

A LOOK AHEAD:

GROWING IN CHRIST

CONFERENCE-WIDE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

On **Sunday, January 9** from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. the conference will offer leadership training by Zoom for Lay Leaders, Trustees, Finance, and S/PPRC Teams.

Whether you are starting a new leadership roll, or have been serving in church leadership for years, this leadership training will prepare you for your much-needed ministry. Laity and clergy in partnership with one another is the key to a church's success in making disciples.

To register for this training, visit <https://nccumc.org/leadership/event/conference-wide-leadership-training/>.

CONFERENCE-WIDE
LEADERSHIP TRAINING

SHARING CHRIST

JANUARY FOOD DRIVE

It's time for our annual January Food Drive! This collection supports our Backpack Ministry at Eastlawn Elementary (a C4C mission) which provides meals for food-insecure children who would otherwise go hungry over the weekend. We are collecting the following items:

- canned beans, fruits, soup, and vegetables
- canned meat: chicken, or tuna
- dry or canned pasta
- granola, fruit, or other healthy bars
- individual cereal, oatmeal, or grits (instant or regular)
- macaroni and cheese
- pasta sauce (no glass jars please)
- peanut butter and crackers



Please deposit your donations in the Welcome Center by **January 31**. As always, thank you for your support. To learn more about our C4C ministry with Eastlawn Elementary or to volunteer, please contact Ms. Melissa.

WHEELCHAIR RAMP MINISTRY

Thank you to all those who have participated in the Wheelchair Ramp Ministry in 2021 to build ramps which enable members of the community to maintain their independence.

As we begin a new year, perhaps you are looking for new ways to serve in our community? Our Wheelchair Ramp Ministry builds ramps once a month. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering, contact Tom Sineath at tom.sineath@gmail.com.



2022 LAY LEADERSHIP

The list of the 2022 lay leadership is available in the Welcome Center.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The **2022** flower calendar is available in the Welcome Center. If you are interested in placing flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please write your name on the Sunday you wish to put flowers in the church. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or kpaul5@triad.rr.com (email).



SAVE THE DATE



The Discipleship Team will sponsor a 5th Sunday Brunch on January 30. More details to come.

Prayers

- **Jennie Hawks** who is home under hospice care
- **The family of Virgil Stadler** upon his death on 1/2
- **Tom Steele** who is recovering from back surgery
- **The family of Harriet Thomas** upon her death on 12/16
- **Don and June West** upon the death of her sister, Jean C. Reader, on 12/12

Congratulations

Congratulations to Stephen and Leana Lewis upon the birth of their daughter, Caroline Madelyn, born on December 1, 2021. Proud grandparents are Gene and Elizabeth Fonville.

Congratulations to Allison Virginia Hillard upon graduating from Campbell University on December 18 with a Doctor of Physical Therapy. She is the daughter of Dorn and Donna Pittman.



The church office will be closed **Monday, January 17**, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE FOR 12/30/2021

YTD Actual Giving - \$1,189,813.08
YTD Budgeted Giving - \$1,259,153.70

STAFF

Senior Pastor
Ross Carter

Pastor of Discipleship
Stephan Margeson

Youth Minister
Chris Huneycutt

Children's Minister
Melissa Miller

Minister of Visitation
Leslie Peavy

Organist/Director of Music
Matt Brittain

Choir Director
Brad Logan

Director of Aldersgate Music
Clay Stevenson

Finance Manager
Tammy Page

Administrative Assistant
Pamela Shields

Communications Coordinator
Joanna Strelow

Building Superintendent
Jackie Long

Maintenance
Joe Peloquin
Zach Mace

Afterschool Director
Katie Porter

**Playschool/Babies
Morning Out Director**
Rebecca Hurdle

FOLLOW US



SOME 2021 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YOUTH

The youth started 2021 much the same way they ended 2020, zooming and texting and not getting to see each other in person. They shared in a virtual Bible study during Lent and on the Bible App, but their in-person contact did not restart in earnest until late March. The following are some events and activities the youth participated in:



- 1) A service day at Camp Chestnut Ridge in May
- 2) Cookout at Cedarock Park to close the spring semester
- 3) Appalachian Service Project in June with both junior highs and senior highs participating
- 4) Senior High Supper Club gatherings during the summer
- 5) In late August, Senior Highs headed west to raft on the Ocoee River
- 6) In September, a group of Junior Highs went to Carowinds
- 7) A spirited Feed the Hunger Packathon where they packed over 13,000 meals
- 8) A trip to Rocky Mount for Pilgrimage 2021
- 9) An inspirational visit from Front Street legends Coy and Clara Clayton

Over the course of 12 events they averaged 36 youth! Our youth group represents Williams High School, Western High School, Eastern High School, Southern High School, The Burlington School (Upper and Middle School), Bishop McGuiness High School, Turrentine Middle School, Western Middle School, Blessed Sacrament School, Hawbridge School as well as home schools. We have lots of members of Front Street as well as lots of visitors that attend regularly.

Please continue to lift up our youth ministry, to support our kids, and missions. Visit Chris' Corner on our church website to get full details of 2021 events and upcoming 2022 events.

WHAT STORY WILL.....CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

This year why not figure out where you fit into God's story, and let that be what narrates the rest of your life's activities. It will permeate all parts of your life – your work, your family, and your leisure time. And as you find a new God-centered direction, may you find peace and blessing as well.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Ross

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry
of Front Street UMC



January 6, 2022 Volume MMXXII No. 1

WHAT STORY WILL NARRATE YOUR LIFE IN 2022?

And we know that for those who love God all things work
together for good, for those who are called
according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28

Is life something that happens to you, or are you actively engaged in giving direction to your life's path? If I'm not careful a great part of my life can take on the shape of the next crisis or issue that pops up. Now don't get me wrong, those types of issues need attention; however, they should not be what gives direction to my life. There should be a larger context in which my life is lived.

As each of us enters this New Year of 2022, we have a choice to make. Which story will give shape to your life; and, where do you find these over-arching narratives that can give context and shape to the trajectory and daily activity of your life? Well, some possible sources are the media, career, family, tragedy, COVID, or political/sociological ideology. However, I want to suggest to you that while these are all valid parts of life, and can be truly influential, perhaps they are not the best areas to look for the story that will narrate your life on a day-to-day basis.

There is a greater narrative into which all of the rest actually fits – God's story. In the Bible we find that the God who created you is the one who wants to be the source of your story. Once you embrace God as the source of the story that will narrate all of the rest of your life, then everything else begins to take on a different shape. Priorities change. Direction changes. Fulfillment is found in that which transcends this world, instead of in that which ends with this world.

continued