



Our Mission: *To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Our Vision: *Growing in our relationship with God as we strive to be more like Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit. Nurturing our faith through community worship, bible study, and witness (living our faith in community).*

Core Values: *Radical Hospitality, Christian Community, and Extravagant Generosity.*

Friendship Circle

Circle will not meet during June or July.

Camp Hamby Day Camp

June 10-14 and 17-21.

Our church will provide individual bags of chips and canisters of Kool-Aid or Gatorade for each Wednesday. We need donations at the church by Monday of each week of camp.

Dates to Remember

June 1— Men's Breakfast at "Jim's"
8 a.m.

June 5 — Wednesday Night Supper—Bring salad, sandwiches, or dessert to share. Sheriff Mark Shrader will be joining us for supper. He will make a presentation on church security after the meal.

June 13—15 — North Georgia Annual Conference in Athens, GA.

June 26—Wednesday Night Supper—Taco salad bar with fruit and desserts. Call or text Sandy Weaver (706-540-7397) for reservations.

June 27—Community Kitchen in Rome, 9 a.m.-noon

Ice Cream Social Fundraiser has been postponed until August 3rd.



FROM THE PASTOR

I have tried to refrain from voicing an opinion about the entire disaffiliation schism. A lot of events have coalesced to force me to address it.

In any disagreement, there can only be one right answer. But, I do believe it is possible to have two wrong answers, and that is where I believe the church is. In my opinion, neither side began where Christians are required to begin all deliberations. With grace!

In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul gives them this admonition.

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”*

One of the fundamental assumptions I have always made as a pastor, is that everyone that came through the door was created in the image of God. What does that mean? Uniquely out of all creation, mankind one was given not only a material body but an immaterial soul. I take this very seriously. Every person bears the image of God. What that means to me is that no one should be shunned, should be excluded, or should be cast out as long as they are seeking to know God.

A very popular expression is that “anyone who is not for us is against us.” But Jesus said, when confronted by the apostles’ condemnation of someone driving out demons in Jesus’ name who was not part of their group, do not stop them. For whosoever is not against me is for me.

I have spent the vast majority of my ministry in small rural towns across North Georgia. I love it to be very honest. I'm not cut out, nor am I content, when I am too close to Atlanta. As a result of being far away from a major metropolitan area, an awful lot of what might be deemed hot button issues were not really important to my congregations. I also take my role as shepherd of the particular flock seriously. I served the church in Covington that I knew was going to disaffiliate. I did not think it was my job to try to change their minds. When I came to Summerville, my impression was that while there were a few ardent believers that the Church had taken a wrong turn, most of the people in the church were not of that opinion. And so I did not feel it was my place to stir up the passions of the church.

I have heard it said the entirety of my ministry, that a pastor needs to give a vision to the people in the church. The only reason I would agree with that is if the church did not have its own vision. In that case, I believe the pastor should catch the vision of the church. And that is how I have operated.

An otherwise unknown seventeenth century Lutheran priest said,

*“In Essentials Unity,
In Non-Essentials Liberty,
In All Things Charity.”*

If you have been around me, any length of time at all, you know that I love my experience in my ministry with the Walk to Emmaus movement. I went on my own walk, a couple of months before I became a pastor, and it was a very significant event in my life and in my ministry. As a pastor, there are five Grace talks that are given during the weekend, and I have given them all. The first grace talk, on Friday morning, is Prevenient Grace. It focuses on God's love for all people even before they are aware God exists. The last Grace talk given on Sunday morning, is sanctifying grace. We have been accepted by God in our conversion or justification. But the longer we walk with God, the closer we will get to God. As a General rule, sanctification is a life long journey. I have known a few people that I actually believed were sanctified, but for the most part, it is like everything else in life, you get better the longer you do something.

No matter how well we know one another, only God truly knows us. Our Christian walk and our maturity in Christ is personal. My list of essentials is actually very small. They are summed up in the apostles creed. I know Christians, who are very adamant about how much water has to be used in baptism. For me, that comes under the second part. "In nonessentials liberty." For some people, the actual baptism is an essential, and I'm content with that, as long as they don't try to force me to change what I believe.

I do think there has been a lot of pettiness over this issue. Again, I look to scripture and specifically to the ministry of Paul and Barnabas. They had a disagreement over a mission trip. I don't really want to go into the details, but they worked it out by agreeing to disagree, going their separate ways, and loving one another. **Love one, another!** It seems like Jesus said that was the second greatest commandment.

I will end this very long piece by quoting Anne Wilson's song, "My Jesus."

*He makes a way where there ain't no way
Rises up from an empty grave. Ain't no sinner
that He can't save. Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus.*

Let this be our ministry motto.

In Christ,
Wes

June Flowers

June 2 — Available

June 9 — William and Elaine Crouch (In celebration of their 45th Wedding Anniversary.

June 16 — Available

June 23 — Available

June 30—Available



May Offerings to General Operating:

May 5 \$4,655

May 12 \$2,160

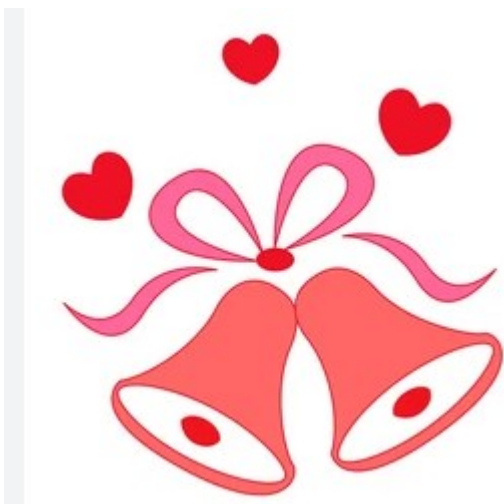
May 19 \$79

May 26 \$1,645



Miss to Mrs.

The church celebrated the upcoming wedding of Christine Crouch and Justin Hammitt on May 5th. A bridal shower was given for Christine following the morning service. The wedding will be on July 27 (3 p.m.) at the church.



Sending Get Well Wishes and Prayers

June BIRTHDAYS/ ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

6/3 Daniel Cook
6/4 Elise Sullens
6/8 Patti Grindstaff
6/7 Grady Massey
6/12 Brent Williamson
6/14 John Ellis Cook
6/16 Dee Slason
6/19 Krista Joyner
6/22 Dianne Fulton
6/23 Edie Chambliss
6/23 DeJuan Jarrett
6/30 Mary Anna Bentley

ANNIVERSARIES

William & Elaine Crouch 6/9
Gene & Susan McGinnis 6/17
Carlton & Carroll Andrews 6/18
Jim & Patti Grindstaff 6/28
Steve & Sandy Weaver 6/29

Prayer Concerns

Becca Slason (biopsy results)
Pam & Sal Amendola (Sandy's sister & BIL: covid), Maxine Cargill, Savannah McCool (Addisons disease), Ben McCool (Jane's son), Rachel & Drew Hamilton, Jerry Pollard (Susan's friend), Patrick (Sandy's friend), Chuck Durham (Knee, Wynne's dad),

LONG TERM

SARAH MOE, AVIS SNOW, JIM MEDICI (Dossie's brother), **JILL SPEARS (Randy's wife)**, REBECCA SLASON, JANE STOKES, GAIL ALLEN, ENRIQUE GRUNER, MICHAEL ANN BAILEY, **CARTER & LINDA BLACK**, MARCIA BONEY, BETSY DELLENBACK, DIANE FULTON, **LUCILLE HAMBY**, BEN MCCOOL & FAMILY, JANE MCCOOL, KASSIDY MCCOOL, DIANE MCCONNELL, KIM SNOW, DOSSIE PRIVETT, JEFFERY FLOYD

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The family of Alan Archer, the family of Hill Hamby, the family of Mary Lou Herman (Sarah's friend), the family of Jeanette Privett (Wes' mom), the family of Pat Angehr (Dossie's friend)

Feeding the Hungry SFUMC Partners with DFACS

In Chattooga County

Items needed for June are:

Spaghetti sauce, mac n cheese, and canned meats.
Any items that you wish to donate will be appreciated.



Church Staff and Contact Info

Pastor, Rev. J. Wesley Privett
(478) 394-5575

Email: wes.privett@ngumc.net
pastorsfumc1906@gmail.com

Organist, Gene McGinnis

Office Phone 706-857-2057

Pastor's Cell: 478-394-5575

Website

www.summervillefirstumc.com