

Connections

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
Ardmore United Methodist Church



NOVEMBER 2023

From the Pastor's Pen

"Thanksgiving Memories"

Dear Friends in Christ,

I love the fall of the year, especially the vistas of dramatic colors as trees along the roadways and across the fields shout out the beauty of God's seasonal creation. The sweltering heat of summer is gone, the cool of the evening beckons us to evening walks and visits with neighbors. Even Jody Pierre, our ten pound toy poodle seems to have extra joyful energy when I walk him in the yard and he sniffs his way through the leaves that are already beginning to blanket the yard!

Thanksgiving Beckons Us

Of course, as we flip the calendar page to November, the Thanksgiving holiday looms before us. We begin to make plans for family gatherings, or if we celebrate the holiday just the two of us, discussion of fond memories of "Thanksgivings Past" always seems to occur. One memory that stands out in my mind was back in the 1990's when I had given notice to our grown children that it was time that year for everyone to gather at our parsonage for the holiday as we hadn't been together for some time. They all came, with their spouses, and Linda fixed a wonderful, traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. After the meal, we sat around the dining room table sharing memories and stories from the past when they were growing up. It even included some confessions! (The kids figured that now they were grown and had families of their own, I could no longer tell them they were grounded!) The laughter around that table that day was a rich blessing as we celebrated a family in which love for each other had always prevailed. And how wonderful it was to recall how God had brought us through one challenge after another, and was continuing to do so. And we remembered loved ones who had already been called home to heaven, and thanked God for their impact on our lives. I hope your Thanksgiving celebration this year will be filled with such rich memories and moments of gratitude.

Annual Charge Conference

November will also bring our annual Charge Conference on the evening of November 14. Our committees will have prepared projected leadership lists for 2024, a budget for the new year, and the submission of required forms as well. So thank you to our various committees for their hard work preparing for this important meeting.

Mixed Blessings

November will also be our first month without our wonderful Associate Pastor, Katy Medinas-Lockley whose last Sunday with us was October 29. Katy had spent a lot of time prayerfully discerning God's call in her life and ministry, and her heart's great and passionate desire was to be in the ministry of chaplaincy. She has been such a blessing to the Ardmore congregation and to me as an interim lead pastor. She has left an indelible mark on the history of Ardmore's vital ministries. Thank you for allowing me to be part of the Ardmore family for at least a part of your journey going forward!

Yours in Christ,

Bob Jew

Message from SPRC I am excited to inform you that effective January 1st, 2024, the Rev. Kelly Carpenter will be appointed Pastor of Ardmore UMC. This announcement was made at the end of the church service this past Sunday October 29th. We look forward with anticipated excitement to Rev. Kelly Carpenter becoming our pastor on January 1st, 2024.

Peace and blessings, Eddie Foster SPRC Chair

Rev. Kelly P. Carpenter grew up in church parsonages, a “preacher’s kid,” from Indiana. He was ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church in 1995. Kelly received a Bachelor of Arts with degrees in Religion, Philosophy & English Literature from the University of Indianapolis, 1988; in 1994, he received a Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School. He has certifications from the Haden Institute as a Spiritual Director and Dream Leadership.

Kelly has lived in both Greensboro and Chicago. For 20 years, he served as Senior Pastor of Green Street United Methodist Church where he founded The Shalom Project, a local non profit whose mission is to disrupt the cycle of poverty for people. In 2021, Kelly began working in an extension ministry appointment as the Executive Director of Threshold Retreat, working toward the construction of a Retreat Center in East Bend, NC. The first project of this non profit was Threshold Farm, which has taken on the mission of providing organic fresh food for people facing food insecurity. In 2023, he returned to parish ministry at Baltimore church in East Bend, and in July as the Senior Pastor of the Anchor Cooperative Parish (churches: Shady Grove, Prospect, New Home, Mt. Pleasant) all in East Bend & Booneville.

Kelly has a love of writing/reading poetry, organic gardening, dreamwork, watching basketball, jazz and running. Kelly is married to Dr. Lyn Parkerson Carpenter, a clinical psychologist for children and their families. They have one daughter, Kate, a Senior at NC State University studying film and screenwriting. The Carpenters have lived in the Ardmore neighborhood for 15 years.



Congratulations to Meredith Lindel on being awarded our Lay Person of the Year here at Ardmore UMC. On Sunday October 15th, 2023, a District Laity Service was held at Booneville UMC where Meredith was recognized and given the Laity Service Award for Ardmore UMC. Meredith volunteered exponential hours taking care of church finances for several months while we were without a business manager. Congratulations and thank you to Meredith Lindel!

Eddie Foster Lay Leader and SPRC Chair



Greetings to and from Ardmore United United Women in Faith!

Apologies for missing the October newsletter deadline. (Darn that Covid!) Had I been in shape to put together a submission I would have mentioned the 2023 Annual Celebration of the Western NC Conference of United Women in Faith, which met at Lake Junaluska from September 8 to September 10. It was a wonderful time of renewal, reflection, refueling, and fellowship. If you imagine that it was a quiet, peaceful, event, then you apparently did not hear about the active shooter episode at Lambuth Hotel that had the Terrace and all the other buildings on the campus locked down for a couple of hours. Fortunately no one was killed. We were informed by the sheriff that the shooter, who was apprehended, and the victim were known to each other. Beyond that we were told little else. But a few of us bloodhounds are not giving up... we will be sniffing out more details. Wait and see!

Also in September, Ardmore UWF provided and served the meal at the Latina Flourish program weekly meeting. We will do two more meals in the spring. We are joyfully invested in this Shalom Project program and are happy to help them with these meals.

This Saturday, October 28, from 10:00 till noon our Yadkin Valley District will have our annual Leadership Training meeting at Pine Grove UMC. Our speaker will be Nara Melkonyan, Country Director for Armenia for Project Agape, a longstanding United Women in Faith mission. By Saturday Nara will have visited with our Stitchers Circle at their weekly Wednesday meeting. A busy lady!

Our big event for November will be a combined general meeting, World Thank Service, and brunch on Thursday, November 16, at 11:00 a.m. in Bob Martin Hall. We hope to have a "full house" that morning. There will be good food, door prizes, and, of course, delightful company. We will try to put everyone in a true Thanksgiving frame of mind in preparation for the Thursday to follow.

Till December then... Blessings and good health!

Nancy Norton, President Ardmore United Women in Faith



“Senior Moments”

Don't you love the weather this fall!!! One day it feels like fall and the next day it feels like summer...it changes constantly. I'm not complaining, and I can't do anything about it, so I'll adapt. Actually, it's nice to have warm weather for all the activities that are going on this month...football & soccer

games, bazaars, Playground Party and playing on our wonderful playgrounds at Ardmore UMC. And we celebrate Thanksgiving is this month...family fun!

Our October Young at Heart event was great. We enjoyed hearing J.R. Snider share stories about trains and depots in the area and around North Carolina through old postcard pictures. It was a very interesting presentation. Our next program/luncheon will be Tuesday, December 5, 2023...not in November. Pastor Bob Kerr and his wife Linda will present our musical program. Put it on your calendar now...you know how busy it gets between Thanksgiving and Christmas... **Tuesday, December 5, 11:30 a.m. Bob Martin Fellowship Hall, Ardmore UMC.** I'll send an email and/or make phone calls so that you can make your reservations. We will have a catered meal also (\$12/person). I'll give more details in the December newsletter and in the email. I hope that you can join us. We have good programs, good food and good fellowship...and all are welcome, regardless of age.

With Thanksgiving being this month, it's a good time to send a card or make a call to some of our homebound members. They like to be remembered. Let me know if you need contact information. As I visit, I hear a lot about how they miss being at church on Sundays and for activities at other times. They are very interested in what is happening at Ardmore and they ask about our members whom they miss seeing and being with.

As we continue to go through changes, I think about how change is perceived differently by all of us. I try to be positive with change, but change is not always easy. I heard a quote last summer that lightens the mood about change. “Nobody likes change except a wet baby.” (author unknown). We were blessed to have Katy for three years and now she has moved to the Triangle area of NC...another change for Ardmore. I'm just thankful to have had Katy for this time.

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

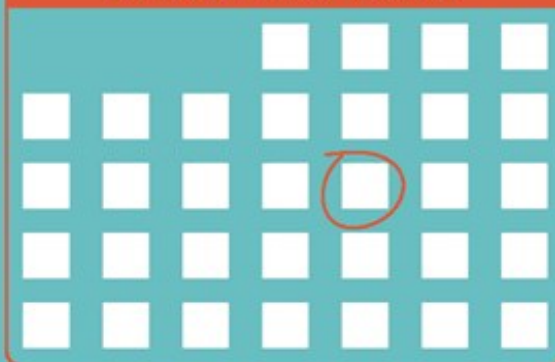
Mary Jo



UPCOMING EVENTS

at Ardmore UMC

November 2023



All Saints Day

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

church council MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH @ 6:30PM

ALL PRESCHOOL - ELEMENTARY AGE KIDS ARE INVITED TO A

PLAYGROUND PARTY!

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

ARDMORE UMC PLAYGROUND

JOIN US FOR GAMES, A THANKFULNESS ACTIVITY & A SWEET TREAT!
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!!!

HAPPY Thanksgiving!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

HANGING of the GREENS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH
MEAL @ 6PM // SERVICE @ 6:30PM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD



Mission Engagement

<p><u>Food Pantry Needs</u></p> <p>Canned Tuna Canned Chicken Canned Vegetables Canned Fruit Baby Diapers (Any size) Adult Diapers (Any size)</p> 	<p><u>Organizations that benefit from</u> <u>Ardmore United</u> <u>Methodist Church:</u> The Shalom Project Crisis Control Second Harvest Food Bank Forsyth Prison Ministry Senior Services Meals on Wheels Open Arms Ministry Crossnore School City with Dwellings Bethesda Center World Relief of the Triad UMAR Wesley Foundation UMCOR</p>
<p><u>Clothing Closet Needs</u></p> <p><u>Women</u> -Small and medium shirts and blouses -Pocketbooks</p> <p><u>Men</u> -Small and medium shirts -Underwear</p>	<p><u>Coming in November:</u></p> <p>Our Annual Angel Tree Project To benefit the children of Open Arms Ministry whose primary mission is To share the love, hope and joy of Christ by offering on-site programming for children and their families</p>

Thank you to all who donated and volunteered for our Annual Day of Giving. With your help, we provided 25 units of blood for the American Red Cross, a community cleanup with 12 children and adults, much-needed donations for 11 new families arriving through World Relief of the Triad, 40 boxed lunches packed and delivered to SECU House and comforting phone calls to our homebound members. Thank you, AUMC!

Request for Love Feast Volunteers

We need 16 servers for the Love Feast held on Sunday, December 17. Please contact Stephanie Rehm by email: rehmsl@bellsouth.net, slrehm@novanthealth.org or cell phone 336-692-4313.

Volunteers to meet at 4:00, service begins at 5:30.

The Cup of Life: Annual Women's Retreat

When: March 8-10, 2024

Where: Valle Crucis Conference Center
146 Skiles Way, Banner Elk, NC 28604

Cost: \$200 (2 nights lodging/6 meals)

Deposit: \$50 due December 1st
to reserve your spot

Sign up today!

Contact Eva Jane Felts ejfelts@triad.rr.com

Marilyn Parker marilynarker0462@gmail.com



Grief Gathering

DEC. 14TH

10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Have you lost someone close to you in the past couple of years? A spouse, friend, or other family member? Join us for lunch, craft, and time to remember our loved ones.



RSVP to ejfelts@triad.rr.com by Dec. 7th



SUNDAY MORNINGS: KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP IN ROOM #215
KIDS PRE-K – 5TH GRADE & PARENTS ARE WELCOME!

DATE	THEME	ACTIVITIES
11/05/2023 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP What is Sin?: Genesis 3	Game: Hide & Seek Craft: Good Fruit vs. Bad Fruit
11/11/2023 10AM – 11AM	 PLAYGROUND PARTY 	Fun, Games, Crafts, & A Sweet Treat!
11/12/2023 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP Why Do People Sin?: Genesis 4 – 5	Game: Shepherd Race Craft: Emoji Feelings
11/19/2023 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP Who Is Noah, and What Did He Build?: Genesis 6 – 10	Game: Plane, Boat or Hike Craft: Rainbow Experiment
11/26/2023 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP A Confusing Tower: Genesis 10 – 11	Game: Building Challenge Craft: Bird Feeders
11/29/2023 6:30PM	HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE	A Special Service to Prepare & Decorate Our Church For Advent & Christmas



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

DATE	BIBLE STUDY/ACTIVITY	GAME
11/05/2023 3:30PM – 5:30PM	'GIVE THANKS' BIBLE STUDY WEEK #1	TURKEY TAG
11/12/2023 3:30PM – 5:30PM	'GIVE THANKS' BIBLE STUDY WEEK #2	FALL FUED
11/19/2023 3:30PM – 5:30PM	THANKSGIVING PRAYER STATIONS	TURKEY TROT
11/26/2023 3:30PM – 5:30PM	 FRIENDSGIVING @ THE DALTON'S HOUSE 	
11/29/2023 6:30PM	HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE	A Special Service to Prepare & Decorate Our Church For Advent & Christmas

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Each 8" plant is \$18.00. Please complete the information below and return with payment to the church office or place in the offering plate.

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Name _____ Phone _____

Circle one

In Memory of OR In Honor of _____

In Memory of OR In Honor of _____

In Memory of OR In Honor of _____

In Memory of OR In Honor of _____

Number Ordered _____ x \$18.00 = Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to Ardmore UMC, note Poinsettia on memo line

**Poinsettias will be available for pick up immediately after
the Love Feast Service on Sunday, December 17**



Notes from Cheryl's desk

Alternative gift cards to support the Food Pantry will be available to purchase next week. See Eva Jane Felts or come by the church office.

The church directory is available to pick up in the office. If you did not have your picture included the cost is \$10. There will be a free app available in the coming weeks. We will have

11/1
Jay Brown
Seth Parker

11/2
Rhy Fernandez
Christine Reynolds
Jonah Unks

11/3
Jimmy Walker

11/4
Dave McDonald
Joy Troyer

11/6
Phillip Ivey

11/7
Jack Penny
Frances Taylor

11/9
Meredith Lindel

11/10
Gavin Lamphear

11/11
Laila Swinson



11/19
Cynthia Folwell

11/20
Carolyn Coram

11/21
Edward Foster
Helena Holder
Kevin Longbotham

11/22
John Sexton

11/23
Everett Klinger

11/28
Shelby Sitison
Nancy Stahl

11/29
Jill Baxter
Lauryn Miller

11/30
Emmett Correll
Bud Goldsmith

11/12
Gavin Amos

11/16
Dianne Hodges

11/14
Lynn Dixon
Leslie Mullinix
Phillip Spainhour

11/17
Harper Bennett
Samantha Creasy
Jim Kennedy

11/15
Kay Marlow

Congregational Concerns

We pray for those who:

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

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

Who serve our country.

Join us Sunday mornings for worship

Traditional 10:00am & Contemporary 11:15 am

<https://www.youtube.com/ardmoreunitedmethodistchurch>

