



The Newsletter Of
**Gibsonville
 United Methodist
 Church**

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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.

January 2021

Inside this issue...

- Upcoming Events and Information
- Anniversaries
- Birthdays
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- Youth Ministry



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



I am sitting at my desk the morning of December 23, 2020, wondering what to write about with the New Year upon us. The reader will not see this until right before or right after January 1, 2021.

I saw a commercial this morning. I cannot even remember what the commercial was selling. A young woman is walking down the street. Suddenly, a fireball erupts. There is a red male figure standing in front of the fireball, with big red horns growing out both sides of his head. I think he had a long red tail, but again, I cannot remember. The young woman looks at him for a moment and then says, "Satan?"

In the next scene they are watching a city burn (or maybe it is a bridge). She is leaning on his shoulder, and he says, "I hate to see this year end."

It is hard to imagine anyone (except Satan) not looking forward to 2020 ending. It has been a difficult year for most people. (The last sentence is a deliberate understatement).

It seems appropriate to reflect when a year comes to an end and another year begins. This year, however, it seems especially appropriate to reflect.

These are my reflections. They are not listed in any particular order of importance, but I think the people who make up a local church should know the mind and heart of their pastor, even if they do not always agree with each other. (These reflections are based on recollections. They may or may not be exactly accurate as to time and place. I decided to write this article without looking back on the internet or other news sources. I think that will keep me from reporting the news and show how what happened this year affected me).

One thing that opened my eyes to the culture we live in happened just as the pandemic was gaining a foothold in the world. I remember one evening looking up *pandemic* in the dictionary. It said something to the effect that a pandemic is a serious disease that spreads across the globe.

Cruise ships were stranded at sea for days. It seems like several people died of coronavirus waiting to make it to harbor. But sometime in February or March a celebrity, Tom Hanks, and his wife, announced they had tested positive for coronavirus. That very evening, I think, the NBA cancelled their games. What startled me was that

scientists and medical authorities had been warning about the seriousness of the pandemic for weeks, but it took a celebrity to become infected and a sports league to cancel its games for the population to take things seriously. *It is merely an observation on what we, as a people, take seriously.*

Yet another reflection is how people reacted to the killing of George Floyd around (or on) Memorial Day. That event touched chords in our nation, and even the world, that had managed to lay dormant for years. By Memorial Day 2020, who knows how many African-American males we had seen on videotape being killed unjustly? I guess the image of a man kneeling on the neck of another man for eight minutes and forty-six seconds, begging for his life, slowing suffocating, calling for his mother, just was so much that it opened up feelings in people they had heretofore managed to ignore. Protests followed practically all summer all over not just the nation, but the world. Unfortunately, sometimes the protests turned violent and devolved into riots.

My reflection on the summer of 2020 is that we, as a nation, will never be the same again. Sides have been chosen. It will be very difficult for white people to "unsee" what we saw. And we should **not** try to unsee it. We should let it change the way we discuss things, the way we react to things, and the things we do with our lives.

I believe to the core of my being that the heart of God is greatly saddened by what the world and our nation, and many of us personally, have lived through in 2020. I may be the first to actually say it – but there are no guarantees that 2021 will be any better. I do not hate to see 2020 finally end, but unless more of us who call ourselves followers of Christ become actively involved in making the world any better, it will not happen automatically.

I remind us of the Advent and Christmas promise, that Jesus is *Emmanuel*, which means God is with us. The question for us, as individuals and as the body of Christ, is what difference is the presence of God in our midst going to make in our lives?

Happy New Year?
 Pastor Barry

January Music News at GUMC

And now, you, little child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go forth before the presence of the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people a knowledge of salvation in the forgiveness of their sins, through our God's inmost mercy, whereby a dawning from on high will visit us, to shine on those sitting in darkness and death's shadow, so to guide our feet into the path of peace. – Lk. 1:76-79 [Trans., David Hart]

Each morning, as part of the Divine Office of Lauds, I sing Zechariah's Prophecy (Lk. 1:68-79), concluding with the lines above. You would think that, with hundreds of repetitions each year, this text might become routine, even humdrum. For me, though, the opposite has been the case: Zechariah's words have penetrated ever deeper into my heart. Let me try to describe part of what I hear these days in this piece of Luke's Christmas story, which you should first read complete.

I first hear bits of our – of my - spiritual history. Salvation. Liberation. Covenant. These are some of the named human nouns pointing to the eternal verb-ness of God's nature. But God is still other, external, and my longing to relate directly to God causes my *Advent Heart* to respond, "O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!" [UMH 234]. Next, my *Christmas Heart* warms as God offers his people "a knowledge of salvation in the forgiveness of their sins."

Here though, "God's people" seems to include more than a chosen few, and I respond, "Savior of the nations, come!" [UMH 214]. But there's more! My *Epiphany Heart* hears of God's inmost mercy to indwell ALL his people – for who on earth doesn't sit in death's shadow? (v. 78) – and to guide our individual and collective feet into the path of peace. Now, the *Epiphany Heart* in me bursts open, singing at the top of its lungs, "Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus!" [UMH 206]. Amen.



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.

Community Christmas Party

The SEND Committee would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the 2020 Community Christmas Mission Project. To our shoppers, wrappers, food box preppers, stocking fillers, and anyone who gave a monetary donation Thank You! We could not have done it without you.

Through your selfless giving, we were able to provide Christmas Cheer to 9 families with a total of 27 children. Even though we could not host the party, we were able to do a socially distanced drive through event complete with Santa to greet the children.

May God's richest blessings be upon you all!

Winter Book Study

Pastor Barry is offering a new book study beginning January 19, 2021, *Sacred Pathways: Nine Pathways to Connect with God*. Discover a path for worship that frees you to be you. You connect best with God and grow spiritually in one of nine unique ways. Learn how to lean into your spiritual temperament and how to appreciate other people who engage with God differently . . . It's by the design of a Creator who knew what he was doing and who has unique intentions for you. If your spiritual walk is not what you would like it to be, you can change that, starting here.

The study will probably last 4-6 weeks, each Tuesday night beginning January 19 at 7-8:30pm. We will use ZOOM Conference (don't quit reading)!

ZOOM is very easy to use. If you can email you can ZOOM! Our church staff can help you get started if you need help. The benefits are a higher quality prayer and spiritual life, improved understanding of how God has wired your spirit, and increased fellowship with fellow church members, even in the time of pandemic.

Let Pastor Barry know if you are interested in this wonderful book study by January 12 so he can order the book (about \$20.00). Call or text (336) 239-5705, email (blemons@wnccumc.net) or call Edith Younger/Admin. Assistant (336) 449-4810.

An Ongoing Goal



Still searching for a New Year's resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19th-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it "the only thing in the whole world worth caring for."

Two modern-day authors offer more insights. Stormie Omartian points out that we're either making progress or backsliding on this goal. "There is no neutral position in the Lord," she writes. "You are either becoming more like Christ every day or you're becoming less like him." And followers of Jesus must keep the goal always in focus. Christ-likeness is our "eventual destination," writes Rick Warren, but the "journey will last a lifetime."



GIBSONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
The Poinsettias placed in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God.



<u><i>In Memory of:</i></u>	<u><i>In Memory of:</i></u>	<u><i>In Honor of:</i></u>
Richard Barfield By: Craig, Lisa, Cameron & Emileigh Barfield	Dwight, Thelma & Jerry Moize, Jr. By: Flonnie Moize	All Christmas Eve Service Participants By: Don & Glenda Blalock
Delbert Beck By: Carol Beck	Ruth & Arthur Moize By: Lydia Kaplan Nell Gerringer	June Allison By: Flonnie Moize
Gladys Beck By: Carol Beck	Van Moore By: Ann Moore	Randy & Lynne Beck By: Carol Beck
Larry Beck By: Carol Beck	Our Grandparents By: Clarence & Elizabeth Ingle	Sherry Beck By: Carol Beck
Mack Beck By: Carol Beck	Our Loved Ones By: Donnie & Celia Summers	Marie Buckner By: Henry & Chriss Buckner
Odell Beck By: Carol Beck	Our Loved Ones By: Emily, Kent & Carter James Don Bateman Jane Oakley Ruth Ann Martin	Jean Butcher By: Carol Younger
Virgie Beck By: Carol Beck	Betty Richardson By: Clarence & Elizabeth Ingle	Chancel Choir & Rob Hallquist By: Carol Beck
Pete & Mary Ellen Boyles By: Deleno & Susan Flynn	Tom Schubert By: Carol Beck	Faye W. Cheek By: Mark & Lisa Cheek
Kenneth & Eleanor Brubaker By: Glada Cater	Warren & Geneva Schubert By: Carol Beck	Peggy Deaton By: Barry & Jane Deaton & Family
Clyde Buckner By: Henry & Chriss Buckner	Derrill Schumpert By: Millie Schumpert	Mr. & Mrs. David Harrison, Sr. By: David & Maria Harrison
Margaret Calligan By: Nell Gerringer	Jack & Ruth Scott By: Barry & Deaton & Family	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Hundley By: David & Maria Harrison
A.B. & Zora S. Carver By: Chriss & Henry Buckner	D. Lee & Minnie Smith By: The Morrow Family	Phillip, Michael, Megan & Wyatt Ingle & Susan Prochnow By: Clarence & Elizabeth Ingle
Alvis Cheek By: Mark & Lisa Cheek	Ruby & James Smith By: Ginger Jarrett	Ginger Jarrett By: Carol Younger
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Cheek By: Mark & Lisa Cheek	Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Thompson Sr. By: Nell Gerringer Joe Thompson	Boyce & Nancy Johnson By: The Morrow Family
Paulina Chisley By: Claude & Denise Little	Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Thompson Jr. By: Nell Gerringer Joe Thompson	Pastor Barry & Donna Lemons By: Don & Glenda Blalock
John Deaton By: Barry & Jane Deaton & Family	Mary Thompson By: Nell Gerringer Joe Thompson	Pam Litten By: Carol Younger
Ed Fagan: By: Pam & Don Fagan	Charlie & Agnes Walker By: Sue Hogan Irma Walker	Denise Little By: Carol Younger
Jimmy Flynn By: Deleno & Susan Flynn	Charles A. Walker III By: Betty, Chuck & Brian Walker	Ruth Ann Martin By: Don & Glenda Blalock
Patsy & Josh Flynn By: Deleno & Susan Flynn	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Waynick By: Mark & Lisa Cheek	Mrs. Grace Powell By: David & Maria Harrison
Paul & Janie Flynn By: Deleno & Susan Flynn	Charles Weisner By: Carol Younger Kim & Tyler Thomas	Barry & Linda Raker By: Carol Beck
Belle Gerringer By: E.R. Gerringer	Judy C. & Ken Whiteheart By: Chriss & Henry Buckner	Celia Summers By: Carol Younger
Bobby "Ron" Gerringer By: Nell Gerringer Joe Thompson	Spencer Graham Williams By: Jeff & Edith Younger	Kimberly Thomas By: Carol Younger
Carl W. Gerringer Sr. By: Linda Gerringer & Family	Harold & Tony Younger By: Carol Younger	Linda R. Waynick By: Mark & Lisa Cheek
Leon Hinshaw By: Clarence & Elizabeth Ingle	Matt Younger By: Ginger Jarrett Carol Younger Kim & Tyler Thomas	Edna Weisner By: Carol Younger Kim & Tyler Thomas
Clarence & Marie Ingle By: Clarence & Elizabeth Ingle	Richard Younger By: Carol Younger Kim & Tyler Thomas	Charlotte Williams By: Jeff & Edith Younger
Christopher Jarrett By: Ginger Jarrett Carol Younger	Willie & Violet Younger By: Carol Younger	
Coy Jarrett By: Ginger Jarrett Carol Younger		
Albert & Barbara Johnson By: The Morrow Family		
Phil Kinney By: Deleno & Susan Flynn		
Martha & Charles Levens By: Nell Gerringer		
Natha Little By: Claude & Denise Little		

WE UPLIFT, SERVE, AND CONNECT WITH GOD'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO INSTILL A LIFETIME OF FAITH AND NURTURE CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS.

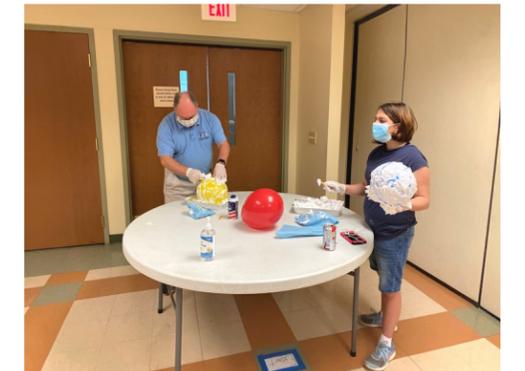
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Looking ahead to 2021, here is a word for the year: "Fortitude" Fortitude means courage in adversity or pain. 2020 has brought us ups and downs, pain and joy, and much adversity. We will face these challenges together with courage. Having courage does not mean there is no fear. It is moving forward even though we are afraid. Let us "Face Forward with Fortitude"

What a year we have experienced in 2020. I have greatly appreciated working with Gibsonville UMC it is truly an honor. When I came on board and joined the team God gave me a word for the year, "Visibility" It has been a year to really focus on God, focus on our lives, and see what is important. Visibility has also been part of my goal with kids and youth programming! It is important that our children and our youth are seen. Being seen and looking ahead has proven to be a challenge. How can one move forward, plan programs, and make sure people are seen in a world that is shut down with no way to gauge where pandemic life is headed? Little by little God has guided my steps and shown me what is next. Pastor Barry and I have planned up and down, left and right, forward and backward. We are both grateful to those who have given us feedback to help our decisions and make sure the children and youth have been healthy and safe this year. Below you will find a couple of pictures of our year!



Pictures from several events, local missions, and just hanging out at youth group. For more pictures check out GUMC Facebook and our website at www.gibsonvilleumc.org



January BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Joey Crotts
Molly Zimmerman
- 4 Susan McBane
- 6 Lillian Clark
- 7 Deleno Flynn
Kendra Hiatt
Emma Kirkman
- 8 Bentley Owen
- 9 Kailey Ezekiel
- 10 Jane Allred
Chriss Buckner
- 13 Lisa Fields
Melissa Nordmeyer
- 14 Anita Johnson
Paula Lewis
- 15 Joe Thompson
- 17 E.R. Gerringer
- 18 David Harrison
- 19 Kyle Brain
- 21 Kim Brain
- 24 Frankie Allred
- 26 Abygail Duquette
- 28 David Lea
- 30 Larry Clapp
Meredith Walker
- 31 Susan Flynn
Craig Veiga

Marriage Announcements

Jim & Tina Gunn announces the marriage of their Dianne Mechelle Gunn to Gregory Minger on November 5, 2020. The couple will reside in Dallas, Georgia.

AND

The marriage of their son, Adam Gunn to Mackenzie Webster on December 19, 2020. The couple will reside in Gibsonville, NC.

January ANNIVERSARIES

- January 1
Don & Teresa Merner
- January 8
Claude & Denise Little
- January 20
Michael & Linda Hunt

Thank You Notes

To the Youth of GUMC,
Thank you so much for the Thanksgiving basket. It's so nice to be remembered.

Have a Merry Christmas!
God is Good!
Larry & Betty Clapp

Dear GUMC Family,
Henry and I want to thank you for the wonderful Thanksgiving basket that Henry's mother, Marie, received from our church. We were able to spend some time with her Thanksgiving Day and she had to show us all of her goodies! It was so nice of our church family to remember her! You all are a blessing in our lives!
Sincerely,
Chriss Buckner

Dear GUMC,
Thank you for the Thanksgiving basket. I enjoyed it very much.
Dorothy Tickle

U.M. Women,
Thanks to the UM Women for the Thanksgiving bag. Loved all that was in it and the shawl. How nice that was with all that is going in our world today.
Love,
Pam Fagan

Dear GUMC,
Thank you so very much for the basket that you gave me full of fruit, treats and cards made by the youth. It truly brightened my day here at Blakely Hall. I also appreciate the cards that I received from the church.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and prayers.
Sincerely,
Edna Weisner
(Carol Younger's Mother)

Memorials & Specials Gifts to Honor Friends & Loved Ones

IN MEMORY OF

Jimmy Flynn
Joe Thompson
Gary, Troy and Juanita Henry
Hilde Henry
Troy & Juanita Henry
Joe Thompson
Dick & Lois Hughes
Joe Thompson
Paul Kellis
Joe Thompson
Jim Martin
Don & Glenda Blalock
Van Moore
Thomas L. Bass, Jr.
Shirley Langley
Chuck & Connie Morris
Max & Pam Litten
Wallace Owen
Joe Thompson

Emma Randle
Don & Glenda Blalock
Carol Younger
Jeff & Edith Younger
Jack & Clara Randolph
Joe Thompson
Tommy Randolph
Joe Thompson
Paul & Escurido Waynick
Joe Thompson
Katherine Wrightsville
Carol Younger
Richard Younger
Joe Thompson

IN HONOR OF

Ann Moore
Thomas L. Bass, Jr

Offering Counters for January: Red Team
Elizabeth Ingle & Boyce Johnson

Our Gifts

By our Gifts (as of 11/30/20)

Annual Budget	336,528
Operating Fund Received in November	30,686
Operating Fund Received Year to Date	278,149
Operating Fund Needed Budget to Date	310,641
Above/(Below) Budget to Date	(32,492)
Building Fund received in November	4,490
Building Fund received Year to Date	53,422
Mortgage Payments Year to Date	78,320
Above/(Below) Mortgage Payments YTD	(24,898)
Mortgage Principal Balance	673,802

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



Gibsonville United Methodist Church

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Gibsonville, North Carolina 27249

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OOOPPSSS!



OOOPPSSS: This is the Christmas picture from the Cline family. Somehow, it fell through the cracks in our Christmas Eve slideshow. Sorry about that Joe, Lillie, Dianne, and Lauren. We love you!

Christmas Decorations Take Down and Storage—Your Help Is Needed!!!

Please come and help take down and gently store all the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. Meet in the Sanctuary Sunday, January 3 at 2:00pm.

GUMC Hat Wearers

In the age of COVID-19, our church "hat wearers," put on their hats each Sunday morning before tuning into the church website (www.gibsonvilleumc.org) to participate in our weekly worship service! Thanks Jean Butcher and Vicki Holmes for your faithfulness!



Waiting Until God Is Heard

We're often taught that prayer is speaking to God. And of course, that's part of it. It's good to pray for the well-being and needs of others — even Jesus prayed for his disciples. It's okay to pray for our own growth in faith and love. It's a wonderful, powerful thing, modeled especially by the Psalmists, to give God thanks and praise. And God welcomes our cries of pain and sorrow, offering the Spirit's help when words fail us (Romans 8:26).

But through the ages, many deeply faithful followers of Christ have practiced contemplative prayer, centering prayer and other forms of stillness before God. Danish theologian Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) expressed it this way: "To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking. Prayer involves becoming silent, and being silent, and waiting until God is heard."