

# the Messenger

Volume 26 Issue 2

Summer 2024

photo: ameenfahmy

FROM STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
SPRC has been working diligently on meeting the staffing needs for Myers Memorial UMC given Connie's retirement and Andrew's departure. SPRC has worked hard, making good use of the gifts we have in our current staff and welcoming new opportunities for Myers Memorial UMC.

Beginning July 1, Rev. Drew Nix will join our staff as the Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults & Community Engagement. Rev. Nix is a provisional elder in our annual conference and is working towards ordination. Drew is a native of Alabama, a graduate of Wake Forest University and Candler School of Theology. For the last two years, he has served as the Pastor at Salem UMC in Weaverville. We will welcome Drew and his wife Kylie, in worship on Sunday, July 14.

Rev. Sarah Davis will become our Pastor of Children & Communication effective June 1. Sarah is widely respected in our Annual Conference as a leader in Faith Formation and Children's Ministry. Pastor Sarah is excited to serve the youngest among us while at the same time continuing her work with our print and digital communication. It may seem a strange combination yet Sarah sees each of these areas as one in the same when it comes to sharing the Love of God with the church and the world. Sarah will be passing the role of calendaring to Heather and her work with witness and outreach to Pastor Drew.

Beginning June 1, Heather Steffey will become our Ministry Coordinator. In addition to her current responsibilities, she will now serve as support to all our program ministries and program staff.

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## OUR MISSION

*The Mission of Myers Memorial United Methodist Church is to cultivate a Christ-centered community that welcomes, loves, and serves one another & the world.*

## Cultivating

### A CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY Worship on Sundays at 9a and 11a

On-site and Live-Stream  
via Facebook, YouTube & Church Website

- May 1: 6:30p Youth at Chick-fil-a
- May 4: 9a Soul Sneakers
- May 5: 9a & 11a Worship - Communion; Andrew's Last Sunday, 5p: Andrew's Final Fiesta, CFC
- May 12: 9a & 11a Worship; Children Sing at 11a
- May 15: 6:30p Youth at Chick-fil-a
- May 18: 11a Forestview High School Vespers
- May 19: Pentecost, 9a & 11a Worship, Confirmation Sunday, Graduate Recognition, Connie's Last Sunday
- 10a Celebration of Ministry, CFC; 3p Spring Concert, Sanctuary; 7p Ashbrook High School Vespers
- May 22: 8a SmartKids Graduation, CFC
- May 26: 9a & 11a Worship
- May 27: Church Office Closed, Memorial Day
- June 1: 8a Soul Sneakers; UWF Gathering
- June 2: 9a & 11a Worship - Communion
- June 7: UMC Night at the Crawdads, Hickory
- June 8: 9a & 11a Communion; 12p VBS Meeting, CFC
- June 14-19: Wilderness Trail
- June 16: 9a & 11a Worship; Father's Day
- June 20-23: WNC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
- June 23: 9a & 11a Worship, Annual Conference Sunday
- June 30: 9a & 11a Worship
- July 4: Church Office Closed, 4th of July
- July 7: 9a & 11a Summer Hymn Sing, Sanctuary
- July 10-13: Southeastern Jurisdiction, Lake Junaluska
- July 14: 9a & 11a Worship, Communion; Welcome Pastor Drew & Kylie!
- July 14-16: 6:30p-8p Passport to Peace VBS
- July 17-19: Middle School Mission Trip
- July 21: 9a & 11a Worship
- July 21-27 High School Youth Mission Trip
- July 28: 9a & 11a Worship, Christmas in July, Myers Makers Market

## OUR VISION

*Together God's life grows in us, so that we can share that life with others.*



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Heather will handle the church calendar, scheduling building usage and will assist with congregational care and adult discipleship.

Beginning, July 1, Rev. Sally Queen will begin her 9th year here at Myers as the Sr. Pastor. We are grateful that she will continue to offer administration, vision, preaching, teaching and pastoral care to our congregation and oversight to our amazing staff which will continue to include: our Directors of Music: Logan McGuire and Laura Beatty, our Organist: Helen Dix, our Custodian: Tracey Roberts, and our Bookkeeper: Amelia Bumgarner.

SPRC believes that God has gifted us with excellent staff that will serve Myers Memorial United Methodist Church as we move into the future. We are also counting on each of you to offer your time, talents and service. Our staff are here to lead us and empower us for ministry: they are not here to do all the work themselves. We are the church, so the best way to honor our God is to help and support our staff and this church.

Thank you to our Staff Parish Committee as they continue to work for our church, finding the best staff for our ministry needs. Please let us know if you have any questions. Randy Black (randyblack102@gmail.com)

### ADVENTURE AWAITS FOR ANDREW!

You may be aware that Andrew Ingram, Director of Youth & Children's Ministry, is leaving Myers Memorial UMC in May. Andrew will be entering Duke Divinity this fall and participating in the Rural Ministry Fellows early entry program. We will celebrate Andrew in both worship services on May 5th then celebrate in the narthex from 9:45a to 10:15a. Families with Children & Youth will celebrate together with Andrew from 5p to 6:30p in the CFC. A basket will be available at these celebrations to receive cards and well wishes.



### CELEBRATE CONNIE ON MAY 19

9a & 11a Worship; 9:45a~10:40a Celebration of Ministry in the CFC. If you are unable to attend, you may email well wishes to [heather@myersmemorialumc.com](mailto:heather@myersmemorialumc.com) or mail them to the church address.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP & SPECIAL SERVICES

Join us for Worship each Sunday at 9a and 11a in the Sanctuary and via live stream on Facebook, YouTube, and our Church Website. Communion at Myers Memorial UMC is offered on the first Sunday of each month (exception: July 14) and is open to all who desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. On Sunday, July 14th, we will welcome Rev. Drew Nix and Kylie Nix to Myers Memorial UMC. Pastor Drew will be preaching, sharing his faith journey and we will celebrate communion together.

### MYERS EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Have you participated in a Walk to Emmaus or Chrysalis Retreat? If you have participated in *Walk to Emmaus*, *Via de Christo*, *Cursillo*, *Chrysalis*, etc., the Emmaus Community at Myers Memorial UMC is updating contacts and renewing our involvement in this 72-hour spiritual retreat opportunity for youth and adults. The Community desires to communicate about upcoming gatherings, agape, reunion groups and opportunities to sponsor others in the future so please connect with Heather Steffey ([heather@myersmemorialumc.com](mailto:heather@myersmemorialumc.com) or 704-864-3222).

### WHAT HAPPENED AT GC2020?

Yes, it's officially known as the Postponed 2020 General Conference and at the time of printing the *Myers Messenger*, GC was still in session. You are encouraged to visit [umnews.org](http://umnews.org). This is the official source of comprehensive information and news about The United Methodist Church.

### MAY MISSION FOCUS

It's a Paper Pounding for Loray Girls Home this May! Just in time for summer we're going to stock their closet with paper products such as: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Napkins, Paper Plates, and Reams of Copy Paper (just a few ideas of what we're hoping to collect)! We will also accept donations of gift cards to Aldi's and/or Food Lion. Donations will be collected in the Narthex and Church Office throughout the month of May.

### SOUL SNEAKERS

We're still walking so lace up your shoes and join us! The Myers Health Cabinet continues to host group walks on the first Saturday of each month at 9a. This is designed for all walking abilities although some trails will be unpaved. If you are interested, please contact Allison Evanoff (evanoff.allison@gmail.com) so she will be able to connect with you regarding any last minute details and let you know where the next month's hike will be located! On May 4th we'll meet at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden Trailhead Store (no entry fee required) then on June 1st we will walk at Goat Island.

### NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

If you have been attending Myers Memorial UMC and feel called to join the church, supporting it with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness, we invite you to join on Sunday, May 19 at either the 9a or 11a service. Please let Pastor Sally (pastor@myersmemorialumc.com) or Heather Steffey (heather@myersmemorialumc.com) know of your intentions so we may prepare to welcome you.

### SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SMALL GROUPS

Christian Education is highly valued at Myers Memorial UMC and there is a class for everyone starting in the Nursery! Adults are encouraged to attend classes that meet their interests! No one will be offended if you want to switch it up when a new study comes along! Check them out!

- Friends in Faith (previously known as the Contemporary Class) in Room E103
- The New Life Class in Room E105
- The Open Minds Class in Room 102
- Young Adult Sunday in the CFC classroom.

### SEE YA AROUND...

That is what I keep telling everyone when they ask me "Are you really retiring?". Yes, I am retiring after 45 years of working as a Christian Educator for various United Methodist Churches and 36 of those years here at the beloved MMUMC! Then I get asked "Are you moving?". No, we are not moving so I'll "See Ya Around!". It is time to take care of Connie and spend more time being "G-Connie" to our 6 grandchildren.

I can't describe in words 36 years of ministry at Myers Memorial UMC! Arriving here in August of 1988 as a single mom with 3 1/2-year-old twin sons, Jay and Justin; getting married to David in June of 1989; having our baby girl, Anna in November of 1990 were all moments when I was embraced with love and support from this congregation as I balanced family and Christian Education programs at MMUMC.

Fast forward to 2024 and this congregation continued thru all these years to love my family and support my ministry in Christian Education with prayers, love, tears and laughter.

You have made a difference in my life, and I pray I have planted seeds of faith in your lives. Love and prayers as always! See Ya Around! *Connie Elzey*



Connie Elzey

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We're traveling the world with this year's VBS as we have a *Passport to Peace!* and are 'traveling' July 14-16!



*Passport to Peace* is designed to help children make peace a way of life! Peacemaking skills are essential for those who want to follow Jesus' way of peace. Children will be introduced to a variety of strategies for peacemaking and will practice those skills at VBS and then at home and school. In a world that is often divided, this VBS is a reminder that the love of God and the way of peace transcend all borders and divisions. All are welcome in the family of God. Led by God's Spirit, we can all participate in a more peaceful world. VBS at Myers is for all ~ Preschool through 12th graders! Register at [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/vbs](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/vbs) and invite your friends!

### HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH VBS 2024

Do you have a suitcase we could borrow? Items from around the world we could use for decoration and creating an atmosphere? We'd love to borrow these July 7 ~ 17! Let Sarah know what you may have so we can prepare! Please do not bring items until July 7 as we do not have space to store items. And as always, we need your prayers as well as your hands, hearts and feet! A volunteer meeting will take place on Sunday, June 9th at 12p. Bring your own lunch and join the conversation! Let Pastor Sarah or Heather know if you're interested so we can begin the Safe Sanctuary process and we'll plug you in! Email us at [churchoffice@myersmemorial.com](mailto:churchoffice@myersmemorial.com) or 704-864-3222.

*Summer Hymn Sing*

Sunday, July 7 at 9a and 11a

in the Sanctuary and via Live Stream

## MISSIONARY VISIT TO MYERS

On April 28th, Myers Memorial UMC was blessed to hear from Rev. Jane Eesley, a UMC Global Ministries Missionary serving in the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem. Jane shared with us her call to serve as a missionary after decades of being a **local church pastor in Illinois**. Jane's work through the UMC is not to create UMC Christians, but to support the work of Christians and work with all persons throughout the area. She knows first hand how the Palestinian Christians throughout the area have greatly been impacted by the political conflict. Jane brought with her handmade items made by Palestinian Christians in an effort to support them as tourism is their primary source of income. If you missed this opportunity to shop, you will be able to purchase these items and more at the Christmas In July Myers Makers Market on July 29. If you wish to **support Jane financially as she serves among God's people in Jerusalem**, you may give directly through Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church via Advance Giving at [tiny.cc/JanelnJerusalem](http://tiny.cc/JanelnJerusalem).

## STOCK THE PANTRY AT CAM

As a partner church with Crisis Assistance Ministry, we have committed to stocking the pantry at CAM with a big time food drive! July is the month when the donations to CAM are the lowest yet the needs of the community is the greatest! Myers Memorial UMC has always risen to answer the need of our community and so we are ready to stock the pantry **in July!** You're invited to **bring nonperishable food items every time you come to church in July!** Can we fill up the Narthex? Let's make it crowded for CAM! The Children & Youth of VBS will also be challenged with contributing. Any financial donations will be given to CAM to use where the needs is greatest.

Shopping List: Pancake Mix & Syrup, PB&J, Mac & Cheese, Canned Meats & Pastas, Grits & Oatmeal, Paper Towels & Toilet Paper, Soups of All Kinds

## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN JULY

We're Celebrating Christmas in July on July 28th! We're singing Christmas songs so we hope you'll find your holiday cheer! Break out your tackiest Christmas outfit and let's celebrate the Baby Jesus in the middle of the summer! We'll also have open the Myers Makers Market for a bit of holiday shopping!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday School does not go on vacation ~ teachers and leaders are making plans for you each and every Sunday! Children's Sunday School classes continue to gather in room 102 at 10a each Sunday before heading to classrooms for age level appropriate learning about God's love for us! Grown-ups, please pick up the children at 10:45 at the same location.

## SUNDAYS WITH PASTOR SARAH

Hey Kids! Pastor Sarah is ready for summer fun! Elementary Children are invited to gather with her on Sunday, June 2 and Sunday, June 30. Please mark your calendars for time together in the afternoon and details will be coming to you soon! Preschool families, we'll play too! Pastor Sarah looks forward to connecting with you to coordinate calendars and make fun plans! All details will be in the Weekly eNews as the time approaches so be sure you receive the Church's weekly email!

## SUMMER DYEP SESSIONS

DYEP (Distinguished Youth Enrichment Program) is offering a summer Enrichment program during the summer for elementary, middle and high school students! Summer Sessions will be Mondays through Wednesdays, June 3rd-August 7th, from 5:30-8p. DYEP will be providing social & life skills, Power Hour of Education, Field Trips and more to ward off that summer learning slump! For more information please contact Dina Thompson: 980-677-7170 or Bralicia Bost-Thompson: 980-745-7979. Are you interested in supporting this program by volunteering? Please contact Donna Lutz (dlutz55555@gmail.com).

## 2023-2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Since the fall, five Myers youth, mentors and other adults have been meeting in large group gatherings and visits to other houses of worship, as well as working one-on-one to explore what it means to be Christian and living that faith out in their lives today. On Sunday, May 19th at the 11a worship service, these teens are invited to publicly claim their faith and join this congregation of the United Methodist Church, supporting it with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Their mentors and parents who have walked alongside of them throughout this journey will stand with them. We, the body of Christ gathered at Myers Memorial UMC will welcome them as members of the church and renew our vows to do the same.

Youth ~ Mentor

Nicholas Connelly ~ Jerrilyn Boggess

Evan Kline ~ Allison Evanoff

Sage Robinson ~ Sally Drennan

Elijah Simpson ~ Mark Smith

Andrew Walker ~ Mike Rhodes

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The Women of Myers Memorial UMC are invited to gather on June 1 at Rankin Lake Park. Tanya Martin, UWF President, will be sharing more ways the women of Myers can be in ministry together. Contact Tanya at [tlmartintm@gmail.com](mailto:tlmartintm@gmail.com) or you can find her in the Narthex on most Sunday mornings.

## PASTOR'S HELPING FUND

The Pastor's Helping Fund is getting low. While we celebrate the many ways we have used this fund to meet the immediate or emergent needs of those in our community, we lament the lack of funds available. And so we ask you to contribute to this fund to make real the love of God for so many.

## ONGOING/WEEKLY GROUPS

Please realize that summer often brings a change in schedules! Please contact the church office or those responsible for your group as to any change in their schedule.

SUN: Worship, 9a & 11a;

Sunday School for all ages, 10a;  
Studies & Activities for Adults,  
Children and Youth

1st SUN: UMM, Communion

3rd SUN: Cancer Services  
Collection

MON: DYEP, 6p Boy Scouts

1st MON: Sandwich Brigade, 2p  
(last month is May)

TUES: GriefShare, 10a; AIAnon,  
11a; DYEP, 6p; Girl Scouts

2nd TUES: Alzheimer's  
Support, 4p

WED: DYEP, 6p; Music  
Rehearsals

2nd WED: Memories Café, 11a

THURS: Thurs. Study Groups,  
10a and 6:30p, NA

3rd THURS: 60+ Fellowship,  
11:30a

FRI: Men's Prayer Group, 7:15a

1st SAT: Soul Sneakers, 9a

### Summer Event Dates

DYEP June 3-August 7

Wilderness Trail June 14-19

VBS July 14-16

MS Mission Trip July 17-19

HS Mission Trip July 21-27

Mission Mania August 5-8

*If you have a small group that would like to meet this summer, please first check the calendar and location with  
Heather Steffey*

## WILDERNESS TRAIL

High School Youth are invited to participate in the 2024 Wilderness Trail June 14th through June 19th. This backpacking and adventure **ministry is truly an adventure in God's great world** (also known as southwest Virginia). Youth will hike all day, sleep all night, carrying everything you need (which will be provided!) Space is very limited **but there's still room for you!** Those who have attended before are **going again ~ it's that amazing!** The cost is all inclusive at \$375. The Myers adults participating are Lynda Sides and Glenn Fried who have experience with Wilderness Trail.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MOUNTAIN MISSION TRIP

Rising 6th to rising 9th graders are headed to the mountains of Western North Carolina! We depart early on Wednesday, July 17 and will return on the evening of Friday, July 19. Our focus will be **services projects connected to God's green earth in Black Mountain, NC.** This is also a great way to get to know our new Youth Pastor, Drew Nix! Other adults going are Tanya Lunsford & Gary Boggess. Registration and more information for this trip can be found at [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth) and the cost is \$250 per participant. The deadline to register is May 27.

## HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

Rising 9th through 12th graders are headed to Charleston, West Virginia July 21-27. We will be working with CROSS Ministry Mission based out of Christ UMC in Charleston to make a difference in the lives of others by providing ways to make homes safer, drier and more accessible. Myers adults participating are Rev. Drew Nix, Allison Evanoff, Lynda Sides and Frazier Smith. The cost is \$200 per participant and the deadline to register is May 27. A final payment is due June 23.

## MISSION MANIA ~ SUMMER 2024

Calling all Older Elementary and Middle Schoolers (rising 3rd-9th) Mark your calendars for August 5-8 from 9am to 1p each day! All the details will be shared in June via the eNews, website and mailings to your home. Be prepared to wear closed toed shoes, pack your own lunch, wear sunscreen and bring a refillable water bottle each day. The cost will be \$50 per participant.

*Please do not let the cost of these trips be a burden to you! We are the pumpkin church to support our youth! Contact Heather Steffey, Ministry Assistant, 704-864-3222, [heather@myersmemorialumc.com](mailto:heather@myersmemorialumc.com).*

## TUNE MY HEART TO SING THY PRAISE

You are invited to a Spring Concert featuring all of our Myers Memorial Music Ministries on Sunday, **May 19 at 3p in the Sanctuary!** It'll be a great afternoon of beautiful music! See you there!

## YOUTH GO OUT TO EAT

Myers Youth and Friends are invited to gather for dinner at Chick-fil-a on Wednesdays May 1 and 15. Bring money for dinner or you are welcome to just **come hang out but let's be in community together** as we come to the end of the school year!

## SUMMER SUNDAY YOUTH MINISTRY

**For all the latest details please make sure you're** receiving all the news via email & text. You can also find details in weekly church eNews and at the youth webpage [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth). We want all youth to be a part of Myers Youth! Join us Sunday mornings for Worship and Sunday School at 10a!

May 5: Andrew's Final Fiesta, 5p in the CFC

May 12: No Sunday Night Youth

May 19th Confirmation Sunday (9a and 11a);  
Celebration of Christian Education, 10a, CFC.

May 26: No Sunday Night Youth

## UMC NIGHT AT THE CRAWDADS

You're invited for an unforgettable evening of fun, fellowship, and fireworks at LP Frans Stadium with Bishop Ken Carter and United Methodists from across the conference on Friday, June 7! Gates open at 6p with First Pitch at 7p. Be among the first 500 fans to arrive and receive an exclusive Crawdads/United Methodist t-shirt! And that's not all – stick around after the game for a spectacular display of fireworks that will light up the night sky! Remember, if you're with the United Methodist Church, mention it to receive \$1 off your ticket! Don't miss out on this exciting event! Mark your calendars and get ready for an evening of baseball, community, and celebration!

## MYERS MEMORIAL 60+ FELLOWSHIP

This group is designed for those 60ish and over to meet for food and fellowship on a monthly basis. Mark your calendar for the Third Thursday of each month. Be sure Heather Steffey has your email ([heather@myersmemorialumc.com](mailto:heather@myersmemorialumc.com)) so she can save you a spot or let you know of any changes!

Thursday, May 16 at 11:30a Depart the church for lunch at the US National Whitewater Center. *(5000 Whitewater Center Pkwy, Charlotte).*

Thursday, June 20 at 11:30a Meet at Miami Fusion in downtown Lowell for a delicious Cuban lunch!

Thursday, July 18 at 11:30a Meet at The Smoke Pit (near Target) for what some say is the best BBQ in NC.

Thursday, August 15 at 11:30a meet at Honey Baked Ham Company (Remount Rd.) for an indoor summer picnic!

## KNOWN MYERS GRADUATES

Brooke Cox NCSU, BS, Environmental Sciences  
with Geospatial Analytics & Computer

Lauren Hearne Gaston College AA, Early  
Childhood Education

Ashley Lowry Furman University, Masters,  
Community Engaged Medicine

Austin Lowry Virginia Tech, Masters, Organic  
Chemistry

Hannah McGuire UNC-Greensboro, BM,  
Music Education

Amelia Matzke Gaston Early College of  
Medical Science

Sadie Matzke Appalachian State, BA, Graphic  
Design

Reagan Osborne NCSU, BS, Education with  
Curriculum Design & Technology

Brendan Rooney UNC-Charlotte, BS, Finance  
& Accounting

Hallie Walker NCSU, BS, Business  
Administration with Marketing



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Gastonia NC  
Permit #185



**PASSPORT  
to PEACE**

**Vacation Bible School ~ July 14-16 ~ 6:30 to 8p**

Preschool ~ High School

Register your traveler at [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/vbs](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/vbs)

[www.MyersMemorialUMC.org](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org) 704-864-3222

