



Wilkesboro United Methodist Church
309 West Main Street, Post Office Box 197
Wilkesboro, North Carolina 28697

March 2018 Newsletter

A Word from the Pastor

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

I always find it amusing how eager we are for a change of seasons. In the heat of summer we yearn for the cool of fall. By the end of fall we beg for the warm fires and snowy slopes of winter, and after a few snowfalls we are out with our magnifying glasses looking for the first Crocus to sprout to announce spring is coming. Our love for spring will soon give way to a yearning for the heat of summer so we can lie on the warmth of a sandy beach and relax. And then we go again.

During a hospital visit many years ago the man I was visiting lamented his recent season of bad health and he said, “I am just ready for this to be over.” We sat silently for a moment as I let him ponder his frustration and pain when suddenly he said something quite profound. He looked at me and said, “Isn’t that silly? For a man to wish away a precious day when we have so few to begin with?”

I’ve never forgotten that moment, for each time I find myself wishing for a new season I realize there are blessings to be had in the season I am in, why wish those blessings away? Of course some seasons are full of darkness and the cold pain of despair and none of us yearn for those seasons yet it is in the darkness that seeds prepare themselves to sprout into new life. Deep in the soil in which they are planted, seeds begin to grow. They would not do so if they didn’t have the dark to urge them to break from their husks and thrust themselves through the soil in search of light.

Last year Wilkesboro UMC went through a change in seasons and for a while it was disorienting, much like a North Carolina winter where it is 32 degrees one day and 72 the next. There were days of loss that seemed dark indeed yet our leaders continued to pray that new life was sprouting from those dark places and I am thrilled to say that fruitful signs of a new season are sprouting.

Recently our Staff Parish Relations Committee approved three new ministry positions, which will bring new life and vitality to our church. Cary Rousseau has officially been named Director of Youth Ministries, a job he has been performing since July 2017. Chuck Byers has been named Director of Congregational Care. Chuck’s training and background as a Local Pastor in The United Methodist Church will be a great asset to our church. The third ministry position is the hiring of Rachel Styers as a Ministry Intern. Rachel is a student at ASU and a Certified Candidate for Ordained Ministry in The United Methodist Church. (You will find more detailed descriptions on the back of this page.)

We are excited for a new season of growth. May we cherish this season for the blessings it holds and find joy in dreaming of the season that will follow.

In Christ,
Pastor Karen

Meet Our New Staff

Cary Rousseau, Director of Youth Ministry

Cary began leading the Youth in July 2017 after having served a number of years as a youth leader assistant and chaperone. He has worked diligently to bring stability and provide a sense of love and belonging to the youth as they transitioned to new leadership. As Director of Youth Ministry, Cary officially becomes part of our Volunteer Staff. His primary duties include ministry to our 6 – 12 graders, overseeing youth leaders and chaperones, maintaining Safe Sanctuary Practices, and planning and implementing mission and outreach trips. Our Youth meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the Youth Room. We are excited for his ministry leading our youth to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Chuck Byers, Director of Congregational Care

Chuck is a retired Local Pastor with The United Methodist Church and a faithful member of Wilkesboro UMC. His training and experience as a Local Pastor makes him an excellent addition to our Volunteer Staff. As Director of Congregational Care his primary duties are Visitation, First-Time Visitor Follow-up, Overseeing and Developing additional visitation teams, and providing an Extended Table Ministry taking Communion to shut-ins and infirmed. His role is vital in ensuring that all members and constituents of our congregation know that they are loved and remain an important part of our church, even when they cannot attend.

Rachel Styers, Ministry Intern

Rachel is a Psychology Major at Appalachian State University and a Certified Candidate for Ordained Ministry. She is from Raleigh, and grew up in the Moravian church before receiving her call to become a United Methodist. She has worked as a camp counselor for youth, teaches guitar to girls in an underserved community, and plays guitar and French horn. Her primary duties as a Ministry Intern will be to explore various aspects of leading ministry within our church and community. She will participate in leading worship, playing and singing with the Praise Team, and will do rotations in Youth Ministry, Pastoral Care, and Discipleship. She will be contracted to serve as our Ministry Intern for ten months at which time she anticipates graduation from ASU and moving to Washington DC to attend Wesley Seminary.