



*“He will take you to a large room that is already set up,
that is where he will prepare our meal.”
– Luke 22:12, New Living Translation*

Theologian Markus Barth once said that “one-fifth of all of Jesus’s words were spoken around meals.” And John Crossman stated, “If one were to watch a day in the life of Jesus, he would mostly see him healing and eating.” In fact, as we read the gospels, Jesus is around folks at the table so much, it might appear that Jesus is the one that invented and loved “potlucks” even more than we United Methodists do. In addition, one of the last things that Jesus did here on earth was to gather his friends around a meal. Then Jesus told them to do likewise, but he also gathered together all those that others refused to invite and eat with – the poor, the afflicted, and the stranger.

So, they did – the early church gathered together. They gathered together so much that the meals became known as “agape feast” or “love feast.” This is where they not only shared a meal together, but it also became a great opportunity to share their lives together – the good and the bad. In short, the time was a chance for telling their stories – about themselves, the church, and Jesus still living among them. Together, they shared their hearts and souls with one another in acceptance and appreciation for one another, later to be known as “agape” love.

Incredibly, this sharing and togetherness is what grew the church and made folks want to be a part of this new movement of Christianity. This was not only church, but it was a form of worshipping Christ together. This is why starting on March 30th and continuing every Fifth Sunday, we – together as SGUMC – will come together at 9:45 until 10:30 for a new ministry called “Coffee Connections.” This will not just be a time to come and grab coffee and a doughnut. “Coffee Connections” will be a fun, intentionally directed time of sharing and having conversations with folks you might have been sitting in the pews with for 20 or 30 years, but you really do not know much about their lives. Or maybe you talk with that young couple you only see passing in the hallway with their kids. Or maybe you are the young person that has always admired one of the older persons you see every week, and you would like to get to know more about them. “Coffee Connections” will mix that with your favorite morning rituals – coffee, muffins, bagels, sweets, etc. And the great thing is that SGUMC’s youth are going to kick off the first gathering – they are excited to be our hosts.

So, the question may be, “Why are we doing this?” Because you all asked for this – in both “The Onboarding” session [when I was first appointed here] and in the “Dare to Dream Workshop.” You all saw the importance of generations coming together as a family. You desired to get together in a way that allowed all to really know each other – to tell stories, to share your journeys, to experience together where we have been and where we are going.

In short, the time of “Coffee Connections” is so we all can be like the great Mr. Rogers as he opened his door and welcomed everyone in with, “Won’t you be my neighbor?” And I will add to that: the neighbor that I get to love.

Love you all,

Pastor Keith

Pastoral Care Notes

We extend ongoing prayers of petition for comfort and healing to the following:
Congregational Care Circle of Concerns

Shirley Ayers	Bill Ayers	Nancy Blue	Dixie Braun
Michele Cheek	Nancy Ellison	Landon Graham	Mary Graves
John Greenhoe	Judi Machamer	Vince Murphy	Linda Schafer
Mary Lea Shreve	Bill Spencer	Linda Spencer	Bryan Staley
Ruth Tucker	Robin Weavil		...and prayers unspoken.

Homebound Friends, Nursing Home, Assisted Living & Independent Living Residents

Dare Burge	Dot Sides	Pat Vogler
Zane Chandler (Arbor Ridge, Room 209)		Evangeline Davis (Cadence, Huntersville, Room B9)
Pratt Dunlap (River Landing, Colfax, Room HT107)		Nancy Ellison (6032 Forest Trails Drive, Winston-Salem, 27107-3691)
Linda Heath (Cadence, Wake Forest Senior Living, Wake Forest)		Hugh & Willie Hill (River Landing, Colfax, Room P301)
Becky Hines (Bermuda Commons, Advance, Rm 505B)		Jenny Linville (Arbor Ridge, Room 110)
Carrie Lowe (Kerner Ridge, Room A-11)		Bub & Karen Manning (Salem towne)
Josephine Mathis (Arbor Ridge, Room 211)		Patsy Rowell (Arbor Ridge, Room 218)
Mary Lea Shreve (Kerner Ridge, Room A-1)		Peggy Smith (Arbor Ridge, Room 111)
Mona Terrell (Room 17, 1560 Skeet Club Road, High Point, 27265)		Ruth Tucker (Arbor Ridge, Room 202)
Sadie Weavil (Trinity-Elms, Clemmons, Room 402)		Robin Weavil (Davie Nursing & Rehab Center)
		Jerry Young (Chesapeake VA, 23322)

March Feature Member

Dave & Judy Bey (Members since 2024 - 1 year)

Dave (DOB: 8-7-1944) Age: 82 Judy (DOB 10-2-1944) Age: 82

Address: 5313 Gateway Place Lane, Kernersville, NC 27284

Dave and Judy Bey are recent members of SGUMC. They joined for the convenience of our location, but more importantly, because their grandson Owen Bey joined and was singing in the choir. They love our church choir and the many beautiful anthems presented during worship. They remarked that SGUMC is friendly and most welcoming.

Dave and Judy sang together in their church choir as high schoolers. Judy then went on to attend nursing school, and Dave entered the Air Force, where he performed top-secret high-altitude intelligence. They reconnected with a group of friends for dinner, and the rest is history. They have two children, David and Angela, and three grandchildren.

Dave and Judy moved to Kernersville 38 years ago. Dave was transferred from Minnesota to be a supervisor with Duracell Battery. Judy joined High Point Regional Hospital as a nurse. Upon their retirements, Dave and Judy enjoyed volunteering at High Point Regional Hospital until Covid hit. Dave was great with the patients since he could self-report that two knee replacements were a part of his story, and Judy was perfect helping out with additional nursing duties.

Dave and Judy have become involved in "Stitches of Love." Judy cuts and sews while Dave tags, stuffs, folds, reverses, and organizes ribbons for the various projects. They enjoy Golden Agers activities and other special programs offered at SGUMC.

Dave no longer gets to do outdoor hobbies, but ice fishing was one of his loves along with a little hunting. His fondest childhood memory was living in North Dakota with his father, a Lutheran Pastor. He and his brother had long periods of time waiting for Dad to finish with a meeting, so they would go outside and play cowboys and Indians with the tombstones in the cemetery serving as their pretend horses. Judy is a serious counted cross stitch person and stated that "the harder the pattern, the better." When asked about their philosophy of life they exclaimed, "In order to enjoy a long life, help others and keep moving!" Dave and Judy are good people to get to know.



**Golden Agers
Luncheon**

**Monday, March 10th
1:00 pm**

Menu:
**Crockpot Barbecue,
Slaw, Baked Beans,
&
Lime Sherbet**

**The history of
St. Patrick's
Day**

OUTREACH

BEARS BRING JOY TO CHILDREN IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

A note from Reverend Holly McKim at Spruce Pine UMC stated that this is a picture of most of the children in their reading program at their church. They were allowed to pick out their own bear and are shown here with their new best friends to cuddle and love.

Stiches of Love created 25 more bears to send to Spruce Pine after the first 100 bears were distributed. SGUMC is truly sharing God's love one stitch at a time.



Preschool News

Preschool Family Fun Night & Open House was an opportunity for families of children currently enrolled in preschool to visit their child's classroom and participate in fun classroom activities. For prospective families, it was an opportunity to visit Sedge Garden Preschool and learn about the preschool weekday program. More than 50 children and their families attended the event. The children guided their families through their own classroom and then participated in a Treasure Hunt throughout the preschool. Prizes were awarded to those completing the Treasure Hunt and treated with a special cookie refreshment.

SG Preschool Important News

New Dates for "Early" Fall '25 Registration

Fall '25 Registration - Now to March 7 - \$30

March 9 - March 28 - \$40

After April 1 - \$50

Preschool Chapel

On February 12th, Amanda led two chapel services with the preschoolers! The focus this month was on God's love! We had lots of fun learning about God's love for us and closed with a fun song: "God made me...God knows me...God loves me!"

Fourth Annual Cereal Bowl Competition

And the winner is: ***The children of Forsyth and surrounding counties.***

Now who will be the proud owner of the Cereal Bowl Trophy for 2025?

Can we continue to be the top donating Pre-School in the county for the fourth year running?

Please start purchasing boxes of cereal each and every time you go to the store and prepare to join your fellow church family as we continue our fun-filled competition to see how much each Sunday school and small group, along with our Pre-School, can collect in support of the Wee Care Cereal Drive for Crisis Control Ministry.

Collection will start March 1 and run until April 17. Please get your strategies lined up to help fight food insecurity in our area.





Garden Kids Ministry

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he shall not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Club 3-4-5 is made up of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, and they love to get together and have fun! For the February, Club 3-4-5 gathering we hosted a lock-in that was all

about God's love! We discussed 5 attributes of God's love with supporting scripture, and we made a valentine to ourselves from God! God's love is...

1. Unconditional - "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8
2. Sacrificial - "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13
3. Everlasting - "I have loved you with an everlasting love...I have continued My faithfulness to you." Jeremiah 31:3
4. Compassionate - "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Psalm 103:8
5. Transformative - "See what kind of love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God." 1 John 3:1



Amanda Better, Director of Garden Kids Ministry
336-624-1423 amanda@sedgegardenumc.org

Employee Spotlight - Tommy Holder

Tommy Holder joined the Sedge Garden UMC staff officially on January 22, 2023, as the Director of Contemporary Music, but that was far from his first introduction to the church. He has been a lifelong member, growing up in the church and getting his start in music in the children's choir.

He expanded his musical efforts while in the youth group, which was being led by Pat and Grady Sink. As part of the New Way Singers, Tommy played the guitar for the group that comprised 40 teens. Starting in 1991, he was a founding member of the Glory Street Quartet with Steve Holland, David Simmons, Jim Bell, and later Tom Holland when Jim moved. They remained active until the Covid pandemic.

Tommy was a founding member of the praise band and has expanded his role by becoming the Technical Director for the church, making sure all of the technology and slides are ready each week.

Music is incredibly important to Tommy, and he is extremely proud of the dedication and hard work that the praise team does every week.

Tommy is a happily retired family man and enjoys spending time with his wife of 45 years, Sheila. Together they have two married daughters, Courtney Pigg and husband Thomas, and Brooke Johnson, who with husband Sam has blessed them with Bramley and Braylen. They also have a granddaughter, Emma, from their late son Chris.

The next time you see Tommy, ask him about his family and make sure you thank him for all that he does around the church. SPRC also asks that you pray for our staff daily as they perform their jobs around the church. Or, you could ask him about the time he wrestled a bear at the Valley Hills Mall.



grounded

YOUTH MINISTRY 24/7

UMYF Schedule

- March 2nd -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - 1:30-3pm - Combined Confirmation Class
 - 3-5pm - GYM
- March 4th @ 6pm - Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
- March 9th -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - No Confirmation or GYM
- March 15th - Pine Needles!
- March 16th -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - 12-1pm - HS Confirmation
 - 5-7pm - Dinner & Movie!
- March 22nd - Pine Needles!
- March 23rd -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - 2-3pm - HS Confirmation
 - 4-6pm - GYM (*Note the time change!*)
- March 29th - Pine Needles!
- March 30th -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Coffee Connections (*Youth host!*)
 - 2-3pm - Combined Confirmation Class (*Pastor Keith teaching!*)
 - 3-5pm - GYM



"Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned..."

Titus 2:7-8a



The Confirmation Class of 2024-2025 spent a weekend at Lake Junaluska for their Confirmation Retreat! The weekend was filled with activity and conversation about gifts and prayer. We explored how we can serve with things like baking, art, or simply listening to others.



We also practiced varied forms of prayer. Throughout the weekend we worshipped and enjoyed fellowship time together!



Chad & Amanda Betters, Co-Directors of Youth Ministry
chad@sedgegardenumc.org amanda@sedgegardenumc.org
 336-682-6899 & 336-624-1423 youth@sedgegardenumc.org

Gifts have been given to the following ministries...

In Memory Of

<u>Myrtis Holder</u> Golden Agers	Joey & Yvonne Coffey
<u>Myrtis Holder</u> Choir Fund	Nancy Klutz
<u>Myrtis Holder</u> General Fund	Matthew & Renae Rose
<u>Johnny Larrimore</u> General Fund	Robin Larrimore

In Honor Of

<u>John & Darla Miller</u> Shalom Project	The Family of Myrtis Holder
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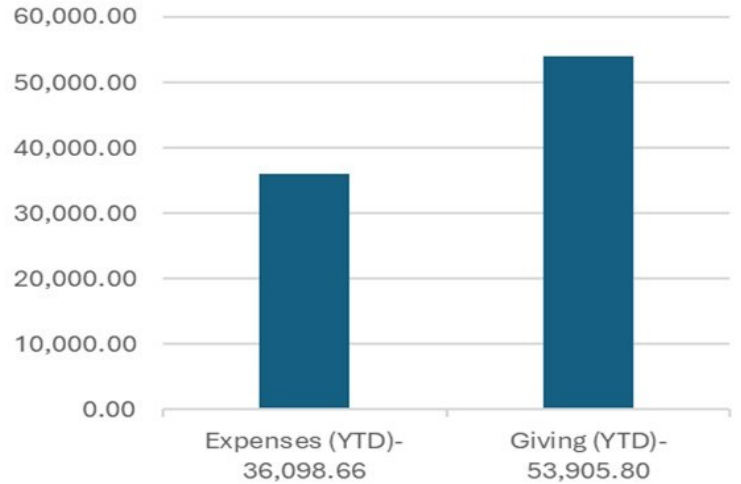
From the finance committee...

Needed to meet weekly budgeted expenses:

\$11,137.00

Giving in January: \$53,905.80

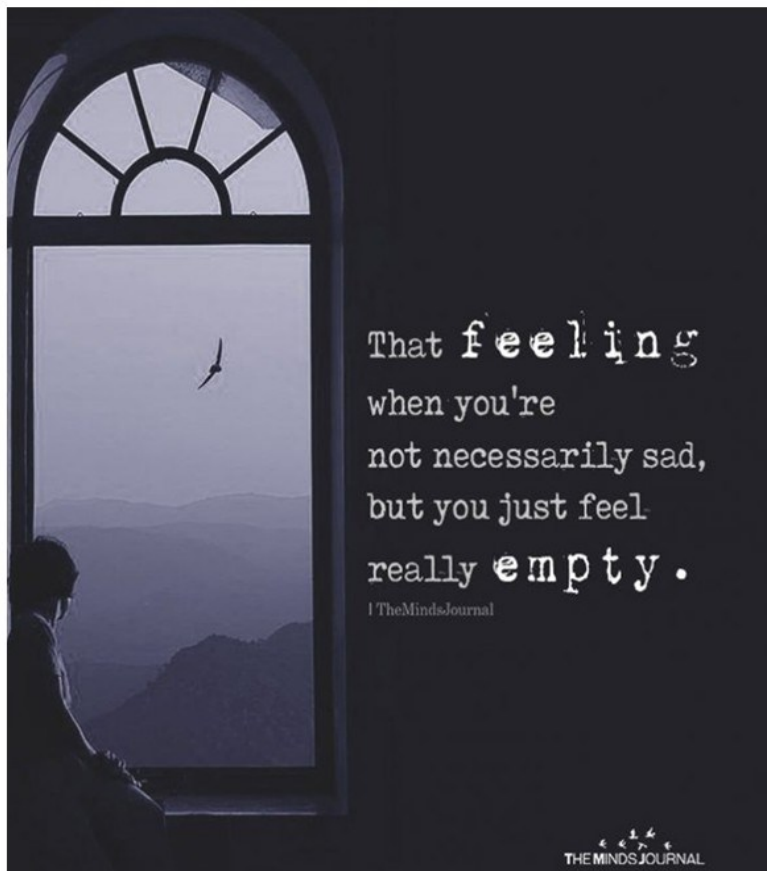
Mission and Ministry Fund Update



Ways to Give

Cash or check using an envelope.
Online at sedgewardenumc.org/give
or by scanning the QR code!

Thank you for your generosity!



That feeling
when you're
not necessarily sad,
but you just feel
really empty.

| TheMindsJournal

Someone said:

"Why does the feeling of emptiness take up so much space?"

Perhaps it is the fact that:

The worst feeling in the world is not loneliness, it is emptiness.

It is being surrounded by so much life but feeling so lonely. The world is not crashing down. No one is breaking my heart.

I am not sad, but I am not happy either. I am neutral.

There is a void in me that I cannot fill...

I think I had rather be lonely, at least then I could feel something.

Connect with us in person or online during this time of Lent - perhaps you will be surprised by what really fulfills you.

**"Feeling Empty, Filling Full"
Lent & Easter Sermon Series**

March 5 (Ash Wednesday 6:30pm) - "Dying to Live"

Psalm 51:1-17

March 9 - "The Real Thief"

Luke 18:10-14

March 16 - "Filling the Holes"

Luke 20:19-31

March 23 - "Filling the Doubt"

Luke 24:13-25

March 30 - "Filling the Emptiness"

1 Peter 2:2-10



Stitches of Love

March 3rd

10am-12pm

Nooma Classroom

JOIN US FOR FAMILY ACTIVITIES, GAMES, & A PANCAKE SUPPER ON...



MARCH 4TH @ 6PM



Rachel's Roses

March 13th

6:30pm-8pm

A.S.K. Classroom

SEDGE GARDEN UMC YOUTH

Pine Needle Sale

\$6 per bale | \$7 per bale delivered

delivery/pick-up dates: March 15, 22, 29, April 5, & 12

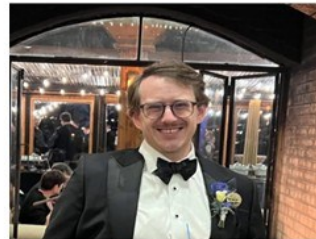
pre-order: (336) 624-1423 or youth@sedgegardenumc.org

Daisies Circle

March 17th
3:00pm



Fellowship
Hall



Free and open to the public.

LoveNotes Concert Series
Presents:

An Afternoon of Song:
Musical Theatre, Spirituals,
and Operetta

Featuring:
Caleb Skinner, tenor
Cindy Darden, accompanist

Sunday, March 23, 2025
3:00pm

A love offering will be received for
The Shalom Project



UWF Tulips

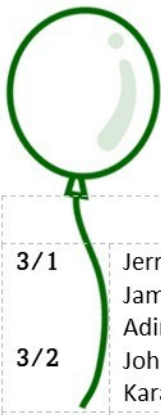
March
26th

1:30pm-
2:30pm

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

March 30th @ 7am





March Celebrations



Birthdays			Anniversaries		
3/1	Jerry Grubbs Jamie Hale Adin Comer	3/14	Vickie Wooten David Manuel Aubrey Hamilton	3/5	Robert & Cindy Poindexter
3/2	John Hart Jr. Kara Davis	3/15	Michelle Manuel	3/25	Matt & Lauren Bowling
	Thomas Hurley	3/16	Stephanie Miller	3/26	Jeff & Niki Peters
3/3	Aryiah Kate Tyndall LeRoy Honeycutt	3/17	Corwin Betters		
	Trish Sprague	3/18	Brenda Gass		
3/4	Pam Jones Peggy Conaway	3/20	Miranda Weavil Riley Wynell Gauss		
	Debbie Hill		Bentley McClure		
	Greg Roth	3/21	Peggy Robbins		
	Jeremy Daley		Steve Neal		
	Jordan Baker	3/22	Tony Hester		
3/5	Dallas Michelle Mabe		Alexandria Gillis		
	Janet Kiger	3/26	Nancy Ellison		
	Ronnie Stack		Amelia Summers		
3/6	Brandi Waggoner		Owen Beno		
	David Klein	3/27	Natalie Truesdale		
	Joseph Protokowicz	3/28	Connor Foley		
	Jim Miller	3/30	Reed Miller		
3/7	Sarah Lawrence		Anna Gray		
	Chris Smith		Nicole Huyett		
	Lilly Pike		Denise Stafford		
3/8	Neil Casstevens	3/31	Will Bocholis		
	James Giles III		Sophie Driskill		
3/9	Marshal Faircloth		Jeffrey Smith		
3/10	Kevin Brady				
	Brannan Sapp				
3/11	Kristen Reed				
3/13	Bruce Houseknecht				



SGUMC Contact Information

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