

The Communicator Volume XXXIX Issue 2
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FRANCIS ASBURY UMC

PRAISING GOD • GROWING SPIRITUALLY • REACHING NEIGHBORS

THE COMMUNICATOR

Volume XXXIX Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2026

February Church Family Fun



Join us for **BOWLING**
 on **Sunday, February 15**
 at **1pm** at Sky Lanes
 (1477 Patton Ave,
 Asheville, 28806).

Cost is \$6.25 per game.
 Shoe rental is FREE!

Don't miss this incredi-bowl time
with church family! All are welcome!

Lunch available at the bowling alley.

Please sign-up in the Penley Room
by Wednesday, February 12th.



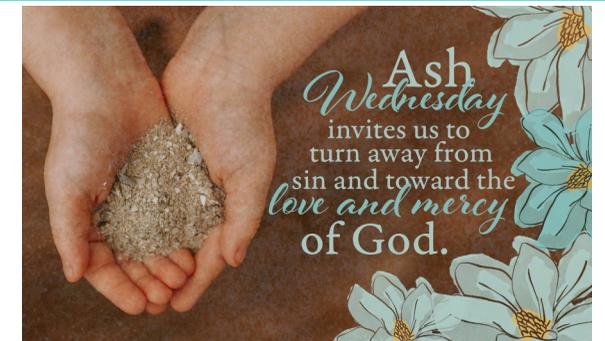
Welcome
 to Our Church

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
Faith C. Nurse	Dora Brown, RN



All are invited to join us as we begin
Lent 2026 on Wednesday, February 18.

Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be
 at **6:30 pm** in the Sanctuary. **All are Welcome!**

Supper will be served at 5:30pm
 in the Fellowship Hall. *On the menu:*
Italian Feast (lasagna, salad, bread & dessert)
Sign-up in the Penley Room. Freewill donations



*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
proclaim/ 'til all the world adore his sacred
name (United Methodist Hymnal #159)*

All four Gospels record the **final words of Jesus**, spoken from the cross. In the darkness of Good Friday, in the midst of pain and suffering, Jesus offers these prayers and statements, an enduring testament to who he is and to the journey to which he calls his disciples. Not unlike family members who lean in to receive the final words of a loved one on his/her deathbed, **Jesus' last words** give us the opportunity to lean in and listen for messages that are for us. They are messages of love, forgiveness, humanity, suffering, tenderness and trust. During the six weeks of Lent, we will spend time listening to and studying **Jesus' final words** together:

1. **“Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing”** (Luke 23:34)
2. **“Today, you will be with me in paradise”** (Luke 23:43)
3. **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)
4. **“Behold your son...Behold your mother”** (John 19:26-27)
5. **“I thirst”** (John 19:28)
- 6/7. **“Into your hands I commend my spirit... It is finished”** (Luke 23:46; John 19:30).

In addition to a sermon series, we will also offer a Lenten study on Monday nights. Feel free to read along with Susan Robb's book: *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross*. The church has ordered some copies, which will be available for purchase in February.

Drawing close to the cross is part of our Christian journey, particularly during this season. We know, even as we linger here, that the cross is not the end. At the end of this journey lies Easter joy. I am grateful to be with you on the journey!

In Christ's Love, **Pastor Avery**



Worship Schedule

February 1
Souper Bowl of Caring/ Communion
Lay Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Sermon Text:
Matthew 24:1-14

Sermon Title:
*That's Not in the Bible?!-
The Rapture*

February 8
Lay Reading:
Romans 7:19-25
Sermon Text:
Matthew 7:1-5

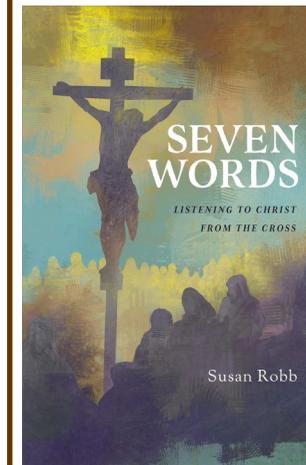
Sermon Title:
*That's Not in the Bible?!-
Love the Sinner,
Hate the Sin*

February 15
Lay Reading:
Galatians 6:6-10
Sermon Text:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Sermon Title: *That's Not in the Bible?!- Everything Happens for a Reason*

February 22
Lent 1
Lay Reading:
Romans 5:6-8
Sermon Text:

Luke 23:26-27, 33-34
Sermon Title:
*Final Words:
Father Forgive Them*



Sermon Series and Study for Lent. We will utilize **Susan Robb's book "Seven Words: Listening to Christ From the Cross"** as our Lenten study. Copies

of the book are will be available in the Penley Room for \$10. In conjunction with her **Sermon Series** (February 22-March 29), Pastor Avery will offer a **weekly study on Monday evenings (February 23-March 30) at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!
Please sign-up in the Penley Room.



“Forward in Faith” Capital Campaign Update:
Phase 1: Fellowship Hall New flooring & Mission Tithe complete!

Phase 2: New Flooring for Gym purchased (\$17,400)
Contributed to date: 38,955
Expenses to date: \$43,905
(-\$4950).

Total campaign \$65,000 by 12/31/26
Thank you for your prayerful & financial support as we invest in our church's future.

Each 2nd Sunday, we are invited to bring items to support our **FREE Monthly Food Pantry & Market.**



For February 8th, please bring CEREAL. You may leave items in the designated container in the Narthex. Monetary donations also accepted.

Thank you to all our January Pantry Volunteers! We served 52 households & 178 people.

Our next FREE Food Pantry & Market is Thursday, February 19 from 3-5pm in the Gym.

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

New Fellowship Group(s) Forming.

Small groups are an important way that we grow together in discipleship. They offer fellowship, support, encouragement, and relationship-building. FAUMC currently supports three fellowship groups, each of which meets regularly and has its own rhythm.

We are excited to offer a new group, or groups, and will host a gathering on Sunday February 22 at 5:00 in the fellowship hall.

If you are interested in joining a group, or simply learning more about it, we invite you to attend. Contact Pam Moser or Pastor Avery with any questions.





Let's Tackle Hunger Together!

For nearly two decades, our Young Disciples have invited us into this joyful way of caring for our neighbors through their memorable presentations. **Their presentation on February 1st is called "The Big Game of Giving."** As we share Holy Communion, our special offering will once again support **Hominy Valley ABCCM**. We are all invited to

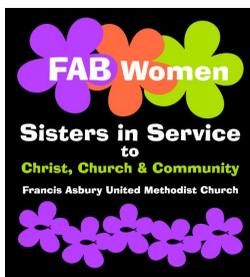
bring monetary donations & non-perishable food items. Last year through this annual collection, you gave \$1034 plus many needed items for Enka-Candler community families. Thank you for lifting up our Young Disciples and joining them in this mission of compassion in tackling hunger and supporting local families. **Go Team!**



The Food Connection Food Truck "Fran" passes out free, delicious meals in the FAUMC parking lot on



Thursdays starting at **3pm.** Take as many meals as you need! All are welcome!



FAB Women Meeting on Tuesday, February 10th @ 6pm at the home of Brenda Rhinehart (58 Grassy View Road in Candler) **Salty**-Brenda R. **Sweet**-Pam Hall **Devo**-Val Grush

ALL LADIES WELCOME!

Attention FAB Ladies...

Please bring **15 Valentine Treats** (candy, chips, pens, socks, etc) for the **15 Ladies** at **First Step Farm** by **February 9th.**



ANNA CLUB

YOU'RE INVITED!

Anna Club Meeting on Saturday, February 21 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



MEETING & BREAKFAST Sunday, February 15 at 7:30am All Men are invited for good food & fellowship.



A Little Advice from Nurse Dora THE HEALING POWER OF KINDNESS

As we move through February, a month filled with hearts, cards, and reminders to love one another, I'm reminded that **kindness** is one of the most powerful healing gifts God has placed in our hands. It doesn't require special training, a big budget, or perfect timing. It simply asks for a willing heart.

Kindness is healing not just for the one who receives it, but for the one who gives it. Medical research reminds us that simple acts of kindness can lower stress, improve mood, and even support heart health. But long before science discovered this, Scripture taught us: "Be kind and compassionate to one another." (Ephesians 4:32) **Kindness** is woven right into the fabric of who we are called to be.

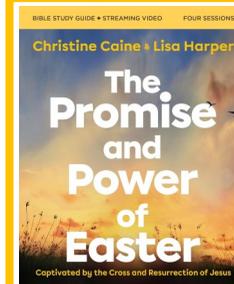
This month, I invite us all to slow down and notice the opportunities God places in our path each day. A smile to someone who looks hurried. A phone call to a member who hasn't been able to get out much this winter. A handwritten note slipped into a neighbor's mailbox. A moment of patience in the checkout line. These small gestures may feel ordinary to us, but they can mean the world to someone who needs a reminder that they are seen and valued.

Kindness also heals within our own home. A gentle word, an extra measure of grace, or even choosing to listen fully can soften strained moments and strengthen relationships. And don't forget to extend **kindness** to yourself. Rest when you need it. Forgive yourself when you fall short. Treat your own body and spirit with the same tenderness you would offer a friend.

As a member of FAUMC, I see the quiet ways our congregation already cares for one another and those in our community with our support of ABCCM, a food pantry for those in need, meals delivered, prayers lifted, rides offered, and hands extended. These small acts of **kindness** create a ripple of healing that reaches further than we ever know.

May this month be a time when our hearts open a little wider, our words fall a little softer, and our spirits shine a little brighter. Let's allow **kindness** to lead the way and trust that God will use it to bring healing wherever it is needed.

I'm thankful for you FAUMC Family!
Dora Brown, RN, Faith Community Nurse



Our 2026 Spring Ladies Bible Study will be **The Promise and Power of Easter** A 4-Session Study by Lisa Harper & Christine Caine.

Study Dates: Tuesdays at 6pm on February 24; March 3, 17 & 24

Facilitated by Danya Sellers. Books are \$10 and include video access. **Sign-up in the Penley Room by February 15.**

Easter is so much more than a holiday!



IN HONOR OF JOHN & WALTER RUSSELL'S MYF BAND PASTOR AVERY'S DISCRETION by Tony McLean Brown

IN MEMORY OF MARY LOU SCHWARZ GENERAL FUND by Linda Creech by John & Carole Laughter by Dan & Susie Laughter

IN HONOR OF DANYA SELLERS FORWARD IN FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN by Deborah Smith





FEBRUARY

2026



**Francis Asbury
United Methodist
Church**
(828) 667-3950
www.faumc.com



- 2/1 David Tang
- 2/2 Carol Branting
- 2/2 Carolyn Shorter
- 2/5 Gretchen Lewis
- 2/10 Tom Phelps
- 2/10 Jacob Scott
- 2/11 Sandra Rector
- 2/11 Brenda Rhinehart
- 2/19 Brenda Heeg
- 2/21 Dick Branting
- 2/21 Bob Salajka
- 2/22 Avery Larimer
- 2/24 Morgan Rudisill
- 2/25 Ross Peebles
- 2/26 Alice Anderson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
1 Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday 10 Sunday School 10 Souper Bowl Skit Practice 11 Worship & Holy Communion 12 CF Ministry Meeting	2 3:15-4:15 Gym: Francine Delany NSC	3 4-5pm Gym: Francine Delany NSC	4 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 11:45am Welcome Home Basket Mission Support-Reeves Chapel 6:30pm Choir Practice		5 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	6 Office Closed																																																	
8 10 Sunday School 11 Worship & Commissioning of 2026 FAUMC Leaders FAUMC Pantry/Market Sunday	9 3:15-4:15 Gym: Francine Delany NSC	10 11:15am Parkinsons CarePartner Group 6pm FAB Women Meeting at the home of Brenda Rhinehart 4-5pm Gym: Francine Delany NSC	11 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice		12 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	13 Office Closed																																																	
15 7:30 UMM Breakfast 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 1 pm Family Fun Bowling at Sky Lanes Sign-up in the Penley Room by Feb. 12	16 Office Closed 3:15-4:15 Gym: FDNCS 	17 4-5pm Gym: Francine Delany NSC	18 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 5:30 Italian Feast Supper in F. Hall 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 3pm Food Truck 3-5 pm in Gym 	20 Office Closed	21 10am-12pm Anna Club in the Gym Upper Room For All Girls Ages 6-13																																																	
22 HVABCCM Sunday 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 2-4 Youth Service Project at Food Connection 5 Small Groups Meeting in FH	23 6:30pm Lenten Study "Seven Words" Begins in the Fellowship Hall Sign-up in the Penley Room	24 6pm Ladies Bible Study "The Promise & Power of Easter" Begins in Fellowship Hall Sign-up in the Penley Room by Feb 15	25 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice		26 11:15am Parkinsons CarePartner Group 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	27 Office Closed																																																	
PEW PRAYERS 1-FAB Women 8-Ladies Class 15-Men's Class 22-Youth Class	LAY READERS 1-Megan Serzan 8-Glen Champlin 15-Bob Salajka 22-Eden Mills	YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT 1-Souper Bowl 8-Pastor Avery 15-Veronica Crook 22-Glen Champlin	NURSERY VOLUNTEERS 1-Rosie Kooles 8-Kelley King 15-Carol Salajka 22-Betty Wilson			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">March 2026</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	March 2026							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				
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Children's Church
Teacher rotation
sign-up for
February-March 2026
in the Penley Room.