



July 2019 AT-A-GLANCE

DAVIDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | PO Box 718, 233 S. MAIN STREET | DAVIDSON, NC 28036

TOWARD A FULLER VISION OF METHODISM

Rev. Shane Page

As a United Methodist clergy firmly planted in Wesleyan theology, I have begun asking what it would look like if local United Methodist churches incorporated the fullness of John Wesley's vision of Methodism.

We may think of Wesley's vision of Methodism in at least three forms, each interrelated with the other. It was first *evangelistic*, meaning it would base itself on the bold proclamation of the gospel, summoning everyone to convert their lives to Christ as a lifelong practice.

It was, second, *academic*, meaning it would cultivate the life of the mind and thereby shape the Christian imagination. John Wesley was a committed student of the Bible and of the great catholic-orthodox theologians of the ancient past.

And third, it was *eucharistic*, meaning the Lord's Supper would be the center of every service of worship. It was hardly the preaching of the Word alone that John Wesley promoted. It was the Table too. John Wesley insisted that the people called Methodist would eat of the bread and wine every time they gathered for worship. Just read his famous sermon *The Duty of Constant Communion* for proof. Readers will soon realize Wesley tolerated no excuses for neglecting it.



Why? Because Wesley, in keeping with the orthodox minds of church history, taught that the Lord's Supper is white-hot with the Spirit's energy, effervescent with Jesus's real presence. It is through the means of the bread and cup that Jesus, in short, invades us with his grace. Wesley rejected the notion according to which Holy Communion is a memorial meal during which we recall suffering and death. No, Wesley exclaimed! It's a feast, a banquet of joy and grace!

The United Methodist Church has in recent years encouraged local churches to revive Wesley's eucharistic vision and to move away from its infrequent celebration. That most churches celebrate it once per month (or less!) is a truly an accident of history.

In the coming weeks, you will see us begin moving toward a fuller practice of Wesley's eucharistic vision. Instead of once per month, and emboldened by John Wesley's clear teaching, our plan is to start celebrating the Lord's Supper at least twice per month in our 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services. Wesley would reiterate, as he did many times in his writings, how we have nothing to lose and everything to gain, the true presence of Jesus himself.

OF SPECIAL NOTE THIS MONTH

MAD SUNDAY

SUNDAYS IN JULY

The Make-A-Difference collection for July is benefitting the Children's Hope Alliance (formerly known as Barium Springs).

Place donations in the MAD baskets in the Gathering Space or in the marked bin outside the Church Office. All items must be new and not used.

- Wash cloths
- Pillow cases
- Pillow covers
- Bath towels

LGBT+ AFFIRMATION GROUP FOR FAMILIES

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. starting on July 2 in Room 220. We hope that you will join us on our journey as we share our stories and provide support to one another. For more information contact Beckie McCall (704-491-4353).

CANCER CARE

THURSDAY, JULY 18

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

We will meet at Brickhouse Tavern (209 Delburg St.) in Davidson. Just ask for "Bob McIntosh" upon arrival at the restaurant. The topic for June will be Building Friendships.

DUMC WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL FOR

2019-20 There are student openings in these classes: MWF 2's, 4 - Day 4's and the TK class. Contact Nancy Cork (ncork@davidsonumc.org or 704-896-0082) for details and further information.



ROAR! VBS 2019

MENITA MERCURI & TABITHA LINDSAY

Vacation Bible School is always a fun way to engage children AND volunteers in the message of the Good News of the Christian faith. This year children learned about how God is good ALL the time!

Staff and volunteers start each year in January preparing for VBS to start in June. The time and effort is MORE than worth it. Our set crew co-ops with other churches in the area and begins work in April. Expense and work are shared. The set is moved from church to church all summer.



This year, 260 children and 100 teen and adult volunteers participated. This number includes children and volunteers who attend La Escuelita at The Ada Jenkins Center.

To start the day at Vacation Bible School, crew leaders meet children at their designated location first thing in the morning and the rotation for the day begins with a large group opening. The children enjoy singing, dancing, and skits that introduce the Bible point, Scripture and buddy for the day. After the opening, children visit Bible Exploration, Imagination Station, Safari Games, and Kid Vid Cinema before wrapping up the day with another large group session reinforcing the day's lesson and building on previous days.

Some highlights from the week include;

- ◇ A 7-year-old boy asked for a Bible one morning so he could look up the key Bible verses. He even asked if he could take the Bible home!
- ◇ A 9-year-old girl walked over to one of the adult leaders and thanked her for being at VBS every year to help.
- ◇ An 8-year-old girl was supposed to be eating her lunch after VBS ended one day but she told the adults: "I'm not an eater right now- I'm a helper."
- ◇ One of the youth helpers shared a very spiritual story with a group of 25 kids. He told how an angel had visited his family when he was 3 and his mother was very pregnant. The children were mesmerized and touched.
- ◇ A group of boys who had the reputation for being "too cool for school" began requesting certain VBS songs during the large group time.
- ◇ So many youth gave up a week of hanging out at home to come to VBS to lead and mentor our children.

We are already choosing themes and ideas for VBS 2020! To create a successful VBS, we need talents of ALL kinds: art, music, drama, shepherding, organizing, administrative, creativity, childcare, etc. We can use you wherever you are comfortable.

We are so thankful for the adults and youth who volunteered and the parents who entrusted their precious children into our care. If you have not participated before, please consider joining us in 2020!

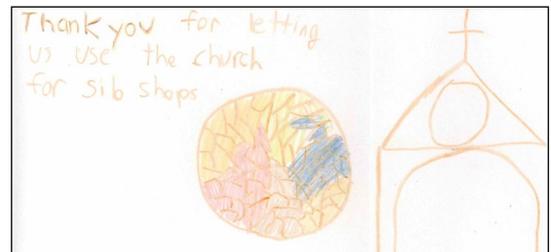


Thank you DUMC...



THANK YOU! With your help and support, [Bags of Hope](#) delivered 10,463 weekend food bags to almost 350 unique students at 12 schools in Davidson, Huntersville, Cornelius, and North Charlotte this past school year! This is equivalent to almost 85,000 lbs. of food. We could not have done this without the help and support of DUMC and all of our amazing volunteers!

SIBSHOP THANK YOU



Sibshops is a wellness, recreational program for school – aged children who have a sibling with a developmental disability or chronic medical condition that meets at Davidson UMC during the school year. It is an opportunity for some fun, laughter, high-energy games, talking about the good and not-so-good aspects of having a sibling with special needs and learning more about services their siblings receive. For more information: <https://www.sibshopsln.com>



I just wanted to pass along this photo of our 2's class having a picnic lunch outside. They are using one of the large quilts donated from the Quilt Ministry at DUMC. Their efforts are much appreciated here at Davidson-Cornelius Child Development Center.

HOSPITALITY—WHERE DO I GET IT?

CHARLOTTE THOMAS

Why am I continuing to write you letters about hospitality?
Because it is critical to the health of every church.

Growing up, I didn't realize saying hello, smiling, and welcoming people was bigger than me. When making an acquaintance, my mother expected polite manners, a genuine smile, and a firm handshake from her children. It was easier to do what was expected than risk getting in trouble (my mom was a firm disciplinarian). That behavior is like learning the answers for an exam without understanding their significance.

As I got older, I recognized I was being warm and friendly so people would like me. Doesn't it feel good when our efforts are validated? The problem was, I was not always being authentic nor was I validating those I met. Hospitality goes beyond me and my needs, its focus is on the stranger. Christ calls us to reach out to the stranger, to welcome, connect with, and to embrace them. Then, they are no longer a stranger to us.

In my last letter, I told you hospitality involves risk. The good news is the risks can start small and grow as we practice. Wearing a name badge and writing your name in the pew pad are simple starts. Pray for Christ to give you confidence, sincerity, and peace as you prepare to make a path to welcome others. Then try speaking to one person at church that you do not know; ask their name, tell them how good it is to meet them, and tell them that you hope to see them again soon.

Plan to practice "Radical Hospitality" during the August Sermon Series, even if you are watching online. Surprise and delight others as you risk small, intentional steps to welcome them. Be aware of the stranger in your midst at church, at your kids' ballgame, or in the park. Let me know how it goes, I'll even incentivize you. When you meet someone new in worship, at a church event, or in the park, learn their name and two things about them. Fill out a card at the Connect Center (by the Main Street entry doors) and you and your new friend could win a prize. More details to come in August.

One final note about my mom, she never met a stranger. Standing in line, newcomers at church, at my school (ugh!), she would talk to anyone with the confidence of her Lord, Jesus Christ. To me, her actions were usually embarrassing, sometimes inconvenient, but they were always full of risk – reaching out to a stranger with Christ's love.

PRAYER LIST

Names remain on this list for two issues, unless otherwise requested. To add your name or that of a friend or loved one, contact Sherry Carpenter (scarpenter@davidsonumc.org or 704-892-8277).

J. Cooper Akin, III
Joe and Sybil Banks
Scott Boggs
Kim Browning
Jane Clark
Alex Dahan
Judy Feigl
Lance Fenderson
Cheryl and Shawn Greenwood
Mike Hager
Kitty Hamilton

Hazel Harrington
Devin Kiser
Norman Lasbury
Paula Malenski
Henry Miller
Woody Naman
Dylan Shellenbarger
Gerald Turner
Charles Walker
Ashleigh Whaley

SYMPATHY to:

- * The family of Shirley Allen
- * Anne Marie McDonald in the death of her husband
- * Andy Lustig in the death of his wife
- * The family of Jim Hicks

CHILDREN SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children are welcome to worship with their families at any service. At the 9:30 a.m. hour, we also offer OrangeKids for ages 3 - 5 in Room 116, and Godly Play for rising grades K - 2 in Room G2, and rising grades 3 - 5 in Room 203/205. Contact Menita Mercuri (mmercuri@davidsonumc.org) or Tabitha Lindsay (tlindsay@davidsonumc.org) for more information.

Childcare for ages 4 and under is provided during the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Childcare for ages 2 and under is provided during the 9:30 a.m. service. Contact Shaun Jayne (sjayne@davidsonumc.org) for more information about childcare.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SUNDAYS

This summer Sunday School for rising grades 6 - 12 will meet at the Molly McKay House from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. and will offer a coffeehouse environment from 10:30 a.m. - noon on Sunday's starting June 2.

WANT TO BE A RESUCE HERO? AND RIDE IN A COOL TRUCK?



Help rescue local food before it is wasted:

- * Experience not required
- * One, half-day a month is the minimum commitment from 8:00 a.m. - noon
- * Training is provided
- * Drive the truck or ride along, your choice

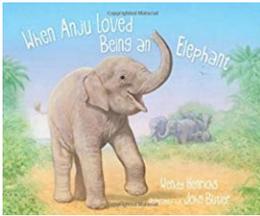
All rescued food is taken to local agencies
(ex. Mooresville Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army, Lake Norman Christian Mission)
Questions? Contact Bill Adams (adams.william2@gmail.com or 704-785-4452)

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Gail Spach, DUMC Librarian

Elephants!

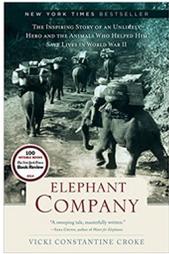
Inspired by the African savanna theme of DUMC's wonderful 2019 Vacation Bible School, I decided to discover how many books in the DUMC Library popped up when I searched the catalog for this popular savanna animal. Here are just a few:



When Anju Loved Being an Elephant by Wendy Henrichs; illustrations by John Butler

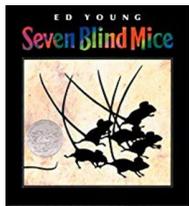
Anju was born on the Indonesian island of Sumatra where she lived a happy elephant life. Sadly, she was seized at the age of 5 and forced to live in captivity for 50 years.

Check this book out to find out how her story takes a turn for the better.



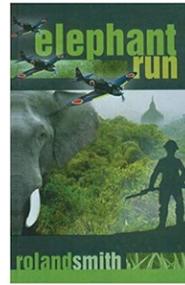
Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II by Vicki Constantine Croke

A spellbinding tale, also set in wartime Burma, relating the true story of war hero James Howard Williams and his special relationship and collaboration with elephants.



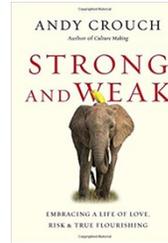
Seven Blind Mice by Ed Young

An oldie but goodie, this book describes the perspectives of 7 mice who each have a different encounter with an elephant and can serve as an illustration of our varying notions about God.



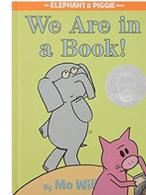
Elephant Run by Roland Smith

Set in Burma during World War II, this exciting adventure story intended for readers in grades 6 – 8 is also suitable for adults.



Strong and Weak by Andy Crouch

Writer, musician, and public speaker Andy Crouch recommends being both strong and weak (vulnerable) in order for the image of God to shine through us—for our own sakes and that of others.



We Are in a Book by Mo Willems

The library has 9 books in the hilarious Elephant & Piggie series; cute and witty, they are perfect for beginner readers.

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