



CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF ARDMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sleeping Jesus

"They took him in the boat as he was. Other boats came along. A huge storm came up. Waves poured into the boat, threatening to sink it. And Jesus was in the stern, head on a pillow, sleeping! They roused him, saying, "Teacher, is it nothing to you that we're going down?" Awake now, he told the wind to pipe down and said to the sea, "Quiet! Settle down!" The wind ran out of breath; the sea became smooth as glass." Mark 4:36-39 The Message

Sometimes, to be fully honest, I feel like Jesus is just sleeping through the storms of our lives. Or better put, maybe he is just too busy to deal with all the stuff that is going on around us. We see such pain and suffering as we hear about fires, famines, hurricanes, floods, pandemics, senseless murders, wars and so many other BIG things which need to be dealt with rather than our small, "petty" needs. And yet, I also think our needs are quite valid. We have had a terrible week in our city. A child lost his life through senseless violence at Mt. Tabor High and he was taken away too soon by another child. After days like those of this past week, I want to shout out at Jesus, "Would you please just WAKE UP! Don't you know we need you?"

From Mark's lesson above there are two things I discovered which both resonate in my heart and percolate in my soul that may help you in the midst of the tragedies we face. The first is this, Jesus is present in the storm and though it may seem he is sleeping, he is right here, right now (the name Emmanuel literally means "God is with us!") Secondly, Jesus has the power to bring good from all things, not overlooking them but transforming things in the midst of our brokenness. He calmed the storm and the disciples were overwhelmed as their faith went from him being teacher to savior.

I enjoyed the following quote I discovered this past week while on vacation at the beach: *"The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore."* - Vincent Van Gogh
Ironically, Vincent Van Gogh is famous for his failures more than his faith. However, he was not only a person of faith but the child of a Protestant pastor (no wonder preacher's children get a bad rap). Vincent reminded us that we are to batten down the hatches, hunker down in faith and trust that God will provide a way through the storm. Though it may feel like the world is

crashing in on us right now, the storms will subside. We will be okay, because God is with us. Maybe VanGogh is reminding us to stay the course, it will be okay someday.

So here is the thing, and I think it is quite wonderful to think about. It is okay for us to shout at God in the midst of our frustration, pain and suffering. God can handle it and God will! Maybe, just maybe, the next time you feel like shouting with me, "Would you please just WAKE UP! Don't you know we need you?" you will see him wryly smile at our faith and say, "I have. I am right here. And it is your job to start the healing with me." Though the world seems troubled with sufficient dangers to go around, we cannot remain on the shore in fear but wade into the deep waters of this world to share the healing, transforming love of Emmanuel, God is with us. Jesus came to change this broken world, but it begins with him healing our hearts, our souls and our minds. Sleeping Jesus is not asleep, he is just preparing us to join in his endeavor to save the world.

Grace, peace and love,

Matt



For important events and dates, please view the full church calendar at:

<https://ardmoreumc.org/calendar>

 IT'S GAME TIME! AND FIREWORKS!
and Shalom Project night with the Dash!

ENJOY A DASH BASEBALL GAME WITH A SPECIAL TICKET PRICE
\$14 FOR YOU (SAVINGS OF \$4) - \$3 FOR TSP!

SEPTEMBER 17 2021	TRUIST STADIUM playing Asheville Tourists gates open 6:15	FRIDAY 7:00 PM
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**Reserve your tickets with our dedicated sales rep
Bobby Lemons**

Call (336) 714-6860

or

email bobby.lemons@wsdash.com

Purchase Tickets by

Thursday, September 9th @ 4:00 p.m.

Children's Ministry



Check out the awesome new worship bags called "PRAISE PACKS" at the entrances to both of our worship spaces. These goodie bags are a great opportunity for children to engage in worship in fun and special ways!

We as a church continue to discuss Children's Ministry at Ardmore and what that looks like and we'd love for you to take 2 minutes and fill out this easy survey for us to gain more information about what our families need. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TXN5V6C>

Thank you so much, and if you ever have questions about our children's ministry or a desire to serve in this special ministry please contact Jessica Dalton at jessicad@ardmoreumc.org



CONNECT Youth



Our Youth Group had a great time at our Back-to-School Bash on Monday, August 23rd with all kinds of water games and ice cream sundaes. We are all looking forward to an awesome year of growing together and growing in Christ.

Check out some of the ideas our amazing students shared as topics they would like to dig into this year as a youth group: Bible Study (various books mentioned), Poetry in the Bible, Parables and parallels to our lives, Accepting Others... the list goes on and on but we are pumped for the 2021-2022 year together at CONNECT Youth.



We are currently meeting Monday evenings from 6:00PM - 7:30PM and if you are interested in joining us or have questions please don't hesitate to contact Jessica Dalton jessicad@ardmoreumc.org

Playground Update

It has been quite some time since the auction in May 2019 to raise funds for a playground renovation. It has been disheartening that efforts have lagged, in large part from shutdowns in 2020 due to the pandemic, in part due to financial constraints, and trying to work within the parameters of a comprehensive park plan.

A recently formed Playground Committee is working to renovate the middle playground (ages 2-5). There has been a site visit with Michelle Stewart from Playgrounds by Kaplan on July 30, 2021. The objectives of the Playground Committee are to enlarge the middle playground to accommodate a multi-purpose play item donated to AUMC by the Ronald McDonald House, two new springer toys, new swing seats, new mulch, and railroad ties. New fencing will be needed as well. Ms. Stewart has apologized for the delay in getting a quote; she is in contact with the manufacturer of the RMHouse equipment for assurance that if replacement parts are needed, they can be obtained. She is awaiting their reply. Several fence quotes have been received. However, due to Covid and manufacturing shutdowns, a delay of 4-6 months is possible. It has been discouraging that the middle playground could not be updated prior to Through the Week School reopening on September 7. (Please be in prayer for a successful year for TTWS!) Our playground areas are available not only for our church members and TTWS students and families, but for the community at large. It can be an inviting and welcoming space and an opportunity for all of us to take a moment to welcome strangers in our midst whenever we are at the church.

We have a committee that is dedicated in our efforts to accomplish a playground renovation of the middle and large playground areas and determined in our resolve to see this outcome.

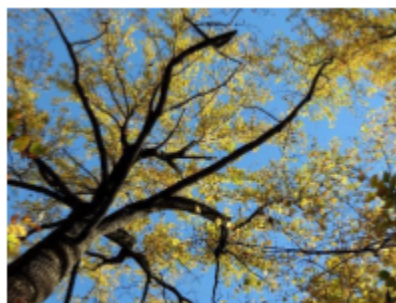
Playground Committee Members: TTWS Director Robin Fulk, Eva Jane Felts, Steve Felts, Marilyn Parker, Belinda Beard, Alan Beard, Kim Correll, Keith Gough, Debbie Gough

A Note from Trustees

Church Trustees wish to give members an awareness of tree work that will be occurring on our church campus in the upcoming weeks.

During the process of receiving quotes for two dead trees on the large playground and the dying maple in front of the church office as well as some general tree cleanup, it was discovered that the fungus growing at the base of two willow oaks in front of Rozzelle Chapel is not benign. It indicates disease and the fungus has been destroying the root systems of the trees. The tree itself may look healthy but is vulnerable to falling at any time. There is no effective treatment to cure the disease. For this reason, and to hopefully prevent the spread of the fungus to the willow oaks in front of the sanctuary, it has been recommended by several tree services that the trees come down.

We know this saddens many of us. Trustees want you to know this in advance and be prepared for this change in the landscape.



I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER SEE

A poem AS LOVELY

AS A tree

~Joyce Kilmer



Ardmore UMC responded to teacher and student needs with amazing results!! Working with the Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Schools' office of "Community Engagement" the recipient of your donated school supplies is Diggs-Latham Elementary School. The Principal, Cassandra Dobson, and Bilingual Parent Liaison, Diane Castillo, greeted the delivery with disbelief and passionate delight for the abundance and diversity of all that was received. The teachers and students of Diggs-Latham are blessings of hope for engaging and successful teaching and learning. The question that arose was what made the Ardmore UMC congregation give so generously. Our response their sincere question...huge hearts that are GIVING BACK for the education we received and GIVING FORWARD for the education that will be a forever blessing for these growing and learning minds.

Your Ardmore UMC Mission Engagement Team



Thank you Ardmore UMC for your ongoing donations to our United Methodist Committee on Relief as lives are devastated and so frantically in need of HOPE! Continued donations may be made by check made payable to Ardmore UMC with UMCOR RELIEF RESPONSE on the memo line or via the church website indicating UMCOR Relief Response <https://abundant.co/ardmoreumc/give>

Report on Haiti: The UMCOR response to the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti on August 14 is underway. The quake, which particularly damaged the southern and western regions of the island, has left more than 2,200 dead and 12,000 injured.

Several hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. Those still open are completely overwhelmed, lacking sufficient personnel and medical supplies. UMCOR has already awarded grants to provide urgently needed medical supplies. The first grant, to the Église Méthodiste d'Haiti (Methodist Church in Haiti), in coordination with local doctors and nurses, will supply two clinics in Gebeau and Les Cayes with medical supplies. The second, to Service Chrétien d'Haiti (SCH), will supply Les Cayes General Hospital. These grants will enable the procurement of bandages, gauze, IV fluids, antibiotics, and, given the continuing coronavirus pandemic, Personal Protection Equipment. Access to the impacted areas is limited due to extensive damage and, sadly, gang violence, but the Haitian government and high-ranking United Nations officials have negotiated humanitarian access for relief convoys.

(UMCOR International Disaster Relief)

Canton, NC and Haywood County: "This is a message from the Town of Canton with several important updates for everyone. First, we are asking everyone to avoid the Downtown Canton area for the safety of all. We cannot get the streets cleaned and ready to open if we are continuously trying to control traffic. Please avoid all streets downtown. With that said, all downtown streets going both directions are closed, all side streets leading into town are closed, 19/23 in both directions to the Buncombe County line are closed, and Rhoda St. is closed until further notice. The water filter plant is back online and producing water and we are asking that everyone conserve water at this time to allow the reservoirs to fill. We also ask that if anyone sees a water line leak to please report to the police department at 828-648-2376. The boil water advisory is in effect until further notice. All town facilities are closed until further notice. We do want to assure our citizens that the police and fire departments are fully operational and are ready to assist in emergency situations. This is a very difficult time for everyone involved so we ask that everyone use extreme caution and patience during this time." **(UMCOR US Disaster Relief)**

Humphreys County Tennessee: Recovery efforts are underway after extreme floods devastating swathes of Humphreys County Tennessee. Flood waters left portions of Waverly, Tenn. in ruins sweeping homes from their foundations. A state of emergency has been issued for Dickson, Hickman, Houston and Humphreys counties. Monetary donations will be the best way to help those impacted in the coming days, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency Director Patrick Sheehan said. "People will be working to find new homes or temporary living arrangements for weeks and months to come," Sheehan said, "and there are a number of reputable organizations that will help process donations and have case workers that can get them to those who are in need." **(UMCOR US Disaster Relief)**

Carolyn Coram

“Senior Moments”

It must be true that the older we get, the faster time goes by. Is that a scientific fact? I can't figure out why time goes by so quickly nowadays. At least, we still have time to do meaningful things...like spend time with family and friends. Time is a gift which we can use wisely or waste foolishly. Sometimes the latter is okay too. We all need to take time to rest and just “be” and that's not being foolish.

Good news!!! Young at Heart will resume **Tuesday, September 28 at 11:45 a.m. in the Bob Martin Hall** (fellowship hall). **Cameron Kent** will speak. We will order sandwich boxes from Jason's Deli. Remember that we must stay safe when we gather and our previous catering isn't a good idea now. We will have boxed lunches, sandwiches from Jason's Deli. I hope that you can join us...look for a call and/or email to make a reservation. Let's hope that nothing causes us to cancel.

Last month I shared that there is a new Unity class, with members of the Christian Fellowship and Upper Room classes forming the new class. It is now the Upper Fellowship Unity Class. I didn't have the correct name in the August article and I also gave the room number incorrectly...they will meet in room 204 at 9:00 a.m. I apologize for any confusion in August. The new class is blessed to have excellent and interesting teachers each week, just as they had in their previous classes. Their teachers are Eddie Foster, Marilyn Parker, Eva Jane Felts, J.R. Snider and Carolyn Webster and they rotate each Sunday of each month. The lesson is finished in time for you to attend the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Check out the Upper Fellowship class some Sunday.

As I have often said, we have members who are not able to attend church activities and that was made worse by the pandemic. It is getting bad again with the Delta variant of Covid in our midst now and some of the facilities are not allowing visitors again. We need to let our friends know that we care about them and that we are thinking of them, as we always have been. Cards and phone calls mean a lot to our members. If you need an address or phone number, please let me know.

I hope that the autumn season brings blessings your way...and cool weather. Keep this quote in mind each day of every season, “The most beautiful way to start and end a day is with a grateful heart.” (Charlie Brown & Snoopy/Charles Schultz) Wise words come from all sources.



Autumn Blessings to all,

Mary Jo

maryjo@ardmoreumc.org/336-723-5566



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Greetings to and from the Ardmore United Methodist Women!

As I write this, Ardmore United Methodist Women members are preparing for this year's UMW Sunday (August 29.) Our speaker is to be Chaplain Peggie Wells of Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry. We are looking forward to sharing an informative message and to a time of fellowship and re-commitment to our UMW Purpose.

Our next UMW Western NC Conference event will be held **September 11-12**. This is the date of the **Annual Conference Celebration**. There is complete information on our website: www.wnccumw.org Register and ZOOM to participate. You'll be glad you did!

Our Ardmore United Methodist Women Executive Board is now working on plans for a general Ardmore meeting of all circles next month. Watch for more information on this. In the meantime, our circles...Deborah, Martha, and Miriam...are encouraged to meet in-person in September. Of course, Stitchers have been meeting nearly *every week* all through the pandemic!

Christmas will be here before we know it...it *always* is! Please remember **RADA** fundraising when you plan your gifting. Here, again, is the website to go to to order fine RADA products and donate **40%** of purchase price to Ardmore United Methodist Women.

Blessings!

Nancy Norton, President

Ardmore United Methodist Women

September Birthdays

9/01

Dolores Kanouse
Donna Blackburn
Jak Wallis

9/02

Michelle Tiernan
Rachel McGinnis

9/03

Carolina Simmons
Gary Johnson
Elise Myers

9/04

Tammy Sexton
Zach Willis
Jack Colwell

9/05

Jamie Kirby
Rachel Hembree

9/06

Skylar Roberts

9/07

Marilyn Reins
Sybil McLeese

9/08

Amelia Johnson
Kim Sink
Drew Blackwell
Sammy Scheerer
Kaylie Dahlen

9/09

Ray Roy
Matt Williams
Stephanie Rehm
Heidi Schwartz
Matt Rogers
Emma Slater
Lily Jones

9/10

James Savage
Eva Jane Felts
Carolyn Webster
John Schmidt
Milton Kern
Liam Griffin

9/11

Tyler Leaphart

9/12

Sally Blackburn
Jerry Chapman
Jay Jackson

9/13

Teri Liles
Sienna Liles

9/15

Marguerite Wilson
Douglas Ruder
Pete Burney
Angie Ware
Dreama Lovitt

9/16

Ken Norton
Melanie Truitt
David Sherrill
Catherine Dyer

9/17

Mary Whiteheart
Peter Hucks
Katherine Vye

9/18

Jordan Jackson

9/19

Wilson Crawford
Dennis Seay
Michael Stuart

9/20

Walt Unks
Elizabeth Rogers

9/21

Nancy Harvel
Barbara Goldsmith
Kevin Seay
Cooper Lindel
Sally Lindel

9/22

Eddie Draughn

9/23

Betsy McNichols
Wesley Robinson

9/24

Trin Rehm

9/25

Janice Weeks
Creola Servers
Edie Long
Hannah Jones

9/26

Janet Long
Hank Ely
Paige Deaton

9/27

Brian Laverdure
Aric Clinkscales

9/28

Edith Knott
Diane Spainhower

9/29

Jane Edwards

9/30

Lane Lamphear

Congregational Concerns

We pray for those who:

Need healing: Peggy Andrews, Lois Brown, Sylvia Caldwell, Jan Carter, Ruth Carter, Jane Click, Bobbi Cobb, Alice Dalton, Patrick Edenfield, Betty Frazier, Bethany Goodman, Carolyn Hankins, Peggy Hall, Joanne Hamlet, Hattie Hauser, Charles Hedrick, Ruby Houlden, Treva Jackson, Elizabeth Martin, Roy Nifong, Joanna Page, Sylvia Powell, Jane Reade, Genie Reynolds, Betty Richardson, Bob Stahl, Chris Steele, Harry Steele, Livia Timmons, Bert and Janice Weeks, Sue Wilkinson, Cynthia Hulet, Judy Lundgren, Sara Knott

Who grieve and offer our deepest condolences to the families and friends of: Nancy Harvel

Who serve our country.

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

Requested Items for Our Father's Table: Apple Juice, Ranch Dressing, Shelf Milk Instant Potatoes, Soup with pop top lids, Cans fruit with pop top lids, Breakfast Cereals for Children and Adults, Breakfast Bars, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Canned White Potatoes, Adult Diapers (male/Female and all sizes), Diapers for Children (sizes 4-6), Cat food dry and wet (for Food Pantry guests)

Thank you for your donations!



Join us Sunday mornings for online worship!

**Traditional 10:00 am
Contemporary 11:15 am**



[Click here to go directly to our YouTube page](#)

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