



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

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Backpack Food Packing** will be September 9th and 30th at 12:30 in Rome. We are currently giving out 190 bags of food each week.

## Community Resource Center

**Volunteers** are needed Wednesdays. Volunteers are welcome any-time between 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Drop by to help for any amount of time that you have available.

## Rome-Floyd Community Kitchen

Volunteers are needed September 11th. Come at 9 a.m. We will work until noon.

## Wednesday Night Supper



### September 3

Bring your favorite sandwiches, salad, or dessert to share. There is no cost but donations to help pay for paper products are appreciated.

### September 10

Queso Chicken and rice, with salad and dessert. Call or text Sandy Weaver at 706-540-7397 for reservations.

### September 17

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

### September 24

Baked ziti, salad, garlic bread and dessert. Call or text Becky Ulm at 908-310-2337 for reservations.

# From the Pastor

Background noise helps me sleep. As many of you know, I'm deaf in my right ear from surgery to deal with vertigo. Back then, the most successful procedure with the fewest side effects was to pack a poison around the nerve for the center of balance. The only question was where. Inside the eardrum was my choice, although deafness was going to be an after effect. But, trust me it was better than not being able to walk or function normally. A side effect I knew nothing about was hearing phantom noise. When I am trying to go to sleep, I hear people talking. The voices seem to be just beyond my ability to understand the words being said. Sometimes I hear footsteps outside the bedroom door and I have even heard doors opening and closing. To save you the time, no I'm not crazy, at least not for that reason. My doctor explained that with no input from that ear, my brain creates its own inputs.

A simple and easy work around to this issue is to have some form of background noise. I used to leave the TV playing, but eventually that got annoying to Dossie. Technology has been a blessing, because I can now put a Bluetooth headset in my ear and boom, I'm out. One of the funny events involving this technology happens when the battery runs down on the headset. Each headset is different, but all of them let you know before they turn off. Some say, "low battery", repeatedly. That will wake you up, I promise. One model announced, loudly, "battery low, headset will disconnect now. That now was said in the same tone of voice that the PA system used when you needed to evacuate the building. Again, trust me, it's hard to fall back asleep when you think you might need to leave the building.

Back in the day, I used to listen to MASH episodes to fall asleep. I've seen most of the episodes dozens of times, because MASH played on most of the cable systems practically round the clock. One episode still stands out in my mind. It was nearing Christmas and Major Winchester, following a family tradition donated chocolates and toys to the local orphanage. His family, a wealthy New England clan with deep roots had given chocolates to the working class families, many of whom could not afford the luxury of chocolate. During the episode, a North Korean soldier was brought in and he was carrying some of the expensive chocolate the Major had donated. Major Winchester was livid and confronted the head of the orphanage about his betrayal. Turns out, the head master had sold the chocolate for enough money to provide food for the children for a year.

Reality crashed in on the Major, who begged forgiveness for being upset that dessert was not given to children who didn't have food.

I have had that experience, not to the degree shown on MASH, but the same awakening. In the first church I served, I went to the principal of the elementary school nearest the church, and asked point blank what the students needed. Everyone was donating pencils, paper, even backpacks, and I don't know what I expected to hear, but it wasn't what I actually heard. She said, we need socks, underwear and sweatpants for the kids. School starts for children young enough that some aren't ready and have accidents. Some kids literally had no shoes or socks and some came in the only clothes they had every day.

It's easy and requires little thought to give kids paper, and paper would certainly be useful. But it misses the whole point of being the church. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ to the world, starting in our own backyard.

It's the same with the backpack ministry, giving nutrition to kids who might otherwise go hungry over a weekend. Are there some kids given bags who might not actually need them, sure! But we are the church, our mission is not to judge whether someone is worthy of our help. Our mission is to show the extravagant love of God to a world that doesn't know and maybe hasn't heard of God.

Look at the first miracle of Jesus. Turning water into wine at a wedding. Would anyone die from a lack of wine? NO! What is the worst thing that might result? Social embarrassment! A big deal for the bride and groom and maybe their families. But, no big deal.

That is our God. When God shows up, God shows out. We are not stretching God's limits by feeding kids or providing socks or even giving a band parent an opportunity to actually see and hear their child perform at halftime.

Malachi chapter 3 speaks of bringing the whole tithe into the storehouse and see if God will not pour out blessings on His people. You cannot out bless God. Let's keep being the church and see how and what God has planned for Summerville, Chattooga and our world.

If you have to choose between going to church and being the church, BE THE CHURCH.

In Christ,  
Wes

# Celebrating Megan and Patrick



We enjoyed celebrating with Megan at a recent bridal shower.



## Friendship Circle has an invite.....

Ladies of the church are invited to join our friends from Pleasant Grove Baptist at their "Soul Sisters" meeting on September 11 at 6:30. The meeting will be at their church. Dr. Michelle Helie, Chattooga County School Superintendent will be the speaker. Afterwards, time will be used to work on Hospice Caregiver Hearts. This is a spinoff from our Hearts of Love given to the hospital.

## Backpack Ministry

We have another church who has joined our mission to feed children over the weekend. Avis Snow shared our mission with the members of Bethel Methodist. They have agreed to purchase one week of food each month beginning in September. Volunteers also came to help pack food in August. God is providing for this ministry and we look forward to other churches who would like to join us.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Gary Hylander (heart), Mike Cosgrove (cancer),**  
heresa Ellan, Linda Leonard (better, but still has vertigo), Dennis Jackson (Heart Cath), Curtis Rodgers

Sydney Beck (surgery), Nancy Taylor (friend of Pastor Wes)  
Alice Cox (Harbor View), Sarah Andrews (ear), Darby Hall (dental), Gary Hylander, Becca Slason (housing), Randy Bishop, Gaia Hall (loss of family pet)

### LONG TERM

DARBY HALL (heart), NATALIE BURNLEY (heart), JIM MEDICI (Dossie's brother), JILL SPEARS (MRI), REBECCA SLASON, GAIL ALLEN, CARTER BLACK, DIANE FULTON, LUCILLE HAMBY, BEN MCCOOL & FAMILY, JANE MCCOOL, KASSIDY MCCOOL, DIANE McCONNELL, DOSSIE PRIVETT, JEFFERY FLOYD

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

**The family of Wayne Cain, The family of Jim Oxford, The family of Pete Denson, the family of Randy Brinkley**



### 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.

### Donations Needed at Leroy Massey Elementary

Joanna Tucker, counselor, says there is a need for boys underwear and boys shorts. They can also use unisex shoes and girls leggings.

You can leave donations in the fellowship hall or drop them off to the school. If you go by the school, let them know you are leaving the items for Joanna Tucker.

### Cookies and Brownies Needed on October 10 for the CHS Football Team

Our church will be feeding the football team in the fellowship hall before the game. We will also need helpers to serve and clean-up. Eric Ulm and Wes Privett will cook the hamburgers.

### BIRTHDAYS:

09/06 David Crouch  
09/10 Vivian Turner  
09/11 Candi Forester  
09/15 Rita O'Neal  
09/19 Chelsea McConnell  
09/20 Lefty Norton  
09/20 Jennifer Turner  
09/27 Yvonne Norton

### ANNIVERSARIES

None Listed

# Financial Report

## Financial Report January 1, 2025 through August 31, 2025

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$76,412	\$92,819	(\$16,407)

### MISSIONS YTD:

Receipts	Expenditures	Difference
\$5,617	\$4,144	\$1,473

*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

## Feeding the Hungry

SFUMC Partners with DFACS In Chattooga County

They need EVERYTHING!

## On-line Giving is NOW Available

### Church Staff and Contact Info

Pastor, Rev. J. Wesley Privett

Email:

wes.privett@georgiaumc.net  
pastorsfumc1906@gmail.com

Organist, Gene McGinnis

Pastor's Cell: 478-394-5575

Website

[www.summervillefirstumc.com](http://www.summervillefirstumc.com)

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



Redonna Branton has asked that we collect magazines of any kind for her. She will have a box in the fellowship hall.

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## **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](mailto:rbranton@transitionshc.com)**

### **Build a support system with people who understand.**

Alzheimer's Association® support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for people living with dementia and their care partners to:

- Develop a support system
- Exchange practical information on challenges and possible solutions
- Talk through issues and ways of coping
- Share feelings, needs and concerns
- Learn about community resources

## **Men's Club Meets on September 6th**

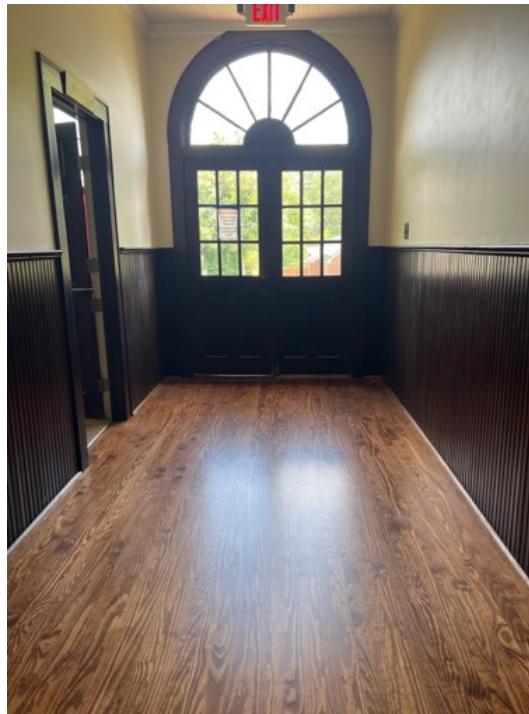
All Men are invited to meet at Jim's at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

## **Friendship Circle Meets on Monday, September 29th**

**At noon in the Fellowship Hall**

Aimee Larsen from Flourish Clothes Closet for foster children will address the group. Lunch will be served.

# **Renovations are almost finished!**



We look forward to getting back into all of our spaces. Repairs from the water damage are almost finished. Come and see the results.

**Sew Joyful will meet on September 11 (Thursday) and September 29 (Monday) 10 a.m. –4 p.m.**

**Everyone is invited to come for all or part of the time.**



Sew Joyful has had another busy and productive month. We have been grateful to all those who have come and volunteered part of their day to help!

We completed a queen size quilt for a USA Veteran in need. We entered it into the Chattooga County Fair and won a first place ribbon! We named the quilt "Coming Home" as our homeowner will be able to return to her home as the repairs are finished this week.

We will have finished the first round of dresses for "Dress a Girl Around the World" after our work day Thursday August 28th. We are excited to have made about 26 dresses to ship along with a new pair of panties for each girl ( often their first! ).

We are beginning to make Quilted Hugs for senior members of our community. They serve two purposes. The first is physical warmth. The second is a physical reminder of the love we share in Christ! There will be many colors available for both men and women. If you know of someone specific you would like to receive a quilted hug, be sure to let us know.

Lastly, but gratefully, we wanted to put in writing our gratitude for the generous donation from Wesley and Nancy T., friends of our Pastor Wes. With Wes' assistance, this lovely couple decided to donate a Gammill Classic Longarm and many, many yards of fabric and batting to our ministry. Our ability to continue blessing those around us with physical reminders of God's love is greatly enhanced by their donation. God is so good! Thank you to Kathy Reid, Sandy and Steve Weaver, Gene and Sarah Moe, Brent Williamson, and Wes Privett for going to Duluth to pick up all the items (it took two trips!).

We hope to have our sewing room fully set up in September and we will welcome everyone to come and check it out whether to volunteer or offer support of the ministry!