



2024

April

DUMC News
Davidson United Methodist Church



Youth Ministry: Belong, Grow, Impact

REV. MEREDITH HINTON - NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY ARCHITECT & PASTOR OF YOUTH

We have had an eventful and wonderful first quarter of 2024. In addition to weekly Bible study and youth dinner, Sunday night youth, and Confirmation, we have enjoyed a youth lock-in, a High School beach retreat, a Middle School/Confirmation retreat, and we have celebrated our 2024 Confirmands in worship.

In all our events and programming we have our three goals in mind: Belong, Grow, Impact. We believe it is essential for all our youth to know DUMC is a place they can find belonging. Every young person who walks through our doors or joins in the fun is someone we care about and are grateful to know. It's our hope and prayer that through their knowledge of belonging to the church and most importantly to God, that they become open to growing in their faith as a disciple of Christ. As disciples we then take steps forward in partnership with God to impact the world around us. DUMC is a wonderful place for youth to grow as disciples.

There are many wonderful experiences on the horizon for our youth. This summer, for our mission trip, we will travel to Athens, TN. We will work on homes in the community and build relationships with the locals and with each other. The dates of our mission trip are June 23-29. Later in July we will have Youth Week which is an opportunity for our youth to get together for a week and do a fun/different activity together each day.

If you have any questions about our youth ministry, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are thrilled to have so much support from our DUMC family. Thank you all for the ways you pray for and care for our youth.

General Conference 2024 Update

United Methodists from all over the world are traveling to attend General Conference in Charlotte, NC at the Charlotte Convention Center from April 23-May 3, 2024. Psalm 46:10 sets the theme for this important gathering: "...and know that I am God." In all we do, God guides our every decision. The gathering is expected to attract about 5,500-7,500 people.

Plenary sessions and worship services are open to the public and can be live streamed by visiting the Western NC Conference site at www.wnccumc.org. Rev. David Hockett will be attending as the first clergy alternate delegate from Western NC, and the Davidson UMC Chancel Choir will sing and lead worship on April 30 at 8:00 a.m. While in the US attending the General Conference, Bishop Christian Alsted, episcopal leader of the Nordic and Baltic Episcopal areas, will be our guest preacher at DUMC on Sunday, April 21 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Please hold our delegates and General Conference delegations from around the US and the world, the General Conference staff and volunteers, and our Council of Bishops in prayer as they gather to do the important work of ordering the life of the Church. For more information visit www.welcometogc.org.



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 PETER 1:3

Sympathy To

The Smiley family
in the death of Jim's father.

The family of Betty Carter.

To add your name or that of a friend or loved one to the DUMC Intercessory and Clergy Prayer List, please contact Jonna Eichorn at jeichorn@davidsonumc.org or 704-892-8277 ext. 221.

Welcome Travis Smith

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to welcome Travis Smith to the DUMC staff as our new Director of Communications. The SPRC is excited about the gifts and experience Travis brings to his role. Travis is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina and was raised in Concord before settling down in Kannapolis with his wife Vera. He graduated from Pfeiffer University with a degree in Youth Ministry. He and Vera met at Pfeiffer and have been happily married for over nine years. Together, they have a nine-year-old mini border collie named Henry.

Over the past 12 years, Travis has served in the worship and communications departments in two churches. In his free time, he enjoys playing guitar, reading, running, crocheting, and fishing. Travis' greatest passion is sharing the story of what God is doing in and through the church, and he's excited to continue doing so at DUMC. Travis begins his new role on April 8. Please stop by the office and welcome him to DUMC.



Intercessory Prayer Group

REV. JIM HUMPHRIES - PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

WRITTEN BY JUDY HENRY

“There is no better way to serve others than to pray for them.”

Samuel Chadwick, Methodist minister (1860-1932)



There is a longstanding Intercessory Prayer Group in our church that serves by praying the requests of the congregation. You can share your concerns with the group in several ways: by calling the Church Office, by writing your prayers on a prayer card or slip of paper and dropping it into the offering plate or into an offering cabinet in the Sanctuary or in the Chapel. Or you can go to our church website and search “prayer.”

Finally, you can also write your requests in the book in the Prayer Room, Room 211, in the Alexander Education Building. The Prayer Room was relocated to its current location during the pandemic, but still serves its purpose as a quiet place.

If you wish to be blessed and be a blessing by participating in the group, contact Judy Henry at judyhenry323@gmail.com for further information and to volunteer. Prayer Requests are handled on a strictly confidential basis.

There are many scriptures that deal with prayer. In Philippians 4:6, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petitions, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Davidson College Ministry

REV. DR. BRAD HINTON - PASTOR OF MISSIONS & COLLEGE MINISTRY

CINDY TURNER - COLLEGE CAMPUS LIAISON

Davidson UMC has a long and rich history of ministry with students at Davidson College, which is fitting considering United Methodism’s emphasis on learning and education. We are grateful for our students and all they contribute to DUMC and the wider community. We are also grateful to Cindy Turner for her five years of volunteer service leading our college ministry. Cindy’s dedication and commitment have been inspiring, and we are grateful for her exceptional leadership. Beginning this summer, Rev. Brad Hinton will assume responsibility for our college ministry. Please thank Cindy for her service and join in prayer for our students and Brad as they prepare for the 2024-2025 academic year. If you would like to support our college ministry, please reach out to Rev. Brad Hinton.

Our Davidson Wesley College Ministry packed bags at Bags of Hope last month to provide local children with food over spring break. We also served at the Davidson Community Garden and the Men's Shelter in Charlotte. It's been a busy month of working together and serving our neighbors! Thank you, DUMC, for your continued support of Davidson Wesley.



Missions Update: Mad About MAD!

REV. DR. BRAD HINTON - PASTOR OF MISSIONS & COLLEGE MINISTRY

Our monthly missions giving opportunities are known as MAD Collections, an acronym for Make-A-Difference, and make a difference you do! Your generosity each month to one of our Mission Partners directly impacts the lives they serve. Our Mission Partners are always thrilled to receive the items you bring to one of our MAD Collection boxes in the Gathering Space or Church Office.



Every two years, the Missions Committee discerns which of the missions that apply for a grant will be our Mission Partners for the upcoming missions cycle. It is because of your faithful support to DUMC that we can offer funding to these ministries. Ten percent of our church budget is designated for missions.

Many of our Mission Partners provide opportunities for our congregation to connect with them through service opportunities. We organize Missional Impact Days during the year when you may volunteer in specific projects. If you wish to serve in a long-term capacity, please contact our partners and ask how you can help.

Giving to our Make-A-Difference Collections is a tangible way to show your support and enthusiasm for the valuable work of our Mission Partners throughout the year.

Our MAD Collections for 2024 are Hope House Foundation (April), Mission Possible Camp at Brookstone (May), My Sister's House (June), Neighborhood Care Center (July), Bridge of Hearts (August), Bags of Hope (September), The Christian Mission: Mooresville (October), and the Joy Store (November). In addition to our MAD Collections, there are other opportunities to give during the year, such as our annual Harvest Procession and Coat Drive and collections organized by United Women of Faith Circles.

We are grateful for all the ways you serve God and our neighbors through Make-A-Difference! [Click here](#) or see our February Newsletter to view the full list of our External and Internal Mission Partners for 2024/2025.

DUMC April MAD Collection

April's Make-A-Difference (MAD) Collection is for the Hope House Foundation in Huntersville, which provides temporary housing and support services for women and children who are experiencing transitional homelessness. Their comprehensive support program includes coaching, job skills training, affordable housing placement, and other services that help residents become self-sufficient once more. They need children's snacks, e.g., granola bars, fruit snacks, and popcorn as well as coffee K-cups for Keurig, Ziplock gallon bags, disinfectant wipes, and trash bags (tall kitchen and large lawn & leaf bags). Thank you for your generosity!

Visit www.hopehousefoundation.org to learn more.



Music Ministry

REV. DR. KEVIN TURNER - PASTOR FOR MUSIC & WORSHIP

The music ministry has no plans on slowing down after our Easter services. We are going to be out in our community singing and ringing in April, May, and June:

- On Sunday, April 14, the Chancel Choir will be joining the choir from Gardner-Webb University in singing the *Requiem* of Maurice Duruflé. The GW choir will also be singing with us in France in June. This concert gives us an opportunity to make friendships and experiences before flying to France.
- On Sunday, April 21, we welcome the Bishop of Northern Europe, Christian Alsted. Our choirs have sung for Bishop Alsted twice before during our trips to Denmark and Sweden, and we are thrilled to welcome him here to DUMC.
- On Monday, April 22, our Youth Handbell Choir will be performing for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of United Methodist Foundations. This group of financial professionals will be having their meeting and dinner in our Fellowship Hall before the General Conference meeting that week.
- On Tuesday, April 30, our Youth and Chancel Choirs are elated to be singing at a morning worship service for General Conference. We feel very honored to be asked to sing. In addition, some of our musicians will be providing entertainment that day for a lunchtime concert at General Conference.
- On Friday, May 3, we will welcome folk singer, David Wilcox to our concert series. Information on how to purchase tickets will be available soon.
- On Sunday, May 5, our Wesley Choir and Youth Choirs will be singing and ringing at First UMC, Salisbury, for their morning worship.
- Finally, in June, some of our choir members are traveling to France to sing as part of the 80th anniversary of D-Day.



The Davidson UMC Music Ministry presents

The Requiem of Maurice Duruflé

a special bon voyage concert
with Davidson UMC Youth & Chancel Choirs
and the Gardner-Webb University Concert Choir

Sunday, April 14th
7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

A freewill offering will be taken.

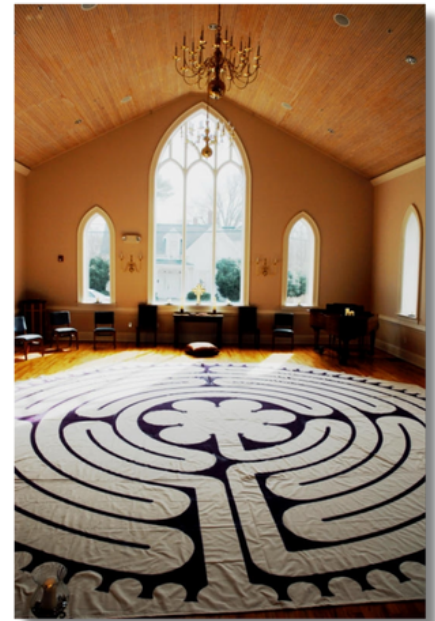


Davidson UMC supports our music ministry in so many ways, and we are grateful for that support.

Faith Formation

REV. DIANNE LAWHORN - PASTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Something I have enjoyed over the years is creating Sacred Space for others. Last month, we offered a Sacred Space experience in our chapel. We offered stations with materials to help guide folks into different experiences of prayer. That way, folks could return to a practice that is familiar to them or try a new practice. Folks enjoyed a few moments of centering prayer, praying with an icon, coloring a mandala, journaling with the daily examen, or walking the labyrinth. This experience gave us a chance to take a moment to step away from our busy schedules, to take a deep breath, as we engaged in a few moments of quiet. It helped us to attend to that place that longs for stillness within each of us.



Throughout my spiritual journey, I have found that these kind of quiet and still places are very good for my soul. These places help me to connect with God in a deeper way. They help me to remember that I am not a human “doing,” but a human “being.” They reassure me that I am not alone in the load that I carry, but that I have a helper who offers me all the empowerment I need. They give me the strength I need to face whatever challenges come my way.

I hope that many of you took advantage of the Sacred Space experience during Holy Week. If you didn't have a chance to do so, I hope that you will create your own sacred space in a way that has meaning for you. All you need is a few uninterrupted moments and a quiet place. You could bring a scripture, reading, or poem to pray with. You could bring a journal, sketch pad, or coloring book to enjoy. You could utilize a quiet place in your home, at church, or in nature.

As you prepare your heart for this experience, I offer the following prayer, written by Ted Loder, to help you to enter in:

Let Something Essential Happen to Me

by Ted Loder

O God, let something essential happen to me, something more than interesting, or entertaining, or thoughtful. O God, let something essential happen to me, something awesome, something real.

Speak to my condition, Lord, and change me somewhere inside where it matters, a change that will burn and tremble and heal and explode me into tears, or laughter, or love that throbs or screams or keeps a terrible, cleansing silence and dares the dangerous deeds. Let something happen in me which is my real self, God....

O God, let something essential and joyful happen in me now, something like the blooming of hope and faith, like a grateful heart, like a surge of awareness of how precious each moment is, that now, not next time, now is the occasion to take off my shoes, to see every bush afire, to leap and whirl with neighbor, to gulp the air as sweet wine until I've drunk enough to dare to speak the tender word:

*“Thank you,” “I love you,” “You're beautiful,”
“Let's live forever beginning now.”*

Children's Ministry Update

BRITTANY VIEHMANN - DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

This past month during the season of Lent, we focused on how we can shine God's Light! We had so much fun learning alongside our friends about how Jesus is the light in the darkness and how we can choose to follow Jesus. We were able to experience Confirmation Sunday and watch our older friends make commitments to follow Jesus here at Davidson UMC. We learned how to shine God's light in our homes and our schools. Our children are filled with joy and excitement when they get to share the wonderful love that our Sunday School teachers and other adults who care for them show them. They experience firsthand God's love and then share that light in the world.

On Easter Sunday, we held our tradition of placing flowers on the cross. It was a wonderful Sunday where we celebrated the good news that Jesus died and rose again!



Preschool Update

BRITTANY VIEHMANN - DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

We are hosting a Night for the Arts where our Weekday Preschool children are all invited to share art with their friends and family and DUMC friends! We are excited for everyone to join us! Refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday, April 24, our evening will start at 5:30 p.m. in the DUMC Fellowship Hall and you will be able to peruse art and at 6:00 p.m. our children will showcase their performing art abilities too! We have been learning music and dances all year and we cannot wait to show you!

Artwork will be available for an optional donation - all funds collected will be donated to the DUMC Scholarship Fund.

“A scholarship gives my child more than school. It's a loving offering of faith and play based learning and community, where kindness meets commitment to doing what research shows is best for little kids. Messy easel paintings and sensory bins. Time to play in the sunshine. And artwork focused on the process. We are grateful for the invaluable experience during these critical developmental stages.” - DUMCP Scholarship Recipient Family

We look forward to seeing you there!



Quilt Ministry

GAIL SPACH - ADMIN FOR MISSIONS

The mission of DUMC's Quilt Ministry is to deliver quilted comfort to seriously ill infants, children, teens, and senior adults as a reminder of God's love. We meet the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, September – May, from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in Room G1 in the Alexander Education Building. Before each meeting is an optional lunch at 11:30 a.m. at a local restaurant. If you like to sew or would like to learn to make a quilt, please join us! We provide everything needed to make a quilt. There are also quilt kits in the small credenza in the Gathering Space for those who would like to sew at home, which you may check out from there and return when completed.

For more information about the DUMC Quilt Ministry, contact Admin for Missions, Gail Spach, at gspach@davidsonumc.org or 704-892-8277, ext. 239.



DAVIDSON
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

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