

The Communicator Volume XXXIX Issue 1
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FRANCIS ASBURY UMC

PRAISING GOD • GROWING SPIRITUALLY • REACHING NEIGHBORS

THE COMMUNICATOR

Volume XXXIX Issue 1

JANUARY 2026

Welcome
to Our Church

Sunday
Worship
at
11 am



Join us for **JANUARY**
CHURCH FAMILY FUN
"Game night in Pajamas"
 on Sunday, January 11 at 4pm
 in the Fellowship Hall.
 Bring a **GAME** and **SNACK** to share.
 Fun for the whole church family!

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	
Nursery	
Faith C. Nurse	Dora Brown, RN

THANK YOU
 RECEPTION FOR
MEGAN & AMY!

Please join us for a reception honoring Megan Serzan and Amy Dayton on Sunday, January 11, immediately following worship in the Penley Room.

Help us celebrate their loving care of our youngest disciples and our church family. Church members are encouraged to bring cards of

appreciation. Young Disciples are encouraged to draw pictures and make cards to thank Megan and Amy. Here at Francis Asbury our children & youth are important in the life of our congregation.

We celebrate the healthy and growing ministries Megan and Amy shared with us!





After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him" (Matthew 2:1-2).

Roughly two thousand years ago, astronomers in the east noticed something bright and new in the night sky. Studying it carefully, they decided to follow the star, and they did so until it stopped over the city of Bethlehem. They were seeking the newborn king and when they found him, they worshiped him and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We will begin January worship by hearing their story and considering how our experience with the Christ child might also invite us to go "home by another way."

We are still seeking Jesus today. We seek him in our hearts, in our congregations, in God's created world, and we seek his image and his love in one another. On the second Sunday of January, we will hear again the story of Jesus' baptism – the heavens opening and the voice of God calling him "Beloved." We will have an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reaffirm that God also calls us "Beloved."

From January 18 to February 15, our sermon series, "That's Not in the Bible?!", will invite our seeking minds to ask questions about our faith and challenge our own assumptions. Some of our topics will be: "God helps those who help themselves", "God won't give you more than you can handle", and "Everything happens for a reason."

I look forward to worshipping, and serving with you, in this new year!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Avery



Worship Schedule

January 4 - Epiphany/ Communion

Lay Reading: John 1:1-5
Sermon Text: Matthew 2:

1-12

Sermon Title:

"Home by Another Way"

January 11 - Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Lay Reading: Acts 10:34-43
Sermon Text: Matthew 3:13-17

January 18

Lay Reading: James 1:22-27
Sermon Text: Psalm 10:14b, 17-18a; Psalm 18:6, 16; Psalm 121:1-2

Sermon Title: *That's Not in the Bible?! - God Helps Those Who Help Themselves*

January 25

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*

Thank you, Francis Asbury Church Family, for your very kind and generous Christmas gift to all our staff members! We are blessed to serve this wonderful church family! Happy New Year 2026! With love-Pastor Avery, Danya, Jess, Glenda Faye, Megan & Amy



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

For the month of January, please bring soup and saltine crackers.

You may leave items in the designated container in the Narthex. Monetary donations also accepted.

Thank you to all our December Pantry volunteers. We served 66 households & 235 people.

Our next FREE Food Pantry & Market is Thursday, January 15 from 3-5pm in the Gym.

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

Volunteers needed!



"Forward in Faith" Capital Campaign Update:

Phase 1: Fellowship Hall New flooring installation complete (\$24,095).

Phase 1 Mission Tithe: Disaster Relief for Hurricane Helene (\$2410)

Phase 2 materials were purchased (\$17,400) on December 2 before prices increase for 2026.

Contributed to date: \$37,030. Expenses to date: \$43,905 (-\$6875).

Total campaign is \$65,000 by December 31, 2026.

Thank you for your prayerful & financial support as we invest in our church's future.



CHURCH COUNCIL GATHERING

on Saturday, January 24 from 9am-12pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We will spend time reflecting on 2025, and goal-setting for 2026.

All 2026 council members are urged to attend. Please see Pastor Avery with questions.



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!



ANNA CLUB

YOU'RE INVITED!

Anna Club Meeting on Saturday, January 17 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

Anna Doll Blessing on Sunday, January 25 during morning worship.

Do you like to make doll clothes or accessories? If so, please see Ann Gay. Your creations would be appreciated & loved by many WNC girls! :)

2026 FAUMC Directories will be printed in January.



We're Updating Our Church Directory

Do we have your correct address, phone number, email address, etc? Do we have your birthday? Please see Danya Sellers with any updates, place updates in the offering plate, or email updates to faumc.nc@gmail.com.

Last date to submit updates is January 11.

Thank you for helping us maintain accurate records.



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!

UNITED METHODIST MEN
MEETING & BREAKFAST
Sunday, January 18 at 7:30am
All Men are invited for good food & fellowship.

AMERICAN RED CROSS



BLOOD DRIVE

Francis Asbury UMC Gym
Thursday, January 29th
from 1:30 - 6 pm

Get a \$20 e-gift card to the merchant of your choice when you donate blood.
For an appointment, call **(828) 667-3950** or redcrossblood.org



HOMINY VALLEY ABCCM

Every 4th Sunday is Hominy Valley ABCCM
January 25

Most needed at this time:
cereal, saltines, peanut butter, grits, deodorant and razors

Please bring donations for those less fortunate in our community.

You may leave donated items in the large basket in the Narthex. You may place monetary donations marked "ABCCM" in the offering plate or wood box in the Narthex. Thank you!

 **FAUMC NURSE MINISTRY**

A Little Advice from Nurse Dora
CARING FOR THE BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT IN THE NEW YEAR

After a busy and hectic December, January feels like a quiet moment when the world seems to reset. The New Year invites us to pause, reflect, and gently reorient ourselves toward what truly matters.

As we start the year together, I would like to offer a few simple reminders about caring for our bodies, minds and spirits. Think of them not as resolutions to keep, but as **small acts of gratitude for the life God has given us.**

Caring for the Body

Our bodies are wonderfully made, and even the smallest choices can make a big difference. Try starting the year with gentle habits--- drinking more water, adding a short walk into your day, or choosing one nourishing food to enjoy each week. None of this has to be dramatic. Sometimes honoring our bodies simply means getting enough rest or listening when we are tired. God does not ask perfection from us, only stewardship and kindness toward ourselves.

Caring for the Mind

Winter can feel long, and our thoughts may wander into anxious or discouraged places. If you notice that happening, be gentle with yourself. Try something that brings you peace: reading a favorite book, calling a friend, getting a few minutes of fresh air, or simply sitting quietly with a warm cup of tea. These small practices can help calm the mind and lift our spirits. And remember, seeking help or talking with someone when you are overwhelmed is a sign of strength, not weakness.

Caring for the Spirit

This is a beautiful season to nourish the spirit. Maybe that means setting aside a few minutes for prayer each morning, reading a daily devotion, or giving thanks for one blessing each day. You might also find spiritual renewal in serving others in ways such as checking on a neighbor, sharing a meal, or offering a kind word to someone who seems alone. When we reach out in love, we reflect the heart of Christ.

Moving Forward with Grace

As we enter the New Year, approach it with gentle expectations. You don't need a long list of goals. Instead, choose one or two small ways to nurture your whole self, the body, mind, and spirit, and let those simple steps grow over time. God meets us exactly where we are and walks with us on each step of the journey.

May this New Year bring you peace, strength, and renewed hope. And may you feel God's loving presence in every fresh beginning.

Blessings in the New Year!
Dora Brown, RN, Faith Community Nurse



& Christian Love to the family of **Mary Lou Schwarz** who passed away on December 19.



IN MEMORY OF LLOYD & LAURA PENLEY

CHRISTMAS EVENTS
By Tony McLean Brown

IN MEMORY OF DIANNE SHARPE
FORWARD IN FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
by James Austin

IN MEMORY OF MARY LOU SCHWARZ
GENERAL FUND
By Sharon Lutz

IN HONOR OF FRED & HEATHER HUDSON
EMS MINISTRY FUND
by Bat, Melanie, Malorie & Andrew Hudson

IN HONOR OF PASTOR AVERY
FORWARD IN FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
by Dan & Glenda Shook

IN HONOR OF OUR CHURCH STAFF
FORWARD IN FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
by Pastor Avery



JANUARY

2026



Watch us on
You Tube



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- 1/4 Jeanette Swann
- 1/5 Calvin Dixon
- 1/5 Bat Hudson
- 1/11 Lisa McCain
- 1/14 Melanie Hudson
- 1/15 Judy Surfus
- 1/16 Jack Surfus
- 1/17 Pat Munro
- 1/20 Debra Luther
- 1/21 Amy Dayton
- 1/21 Robby Scott
- 1/23 Kari Beth
- 1/23 Carolyn Ledford

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LAY READERS 4-Glen Champlin 11-Bob Salajka 18-C. Rice 25-Need Someone	YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT 4-Glen Champlin 11-Jean Jones 18-Veronica Crook 25-Pastor Avery	NURSERY VOLUNTEERS 4-Betty Wilson 11-Rosie Kooles 18-Kelley King 25-Betty Wilson	PEW PRAYERS 4-FAB Women 11-Ladies Class 18-Men's Class 25-Youth Class	1 Office Closed 	2 Office Closed	3
4 EPIPHANY SUNDAY 10 Sunday School 11 Worship & Communion	5	6 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: <i>Cub Scouts</i>	7 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice	8 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	9 Office Closed	10 5-9:30pm Gym: Smoky Mountain Dance Club
11 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 12 Thank you Reception for Megan & Amy 4pm Game Night in PJs <i>FAUMC Pantry/Market</i> <i>Sunday</i>	12 3:15-4:15 Gym: <i>Francine Delany NSC</i>	13 11:15am Parkinsons CarePartner Group NO January FAB MTG 4-5pm Gym: <i>Francine Delany NSC</i> 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: <i>Cub Scouts</i>	14 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice	15 3pm Food Truck 3-5 pm in Gym 	16 Office Closed 	17 10am-12pm Anna Club in the Gym Upper Room For All Girls Ages 6-11
18 7:30 UMM Breakfast 10 Sunday School 11 Worship	19 Office Closed MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 	20 4-5pm Gym: <i>Francine Delany NSC</i> 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: <i>Cub Scouts</i>	21 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice	22 11:15am Parkinsons CarePartner Group 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	23 Office Closed	24 9am-12pm Church Council Gathering in the Fellowship Hall 5-9:30pm Gym: Smoky Mountain Dance Club
25 10 Sunday School 11 Worship with Anna Doll Blessing <i>Hominy Valley</i> <i>ABCCM Sunday</i>	26 3:15-4:15 Gym: <i>Francine Delany NSC</i>	27 4-5pm Gym: <i>Francine Delany NSC</i> 6:30-7:30 pm Gym: <i>Cub Scouts</i>	28 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice	29 1:30-6 pm Blood Drive in the Gym 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot 	30 Office Closed	31 11am-4pm Gym Reserved: Pitman



Children's Church
Teacher rotation
sign-up for
January-March 2026 in
the Penley Room.