



Gibsonville United Methodist Church exists to **Welcome** people to faith in Jesus Christ, **Equip** us with a faith that helps us grow as disciples, and **Send** us into the world to serve and to make a difference for Jesus' sake.

February 2021

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Remember we are live-streaming our worship service at 9am on Sundays. For live-streaming go to www.gibsonvilleumc.org and scroll down to LIVE STREAM, or watch it on Gibsonville UMC Facebook page. To watch at other times, go to the sermon tab and click, and then click on the corresponding date. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! (Psalm 150:6)



A Pen And A Thought



Not One Second Longer!

2020 is finally behind us! Here is a part of an article I read recently about the end of 2020. "Our friends at [The International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service](#) are doing their part to get 2020 over and done with. There was a possibility that the world's atomic clocks would add one second of time to the end of this year (2020) - something that happens every few years - but scientists at IERS have delayed that adjustment until at least June 2021. I'd like to think that a desire not to prolong the pandemic was behind the postponement. But the greater truth is that, while the moon's gravitational forces continue to put the brakes on the planet's speed of rotation, Earth will have to slow down a bit more before it makes sense to add another second of time" (Peter W. Marty, *Christian Century*, 12/30/20, p. 3).

Learn Some History

I was listening to NPR yesterday (Mon. Jan 25). The topic was about people in the 65+ age bracket learning new things throughout their lives. Apparently, the old adage about not being able to teach old dogs new tricks is not really true, especially if the "old dog," is human and willing to learn. Since I am pushing 64, my ears tuned in. Some people called the program and left messages. For example, one woman decided for the first time in her life to sew a quilt by hand when her sewing machine went on the blink. (There were other examples, but I cannot remember them just now!)

I was also listening to some warmed over "Ted Talks" a few days ago. One of the talks was by a woman from Africa. Her specialty is motivating people to learn about her great continent. She uses a combination of humor and confrontation in her talks. For instance, not everyone in Africa runs around buck-naked in bushes, she says. Not everyone is dying of hunger, either. Some of the most sought-after medical doctors in the world come from Africa. And Africa, by the way, is not a country. Africa is a continent with fifty-four (54) countries. In keeping with the theme of this article (learn some history) she encourages folks with time on their

hands to learn the names of the countries on the continent of Africa.

How is that for something to do other than watching TV all day?

Here is an idea to try to learn some interesting history since February is *Black History Month*. The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) of North Carolina will air a special on Tuesday February 16 at 9pm entitled **The Black Church: This Is Our Story. This Is Our Song.** It is a two-part series that "explores the roots of African-American religion, from the slave trade to Reconstruction. Part Two continues from the Jim Crow South to the present, where the struggle continues and the church finds itself at a crossroads" (*Centerpiece*, 02/21, p. 15).

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

The church will have a virtual (online) Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday Feb 17 at 7pm. If you would like to administer ashes to yourself (or other family/friends) during the service, let the church office know by Wed. Feb 3 at 2:00pm and we will order a packet of ashes for you. (Pick-up details to follow).

In addition, if you would like for your picture (or your family's picture) to appear on the website during the Imposition of the Ashes, please send a picture to Ezekiel Gillie at www.ezekiel.gillie@gibsonvilleumc.org by Sun. Feb 14 at 7pm. (If you sent a picture for the Christmas Eve service, we can use that one. You do not need to send another one).

Lenten Devotional Material

If you would still like to order a devotional guide for the season of Lent, let us know at the church office (blemons@wnccumc.net). One choice is a "traditional guide," with such people as Martin Luther (the 16th church reformer). The second choice is a "liberation guide," featuring stories of slaves from the past along with Scripture and reflection. You can order both guides if you would like a flavor of both. You can find summaries of both devotionals in my church email blast from Sat. Jan 23 at 8:11am, entitled

(Continued on next page)

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Lenten Devotional Material. Please let us know by Wed. Feb 3. (NOTE: We will try to have the devotional(s) here by Ash Wednesday, but it cannot be guaranteed).

Online Worship Services

Remember we are worshipping online each Sunday! We averaged 52 “unique views” each Sunday in 2020 that we worshipped online. Unique views show only how many “units” were tuned in. There may have been more than one person watching from a single computer. (I hope so)!

There have been several trouble spots with our technology, especially of late. We are working diligently to correct these problems. We are trying to upgrade things. For instance, in response to many requests, we are trying to show the person singing and show the lyrics below their picture, rather than showing either their picture or the lyrics.

Let’s try to get those unique views up in 2021!

I try NOT to preach little devotionals for mini-Christians, but prophetic messages from the Bible based on where and what Christians need to hear from the Bible in this tumultuous time. If you are watching someone else sing or preach, other than your own church family, you are not being fed solid spiritual food. I am not saying that such and such, and so and so, are not good at what they do, but we need the fellowship of our community of faith, even if it is “only” virtual, to keep us connected to God and each other.

Blessings,
Pastor Barry
January 26, 2021

Video Recordings of On Line Worship

Video recordings will be made of the On Line worship service beginning February 7. If you do not have a way of viewing this video a DVD player will be provided for you. To receive these DVD’s each week please contact the church office (336) 449-4810 or email info@gibsonvilleumc.org.



Fruit & Protein Collection

Gibsonville UMC supports the food pantry for the community that is housed at First Baptist Church, Gibsonville. Families are served every week! Let’s help supply them with canned fruits and non perishable protein items. Please bring items any day of the week and place in the plastic container provided outside the Welcome Center door and in the Narthex on Sundays. Suggested food items include the following: peanut butter, canned meat, canned meat stews, beans, rice, quinoa, canned fruit, and canned vegetables. Please be mindful of expiration dates on all donated food.

February Music News at GUMC

*In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north;
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.*

It may sound strange coming from a classically trained pianist, but one of the main reasons I’ve so enjoyed being a church musician is having regular opportunity to involve myself deeply with sacred *texts*. The familiar hymn text above, written by John Oxenham in 1913, is based on the end of the third chapter of Paul’s epistle to the Galatians. Paul, for his part, penned this letter around the year AD 49, *before* any of the Gospels were recorded in written form.

Late New Testament scholar Marcus Borg (1942-2015) muses, “Paul is not here announcing an abstract idea; rather this verse reflects the new social reality of the [Jesus] movement itself.” Sadly, Paul did not live to see the reality that Borg refers to: tradition holds that Paul was executed in Rome around AD 65. Other Christians suffered and died there; meanwhile, back in Judea, the ill-fated Jewish Revolt against the Romans was about to begin a year later.

“One great fellowship of love” – is this the headline of human history? Here we sit almost 2,000 years later, staring white supremacy in the face, with gross inequities among peoples inhabiting a nearly exhausted planet. Can Jesus once again be our Savior, our Rescuer? Martin Luther King, Jr. perhaps said it best: “We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.” So says he, so says Paul, so says Oxenham, so say I. What say you, dear brothers and sisters?

Rob Hallquist, Director of Music in Traditional Worship

Why We Lament

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up this much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place. Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for Time, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish. “Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”



Gibsonville United Methodist Church

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NCDHHS Launches “Find My Vaccine Group” to Help North Carolinians Know When They have a Spot to Take Their Shot

State Close to Exhausting Supply of First Doses

Raleigh

Jan 25, 2021

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services launched a new online tool to help North Carolinians know when they will be eligible to get their vaccine. [Find My Vaccine Group](#) walks users through a series of questions to determine which vaccine group they are in. People can then sign up to be notified when their group can get vaccinated.

“Given the very limited supplies we currently have, there may be wait times, but every North Carolinian has a spot. A spot for accurate information. A spot in line. A spot to take their shot,” said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D.

North Carolina’s goal is to vaccinate as many people as quickly and equitably as possible. Local vaccine providers have worked tirelessly to ramp up and vaccinate people under difficult circumstances. This past week, in response to indications that the federal government might base future allocations on the supply states have on hand, the state and providers worked to rapidly administer vaccinations and exhaust North Carolina’s current supply of first doses.

As of Sunday evening, 88% of all first doses have been reported as being administered. Providers reported administering more than 260,000 doses this past

week. As of this morning, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ranked North Carolina 10th in total vaccines administered and 29th in vaccines administered per 100,000 people. These numbers were achieved by three actions the state took, including facilitating large-scale vaccination events, asking providers to aggressively ramp up their vaccine throughput this past week with any needed support from the state and working with many providers to stand up special events reaching underserved communities.

Beginning on Jan. 27, North Carolina will have only 120,000 doses to allocate across the entire state. A large portion of those doses are committed to the large-scale events planned several weeks ago to address the backlog in vaccine. As a result, many providers are getting small or no allocations for the coming week. Through no fault of their own, they will be postponing appointments.

“As long as we are getting such a small amount of vaccine as a state, there are going to be challenges and shortages as we try to ensure equitable access to vaccine, while getting shots into arms quickly. We understand this is hard for providers who are doing everything right,” Secretary Cohen said.

NCDHHS will be sharing tomorrow more detailed guidance on the process for allocations for the coming weeks to ensure more transparency and certainty now that the state has largely exhausted the backlog of vaccine supply. Because vaccine supply is limited, states must vaccinate people in groups. To save lives

and slow the spread of COVID-19, independent state and federal public health advisory committees recommend first protecting health care workers, people who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying and those at high risk of exposure to COVID-19.

North Carolina is currently vaccinating people in Groups 1 and 2, which include health care workers, long-term care staff and residents and people 65 and older. Group 3 will include frontline essential workers; Group 4 will include adults at high risk for exposure and increased risk of severe illness; and Group 5 will include everyone. Detailed information about each group is online at YourShotYourSpot.nc.gov (English) or covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vacuna (Spanish).

Future updates will include a vaccine finder and other interactive features so that every North Carolinian has a spot for information and is able to take their shot.

Until the country begins to get ahead of the pandemic, the CDC says everyone should keep wearing a mask, waiting at least six feet apart and washing hands often. North Carolina continues to have high rates of cases, hospitalizations and the percent of tests that are positive. A [secretarial directive](#) remains in effect. People should stay home and only leave for essential purposes such as buying food, accessing health care and going to school or work.

For more information and to find your vaccine group, visit findmygroup.nc.gov.

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

1	Monica Gabriel Bookie Gates Will Zimmerman
6	Terri Overbey
8	Sarah Campbell Nell Geringer
9	Brittney Overbey
9	Allyson Satterfield
11	Holt Cheek Steve Dawson Stephanie Phillips
12	Beth Whitfield
16	Andy Brain Dixie Guffey Pam Litten
18	Megan Judy Max Litten
19	Olivia McIntyre John Morrow Haley Walker
21	James Jarrett Jesse Summers
22	Susan Ezekiel James Riley Diane Sockwell
24	Carolyn Hundley Nancy Shepherd
27	Donna Lemons
28	Joey Riley

FEBRUARY



ANNIVERSARIES

February 2
**Len & Judy
Hutchinson
Wallace & Lisa Kale**

February 5
Larry & Betty Clapp

February 14
**Howard Hendricks
& Jan Cole**

Memorials & Specials Gifts to Honor Friends & Loved Ones

IN MEMORY OF

June Allison
Action in Aging
Don & Glenda Blalock
Larry & Betty Clapp
Willie & Barbara Ingle
Joel & Julie Isley
Ginger Jarrett
Claude & Denise Little
Robert & Sandra Moulton
Millie Schumpert
Donnie & Celia Summers
Tommy & Joyce Summers
Joe Thompson
Amy Whitesell
Carol Younger
Jeff & Edith Younger

Don & Margaret Allred
Joe Thompson

Bobby R. Geringer, Sr.
Nell Geringer
Joe Thompson

Bobby "Ron" Geringer, Jr.
Nell Geringer
Joe Thompson

Deloris Harden

Ginger Jarrett

Larry Hursey

Joe Thompson

Donald Learned

Ginger Jarrett
Carol Younger

Vance Oliver

Joe Thompson

Emma Randle

Max & Pam Litten

Tracy Salisbury

Ginger Jarrett

W.L. Tilley

Joe Thompson

C.A. & Gertrude Wharton

Joe Thompson

Richard Younger

Carol Younger

IN HONOR OF

**To all the staff who have
worked so hard during 2020
to keep us together as a
church community**
Terry & Susan McNeill



June Allison
January 3, 2021

Thank You Notes

Thank you to GUMC, GUMC Youth and UMW for all the nice things given to me over the last year. Thanks also for the visits, calls, cards and gifts from everyone. They were appreciated so much.
God bless each of you!
Linda Waynick and Family

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the thanksgiving basket. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you also for the get-well cards, Christmas cards, thoughts and prayers. Thank you for being a loving church family.
Love you all,
Linda Geringer

Offering Counters for February: White Team

Randy Apple, Henry Buckner, Susan McNeill

Our Gifts

By our Gifts (as of 12/31/20)	
Annual Budget	336,528
Operating Fund Received in December	72,016
Operating Fund Received Year to Date	350,165
Operating Fund Needed Budget to Date	336,528
Above/(Below) Budget to Date	13,637
Building Fund received in December	19,590
Building Fund received Year to Date	73,012
Mortgage Payments Year to Date	85,440
Above/(Below) Mortgage Payments YTD	(12,428)
Mortgage Principal Balance	668,782

A complete copy of the current financial statement is available in the Welcome Center.

GUMC
JANUARY 2021

Children & Youth

Uplift
Serve
Connect



Eggs To Go

We are doing an all inclusive easter egg hunt throughout the town and around the church. We are asking every family to paint a wooden egg so we can put it around town. For more details, please contact ezekiel.gillie@gibsonvilleumc.org



Kids crafts
Do you need any craft supplies? We have craft projects for you to take home. Please contact Ezekiel



Fundraising
GUMC Youth will be fundraising to remodel the youth room. Please be on the lookout for a complete list of all the ways you can support our youth.

Confirmation
Our youth will be going through confirmation classes February 7th through March 14th

1

UPLIFT

Find someone this week and send them an encouraging message

2

SERVE

Go the extra mile and do a job or task that someone else typically accomplishes.

3

CONNECT

Look for all the ways God has been evident in your life this week.

Always Choose Love

God wants us to choose to love him freely, even when that choice involves pain, because we are committed to him, not to our own good feelings and rewards. He wants us to cleave to him, as Job did, even when we have every reason to deny him hotly. That, I believe, is the central message of Job.

Satan had taunted God with the accusation that humans are not truly free. Was Job being faithful simply because God had allowed him a prosperous life? Job's fiery trials proved the answer beyond doubt. Job clung to God's justice when he was the best example in history of God's apparent injustice. He did not seek the Giver because of his gifts; when all gifts were removed, he still sought the Giver.

--Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*