



# Raeford United Methodist Church

## June 2020

*Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, beginning in our own community.*

### WINGO'S WORDS

As a child, before I was twelve years old, my family had moved eleven times in ten years. No, my father wasn't a preacher, nor did he serve in the military. Moving seemed to be a way of life for us. You might think it funny that God had chosen an itinerant career path for me. (And you say God doesn't have a sense of humor!)

Five years ago, all the Pastors in our Annual Conference who were moving to new appointments and representatives of their respective Staff-Parish Relations Committees met together at Garner United Methodist Church for a Transition Seminar. We heard a presentation on how to leave an appointment in a healthy way and what to do when we arrived at our new location.

After the presentation, the Pastors and their new SPRC representatives sat down together to talk about their hopes and visions for this new appointment. Three were present from Raeford Church. We talked about the usual expectations...membership growth, finances and programs. At the end of our day together, I asked the group: "Of all we've talked about, what is the one thing you desire the most?" The three looked at each other for a moment. After an awkward pause, one finally said, "Preacher, we really just want someone to love us."

With a smile I said, "I think I can do that."

Isn't that what we all desire? To love and to be loved? To have the Christ in me, welcome the Christ that is in you.

The answer I received at that Transition Seminar reaffirmed something I had long known about the work of ministry. The work of ministry isn't necessarily about numbers and programs (they are simply markers). No, the work of ministry is about relationships. The work of ministry is about listening and discerning. The work of ministry is about sharing grace with each other, holding a hand during an uncertain time, celebrating a meal together, and praying for each other. The work of ministry is about being present. The work of ministry is about being willing to let the Holy Spirit use you, your gifts and graces for His purpose!

I suppose I could thumb through my calendars from July 2015 until now (yes, I save them!) and recount the events that we have journeyed through together. The weddings, baptisms and funerals. The Primetimers trips and luncheons. The Vacation Bible Schools. The Wednesday Evening Fellowship Suppers and Studies. The Committee meetings and community events. The Mission Trips. The laughter and the tears.

Suffice it to say, these are all built on relationships. You have invested in them as much as I. We have grown together. And for these and many other blessings of serving with you I am grateful.

Good-byes have always been difficult for me. Especially so, now as I begin a new chapter in my life. But know this...you are loved.

Goodbye is another way of saying "God Be With You". And I know God is with you, because the Christ in me has seen the Christ in you. Jesus once said to his disciples, "All will know that you are my disciples by the love you show for one another."

So until we meet again, God be with you.

Brian



### WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Worship 11:00 AM

Wednesdays

Supper/Fellowship 5:30 PM

Study 6:00 PM

(Childcare available)



## FROM the PREACHER's WIFE

Dear friends, my expression of gratitude for your love and support over the years pales in comparison to how I feel. From the day we met you welcomed us with open hearts and arms. On moving day, I have fond memories of the members of the parsonage committee and others helping to set the house in order. My favorite may be finding Sandy upside down in the master bedroom closet unpacking Brian's numerous suits! Food was abundant, including Krispy Kreme donuts and mugs. We learned how to get the smell of rotten chicken out of a refrigerator that sat for days in storage. Pam and Eric worked miracles on it, and Emily was present to help as well. And this was all on day one!

We have been showered with so many blessings while here. I won't repeat the things that Brian has already expounded upon, instead focusing on my own additional list. One of my first activities was participations in a UMW event, closely followed by VBS. Both have provided treasured memories. The UMW has supported my trips to Haiti as well as support to our love of El Salvador. It also has provided friendships that I will cherish. I was welcomed into the quilting circle, and learned everything I know from Sandy, Linda, Verna, and Marian. What a treat that has been, although my budget has been damaged by this new habit. The choir has been a welcome outlet for me, and I will miss the Wednesday night camaraderie and my fellow tenor and bass, along with Marian's teaching adventure stories.

This ending is not what any of us hoped for, but it is what we got. But again, you have shown grace in accepting what is, and I have learned from you even in this world wide crisis. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Shalom, Diane

## MUSICAL MATTERS

Covid-19 continues to cause issues! As many of you know, our bishop has made the recommendation that congregational singing **not** be a part of our worship services once we are back within our church building. I know that I, along with you, will miss the singing, but please rest assured that music will still have a place within our services. Cynthia and I will continue to work together to bring music to our worship, even if we cannot sing as a group.

Unfortunately, this will most likely not be the only way that our music will be affected. In researching the impact of the virus on choral singing, I have read multiple articles that have been supported by musical organizations like the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and the American Choral Directors Association, that suggest that singers can actually be considered virus "super-spreaders" based on the amount of air and projection required for singing. There is no way to adequately "social distance" within our choir loft, and it is simply not safe for our choir members, or congregation to participate in choral singing at this time.

As you may have guessed, this news completely broke my heart (especially the thought that I will not be able to sing with my young students at school in the fall). I love to sing, and I know that John Wesley (who greatly supported congregational singing) would be disappointed, too. The problem is that we simply don't know what the future holds. There is no way for us to know when a cure will happen, and we don't know how a single song could affect our congregation. I have read horror stories from other choirs and I am determined to keep this from happening to us.

Please be patient as we find our way. Choir might not resume this fall, and a Christmas cantata might not be possible this year, but music will still be around us and within us. I pray that we can soon put all of this behind us and go back to our "old normal" (I really liked that normal – I got to hug people!). Song requests can still be made for songs that Cynthia and I will perform, even if we can't sing them as a worship community!

I'm praying for your continued health and happiness. Please reach out if you need me!

Love,  
Marian



We provide the Upper Room printed devotional guides (large and small print editions) to our members. During this time of anxiety and isolation The Upper Room wants to make it as easy as possible for people to find resources to support spiritual health. They are graciously providing free access to the May/June 2020 issue of *The Upper Room* magazine through June 30th. In addition, four short prayer resources that address specific needs are also available. To view on their website or download a PDF copy go to [www.upperroom.org/covid-19](http://www.upperroom.org/covid-19).

If you would like a printed copy, please contact the church office and we will arrange to get you a copy. We can set up a curbside pick up, deliver a copy to your doorstep or mail a copy to your address.

## Tithing through PayPal

Did you know you can send a tithe or offering to Raeford UMC using your PayPal account? Its quick and easy! Simply go to your PayPal account homepage and click on the "send" tab. Once there, enter the church's email address ([raefordumc@embarqmail.com](mailto:raefordumc@embarqmail.com)). Then, when asked, click **"send money to a friend"**. There is no service fee for selecting that option. Enter your donation and select the account from which you'll draw the funds. You can also use MC/Visa. It's that simple!

## DVD Announcement

Since it appears we will be in the "stay at home" mode for some time to come (at least through June). It occurs to us that some of our congregation may not be internet connected. We have been posting Worshipful Moments on both Facebook accounts associated with the church (Raeford United Methodist Church page and the Raeford United Methodist Church Group page). We have also linked the Facebook page to our church's website [www.raefordumc.org](http://www.raefordumc.org).

In an effort to be as inclusive as possible, we are planning to offer recordings of each week's Worshipful Moments. If you are not connected to the internet and would like an audio CD copy of the sermon and music, please contact the church office at 910-875-2111 (or Brian directly at 919-949-4388) and we will put you on the list for delivery. We will call you in advance prior to delivery and leave it at your door.

## Sunday School

The Summer 2020 Adult Bible Studies Lesson Books have arrived. They have been distributed to your classrooms. If you would like a copy, you may stop by the church office during office hours (Monday & Wednesdays, 8:30 am—1pm. Or call Mike if you would a book delivered.

## Wednesday Fellowship/Bible Study

Our Wednesday Dinners & Bible are on break for the summer . We hope to resume these activities on September 2, 2020.

## Prime Timers

Our Prime Timer social outings are also on summer break. We will hopefully resume our lunch socials on September 8. If you have any suggestions on places to visit, please contact Nora (Diddle) Meismer or Ronnie Floyd.

## RAEFORD CHRISTIAN FOOD BANK

Even though we are not able to get the Second Harvest Food Bank Truck to make deliveries on our Food Pantry days, our Food Pantry distributions are still ongoing. We are doing curbside pickups of bags of dry and canned goods from various donations to whoever shows up. Our next distribution is scheduled for Thursday, June 18 from 4-5pm. Please contact Joy Stansberry if you would like to help or have any questions.



## TRUSTEES

We finally received news on the cost of the part for the boiler, unfortunately not the news we wanted. The part(s) and labor will be close to \$7,200; but to keep the boiler running and have heat we don't have much choice. The trustees talked and approved the cost and the company was called to get the part ordered. The part may not get here till September, so good thing we called and put on order.

The other item mentioned last month that is remaining is basically an exploratory process. The boiler is leaking but to find out what part is the culprit we have to take the exterior walls of boiler apart. This is labor intensive. However, we have come to the conclusion that we need to at least have this done to find out what parts need replacing. We don't want to leave it undone and find out it was a rather inexpensive fix and we caused more damage to the boiler by not doing it.

We have had some folks think it may be time to get rid of the boiler and go to heat pumps. This solution, right now, is probably not the best idea as it will probably be in the tens of thousands of dollars to do this and the electrical into the building would have to be upgraded as well to handle the new loads.

Not much else to report; but feel this is enough to have to soak in for now.

Hope all are doing well and staying healthy

Ron W. Ellis

Trustees



United  
Methodist  
Women

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and healthy. Since we have been social distancing thereby missing our Circle Meetings, please give your Pledges to Mike Free or Merri Manning (can be mailed as well) because Merri still has to make her second quarter payment to the District Treasurer. Since we have all been home staying strong, I do hope you have been reading from the UMW Reading List so that Faye Lippard will be able to turn in a lot of readers to the District Program Resources Officer at the end of August. I am praying our new "normal" will begin soon but until that happens our

calendar of UMW events have changed.

Cancelled:

Bakeless Bake Sale (as our fundraiser so may need to be rescheduled)  
Cut-and Sew Project scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>

In question as to if it will happen:

June 6<sup>th</sup> District Mission Encounter  
July 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Mission U

Still planned (as of now):

August 2<sup>nd</sup> Mission Team meeting  
August 18<sup>th</sup> Altogether (the program will be Prayer for Self-Denial that was missed in May)

Order for Bereavement Meals: RM/MAD

Next Mission Team Meeting: August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:00 Church Library

First Altogether Meeting: May 20, 2020 hosted by RM, 7:00 Fellowship Hall

If you are not in a Circle, please visit one or both. We do a lot of good work for our church, as well as support missions in Hoke County, North Carolina, the United States, and around the world. Our emphasis is helping children, youth, and women. PLEASE COME JOIN US!!!

Yours in Christ,

Kathy Brigman



## Missions in our Own Back Yard—McLauchlin Elementary School!

**We thank all of you for praying for McLauchlin Faculty and our committee as we have continued to partner with McLauchlin Elementary School this year, even through this coronavirus pandemic.**

To Update You: Teachers are still working from home and also holding virtual office hours, having prepared lessons for online learning for their students. You may have also seen buses still running every weekday. They continue to deliver food—breakfasts and lunches—to students. Hoke County Schools Child Nutrition Staff prepares deliveries of this much needed food.

McLauchlin Administration provided lunches and a gift for teachers in celebration of **Teacher Appreciation Week** the first week in May. Faculty members “drove through” to pick up their lunches/gift and also picked up a Goody Bag (candy, etc., and a \$10 gift card for Subway) compliments of RUMC. Thanks go to Jane Britt, Deanna Ray, and Verna Barnhill for preparing these bags.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, McLauchlin will have a “Drive Through” for students to pick up items that they either left at school or are end-of-year materials. Our committee is purchasing doughnuts/water for staff on these days. (Half of the faculty will be there on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the other half on the 9<sup>th</sup> to give out these items.)

As always, we thank our congregation for being supportive of our school ministry. Most importantly, now is the time that we pray for our school system that God will use everyone to let the students and parents feel loved, supported, and not alone at this time. We will look forward to the 2020-2021 school year, when we hope we can be back to a more normal situation; this we hope will include starting the year off with our traditional **Back to School Breakfast** for all the faculty and staff. Pray for our committee, as we want everyone to see the love of Jesus in **all** that we do.

(Committee Members: Verna Barnhill, Kathy Brigman, Jane Britt, Maxine Colston, Deanna Ray, Kathy Warner)



This month we will be talking about communities living together.

June 7th: Communities living together - Matthew 7:12

June 14th: Communities Need Foundations - Matthew 7:24-27

June 21st: Who is our Community? - Luke 10:25-37

June 28th: Communities Love - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Our memory verse is: Now faith, hope, and love remain, these three things, and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

We have unfortunately had to cancel our VBS this summer but we will instead be providing a summer activity pack which will have some Bible lessons, activities and crafts for the children to do at home. We hope to have these available in July for pick up at Church. Updated information will be posted to the Church Facebook page.

Our children’s church is being conducted over Facebook on the RUMC Children's Ministry page. If you would like an E-mailed copy of the lessons, please contact me at [joanna.beeson@yahoo.com](mailto:joanna.beeson@yahoo.com)

Joanna  
Joanna.beeson@yahoo.com

## RUMC PRESCHOOL

Raeford UMC Preschool is enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year. Registration will be ongoing until all slots are filled! We’d love for you to join our preschool family! For more information and to register, contact Karen Tapp at 910-818-7434.

## FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Raeform UMC is pleased to announce Emily Sands as the recipient of our 2020 Scholarship. She has been active in many activities and ministries of our church to include VBS, the food pantry and mission trips to El Salvador. Emily is enrolling in her second year at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Congratulations to Emily and her family and we thank you for all your loyalty, work and support to our church.

## PROJECT AGAPE UPDATE

In the past several months, we have collected a variety of different items for our Project Agape Christmas boxes, including gloves and school supplies. Considering the events that have been going on within our world recently, our United Methodist North Carolina Conference has made a request that we hold off on our 2020 Christmas boxes, and instead consider making monetary donations this year. The children will still receive gifts at Christmas, but there is a great need within the Armenian ministry **right now** that only our donations can assist with. Christmas box items can still be brought to the church at any time, but these items will simply be stored until next year. Please consider monetary donations of any amount to help support our ministry within the world's oldest Christian nation. Gifts can be made out to the church, but please put "Project Agape" in the memo line of any checks. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to speak with Marian. Thank you for supporting this meaningful ministry!

### MAY FINANCES

Budget Offerings:	\$14,273.00
Designated Offerings	\$1,580.00
Expenses:	\$14,380.20

## PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following members of our church family and friends in your daily prayers:

Norma Connell, Jimmy Conoly, Lawrence Hales, Joanne Hendrix, John Manning, Donna Matthews, Pam Peck, Mike Ray, Doris & Spencer Wilking, Jamie Warner, Helen Bernard, Mickey Brigman, Troy Carraway, Frances Davis, Sam Glenn, Laura Hanan, Mary Alice Inman, Allan Loftin, Ricky Jones, Stephanie Hasty Jones, Tamara Mackey, Mary Maxwell, Neil A. McDonald, Jennifer McNeill, Joanna McPhatter, Rick Register, Brandon Schrimpf, Ruth Scott,

### Retirement Homes

Kaye Lively	Autumn Care
Jerry Lytle	Open Arms Retirement Center
Doris Peeler	Wesley Pines



### BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Martha Hales	June 4
Sara Ellis	June 7
Kay Love	June 10
Ashley Levine	June 11
Walter Barnhill	June 12
Nick Galliano	June 12
Bobby Britt	June 17
Donna Matthews	June 19
Lawanna Hayes	June 19
Sandy Tucker	June 20
Emily Sands	June 20
Ann Ross	June 21
Verna Barnhill	June 23
John Manning	June 25

*Everyone's birthday is important to us! If you are new to RUMC and your name is not on the birthday list, please let the office know so we can update the list!*

# SYMPTOM CHECKER

## How COVID-19 Compares With Other Illnesses

What does being sick with COVID-19 look like compared with a cold or the flu? Check what types of symptoms show up for each illness and how often in the chart below.

With regard to COVID-19, symptoms may show up in 2-14 days. By comparison, flu symptoms come on suddenly.

**UPDATED APRIL 27, 2020:** [Per guidance from the CDC](#), we have updated symptom information for COVID-19. It includes new "Severe" symptoms that should require immediate medical attention.

	COVID-19		COLD/UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION		ALLERGIES/HAY FEVER		INFLUENZA	
	Is it a Symptom?	How Common?	Is it a Symptom?	How Common?	Is it a Symptom?	How Common?	Is it a Symptom?	How Common?
Fever		Common		Rare				Common
Fatigue (Tiredness)		Sometimes		Sometimes		Sometimes		Common
Dry Cough		Common				Sometimes		Common
Shortness of Breath		Common				Sometimes		
Aches and Pains		Sometimes		Rare				Common
Sneezing				Common		Common		Sometimes
Runny Nose		Rare		Common		Common		Sometimes
Stuffy Nose		Rare		Common		Common		Sometimes
Watery Eyes						Common		
Sore Throat		Sometimes		Common				Sometimes
Chills		Sometimes						Sometimes
New Loss of Taste or Smell		Sometimes						
Diarrhea								Rare
Trouble Breathing		Severe						
Persistent Pain or Pressure in the Chest		Severe						
New Confusion or Inability to Arouse		Severe						
Bluish Lips or Face		Severe						

Raeford UMC  
 308 N. Main St.  
 Raeford, NC 28376  
 Return address Req.  
 Non-Profit Organization  
 Bulk Rate  
 Permit #11  
 Raeford, NC 28376



## LAST MONTH'S CHURCH SIGNS



5/10/20



5/16/20



5/23/20



5/29/20

Which is your favorite?! Got an idea for one? Send it to [raefordumc@embarqmail.com](mailto:raefordumc@embarqmail.com)!