



From the desk of Pastor Ann

This is the first full week of Lent, a time to prepare for the resurrection of our Savior. During this season, we are looking at the hymns of our faith. This week it is "In the Garden," written by C. Austin Miles in 1912.

He was a pharmacist by trade. His hobby was photography. Back in the old days, before we had digital photography, you had to take your film into a darkroom, expose it to a series of chemicals, and wait for the image to develop.

It was in that dark room, while he was waiting for film to develop, that he spent quality time with God. One night, he opened the Bible and read the 20th chapter of John's gospel, the story of the first Easter.

Miles says that as he read this passage, he felt like he was there. It came alive for him. He could see a woman in white, with head bowed, and her hand clutching her throat as if she was choking back a sob. It was Mary.

John and Peter went into the tomb and left. But Mary tarried there. She wept. And when she turned, she saw Jesus. Miles writes, "just as she saw Jesus, I could see him, too."

It was in that moment 110 years ago this month that he wrote these words. *"I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own. And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known."*

C. Austin Miles experienced the wonder of that first Easter. So, church, what about us. Do we still experience the wonder of that first Easter morning? The day Jesus overcame sin and death so that we might have new life?

Or are we sleepwalking. You know I think about the disciples. They had heard Jesus promise that he would rise from the dead in three days. Perhaps they had even heard about his words to the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

They had heard Jesus preach, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me will live, even though they die." Yet on that first Easter morning they huddled in a room scared they would be next.

They did not yet grasp the reality of the resurrection. They did not yet grasp what it means to be alive in Christ. Are we alive in Christ? It can be hard on days like this. When war rages in Ukraine, where people who just want to live free are being slaughtered by a tyrant. It can be hard when the church, when the people in the church are divided. The darkness of the night can overwhelm us.

In those desperate moments, we must remember God's promise that he will never leave us or forsake us. He is with us. He is as close as he was to Mary on that first Easter morning. And he will never let us go.

I pray I see you in church this Sunday, either in person or online. Please remember to "spring forward" this Saturday night/Sunday morning as Daylight Saving Time begins. And plan to return to church Sunday at 5pm for our church conference. Until then, remain in prayer for God's holy church.

Blessings, Pastor Ann.

- Greetings from
Pastor Ann
- Prayer Requests
- Lenten Lunches
- Weekly
Attendance
- Spring Forward
on Saturday night
- Church
Conference
- Sunday, March 13th
5 PM Sanctuary
- UMM this
Thursday,
March 10th @ 7 PM
- UMW, Monday,
March 14th @ 6 PM
- 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: Carolyn Towler, Ava Raby, Joshua Crowe, Jo Tiller, Bruce Young.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

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



You are invited to our Monroe Area Ministerial Association Lenten lunches. We will have a brief service at noon, with pastors from our area churches bringing the message, and a luncheon following. This week the lunch will be held at St. Anna's Catholic Church. At the luncheon, you will have an opportunity to make a donation to support FISH.

Here is the schedule for the host churches:

2022 Lenten Schedule

March 9	St. Anna's Catholic Church
March 16	Lighthouse World Outreach
March 23	Union Chapel United Methodist
March 30	First United Methodist Monroe
April 6	First Baptist Monroe



Weekly Attendance

Date	Attendance	Online	Sunday School
03/06/2022	78	41	28
02/27/2022	83	19	21
02/20/2022	67	35	27
02/13/2022	74	27	27

Don't forget to Spring Forward when you go to bed on Saturday night!



All men are invited this Thursday, March 10th @ 7 PM for grilled rabbit and chicken stew dinner with all the fixings! We look forward to having you join us!

United Methodist Women
Monday, March 14th at 6 PM

All women of Union Chapel are invited to our meeting! We look forward to seeing you!



Church Conference set for Sunday, March 13th
5 pm in the sanctuary

By: James Johnson, Lay Leader & Vickie Sargent, Chair Staff Parrish Relations Committee

This summary is an overview of what the vote to Disaffiliate might mean for Union Chapel United Methodist Church. *It is not meant to be an exhaustive explanation and each person is strongly encouraged to educate yourselves. Please pray for our church.*

- District Superintendent, Rev. Rodrigo Cruz will preside over meeting
- Only members of Union Chapel will be allowed in the sanctuary. A written ballot will be issued at check-in, similar to those issued at the February 27th meeting
- Any members not known by the check-in staff, may be asked to show a picture ID r
- You must be present to vote – no absentee ballots (per District Superintendent)
- Questions specific to disaffiliation will be allowed, but no personal commentaries.
- Votes will be publicly counted
 - Should the required two-thirds majority vote to disaffiliate we will receive a checklist from the district of all actions that must be completed prior to our North Georgia's annual conference scheduled for **June in Athens**.
 - Ratification by the NGUMC at Annual Conference will release our property from the Trust Clause. Our church would assume full ownership of all property (and debts)
 - The check list from the conference will include the following:
 - Union Chapel will owe apportionment and pension liabilities totaling approximately \$49,000 to UMC.
 - Our church would be "independent" and not associated with any denomination giving us the opportunity to pursue all options.
 - "Members of Union Chapel will assume responsibility of *our church* operations including (but not limited to): pastoral selection and appointments, benefits options for pastor and/or other employees, finance, leadership, committees, missions and outreach, etc
- If the vote does not reach the two-thirds threshold to disaffiliate, we will remain within the United Methodist denomination with our properties held in trust as they are currently.
 - The Disaffiliation option remains in effect until the end of 2023 so this could be revisited next year.

Updated Disaffiliation Costs

The \$49,000 cost to disaffiliate that we show in this article has been updated.

Following is the actual cost sent to us by Rev. Rodrigo Cruz, our District Superintendent.

The costs for unfunded pension liability is	\$26,591.40
The costs for Apportionments is	20,937.40
Total cost due as of March 1, 2022	\$47,528.89

By June, the Apportionments' cost will decrease by \$4,144.26 as we make our monthly payments of \$1,381.42 in March April and May. This will change our total cost due **to \$43,384.63**.

March 8 - March 23, 2022

Weekly Happenings

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

Saturday, March 12, 2022 Spring Forward!

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

5 PM Church Conference (Sanctuary)

Monday, March 14, 2022

6 PM United Methodist Women (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Special Election Day - Fellowship Hall

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

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

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Choir Practice

Sunday, March 20, 2022 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)

6 PM Administrative Council Meetin (theChapel)

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

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

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

7 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

7 PM Choir Practice



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
- 20th **John & Martha Jordan**
- 25th Bill Johnson
- 29th **David & Lori Keyes**
- 30th Paul Weekley
- 31st Richard Rollins

***Anniversaries 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 .**

**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**

******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