



From the desk of Pastor Ann

Since the beginning of January, we have been talking about changes that can heal our broken hearts, our broken church and our broken world. All of these changes have one goal, to help us become more like Christ.

Dr. Henry Cloud's book Changes that Heal offers four aspects of God's personality that provide a framework for us as we seek to be more like Christ. We should work toward these basic Godly characteristics:

Bond with others. (Relationships)

Separate from others. (Boundaries)

Sort out issues of good and bad. (Love and acceptance)

Take charge as an adult. (Maturity in Christ)

Only by God's grace and truth and time are we able to make changes. Grace is God's unfailing love. Truth is knowing right from wrong. And time represents God's redemptive time.

In this past Sunday's sermon, we looked at John 17:20-23, when Jesus prays for his future followers, that is you and me! This prayer is a powerful testimony to the importance of relationships.

From the very beginning of God's Word we see the importance of relationship. In Genesis 1:26 it says: "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness..." In Genesis 2 God says it is not good to be alone.

Throughout Scripture we read about the importance of loving and caring for each other. In John 15:12, Jesus says: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

We saw a powerful example this past weekend with the Chicken Stew cooking! We had so many people who came out to help. Scripture does not command us to go it alone. To make stew alone. To study alone. To worship alone. Scripture calls us to gather together, to love and care for each other.

Developing healthy relationships, truly bonding with other people, is one of the most important things we can do as the people of God. Our National Champion Georgia Bulldogs are a great example of the importance of bonding.

Coach Kirby Smart says he realized that something was missing from the team after the 2020 season. Smart believed it was connection. Deeper relationships. True brotherhood. So, for this entire 2021 season, Smart over-emphasized connection and human interaction within the locker room.

The motivational messaging worked. They began sharing from their heart, tearing down walls and building bridges. This led to greater accountability and trust. Coach Smart found a way to take an awesome team and make it better by building stronger relationships, uniting the team as one.

So, how do we do that as a church? Here's one suggestion. What if we start widening the circle of friends we invite to join us for lunch after church?

Here's another, we invite people to a cookout or a potluck at our homes. And hey, we could even invite our neighbors to join us.

As we get to know each other, we develop more meaningful relationships. We begin loving and caring for each other, as Jesus loves and cares for us. If we are willing to commit to these changes that heal... we can be a part of helping this awesome church be even better. May it be so in our lives today.

Praying I see you Sunday! Blessings, Pastor Ann.

- Greetings from
Pastor Ann
- Prayer Requests
- Media Ministry
Training Sunday,
1/30/22 @ 2PM
Sanctuary
- Weekly
Attendance
- Kairos Training
- Weekly Calendar
- Celebrations
- Giving

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P.O. Box 622
Monroe, GA 30655
770-267-7844
unionchapel@

Prayer Requests this week: Jake Camp.

Joy: Harold & Winifred Palmer's Great Granddaughter, Stella Claire Olsen.

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.

Office Hours Next Week

Due to a family funeral, the office will be open January 24th and 25th and will be closed January 26th and 27th.

Please have all newsletter submissions into the office Monday, January 24th by 9am.

Please have all bulletin information into the office by Tuesday, January 25th by 9am.

**Urgent - All Call for Media Ministry Volunteers,
Sunday, January 30th @ 2PM**

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 30th 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
01/16/2022	Inclement Weather	127	
01/09/2022	54	41	16
01/02/2022	59	130	20
12/26/2022	46	43	13

THANK YOU!

What an incredible churchwide effort for this weekend's Chicken Stew Sale! We had so many volunteers who helped make this a great sale for the UMW, from the volunteers who gathered the supplies, to those who braved the cold to cook the chicken, and pick the chicken off the bone, those who stirred the stew, those who baked desserts, those who served, and those who bought the stew. We sold 410 Quarts of Chicken Stew between 3:30 and 4:23 PM. Sadly, we had to turn people away.

The United Methodist Women really appreciate your support.!



*January 15th
Chicken Stew*

SNOW DAY!

For the first time in several years we had to cancel Sunday activities due to inclement weather. We want to thank Jake, Beth and Ava Raby for all they did to make sure we could livestream the service Sunday. Harry, James, Kim and I were also able to make it to church. Cindy Little did our children's moment then went on home. We asked Becky to stay safe, and not try to make it. Instead, we used the music we use during our contemporary worship service.

We did lose our internet connection during the service, so you will see two entries on our YouTube channel and Facebook page. One entry is what we were able to recover of the welcome, a song, and the children's moment. The other recording includes the pastoral prayer, sermon and a closing song. If you have been curious about the music at the contemporary service, please check out this week's livestream!

We have rescheduled the meetings originally scheduled for this past Sunday. We will have a brief Finance committee meeting immediately after church on Sunday January 30th. We will have our Media Ministry training at 2pm on the 30th. And our Administrative Council meeting will be Sunday January 30th at 6pm. We chose to wait until the 30th because we have more bad weather forecast for this weekend. Please stay tuned in case the weather impacts worship on the 23rd.



*January 15th
Snow Day*

Thank you for showing up so that we could share the service!

Pastor's Ann's Car after church!

Prison Ministry Opportunity



Have you felt the call to participate in prison ministry? I recently spent several hours inside Whitworth Women's Facility. 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 18, 2022 - January 20, 2022

Weekly Happenings

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

Monday, January 24, 2022

9 AM - 2 PM Office Open

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

9 AM - 2 PM Office Open
7 PM Youth Bible Study @ Kenneth & Cindy Little's

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

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

Thursday, January 27, 2022

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 30, 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, **Finance Committee Meeting** (Sanctuary)
2 PM **Media Ministry Training** (Sanctuary)
6 PM **Administrative Council Meeting** (TheChapel)

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



- 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
Monday & Tuesday
January 24th & 25th 9 AM - 2 PM
Closed on Wednesday & Thursday, January 26th & 27th

*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.