



### From the desk of Pastor Ann

Boundaries are Biblical. From the beginning of time, God separates day and night, the land and the sea, the earth from the heavens, etc. (See Genesis 1.) They are connected, but separate.

Last week we talked about the power of connection with God and others. But we also need to understand who we are in Christ, apart from anyone else, our unique identity. God has placed unique talents, desires, hopes and dreams in each of us. (And it takes each of us for the body of Christ to function.)

Having healthy boundaries helps us be content with what we have, and willing to share what we have in service to Christ. We recognize what we control, and what we don't control. We understand that we are responsible for our attitudes, our feelings, our behavior, our thoughts, and our choices. We may not always control what happens to us, but we CAN control how we respond.

Too often, we find ourselves conditioned to respond a certain way in a certain context. Instead of answering honestly from within ourselves, with our unique identity in Christ, we say what we think we are EXPECTED to say or do.

There was a story about a second grade Sunday School teacher who once asked her class, "What's gray, lives in a tree, gathers nuts, and has a bushy tail?"

Not one boy or girl raised their hand. So, she asked again. "What's gray, lives in a tree, gathers nuts, and has a bushy tail?" Again, no one answered. So, she asked again. Finally, one little boy raised his hand. So, she asked, okay Johnny, what's the answer?

Johnny squirmed a little in his chair, and finally said. "Well, it sounds like a squirrel, but I am going to say Jesus anyway."

When we recognize our unique identity in Christ, and speak from a place of truth and honesty, we recognize the squirrel in this story! We don't say or do something just because it is what is expected, or it is what others are saying.

Owning our boundaries, in other words, taking responsibility for our thoughts, words and deeds is an important step toward true freedom and responsibility in Christ, an important step toward living a more Christ like life.

Consider 1 Peter 4:11: "Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." (NRSV)

God has made each one of us unique. Scripture encourages us not to envy, others, or covet what others have, not to speak ill of others, not to judge others, and to do it all to the glory of God. Scripture encourages us to be our unique selves. We are exactly who God made us to be. And we are each enough.

There will be times when someone, or something crosses our boundaries. We may have no control over that, but we do control how we respond. If we are being abused, we need to walk away. If we are being taken advantage of, we need to say, "no more." If someone crosses that line of respect, we need to feel empowered to say, "I will not allow myself to be treated this way."

We must be willing to give a holy "no" when needed. Likewise, we need to make sure our "yes" means "yes." Healthy boundaries mean being a person of character and commitment. When we have healthy boundaries, everything we think, say and do comes from our unique identity in Christ. May it be so in our lives today.

We hope to see you in worship this Sunday at 10am or 11am!

Blessings, Pastor Ann.

- Greetings from  
Pastor Ann
- Prayer Requests
- Media Ministry  
Training Sunday,  
1/30/22 @ 2PM  
Sanctuary
- Weekly  
Attendance
- UMW, 02/07/22  
6 PM Fellowship Hall
- UMM, 02/10/22  
7 PM Fellowship Hall
- Kairos Training
- Weekly Calendar
- Celebrations
- Giving

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

Prayer Requests this week: Jake Camp.

*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](mailto:ann.mann@ngumc.net). Please submit your request by noon on Saturday.

**Office Hours This Week**

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

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

**Urgent - All Call for Media Ministry Volunteers  
This 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
01/23/2022	65	78	25
01/16/2022	Inclement Weather	127	
01/09/2022	54	41	16
01/02/0222	59	130	20



**United Methodist Women  
Monday, February 7th  
6 PM  
Fellowship Hall**

The United Methodist Women will be taking bags to our shut-ins in February. We will be collecting items at our Feb meeting (2/7/22 @ 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall).

Some recommended items are and we need 12 of each item:

- Heart shaped box of chocolates (Pastor Ann providing)
- large print word search & Valentine Cards (Cindy Elsmore providing)
- heart shaped items
- socks
- peppermint
- hand sanitizer
- lotion
- Kleenex
- Hot chocolate
- Coffee mugs

We already have cute Valentine bags, thanks to Pastor Ann for picking them up. If you would like to supply one of these items, please reply to my email (sent out last week. If you didn't get the email, please let us know.)

Blessings, Patty Wright, UMW President

p.aultman@yahoo.com

## 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 21-24<sup>th</sup> 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. 5<sup>th</sup>, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meetings are usually about 9am to 3pm. If you are interested, please let me know.

January 24, 2022 - February 6, 2022

**Weekly Happenings**

**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 Youth After Church**

Noon, **Finance Committee Meeting** (Sanctuary)

2 PM **Media Ministry Training** (Sanctuary)

6 PM **Administrative Council Meeting** (TheChapel)

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

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

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

**Wednesday, February 2, 2022**

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Choir Practice

**Saturday, February 5, 2022**

Noon - 4 PM Private Event (Fellowship Hall)

**Sunday, February 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)

4 PM **Worship Committee Meeting** (Fellowship Hall)

**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*

- 1st Wendy Little
- 2nd Lana Malcom Browning  
Larry Callaway  
Justin Peters
- 3rd Jennifer Keesee  
Shaun Weaver
- 6th Stan Dial
- 7th Elaine Towler
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grant Olson
- 9<sup>th</sup> Jenny Ferguson  
Steve Sargent  
Ryan McCullers  
PJ Peters
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Billy & Gail Allen**
- 11<sup>th</sup> Kialee Melendez
- 12<sup>th</sup> Karl Olson
- 14<sup>th</sup> Frankie Malcom  
Ashley Marshall  
**Ted & Rita Peters**

*\*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.**