



From the desk of Pastor Ann

Do you have any secrets? This is not a question most of us feel comfortable answering. Because we all have secrets. This question is something we might be uncomfortable asking a spouse, or even our closest friend. Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” This verse reminds us that we are made stronger, sharper, when we are willing to be honest with ourselves, with others, and with God. Friends, God cannot heal what we are not willing to reveal. We only hurt ourselves by pretending we are fine when we are not. When we keep secrets, we limit the help that is available to us from our friends and from God.

One of the practices that I began during Lent two years ago is a one-hour weekly meeting with three other women, to hold each other accountable. Our meetings are modeled after John Wesley’s discipleship bands. We open with scripture and prayer. Then each person speaks for about 15 minutes, answering five questions.

How is it with your soul?

What are your struggles and successes?

Any sin to confess? (If there is, one member of the group says, “In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven.”)

Anything you want to keep secret?

How might the Holy Spirit be speaking and moving in your life? (Where have you seen God?)

After each person answers these 5 questions, we pray over what each person shares. There is no condemnation, no judgement. In that safe space, we have all worked through some difficult life situations. We live into the truth of Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

In these band meetings, we have learned that when you combine time with trust, your heart is transformed. We have a safe place to confess our secrets and shortcomings, as well as having a place to share the way God is moving in our lives.

When we do not have a safe space to be honest, sometimes we turn to drugs, or alcohol, or shopping, or (fill in the blank) to medicate our brokenness. If we do not heal from what is hurting us, we end up hurting people who did not hurt us. We blame others for OUR brokenness. As we mature in Christ, we take ownership for how we feel, and for our actions. As we mature in Christ, we are honest about our sin and our secrets. It is important to find the right accountability partner. We will know we have found the right one when there is no judgement, only kindness and compassion. Only mercy and healing when we are willing to be honest.

So church, do we have any secrets? I encourage you to find two to three people with whom you can be honest, and let the Holy Spirit do a mighty work in you! This season of lent is about confession and repentance, as we remember what Christ has done for us. Here is a link to more information about these discipleship bands (accountability groups.) (Cut and paste this link into a new browser window and it will take you to the website)

[Discipleship Bands – Time + Trust = Transformation](#)

Or if you prefer, I can email you more information. When we are willing to take a hard look in the mirror, we begin to see everything more clearly. “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

May it be so in our lives. Amen. I hope to see you in worship this Sunday, either in person or online. Blessings, Pastor Ann

- Greetings from Pastor Ann
- Prayer Requests
- Lenten Bible Study Canceled
- **Confirmation Class**
- Administrative Council News
- **Rebirth of Contemporary Service**
- Weekly Calendar
- Celebrations
- Giving

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 2625 Pannel Rd.
 P.O. Box 622
 Monroe, GA 30655
 770-267-7844
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Prayer Requests this week: Lynn Aycock, Kelly Nalepa, Tim & Shannon Penick, Jay Pierce, Hope George, Robert Carter and Kenneth Little . Those battling or recovering from COVID-19 and their caregivers .

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.

Special Prayer Request

Please pray for the North Georgia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and all ministry candidates. There will be people interviewing to become provisional elders and deacons. And others, like myself, who are interviewing for full connection (ordination.)

Having completed my three years of Residence in Ministry, I will be interviewed for ordination on Tuesday, March 9th, between Noon and 4pm. If you are willing to pray with and for me during this process, please send me an email and let me know that you will be there, lifting me up in prayer.

By about 10pm March 9th, I will know if I have passed in all four categories (Called & Disciplined Life, Theology & Doctrine, Practice of Ministry, Leadership), or passed in some and deferred in others. Should I pass all four categories at once, I would be ordained at annual conference this summer. Should I be deferred, I will return to the Board next year and try again. Once I find out, I will share the news with everyone.

Announcements

Lenten Bible Study is postponed

Our Bible study scheduled to begin March 1st is being put on hold. We will look for a better day and time and hope to offer this or another Bible study soon. If there is something you would be interested in studying, please share your ideas with Pastor Ann.

Administrative Council News

The Administrative Council met this past Sunday and approved some needed repairs to the Sprinkler system in the main sanctuary. Work is set to begin soon. We expect it will not impact worship and will keep you posted if that should change. The Council also approved some updates to our sound system in the main sanctuary, in addition to plans for the Contemporary service rebirth in the Chapel. We also affirmed Kevin Little as the chair of the Finance Committee. Clay Harris remains treasurer, and Beth Raby remains in her current position. God is on the move at Union Chapel. Thank you for your continued faithfulness as we seek to be good stewards of God's holy church and make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Contemporary Service Rebirth

We are excited to announce that the Contemporary Service will experience a rebirth on Easter. The service will be held at 10am and will meet in The Chapel. This past weekend, Katelyn Little presented a plan to the Administrative Council outlining the proposed updates to the Chapel as we prepare for this new chapter. The plan received unanimous approval. If you are interested in being a part of planning for this new service, please contact Clay or Cindy Harris, Katelyn Little, or Pastor Ann. We hope to have a soft launch on March 21st and March 28th (just to make sure everything is working.) Please start talking up this new service and pray for a revival in our community.

United Methodist Women

Please contact Patty Wright or Vickie Sargent in regards to resuming our meetings in March. We have been meeting the 2nd Tuesday, after the first Sunday. Please let us know if another date would work better, possibly Thursday after the second Sunday. Contact Patty or Vickie via email or text.

February 23, 2020 - March 16, 2021

Weekly Happenings

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

7 AM Men's Bible Study (FH)

7 PM Choir Practice

Sunday, February 28, 2021 11 AM Worship

Monday, February 22nd - Saturday, February 27

Pastor Ann will be on vacation and available by phone. Susan will be in the office, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9 AM to 2 PM.

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

:30 PM - Young Adult Bible Study @ the Elmsore's

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

7 AM Men's Bible Study (FH)

7 PM Choir Practice

Sunday, March 7, 2021 11 AM Worship

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

7 AM Men's Bible Study (FH)

7 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, March 11, 2021

7 PM United Methodist Men (FH)

Sunday, March 14, 2021 11 AM Worship

UMCOR Sunday

5 PM **Long Range Planning (FH)**

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

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



Celebrations

27th

David & Sally Malcom

Joshua Malcom

28th

Josie Witcher

29th

Larry & Sandra Callaway

Julie Sargent

March 1st

Rob Allen

2nd

Kaden McCullers

4th

Kelsey Peters

7th

Sandra Callaway

8th

Kolton Sargeant

11th

Rodney & Missy Peters

15th

Debra Vinson

*****Anniversaries in red*****

Tithes and Offerings can be given either online from our website or mail a check to our P.O. Box:

Union Chapel UMC Finance

P.O. Box 622

Monroe, GA 30655

*****Administrative News*****

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Please note, messages are not picked up during non office hours. If you have an emergency outside office hours, please call Pastor Ann on her cell, 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.