

The Communicator Volume XXXVIII Issue 11
FRANCIS ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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FRANCIS ASBURY UMC

PRAISING GOD • GROWING SPIRITUALLY • REACHING NEIGHBORS

THE COMMUNICATOR

Volume XXXVIII Issue 11

NOVEMBER 2025

Celebrating 3 Years of Service: FAUMC’s Free Food Pantry & Market!

For three years, FAUMC—partnering with Manna—has remained committed to addressing the growing challenge of food insecurity in Hominy Valley. In this time, **we have served 4725 persons** and have built meaningful connections, shared heartfelt moments, while helping neighbors navigate rising food costs with dignity and care.



FREE
FOOD
PANTRY
&
MARKET

To celebrate this milestone and thank our amazing volunteers, we’re hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at Elena’s Mexican Grill on Tuesday, November 18 at 1 PM

If you’ve helped with the Pantry & Market in any way—whether once or every month—we’d love to see you there! Thank you for being part of this mission. Your compassion and dedication continue to make a real difference.

Our next Free Food Pantry & Market is Thursday, November 20 from 3–5 PM in the Gym. As always, the market is free and open to all!

Welcome
to Our Church

Sunday
Worship
at
11 am

IN MINISTRY

Ministers & Missionaries-
ALL MEMBERS

Pastor	Avery White
Lay Leader	Val Grush
Music Director	Jess Mills
Administrator	Danya Sellers
Custodian	Glenda Shook
C&FM Director	Megan Serzan
Nursery	Amy Dayton
Faith C. Nurse	Dora Brown, RN



Join us for our November Family Fun “Friendsgiving” Meal on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Come share a joyful evening of food, fellowship, and friendship in the Lord!

Delicious meal provided by our Small Groups.

Bring new or gently used items for Bingo prizes.

Need a Ride? Please reach out to Danya!

All are welcome—bring a friend!



All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people (Acts 2:44-46).

Food is one of the basic necessities of life. It provides the energy and nutrients necessary for repair, growth, and regulation of all bodily functions. The bible has a lot to say about **food**, from what **foods** to eat, to caring for those who are **hungry**, and finding hospitality through **sharing meals**. Jesus said that he is **“the Bread of Life.”** He demonstrated the importance of spiritual **nourishment** and ministering to one another around a table.

This month at FAUMC, we look forward to some special times around the table – Friendsgiving, FAB meeting and the FAB charcuterie night, UMM breakfast, the Advent Tea, and more. Many of us have plans to celebrate Thanksgiving with family, chosen family, and neighbors. As we enjoy sacred table fellowship, we also take seriously our call to **reach and care for our neighbors**. We continue to support ABCCM and Food Connection, supply local schools with **groceries** for students and their families, and host our **monthly market**.

The season of Advent begins on Sunday November 30th. This is the four-week season of preparation leading up to Christmas. This season brings with it many opportunities for worship, fellowship, special events, and service. As we have done previously in Lent, we are going to be intentional in giving to our FAUMC monthly market during this season. **We invite you to bring items for our pantry each Sunday, and on Christmas Eve:**

- November 30 - Soup**
- December 7 – Canned fruit**
- December 14 – Paper towels/toilet paper**
- December 21 – Toiletries**
- December 24 – Cereal**



Thank you for the ways you serve faithfully and generously. I look forward to worshipping and serving together in this special season!

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Avery



*Dear FAUMC Family, thank you for your kind recognition of Pastor Appreciation in October. I thank God for you! Your encouragement and care are a blessing to me. It is a great privilege to be your pastor. **Love, Avery***



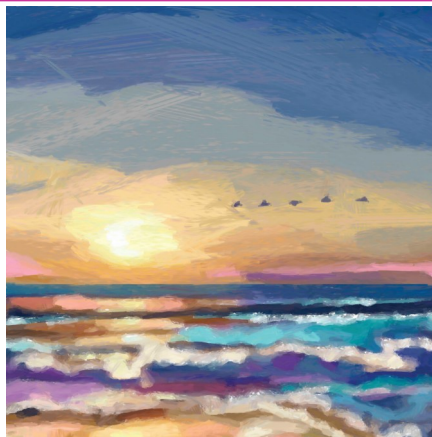
Dear Francis Asbury United Methodist Church,
Four months ago, we launched our “Forward in Faith” capital campaign to update the flooring in two of our buildings. We celebrate that phase one of our capital improvement project was completed in September. The fellowship hall building, including the nursery, children’s church room, hallway, and bathrooms, has received new flooring. It was a joy to see that space filled with neighbors as we celebrated FAUMC’s 120th anniversary on September 21st. Thank you for your generous support that made this possible!

As with past capital campaigns, our church leadership has made a commitment to tithe ten percent of the project cost to missions. We believe whole-heartedly that this is a part of our faithful stewardship. Our Church Council has selected organizations to whom we will donate our tithe. The tithe for phase one is designated for our Western North Carolina Annual Conference’s Disaster Ministries. On September 28th, the 622 churches in our annual conference contributed to a special offering to support the repair and rebuilding of several churches that were severely damaged by Hurricane Helene. Our tithe is going to that fund. As we tend to our campus, we support our sister churches in tending to theirs. We believe that the church is the people. We also believe that our church campuses and buildings are significant resources that support ministries, mission, and hospitality.

Phase two of the project is projected to begin in early 2026, likely in March. This includes the Mildred Howard building – the gym and accompanying bathrooms on the lower level. The estimated cost is \$34,687.95. Our tithe for phase two is designated for Manna Food Bank and for a scholarship to the Ferguson Family YMCA’s “Camp Kiddos” hosted on our FAUMC campus next summer. We are grateful for our partnerships with both organizations, serving neighbors and families together. Manna Food Bank, which serves sixteen counties in Western North Carolina, has seen a significant increase in need this year. In June, their community markets were visited more than 190,000 times – the highest number in their forty-two year history. We feel called to support their good work, as they support our monthly market, which is held in our church gym.

Our “Forward in Faith” capital campaign will continue through December 31, 2026, with a total financial goal of \$65,000. To date, \$31,030 has been contributed. We thank you for your faithful and generous support of FAUMC as we invest in our church’s future. We stand on the shoulders of our spiritual mothers and fathers who came before us, and we are committed to following their example in planning for the generations who will follow us. In all things, we seek to live into our mission: *Praising God, Growing Spiritually, Reaching Neighbors, rooted in Christ our Foundation.*

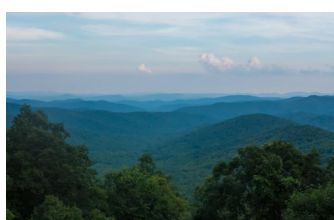
In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Avery
Veronica Crook, Church Council Chair
Rosie Kooles, Trustees Chair
Bat Hudson, Finance Chair



We will observe All Saints Sunday on November 2nd, giving thanks for saints who have gone before us, honoring their lives and their faith. We will call out the names of saints from our

Francis Asbury family who have joined the church triumphant during the last year as well as loved ones who have gone on before us.

We will also share Holy Communion. Our November Communion Offering will go to our "Enka Middle School Ministry Fund." This fund supports meals we provide twice each school year for EMS Faculty & Staff; beds in a box; school, student & social worker needs, etc. You may leave your monetary donations (marked "EMS Ministry Fund") in the baskets at the end of the altar rails, offering plates or wood box in the Narthex. Thank you for caring for Enka-Candler Community neighbors!



Charge Conference
Sunday, November 16
at 3pm
at Covenant
Community Church

We will join with other churches in our network for worship, approving local church business & music. There will also be an added mission component of assembling "Welcome Home Blessing Baskets" for those moving into homes following Hurricane Helene's devastation. Church Council members should plan to attend. To carpool, meet in the FAUMC parking lot at 2pm.



Worship Schedule

NOVEMBER 2:
ALL SAINTS

Scripture:
John 20:1-18

NOVEMBER 9:

Scripture:
Genesis 32:22-30

NOVEMBER 16:

Scripture:

John 1:35-43

NOVEMBER 23:

Scripture: **John 13:1-17**

NOVEMBER 30: ADVENT 1

PEW PRAYERS

2-FAB Women Class

9-Ladies Class

16-Men's Class

23-Youth Class

30-Young Disciples Class

LAY READERS

2-Cindy McDonald

9-Eden Mills

16-Bob Salajka

23-C. Rice

30-Glen Champlin

YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT

2-Jean Jones

9-Glen Champlin

16-Pastor Avery

23-Megan Serzan

30-Veronica Crook

Christmas Play Practice – Sundays in November

All Children & Youth are invited to participate in our upcoming Christmas Play! Practice will be held each Sunday in November, following the Young Disciples Moment.

Location: Children's Church Room.

Let's make this season joyful and memorable together!



Welcome to the FAUMC Family!

We are overjoyed to celebrate the newest members of our church community!

On Sunday,
September 28, we

welcomed **Gretchen Lewis** into the FAUMC Family.

On Sunday, October 26, we also welcomed **The Provance Family - Emily, Grant, and Gage -** along with **Cathy Sutton** as official members.

We give God thanks for each of you and the unique gifts you bring to our fellowship. Your presence enriches our church family, and we are excited to walk alongside you in faith and service.

If you feel called to become an official member of FAUMC, please reach out to **Pastor Avery** — we'd love to welcome you too!

Francis the Bear News Corner

A ministry of love and support from Francis Asbury UMC for those facing difficult times in life.

Francis Bears are available in the Penley Room at no cost. Please remember to write down when you gift someone with a Francis Bear so we can track this ministry's outreach. Please see Cindy McDonald for specific clothing request.



**Worship
Committee Meeting
Wednesday,
November 5
at 4:30pm**
in the FAB Room.

**Finance Committee
Meeting
Monday,
November 10
at 6:30pm**
in the Fellowship Hall.

**Church Council
Meeting
Sunday,
November 23**
following worship
in the Fellowship Hall.

**Charge Conference
Sunday, November 16
at 3pm**
at Covenant
Community Church





Christmas Play Practice – Sundays in November

All Children & Youth are invited to participate in our upcoming Christmas Play! Practice will be held each Sunday in November, following the Young Disciples Moment. *Location: Children's Church Room.* Let's make this season joyful and memorable together!



Join the Hive

(a buzzing, creative, connected community).

Wednesdays from 10.30-11.30am

in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome!

See you there, Honey!



3rd Sunday Breakfast Meeting at FAUMC
Sunday, November 16

at **7:30am** in the Fellowship Hall.

All men are invited!

Hominy Valley UMM 5th Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, November 30
at **7:30am** at **Acton UMC.**

All men are invited!



FAUMC parking lot on Thursdays starting at 3pm.
Take as many meals as you need! All are welcome!

The Food Connection Food Truck
"Fran" passes out free, delicious meals in the

ANNA CLUB

YOU'RE INVITED!

MONTHLY MEETUPS FOR GIRLS WHO'VE BEEN THROUGH THE STORM



MOUNTAIN HEIRLOOMS: AN APPALACHIAN DOLL INITIATIVE
WWW.MOUNTAINHEIRLOOMS.COM

Anna Club Meeting on Saturday, November 15th from 10am-12pm in the Gym Upper Room.

All WNC girls ages 6-13 are invited!

This club meets once monthly.

Please contact Ann Gay or Patti Minzer for more information.
WWW.MOUNTAINHEIRLOOMS.COM



FAB Women Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 11 @ 6pm at the home of **Glenda Shook** (24B Heather Way)

Devo-Sue Jaecques
Salty-Glenda Shook
Salty-Pastor Avery
ALL LADIES WELCOME!



Thank you to all our October Pantry volunteers. We served 57 households & 201 people.

Our next FREE Food Pantry & Market is Thursday, Nov. 20 from 3-5pm in the Gym. *Manna is providing us with 60 Turkey breasts for this market!*

Pantry & Market items are available to support **ANYONE** in the community experiencing food insecurity.
Volunteers needed!



Charcuterie Ladies Gathering (hosted by FAB Women) on Friday, November 14 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for a festive evening filled with friendship, flavor,

and fun! We'll indulge in a beautiful spread of charcuterie boards, craft holiday gift bags and tags for Christmas, and enjoy lots of door prizes throughout the night. Need a ride? Please reach out to Danya — we'll make sure you get there! All ladies are warmly invited. We hope to see you there!



HOMINY VALLEY ABCCM

Hominy Valley ABCCM Thanksgiving Meals for Community Families.

HVABCCM is helping client families who may go without a traditional Thanksgiving meal this year..

Our Church Family can help by donating...

Boxes of stuffing mix, sweet potatoes, instant potatoes, box cake mix, cake icing & Monetary donations by SUNDAY, NOV 16!

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"
Matthew 25:31

You may leave donated items in the large basket in the Narthex. You may place monetary donations marked **"HVABCCM"** in the offering plate or wood box.

Thank you for caring for those less fortunate in the Enka-Candler Community!



Do you know of someone who needs some comfort?

Prayer Shawls & Pocket Prayer Shawls available in the Penley Room.

Please record your gift so we can keep track of the outreach of this important ministry!

Appalachian Winter

A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMAS

By Joseph M. Martin



**The Francis Asbury UMC Choir will
present “Appalachian Winter”
for their 2025 Christmas Cantata!**

It’s not too late!

**They’d love to have you join them
in choir for a season!**

**Choir participation very flexible!
Please see our Music Director,
Jess Mills, for more information!**



A Little Advice from Nurse Dora **MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT** **NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 7th**

Now is the time to compare your options for next year's Part D Medicare drug plans and your Medicare Advantage options. Even if you are happy with your current plan, it is important to check for any changes that may be in effect for next year. It is also a good idea to check the drug formulary for next year to make sure all your drugs are covered. And also, check the provider network if you have an Advantage Plan to make sure all your healthcare providers are still in the network for next year.

You can visit Medicare.gov/plan-compare to compare all your coverage options and also to check the star ratings to compare the quality of the different health and drug plans. You can compare the benefits and costs in your current plan to other options available to you. Look at the "Total Drug & Premium Costs" rather than just the premium cost. Update your drugs and pharmacies in order to get a better estimate of your prescription drug costs. Your costs can vary depending on the pharmacy you use, so it is a good idea to enter several pharmacies to see which ones are "preferred" and which ones give you the lowest cost. It is also a good idea to enter your plan's preferred mail-order pharmacy as this will usually be your lowest cost option for 90-day supplies of the drugs you take on a regular basis.

If you would like some help evaluating your Medicare coverage options and understanding your choices, I am available to help you. You may call me at 828-400-8676 and we can go over the changes being made to your current plan and your options for next year.

I'm happy to help! :)

Dora Brown, RN,
Faith Community Nurse



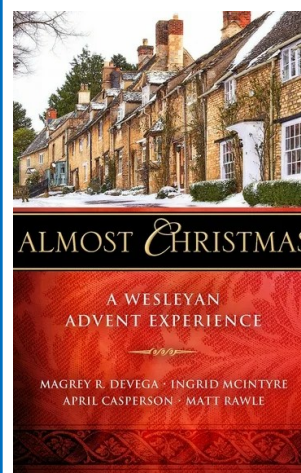
Ladies Advent Tea on Sunday, November 30 at 3pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The FAB Women are delighted to host our annual Ladies Advent Tea, a cherished tradition that brings warmth and reflection to the season.

Join us for an afternoon filled with beautifully decorated tables, sweet and savory finger foods, and the comforting aroma of Russian tea. We'll enjoy special music and a meaningful message to prepare our hearts for Advent.

Our guest speaker will be Linda Henley, mother of Liz Hipps, sharing words of inspiration for the season.

All ladies are invited! *Sign-up in the Penley Room by Sunday, Nov. 23rd.*



“Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience” *by Magrey deVega*

**Study on Mondays in
Advent- December
1, 8, 15 & 22**
in the Fellowship Hall

John Wesley's
sermon “The Almost
Christian” urged
believers to fully
commit to Christ.

In Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience, we are invited to move from “almost” to “altogether” Christian living by embracing Advent themes—Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace—with our whole hearts.

It's a call to claim God's promises and celebrate an altogether Christmas.

All are welcome!

Facilitated by Pastor Avery

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Blood Drive in the Gym
Thursday, December 4th
from 1:30–6pm
in the Gym.

**Ladies Christmas
Gathering at 5pm**
Saturday, December 6th
at the home of
Veronica Crook.

**Youth & Children's
Christmas Program**
Sunday, December 7
at 11am
Lunch & Santa following

Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 14th
at 11am
in the Sanctuary.

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**
Wednesday, December 24
at 5pm
in the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>The November-December 2025 edition of the Upper Room devotional is here.</p> <p>You can pick up a copy in the Narthex or Sanctuary side entrance or we'd be happy to deliver one to you!</p>		December 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					1 
2 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 10 Sunday School 11 Worship & Holy Communion	3	4 6pm Mayberry Ladies Bible Study Concludes 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: Cub Scouts	5 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Penley Room 4:30 Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm Choir Practice		6 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	7 Office Closed	8 5-9:30pm Gym: Smoky Mountain Dance Club
9 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 5 pm November Family Fun "Friendsgiving" Meal	10 Office Closed 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting 	11 11:15am Parkinsons CarePartner Group 6pm FAB Women Meeting at the home of Glenda Shook 6:30-7:30 pm Scouts	12 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice		13 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	14 Office Closed 6pm Charcuterie Ladies Gathering All Ladies invited!	15 10am-12pm Anna Club in the Gym Upper Room For All Girls Ages 6-11
16 7:30 UMM Breakfast 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 3pm Charge Conference at Covenant Community	17 3:30-4:30 Gym: Francine Delany NSC 	18 1pm Food Pantry/Market Volunteer Appreciation Meal @ Elena's Mex. Grill 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: Cub Scouts	19 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice		20 3pm Food Truck 3-5 pm in Gym 	21 Office Closed	22 5-9:30pm Gym: Smoky Mountain Dance Club
23 <i>HV ABCCM Sunday</i> 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 12 Church Council Meeting in the Fellowship Hall	24	25 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: Cub Scouts	26 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall		27 	28 Office Closed	29
							30 <i>ADVENT 1</i> 7:30 HV UMM Breakfast at Acton UMC 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 3pm Ladies Advent Tea



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- 11/1 Vanessa Champlin
- 11/2 Don Rudisill
- 11/3 Sondra Cooper
- 11/6 Parker King
- 11/6 Dan Shook
- 11/12 Charlie Kooles
- 11/18 Jean Jones
- 11/19 Lorene Bradford
- 11/19 Cindy McDonald
- 11/29 Pam Moser
- 11/30 Janice Harris

SUNDAY
30 <i>ADVENT 1</i> 7:30 HV UMM Breakfast at Acton UMC 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 3pm Ladies Advent Tea