



2024

March

DUMC News

Davidson United Methodist Church



A Hopeful United Methodist Future

REV. DAVID HOCKETT - SENIOR PASTOR

A couple of weeks ago, I attended a gathering of the pastors of the 80 largest United Methodist congregations in the U.S. We met in Phoenix and were hosted by Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, our denomination's largest congregation. It was one of the most hopeful, inspiring, and forward-looking events I have attended in several years. It was also thoroughly Wesleyan and deeply United Methodist. There was an honesty about the difficulty of the past few years and the challenges facing every local church, and it was an inspiring time of learning, thinking, and sharing ideas around best practices and positioning our churches to embrace the future to which God is calling us.

A theme which resonated throughout our time was how the United Methodist Church is uniquely gifted and equipped to address the present moment. Even with post disaffiliations there are more than 22,000 United Methodist congregations across the U.S. and more than 35,000 world-wide. We are a significant movement with incredible resources for making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming lives and communities.

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Together we acknowledged that we are hopeful for the future and for the ongoing United Methodist Church for a number of reasons. Among them are:

- Our connectional structure means that we are positioned to build bridges in an increasingly divided U.S. and world. We are not congregational, independent churches and there is strength in our combined and shared resources, gifts, and ministries. For example, our connectional giving (apportionments) means that smaller UM churches can afford a pastor and future clergy are evaluated and trained. We support colleges, universities, missionaries, youth and children, health-care and relief workers, and more, impacting lives and communities in ways we'd never be able to do on our own because of our combined generosity. (Acts 4:32-35)
- We take seriously the command to love God with our minds and as such, we value critical-thinking and bringing the gift of an informed faith to address challenges like poverty, hunger, educational and economic inequity, racism, conflict resolution and peace-making, climate change, and more.
- We are outwardly-focused. Methodists, from the beginning, have been committed to serving their neighbors and making a difference in their communities so that our prayer that God's Kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven is realized. This is what Wesley meant by social holiness.
- United Methodists are hope-radiating. Our message that God's grace and love are more than sufficient and are freely given is an antidote to the toxic theology of fear, shame, and judgment that often masquerades as the gospel. In a world of division, where we are encouraged to fear one another, and view those who are different as unholy enemies, the Methodist conviction that God is with and for everyone and that Jesus turns no one away is like life-giving water in a thirsty world.

Friends, this is why I am committed to the ongoing United Methodist Church and why I'm hopeful for Davidson UMC. This is the church I believe us to be and which I hope we become more and more. I am grateful to be your pastor, and I look with hope to the future God has for us.

See you on Sunday,

David

*"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

**Maria Fuentes in the death
of her mother.**

**The Ebbing family in the death
of Donna's sister.**

**The Lusch family in the death
of Katherine Weeks Lusch.**

The family of Margaret Hampton.

The family of Marlene DiGioia.

**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.**

An Essential Component

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

I felt a calling into ministry when I was 12 years old. I was on my Confirmation retreat at Camp Tekoa with my youth group. I remember sitting around the fire and listening to the leader speak about how much God loved us and wanted us to give our lives over to our Savior. I remember feeling deeply moved and grounded in the truth that God was calling me to serve my whole life in ministry. In fact, one of the leaders from that trip still loves to tell the story of “Meredith in pigtails skipping up to me with a smile on her face saying, ‘guess what I will be when I grow up? A Pastor.’”

Retreats are an essential component of faith formation for our youth today. There is something special about taking a moment away from the regular routine. A retreat with your church friends has the ability to refocus you and recalibrate you towards what is most important in life: walking with Christ as a disciple. This year our High School students were able to go to the beach for a weekend to unplug and tune into the work of Christ. Additionally, we look forward to our Middle School retreat the first weekend in March.

Part of my role as Youth Pastor and Next Generation Ministry Architect is helping youth and families see with eyes wide open the wonder of God who has always been and will always be with them. When was the last time you went on a retreat? Could God be calling you to take time away from the noise of life and listen for the still small voice?



2024-2025 Missions Partners Announced

REV. BRAD HINTON - PASTOR OF MISSIONS

The Missions Committee of Davidson United Methodist Church is pleased to share with you that we have named our 2024/2025 Mission Partners! The partners we look forward to working with during the next two-year cycle are:

- The Ada Jenkins Center
- All in Guatemala!
- Angels & Sparrows
- Bags of Hope
- Bridge of Hearts
- Cook Community Clinic
- Davidson Cornelius Child Development Center
- FeedNC
- Fifth Street Ministries
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hope House Foundation
- Lake Norman YMCA
- Neighborhood Care Center: Cornelius
- Smithville Community Coalition
- The Christian Mission: Mooresville
- UMAR Services, Barnabas Home, Cornelius
- Zoe Empowers: Kenya

In addition to the external partners, we look forward to continuing our work through our internal missions, which are:

- Blood Drive
- Community Food Rescue
- Davidson Community Garden
- Disaster Response Team
- East Huntersville Community Outreach
- DUMC Economic Mobility Ministry
- Harvest Procession
- Joy Store
- Kairos Prison Ministry Team
- Men's Shelter Meal
- Mission Mall
- Mission Possible Camp at Brookstone Schools
- Prison Fellowship Angel Tree
- DUMC Quilt Ministry
- Room in the Inn
- Winter Coat Drive

Please stay tuned as we will share more about ways you can be the body of Christ in our community by serving with these partners and missions.

We look forward to serving with these external partners and are excited to continue serving our community through our internal missions. Please reach out to [Pastor Brad](#) with questions.

DUMC March MAD Collection

March's Make-A-Difference (MAD) Collection is for the UMAR Barnabas group home in Cornelius. This is a six-bedroom group home that supports community inclusion, independence, and growth for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. UMAR, a division of Monarch, operates 18 group homes with trained, live-in staff; nine apartments; and three art centers across Western North Carolina. Please bring your donations of dishwasher tabs, laundry pods, plastic silverware, plastic cups, paper plates, paper napkins, paper towels, and toilet paper to the MAD bins in the Gathering Space and Church Office. Thank you for your generosity!

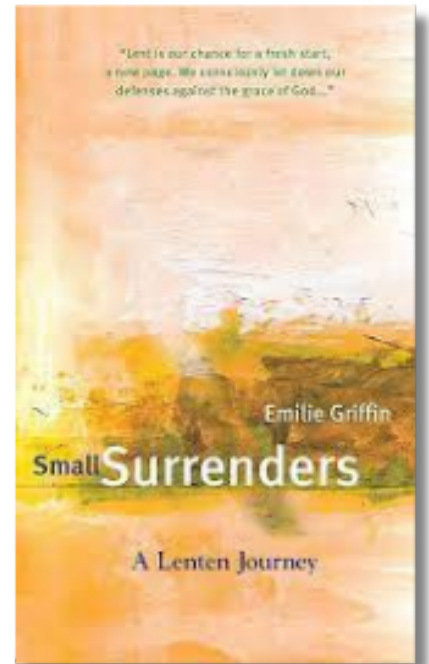
For more information, visit www.umarnc.org.

Small Surrenders

REV. DIANNE LAWHORN - PASTOR OF EDUCATION

During the season of Lent, a small group of us are journeying through the book *Small Surrenders* by Emilie Griffin. I love this book for its down to earth approach to the process of transformation! I find the way that Griffin talks about conversion and repentance to be direct and honest, also gentle and light. I think she provides a safe place for us to interact with these deep theological concepts, so that we don't become intimidated or overwhelmed.

The main concept that this book puts forward is that the season of Lent is a time for us to open ourselves more fully to Jesus, as we let go of things that stand in our way. Griffin reminds us that this isn't a process that happens all at once, but it happens over time, through a series of small surrenders.



Griffin makes things plain for us, as she suggests that whatever we give up or take on for Lent, whether it be prayer or chocolate, it isn't the practice that transforms us, but our willingness to change. I wonder, in fact, if the resistance to change isn't one of our biggest obstacles in the spiritual life. Our willingness to change opens up a whole new world for us!

I appreciated how Griffin describes how this process actually happens in our lives. It happens through an intentional movement of releasing and receiving. This process isn't only about giving up sin, it's also about receiving God's grace. We release our need to go our own way and receive the gift of going God's way. This process allows us to fully open ourselves to God's redeeming grace. It is this grace that transforms us, giving us a fresh start, with each new day!

Griffin offers us encouragement in saying that while we all recognize our needs for improvement, we also understand that most of us are doing the best we can. As we put ourselves into God's hands, He can help us do better! When we give God full reign, we experience things in our lives being mended and set right.

As we let down our defenses, we open ourselves to grace and experience real freedom! This freedom gives us a glimpse of a sustaining happiness and lightness of heart that we cannot attain on our own, because they are gifts from God. We realize that as we choose to walk Jesus' way, what we are really choosing is life!

We hope that you will enjoy reading quotes from this encouraging book during the Lenten season on DUMC's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/davidsonumc.

Lent Sacred Space Experience

"Sacred space is a place that is set in our hearts for God and God alone." Ruth Haley Barton

To enhance your experience of Holy Week, sacred space will be prepared for you in the DUMC Chapel, Monday, March 25, through Wednesday, March 27. You are invited to experience a variety of stations for prayer utilizing a labyrinth, icons, examen, mandalas, and sacred readings. You are welcome to come individually or to come as a group anytime between 10:00 a.m. - noon and 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Holy Week Golf

REV. JIM HUMPHRIES - PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Our English word “lent” is derived from an old Anglo-Saxon word referring to “spring” - as in the season of spring, when the days are “lengthening.” As the days get longer, the weather warmer and the grass greener, the outdoors beckon us to come and spend more time in nature, enjoying God’s good creation.



One way to soak up some springtime (lenten) sun is to join us in our season tee off of Men’s Golf Fellowship. Our first outing of 2024 will be on Thursday, March 28 (Maundy Thursday) at Skybrook Golf Course, in Huntersville. We will begin tee times at 9:30 a.m. If you’d like to join us, contact dumcgolf@gmail.com. This is the third season of Men’s Golf Fellowship, and we hope to make it our best yet. So please join us, and invite a friend. “Fellowship” is the primary reason we play. I gave up pars and birdies for Lent, so I am definitely out there for the fellowship.

Songwriters’ Stories Gospel Concert

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

The next concert in our series celebrating our new building features our longtime friend, Mark Miller. Mark will be bringing two fantastic musicians to highlight stories and songs of faith in gospel style. Dennis Parker is a Grammy award-winning musician who is a member of Ricky Skaggs’ band, Kentucky Thunder. Jeff Taylor, who played for our Good Friday service in 2023, is a member of The Time Jumpers and plays regularly at the Grand Ole Opry. We will take a love offering to offset the costs for this event. A reception in the newly renovated Fellowship Hall will follow. Join us on Sunday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Songwriters’ Stories Gospel Concert

DENNIS PARKER



JEFF TAYLOR

MARK MILLER



**Sunday, March 10,
7:00 p.m.**

Featuring Grammy award-winning musicians Jeff Taylor (Time Jumpers) and Dennis Parker (Kentucky Thunder) with Mark Miller

A freewill offering will be taken.

ZOE Empowers and DUMC Children

BRITTANY VIEHMANN - DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

This past month, Amanda and Jason Chaney visited our elementary age Sunday school classes to share with us their life changing experience of travelling with ZOE empowers. We talked about how they travelled on a really big plane and how many hours it took them to get all the way to Africa.

Amanda and Jason were able to share with our children how the children from ZOE empowers are orphans and how that meant that they needed to learn skills to care for themselves and younger children around them. Listening to the tasks that ZOE children are taught was intriguing as our children contemplated how the ZOE children learned so many important skills.



During the time Amanda and Jason shared with us, each of our children were given a ZOE bank that can hold loose change. They were told that small amounts of change can make a big difference in the lives of orphans who live in Africa.

We loved the opportunity to learn about people other than those we see each day. We are grateful for all who serve ZOE ministry and that Amanda and Jason were able to share their experience with us.

Preschool Update

KRISTIE DOCK - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

There are so many exciting activities happening at the DUMC Preschool! A huge thank you to all the teachers and parent volunteers who helped the children celebrate Valentine's Day with fun parties, crafts, and treats. It was so fun to watch the children swap Valentine's and feel the love that day!

The children are enjoying the warmer weather that we are experiencing, and they have been busy playing and exploring outside. We have a busy month ahead of us with music, chapel, and science. Children are also working on their art projects which will be displayed at our Night of the Arts event on April 24.

We have completed a successful initial enrollment period for the 2024-25 school year. We still have seats available in some of our classes. If you, or someone you know, is interested in enrolling for the 2024-25 school year, please contact us at: dumcpsaa@davidsonumc.org.

Finally, come support the DUMC Preschool by eating at Chick-fil-A, 16915 Statesville Road in Huntersville, on Tuesday, March 5. The preschool receives 10% of all purchases made that day.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24

8:00 a.m. Chapel

9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Good Friday

Friday, March 29

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31

6:00 and 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel (Holy Communion)

9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

DAVIDSON
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

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