

# The Main Stream

May 21, 2024 - Volume 2024, Issue 5



## Welcome, New Members



Left: Randy Donahue and Edie Budd



Right: Shannon and Ray Thomas



**General Conference  
Legislative Recap  
on pages 2 and 3**

## Sanctuary Update from the Trustee Committee

In just a few weeks our Sanctuary will take on a new look with the installation of new fabric on all of the pews, chairs and front rail kneeling pads! The fabric is an earthtone/neutral color that goes well with our current teal carpet and gives us more options in color when the carpet is replaced. This project is important in maintaining the beauty and integrity of our worship space. Plans are in place to begin this work the week of June 3, 2024, and we are excited for all of you to see it once installation is complete.

Due to the work in the Sanctuary on the pews for 2 weeks, we will worship in the Fellowship Hall on June 9 at 8:30 and 10:55. Jubilee will worship in the Chapel as usual.

Fund raising for the project has gone extremely well. Many of you, as well as Sunday School classes and groups around the Church have made this possible. Currently, we are less than \$8,000 from fully funding this project. Thanks to your generous support, we are confident that we will be able to meet our funding goal for this project!



# General Conference Legislative Recap

The 2024 General Conference has concluded. What's next?  
(Adapted from [resourceumc.org](https://resourceumc.org))

## WHAT IS GENERAL CONFERENCE?

General Conference is the top lawmaking assembly of The United Methodist Church and the only entity that speaks for the denomination. It convenes every four years, with delegates from the denomination's regions around the world.

## WHAT MAJOR DECISIONS DID GENERAL CONFERENCE MAKE?

### 1. *Regionalization Petitions Approved*

- GC voted to approve a restructuring of our denomination. Whereas currently international conferences are known as "central conferences," the GC-approved plan would rename them, "regional conferences." Additionally, the United States, which will continue to comprise Annual Conferences, will become its own regional conference. As a result of this legislative action, regions are given new freedom to practice ministry contextually.
- While each region would have freedom to make some decisions that affect only their context, the entire denomination will continue to share a common "Theological Task" and common "Social Principles" in the Book of Discipline.
- Because this regionalization legislation involves an amendment to the church's constitution, it must be approved by at least two-thirds of the total votes cast across all annual conferences worldwide in order for much of it to take effect.

### 2. *Removal of Restrictive Language Related to LGBTQ People*

- GC voted to remove from the Book of Discipline all language that restricts ministry by, with, and for, "self-avowed practicing" gay and lesbian people. This removal includes:
  - ◇ Removal of the language that the "practice of homosexuality ... is incompatible with Christian teaching."
  - ◇ Removal of the ban on the ordination and appointment of "self-avowed practicing homosexual" clergy.
  - ◇ Removal of language that made the ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexual" clergy and the performance of same-sex weddings chargeable offenses.
  - ◇ Removal of mandatory minimum penalties for clergy holding same-sex weddings.
  - ◇ Removal of a prohibition against using United Methodist funds to support groups, activities and causes that promote the acceptance of homosexuality.
- These changes bring the Book of Discipline back to a neutral place where one group is not singled out for discrimination. It holds space for differing opinions within The United Methodist Church by avoiding broad mandates.
- Each local church's Trustees, with the approval of Church Council, will have the responsibility of forming campus marriage policy.
- From Bishop Ken Carter's letter (5/21/24): "[C]hurches that are more traditional in conviction—the Book of Discipline identifies this, and our Cabinet practices this—will not receive appointed clergy or conduct services that do not align with their convictions ([BOD, paragraph 427. 1b](#))."

### 3. *Apportionment Percentage Decreased*

- Conferences will shift from their current base rate of 3.29% to a base rate of 2.6% for 2025 and 2026. Then, if the apportionment collection rate is 90% or higher in those years, the base rate will increase to 2.9% for 2027 and 2028.

### 4. *Budget Approved*

- Delegates approved a 2025-2028 budget of \$373.4 million. That total is contingent on collection rates being at 90% or more for the next two years. If giving is below that percentage, the budget bottom line will be \$353.6 million. The total approved is significantly smaller than the budget approved by the 2016 General Conference. Annual conferences will be asked to pay less in apportionments.

### 5. *Disaffiliation Policy Ended, Re-affiliation Measure Approved*

- Delegates removed Paragraph 2553 from the Book of Discipline, ending the disaffiliation policy that was added by the special 2019 General Conference. They also required annual conferences affected by disaffiliation to develop grace-filled policies for reaffiliation of churches that want to rejoin the denomination.

For a more detailed legislative recap, visit [Legislative Recap: General Conference 2020 \(resourceumc.org\)](http://resourceumc.org)



#### *What's Growing in North Carolina?*

Our United Methodist Men's Quarterly dinner will be **June 11** at 7pm. Our guest speaker will be Jenny Fulton. Come hear her share about the state of farming in North Carolina. Jenny works for the NC State Department of Agriculture. Jenny has also served on Kernersville's Board of Aldermen and been a strong supporter of Parks and Recreation. Make your dinner reservations under "signups" at [mainstreetumc.org](http://mainstreetumc.org) by Friday, June 7 and invite a friend to dinner.

#### Farewell to Pastor Mike



Pastor Mike's last Sunday with us will be on June 30.

We will have a combined worship service at 10:30am on June 30 and a "Farewell Reception" in the Commons after the service so that everyone will have an opportunity to speak with Pastor Mike and Rhonda and thank them for the six years of ministry that they have shared with us.

As a gift from our church, we would like to present the Gehrigs with a love offering, so we will be accepting donations in the church office through June 30.

## CEMETERY UPDATE

The Cemetery Committee is excited to announce that we will start construction on the new columbarium this summer. Since the construction of the original columbarium, prices have dramatically increased. To help maintain the cash levels in the endowment, we are increasing the price of a double niche in the existing columbarium to \$2,000 from \$1,000 and the price of a single grave plot from \$500 to \$1,000.

The new prices go into effect on June 1; the price for a double niche in the NEW columbarium will be \$2,000.

**All sales for the existing columbarium and for grave plots prior to June 1 will be at the current prices.** Contact Tina Crew (336-993-3411) if you would like to purchase a plot or niche.



Join us for Praise and Worship with our awesome NOW Band at 6:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in the Chapel.



Main Street's Heritage Club is a group of active adults who gather for fun activities.

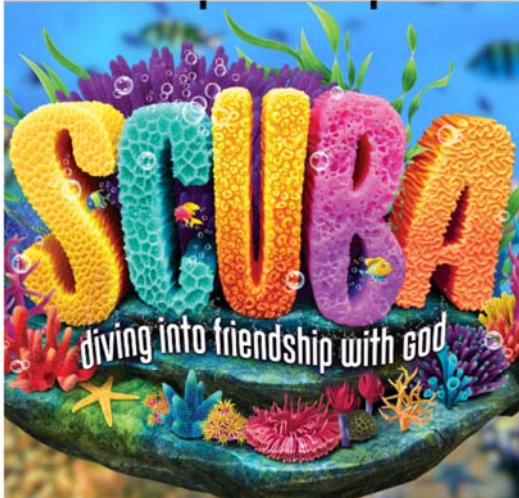
**Contact Debbie Smith for more information and to make reservations.**

The Heritage Club would love to have new friends join them at these upcoming events:

- **June 11 Breakfast at Moose Café** and shopping for fresh vegetables at the Farmer's Market. Meet at the church at 9:00 to ride the bus or meet us there.
- **June 20 High Point University Arboretum & Botanical Garden Tour** at 11:00 on June 20 and will leave the church at 10:15. There is no cost for the tour. The tour of the gardens is almost entirely outdoors, and typically takes 1.5 hours. We will be walking or standing for the full time, though there are places to rest if needed. It is recommended to bring sun protection, comfy shoes, and a water bottle. Following the tour, we will eat lunch at the Bistro 1605 in High Point. 2:00. Group size is limited to 20-25 people, so reservations are required by June 14.



Church members who have recently graduated from college (*Associates, Bachelors, and post-graduate degrees*) are invited to submit their name, college, major, and degree earned to Kathryn in the church office ([kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org](mailto:kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org)) by May 30 to be included in the June newsletter.



Get excited about Vacation Bible School at Main Street UMC coming up on July 22-25 from 6:00pm to 8:15pm. Register online at [mainstreetumc.org](http://mainstreetumc.org) under "signups"

**Caretakers of God's Creation**  
**Main Street UMC Recycling**

**LOOK** for Recycle Bins located throughout the church property, kitchen, and workroom.

**DROP OFF** old batteries in the office and electronics in the bin behind the kitchen.

**Did you know we are already....**

- Reducing paper by sending electronic newsletters & prayer lists.
- Reusing washable dinner ware, tablecloths, and decorations for church functions.
- Recycling attendance sheets & bulletins.
- Printing on back of one-sided waste paper & making notepads



Join us for Kids in Action Summer Service Camp! This year KIA will run from Monday, July 29 to Wednesday, July 31 from 9 am - 3 pm. Kids in Action is an opportunity for our elementary students to go out and serve their community while sharing the love of Christ. Our kids have a service project in the morning and a fun activity in the afternoon! There are only 20 spots available so sign up soon! Registration is open to rising 2nd graders - rising 6th graders and the cost is \$80 per child. Questions? Email our Children's Director, Victoria Smathers, at [Victoria.smathers@mainstreetumc.org](mailto:Victoria.smathers@mainstreetumc.org)

We would like to hire a **Church Organist/Pianist**

The complete job description for this position can be found under "NEWS" at [mainstreetumc.org](http://mainstreetumc.org) . Resumes may be sent to Tina Crew in the church office ([tina.crew@mainstreetumc.org](mailto:tina.crew@mainstreetumc.org)).

## Babaunde's Future Looks Bright



### *Babatunde is almost done!!*

Babatunde has just finished school for the year and is almost finished with his undergraduate degree from Greensboro College. He has summer classes to take, one more fall semester, and he will then graduate in December 2024 (walking the stage in May 2025)! Babatunde wants to take the time to thank the Church and update his support team on where he has been and what he has in store next!



Please mark your calendar to attend one of his information sessions:  
Sunday, June 16 at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall  
Thursday, June 20 at 8:00 am for UM Men's Breakfast

### **MEDICAL MISSION TEAM OPPORTUNITIES:** Big Hope Ministries in the Dominican Republic

Main St. UMC has been deeply involved in loving and serving others in many different ways for many years. Recently the Outreach Committee made the decision to be a partner in a medical outreach ministry in the Dominican Republic. The Good Samaritan Clinic was started many years ago by the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC. During Covid it was forced to shut down. The clinic has now been re-opened one year and work teams and medical teams are going regularly to supplement the work of a local doctor and nurse that work serving some 5,000 people in a very poor and underserved area.

A medical team in January saw 720 patients at the clinic and in other villages. A team in February saw 550 patients and dispensed over 1500 prescriptions. Surgeries were also performed. Other teams will be going throughout the year and there are opportunities for people to go on these teams whether they are medical professionals or not. We are currently working on getting Babatunde, our Main St. sponsored doctor in training from Kenya, on a medical team to give him medical experience.

*If you would like to find out more information about this outreach ministry, please contact Mark Key.*

Collection boxes are in the new main entrance for donations to Crisis Control's Item of the Month. The item for June is **CONDIMENTS**; other non-perishable food items can be donated as well.



## Help Us Celebrate our High School Graduates

We will be collecting Graduation Cards for the High School Graduates that will be given to them during the 10:55am service on Sunday, June 2.

The next time you are at the store, pick up cards for the High School Seniors below and place them in the collection box that will be located in the Narthex until Tuesday, **May 28**.

Our High School graduates are:

**Katherine Hanks**  
**Jackson Napier**

**Michael Pitts**  
**Emma Saporito**

**Will Sharpe**  
**Landon Vinay**

### *We extend our sympathies to:*

- The family & friends of Ruby Jones
- Jeff Harpe and his family upon the death of his niece, Stacy Hall
- The family & friends of Rev. Don Ellis, former MSUMC pastor
- Jim Barrett upon the death of his brother-in-law, Jim Weaver

### HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP AT MAIN STREET...

- May 22 — Last Oasis Service and Wednesday Connect Dinner of the school year
- May 23 — Church Council meeting at 7:00pm
- May 27 — Church Office Closed for Memorial Day
- June 2 — Graduation Sunday at 10:55am service
- June 9 — Worship in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 and 10:55 due to pew upholstery installation in Sanctuary. Jubilee will worship in the Chapel as usual.
- June 19 — Church Office Closed for Juneteenth
- June 23-29 — High School Mission Trip
- June 30 — One Combined Worship service at 10:30 followed by Farewell Reception for Pastor Mike and Rhonda
- July 4 — Church Office Closed for Independence Day
- July 7-13 — Middle School Mission Trip
- July 14 — One Combined Worship service at 10:30 for Pastor Lanny's first service
- August 4 — Churchwide picnic at Triad Park—*more details coming soon!*
- September 14 — Hands Together Day of Service—*more details later this summer*

## We are ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for the Frank & Mary Palmer Scholarship

The Frank and Mary Palmer Scholarship provides financial support to Main Street United Methodist members and children of members who are pursuing college degrees at an accredited 2 or 4 year institution of higher learning. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who will be a rising sophomore, junior or senior. Students may also apply for additional years of support by reapplying each summer and maintaining the guidelines below. The student can be awarded the Palmer Scholarship along with another Main Street scholarship. Application is available online at [www.mainstreetumc.org](http://www.mainstreetumc.org) under Ministries and Youth.

Details for applicants:

- Criteria- applicant must be a member of Main St. and have participated in their programs; must be a rising Sophomore, Junior or Senior college student with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher.
- If the scholarship criteria is not met, the scholarship will roll over to the next year.
- Scholarship amount \$1,000 for one recipient per year. At a later date, the Palmers reserve the right to increase the scholarship amount.
- **Deadline for application is June 27.** Applications should be sent to the church office before that date. Applications received after June 27 will be returned.
- The scholarship will be awarded in early August 2024.

### —Attention High School Seniors —

Linville Scholarship Applications are available on the church website by visiting [www.mainstreetumc.org](http://www.mainstreetumc.org). Applicants should be a current member of MSUMC actively involved in the ministries of the church. Preference will be given to those applicants who exhibit a strong desire for teaching or a science related career.

**Applications are due to the church office by May 26.**

## J.C. Grose Scholarship Application NOW OPEN!

The Grose-Kirkman Sunday School Class announces that applications are open to award the 13th annual J. C. Grose Memorial Scholarship. Application is available at Main Street UMC website under Ministries and Youth: <https://www.mainstreetumc.org/jc-grose-scholarship/>. The scholarship provides financial support to Main Street United Methodist members and children of members who are pursuing college degrees at an accredited 2 or 4 year institution of higher learning. The scholarship provides up to 1000 dollars for a student who has completed his or her freshman, sophomore, or junior years. Prior award recipients may also apply for additional years of support by reapplying each summer and

maintaining an acceptable grade point average.

**The deadline for scholarship applications is Monday, June 17, 2024, 5:00 PM.**

Main Street UMC parents and guardians, please make your students aware of this opportunity for financial help. If you have questions about the application, contact Wade Hampton at 336-749-0927 or at [wjhampton57@gmail.com](mailto:wjhampton57@gmail.com). The scholarship is funded through memorial gifts in memory of class members and other funds raised by the Grose-Kirkman Sunday School Class as well as the Cornerstone class. Individuals and classes are welcome to further contribute to this effort for helping our college students.



Our **Take a Hike Small Group** comes together to enjoy the great outdoors and enjoy God's splendid creation on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Mark your calendars and make plans to join them on one or all of their next hikes. Meet at the church parking lot at 8:30am and we will carpool to our Triad hiking location

on  
**June 4 and 18**

For more information, contact Wade Hampton.

Our final *Oasis service* and *Wednesday Connect Dinner* of the season will be on  
May 22.

We will take a summer break and look forward to having everyone join us when we start back on  
September 4!



YOU are invited to be a part of our Prayer Shawl Ministry! Whether you are an experienced knitter or crocheter or you want to learn, you are invited to come and join us!

The next Prayer Shawl meetings will be in the Fellowship Hall on

**May 23, June 13 and 27**  
at 9:30am

### *We share in joy with:*

- Tyler & Elizabeth Byers upon the birth of their son Jonah Andrew Byers, grandson of Scott & Jenny Lail, great-grandson of Margie Hilton.
- Chip & Billie Cole upon the birth of their new grandson, Banks Duncan Cole. Parents are John & Sidney Cole with big brother Brooks.



**Don't cook on Wednesdays,  
come have dinner with us from  
5:30-6:30pm!**

**May 22—Chicken Cordon Bleu** with Genesis/Crossroads SS classes serving

**Wednesday Connect Dinner takes a break from Memorial Day through Labor Day. We look forward to dining together again on September 4!**

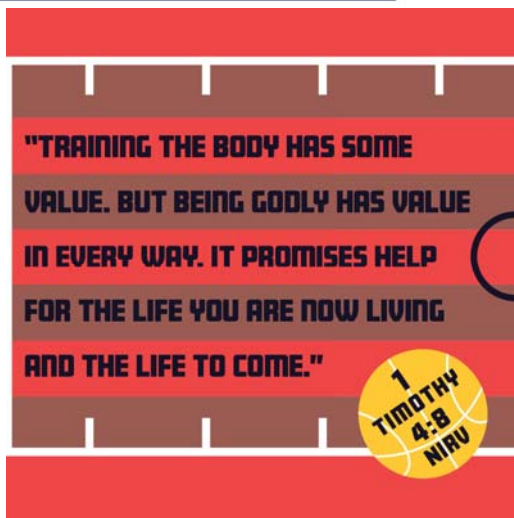
*The suggested donation is \$6.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child (10 and under). A gluten-free option is available upon request.*

*Make your dinner reservation by NOON on Monday: use the Wednesday Dinner reservation form on our website or contact Kathryn in the church office at 336-993-3411 or email [kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org](mailto:kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org)*



## Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Commitment is part of God's nature and how God interacts with us, keeping promises and putting plans into action. God's commitment to us is just one of the many reasons we can trust God no matter what. And because God's promises and plans came true in Jesus, we can be with God forever. We reflect God's character when we make a plan and stick to it. This month, we'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God's Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday.



## Preschool

This month is all about introducing preschoolers to God - the One who loves them with a love that lasts forever. When it comes to preschoolers and what they know about God, there are a few faith skills we want to make sure they have in their little red wagon. We want every child to know that they can hear from God, pray to God, talk about God to others, and live for God. We hope they will pull these faith skills around, wherever they go, for the rest of their lives. Then they can go with confidence because they have the faith skills needed for whatever comes their way.

<b>a Record of our Faithfulness</b>					
<b>OUR PRESENCE:</b>	<b>4-21-2024</b>	<b>4-28-2024</b>	<b>5-5-2024</b>	<b>5-12-2024</b>	<b>5-19-2024</b>
Sunday School	110	82	126	114	115
8:30am In-Person Worship	76	68	94	104	74
8:45 Jubilee In-Person Worship	76	98	62	73	63
10:55am In-Person Worship	113	126	131	150	117
<b>In-Person Worship Totals</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>254</b>
8:45am Jubilee Live Stream Worship ( <i>Unique Views</i> )	21	31	17	31	31
10:55am Live Stream Worship ( <i>Unique Views</i> )	102	68	67	150	67
<b>Total Live Stream Unique Views</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Live Streaming Totals (<i>unique views x 1.8</i>)</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>Attendance Totals</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>430</b>
<b>OUR GIFTS as of:</b>	<b>4-21-2024</b>	<b>4-28-2024</b>	<b>5-5-2024</b>	<b>5-12-2024</b>	<b>5-19-2024</b>
<i>Moving Forward Building Fund Weekly Contributions</i>	\$850	\$7940	\$1222	\$740	\$808
<b>Weekly Contributions to Budget</b>	<b>\$10,610</b>	<b>\$20,929</b>	<b>\$14,749</b>	<b>\$20,436</b>	<b>\$10,255</b>
<b>Budget Contributions YTD</b>	<b>\$306,977</b>	<b>\$327,906</b>	<b>\$342,656</b>	<b>\$363,093</b>	<b>\$373,348</b>

**Main Street Ministries as of April 30**

Regular Giving \$ 333,963  
 Expenses \$ 349,889  
 Over/(Under) \$ (16,026)  
 Budget \$ 373,327

**Building Fund as of April 30**

Building Fund Giving \$ 61,124  
 Building Loan Payments \$ 48,000  
 Over/(Under) \$ 13,124  
 Loan Balance \$ 1,330,074

**PUBLICATION DEADLINE:**  
 Newsletter Articles are due by noon on the FIRST Friday of every month  
 for publication in the mid-month newsletter.

**Main Street  
United Methodist Church**

336-993-3411

306 South Main Street  
Kernersville, NC 27284

## *Let's Worship Together*

There is no better way to worship our Lord than  
Worshipping Together. Come and Worship with  
us at one or all of our services:

- Less-Formal Traditional Worship Service\*:  
Sundays at 8:30am in the Sanctuary
- Jubilee Contemporary Worship Service\*:  
Sundays at 8:45am Jubilee Service in the  
Chapel
- Traditional Worship Service\*: Sundays at  
10:55am in the Sanctuary
- Oasis Mid-Week Service of Meditation:  
Wednesdays at 5:30pm (September-May)
- NOW: Night of Worship\*: 1st & 3rd  
Thursdays of each month at 6:30pm in the  
Chapel

\* *childcare is provided at these services*

## Church Staff

### Our Ministers: the congregation of Main Street

Mike Gehring, Senior Pastor  
Phil Kuntz, Associate Pastor  
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation  
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth/College Min.  
Victoria Smathers, Dir. of Children's Min.  
Nancy Blakemore, Dir. of Music Min.  
Tina Crew, Business Manager  
Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant  
Kathryn Jenkins, Administrative Assistant  
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director  
Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director  
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Dir.  
Cynthia Barron, Kitchen Hostess  
Anthony Simmonds, Theo Dunlap, and  
Willie Craven, Custodians