

The Communicator Volume XXXIX Issue 7  
 FRANCIS ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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# FRANCIS ASBURY UMC

PRAISING GOD • GROWING SPIRITUALLY • REACHING NEIGHBORS

THE COMMUNICATOR

Volume XXXIX Issue 7

JULY 2026

## STAY connected THIS SUMMER

When you are unable to be with us  
in person, you can....

- Watch our Sunday Worship Services on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/@francisasburyumc394](http://www.youtube.com/@francisasburyumc394)
- Join our email list and stay informed on upcoming events, opportunities, receive Pastor Avery's mid-week devotion & "What's Up at FAUMC?" weekly email, our monthly newsletter, etc.
- Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FrancisAsburyUnitedMethodist>
- You can donate online at <https://www.faumc.com/giving/> or mail your donation to PO Box 67, Candler, NC 28715

### UNITED METHODIST MEN'S Fundraiser for HOMINY VALLEY ABCCM Low Country Shrimp Boil



**Saturday,  
August 1st**  
from **4-6 pm**  
**FAUMC Parking Lot**  
**Drive-thru**  
**\$20 Grab & Go**

Includes: 3/4 pound of shrimp plus sausage,  
local corn on the cob & potatoes with seasoning.

*Limited Supply. First come.  
First served.*



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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
Nursery Worker	Amanda Hamlin
Faith C. Nurse	Dora Brown, RN

### JULY CHURCH FAMILY FUN OUTING



We're going to the  
**Asheville Tourists vs.  
Winston-Salem Dash**  
Baseball Game on  
**Friday, July 10**

at **6:35 pm. Fireworks & \$1 Hotdogs.**

Sign-up by July 2nd in the Penley Room.

**Section KK.**

Reserve your seat  
today! Tickets are \$11.

Join the Fun!  
All are welcome!





*“Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord! (Psalm 150:6).*

Summer is the perfect time to look around and appreciate God’s created world. Flowers and gardens are in bloom, creatures abound, our calendars slow down, and we enjoy visiting lakes, beaches, and mountains for rest and play. This month, we will begin a summer sermon series called

“Wild Kingdom,” which will continue through August. In this series, we will look at some bible stories about animals: Noah’s Ark, Elijah and the ravens, and Balaam’s donkey. We will also consider topics like: how God cares for animals and what we can learn from animals.

While I take some vacation time this month, FAUMC will be blessed with two wonderful Sundays of worship – a “Worship through Music” Sunday on July 19th and Linda Henley preaching on July 26. During this time, we will have a pastor on-call and available to respond to emergencies or any pastoral care needs. Please call the church office to be connected with them.

If you are traveling this summer, remember to stay connected with Francis Asbury UMC - read the weekly devotions, participate in worship online, and pray for our church and community.

As summer unfolds, may you experience the joy and wonder of God’s created world as you Praise God, Grow Spiritually, and Reach Neighbors.

In Christ’s Love,  
*Pastor Avery*



During the Summer Months, our Office will be open: **Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30am–2:30pm.**  
**Wednesday from 9:30am–12:30pm.**

On Saturday,  
**July 11**, from  
**4-6pm**, Youth  
in Grades 6-12

are invited to decorate  
Christmas cookies in the  
Fellowship Hall for our  
“**CHRISTMAS IN JULY.**”



## JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS IN JULY ON SUNDAY, JULY 12!

Everyone is invited to wear **Christmas attire.**

During morning worship, the sanctuary will have **Christmas décor**, we’ll sing **Christmas carols** and Pastor Avery’s sermon will be “**The Friendly Beasts.**”

Following worship, we will have **cookies** (baked by the Youth) & **Cheerwine punch** in the Penley Room and be invited to take a clear 6 qt. shoe box to fill and return for **Project Agape Christmas boxes.**

Our July 5th Communion Offering will go to support this mission project.



Launched in 1993, **Project Agape** is a joint-ministry venture of the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church, in cooperation with the Armenian Apostolic Church, supporting the people of Armenia. For decades, this has been the only humanitarian aid group allowed to work within the geographic area – an area deeply affected by war and poverty. Since its inception, **Project Agape** has committed to three goals:

- *Share the love and hope of Christ with the people of Armenia*
- *Contribute to the Christian education of the Armenian people*
- *Develop humanitarian and benevolent activities*

The work of **Project Agape** encompasses humanitarian aid, vocational projects, mission building teams, collaboration and support of other partner agencies and churches, and Christmas boxes. This year, as we celebrate “**Christmas in July,**”

FAUMC will create **Christmas boxes** that will be sent to Armenia, through **Project Agape**, and will be distributed to children who will not otherwise receive any Christmas presents. Between 2020 and 2023 alone, more than 12,000 boxes were sent. The need is ongoing. **Boxes, brochures, toys and handouts** (with instructions on how to create a box) **will be available July 12 (in the Penley Room) to take, fill and return by July 26.**

Please record that you are taking a box to fill so we can keep track. Upon returning your filled box & sheet, please indicate whether your box is for a boy or girl and the age group: Infant-2, 3-6, 7-12, 13-18.

The boxes will be blessed during worship on **July 26** & delivered in September.

**Hope you can join us for this exciting day of celebrating “Christmas in July!”**





Each 2nd Sunday, we are invited to bring items to support our FREE Monthly

Food Pantry & Market. **For July 12th please bring SOUP!** You may leave items in the trunk in the Narthex.

Our next FREE Food Pantry & Market is Thursday, July 16 from 3-5pm in the Gym. Pantry & Market items are available to support ANYONE in the community experiencing food insecurity. **Volunteers needed & appreciated!**



**First Step Farm for Women Meet & Greet** On Monday, July 13 at 5pm, we will deliver & share a meal with the First Step Farm Ladies. (Meet in FAUMC parking lot at 4:45pm to carpool.) We will also deliver treat bags. Please bring your 10 treats to the FAB Room by Sunday, July 12.

Prayers for the upcoming YMCA Half-Day Camp events (through August 14) hosted in our gym this summer. We are thankful for this valuable partnership that



## Workday at CAMP PISGAH All Hands Welcome! Saturday, July 18 9am-12pm

We'll be weed-eating, trimming brush, cleaning the shelter and bathroom building, and repairing the water system.

*Please bring gloves, a rake, and a weed eater or leaf blower if you have one.*

Meet at Piney Mountain UMC at 8:45 p.m. We'll carpool from the parking lot up to the site on Chestnut Creek Road.

*All help appreciated — thank you!*



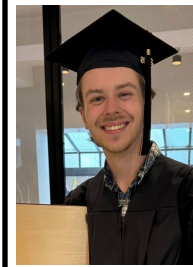
### "Forward in Faith" Capital Campaign Update:

Phase 2: New Gym Flooring installation is complete. Yay! :)

**Finances: Contributed to date: \$58,827.  
Expenses to date: \$60,193 (-\$1366).**

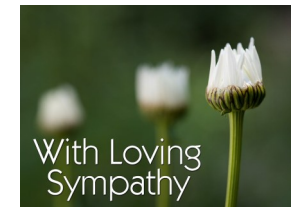
Total campaign \$65,000 by 12/31/26

**Thank you for your prayerful & financial Support!**



### Lawson's Drop-in Graduation Party Saturday, July 11 from 5:30-8:30pm Highland Brewery Meadows Silo Cabana

Lawson Gardner has officially earned his Bachelor of Music from the Manhattan School of Music in NYC, and it's time to celebrate! Mom (Liz) & Ryan would love for you to stop by & help send Lawson off into his next movement in style! **Thank you church family for your love & support of Lawson through the years!** To RSVP, text Liz at (828) 400-2033 or go to <https://fb.me/29YAoYQPdxKWF3e>



& Christian Love to the family of **Larry Rice** (husband of C. Rice) who passed away June 13th.



### A Little Advice from Nurse Dora Grief: A Journey of the Heart

One of the most profound experiences we share as human beings is grief. Yet, despite how common it is, grief can feel deeply personal and, at times, very isolating. Many of us were taught to think of grief as something temporary—a season of sadness we move through until we "get back to normal." But grief is rarely that simple.

Gwen Flowers offers a perspective that speaks beautifully to this reality:

*"I had my own idea of grief.*

*I thought it was the sad time that followed the death of someone you love and you had to push through it to get to the other side.*

*I am learning that there is no other side.*

*There is no pushing through anything but rather an absorption, adjustment and acceptance.*

*Grief is not something you complete, but rather endure.*

*Grief is not a task to finish and move on, but an element of yourself,*

*an alteration of your being, a new way of seeing and a new definition of self."*

These words remind us that grief is not a problem to solve or a task to finish. It is, instead, a process of learning to carry love and loss together. When we lose someone dear, we are changed—and that change becomes part of our story.

Grief may show itself in many ways: sadness, fatigue, confusion, even moments of peace or gratitude. There is no "right" way to grieve, and there is no timetable. Some days may feel heavier than others, and that is okay.

As people of faith, we are not asked to walk this journey alone. Scripture assures us that "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted" (Psalm 34:18). God meets us in our sorrow, offering comfort through His presence, through prayer, and through the care of our church family.

If you are grieving, I encourage you to be gentle with yourself. Allow space for your feelings. Share your memories. Reach out when you need support. And remember—grief is not a sign of weakness; it is a reflection of love.

As a church community, may we also be mindful of those who are grieving. Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is simply our presence—a listening ear, a kind word, or a quiet moment of companionship.

With compassion and care,  
**Dora Brown, RN, Faith Community Nurse**












# J U L Y 2 0 2 6



Watch us on  
**You Tube**



**Francis Asbury  
United Methodist  
Church**  
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>PEW PRAYERS</b> 5-FAB Women 12-Ladies Class 19-Men's Class 26-Youth Class	<b>LAY READERS</b> 5-Terry Ballard 12-Bob Salajka 19-Cindy McD 26-Jane Minzer	<b>YOUNG DISCIPLES</b> 5-Pastor Avery 12-Glen Champlin 19-Jean Jones 26-Danya Sellers	<b>1</b> 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice 	<b>2</b> 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b> 
<b>5</b> 10 Sunday School 11 Worship & Holy Communion	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice 	<b>9</b> 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	<b>10</b> Office Closed 6:35pm Tourists vs Dash Game \$1 Hot Dogs Fireworks RSVP by July 2nd	<b>11</b> 4-6pm Youth decorate Christmas Cookies 6-9pm Gym Reserved: Kooles
<b>YMCA CAMP SPORTS OF ALL SORTS in the FAUMC Gym from 9am-12pm</b> <a href="https://www.ymcawnc.org/programs/camps/half-day">https://www.ymcawnc.org/programs/camps/half-day</a>						
<b>12</b> Christmas in July 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 12 Cookies & Punch Project Agape Boxes FAUMC Free Food Pantry Sunday	<b>13</b> 5pm Meet & Greet with First Step Farm Ladies 4:45pm to Carpool	<b>14</b> 11:15am Parkinsons CarePartner Group in the FAB Room	<b>15</b> 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice 	<b>16</b> 3pm Food Truck 3-5pm in Gym 	<b>17</b> Office Closed	<b>18</b> 9am-12pm Camp Pisgah Clean-up Work Day Meet at 8:45am at Piney Mountain UMC to carpool to sight
<b>19</b> 7:30 UMM Breakfast 10 Sunday School 11 Worship through Music Sunday Taking Hymn Requests through July 5	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the FH 6:30pm Choir Practice 	<b>23</b> 11:15 PCP Group 1:30-6pm Blood Drive in the Gym 3pm Food Truck 	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b> 6-9pm Gym Reserved: Kooles
<b>YMCA BASKETBALL CAMP in the FAUMC Gym from 9am-12pm</b> <a href="https://www.ymcawnc.org/programs/camps/half-day">https://www.ymcawnc.org/programs/camps/half-day</a>						
<b>26</b> 10 Sunday School 11 Worship Guest Preach Linda Henley Hominy Valley ABCCM Sunday	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the FH 6:30pm Choir Practice 	<b>30</b> 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	<b>31</b> Office Closed	<b>AUGUST 1</b> 3-5pm Low Country Shrimp Boil UMM Fundraiser for HVABCCM
<b>YMCA CAMP KIDDOS from 8:30am-12:30pm &amp; SPORTS OF ALL SORTS in the FAUMC Gym from 9am-12pm</b>						



- 7/5 Betty Wilson
- 7/6 Dayton Allison
- 7/13 Nellie Trull
- 7/14 Eden Mills
- 7/17 Emily Provance
- 7/18 Pastor Avery
- 7/22 Maisie Nicholson
- 7/24 Tyler Sellers
- 7/25 Robert Gay
- 7/27 Betty Harkins
- 7/29 Charlie Milroy
- 7/31 Rosie Kooles
- 7/31 Linzy Mills

August 2026						
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