



CONNECTIONS

ARDMORE UMC

ISSUE #2

February 2025

Ardmore ERT In Mission To Others



Ardmore has had a heart for missions for most of her life, but a 21st century addition was the ERT team. Building team trips to Pocahontas, Va., Guatemala, and Mississippi led to the dream of an Early Response Team on the part of John Corum and others. An Eagle Scout project by Chanse Myers led to the outfitting of an ERT trailer, which has responded in eastern NC and Kentucky and to Spruce Pine, NC in 2024 and January 2025. With our four “muddy buddies” from Albemarle, five Ardmore members worked on the home of a young family in Bakersville, NC. Maggie and Ruben and their four children, along with a cousin’s family, watched the waters of Helene rise to the windows of their double-wide and sweep away their chickens and trout. Though their home exhibited mold, a strong love of family, with their children’s handprints and names painted on the walls of their bedrooms with the date they moved into their first home. Maggie’s hardscrabble mountain upbringing and resilience (along with her deep love and faith) have enabled her to overcome many challenges, including serious health crises, and continue working to make their lives better.



Maggie, Ruben and their older son worked alongside us to tear out the flooring and moldy insulation and prepare the house for a partner Baptist building team which will begin work in mid-January on putting in new flooring. Samaritan’s Purse (which along with Islamic Disaster Response is also partnering with the Methodists) provided a new vehicle to replace their cars which were swept away, and two new campers to get through the winter in place of the used one with a hole in the roof and mold inside which someone had donated. In the afternoon, their girls made cookies for the Christ UMC group tearing out insulation under the house, and our group went on to Valle Crucis UMC to do another Shockwave (mold remediation) treatment on their building. Our trip was cut short by the snowstorm, but the gratitude expressed by Maggie and Ruben and the sense of accomplishment left us eager to return in the future to help others. (See also <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/article/shelter-to-face-the-winter-months/>). Those wishing to be trained in Disaster Response can contact the church office and an ERT member will be in touch with you.





Before we left on Thursday night, the members of Spruce Pine UMC fed us a home-cooked meal in their Fellowship Hall/Beacon Center, where they provide a temporary place to sleep, water and fuel for those needing a place to get warm. This small congregation has a huge heart!

All who are interested in being trained and joining the Ardmore Early Response Teams are encouraged to contact the church office and a Early Response Team member will be in touch with the next steps.

Would you like to help, but can't travel to Western NC to wield a crowbar, swing a hammer or install drywall? The head of the Spruce Pine cooks expressed a desire for other Ardmore members to send casseroles along to serve the volunteers staying at the church when we return! You can also donate to the WNCC Disaster Response Fund with the memo "Spruce Pine Recovery Center" (WNCCUMC website), and all of your money will go to this location. Thank you for your support and loving assistance!

*Thank you for reading!
Barbara Foster*



Greetings and Happy New Year to and from Ardmore United Women in Faith!



In December, 2024, the Leadership Team of the Yadkin Valley District met to plan for 2025. (See the pic below.) The February Ardmore UWFaith Board meeting actually took place on January 20 to do the same thing. (We couldn't wait for February. So much planning to do!) We prayed, shared news and concerns, visited, recited the UWFaith Purpose, and planned for several activities.

In January, our Ardmore Unit of United Women in Faith volunteered to take a gift of assorted snacks to the 38 workers at Bethlehem Community Center, a longstanding mission of our organization. This is something that is done every month, with different units taking supplies to the Center to help with their work or treats to boost morale.



We were already scheduled to serve two meals at Shalom Project Flourish Program meetings. On Tuesday, February 11, we will serve at the Latina meeting, and on April 7, we will provide the meal for the Monday night Flourish meeting. We will need food donations for these meals as well as servers who can work for about an hour and a half at the meeting. Watch for an email regarding menu items needed. Please contact me or your circle leader if you have questions or if you'd like to serve at one of the meals. It's a small investment in time, a very successful program, and an all around enjoyable experience.

The 2025 Prayer and Self-Denial Service is set for Tuesday, March 11, at 11:00 in the Bob Martin Hall. The event will include a potluck brunch. More details to follow, but please put this on your calendar now.



I will close with a quote from the author Judy Blume. I have not read her works, but this appealed to me: "My only advice is to stay aware, listen carefully, and yell for help if you need it." Words to live by.

Till March then... Blessings!

Nancy Norton
President Ardmere United
Women in Faith

“Senior Moments”

February is here already!!! February is also the shortest month of the year, so March will be coming our way before we know it. This is the month of love... hopefully, that is true of every month...but we celebrate Valentine's Day this month. February also brings Presidents' Day and Groundhog's Day (Will he see his shadow???). There are some fun activities going on at Ardmore this month, like the Chili Cook-Off Sunday, February 2. And the children (and their parents) will have fun at the Playground Party on February 8. The Methodist Men will be busy with their retreat and their annual Pine Needles sale. Let's all support these activities.

Another activity this month is the Young at Heart program/luncheon. It will be Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in Bob Martin Fellowship Hall. Our program will be one of our favorite speakers...Cameron Kent. He will tell us about his latest books, among other stories. We will have a buffet lunch, costing \$12.00/person. Make your reservation when you get an email or phone call, but put February 25 on your calendar now. You can also email/call me... maryjo@ardmoreumc.org/336-403-1871 to make your reservation. Invite a friend! Our January Young at Heart program was very enjoyable...the dulcimer group, "Friends with Strings," provided great entertainment for us.



Are you a new member or thinking of becoming a member of Ardmore UMC? There will be a New Members Gathering and a New Members Luncheon this month...look for more information in the newsletter. Are you in a Bible Study group? The Brotherhood Bible Study meets on Tuesday evenings and "The Chosen" Bible Study meets on Wednesday evenings. Check them out...you might like them. Have you been to a Game Night? Put Thursday, February 13 (2nd Thursday each month) on your calendar and come to the fellowship hall and play some games with other members. It's lots of fun!

Ardmore UMC is known for being a "doing" church. Having members of all ages working together to help the church and the community, near and far, is proof of that. I think that former President Jimmy Carter would have been proud to know that Ardmore is a "doing" church. I thought about that as the Nation said good-bye to a "doing" 100-year-old leader/worker recently. Jimmy Carter will long be remembered for the work that he did to help others and for his strong faith. He once said, "What are the things that you can't see that are important? I would say justice, truth, humility, service, compassion, love. You can't see any of those, but they're the guiding lights of a life." Jimmy Carter lived this quote...may we all be inspired by it and the life that he lived.

*Happy Valentines
Day!!!*

Mary Jo

Coordinator, Senior Adult Ministries
maryjo@ardmoreumc.org/336-403-1871



CUTTING BACK ON PLASTIC USE IS TAKING CARE OF CREATION

Fifty years ago, we went from very little plastic in our grocery stores (and almost no single-use disposable plastic products) to more than 300 million tons of plastic items each year - everything from bottled water to food coverings, most of which gets tossed. Even though you may see a recycling logo on the bottom of your plastic products, less than 8% actually gets recycled and the rest gets buried, burned or ends up in our oceans. This proliferation of plastic is endangering all forms of life.

The Ardmore UMC Creation Care team would like to encourage everyone to do what they can to reduce their plastic usage and waste as a way of protecting and preserving God's gift of our incredible Creation, in our role as stewards. We will be sharing ideas and tips on how to do this and how to protect your health from plastic in our church bulletin and in other ways in the months ahead.

If you have any suggestions or ideas of ways our church community can serve God through Creation care, please contact [Dawn Lewis](#) or 512-636-4733. Our team would so love to hear from you.

<p><u>Our Father's Table Food Pantry</u> Canned Vegetables Canned Fruit Baby and Adult Diapers</p>	<p><u>Clothing Closet Needs for February</u> Men's Clothing Undergarments for men, women and children</p>
<p><u>February Food Pantry Dates</u> February 6th and 20th</p> <p>Alternative Gift Cards sold totaled \$475. Thank you for supporting the Food Pantry!</p>	<p><u>2025 Save the Date Events</u></p> <p>Wednesday, February 26th: Meal for Salem Shelter at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Friday, May 16th: Prayer Circle at the Forsyth Detention Center Saturday, September 27th: Day of Giving</p>
<p>Our Lovefeast Special Collection to benefit Bethlehem Community Center raised \$1159. Our Christmas Eve Special Collection to benefit Western North Carolina Disaster Center raised \$1111. Thank you for your generosity to our community partners!</p>	<p>A Rebuild Team will begin repair work in Minneapolis, NC during the last week of January. This will be an ongoing project. Sandy Waldron will act as our liaison with the project. Please contact Sandy at swaldron322@gmail.com for more information.</p>

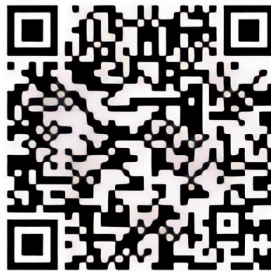


American Red Cross

Our semi-annual Blood Drive will take place Monday, February 10, 2:00 pm - 6:30. Please reserve a time using the link below or by contacting the American Red Cross at 1- 800-733-2767. Our Ardmore UMC goal is 36 units of blood. We can do it. If this is your first time or you are a repeat donor, you will be welcomed warmly and guided through the process with hospitality and gratitude. If you happen to know your blood type is A-, B-, O-, O+, consider giving a Power Red donation. These donations take a bit longer (about 20 minutes) and yield twice the impact of a single blood donation.

Please register now at

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Ardmore UMC>



February

Family Ministry Worship & Events Schedule

Join us on Sunday mornings during our 10AM or 11:15AM Worship Services for a Kids & Family Worship Experience. This is a fun, interactive and engaging time of worship for kids pre-k – 5th grade, we also invite parents to Join In! Come hang out in Room #215!

DATE	THEME	ACTIVITY & CRAFT
02/02/2025 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP WALLS OF FAITH Rahab's Story (Joshua 2 & 6)	GAME: Red Hot Potato CRAFT: Walls of Jericho SNACK: Jericho Trail Mix
02/02/2025 5PM – 6PM	ARDMORE UMC CHILI COOK-OFF Bring your best chili recipe to compete, or simply come to enjoy the delicious variety and vote for your favorite. There will also be kid friendly food available.	
02/08/2025 10AM – 11AM	PLAYGROUND PARTY! Have a SWEET time at our February Playground Party with games, prizes & treats!	
02/09/2025 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP [SUPER SUNDAY] VICTORY! Entering the Promised Land (Joshua 7 – 11)	GAME: Superbowl Relay CRAFT: Teamwork Trophy SNACK: Football Brownies
02/16/2025 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP [SERIOUSLY SWEET SUNDAY] LOVE IN ACTION Matthew 22:39	GAME: Pass the Heart CRAFT: Pom Pom Pals SNACK: Sweet Treats
02/23/2025 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP CONTINUE CHASING GOD Joshua Reminds Us How to Live (Joshua 23 – 24)	GAME: Guess and See CRAFT: Plant Your Flag SNACK: Scrumptious Scrolls



Nursery (Birth – 18 Months) → Room #121

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

YOUTH February SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS: 3:30PM – 5:30PM
IN ROOM #217

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

CHILI COOK-OFF PREP

GAME: "CHILLY" MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT GAMES



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

SUPER SUNDAY "PRE-GAME" PARTY

(BRING A SNACK TO SHARE)

GAMES: PAPER FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT, SUPERBOWL COMMERCIAL CHALLENGE & TOUCHDOWN TRIVIA HUNT



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

NACHO AVERAGE VALENTINE'S PARTY

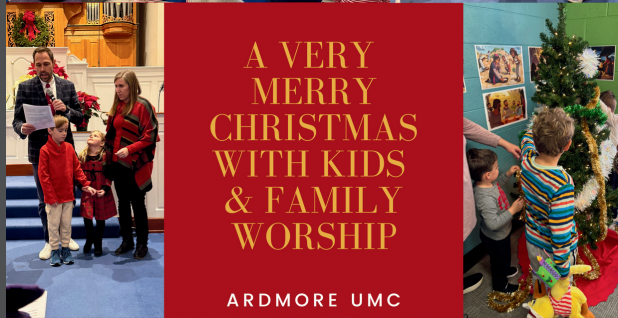
GAME: NERF NIGHT // DEVOTION: LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE
SNACK: NACHO BAR



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

GAME: SLIDE INTO FUN // DEVOTION: SIMPLY "BE" WITH GOD

Jessica Dalton (Youth Pastor) // jessicad@ardmoreumc.org // 336.682.5024



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP

ARDMORE UMC



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024



ANNOUNCEMENTS



ARDMORE UMC
CHILI
COOK-OFF

2
3
1

SIGN UP HERE TO ATTEND OR TO BRING CHILI

5PM - 6PM

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY, 2ND

Ardmore

The poster features a yellow background with colorful bunting at the top. It includes three award medals (2nd, 3rd, and 1st place) and a QR code. The central image is a bowl of chili with a spoon and a red chili pepper. The Ardmore logo is in the bottom right corner.



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE
PLAYGROUND PARTY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH
(10AM - 11AM)

ARDMORE UMC PLAYGROUND

JOIN US FOR MUSIC, GAMES & PRIZES AS WE CELEBRATE THE PLAYGROUND PARTY'S 3RD BIRTHDAY AND LOTS OF VALENTINE'S FUN!

The poster has a light blue background with a colorful illustration of a playground. A banner reads 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' and a birthday cake is visible. The text is in various colors and fonts, with hearts and a sun in the background.



Altar Flowers

Our worship spaces love the added blessing of God's majestic nature. Sunday, January 26th, the sanctuary and chapel altar flowers were given by Beth and Gilby Butler (daughter and son in law of Suzanne Johnson) in appreciation of their mother and friend, Suzanne Johnson.

Gifting of floral arrangements for Sunday worship is a beautiful way to express appreciation for events or persons that are blessings in your life. Simply contact the church office to start the conversation and the result will be your gift to the welcome embrace of worship.

Happy Birthday!

February

1ST

Beverly Broyles

9TH

Darcy Steele

2ND

Diann Boyette

10TH

Peggy Heacock

Katie Murray

Carol Williams

3RD

Faye Fenegan

11TH

Belinda Beard

4TH

Chris Correll

12th

Zachary Nixon

5Th

Beth Buresh

13th

Susan Jones

8th

Will Olsen

14TH

Owen Burey

Katie Price

15TH

Megan McSwain

16TH

Ray Folwell

Page Hartsell

17TH

Tara Swinson

Dave Tyler

18TH

Glenn Orr

20TH

Abigail Spencer

21ST

Elizabeth Martin

22ND

Charles Lawrence

23RD

Cathy Amos

Marshall Combs

Boyd Creasy, Jr.

Zachary Gough

25TH

Shirley Pfaff

26TH

Inez Presson

27TH

Joseph Sain

28TH

Ashley Griffin

Richard Smith

