



From the desk of Pastor Ann

Thank you to everyone who prayed for Kairos #11 at Whitworth Women's Facility in Hartwell, Georgia. Evidence of your prayers (the prayer chain) brought tears to the eyes of our participants. They could not believe that people who had never met them wanted to pray for them. Your prayers helped them understand the unconditional love of Christ.

They needed visual proof to believe. As Cindy Elsmore reminded us in her wonderful sermon this past Sunday, Webster's defines faith as believing in something you cannot see. But she also offered a Biblical definition of faith: "The patterned process of trust and loyalty to the Kingdom of God – as lived reality."

She shared that the two key words are trust and loyalty. Trust is like the child who reached out his arms for a stranger to take him. We must do the same with our faith. We must reach out for God and say take me, because I know in your arms, I will be safe, secure, and you will take care of me.

Loyalty is total commitment. Just like the marriage vows, for better, for worse, sickness or health, richer or poorer, in your faith you must be totally committed. Biblical loyalty is staying faithful to the kingdom of God. Staying faithful to what we know to be true about God and God's people.

We are all children of God. When we love and embrace each other, we are living out the reality of our faith in Christ. That does not mean we will not have question, just as Thomas had questions about the truth of the resurrection (see John 20:24-29).

As Cindy pointed out, Thomas did not believe the testimony of ten of his best friends. He needed to see to believe. Thomas was not the only one in Bible who had doubts. Other doubters in the Bible include Abraham, Sarah, Moses, the Israelites, Gideon (and there are others.)

Jesus did not condemn Thomas for his doubt, just as he does not condemn us. Instead, Jesus said, "Stop doubting and believe." Thomas answered immediately with, "My Lord, My God." His doubts were erased in the presence of the risen Christ. Like morning fog in sunlight, Thomas has given assurance to the world, to all of us!

There were plenty of women who doubted the love of Christ this past weekend at Whitworth Women's Facility. But our presence with them helped them understand God's presence with them. God is with us no matter what we are going through, whether we are behind bars (literally), or behind bars of our own making, God wants to break the chains that bind us.

We can only break those chains when we have a relationship with Christ. Over the course of the weekend, we taught the ladies that a relationship with God is like a three-legged stool. The top of the stool is friendship with God. The three legs represent spirituality (personal holiness through prayer and discernment), discovery through study (reading God's word), and Christian action (living what we believe.)

To be in relationship with God, to have a friendship with God, requires faith. The kind of faith that involves trust and loyalty to the Kingdom of God as our lived reality. Over the course of the last weeks as your pastor, I will talk about what it is to live what we believe as Christians. We will do that through a study of the Beatitudes, or, what I like to call the beautiful attitudes of a Christian. I hope to see you Sunday, either in person or online.

Blessings, Pastor Ann.

- Greetings from Pastor Ann
- Prayer Requests
- Weekly Attendance
- High School Graduates Honored this Sunday, May 1st
- Weekly Calendar
- Celebrations
- Giving

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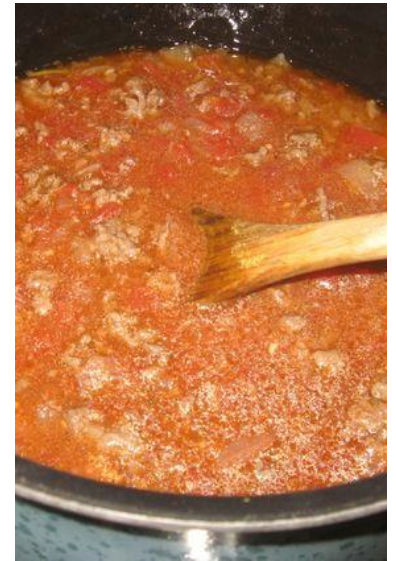
Prayer Request: Marjorie Treadwell and Mary Darby. **The family of:** Roy Conner.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Email your prayer request directly to: ann.mann@ngumc.net. Please submit your request by noon on Saturday.



A big Thank You for all who cooked and helped sell BBQ & Brunswick Stew!
Another successful day to help with the work of Union Chapel Church!




**Palette Knife
Painting Class
& Snack Supper**

**Monday
May 9, 2022
6-8pm**

**Union Chapel Church
2625 Pannell Road
(Fellowship Hall)**

\$25.00

**Reservations Required
by May 1st**

Wear paint clothes!

Weekly Attendance

| Date | Attendance | Online | Sunday School |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 04/24/2022 | 74 | 51 | 21 |
| 04/17/2022 | 127 | 54 | 15 |
| 04/10/2022 | 63 | 63 | 20 |
| 04/03/2022 | 60 | 10 | 15 |

April 26, 2022 - May 15, 2022

Weekly Happenings

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

7 PM Youth Bible Study @ C & K Little's

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Choir Practice

Sunday, May 1, 2022 Communion & High School Graduates Honored

9:00 AM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

10 AM Sunday School (main Sanctuary Classrooms)

10 AM Contemporary Worship (theChapel)

11 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study @ the Elsmore's

7 PM Youth Bible Study @ C & K Little's

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Chancel Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 8, 2022 Happy Mother's Day!

9:00 AM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

10 AM Sunday School (main Sanctuary Classrooms)

10 AM Contemporary Worship (theChapel)

11 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 9, 2022

6 PM—8 PM Women of Union Chapel Snack Supper & Palette Painting Class

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

7 PM Youth Bible Study @ C & K Little's

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Chancel Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 12, 2022

7 PM Men of Union Chapel Church Dinner & Meeting

Sunday, May 15, 2022 Change for Children

10 AM Sunday School (main Sanctuary Classrooms)

10 AM Contemporary Worship (theChapel)

11 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Noon Admin Council Meeting w/lunch (Fellowship Hall)



April Celebrations

27th Lynn Aycock
Thomas Rollins

28th Gail Hawk

May Celebrations

5th Brenda Hester

6th **Tony & Ginger Rutchi**

9th Cory Blackmon
Denny Malcom

11th McKenzie Culpepper
Tony Rutchi

12th Mary Daniel

13th Carson Peters

14th Irene Queen

15th David Peters

17th Beth Raby

19th **Caleb & Lana Browning**
Maeleigh Gibson

20th Hudson McGaughey

21st Jacob Olson

Nancy Snell

22nd Blake Peters

23rd Cody Wright

***Anniversaries in red.**

*****Administrative Information*****

Church Office Hours week of April 18th through April 21st

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

9 AM - 2 PM

Closed on Thursday

Please note, messages are not picked up during non office hours. If you have an emergency outside office hours, please call:

**Pastor Ann, 770-256-4556
or James Johnson, 678-767-2712 .**

**Tithes and Offerings can be given either online from our website or mail a check to
Union Chapel UMC Finance
P.O. Box 622, Monroe, GA 30655**

******Newsletter Submissions******

Please submit any information , prayer requests or articles that you might have for the newsletter to the church office by Tuesday at noon, as the newsletter will be published on Tuesday. Also, as a reminder, please have prayer requests submitted by noon on Thursday for the Sunday bulletin. The church office email is: unionchapel@windstream.net