



From the desk of Pastor Ann

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” was written by Robert Robinson, It was inspired by a sermon he heard on Matthew 3:7 about fleeing the wrath to come. When Robinson heard the sermon, he was 17 and on the wrong path. It was three years before he gave his heart to Christ, but when he did, he was all in. He became a Methodist Pastor, writing this hymn in 1758 at the age of 23.

In Matthew 3:7-10 John the Baptist preaches on repentance. Repentance means to feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one’s wrongdoing or sin. It means turning in the other direction, making a change for the better. But we aren’t changing for change’s sake. We change because we have seen the light of Christ.

I have experienced that kind of change. I preached release for the captive, but I had never once set foot inside a prison. And so, I trusted the Holy Spirit to help me work out my schedule to make time for this ministry. I stepped out of my comfort zone and placed my trust in Christ. I did what I felt Jesus calling me to do.

From the very first moment in the prison, my life was forever changed. Jesus was already there. I wasn’t there to bring Jesus to those women. I was there to see the miraculous work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in transforming lives. My world was turned upside down. When is the last time your world was turned upside down following the call of Christ?

This is what it means to repent. Not just saying, “you have placed this burden on my heart, that’s a good idea, but someone else will do it.” Repentance is acting on that passion Christ places inside you, actually making a change, doing that thing that God is placing on your heart.

It will be different for each of us. It will be difficult for all of us. But it is the most rewarding change we will ever make. John calls it bearing fruit, fruit worthy of repentance. It means living what we believe. It means moving from a religion of the head to a religion of the heart. Real repentance is realizing God is pointing us in a new direction and changing course.

We just have to trust God with our wandering heart, as Robinson reminds us in the last line of his hymn. “Oh, to grace how great a debtor, daily I’m constrained to be. Let thy grace, Lord, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here’s my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.”

So church, I want to invite each of us to pray about God’s vision for us, as individuals and as a church. What does God want us to do for the kingdom? I know with all my heart that our God longs for a better world.

God wants US to do more than flee from the wrath to come. God wants us to bear fruit, fruit that will last. Hear from Jesus in John 15:16, “You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.”

After we spend time praying about how God might use us and our particular gifts, choose just one element of our lives where we need to repent, where we need to change direction. Ask God to show us how to say yes. Pray each day, “What would you have me do, Lord, to build your kingdom?” With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can overcome our human tendency to wander.

May each of us embrace repentance as more than fleeing from the wrath to come. Repentance is running toward the God we love, bearing fruit that will last. May it be so in our lives today.

I look forward to seeing you in church this Sunday, either in person or online.
Blessings, Pastor Ann.

- Greetings from
Pastor Ann
- Prayer Requests
- Weekly
Attendance
- Sunday, 02/27/22
2 PM Sanctuary
Meeting with DS,
Dr. Cruz
- Weekly Calendar
- Celebrations
- Giving

Union Chapel UMC
2625 Pannell Rd.
P.O. Box 622
Monroe, GA 30655
770-267-7844
unionchapel@
windstream.net

Prayer Requests: Jason Reaves, Mary Darby, Cindy Mahon, Victoria McDaniel, Kenneth Hale, Patrick Peters, Rose Archer.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

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

Administrative Council News

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 2pm in the main sanctuary. **AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS INFORMATIONAL MEETING, WE WILL TAKE A VOTE ON WHETHER TO SCHEDULE A CHURCH CONFERENCE TO VOTE ON DISAFFILIATION. Only those members who are present may vote.** Please spend the time between now and the meeting reading about what this involves and praying about the direction God would have us go. Here is a link to the Conference website: <https://www.ngumc.org/disaffiliation-process-and-information>

There are two possible outcomes at the conclusion of our informational meeting.

If those present at the informational meeting vote not to proceed, we continue as we are.

If those present at the meeting vote to hold the church conference, that meeting will be scheduled at least ten days later.

At the church conference another vote will be taken, this is the official and binding vote on disaffiliation. Two-thirds of the members present must vote in favor of disaffiliation for the matter to proceed.

There are two possible outcomes at the conclusion of the church conference.

If 2/3 of the members present do not vote to disaffiliate, we remain as we are.

If 2/3 of the members present vote to disaffiliate, the process to disaffiliate begins.

If we 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. This information 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 (probably two times our apportionment). 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.

Weekly Attendance

Date	Attendance	Online	Sunday School
02/20/2022	67	35	27
02/13/2022	74	27	27
02/06/2022	69	114	16
01/30/2022	63	84	17

February 23, 2022 - March 13, 2022

Weekly Happenings

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)

6 PM Ash Wednesday Service (theChapel)

7 PM Choir Practice

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**

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

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

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

7 AM Men’s Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, March 10, 2022

7 PM United Methodist Men

Sunday, March 13, 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**

**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

24th Carol Johnson

26th Greg Adcock

27th Flonnie Peters

March Celebrations

2nd Kaden McCullers

4th Kelsey Peters

6th Sherell Malcom

7th Sandra Callaway

8th Kolton Sargeant

11th **Rodney & Missy Peters**

15th Debra Vinson

18th Brooke Blackmon

Elijah Ford

Rodney Peters

19th **Donald & Penny Oakley**

Pastor Ann Mann

Don Peters

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