



**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Backpack Food Packing**

March 11 and March 25 at 12:30  
in Rome

**Chattooga Resource Center**

**volunteers**

are needed

Wednesdays in March  
11 a.m.—2 p.m.

**Rome –Floyd Community**

**Kitchen**

Volunteers are needed on  
March 20th, 9 a.m. until noon

**Wednesday Night Supper Menus**

**March 5—ASH WEDNESDAY**

**There will be a short Ash Wednesday service at 6 p.m. Supper will follow.**

Bring your favorite sandwiches, soup, or dessert to share.

**March 12**

The menu has not been decided yet.

Call or text Elaine Crouch for reservations at 706-506-7527.

**March 19**

BBQ sandwich, slaw, baked beans, and chips.

Call or text Susan McGinnis at 706-857-8009 for reservations.

**March 26**

Hagas, lutefisk, head cheese and blood pudding for dessert. Call or text Sandy Weaver at 706-540-7397 for reservations.

# From the Pastor

Happy Lent:

I'm not certain if I've ever used that opening. I'm also not sure if anybody has ever wished me a happy Lent. But that is where I am, and that is what I wish for you this Lenten season.

Every year Lent offers the opportunity to give up things. I will admit that I'm not that good at giving up things. In past Lenten seasons I have given up skydiving and chitlins. One year, I even gave up Facebook. And if you know me at all, giving up Facebook was not any great sacrifice on my part.

I'm not certain if I have done this before, but this year, the things I am going to give up are guilt, shame, grudges, and vengeance.

I invite you all to give up feeling guilty. I also invite you to give up making other people feel guilty.

I invite you all to give up, shame and being ashamed. I challenge you to not shame others.

I started with the easy ones, because giving up grudges and vengeance are hard. But one of the later stops in our journey is at the Cross of Jesus. He didn't hold a grudge against those who physically crucified him, and he didn't hold a grudge against the rest of us who made his crucifixion necessary. He was raised from the dead on the third day, not to enact vengeance against the world that you didn't deserve him, or appreciate the sacrifice he had made.

I am a fan of wrestling. Actually, I am a fan of rassling. Some of my favorite memories are when my hero in the ring was getting the tar beaten out of him. The bad guy was hitting him over and over and our hero was almost gone and then there is that moment when the bad guy throws what should be the coup de grace. But somehow the hero catches that punch and you see the fire in his eyes. This marks the moment when the match turns decisively, the hero has had enough and he rises up and defeats the bad guy.

So you say Pastor why are you talking about wrestling? Aren't we a church? Yes, and the biggest difference is that instead of Jesus triumphing by coming down off the cross, he stayed there. There would be no heroic triumph from Jesus. He hung there and won the victory by hanging there until he died.

Lent is the time of reflection. I want us to reflect on the fact that our world is really heading to hell in a handbasket. So this Lenten season I want us to try to make

space for doing good. I want to try to offer healing. I say this a lot and I really mean it I want us to let go and let God be God.

I want us to live our lives this Lenten season in the shape of a cross. Recognizing that we live our lives in relation to God, our Creator, but also in relation to our sisters and brothers who share the journey of life with us.

I hope that you have not had too many seasons of spiritual darkness in your lives. Unfortunately, I've had too many in mine. So I'm inviting you this year to be a candle for our sisters and brothers, who are going through a time of darkness.

In Genesis, chapter 2, God creates people from the dust of the ground. When he finishes forming their bodies, he breathes life into them. On Ash Wednesday, we impose the ashes on foreheads with the admonition that we are dust, and to dust we will return.

But that dust is created in the image of God Almighty, and it bears his breath upon our souls. So I pray that you will recognize God in everyone you meet. Because God is truly there, and he always has been.

Give up denying the God image in people that are a pain, and I recognize that a lot of people are extremely painful. See God in them anyway.

The children of Israel, God's chosen people, had forgotten, almost everything about their relationship with the creator. They were grumbling and complaining, and they were ready to go back into slavery just to have their bellies filled. And God gave them bread from heaven.

I don't know how to give bread from heaven. But I do know how we can be bread for people in need. One day, when Jesus was preaching, 5000 people had gathered and were hungry. The only thing there was to eat was a sack lunch. One young man had brought with five loaves and two fish. Jesus took what was offered, blistered, and fed the multitude.

We don't have to know how, we just have to give our offering to Jesus and let him decide how.

Let's be Christ to this dark loving world and the church the Christ calls us to be this Lent.



### *Lenten Offering*

Ash Wednesday, March 5th, will be the beginning of the Lenten season. Traditionally in this season, Christians seek ways to grow closer to God. One way is a sacrificial daily offering. It is about giving up something, and in turn, you give to others. It may be the price of that daily soft drink, or a cup of coffee put aside from Ash Wednesday through April 13th and maybe by fasting one meal a week or more and spending that time in prayer: and adding those dollars to your Lenten gift. Sacrificial giving is a means of grace that draws us closer to God.

We know the needs around the world are overwhelming, and individually many of us cannot financially support every organization that contacts us for help. This is true individually and for the congregation; however, together, we do more, we are better together.

During the Lenten season some embrace the spiritual focus of Lent by sacrificing something daily; a cup of coffee, a coke, or a meal, then to donate the cost to the Lenten offering. These offerings will be divided equally between our North Georgia and world offerings. This Lenten offering makes it more manageable than asking for monthly donations. Individually, we are limited to what we can do, but we reach around the globe together. We are better together. Please pray about your sacrificial giving, your gifts beyond the tithe.

You can mail your offering to the church: Summerville First UMC, PO Box 187, Summerville, GA 30747, or drop in the offering on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways. Together the United Methodist Church makes a difference across the globe. Together Summerville First UMC makes a difference (locally, across North Georgia, and worldwide). We are better together.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

## SHORT TERM

Yvonne Norton, Gene McGinnis, Ben McCool, Lucille Hamby  
Donna Worsham, David Moe & Family, Henry Gruner and his siblings, Gordon McCollum, David Owen, Alice Cox, Crystal Hess, Gary Hylander, Terri Garnsey, Linda Leonard, Charlisa Rodgers  
2/9: Ava Hamilton, Larry Norton (Cancer), Carole Duncanson (Dossie's friend cancer)  
2/2: Kelly Fulton (Jonathan's wife), Beth Morgan (knee), Deborah McCary (Diane's friend), Joel & Alma McCool (new granddaughter), Ella Cate Housch (covid)

## LONG TERM

CAROLYN ROGERS, GARY HYLANDER, JIM MEDICI (Dossie's brother), JILL SPEARS (MRI), BECCA SLASON, JANE STOKES, GAIL ALLEN, CARTER & LINDA BLACK, DIANE FULTON, LUCILLE HAMBY, BEN MCCOOL & FAMILY, JANE MCCOOL, KASSIDY MCCOOL, DIANE MCCONNELL, DOSSIE PRIVETT, JEFFERY FLOYD

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The family of Bill Hyden, the family of Ginger Howard, the family of Marcia Boney, the family of Enrique Gruner, the family of Jim Woodard

## Church Staff and Contact Info

Pastor, Rev. J. Wesley Privett  
(478) 394-5575  
Email: wes.privett@ngumc.net  
pastorsfumc1906@gmail.com  
Organist, Gene McGinnis  
Office Phone 706-857-2057  
Pastor's Cell: 478-394-5575  
Website  
www.summervillefirstumc.com



**Krista and Blake Joyner welcomed the arrival of their twins on February 6th.**

**Remi Joyner (left) and Maddie Joyner (right)  
Remington—5 lb 9 oz at 8:43 p.m. and 19 inches  
Madeline—6 lbs 1 oz at 8:45 PM and 19.5 inches**

**Carter Black has a birthday on March 15.  
He will be 82. If you would like to send a birthday card, mail it to:**

**Carter Black  
304 Rains Circle  
Summerville, Georgia 30747**

## BIRTHDAYS:

03/03 Collum Lindsay  
03/15 Carter Black  
03/17 Teena DiPillo  
03/25 Sandy Weaver  
03/29 Campbell Hunt  
03/29 Susan McGinnis  
03/29 Jim Day

## Anniversary:

03/07 Rita and Tim O'Neal  
03/24 Terri and Paul Garnsey



## **Ladies' Second Annual Joan Jarrett Goodwill Shopping Trip**

The ladies will be going on their shopping trip on March 18th. If you wish to go, meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. to car pool. The plan is to return around 5 p.m.

### **February Circle Meeting**

The Ladies 'Circle met on February 24 with Kayla Hartline from Chattooga High School speaking on the impact of our backpack food ministry. The members enjoyed listening to hear her share her experiences. Afterwards the ladies worked on quilt squares. 54 squares were completed. 30 will go to Everlasting Ministries to be given out at their girls' retreat in March. We committed to this after listening to our January speaker, Joanna Tucker, from Leroy Massey Elementary. The remaining square will be placed in the church entry way for anyone that would like to take one.



# Financial Report

## Financial Report January 1, 2025 through February 28, 2025

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$19,678	\$ 22,852	(\$3,174)

### MISSIONS YTD:

Receipts	Expenditures	Difference
\$3,363.63	\$1012.00	\$2,351.63

The finance team thanks those who have continued to financially support the church during this past year. Financial contributions should be mailed to this address.

Mailing Address: SFUMC  
P.O. Box 187  
Summerville, Ga. 30747

## February Offering to General Fund

Week 1	\$ 4,461
Week 2	\$ 1,464
Week 3	\$1,934
Week 4	\$2,516
Online Giving	\$271
Total	\$10,646



On-line Giving is NOW Available

March 9



## Feeding the Hungry

### SFUMC Partners with DFACS In Chattooga County

March needs are canned meat, mac & cheese, spaghetti and noodles, cereal , and whatever anyone wants to donate.

### April Fool's

The menu for March 26th is really pork loin and sweet potatoes. Call or text Sandy to make reservations.

### Flowers On the Altar

If you want to place flowers on the altar to praise God for His unconditional love, or in honor or memory of someone, please sign up on the "Flower Calendar" in the Sanctuary..

## Men's Club Meets on March 1

All Men are invited to meet at Jim's at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

## Friendship Circle Meets on March 24

The Friendship Circle will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. Members will work on "Hearts of Love" project for families dealing with end-of-life care.

## Wecome New Members

We would like to welcome our three newest church members. They are Terri and Paul Garnsey and Linda Leonard. They have been visiting with us since Christmas Eve and decided to become a part of our church family.