# August 2024- Volume 7 Issue 7 *The Disciples' Connection...*



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.



# Dates to Remember

<u>August 3</u>— Men's Breakfast at Jim's 8 a.m.

<u>August 7</u> — Wednesday Night Supper—Bring salad, sandwiches, or dessert to share.

August 18—Wedding Shower following the service for Arielle and Alex (Sandy Weaver's son)

August 21 — Wednesday Night Supper — Menu to be decide on later. Call or text Elaine Crouch

(706-506-7527) for

reservations.

August 22—Pack backpack food in Rome at 12:30 p.m.

<u>August 22</u>—Community Kitchen in Rome, 9 a.m. to noon

Ice Cream Social Fundraiser has been postponed. A date will be announced later.

October 11—We will feed the Chattooga High Football players in our fellowship hall.

Volunteers will be needed to serve and bake sweets.

# From the Pastor

I am not in ministry, you are.

Let that sink in for a while. If you doubt the truth of my statement, look at Ephesians 4:11-13.

#### And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

I hope no one doubts that I try to be active in the community and in ministry when and where possible. But I also hope that each of you realize that as a rule, I deal primarily with existing Christians. By the very nature of the average person's life, you all have the opportunity to influence non-Christians more than I do.

If I reach one non-Christian each month and have a fifty percent success rate in sharing Christ with them, I impact 6 people each year. If all of you reach the same one person each month and there are 35 of you, 420 people are exposed to the Gospel message. If you only reach ten percent, 42 people are impacted. Quite a difference, wouldn't you agree? A preacher's main job is equipping the saints. Your job is taking that message out into the world.

And by now, many of you are asking, "So What?"

For at least 30 years, American Church has been evolving into a performance art medium. The pastors perform, and the congregations evaluate that performance. This is a fundamentally flawed method of church operation. If it is performance art, then the church is the performer, and God is the evaluator.

#### By the way, 30 years ago is 1994. LOL!

The mission of the church hasn't changed. "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

In the world that existed prior to Covid, I talked to the pastor at the Villages in Florida. They were growing BECAUSE they reached out to the people at their own level. There were groups who loved the Yankees, groups who loved bowling, groups who loved eating out on Fridays. Covid changed that dynamic, but I believe it is time to renew our outreach in the community here in Summerville and Chattooga County. I doubt there is a LARGE Yankees fan club here in Summerville, but I know there is a Braves fan base and a Georgia Bulldog fan base. Looking around and in my own mirror, I KNOW there is a LARGE group that loves to eat.

Let's reach out to people where they are instead of waiting for them to come to us. I will do everything in my power to help. Can I get your help and participation?

In Christ, Wes





Congratulations to Christine Crouch and Justin Hammitt. They were married on July 27th at Summerville First United Methodist Church. Family and friends filled the sanctuary to witness the ceremony which was followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.



### **BIRTHDAYS:**

08/02 Lynne Lee 08/07 Drake Housch 08/09 Linda Black 08/12 David Smith 08/15 Brandon Gurley 08/15 Brad Waggoner Sr. 08/17 Roger Wilkinson 08/24 Wynne Wilkinson 08/27 Carroll Andrews 08/29 Al Brown 08/30 Brad Waggoner Jr.

# **ANNIVERSARIES**

08/20 Greg and Dianne Fulton



# Prayer Concerns

**7/28:** Sarah Moe (waiting imaging), Justin & Christine Hammitt (Newly Weds), Becca Slason (celebration), Avis Snow (cochlea implant)

**7/21:** Delores DeNero (Sandy's mom 90th birthday), Roberta & Lucille (Sandy's Aunts travel mercies), Dianne Fulton (knee surgery recovery)

**7/14:** Sal Amendola (Sandy's BIL), Lynne Lee (eyes), Tim O'Neal (eyes), Foster families, Murphy Harpst Children's Home, Jonathan Fulton (MRI), Richard Finn (ablation), Jane McCool (missing cat)

#### LONG TERM

SARAH MOE, AVIS SNOW, JIM MEDICI (Dossie's brother), JILL SPEARS (No cancer found), BECCA SLASON, JANE STOKES, GAIL ALLEN, ENRIQUE GRUNER, CARTER & LINDA BLACK, MARCIA BONEY, DIANNE FULTON, LUCILLE HAMBY, BEN MCCOOL & FAMILY, JANE MCCOOL, KASSIDY MCCOOL, DIANE MCCONNELL, KIM SNOW, DOSSIE PRIVETT, JEFFERY FLOYD **CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY:** The family of Frankie Dowdy, the family of Cindy Barber (Dee's friend), the family of Joyce Amos, the family of Carolyn Beigs

The next meeting of the Ladies' Friendship Circle will be in September.



SFUMC is partnering with Chattooga County DFACS to meet Emergency needs in the county. August shortages: Spaghetti noodles & sauce, mac & cheese, canned meats, cereal, peanut butter, Size 1 diapers. July Offerings to General Operating: July 7 \$3,974 July 14 \$490 July 21 \$5,574 July 28 \$662 Online Giving \$399



#### **REPORT of Year-to-Date through July 31, 2024**

Funds ReceivedActual ExpensesVariance\$75,484\$81,758(\$6,274)

MISSIONS YTD: Receipts \$4,727 Expenditures \$2,411 Balance \$2,316 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.

#### Church Staff and Contact Info

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