

THE CONNECTION

News from
College Place UMC

July 2, 2025

UPCOMING WORSHIP

July 6: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Communion, Worship at 11 am, Sanctuary

July 13: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Worship at 11 am, Sanctuary

July 20: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Worship at 11 am, Sanctuary

Our Lay Delegate's report on the Western NC Conference of the United Methodist Church

I was blessed and honored to attend the 2025 Annual Conference (AC2025) at Lake Junaluska as the lay delegate from College Place United Methodist Church. The blessing was double because my better half, Beverly, also attended as Northern Piedmont District at large delegate. We are both so grateful for the experience.

The theme of AC2025 was "Unity, Healing, and New Creation," The conference was led by Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., the Resident Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. The conference took place against the backdrop of continued recovery from Helene. In his follow-up summary of the conference, Bishop Carter said that 29 of the 44 counties in the Western North Carolina Conference had been placed under a state of emergency during and after the hurricane, and a major focus of the WNC has been assisting with recovery. Additional information on Helene Recovery appears later in this report. In addition to the recovery effort, Bishop Carter said that other focuses were "the important work of anti-racism and inclusion," nurturing local churches, and supporting the well-being of spiritual leaders.

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We really loved the musical programs presented during the conference. *Siempre Simpatico* is from "Church on the Drive" in Orlando, Florida, and they provided much of the music for the conference, along with the group *Vocal Space*. The director and leader of music during the services was Dr. Melodie Galloway, Director of Choral and Vocal Studies at the University of North Carolina, Asheville.

We voted on four constitutional amendments and the budget. The results of the constitutional amendment vote will be announced after all annual conferences around the world have been completed.

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Two business sessions that I found most interesting were on Laity "Transforming Our Churches & Communities", and the Disaster Ministries Hurricane Helene Update. We heard amazing stories about Helene and WNC conference involvement. First we learned that Stewart Auditorium itself had sustained considerable damage with the first few rows of seats under water. We learned that Lake Junaluska housed and continues to house emergency response and recovery personnel. For a month after the hurricane struck, over 400 search and rescue responders were housed and fed at Junaluska by night after working all day in search and rescue operations. United Methodist Church efforts have made and will continue to make a difference to the people impacted by Helene. The devastation is so extensive that it is estimated the recovery work will continue for at least another 10 years.

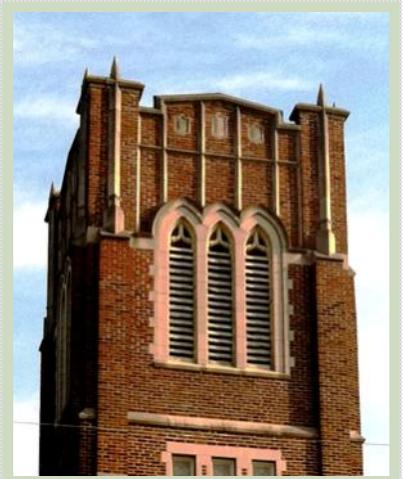
Our conference activities included the Friday morning **Opening Worship: Service of Holy Communion** at 10:30. The sermon, "Unity is our Witness" was given by Bishop Tracy Smith Malone of the Indiana Conference. After Friday's business session, we attended a **Bible Study** service led by Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Virginia Conference. Following the Bible Study, the **Passing of the Mantle** program took place, in which new ordinands answered historic Wesley questions, and in which retiring clergy were recognized and thanked for their service.

The next service we attended was at 10:30 am on Saturday, the **Celebration of Life Worship Service** with Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Moore, Jr., Yadkin Valley District Superintendent, preaching. The saints who had passed since the 2024 annual conference were remembered and celebrated, and their families honored. The final activity on Saturday was "**The Ordering of Ministry**" for persons to be licensed for pastoral ministry, commissioned for ministry, recognized for their orders in another denomination, and to be ordained as deacons and elders.

Sunday morning at 10 am, we participated in the **Closing Worship Service**. Following the sermon by Bishop Carter, the service concluded with the Commissioning of Presiding Elders, Commissioning new District Superintendents, Fixing of Appointments, the Charge to Laity, Deaconesses, Home Missioners, and Diaconal Ministers, and the Charge to All.

Beverly and I were truly blessed by the 2025 Annual Conference. Thank you for allowing us to attend.

Jim Meredith



LOOKING AHEAD

July 6-18—UNCG Music Camp

July 8—UWiF Meeting at 10AM

July 10—Church Council Meeting at 6PM

July 30—Weaver House

Adult Sunday School Classes

Each Sunday at 9:50 a.m.

Room 105 study: *Light from Many Lamps*.

"Searchers" class in the Chapel: Hamilton's study —*Moses*.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Gene, Margaret Ann and Chester, Beth, Betty, Teresa Sowinski (Don Ray's Daughter), Eileen Wilkinson, Carol Deaton, Linda Miskovich

Communities effected by the hurricane, People of Ukraine, the people of Israel, Gaza, & Sudan, Peace, National & International Leaders, Students, Teachers, Professors & Staff of Peck Elementary & other schools, UNCG and GC, Medical, Military, & Law Enforcement personnel, state, county, & city government leaders, our Bishop, Ken, & our District Superintendent, Bev, & Incoming DS, Rod, continued prayers for our congregation, Pastor Parish Relations Committee, church staff & pastoral transition.

If you would like to add a person's name to the prayer list, call or e-mail office@collegeplaceumc.com the Church office. Prayer requests generally run for four weeks, unless on-going circumstances.

OUR VISION

We seek to be a Christ centered, diverse community open to everyone as they are. We believe all people are worthy of being loved and worthy of loving others. We strive to show God's grace, make disciples, and change the world with our hands, our hearts, our minds, and our words.

ALL ARE WELCOME

We are a diverse community welcoming all persons and embracing differences of age, racial and ethnic background, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, family configuration, socioeconomic status, and physical and mental ability. We invite all to join our journey of faith toward greater love, hope, and acceptance in every aspect of our Christian life together.



A Memorial Service for Dr. Miriam Herin will be held at 11:00 AM on August 2, 2025 at College Place.

A gathering time for family and friends will take place in the Fellowship Hall after the service.



We offer our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Carroll Lee Love especially Lee and Beven. Carroll Lee passed away on June 20, 2025. Please hold the family in your prayers.

A Celebration of Carroll Lee's life was held on Thursday June 26th at noon at Open Hearts Community located at Faith Presbyterian Church in Greensboro.

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Opportunities to Help Others

UWiF July Project

The United Women in Faith will be receiving donations for Meal on Wheels. Volunteers from the faith community, local businesses and schools work in pairs to deliver the meals, which are prepared by a local caterer. The volunteers also check on the well-being of each senior they visit. Some clients aren't receiving this service due to lack of funds, and they also need folks to take clients to appointments. Please mark your gifts: "Meals on Wheels".



United
Women
in Faith

College Place Heads to Weaver House

We will be preparing and serving the evening meal at Greensboro Urban Ministry's Weaver House on:

Wednesday, July 30, 4:30-8 pm



Special Offerings for Western NC

We continue to receive offerings for "**Hurricane Relief**" and forward the resources along for the work of our Annual Conference in the NC Mountains. Financial gifts to support ongoing relief is best.

And of course continue to hold residents, first responders, and repair persons in your prayers.