) yet phenomenal life giving and saving result.

Carolyn ❤️

Another Successful Visit to the Cherry St Prison



Day of Giving

Thank you to all who participated in our Day of Giving. We provided meals to SECU House residents; 50 bags of food so that staff can give to those in need who stop by our office; trash pickup around the campus and neighborhood; phone calls to the homebound; and 29 units of blood!



Muffins with Moms

SUNDAY, MAY 12TH

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ENJOY A SWEET TREAT IN HONOR OF MOMS IN OUR LIVES AND OUR COMMUNITY!

JOIN US ON THE FRONT LAWN FROM 10:45AM – 11:15AM!

ALL PRESCHOOL – ELEMENTARY AGE KIDS ARE INVITED TO A

PLAYGROUND PARTY!



SATURDAY, MAY 11TH (10AM-11AM)

ARDMORE UMC PLAYGROUND

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

JOIN US FOR GAMES, CRAFTS & A KIDS CONCERT!



KiDS

SUNDAY MORNINGS: KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP IN ROOM #215

DATE	THEME	ACTIVITIES
05/05/24 10AM & 11:15AM	WORSHIP: WE'RE ON A MISSION! Acts 1	Game: Chain Reaction Science Experiment: Dancing Raisins
05/11/24 10AM – 11AM	 PLAYGROUND PARTY 	Games, prizes, crafts & an awesome kids concert from 'Big, Bang, Boom!'
05/12/24 10AM & 11:15AM	WORSHIP: WE NEED MORE DISCIPLES! Acts 1	Game: Balloon Up Craft: Paper Bag Disciples
05/19/24 10AM & 11:15AM	WORSHIP: HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH! Acts 2	Game: Pom Pom Racing Craft: Birthday Cards
05/26/24 10AM & 11:15AM	WORSHIP: WE ALL NEED MORE FRUIT! Galatians 5	Game: What's the Fruit? Craft: Fruit Pie



Nursery (Birth – 18 Months) → Room #121

Preschool (18 Months – 4 Years) → Room #122



YOUTH

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS: YOUTH GROUP IN ROOM #217 STUDENTS 6TH – 12TH GRADE ARE WELCOME!

DATE	BIBLE STUDY/ACTIVITY	GAME
05/05/24 3:30PM – 5:30PM	BIBLE STUDY: SERVICE WITH A SMILE! LEARNING HOW TO MAKE SERVICE FUN	TORTIALL BITTEN ART
05/12/24 3:30PM – 5:30PM	NO YOUTH GROUP TODAY MOTHER'S DAY	
05/19/24 3:30PM – 5:30PM	BIBLE STUDY: SERVICE FILLED SUMMER MAKING A PLAN FOR THIS SUMMER	AIN'T NO PARTY LIKE A PENTECOST PARTY!
05/26/24 4PM – 6PM	KICK-OFF TO SUMMER COOK-OUT @ JOSH & JESSICA DALTON'S HOUSE!	



5/1 Suzanne Barrows Patti Heath	5/11 Harry Steele Jackson Ward	5/19 Charles Bailey, Jr.
5/2 Lee Stokes	5/12 Tom Johnson, Jr. Sara Unks	5/25 Mavis Hedrick William Jackson
5/4 Alex Patten	5/14 Anna Blackburn Bill Crawford, Jr.	5/27 Logan Brawley Janice Snider
5/5 Doug Brawley Mary Stuart	5/15 Wendy Adams Polly Alspaugh	5/28 Robert Foster
5/8 Les Hall Tasha Strupe	Sinclair Longbotham	5/29 Hazel Dalton Robert Heath Anderson Parker
5/9 Carol Corum	5/16 Bonnie Atwell	5/30 Pamela White-Brown
	5/17 Griffin Gough	

Game On! Game Night at Ardmore

Thursday, May 9, 2024 – 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Bob Martin Fellowship Hall

Get ready to break out the board games and dive into an evening of friendly competition and unending fun at Ardmore's Game Night! Whether you're a master of strategy or just looking to have a fun time, we have something for everyone.

For Families: Bring the kids and enjoy classics like Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, or try your hand at newer family favorites like Ticket to Ride! It's the perfect way to spend quality time with your little ones and make new friends.

For Adults: Looking for something a bit more challenging? Join fellow adults in trivia and strategy games like Trivia Pursuit, Rummikub, or bring one of your favorites to share. Enjoy great conversation as you claim victory!

We'll provide a selection of board games to choose from as well as a friendly game-hosting team to help newcomers. It's free to participate, so bring your game face and a friend or two, and let's make it a night to remember! Connect with fellow church members in a relaxed and joyful setting. Whether you come to win or just to play, it's sure to be a night filled with laughter, fellowship, and plenty of board game fun.

RSVP: Advanced registration is not required, but it helps to know who is coming. Contact Jackie Connelly (jackiemconnelly@aol.com, 931-409-3160) or sign up at Sunday worship services. We can't wait to see you there!

Congregational Concerns

We pray for those who:

Need healing: Sylvia Caldwell, Jan Carter, Jane Click, Alice Dalton, Patrick Edenfield, Betty Frazier, Margaret Foster, Peggy Hall, Joanne Hamlet, Page Hartsell, Mavis Hedrick, Ruby Houlden, Cynthia Hulet, Sara Knott, Elizabeth Martin, Charli Neal, Ken Norton, Darlene Owens, Sylvia Powell, Marilyn Reins, Harry Steele, Ralph (Tom) White, Sue Wilkinson and Jane Wooten.

Those grieving: Nifong family, loss of Roy. Tyler family, loss of son Chris.

Who come to Our Father's Table Food Pantry/Clothing Closet.