



**From the desk of Pastor Ann**

It is so good to be back at work. I want to thank the leadership of Union Chapel for keeping things going while I was unable to work due to COVID-19. Cindy Elsmore and Jake Raby did a magnificent job with our virtual worship the first two Sundays of 2021. Cindy Elsmore and James Johnson have been available for any prayer needs. And Glenn Barton has kept his finger on the pulse of the congregation, to know whether it is time to come back into the sanctuary, or to wait. For now, we will wait to resume in person worship.

We will worship virtually Sunday January 17th and 24th. We will decide about the 31st as that day draws nearer. I want to encourage you to interact with us online each Sunday. If you watch on You Tube or Facebook, please post a comment to let us know you are with us! And as you worship at home, I invite you to join with us in prayer and praise.

I long for the day when we can gather together again. After battling COVID-19 these past few weeks, I am humbled. I am not someone who sits around doing nothing. That is not who God made me to be. And yet, that is literally all I could do. I have never felt fatigue like I have felt while suffering from this dread virus. I had to summon energy just to breathe. And so, I sat. And I prayed. And I slept. And finally, I have recovered my health and my energy. Praise be to God.

When you are forced to sit for so long, you have the time to reflect. Every day, I chose my attitude. I could focus on what I could not do. Or I could focus on what I still could do. I spent many hours in prayer. And honestly, I would often fall asleep praying. I also spent far too much time watching television. As I watched TV, I was reminded of just how strong the world's influence is in our lives. I want to share part of a devotion with you today, that challenges us to think about our choices:

“If our framing story tells us that the purpose of life is for individuals or nations to accumulate an abundance of possessions and to experience the maximum amount of pleasure during the maximum number of minutes of our short lives, then we will have little reason to manage our consumption. If our framing story tells us that we are in life-and-death competition with each other . . . then we will have little reason to seek reconciliation and collaboration and nonviolent resolutions to our conflicts. . . .

But if our framing story tells us that we are free and responsible creatures in a creation made by a good, wise, and loving God, and that our Creator wants us to pursue virtue, collaboration, peace, and mutual care for one another and all living creatures, and that our lives can have profound meaning if we align ourselves with God's wisdom, character, and dreams for us . . . then our society will take a radically different direction, and our world will become a very different place.” (From Brian McLaren's book *Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope.*)

May we always remember whose we are. We are God's creation, which God declared “very good.” Every single day... let us choose to “align ourselves with God's wisdom, character and dreams for us.”

Blessings,

Pastor Ann

- Greetings from Pastor Ann
- Prayer Requests
- Admin News
- Worship Services January 17th & 24th will be virtual.
- Offerings
- Newsletter info
- Anniversaries & Birthdays

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

January 12, 2021

**Prayer Requests this week:** Patsy & Donald Wright, Phil & Lynn Aycock & family, Flonnie Peters, Janet & Harry McGaughey, Jimmy Guthrie, Sandra Callaway, Mary Daniel, and Laura Lenyk, Kenneth Little and Sherrell Malcom. All people suffering from **COVID-19** and their family members. Hospitals and their staffs.

### *PRAY WITHOUT CEASING*

Friends, we want to be in prayer for each other, without ceasing. On Sunday mornings, please write out your prayer request and place it in the offering plate in the lobby prior to the service. Pastor Ann will pick those up, and read those (unless it is marked confidential) during the pastoral prayer. Thank you for helping us make sure we don't miss a single prayer concern. You may also email your requests by noon Saturday to:

[ann.mann@ngumc.net](mailto:ann.mann@ngumc.net).

### **\*\*\*Administrative News\*\*\***

**Hand Book and Program Calendar** - It is once again time to report to the entire congregation on the work of the church in 2020. We will compile the planned events to create monthly calendars for the coming year. The Hand Book and Program Calendar will be in an abbreviated format due to COVID-19 and will be available to pick up at church when we resume Worship in the Sanctuary.

#### **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.**

#### **Becoming an Advocate for Change!**

January 16, 2021 11:00am-12:30pm

Register at <http://bit.ly/STPPAdvocate>

Learn actions you can take to become the change you want to see!

You may view previous webinars at the NGUMW website <https://ngumw.org/>

#### Children and Youth

Our Children and Youth Ministries are a vital part of Union Chapel, however we are having to re-imagine all of our activities. A meeting is planned in the first quarter of 2021 to talk about what kind of activities it is safe to schedule. Please know that dates will be added as we see how the year develops. If you have any questions, please contact Kenneth or Cindy Little.



**Save the Date!**

**April 24, 2021**

**Barbecue and Brunswick Stew**



# Weekly Happenings

## January 12, 2021 - January 31, 2021



### \*\*\*Additional Church News\*\*\*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic now affecting our community, we will be meeting virtually again for the next two Sundays, January 17th & 24th. Weekly, we will revisit whether we meet the following Sunday.

United Methodist Men & United Methodist Women are both canceled for January and prayerfully be rescheduled for February.

Also, there will be no Youth and Young Adult Bible Studies until further notice.

Look for updates on Facebook and the church website for the calendar.

### Celebrations

- 13th Kenneth Peters
- 17th Bethany Lynn Fuller
- 21st Clay Harris
- 22nd Elaine Adcock
- 27th **David & Sally Malcom**  
Joshua Malcom
- 29th **Larry & Sandra Callaway**  
Julie Sargent

\*\*\*Anniversaries are in green.\*\*\*



Remember that you can continue to give Tithes and Offerings either online from our website or mail a check to our P.O. Box:  
Union Chapel UMC Finance  
P.O. Box 622

### \*\*\*\*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](mailto:unionchapel@windstream.net).