



From the desk of Pastor Ann

James 1:2-4 reminds us we WILL face trials. Our faith will be tested. But this will produce endurance. And when we endure, we grow mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

We've talked about two aspects of God's character, grace and truth. Grace is God's unfailing love. Truth is knowing right from wrong. Both are aspects of God's character, and ours when we seek to live in the image of Christ.

James introduces a third aspect of God's character (and ours), time. In James time is portrayed as endurance. In other words, these changes that grace and truth can work in our lives are not a quick fix. It takes time to make changes that heal.

A great example is the parable of the fig tree in Luke's gospel (Luke 14:6-9). The man wants to cut down the fig tree, because it has not produced fruit in three years.

But the gardener is willing to give the tree a second chance. The gardener says let me dig around it, fertilize it, and then see if it will bear fruit. This is what endurance looks like. This is the gift of time. This is the gift of grace and second chances.

We also see the gift of truth. Because if the tree does not EVER bear fruit, it will be cut down. God is patient and loving. But God expects us to respond to His tending, and bear fruit.

For us to experience changes that heal, we must be willing to do the challenging work of self-reflection. We must be willing to prune back the dead branches. We must be willing to spend time fertilizing the seeds of faith. Only then can we experience changes that heal. It takes grace, truth, and time, God's redemptive time.

So, church, what hurts have we buried? What scars are we allowing to stunt our growth? What grudges are we holding onto? It is only when we dig those up and surrender them at the foot of the cross that we can begin to bear fruit that will last

God can heal our broken hearts, our broken lives, our broken church. It is in this redemption we experience the joy of life in Christ. Only then are we mature in Christ, lacking in nothing. Only then are we able to bear fruit that will last.

My prayer for each of us is that with God's grace and truth and time we make changes that heal our broken hearts, freeing us to produce fruit of the Spirit. Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Generosity. Gentleness and Self-Control.

Blessings, Pastor Ann.

- Greetings from
Pastor Ann
- Prayer Requests
- Chicken Stew
This Saturday,
January 15th
- Media Ministry
Training Sunday,
1/16/22 @ 2PM
Sanctuary
- Weekly
Attendance
- Kairos Training
- Weekly Calendar
- Celebrations
- Giving

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unionchapel@

Prayer Requests this week: Harold Palmer, Henry Brook, Danny Malcom, Elaine Sotabeer, Glenn Butcher, Thad & Macy Glenn, Casey Lewis, Loretta Brown and the family of Mary Ramsey.

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.

CHICKEN STEW, SATURDAY, January 15th

UMW Chicken Stew Carry-Out

Mark your calendars for the United Methodist Women’s chicken stew Carry-out this Saturday, from 4-6pm. The stew is \$9, and includes a container of stew, dessert, and crackers. We will also have some “moppin” sauce for those who love to add that to the stew.

The men who will help with the cooking should arrive about 9am. The women who will help pull the chicken should arrive at noon. We also need desserts packaged individually. Please bring those to the fellowship hall between 1 and 2pm. And then we will need help passing out the stew between 4 and 6.

This is an entire church effort, and we really appreciate the support. See you Saturday!

*****Urgent - All Call for Media Ministry Volunteers*****

A little over a year ago Union Chapel did not have a video ministry. When COVID threatened to shut us down in March of 2020 we started live-streaming our services using Jake’s video equipment. Out of our desire to stay in touch with our people, our video ministry was launched. Jake Raby has experience in video technology because of his world-class work in the automotive industry. He brought in some experts, and along with many others, helped make the dream a reality. By July we had purchased our own equipment and have been online ever since.

Now, here we are, 20 months later and Jake continues to work tirelessly in the video booth. **It is time to get him some help.** Jake will continue to lead the ministry he helped bring to life. What we need are people he can train to join him in this vital ministry. **We are having a training sessions Sunday January 16th at 2pm for people willing to volunteer.**

With a team of several volunteers in place, no one person bears the load for this ministry. Please come to the training event to learn all about our Media Ministry! Our desire is to cross train people on the sound board, Easy Worship (the screens), and the live-streaming equipment (including a new audio board.) We need your help to share the good news of the gospel!!

Weekly Attendance

Date	Attendance	Online	Sunday School
01/09/2022	54	41	16
01/02/2021	59	130	20
12/26/2021	46	43	13
12/24/2021	85	57	
12/19/2021	95	188	26

Prison Ministry Opportunity



Have you felt the call to participate in prison ministry? I spent several hours inside Whitworth Women's Facility last weekend. When we go for these monthly reunions, one of the residents gives a testimony. The woman who spoke (I'll call her Penny) said she came to the Kairos weekend for the food. Inmates do not get three meals a day on the weekends. But they do if they attend the Kairos weekend, and the food is things they don't normally get.

Penny was a loner. She described herself as singular, as someone who had been hurt one too many times, so she decided she didn't need anyone. And while she listened to our story of God's love, it didn't reach her heart. Even so, the seeds of God's grace and truth were planted on that weekend three years ago.

On these weekends each table bears the name of a woman in the Bible to remind the inmates that we all have a place at the table no matter what we've done. We all get a second chance with Jesus.

She sat at the table of Esther. And after the weekend was over, she began reading the story of Esther. She was struck by the line that Esther was born for "such a time as this." She felt that her incarceration made her re-evaluate her life, and her faith. She took a hard look at her life.

And God's love finally reached her through Esther's story. It helped her see that she was NEVER alone. God was with her all along. So, she embraced the fellowship of believers, and she has experienced the joy that comes from surrendering her life to Christ. Penny gets released this month, so she will leave with a new purpose.

If you would like to be a part of this life-changing prison ministry, we have a weekend coming up April 21-24th at Whitworth Women's Facility in Hartwell, Georgia. We will spend the nights either in a hotel, or in the homes of volunteers in the area.

Training begins in February and is held at Bold Springs UMC. You would need to make all the training sessions (although you may miss one if needed.) Here is the training schedule: Feb. 5th, Feb 26th, March 5th, March 26th, April 2nd. The meetings are usually about 9am to 3pm. If you are interested, please let me know.

Please prayerfully consider joining me as we live out Matthew 25:31-40.

Blessings, Pastor Ann.

January 11, 2022 - January 23, 2022

Weekly Happenings

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

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

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Choir Practice

Saturday, January 15, 2022

9:00 AM Men arrive to assist with cooking.

Noon Women arrive to pull chicken.

4 - 6 PM UMW Chicken Stew, \$9.00

Sunday, January 16, 2022 Human Relations Day

Change for Children

9:15 AM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

10 AM Sunday School (main Sanctuary Classrooms)

10 AM Contemporary Worship (theChapel)

11 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Noon Finance Committee Meeting (Sanctuary)

2 PM Media Ministry Training Session (Sanctuary)

6 PM Administrative Council Meeting (theChapel)

Youth After Church

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

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

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

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Choir Practice

Saturday, January 22, 2022

Fellowship Hall Reserved Private Event

Sunday, January 23, 2022

9:15 AM Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

10 AM Sunday School (main Sanctuary Classrooms)

10 AM Contemporary Worship (theChapel)

11 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

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**



- 11th Brandon Ferguson
RG Baker
- 13th Kenneth Peters
- 17th Bethany Lynn Fuller
- 21st Clay Harris
- 22nd Elaine Adcock
- 27th **David & Sally Malcom**
Joshua Malcom
- 28th Josie Witcher
- 29th **Larry & Sandra Callaway**
Julie Sargent

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.