



From the desk of Pastor Ann

The hymns we sing carry our theology. Theology is a fancy word that means what we believe about God. Over the next several weeks, including the weeks leading up to Easter, we are going to focus on the hymns of our faith and the scriptures that inspired them.

In the early 19-hundreds Adelaide Pollard was suffering heartbreak after failing to raise the money needed for a mission trip to Africa. She went to church to seek the Lord's face when she heard a woman pray this prayer: "It really doesn't matter what you do with us, Lord – just have your way with our lives."

The prayer merged with her study of Jeremiah 18:1-6 and a beautiful hymn was born. "Have thine own way Lord, have thine own way. Thou art the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, after thy will. While I am waiting yielded and still." Ms. Pollard did eventually go to Africa as a missionary. Not on her time, but in God's time.

Jeremiah watched a potter at work and immediately understood what the Lord was showing him. Sometimes what begins as a beautiful pot gets damaged on the wheel, and sometimes humans, who are created to do good, go astray and do bad.

This is a time for tough love. Sometimes only tough love can bring healing and reverse the effects of our bad decisions, reverse the effects of sin and evil in the world. With clay, it is easy to reshape it into a ball and start over. With humans, it is not so easy. Mostly because we are so stubborn. We have a mind of our own.

Even so, reshaping us is something God is always doing. Taking us and shaping us to be more like Christ. As the scriptures says, God reworks us "as seems good to him." God will take the good and the bad within each of us and shape it into the best vessel possible.

There is no doubt we are being shaped, but what are we allowing to shape us? The whims of the world? Or the hand of the creator? God longs to be the one shaping us more into the divine image. He longs to do this as we study and meditate on his word, as we sit in conversation with God, praying to and listening for the voice of God, as we are in fellowship with other believers. Yet we resist the potter's hand.

As you read on in Jeremiah we see the importance of being open to shaping by the potter's hand. The Lord uses the prophet Jeremiah to tell the people to turn from their evil ways or face the consequences. But instead of listening to the prophet and repenting, the people would rather crucify the messenger.

So, church, what do we choose? We hear the call to repent from our selfish ways, our greed, our prejudice. The question is, would we rather crucify the messenger, or repent of our sins?

Here is the good news of the gospel. We are not hopeless. The story of the potter is a reminder that God is not done with us yet. God longs to shape us into his image bearers in a broken world. Read Psalm 138 1-14a if you need a reminder of just how much God loves us. We are fearfully and wonderfully made.

May we always remember that there is no place we can go where God is not already there. The God who created us knows us, loves us, and wants the very best for us. The Lord of all creation is not done with us yet. All we have to do is say yes to the potter's hand.

"Have thine own way Lord, have thine own way. Thou art the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, after thy will. While I am waiting yielded and still."

May it be so in our lives today. I pray I see you in church this Sunday, in person or online. Blessings, Pastor Ann.

- Greetings from
Pastor Ann
- Prayer Requests
- Pancake Breakfast
- Weekly
Attendance
- United Methodist
Women Gift Bags
for Shut-ins
- Sunday, 02/27/22
2 PM Sanctuary
Meeting with DS,
Dr. Cruz
- Weekly Calendar
- Celebrations
- Giving

Union Chapel UMC
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770-267-7844
unionchapel@
windstream.net

Prayer Requests: Harry McGaughey, Karen Cooper, Linda Peters, Cindy Little, Frank Elsmore, Tristan Kaufman, Vickie Sargent. Joys: Blaine Huff is home from the hospital. Jake Camp and family were in church Sunday. Jane Peters is doing well with rehab.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Friends, we want to be in prayer for each other, without ceasing. Since we are not all meeting in person, please email your prayer request directly to: ann.mann@ngumc.net. Please submit your request by noon on Saturday.



**Pancake Breakfast,
February 13th
Thank you Cindy Little!**

Weekly Attendance

Date	Attendance	Online	Sunday School
02/13/2022	74	27	27
02/06/2022	69	114	16
01/30/2022	63	84	17
01/23/2022	65	78	25

Thank you to the United Methodist Women for preparing lovely "bags of love" for our homebound members. Because of COVID, we were not able to deliver baskets at Christmas. So, we decided to deliver care packages for Valentine's Day to show our love to our homebound members.

Everyone appreciated the love! Here are a few pictures from the deliveries.



Administrative Council News

Meeting with District Superintendent, Sunday, February 27th at 2 PM in the Main Sanctuary

The Administrative Council met Sunday, January 30th, and voted to explore disaffiliation with the United Methodist Church. There are those in the church who are not comfortable with the possible changes in the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality. The changes being proposed would allow practicing homosexuals to become preachers and would also allow homosexual marriage. The current Book of Discipline recognizes marriage between one woman and one man.

This intention to explore disaffiliation was conveyed in an email to our District Superintendent, Dr. Rodrigo Cruz on Monday January, 31st. Once this email was sent, Union Chapel United Methodist Church may no longer receive new members. So, only those currently on our membership rolls will have a vote in this matter.

The next step is an informational meeting with Dr. Cruz, set for Sunday, February 27th at 2 PM in the main sanctuary. Please spend the time between now and the meeting reading about what this involves, and **praying** about the direction God would have us go. If those present at the informational meeting decide not to proceed, we continue as we are.

If those present at the meeting decide to proceed with disaffiliation, a charge conference will be scheduled at least ten days later. At the charge conference an official and binding vote on disaffiliation will be taken. Two-thirds of the members present must vote in favor of disaffiliation for the matter to proceed.

Should the membership vote to not to disaffiliate, we continue as we are. Should the membership vote to disaffiliate, Union Chapel would receive an agreement outlining the steps that must be taken to secure all property and go out on our own, as outlined in paragraph 2553 in the Book of Discipline.

These steps would include what Union Chapel would owe to the Conference, and when those payments would be due. According to the printed guidelines, we would owe one year of our apportionments, we would also owe a set amount to cover unfunded pension liability. And we would have to remove “United Methodist Church” from all signs, publications and legal documents. Dr. Cruz says there is no plan that allows churches to disaffiliate without paying these financial obligations.

If we meet the terms of the agreement, the North Georgia Annual Conference would vote to approve disaffiliation at the Annual Conference June 2-4th. If that vote passes, then Union Chapel would no longer be a United Methodist Church. We may remain independent, affiliate with another Methodist body, or another denomination.

You are encouraged to read more about the disaffiliation process. Here is a link to the Conference website: <https://www.ngumc.org/disaffiliation-process-and-information>.

February 15, 2022 - March 6, 2022

Weekly Happenings

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study @ the Elsmore's
7 PM Youth Bible Study @ Kenneth & Cindy Little's

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
7 PM Choir Practice

Sunday, February 20, 2022

9:15 AM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
10 AM Sunday School (main Sanctuary Classrooms)
10 AM Contemporary Worship (theChapel)
11 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

7 PM Youth Bible Study @ Kenneth & Cindy Little's

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
7 PM Choir Practice

Sunday, February 27, 2022

9:15 AM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
10 AM Sunday School (main Sanctuary Classrooms)
10 AM Contemporary Worship (theChapel)
11 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Noon **Youth After Church**

2 PM **Meeting with District Superintendent**

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study @ the Elsmore's
7 PM Youth Bible Study @ Kenneth & Cindy Little's

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
7 PM **Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)**

Sunday, March 6, 2022

9:15 AM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
10 AM Sunday School (main Sanctuary Classrooms)
10 AM Contemporary Worship (theChapel)
11 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) **Communion**

**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**



Celebrations

February Celebrations

- 16th Jessica Gibson
- 17th Rosemary Peters
- 20th Harry McGaughey, Sr.
- 21st **Danny & Rhonda Atha**
- 22nd Beth Adcock
- 24th Carol Johnson
- 26th Greg Adcock
- 27th Flonnie Peters

March Celebrations

- 2nd Kaden McCullers
- 4th Kelsey Peters
- 7th Sandra Callaway
- 8th Kolton Sargeant
- 11th **Rodney & Missy Peters**
- 15th Debra Vinson

Anniversaries are in red

*****Administrative Information*****
Church Office Hours
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9 AM - 2 PM
 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 .

******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