



*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ,
for the transformation of the world.*

Volunteer Opportunities

Backpack Food Packing will be November 7th and 21st at 12:30 in Rome.

Rome-Floyd Community Kitchen

Volunteers are needed Nov. 14th. Come at 9 a.m. We will work until noon.

November 6

Bring your favorite sandwiches, soup, or dessert to share.

November 13

Chicken casserole, lima beans, mac and cheese, dessert, and drink. Call or text Ellaine Crouch for reservations at 706-506-7527.

November 20

Call or text Sandy Weaver at 706-540-7397 for reservations.

November 27

No Wednesday night supper or Bingo.

Wednesday Night Supper Menus



From the Pastor

When I started in ministry in 2001, one of my favorite things to do was drop in on folks. It was a staple of being a pastor, that, at least in my life went back to my youth. Growing up, the pastor would walk up to folks and say I'm having lunch with you and the pastor would have lunch with you. The pastor showed up randomly it seemed during the week and it created a sense of belonging for both of us. The pastor and the family.

Covid killed that tradition, but the truth of the matter is that Covid just pronounced its death, it didn't really kill it. It just finalized the end of that tradition. Over the course of 25 years, people have become less and less open to the idea of the pastor dropping in without making an appointment, and the idea of the pastor coming over for Sunday dinner has been gone for longer than that.

If you've listened to me over the last three years, you know, I try not to get overly invested in things that cannot, or will not change. I do not believe that we are ever going to go back to the days of drop in visits, but I do resent this particular change because it has harmed the church. One of the things that made the Roman Catholic Church successful was the fact that the church was actively involved at almost every critical moment in people's lives. Infants were baptized, involving not only the family, but the Church community in the new birth. Confirmation involved in the community of faith and the family in a child's coming of age. Communion, a sacrament we share with the Catholics, was a weekly involvement of the church in the life of the family, because in Catholic tradition, communion required, repentance, or confession of sins. Marriage is a sacrament in Catholic tradition and as such it is taken more (seriously?) than we take it. Anointing of the sick and last rites connected the church to members of the family, who were undergoing terms of trial and struggle and sickness, and even death.

Before you get the wrong idea, I'm not trying to suggest that we become Catholic, I'm merely pointing out that there was a time when the church connected people. My point is that we are and have lost far too much sense of community today.



Thanksgiving is one of my favorite examples of this. The truth of Thanksgiving is that it didn't really happen the way we see it with the pilgrims and the Indian sitting around eating a meal together, but it did signify that there was a larger community, and it was indeed a community event. In my family Thanksgiving has honestly become more of a trial than a celebration. Who are we going to celebrate with? Are they coming here or are we going there? Who's making what? I sincerely wish that we could have some kind of community meal where everyone participated. Maybe that's a pipe dream from an old man who is overly nostalgic. But I do sincerely wish we could find a way to recapture a sense of community that I think is important not just to us as Christians, but as members of society at large. If we broke bread together, I believe it would help us learn to disagree, agreeably. It is hard to hate people you share a table with. Maybe our world has just changed too much. I do know that as Christians we are not called to be lone rangers. We are individually saved, but we are saved into a community of faith. I fear we are rapidly becoming, or maybe have already become exactly like Israel, in Jesus' day. The gatekeepers of religion were so focused on obeying the rules they forgot how to have a relationship with their God.

I don't know if it's Christians or Americans that love to fight as much as we do, but we do love to fight. We have in my lifetime fought over music, baptism, order of worship, how long the sermon should be, when the offering is taken up, women in ministry, marriage and children receiving Communion. Most of the arguments we have are this type, they do not rise to the level of a salvation issue. I think these things are all connected, and I think our loss of the sense of community is either the cause or a significant contributing factor.

I say every Sunday that I want Summerville First to be a place that we call home, because the church is intended to be a family, a community, a place where we can let our hair down and be ourselves and not be beaten up because we wore the wrong color shirt on Saturday. LOL!

Happy Thanksgiving, and learn to forgive your sisters and brothers. Precisely because God has forgiven you!

In Christ,
Wes





Northwest Georgia Dementia Caregiver Support Groups

Chattooga County (Summerville)
1st Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm
Summerville First UMC
220 W. Washington St., Summerville, GA

Floyd County (Rome)
1st Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm
Transitions Hospice Care
316 E. 7th St., SW, Rome, GA

To register for a Support Group:
Contact Redonna Branton, CRT, RCP
(706) 378 - 2273
rbranton@transitionshc.com

Backpack Ministries Table at the Community Dinner

We have been asked to set up a table and share information about our backpack ministry at the dinner. Anyone who is willing to work at the table for an hour should let Elaine Crouch know. She will set up the table at 11 a.m. It needs to be manned until 3 p.m.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Greg Patton (tumor), Kenny Stoker, Beth Morgan's BIL new Kidney), Sarah Moe (travel mercies), DeJuan Jarrett, Tiffany & Ryan Roach (new baby), Derek Eckroat, Dale Housch (Carpal tunnel), Wanda Hill (Hip), Diane Fulton, Charlisa Rogers, Megan McGinnis and Patrick Durkin (engagement), Wanda (Jane McCool's cousin), those still missing in hurricane aftermath, Steve Erisey (Sandy's cousin: liver), Kathy Reid & Rick Olson (Sarah's friends moving), Joseph McGinnis, All volunteers, all affected by Milton Ava Hamilton (Rachel & Drew's daughter at home now), All affected by Helene, Carolyn Rogers (cancer)

LONG TERM AVIS SNOW, JIM MEDICI (Dossie's brother), JILL SPEARS (MRI), REBECCA SLASON, JANE STOKES, GAIL ALLEN, ENRIQUE GRUNER (Chemo), CARTER & LINDA BLACK, MARCIA BONEY, DIANE FULTON, LUCILLE HAMBY, BEN MCCOOL & FAMILY, JANE MCCOOL, KASSIDY MCCOOL, DIANE MCCONNELL, KIM SNOW, DOSSIE PRIVETT, JEFFERY FLOYD, HEATHER HAYES (cancer)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY The family of Nicky Hughes, the family of Harold Helton, the family of Sharon Smith, the family of Peg Rostein



Every Wednesday Night after the meal!!!! Come and enjoy the fun!!!

Flowers On the Altar

Nov. 3 - Available

Nov. 10 – Dossie Privett in Celebration of Wes' birthday and their wedding anniversary (Both on the 14th)

Nov. 17 - Available

Nov. 24 - Available

BIRTHDAYS:

11/02	Megan McGinnis
11/03	James Archer
11/07	Sawyer Hunt
11/08	Harold Chesley
11/11	Elaine Prince
11/14	Wes Privett
11/16	Jonathan Fulton
11/20	James Rains
11/20	Ben Housch
11/26	Carter Robitaille

ANNIVERSARIES

11/02	Blake and Krista Joyner
11/14	Wes and Dossie Privett

Financial Report

Financial Report January 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$111,777	\$114,680	(\$2,903)

MISSIONS YTD:

Receipts \$8,122 Expenditures \$3,998 Difference \$4,124

The finance team thanks those who have continued to financially support the church during this past year. Financial contributions should be mailed to this address.

Mailing Address: SFUMC
P.O. Box 187
Summerville, Ga. 30747

Offering for the General Funds for October are listed below:

10/6 \$3,124

10/13 \$2,463

10/20 \$1,389

Online Giving \$246

Total \$7,222

On-line Giving is NOW Available



SFUMC now has online giving available. Just scan the QR Code to the right and it will connect you to the church page.



Men's Club Meets on November 2

All Men are invited to meet at Jim's at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

Friendship Circle Meets on November 4

November 4th at the Willow Tree (11:30 lunch). A meeting will follow in the fellowship hall.

The Friendship Circle Christmas Dinner will be on December 17 at 6 p.m. It will be at the home of William and Elaine Crouch. Mark your calendar. More details in the December newsletter.

Christmas Shop at Chattooga High School

Ms. Lewis at Chattooga High is in charge of the clothes closet. She also makes a store available at Christmas for students who would like to get a gift for someone but might not have the means to purchase a gift. We can help by donating lap size fleece blankets and other new items that could be re-gifted. A box will be available in the fellowship hall for donations of blankets. You can purchase blankets for about \$4 at Walmart and other locations.





Scouts' Project

The Scouts meet in our Fellowship Hall each Monday evening. They recently spent the day adding mulch to our playground. We appreciate them working to make it safe for all children.

Feeding the Chattooga High Football Team

We fed the football players, managers, and coaches on October 11th in our Fellowship Hall. There were approximately 80 who were served all you could eat spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert and a drink.



Feeding the Hungry

SFUMC Partners with DFACS In Chattooga County

November needs are EVERYTHING.

Flowers On the Altar

If you want to place flowers on the altar to praise God for His unconditional love, or in honor or memory of someone, please sign up on the "Flower Calendar" in the Sanctuary.

Thanks to everyone who donated candy for the Halloween Walk in Downtown Summerville. SFUMC had a tent.



Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever!

Boxes are available in the sanctuary if you wish to pack your own box. Boxes need to be returned to the church by November 17.



Church Staff and Contact Info

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