

Western NC Conference of the United Methodist Church **Annual Conference Report**

Annual Conference was held from June 15 through 18. I was honored to be our representative. First, they discussed budget and pensions. The 2024 conference budget is \$13,126,171, down 15.72% from 2023. That allows for a reduction in Apportionments of 2%. Pension contributions will be reduced without reducing benefits due to better-than-projected earnings.

Five churches will be closed at the end of the year due to declining membership and inability to meet financial obligations. They are listed in the Supplement to Program and Reports book, downloadable at www.AC2023.org.

United Methodist General Conference 2024 will be held in Charlotte from April 23 through May 1. We elected our Lay delegates. They are Joseph Navarro of Harrison UMC Pineville, John Barbee Collins of Grove UMC Northern Gilford District, and Shareka Brown of St Paul's UMC, Winston-Salem.

We then voted on Petitions. Petition #14 calls for each church to establish a "Creation Care Team." Petition #15 recommends removing fossil fuels from UMC investments. Petition #16 extends paid parental leave to eight weeks. Petition #17 encourages leadership with integrity to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around disaffiliation agreements. Petition #18 involves voting at church conferences to encourage broadest participation of active members. Petition #19 creates a regional conference to establish structural parity throughout the worldwide church. Petition #20 removes discriminatory language in the Book of Discipline. Petition #21 involves justice and empowerment for LBGTQIA+.

All petitions passed. Petitions #15, #19, #20, and #21 will be referred to General Conference for consideration at their meeting next year. Only the General Conference has the authority to change the Book of Discipline. All petitions and delegate biographies are available at www.AC2023.org. Look for the Supplement to Program and Reports book Annual Conference 2023.

-Tom Miller, CUMC Representative to Annual Conference

Sunday Preaching Schedule

July 9	"Punctuating the Faith"	Rev. John Fitzgerald Psalm 13	
July 16	"Sower and Soil"	Rev. John Fitzgerald Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	
July 23	"Here am I, Lord! Send Me!"	Dennis Ammons Isaiah 6:1-8	
July 30	"Kingdom Parables"	Rev. John Fitzgerald Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46	
August 6 communion	"Feeding 5000"	Rev. John Fitzgerald Matthew 14:13-21	



We extend our Christian sympathy to the following upon the death of a loved one:

- Terri Cardwell and family upon the death of her mother, Betty Bruestle, on June 12.
- Michelle Vaught and family upon the death of her brother, Marty, on June 19.
- The family of Joe Morton upon his death on June 17.

Thank You Notes

The 2023 Guatemala Mission Building Team would like to thank everyone for bringing your cast-off paperwork to our shredding event in May. The bill for the truck was late coming, so we just now have a total. The total made on the shred event is \$2,501. That's the most for a shred event to date! We are grateful for your participation.

The Young at Heart group and the 60+ Senior Adult Ministry members of our church want to honor Midgie Ergenbright for all her hard work in making delicious meals, desserts, and snacks. She goes over and above to make her presentations beautiful. She is willing to help out most anytime she is asked, and she is a true Grade A Organizer. Our church kitchen is a testament to her organizational skills. Midgie is a true asset to CUMC, and we are so grateful to have her share her many talents with us. We thank you, Midgie!

Thank you so much to each person who helped to make VBS a success. We had a stellar week blasting off into space to learn more about how to shine the light of Jesus. We served 125 campers for four days. VBS could not have happened without your help – from supply donations to helping with set up and clean up to volunteering your time as a camp leader. Because of you, children now know more about the love of God. Thank you again for all of your help and hard work. I appreciate each one of you! –Pastor Sara Smith

From the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

It is with deep sadness that Sara Smith, after much consideration, has decided to step down as Director of Children's Ministries. Thankfully, Sara will continue to be the preschool chaplain and will also be expanding her duties with the preschool. Her last official day in her current role will be 8/4/23. While we will miss her, we wish her the very best in her new role.

We are collecting a Love Offering for Sara through Thursday, July 20. If you would like to contribute, you may give online at clemmonsumc.org/give (<u>link</u>) and choose the drop-down tab marked "Love Offering," or you may send in a check with "Love Offering" in the memo line. The gift will be given to Sara at church on Sunday, July 23. Also, please let Sara know how much she will be missed!

60+ Senior Adult Ministries

Dear 60+ folks: Things are winding down for the summer, but the DOWGs (Dining Out Wednesday Group) continues to get together every Wednesday for "suppah" at a restaurant here in Clemmons, Winston Salem, or anywhere within a 30-minute drive. We go to all kinds of restaurants . . . so if you don't like where we're going this week, know we'll go to a different one next week. Everybody has input as to where the next Wednesday's dinner will be. There is no obligation to go to every place every Wednesday. You go when you want to, if you want to. This is a great way to meet new friends and stay connected to the old (no pun intended). If you would like to join us, please give me a call.

Our quilt group, The Golden Needles, also continues to meet every Tuesday morning in Room A-210 to make very simple tied quilts for the homeless, battered women, children in foster care, and veterans. We also have a couple of large quilts always on the quilt rack that are quilted by hand. These take about a year to complete. We would love to have you join us. No quilting experience is necessary! For our simpler quilts, some of our folks sew the squares together, and then we simply tie the squares to hold the layers together. This makes a very warm quilt. Everyone can contribute a little bit, and it's a wonderful feeling knowing that we are bringing a smile to someone's face and warmth to someone who might be sleeping in a tent or on the street in the colder seasons.

If you'd like to meet new friends, help those less fortunate and enjoy the company of old friends, please join us on Wednesday for dinner or Tuesday morning to guilt and/or tie. I look forward to seeing you!

— Barbara Turner, Senior Adult Ministries (bturner1@triad.rr.com / 336-766-5972 or 336-408-0522.)

Collecting Shoes For Guatemala Mission Trip



The 2023 Guatemala Mission Building Team is collecting GENTLY used (not worn-out) and new shoes for our October mission trip. We accept men's, women's, and children's shoes up to adult size 8 (38 Eur). Donations may be placed in the Guatemala Mission bin in the Fellowship Hall. We are also in need of donations of a few LARGE pieces of luggage in which to pack the shoes for the trip. If you have any questions, please contact either Kathy Giff (qiffk@clemmonsumc.org) or Cheryl Shaw (lornik@aol.com). Donations will be accepted until September 30.

CUMC Children's Ministry Updates



CUMC Kids Playground Pals Thursdays: July 20 and August 24 @ 5-7 p.m.

CUMC Kids' families, bring your dinner and lawn chair to the church picnic shelter and playground. Let the kids play. Let the adults chat. Invite a friend along.

We will have Elementary Sunday School Summer Sabbatical during the months of July & August. There will be no 9:45 elementary Sunday school and no 11:00 elementary worship care. There will be nursery and preschool care provided during both 9:45 and 11:00 services. Elementary aged children are encouraged to worship alongside their families.

We are in immediate need of summer Sunday morning volunteers in the nursery and the preschool classroom during the 9:45 and 11:00 services. If you can help, please contact me or sign up at www.clemmonsumc.org (link).

-Pastor Sara Smith, Children and Family Ministries (<u>smithS@clemmonsumc.org</u>)

Back to School Supply Drive

Collection Period: July 9-August 13

Drop-off in labeled bins in the Commons Area and at the entrance to the Ministry Center

- Glue sticks
- Pencil top erasers
- Pencil pouches
- Washable markers
- 16-count crayons
- Highlighters

- Pre-sharpened pencils or mechanical pencils
- Ink pens: red and black
- Expo dry erase markers
- Notebook paper: wide ruled and college-ruled
- Composition notebooks: wide ruled and college-ruled
- Solid color plastic 3-prong pocket folders

you're unable to shop

Your donations will be given out to 130 students in need living in our community. If you're unable to shop but want to help, please consider making a monetary donation. We can shop for you! Thanks for your generosity, Kathy Giff (giffk@clemmonsumc.org).

Save Those Travel-Sized Toiletries



One of our local schools has asked for help collecting travel-size toiletry items for their Hygiene Pantry. Please consider sharing those hotel items we all bring home from our travels, and donate them to a great cause. Also, if you end up storing the toothbrushes and travel-size toothpaste and floss received on your dentist visits, consider donating those items as well. Look for the CLASS collection bin under the Mission Possible sign in the Fellowship Hall to drop off these items! The social worker and counselors at Ward Elementary will be very grateful for your help! The Clemmons Lewisville Action for Student Success seeks to identify what resources various faith communities can provide to schools in a collaborative way – helping kids, staff, and the community. Contact Kathy Giff (link) for more information.

Calendar of Events

6:00 p.m. Connect Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	Wed, July 26	7:00 p.m. PAL Meeting 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	
7:00 p.m. PAL Meeting	Thurs, July 27	7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting	
9:00 a.m. Quilting	Tues, Aug 1	9:00 a.m. Quilting	
7:00 p.m. PAL Meeting 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	Wed, Aug 2	6:00 p.m. Connect Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	
7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting		7:00 p.m. PAL Meeting	
9:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. MOST Committee Meeting	Sun, Aug 6	7:30 a.m. Methodist Men Breakfast & Program	
7:00 p.m. Children's Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. PAL Meeting 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	Sunday Service Times 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service ~ Sanctuary 9:45 a.m. Connect Worship Service ~ Ministry Center 9:45 a.m. Sunday Schools 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service ~ Sanctuary 11:00 a.m. Sunday School ~ Room A-103		
5:00 p.m. Kids Ministry–Playground Pals			
Kid's Ministry Family Night at DASH	11100 0	Canada Conson Mosmin 195	
9:00 a.m. Quilting 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting	Clemmons:One Youth: stay connected with our youth at their <u>Clemmonsone.org</u> website or via their social media pages (Facebook: Clemmons:One / Instagram: clemmonsoneyouth).		
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MOST/Mission Outreach Support Team Meets Tuesday, July 18

If your mission team or agency has any requests for funding, scholarships or fundraisers, PLEASE turn in your competed forms by Tuesday, July 11 to giffk@clemmonsumc.org. All forms and information are available on the church website (<u>link</u>). Questions? Contact Kathy Giff (<u>giffk@clemmonsumc.org</u>).

Clemmons United Methodist Church 2023 Financial Update Operating Fund Account

Donations Received through 6/29/23	478,121
Expenses Paid through 6/29/23	542,728
Net Loss 6/29/23	-64,607

For more detailed information on the church's finances, please visit our website to see the current Treasurer's Report (<u>link</u>). This report will also show balances of Special Funds.

The next newsletter will be sent out August 2 and the deadline for articles to be submitted is Monday, July 24. Please bring your articles by the Hunter House or email them to griffinA@clemmonsumc.org. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please email office@clemmonsumc.org with "ACTS" in the subject line. In the body of the email indicate how you would like to receive "ACTS" by writing "email only," "postal mail only," "both email and postal mail." Remember that receiving email copies saves the church postage and helps us all be better stewards of the resources that God provides.

Watchmen of the Streets Item for July: Mosquito Repellent

The rains of June mean LOTS of mosquitos for July! Our homeless friends battle with these little pests around the clock. Please consider purchasing a bottle or two of repellent and drop off in the Watchmen of the Streets bin under the Mission Impossible sign in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks so much!

Clemmons Food Pantry's Drive Away Hunger Golf Tournament

Clemmons Food Pantry's **10**th **Annual Drive Away Hunger Golf Tournament** will be held Friday, September 22 at Salem Glen Country Club. Whether you want to play, sponsor or donate, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. You may obtain an entry form and Sponsor level information from the church office or at www.clemmonsfoodpantry.org. Registrations are due September 12. For more information, please contact Kathy Kovack (336-406-0882 / kathykovack@gmail.com).

CLEMMONS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Post Office Box 829, Clemmons, NC 27012

Church Office: (336) 766-6375 Preschool Office: (336) 766-9593 CUMC Website: www.clemmonsumc.org

Church Staff

Senior Pastor	John Fitzgerald	Ext 123
Discipleship, Missions, Congregational Care	Kathy Giff	Ext 145
Preschool Ministry	Tammy Clapp	Ext 135
Children's Ministry	Sara Smith	Ext 141
Youth Ministry	Amanda Batten	Ext 126
Older Adults Ministries	Barbara Turner	336-766-5972
Music Ministries	Bryon Grohman	Ext. 129
Praise & Worship Leader	Karen Stutzman	
Office Manager	Waynette Adamczak	Ext 122
Office Assistant	Amy Griffin	Ext 121
Facilities Manager	David Mooneyham	Ext 125
Media Ministries	Ed Fisher	

Leadership Board: cumcleadershipboard@clemmonsumc.org

Prayer Concerns: prayers@clemmonsumc.org

Give: online at www.clemmonsumc.org/give or text 73256 to ClemUMC