

The Communicator Volume XXXIX Issue 8
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FRANCIS ASBURY UMC

PRAISING GOD • GROWING SPIRITUALLY • REACHING NEIGHBORS

THE COMMUNICATOR

Volume XXXIX Issue 8

AUGUST 2026



BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY is AUGUST 23!

We're kicking off a brand-new school year with a day full of blessing, celebration, and FUN for all ages!

During Worship

We'll share a special

Back to School Blessing for students, teachers, staff and families. Kids, Youth & Teachers will receive a **Back to School Treat!**

After Worship here at the Church

Everyone's Invited for a **Back to School Celebration** with:

- **Covered Dish Lunch** (Hot dogs & ice cream treats provided—**please bring your favorite side!**)
- **Back to School FUN Time** led by **Coach Danny** for Kids, Youth & Adults! Games, laughter, teamwork, and plenty of silliness.

It's going to be an awesome day of joy, connection & church family FUN!

Back to School Prayer Vigil on Monday, August 24.

From **7:30am-3:30pm**, we'll be praying for our students, teachers, and school staff in 15-minute increments. Pray in the Sanctuary or remotely during your time slot. *Sign-up sheet coming soon.*

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

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S Fundraiser for HOMINY VALLEY ABCCM Lowcountry Shrimp Boil



**Saturday,
August 1st**
from **3-5 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.





It's been a hot summer! A drought and near-record high temperatures have altered some of our usual outdoor summer activities. Historically, July 3 – August 11 have been referred to as the “dog days of summer.” We often assume that this phrase literally refers to summer days that are so devastatingly hot that even dogs will lie around in the grass or driveway, panting. But originally, the phrase had nothing to do with dogs, or even with the lazy days of summer. The “dog days” refers to Sirius, the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major, which means “big dog” in Latin and is said to represent one of Orion’s hunting dogs. To the ancient Greeks and Romans, the “dog days” occurred around the time Sirius appears to rise alongside the sun – late July in the northern hemisphere. They believed that the heat from these two stars combined is what made these the hottest days of the year.

In these “dog days of summer,” we will continue our summer sermon series, “Wild Kingdom,” looking closely at some bible stories that include animals, considering what lessons we learn from animals, and reflecting on the question “Do all dogs go to heaven?” While life might have a slower pace this summer, ministry at Francis Asbury UMC continues. We are praising God, growing spiritually, and reaching neighbors. This month we will live out our mission in worship, discipleship, fellowship, and outreach. We will also mark the start of a new school year with a Sunday celebration and our traditional first day of school prayer vigil.

I look forward to worshiping and serving together this month!

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



Worship Schedule

August 2

Holy Communion

Scripture:

Genesis 6:11-14, 17-22;

Genesis 7:8-19

Sermon Title:

**“Wild Kingdom:
Noah’s Ark”**

August 9

Scripture:

Matthew 6:25-34;

1 Kings 17:1-17

Sermon Title:

**“Wild Kingdom:
Elijah & the Ravens”**

August 16

Scripture:

Micah 6:3-8;

Numbers 22:21-31

Sermon Title:

**“Wild Kingdom:
Balaam’s Donkey”**

August 23

Scripture:

Job 12:7-10;

Matthew 6:25-34

Sermon Title:

**“Wild Kingdom:
Lessons from Animals”**

August 30

Scripture:

Romans 8:18-25;

Revelation 5:13; 21:1-7

Sermon Title:

**“Wild Kingdom:
Do All Dogs Go
to Heaven?”**



We are collecting **“Back to School Supplies”** through **August 16!**

Monetary donations also accepted.

Our **August Communion**

Offering will go to

purchase **“Back to School Supplies.”**



Supplies needed :

- No. 2 Pencils
- Notebooks
- Pocket Folders
- Washable Markers
- Pens (Blue & Black ink)
- Crayola Crayons
- Highlighters
- Glue sticks
- Dry erase markers
- Kleenex tissues
- Disinfectant Wipes



**Please leave items
in the collection boxes
in the Narthex.**

**Thank you for your support of this
important community outreach!**

**Please see our Missions Coordinator,
Vanessa Champlin, with questions.**



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

**Food Pantry & Market. For August 9th
please bring CEREAL! You may leave
items in the trunk in the Narthex.**

**Our next FREE Food Pantry & Market
is Thursday, August 20 from 3-5pm**

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

**A monthly
club for
Girls ages
6-13**

**Saturday,
August 22
from**

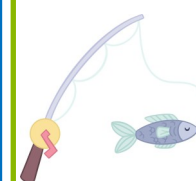
10am-12pm in the Gym Upper Room.
For more info: GCTPinWNC@gmail.com
Facebook: Girls Connecting Through Play



**Outing to
Lake Powhatan
Sunday, August 30
following worship**

Bring a lunch, water
& sunscreen. Poles, hooks
& bait provided. Other
helpful items: Old clothes,
hat & bug spray. All youth
in 6-12 grade are invited.

Friends welcome! For more info:
contact Kelly Grover (828) 712-0487.





We are grateful for Pastor Avery and Pam Moser, our Lay Delegate, who represented Francis Asbury at this year's Annual Conference.

Report to Francis Asbury Congregation on the 2026 Annual Conference

The Western North Carolina Annual Conference met at Lake Junaluska, June 18-21, 2026. The conference theme was "Rebuild My Church". The scripture base for the theme was "And I tell you... on this rock I will build my church", Matthew 16:18a. Annual Conference is the gathering of clergy and lay members from across the 44 counties of Western North Carolina. The weekend includes worship, music, Bible Study, plenary or business sessions, and times to connect in community through discussion groups, fun activities, meals, and meeting with new and long time friends.

Highlights of the weekend:

- Affirmed a covenant relationship with the Ukraine-Moldova Annual Conference.
- Recognized a Deaconess and 3 Certified Lay Ministers, both of which acknowledge the calling of laity in the life of the church. Licensed 16 local pastors, commissioned 12 clergy as provisional members, recognized the orders of 4 clergy, approved the transfer of 1 additional clergy, and ordained 1 Deacon and 7 Elders.
- Established an equity fund for the repair of historically Black Churches.
- Approved an apportioned budget of \$10,893,315 for 2027, which is .01% less than the 2026 apportioned budget and elected Rev. Meredith Poe Martin as our Conference Treasurer.
- Celebrated the retirement of 32 clergy which represented a total of 845 years of service and gave thanks for the lives of 28 clergy and 30 clergy spouses who entered the church triumphant this past year.
- Learned from each other about rebuilding the church within our particular context and in those discussion groups experienced the connection at its best.

The highlight for me this year was the discussion groups on Saturday morning. There were 16 groups to choose from. Many congregations fit into more than one category. I chose to attend the suburban church session. Once in the session we were divided into smaller groups to discuss 3 questions: 1. What is your congregation doing to minister within the church? 2. What is your congregation doing to minister in the community? 3. What is your congregation doing to sustain and dream for the future? My group was made up of pastors and laity from 6 very different churches in size, congregation make up, and location. We shared successes, struggles, dreams, and hopes. We learned how much we had in common. We asked questions, shared ideas, and encouraged others stepping out into new things. I loved telling others about FAUMC. About our love to serve the community and partnerships we have formed. How we welcome and embrace our children and everyone really in all parts of the worship service and I learned new ideas. I shared how our small groups developed and how they have grown. We talked about the importance of partnerships. I left the session grateful for FAUMC. Grateful for the connections of the UMC and a chance to have face to face conversation about ministry, not just listening to speakers from the stage.

As I thought about the theme, "Rebuild My Church", I realized how important it is for us to always be building Christ's church in our congregation, community, and world. Rebuilding does not always mean tearing down and starting over. Maybe it means adding or taking away. Maybe it means small tweaks. Maybe it means bending or changing a direction. It definitely means listening to God, watching for God and following Christ.

The United Methodist Church has chosen a new mission statement, "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."

I encourage everyone to visit the conference website, <https://www.wnccumc.org>. There is a wealth of information about the conference and other resources and activities that are happening in our conference and the United Methodist Church as a whole. There is also a direct link to Annual conference 2026 <https://www.wnccumc.org/ac2026>. Here you will be able to watch all the services and sessions from the conference through a red link that says AC2026 Livestream recordings. I encourage you to especially listen to the sermons from opening and closing worship services and the Bible Study. I also recommend listening to the Laity session preacher, Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand.

It is my joy and privilege to represent Francis Asbury UMC at this important annual meeting. I am always happy to answer any questions about conference.

Pam Moser, Lay Member to Annual Conference



FAUMC NURSE
MINISTRY

A Little Advice from Nurse Dora
Enjoying and Caring
for God's Creation

As we go through August, we are invited to slow down and take a fresh look at the world around us. From the smallest ant to the birds in the sky, creation is full of beauty, purpose, and reminders of God's loving care.

In the busyness of daily life, it can be easy to overlook the simple gift of creation. Yet spending time outdoors—feeling the warmth of the sun, listening to birds' songs, watching the movement of trees in the breeze—can bring a deep sense of peace and renewal. These quiet moments are not only good for the soul, but also for our health. Time in nature has been shown to reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and lift our mood. In many ways, creation itself becomes a place of healing.

Scripture reminds us that this world is not ours to own, but to care for. "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). From the very beginning, God entrusted humanity with the responsibility to tend and keep the earth and the animals. Caring for creation is, in its own way, an act of faithfulness and gratitude.

There are many simple ways we can embrace this calling in our everyday lives:

- Taking a walk and appreciating the beauty around us
- Planting flowers or vegetables and tending a small garden
- Being mindful of waste and caring for the resources we use
- Teaching children and grandchildren to respect and enjoy the natural world

As we care for creation, we often find that it cares for us as well. Time spent outdoors encourages movement, fresh air, and a sense of calm that is increasingly hard to find in a busy world. It helps us reconnect—not only with nature, but with God, the Creator of it all.

I encourage you to take time each day—even just a few minutes—to step outside and notice the beauty around you. Let it be a reminder of God's presence, His provision, and His care for all living things—including you.

May we grow in appreciation for this beautiful world God has made, and may we be faithful stewards of the gift we have been given.

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



& Christian Love to the
family of **Jack Surfus**
who passed away
July 10th.



IN LOVING MEMORY
OF PATTI HAMLIN
by Ina Parr

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF DIANNE SHARPE
By James Austin
by Marizell & Hank
Thompson

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF JACK SURFUS
by Mary M. Dunn
by Lynn Gaito
by Robert & Janet
Younger

HOMINY VALLEY
ABCCM

Every 4th Sunday is
Hominy
Valley
ABCCM



Thank
you for
caring for
others!

 Find us on Facebook  AUGUST 2026 Watch us on 							SUNDAY
							1 3-5 pm Shrimp Boil Grab & Go FAUMC Parking Lot Drive-thru UMM Fundraiser for HVABCCM
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
2 10 Sunday School 11 Worship & Holy Communion	3	4	5 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice 		6 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	7 Office Closed	8
YMCA CAMP KIDDOS from 8:30am-12:30pm & SPORTS OF ALL SORTS in the FAUMC Gym from 9am-12pm							
9 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 12 Church Family Ministry Team FAUMC Free Food Pantry Sunday	10	11 11:15am Parkinsons CarePartner Group in the FAB Room	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	15 6-9pm Gym Reserved: Kooles
YMCA CAMP KIDDOS from 8:30am-12:30pm & BASKETBALL CAMP in the FAUMC Gym from 9am-12pm							
16 7:30 UMM Breakfast 10 Sunday School 11 Worship	17 11:30 EMS Staff Meal 	18	19 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice 		20 3pm Food Truck 3-5pm in Gym 	21 Office Closed	22 10:30am-12:30pm GCTP Club Monthly Meeting in Gym Upper Room For Girls Ages 6-13
23 HV ABCCM Sunday 10 Sunday School 11 Worship & Back to School Blessing 12 Nominations Meeting 12pm Back to School Lunch in Fellowship Hall Then B2S Fun Time	24 7:30-3:30 Back to School Prayer Vigil 	25	26 10:30-11:30 The Hive in the Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Choir Practice 		27 11:15am Parkinsons CarePartner Group in the FAB Room 3pm Free Meals Food Truck "Fran" in FAUMC Parking Lot	28 Office Closed	29 6-9pm Gym Reserved: Kooles
30 7:30 HV UMM Breakfast 10 Sunday School 11 Worship 12 Youth Fishing Trip 12 SPRC Meeting 4-8 FH Reserved	31	YOUNG DISCIPLES 2-Pastor Avery 9-Jean Jones 16-Glen Champlin 23-Pastor Avery 30-Danya Sellers	LAY READERS 2-Glen Champlin 9-Cindy McDonald 16-C. Rice 23-Bob Salajka 30-Pam Hall		 Costello House Monthly Birthday Celebrations. Special thanks to all who baked delicious birthday cakes/cupcakes and created beautiful birthday cards for the men of Costello House. You make their birthdays so special and truly bless them!	PEW PRAYERS 2-FAB Women 9-Ladies Class 16-Men's Class 23-Wonder Class 30-Young Disciples	



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8/4 Beth Wise
8/6 Andrew Hudson
8/7 Clifton Sellers
8/8 Elise Mills
8/10 Kelley King
8/15 Amy Lewis
8/15 Mike Louie
8/15 Patrick Moser
8/16 Aaron Johnson
8/18 Gage Provance
8/23 Betsy Cooper
8/24 Mollie Scott
8/25 Tommy Cooper
8/26 AJ Pitman
8/29 Dick Greene
8/30 Julia Sharpe

September 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	28	30			