

Wilkesboro UMC Weekly Update – January 1, 2025

Thank you for your patience as the Christmas celebrations have resulted in us being a bit behind on our announcements and the sharing of our worship videos. We have had such beautiful celebrations and we hope you can share these with friends in the days to come.

1. Worship

A. Our Christmas Cantata was presented on December 22nd with our amazing choir accompanied by our equally amazing organist, Dennis, and a string ensemble from Winston Salem. You can watch an edited version on [YouTube](#) and find the sermon attached.

B. Our Christmas Eve service was a lovely celebration of Christ's birth with Lessons and Carols and communion and candlelight. We were blessed that Cathy Freeman was able to join us and provide the preservice music. We also enjoyed the blessing of having special music provided by Evelyn Davis on the violin and Hannah Davis on the piano. (Granddaughters of Larry and Vanessa Souther). You can watch the service on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

C. Our Christmas worship continued on December 29th with a beautiful message from Pastor Jim as he reflected on his past Christmas' and how God's grace is known and experienced in the greatest of gifts - the wondrous love offered in Jesus. You can read his sermon attached or watch the service via [YouTube](#) of [Facebook](#).

2. No Coffee with Karen or Bible Study this week

Pastor Karen and her family are enjoying having her husband Tim home for leave from his deployment and will be spending time with him this week as she takes on a light workload.

3. Sunday, January 5th we will meet around 3 pm to begin putting away the Christmas decorations.

With enough hands it should move very quickly. If you have not picked up your poinsettias please do so this Sunday.

4. **Friday Night Foodies** – starting **this Friday** night; **January 3rd**, you'll find **The Foodies** back at **Cagney's**. Join the Friday Night Foodies each Friday at **5pm** for amazing food and great fellowship! Invite someone to join you!

5. **The Missions Committee will meet prior to the UMM & UWFaith meetings at 5pm on Jan. 7th.**

6. **UMM & UWFaith Meeting – Tuesday; January 7th at 6pm** with meetings to follow. The suggested donation for dinner is just \$5! Invite someone to come with you or call a shut-in and offer to pick them up. We have several folks that would love the company and the fellowship but they don't drive or don't like to drive at night. **Invite them to come with you.**

UMM Food Drive

And, don't forget that the UMM are still collecting food for the Food Bank. They have graciously offered to match ALL monetary donations up to \$1,000 AND every pound of food they receive pound for pound. So, don't forget those donations for the Food Bank. You can drop them off at the UMM/UWFaith meetings next Tuesday or anytime thru Sunday, January 12th. The donations will be picked up on Monday; Jan. 13th.

7. A note from Carol, our church treasurer: The 2024 **Giving Statements** will be mailed next week.

8. The Witness Newsletter – is live and on the church website at wilkesboroumc.org. Just click the About Us page and then click **Newsletter** and then just click **Current Newsletter**. For your convenience, I have also attached the newsletter for easier viewing. As a reminder, The Witness, going forward will be just 8 pages instead of the 12 page format you are used to seeing. The Post Office has provided new size requirements for 2025. We want to make sure we are compliant. Don't forget to snap as many pictures as possible at all of your events. Email photos and articles to admin@wilkesboroumc.org no later than the 17th of each month. With four pages less than what we are used to having, space will be limited. Pictures speak volumes and tell a compelling story and pictures are often remembered long after an article is read.

9. THANK YOU! *"We would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to our church family for helping us to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary! To God be the Glory!" Love, Larry & Van Souther*

10. THANK YOU! *I just wanted to thank everyone who sent me a Christmas card or gifted me a Christmas present. You didn't have to do that. Thank you all so much for all the ways, big and small, that you remember me. Your kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness does not go unnoticed. You all are very special to me and I consider you, and Wilkesboro UMC, my second church family. Thank you for always making me feel so special and so loved. Love you all! Dottie*

11. Important Dates to Remember:

Join us Sunday for worship at 10am & Sunday school in the Ecclesia Room at 11am.

Wednesday; January 1st - the church office will be closed in observance of the New Year's holiday. No Bible Study tonight.

Friday - Friday Night Foodies at 5pm at Cagney's. (Note change of venue.)

Sunday - January 5th we will meet around 3 pm to begin putting away the Christmas decorations

Tuesday; January 7th - Missions Committee Meeting at 5pm in the Ecclesia Rm.

Tuesday; January 7th - Join the UMM & the UW Faith for dinner at 6pm in the fellowship hall with meetings to follow. The suggested donation for dinner is just \$5! You can't beat that and where else will you get such great fellowship!?!

12. Prayer List - Let us know if you have a specific prayer request or any changes to the prayer list.

Ken Austin, Phyllis Austin, Pastor Jim Brooks, Margaret Cooper, Jim Day, Charles Drum, Mark Eskew, Kyson Farley, Francois Hughes, June Jordan, Tom Kinlaw, Greg Luck, Sherry Mabry, Glenda Pierce, Mike Reid, Debbie Reeves, Robert Rizoti, Mary Summerford, Keith Summerford, David Taylor III, Herb Taylor, Lee Tedder, Billie Culler Watson, Edgar Wilcox, Derrick Wilson, Becky Wilson, Seth Wilson, Gavin Young, Gary York, Ukraine, our planet in crisis, the US, Israel, Gaza, Middle East for God to bring Peace to all World Leaders, recent storm victims and our mountain counties, our president and our country's leadership.

NURSING FACILITIES: Bobbi Blake (Rose Glen Village), Brenda Dale (Wilkes Health and Rehab), Wanda Garwood (Rose Glen Village), Barbara Groce (Wilkes Assisted Living), Jenny Miller (Westwood Hills Nursing and Rehab Facility), Caroline Randolph (The Pines in Davidson) and Rosie Shephard (Rose Glen Manor)

Happy New Year!
Dottie