

Connections

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
Ardmore United Methodist Church



May 2022

Fish On...

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." 6 He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

John 21: 4-6

One of my favorite pastimes is fishing. I probably have written about it in sermons and newsletter articles multiple times since I came to Ardmore. Many of you are probably not surprised that I would again write about fishing as my tenure comes to a close as well. I just love to fish!

You see, the thing about fishing is that it grants me peace. It is a challenge and takes work. It also causes me to be patient. There is just something about fishing that feeds me down to the very core of my soul. If you do not fish, you probably do not get it, but fishing gives me a feeling of deep peace and just wetting a line causes me the opportunity to heal my soul. However, fishing is also a lot of work at the same time. You have to have well-functioning gear and utilize bait which matches the desires of the fish. Usually, in some way or another, you have to get to where the fish are residing which requires some form of floating or trudging along. And the one thing about fishing is this, no matter how much I get to fish I never get to do it enough.

This is my last article for Connections, the newsletter for Ardmore. It is difficult to write the perfect words to describe my time here in ministry...as a matter of fact it is impossible for words cannot appropriately express my time here. There have been some amazing, wonderful and powerful moments...akin to landing an amazing fish after a long day on the water. In addition, there have been some difficult moments of pain and suffering whilst here as well...ones that have challenged me to pastor through the storm that muddies the waters of life and faith. Ministry of any form is not easy and I leave here both thankful for where I have been but excited for what God has in store next.

The scripture lesson above happens shortly after Jesus has been crucified and resurrected. In the moments before the story John reminds the reader that the purpose of the Gospel of John is so that people *"may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."*(John 20:31) In our lesson Jesus appears to the disciples who are fishing but not catching anything. He tells them to cast to the other side and I envision that they, reluctantly, cast to the other side out of exasperation. However, they do show a little faith in doing so and garner a catch so large they could not haul it in.

In my time at Ardmore we have fished together in many ways. Some have worked and some have not. Some have reaped great benefits and some have come up empty. Yet, we are called to fish on regardless of the circumstances that surround us. Jesus encouraged the disciples that early morning to trust in him to bring in the catch and we see clearly in their limited trust they reaped an amazing harvest. And my dear Ardmore friends, that is my hope for you in the future, that you all would continue to fish on. Fish on through the storms. Fish on through the changes. Fish on in calm waters and fish on in difficult places. Fish through it all with trusting in Jesus to bring in the catch. Jesus, I believe, calls us all to fish. As those who have heard his loving call to our lives we must fish on and capture others into the net of God's grace, love and mercy.

Grace, peace and love,
Matt

An Update on the United Methodist Church

Many of you may have been surprised like we were to hear that on May 1st, 2022 the Global Methodist Church (formerly known as the Wesleyan Covenant Association) is being created out of a desire from churches who seek to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. To be clear, this is a movement of Conservative Traditionalist churches who no longer wish to be a part of the larger body of United Methodism. They have decided to not wait for the upcoming 2024 General Conference to do so and so they are creating the new denomination. This new denomination will not have an effect upon us at Ardmore as we continue to navigate the waters of what it truly means to be United Methodist moving toward the future. However, we feel it is important for you all to be aware of some of the undercurrents of our fellow Methodist brothers and sisters.

On Tuesday, April 19th at 6:30pm we held a town hall meeting in Bob Martin Hall to help further educate in the ongoing movements within the Methodist Church. This was a well-attended event, where we had open and honest discussion around the happenings of the United Methodist church over the past several years. There was a time for Q and A, but also a number of questions that were submitted to be discussed at a later time. If you have questions you would like to add to the conversation, please submit them to Associate Pastor Katy at katy@ardmoreumc.org. Below, you will find links to both the United Methodist Church and Global Methodist Church websites, where you can find more information.

United Methodist Church

<https://www.wnccumc.org/detail/beumc-celebrating-the-core-values-that-connect-the-people-of-the-united-methodist-church-16384356>

Global Methodist Church

<https://wesleyan covenant.org/2021/09/07/comparing-the-united-methodist-church-with-the-global-methodist-church-in-formation/>

As Methodists, we strive to be led by the Spirit through holy conversations, to discern in community who and where God is calling us to be. The hope is that this was the first of many gatherings where we might openly share our thoughts, feelings, and convictions, as well as listen to one another with grace, truth, and love.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Matt Farabow & Pastor Katy Medinas-Lockley

Spotlight on Stephen Ministry:

Have you heard of Stephen Ministry here at Ardmore UMC?

Yes, our Stephen Ministers and Leaders recently washed people's feet at the Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week, but they also serve in other ways.

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide confidential one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. Even times of great joy such as marriage, welcoming a new child, and retirement can also be periods of great transition. And sometimes, you just need someone to talk to about it all.

When you or someone you know is experiencing one of these life situations, reach out to Pastor Katy to get matched with your Stephen Minister. We're ready to walk alongside you and to pray with you.

You can contact Associate Pastor Katy Medinas-Lockley by calling the church office at (336) 723-3695 or by email at katy@ardmoreumc.org



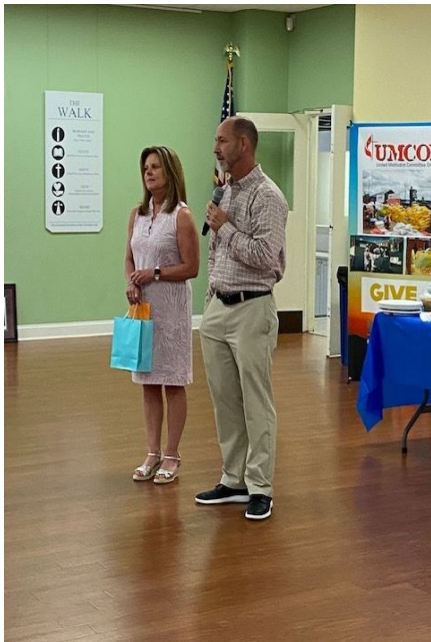
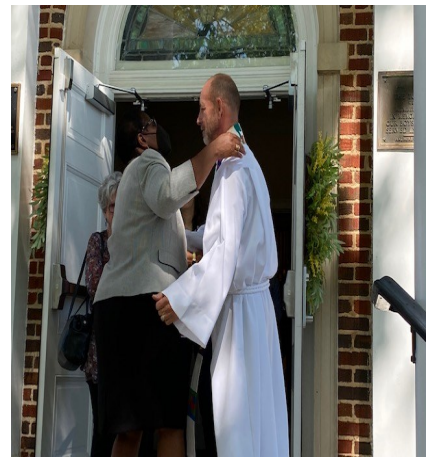
Messages from the Staff Parish Relations Committee

Farewell to Rev. Dr. Matt Farabow

The Staff Parish Relations Committee wants everyone to be aware of the upcoming transition of Senior Pastor Matt Farabow to a new appointment and what this will mean for Ardmore UMC.

In preparation for this new appointment, Matt will be engaging in a Formational and Spiritual Growth Leave beginning April 25th and running through June 30th, 2022. This was approved by the Bishop and the Cabinet of the Western NC Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Sunday, April 24th was Pastor Matt's last Sunday and last day at Ardmore UMC as our Senior Pastor. After the worship services, the SPRC invited everyone to a luncheon to celebrate and honor Pastor Matt Farabow and his wife, Amanda, for their time of service and ministry here at Ardmore. See below for pictures of this meaningful occasion. We invite you to continue to pray for our brother and sister in Christ as they transition into a new area of ministry. They are moving to Sunset Beach, NC, and Matt will be the pastor at Seaside UMC beginning July 1st.



Welcome to Rev. Dr. Jim Martin

During the period from April 25-June 30, 2022, Rev. Dr. Jim Martin will be the interim pastor provided to Ardmore UMC by the Western North Carolina Conference. Reverend Martin will begin preaching on Sunday, May 1st.

Rev. Jim is a retired ordained elder who most recently was the Director at Rockfish Camp & Retreat Center in Parkton, NC. He has written several books and shares that his passion is to "meet people where they are and let God take them where they are willing to go." He also shares: "I've been married to my wonderful wife, Terri, for more than 37 years, have two daughters, and four grandchildren." You can learn more here: www.jimmartinbooks.com/bio



Looking Ahead

Ardmore UMC will receive a new appointed Senior Pastor beginning July 1st, 2022. On Announcement Sunday, April 24th, we learned that this new pastor will be Rev. Neill Shaw, who will be joining us from Union Grove, NC.

Let us be in prayer together for these pastors and for our congregation—for all who are in periods of transition at this time.

Blessings to everyone,
Eddie Foster

Are you enjoying the nice spring weather we are having, except for the few winter days and nights that pop up occasionally? We are in North Carolina where you never know what to expect, but I'm not complaining. We had a beautiful Easter weekend and it was so good to see a good crowd at church Easter Sunday.

We said "Farewell" to Pastor Matt and his family last month. We wish Matt and Amanda well with his next appointment. Thank you, Matt, for your leadership at Ardmore UMC these last four years. We learn as Methodists to love, enjoy and learn from pastors for a time, then to let go when the appointments change.

Have you heard the big news??? Our **Young at Heart** group will gather again this month. Put it on your calendar now... **Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 11:45 a.m. in Bob Martin Hall**...we will join together and enjoy food and fellowship with each other. We will have boxed lunches from Jason's Deli and the cost will be **(\$7/person)** with a choice of ham, turkey, chicken salad or veggie wrap sandwiches. The boxes will have chips and a cookie. I will need to know how many plan to attend so that I will know how many boxed lunches to order for you to choose from and how many veggie sandwiches to order. Please let me know if you have a preference. I will have iced tea and water for drinks. Next September we will return to our buffet lunches with our programs. Speaking of programs, we will have a surprise for our May program. Check it out...I think you'll enjoy it. Watch for an email and/or listen for a phone call to make your reservation...or just give me a call or email to let me know that you plan to attend. I appreciate the responses that I received about Young at Heart programs/luncheons. As you might expect, the responses were almost equally divided. Keep suggesting program ideas. I'm working on next years programs now and will finish up this summer. Remember **Tuesday, May 24...11:45 a.m....Bob Martin Hall**. I want to see you! Be there!!!

As we move closer to summer and deal with changes and ups & downs in our lives and see sadness in our country and the world, keep this quote in mind, "When life gets too tough to stand, KNEEL!" Prayer is powerful! We can all pray for each other and for those affected by war, disasters and tragedies. God is still with us through it all.

Love and Blessings to All!

Mary Jo





Needs of the Blessing Box/Food Pantry and Clothing Closet Cereals of all kinds, Shelf Milk, Cans of Pinto Beans, Cans of Baked Beans, Canned Chicken, Pop Top cans of fruit, small bags of sugar, Pop Top cans of soup, Adult diapers (all sizes), Feminine hygiene products, Children's Diapers (sizes 2-7), Spring and Summer Clothing (Men)



<http://hopedujour.org/>

Crisis Control Ministry is supported annually within our Ardmore UMC Mission Engagement Budget. Let's do more as more is needed. Tuesday, May 3 is the beloved "Restaurant Day" when a percentage of the proceeds (among the many participating restaurants) go to the largest non-profit provider of emergency assistance in our community...CRISIS CONTROL. Go to their website and find a participating restaurant.

Let's EAT OUT and HELP OUT, Crisis Control Ministry.

ICE CREAM MAKERS NEEDED! ICE CREAM LOVERS are WELCOME!

BIG CHILL ICE CREAM event in support of the weekly free medical clinic, food, clothing pantries and life changing weekly mentoring program for single mothers... THE SHALOM PROJECT



Early Response Team Members now certified for action by UMCOR...CONGRATULATIONS!

Amongst the flurry of church and community events on Saturday, April 9, Josh Dalton, Steve Felts, Eddie Foster, Mitzie Kepley and Debbie Williams attended the day's Ardmore UMC hosted UMCOR training and have been granted certification as Early Responders. When our Ardmore UMC team is called upon to respond to a disaster we are now an UMCOR trained team of ten.

A "Shout Out" is loud and clear for the new Early Response Team (ERT) storage building (approved by the Trustees) located in the back of the church next to the ERT trailer. Utilizing generous funds dedicated over the past years for the ERT program, the much needed additional storage of equipment has come! The ERT trailer now has its new tires, with all things working well and is ready to roll.



"Open Arms Community" Youth and Missionary Pastor send their appreciation

Ardmore UMC sponsored four "Open Arms Community" youth for a Spring Spiritual Retreat organized by the Western NC Conference of the UMC at Camp Hanes.

"Dear Ardmore UMC, thank you for sponsoring our youth so they could attend the "IGNITE US" spiritual youth retreat with other youth from Western NC. Your gift and support are greatly appreciated." Pastor Julie Wilson

"Thank you for helping us." "Thank you for all your help!"

"Gracias por la donación."



Shout out to our custodial staff, Cat and Chris. They are "behind the scenes" making our church home run seamlessly, VERY IMPORTANT staff members...helping with any happening or need spontaneous or scheduled or emergencies (water leak!). They are always here after all the activities putting everything back in place and in order for next day. Please let them know how much we appreciate them anytime you see them.



Greetings to and from the Ardmore **United Methodist Women!**

Greetings to and from the Ardmore **United Women in Faith!**

That's right...TWO greetings! And why is that? Because our 153-year-old sisterhood is undergoing another (there have already been more than 25) name change. With our denomination on the cusp of a divergence, United Methodist Women/ United Women in Faith will continue to promote our mission: *to turn faith, hope, and love into action for women, children, and youth around the world. We've enjoyed a venerable name as United Methodist Women...an identity to be proud of! Now, partly in response to changes in the denomination, we are adopting a new name. While the name has changed, the identity has not. We remain "women with a purpose." The purpose is the same as always.*

Case in point: our organizational schedule of events is completely recognizable. On **June 4**, we will have our Wear a Hat, Bring a Hat Tea; the Western NC Spiritual Growth Retreat will take place at Lake Junaluska from **June 9-11**; our annual District Celebration is set for August 20. Within our local, Ardmore, unit we will shortly have news from our outdoor Yard Sale, just days away as I submit this. As always the profits from items sold by UMW/UWF will go to local missions. This year, our donation will include whatever rent monies we collect from other vendors. Our UMW Sunday Service will take place on **June 19**, this year. Please, please, please ask for further information on these events if you are interested in attending. AND check our UMW bulletin board on the second floor.

Thanks to all of you who made it to our Service of Prayer and Self Denial and to those who have contributed to that offering, which was designated to benefit the Order of Deaconess and Home Missioners.

On the subject of change I have a final thought. Some say that the *one constant is this: change*. It is a constant, to be sure, but it is NOT the only one. There is also this: **Jesus Christ is Lord**. That's the one UMW/UWF will focus on!

Until June then,

Blessings!

Nancy Norton, President Ardmore UMW/United Women in Faith

THROUGH THE WEEK SCHOOL

We have had a wonderful year back in school at TTWS!! I have loved being here with the amazing teachers and families that are a part of this school. I am so thankful to Marilyn for her guidance and help this year. I also want to thank Debbie and Keith Gough and Leslie Mullinix for all the many ways they have supported and helped me and the preschool this year!! I could not have done it without you all!!

We will have four weeks of Summer Fun camp in June and July, and then look forward to starting a new school year on September 6th. We are also excited to have our smaller playground renovated during the month of August!

Would you like to help a child attend preschool at Ardmore Methodist TTWS? You may not know that we have a scholarship fund that helps families in need pay their tuition. Anyone can donate to this fund! Any amount is helpful and appreciated...whether it be \$5 or \$500.

You can give your donation in honor of someone special...a grandchild who attended preschool here or a teacher that you loved...and if you would like for us to, we will put that person's picture up in the hallway and on our Facebook page and let everyone know that they are being honored.

Scholarships are strictly confidential. Families who need help fill out an application form, and the TTWS Committee votes to approve using scholarship funds to supplement what the family is able to pay in tuition. You may give to this fund several different ways. You can mail a check to the church, put it in the offering plate during Sunday services, drop it off at the preschool office or church office, or pay online using this link:

<https://abundant.co/ardmoreumc/give> (*In the drop down box choose "TTWS Student Scholarship Fund")

Please make checks payable to TTWS Ardmore UMC, and write "Scholarship Fund" in the memo line so that we know what it's for. You will be a huge blessing to someone who otherwise could not afford to go to preschool. Thank you!!!

Robin Fulk, TTWS Director





MAY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MAY 1ST

BAGEL SUNDAY (10:45AM - 11:15AM)

MONDAY, MAY 2ND

DISCUSSION: JESUS COMES THE TABLE (LUKE 19:1-10)

GAME/ACTIVITY: SPOON ASSASSINS

MONDAY, MAY 9TH

DISCUSSION: LIVES ARE CHANGED AT THE TABLE (MATTHEW 9:9-13)

GAME/ACTIVITY: KICKBALL: ARDMORE STYLE

SUNDAY, MAY 15TH

SUMMER MISSION TRIP BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

MONDAY, MAY 16TH

DISCUSSION: EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE TABLE (LUKE 14:15-23)

GAME/ACTIVITY: LAWN TWISTER

SUNDAY, MAY 22ND

1PM: W-S DASH GAME WITH LUNCH INCLUDED (COST: \$20)

MONDAY, MAY 23RD

DISCUSSION: JESUS PREPARES THE TABLE (LUKE 22:14-20)

GAME/ACTIVITY: WATER GUN & WATER BALLOON WARS


MONDAY, MAY 30TH

NO YOUTH GROUP (MEMORIAL DAY)



Kids Worship & Events Schedule

MAY FAITH WORD: PROCLAIM

DATE	TOPIC / ACTIVITY	SCRIPTURE
05/01/2022	FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY Bagel Breakfast Between Services! (10:45AM – 11:15AM)	
05/08/2022 10AM & 11:15AM	Paul is Changed Obstacle Course & Coded Messages	Acts 9:1-20
05/14/2022	 PLAYGROUND PARTY 10AM – 11AM at Ardmore UMC Playground Spring Games, Crafts & A Sweet Treat!	
05/15/2022 10AM & 11:15AM	Paul Escapes with Help Weaving Craft & Relay Race	Acts 9:21-25
05/22/2022 10AM & 11:15AM	Paul & Silas in Prison Graham Cracker Earthquakes	Acts 16:16-40
05/29/2022 10AM & 11:15AM	SUNDAY FUNDAY!!! Games, Prizes & Snacks	Ecclesiastes 2:24



SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

Our Nursery is open on Sunday mornings during the 10AM & 11:15AM Worship Services for children birth – 3 years old. Room #120.

**ALL PRESCHOOL - ELEMENTARY
AGE KIDS ARE INVITED TO A
PLAYGROUND
PARTY!**



**SATURDAY, MAY 14TH
(10AM-11AM)**

ARDMORE UMC PLAYGROUND

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!

**JOIN US FOR A BUG CRAFT, GAMES &
A SWEET TREAT!**

Picnic on the Playground



Thursday, May 5

5:30-7:00pm (during our Food Pantry)

Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a hotdog
supper with us!



Young at Heart

Tuesday, May 24th 11:45 am Bob Martin Hall

Luncheon \$7.00/person

Program: "Mystery Guests"

For reservations call or email Mary Jo Brewer

336-723-5566 maryjo@ardmoreumc.org

Please join us

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1 Suzanne Barrows Patricia Heath Katie Isley	5/8 Les Hall Tasha Strupe	5/15 Wendy Adams Polly Alspaugh Sinclair Longbotham	5/22 Pat Booth
5/2 Leon Stokes	5/9 Carol Corum Lucas Shields	5/16 Bonnie Atwell	5/25 Mavis Hedrick William Jackson
5/4 Alex Patten	5/10 Mackenzie Lawrence Blake Ware	5/17 Griffin Gough	5/27 Logan Brawley David Seibert Janice Snider
5/5 Doug Brawley Mary Stuart	5/12 Tom Johnson Sarah Unks	5/18 Marilyn Poirer	5/28 Robert Foster Blair Penny
5/6 Emma Jager	5/14 Anna Blackburn Avery Ware	5/19 Charles Bailey, Jr.	5/29 Hazel Dalton Robert Heath Anderson Parker

Congratulations to Donna Staley awarded Community Service Award of the Colonel Balfour Chapter DAR. Cat Booth is one of the five finalist in the category of Classified Staff for the: Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

Congregational Concerns


We pray for those who:

Need healing: Peggy Andrews, 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, Elizabeth Martin, Roy Nifong, Sylvia Powell, Genie Reynolds, Chris Steele, Harry Steele, Livia Timmons, Janice Weeks, Sue Wilkinson, Cynthia Hulet, and Sara Knott.

Need comfort: Family and friends of Lois Brown, who went to her heavenly home on April 25, 2022.

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

For important events and dates, please view the full church calendar at: <https://ardmoreumc.org/calendar>



Imagine how much we could earn if everyone in our congregation who shops Amazon would just use smile.amazon.com. Just start your order with a smile and Amazon will automatically donate a portion of your order to the non-profit that you choose. It doesn't cost the buyer anything and the funds come directly from Amazon. Ardmore UMC has registered as a non-profit. *Just log in to your Amazon account, search for Ardmore United Methodist Church and select the Winston Salem NC option.* Then, each time you shop start at smile.amazon.com. Sign into your cart and shop away. You get your product for the same price and Amazon donates money directly to the church!

Join us Sunday mornings for online worship!

Traditional 10:00 am
Contemporary 11:15 am



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