



January

2024

DUMC News
Davidson United Methodist Church



A Prayer for the New Year

REV. DAVID HOCKETT - SENIOR PASTOR

Each year we conclude Annual Conference by praying together the prayer commonly known as the Wesley Covenant Prayer. The words of the Covenant Prayer are taken from a book by Richard Alleine, a Puritan minister of the mid-seventeenth century. John Wesley, father of Methodism, was fond of Alleine's work and first used the prayer in a Covenant Service in London in August 1755. Wesley would hold regular Covenant Services with the early Methodists throughout his life. The prayer, in its present form, is the creation of twentieth-century British Methodists and came to American Methodism in the 1960's...

The theme of the prayer is self-abandonment or surrender to God and its words move us to consider anew the question that is at the heart of the spiritual life, "Can we trust God with our lives?"[1] That is, can we truly respond in unwavering obedience to Christ's call to leave behind our old self and follow Christ, in newness of life, wherever he might lead?

As we enter into a New Year, I invite you to spend a few moments each day reading and praying over the Covenant Prayer. Join me in reflecting upon how God is inviting us not only to speak the words of this beautiful prayer with our lips but to embody it in our lives. Perhaps in place of, or alongside our usual New Year's resolutions, consider what it might mean for us as individuals and as a Church to be resolved to belonging to God, and truly allowing God to use us however God desires.

Continued on next page

May God richly bless you and your family in this New Year and may we join our hearts, our minds, and our lives in praying...

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt,

rank me with whom thou wilt;

put me to doing, put me to suffering;

let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,

exalted for thee or brought low for thee;

let me be full, let me be empty;

let me have all things, let me have nothing;

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure
and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

[1] *Surrendering to God*, Keith Beasley-Topliffe

Youth Update

REV. MEREDITH HINTON - NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY ARCHITECT

One of the best parts of December for the youth is always the Angel Tree Shopping Spree. This year, our youth adopted 49 children from the Cornelius Care Center to provide gifts. We took buses to Target, and each of our youth were able to select meaningful and fun gifts for each child. I think one of the best parts of this experience is knowing these children are blessed because of the work the youth put into the Pumpkin Patch.

Being the hands and feet of Christ in our community is a special calling. The joy our youth experience serving God and serving others is wonderful to witness. We look forward to all 2024 holds for us. We are kicking off the New Year with a Youth Lock-In on January 5. Please reach out to Meredith Hinton with any questions you have at mhinton@davidsonumc.org



*"So do not fear, for I am
with you; do not be
dismayed, for I am your
God. I will strengthen you
and help you; I will uphold
you with my righteous right
hand."*

ISAIAH 41:10

Sympathy To

The Puckett family, in the death of
Wayne's mother

The Easley and Radel families, in
the death of Joan's son/Angie's
brother

The McIntosh family in the death
of Rick. Jr.

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.

2023 Missions Year in Review

REV. BRAD HINTON - PASTOR OF MISSIONS and AMANDA CHANEY

As we reflect on last year, Amanda Chaney, Chair of the Davidson UMC Missions Committee, shares some of the ways we were the Body of Christ in our community and around the world in 2023:

"We have had an unbelievable 2023 in Missions at Davidson UMC, and I am so blessed to chair the committee responsible for Missions. This year, we have impacted the lives of so many in our community. I am so proud to be a part of such a generous and loving church.

Here are just a few of the many things we've been able to accomplish through your generous gifts:

- Many families have received much-needed assistance with housing and utility bills through our partnership and support of the Ada Jenkins Critical Assistance Fund.
- Church members traveled to Kenya to visit the children we've helped through our mission partner, ZOE Empowers, and another trip is planned for September 2024.
- We dedicated yet another Habitat House earlier this year and helped to provide a home for a family in our Mooresville community.
- A group went on a Disaster Response trip for flood relief in the mountains of Western NC (Haywood County), and several church members completed the UMCOR Early Response Team Training.
- Mission Partner, All In Guatemala, continues to thrive and help our brothers and sisters in Chichicastenego, Guatemala with medical and educational needs. They have another trip planned early this year.
- We hosted our annual Mission Mall, and it was a huge success. Many of our partners received double the amount of donations from the previous year.
- The Davidson Community Garden received new raised beds which will help them to feed more people in our community.
- The Joy Store provided gifts for 46 families and 110 children, which was estimated to be over \$14,000 in gifts. Additionally, out of the abundance of Joy Store gifts, we were able to provide additional gifts for children at The Christian Mission in Mooresville.
- Our Harvest Procession provided nearly 400 bags of food for families in our community for Thanksgiving.



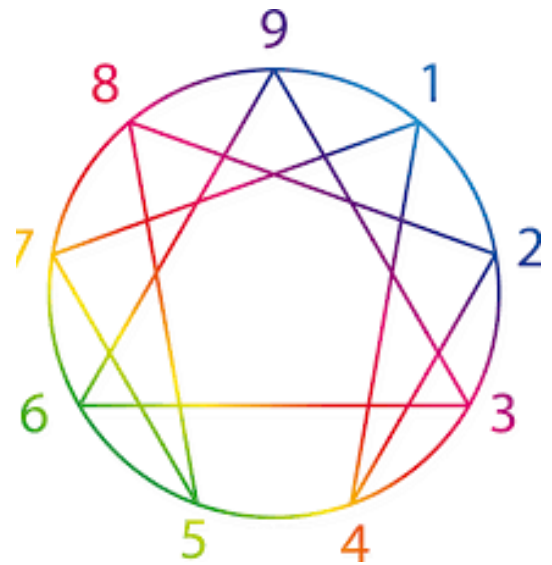
We are now gearing up for our next two-year grant cycle. We are excited to support our mission partners, who allow us to bless our community in so many ways. Thank you all for your generosity. Your gifts have allowed us to support of our Mission Statement and be the Body of Christ through Missions."

If you would like to learn more about Davidson UMC Missions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Brad at bhinton@davidsonumc.org.

Exploring the Path to Abiding in God's Presence

REV. DIANNE LAWHORN - PASTOR OF EDUCATION

Seven years ago, Don Carroll offered a one-day Enneagram retreat for the staff at the church I was then serving, Mount Tabor United Methodist Church. I could see that the Enneagram was an important tool for spiritual growth that offered many layers of meaning. The popular appeal of the Enneagram is that it helps people to understand their personalities. However, Don emphasized a greater purpose: it can teach us how to live out of the image and likeness of God. I knew then that I wanted to bring Don in one day to offer a more substantial study series. My intention became a reality this Fall as Davidson UMC launched a 10-week exploration of the Enneagram.



Right away, I could see that this would be a popular offering, as the interest for the course extended from our church into the community. Our group was a rich and varied one, including twenty-seven participants. They were members of Davidson UMC, Inclusion Community, Wesleyan Contemplative Order, and the Lake Norman community. Each week, we began with a centering experience to help us transition into this deeper conversation. Don then gave us a detailed description of one particular Enneagram type. Sometimes, we would even have a testimony from someone who identified with that type.

Our focus was on discovering the divine gifts each type offers and the way that the ego can block those gifts. Each week, we also engaged in a partnered inquiry, where we experienced each type from all three centers—body, mind, and heart. We would discuss the experience and ask questions that came up for us. Most of our questions focused on how we can move beyond the needs of our ego to operate from a place of divine love. At the end of our series, we took up a love offering for Don that totaled over \$1,000.00. I thought this spoke well of this experience's value for participants.

We invited participants to provide personal testimonies. Hear what Deanna Wilson had to share about her experience:

“First, thank you, Davidson UMC and Dianne, for recognizing the importance of this course, and a huge thank you to Don Carroll for teaching and guiding us! The material and Don's compassionate nature have been such a gift to me. This ancient wisdom of understanding the nature of God, discovering His attributes within ourselves, and learning how to best live in the image and likeness of God has been heart- and thought-provoking. I look forward to learning more about the enneagram and how my type influences how I perceive and respond to situations and how I see the world. This study has also given me a greater appreciation for how we are all unique and yet all the same and how God's love shines through each of us in unique and beautiful ways when we are in touch with our true self.”



A Gift of Generosity

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

This past fall, we were given an opportunity to purchase a piano for our Sanctuary. In recent years, Davidson UMC has attracted artists to perform, and this new piano is certainly attractive to artists who are considering Davidson UMC as a stop on their performance tours. Our new piano is 9'2", which is considerably larger than our previous Sanctuary piano. It weighs about 1,700 pounds (as much as a 1993 Honda Civic), and it was built in 1928 in Boston, Massachusetts, by the Mason and Hamlin piano company. Henry Mason was the son of church musician/hymn writer Lowell Mason (*Blest Be the Tie that Binds*, and he also arranged the tune to *Joy to the World*). Mason and Hamlin pianos are made by hand and are among the highest quality. Our piano was made using wood that comes from trees probably planted before the War of 1812. A New York City concert pianist owned it for a while before most recently being in Illinois.

Our efforts to acquire this piano involved trading two of our four baby grand pianos for credit. After securing the blessings from the Trustees Committee and the Finance Committee, we agreed on a price with the seller. At that time, Beckie and Mark McCall came to speak with me about giving a gift to honor Beckie's mother. They agreed to help sponsor the purchase of this piano. Like the piano, Betty Carter was born in 1928. Married to a preacher, Betty provided music for countless church services and events over her husband's career. Beckie wanted to honor a gift her parents gave her many years ago by providing a down payment for her first house. Betty and her husband, Syl, were generous so many years ago. That gift, in turn, inspired Beckie to be generous. Many of us at Davidson UMC and in our community can hear ripples of their generosity in our new piano.



A Clean Calendar

REV. JIM HUMPHRIES - PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

We don't need a new year to begin before deciding to make changes in our lives. We can resolve to improve ourselves in July or on any given Tuesday. But for me, there's something special about opening a fresh new calendar and seeing all those blank spaces that excites me for the days ahead and what I might be able to do with them. I still like using old-fashioned, printed calendars rather than planning my schedule with the latest app on my phone. It can be a little clunky carrying it around, but I don't mind. That clean calendar gives me hope for a new beginning each year.



On top of the thousands of articles already penned on "How to Make Your 2024 Great," I'll offer my own thoughts, and they're pretty simple. What are the most significant ways to improve our lives and peace of mind as we begin a new year? I'd break it down into three goals. First, make worship a priority. It's vital to take time apart from the activities and busyness of life and praise the God who gives us life. Worship ultimately orients our path toward Christ, who leads us in the direction we need to go.

Second, focus on serving others. The needs of the community and world are endless, and Christ looks to His church to feed and tend to His sheep. There are so many life-changing ministry opportunities here at Davidson UMC for those they serve. In addition, serving others will often change our life and can help redirect our minds from our worries and concerns.

Last, take time for yourself. Exercise your body and your mind. Spend time with family and friends. Do things that bring you joy and meaning. Life is God's gift to us, and we should try our best to enjoy it. Obviously, most of us also have to work along the way and take care of lots of other business. But I believe if we prioritize these three goals, our clean calendars and apps will be filled with the best things in 2024.

Davidson United Methodist Church Presents

Fernando Ortega

Friday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary



To purchase tickets, visit www.davidsonumc.org



Davidson UMC Building Project

January 2024 Update

I trust all have had an enjoyable Christmas season and are excited for what 2024 will bring. Please accept my sincerest thanks to everyone for your patience and grace over the last 18 months and for the inconvenience of our construction improvements.

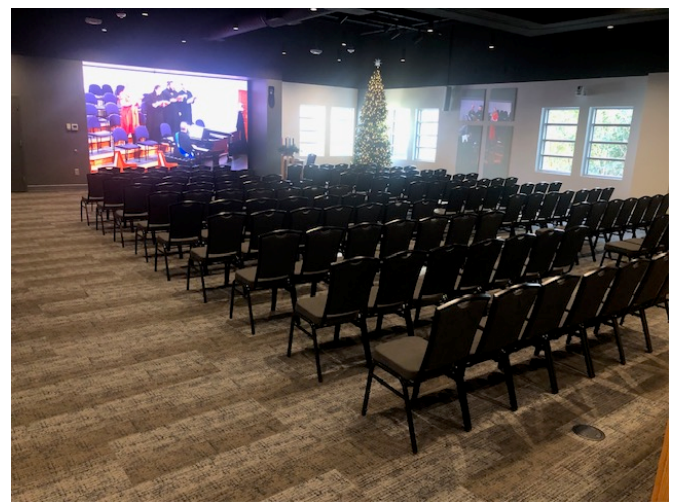
The overall main building transformation here at Davidson United Methodist Church will certainly continue ongoing ministries and provide new ministry opportunities. The additional 6,000 square feet of space on the new building's second floor has quickly become a location for numerous meetings, events, and worship services across all age groups through the month of December.

The newly built music suite is serving our music ministries well beyond expectations. An already thriving ministry is enjoying the new layout efficiency improvements. Our staff and volunteers continue to share positive feedback and excitement for the potential this new space provides for them and the community at large.

Our main Sanctuary Gathering Space renovation offers abundant space to greet one another before and after worship services. This new area comfortably accommodates 250-300 people simultaneously while mingling and moving about. Observing these recent gatherings firsthand further emphasizes our need to be with one another in worship and fellowship and the enjoyment we all receive together.

Those of us who attended one of our Christmas Eve services could finally see the results of the last couple of months' renovation to that space as well. While there are a few more improvements to complete in our Fellowship Hall, it will very soon be available for use.

Again, thank you for your continued support throughout the building improvement process. We are all thankful for the new spaces God has blessed us with and look forward to seeing you all regularly in support of the ministries here at Davidson UMC. Thanks for your continued prayers as we move forward together to support the betterment of the Lord's kingdom.





Join us on

**Sunday, January 28
at 10:00 a.m.**

to participate in the
worship and
dedication ceremony
of our new building.

We will only have one service on Sunday, January 28

DAVIDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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