

The Main Stream

September 15, 2026 – Volume 2026, Issue 9



***Connect with Christ
Connect with Each Other
Connect with our Community***

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”—Matthew 28:19a (NRSV)

These are the words of Jesus to his followers after his resurrection, just before he ascended to heaven. It is often called The Great Commission. It names our mission as the Church of Jesus Christ. It is our reason for existing. But sometimes, that mission may seem overwhelming or hard to enact in our daily lives. This year, our leadership council has taken time to pray, study Scripture, and reflect on our gifts as a church. The fruit of this process has been the emergence of our Vision Statement:

***Connect with Christ
Connect with Each Other
Connect with our Community***

This Vision names how we are called at Main Street to fulfill the Great Commission. All of us have the capacity to connect with others. Every one of us has a sphere of influence, people in our lives: family, friends, neighbors, classmates, co-workers, and people in our community that we interact with on a daily basis. These interactions can become what John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, called “divine appointments.” By that, he meant connections that shared grace, healing, and the good news of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

That does not mean we have to preach at people. It does not mean we have to be pushy or judgmental. In fact, what Christ really calls us to do is humbly love people. Sometimes, that can be as simple as listening, really listening to someone, and showing concern for what challenges they are facing in life. We do not have to try to “fix” their problems. Sometimes, it is enough to just be heard. Then, we can pray with or for them.

We can also connect with them by inviting them to join us on the journey of faith at Main Street, at a mission project, Bible study, fellowship group, church event, or worship. Research shows that the overwhelming majority of people will come to church ***IF*** they are invited by someone they know.

How might Christ be calling you to Connect with him, with others, and with our community? I invite you to pray, asking that very question. As we seek to connect, we can fulfill the Great Commission, one person at a time.

Peace,



**Kairos Prison Ministry
International**

The first week of August, we finished Central Prison's 58th Kairos event. This church has helped fund this event for years. A simple "thank you" seems insufficient. The Kairos team carries the word of God to residents of the prison on behalf of the Holy Spirit. And before our eyes, the Holy Spirit changes them.

Past Kairos graduates got baptized, joined churches when released, and one former gang member even became a deacon at his church. At this event, one resident said we made up for the lost love of his family. Only one family member has ever visited him. Another, quiet and stern with a "666" tattooed on his hand, became engaged, started smiling, and held his wooden cross (a gift from the team) as if it were a jewel.

Main Street UMC has a long history with the Central Prison Kairos team, beginning with Sam Martin and Chip Leonard back in the 1990's. Here are some past MSUMC participants along with those two: Chip Cole, Rick Carter, Chadwick Stamper, Don Stutts, Kemp Baker, Mike Witt, Reginald Turner, Bob Langlais, Steve Reid, Richard Hedgecock, Jacob Hanks, and Mike Tozer. Please forgive me if I've left out your name. If you would like to participate in a future event (our next one is in March), please talk to one of the names you recognize. Thank you all throughout the years for your prayers of support, your financial contributions, and your Prayer Chain signatures! By supporting this mission, you are doing the work of the Lord, as the hands and feet of Christ, and some of the least find they have value in Christ....some of the last find themselves first in the eyes of Godand some of the lost find a new direction for their life. Kairos Prison Ministry is a remarkable gift to many, many people. Your support is appreciated beyond words.

--The MSUMC Kairos Team

Circles #2 and #5 Fundraiser

Shred Event

September 19

9:00am until NOON

MSUMC parking lot

All monies collected go to assist local ministries in our Kernersville area. Due to your participation in the past, we have been able to generously contribute to these local ministries.



**Suggested Donation
is \$5 per box**

***It's not too late to join the class!!
You can join the class at any time!***



CONNECT BIBLE STUDY

CONNECT BIBLE STUDY

Do you want to go deeper with Christ?

- *Come join Pastor Lanny in the Chapel on Wednesdays at 11:00am or 6:30pm starting September 9*

OR

- *Come join Mark Key in Room 320 on Sundays at 5:00pm starting September 13*

Register at mainstreetumc.org and click "signups" on the red stripe



The Heritage Club will go see Thomas Dambo's "Little Sally" Troll in High Point on Monday, **September 21**. The van will leave the church at 10 am. You can ride in the van, follow us or meet us there. There is a short nature trail leading to the sculpture so you might want to bring a cane or walker if you feel like your balance might be challenged. Thomas Dambo's "Little Sally" Troll is an 18-foot-tall giant whimsical troll sculpture made from reclaimed

wood and old furniture legs to honor High Point's furniture-making heritage. She is part of a statewide North Carolina installation (connected to the narrative of The Grandmother Tree), which features seven total troll sculptures spread across High Point, Charlotte, and Raleigh. We will eat lunch at Santorini's Grill in High Point afterwards. If you would like to join us, please call or text Debbie Smith at 336-671-1215.

You are invited to join the Heritage Club on the trip to Boone on **October 22**. We will leave the church at 9:45 AM and head to Boone for lunch at 11:30. Cost for the meal will be \$32.89 (this includes tax and tip) and they are now accepting credit cards. After lunch, we will head over to the Shoppes on the Parkway (previously known as a Tanger Outlet) for a short shopping trip before heading back home. Reservations are required by **October 19**, please contact Debbie Smith at 336-671-1215.

Dear Church Family,

We want to share an important update regarding our plastic film and bag recycling partnership with Nex-Trex. We are officially bringing our Nex-Trex recycling program to a close but that doesn't mean we want you to stop recycling.

Thank you so much for your incredible dedication and support over the past year. Because of your hard work collecting, sorting, and bringing in plastic bags, wrap, and packaging, we kept waste out of local landfills and helped turn unwanted plastic into useful products. Last September, we set a goal of collecting 1,000 lbs. As of August 25th, we have collected 1036 pounds of plastic with more to come in the last weeks concluding our campaign. Special thanks to our local Harris Teeter for being our local drop off location with 131+ bags of plastic accepted.

Please bring your final plastic donations by Sunday, **September 27**. The collection bins will be removed from the Commons area, Preschool hallway, and Fellowship Hall after that Sunday. Although we feel it is time to wrap up this specific project and focus our energy on other church and community ministry needs, our hope is you will continue to recycle your plastic and drop it off at local grocery stores. Most stores such as Harris Teeter, Food Lion, Lowes Foods and Walmart have front door drop-off bins labeled for plastic film recycling.

Thank you again for your enthusiasm, your servant hearts, and your care for God's creation.

--Creation Care Ministry Team

September 27
is the last day
to recycle
plastic
at church!



*Plastics must be clean,
dry and free of food and
organic residue.*

- produce bags
- store bags
- ice bags
- ziploc & other reclosable bags
- cereal box liners

- case overwrap
- bread bags
- newspaper sleeves
- dry cleaning bags
- bubble wrap
- plastic e-commerce mailers



Creation Care Team's "**Really, Really Free Market**" is
Saturday, October 10 from 9 to noon

Please bring your unneeded items to the church parking lot that morning. At this market, no money changes hands. We clean out our unwanted items and share them with our neighbors who may have uses for them. It's just another way to recycle! Keep in mind that we can't handle heavy, unwieldy furniture or appliances.

Your Creation Care team members will have tables ready and will assist you in unloading and putting out your items. See our display near the Welcome Desk for more information.





Don't cook on Wednesdays, come have dinner with us from 5:30-6:30pm! Dining together is a great opportunity for fellowship, but if you need to get your meal "to-go", then we can do that, too! We have disposable takeout containers, but we encourage you to bring your own re-usable containers for "to-go" meals.

Sept. 23--Chicken Marsala

with Christian Fell./Rise/Genesis serving

Sept. 30--Meatloaf

with Great Expectations class serving

Oct. 7--White Chicken Chili

with New Horizons SS class serving

Oct. 14--Baked Potatoes

with Seafarers SS class serving

The suggested donation is \$6.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child (10 and under). We accept cash or check. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Reservations for dining in-person or "to-go" must be made by NOON on Monday: use the Wednesday Dinner reservation form on our website under the red "signups" stripe or contact the church office at 336-993-3411 or email receptionist@mainstreetumc.org



A collection box is in the new main entrance for donations of the following items to the Project Re3 Hope Center:

empty egg cartons, housewares, clothing in good shape (*including shoes and baby clothes*), fresh produce from your garden, grocery items including toilet paper and other paper products, diapers, wipes and baby food, feminine hygiene products, breakfast cereal, peanut butter, canned meat and other non-refrigerated foods



Start Saving Your Shoeboxes !



**Filled
shoeboxes
are due
Dec. 6**

MSUMC will continue our tradition of participating in *Operation Christmas Child* this year by filling shoeboxes for children around the world. You are invited to recycle and re-use your old shoeboxes or purchase a plastic shoebox. Get your shoeboxes now and work on filling them so you can bring them back to the church by NOON on **December 6** for us to deliver to the distribution center near Boone.

Instructions for packing a shoebox can be found online at samaritanspurse.org .

Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser

SEPTEMBER 27
SERVING FROM 10:45AM TO 12:30PM

MENU:
BAKED SPAGHETTI, SALAD,
BREAD, & DESSERT
DONATIONS ACCEPTED



NO
RESERVATION
NEEDED

PROCEEDS FROM THIS FUNDRAISER
WILL GO TOWARDS THE MISSION PROJECTS
OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United Women in Faith

Frozen Casserole Pre-Sale



- Casseroles must be pre-ordered; none will be available for sale on pickup day.
- Orders will be taken in the Commons before worship on Sept. 20, Sept. 27, and Oct. 4.
- Suggested donation: Small \$14, Large \$18
- Pickup on **November 8** in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 to 12:30pm.

**Casseroles
Offered:**

SWEET POTATO, MRS. MARY'S CHICKEN,
POPPYSEED CHICKEN, SWISS CHICKEN



TRUNK OR TREAT

at Main Street UMC!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH 4-7 PM

Be sure to join us for our family- friendly
Night of Worship Service
in the pumpkin patch at 6:00 pm!



& grab a Hot Dog in the
Fellowship Hall!



hot dog fundraiser benefits our children's & youth ministry



PALMER SCHOLARSHIP

We are proud to present the Frank and Mary Palmer Scholarship to Allee Davis. She is an upcoming Sophomore at NC State University working to become a veterinarian. She has a GPA of 4.0 and she stated in her application essay:

"The rise of social media has fooled us to believing that in order to be a force for good in this world you either have to be all in or all out. The falsehood of this reveals the beautiful truth that when you have the love of Christ, no act of kindness can ever fall short. "

Service and leadership activities:

- NC State Pre-Vet Club
- NC State Women in Science and Engineering Member
- NC State Club Soccer Member
- Forsyth Humane Society Volunteer

Allee's parents are Harry and Michele Davis.
Congratulations to Allee!

*Allee Davis with
Rick & Judy Palmer*



LINVILLE SCHOLARSHIP

The Lola and Buck Linville Scholarship was presented on May 17 to Grayson Phillips during the Graduation Sunday Service by Chadwick Stamper. Grayson is the 26th student to earn this scholarship, and she will continue her education at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Grayson is a graduate of Atkins High School and an active member at Main Street, where she participated in ASP (5 times), youth meetings, and fundraisers, while still finding time to work in the Main St. nursery. Some of her extracurricular involvements at Atkins included being chosen as captain for the swim, tennis, and lacrosse team, as well as being a member of FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). To prepare herself for becoming a traveling nurse, she joined a group called HOSA at Atkins, an acronym for Health Occupations Students of America. This group's activities are designed to provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences.

Grayson is choosing a career in Health Sciences from a deep desire to improve the lives of others by practicing compassion and understanding. She places her relationship with God among her most important priorities, and she understands that by serving others in the nursing field, she is honoring a commitment to God to look after His people.

*Grayson Phillips with
Wayne Purdy*



JC GROSE SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Katelyn Hunter & Allee Davis

Katelyn Hunter and Allee Davis are the recipients of the 2026 JC Grose Memorial Scholarship.

Katelyn, the daughter of Matt & Christie Hunter, is a rising senior at UNC Chapel Hill, majoring in Exercise and Sports Science, Journalism and Media. Among her college activities, she found it particularly meaningful to help lead Macopolysaccharidoses Awareness day.

Allee, the daughter of Michelle and Harry Davis, is a rising sophomore at North Carolina State University, majoring in Animal Sciences. She is a member of campus ministries, NC WISE (Women In Science and Engineering) and the pre-vet club. At Main Street, she participated in Appalachian Service project and Alpha and Omega Choir.



*Allee Davis and
Katelyn Hunter*

JC Grose Memorial scholarships totaling almost \$40,000 have been awarded to 55 students over the last 15 years. Recipients must be members, or the children of members, of Main Street and have completed their freshman year of college, have strong academic performance and demonstrate a commitment to helping others.

**Main Street's Jill Gardner
to perform on
The Martha Bassett Show
on October 15!**



**Our Jill Gardner is a featured performer at
The Martha Bassett show in Elkin on
Thursday October 15.**

If you would like to travel with a group from church to attend, please register online at mainstreetumc.org and click "signups" on the red stripe.

- Meet at the church at 3:45 for church transportation (\$5 per person)
- Dinner at the Angry Troll (pay your own)
- \$15 half-price tickets to the show
- Expected arrival back at the church 10 to 10:45pm
- Bring cash to pay for the tickets and transportation, no advance payment needed.
- Only 40 spots available.
- Contact Jan Hampton with any questions at janwardhampton@gmail.com.



Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars to be in attendance for our Christmas Lessons and Carols Service entitled
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
on the fourth Sunday of Advent, **December 20th at 10:30am** (one service only!). Brass 5 returns to accompany our Adult Chancel Chorale and Choir in a service of true worship and celebration.

If you would like to join the Choir for this special service, rehearsals to prepare this music will start the week of November 2nd. You may attend either Monday (7pm - 8:30pm) or Wednesday (7:30pm-9pm) rehearsal as a seasonal singer. Please let our Director of Music Ministries, Jill Gardner, know if you would like to be a part of this Christmas Celebration.

We extend our sympathies to:

- Karen Davis upon the death of her father, Vonderyl Hall.
- Lanny Lancaster upon the death of his mother, Ellen Lancaster.
- The family & friends of Pat Turner, upon her death.

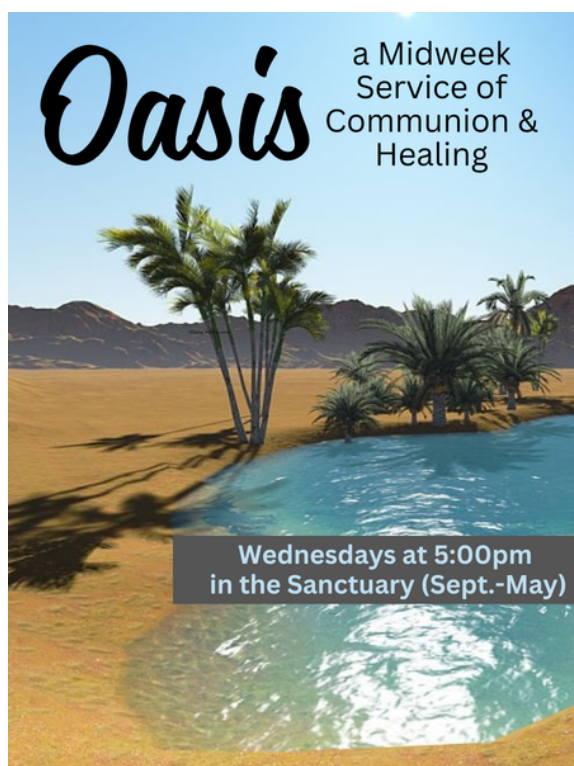
October Adult Mission Trip

On October 25-30, five members of Main Street UMC will be traveling to Western North Carolina to be the hands and feet of Christ continuing hurricane Helene relief in that area. Please keep them and the others they are joining in your prayers. If you have any questions about this mission opportunity or missed the sign-up deadline, please feel free to contact Ivan Johnson (ivan.in.nc@gmail.com) or Pastor Wayne (wayne.purdy@mainstreetumc.org).

Here are the highlights:

- DATES: October 25 - 30
- LOCATION: Swannanoa, NC
- ACTIVITY: Construction-related home repair and/or new build (details TBD)







Crisis Control
MINISTRY

A collection bin is at the Main Entrance to the Commons for Crisis Control donations. Any non-perishable food items are acceptable and appreciated!

Each month has an item to focus on and September's items are instant grits and oatmeal.

Our pumpkins will be arriving Saturday, **October 3** at 8:00 AM! We'll meet in the parking lot at 7:45 AM and could use lots of helping hands to unload the truck. Can't make it that early? No problem—come when you can! We especially need extra help toward the end of unloading the truck, so even if you can't arrive right at 8:00, we would LOVE to have you join us! Many hands make light work, and we're so excited to fill our patch with pumpkins! We also need help with volunteer shifts in the pumpkin patch throughout October. Contact Kellie Vinay at the preschool or Victoria Smathers at the church office for more information.

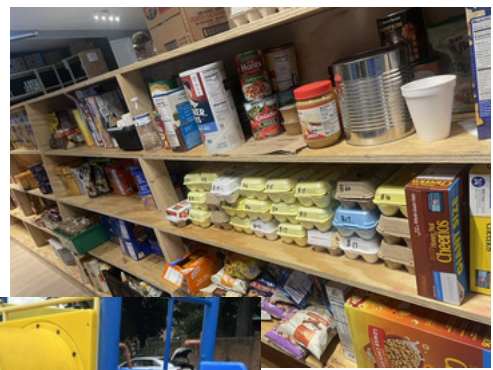




Service and Smiles

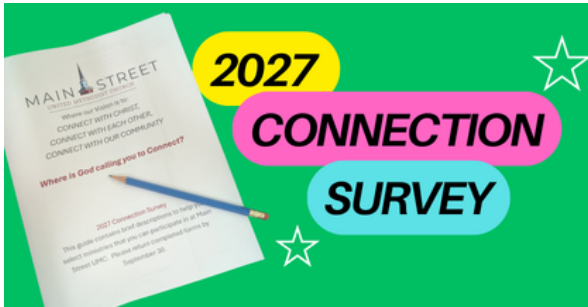
Thank you to everyone who participated in Hands Together, our churchwide day of service, on Sat. August 29.

- Almost 70 people served 12 organizations. In addition, dozens of people contributed old electronics to the Creation Care project, lasagna or desserts (mainly to the Shepherds Center project) and/or baby clothes to Room at the Inn.
- Special thanks to our team captains, Rich Blakemore our photographer, and to Beth Vaught and her team for the fancy breakfast before our communion and commitment service.
- By all reports, in addition to doing good, a good time was had by all.



Thank you to Ella and Savannah!

You may have noticed a couple of happy new faces around the Church Office over the summer. We have been blessed to have the assistance of two young ladies who have grown up in our church--Ella Vinay and Savannah Crew have been helping out with some of the receptionist duties and we are so grateful that they have shared their time with us! Ella was here this summer for a few weeks before she started her Senior year of high school and Savannah is here for a few weeks between graduating from nursing school and beginning her new job as a Registered Nurse.



Let us know how you would like to share your time and talents with Main Street UMC. Look in the Narthex and Commons for survey forms and an electronic version is also available at mainstreetumc.org under "signups" on the red stripe. Surveys are due by **September 30**.



Never Forget Veterans Ministry

We want to invite our church family to join us in honoring the military veterans in our congregation and community on **November 7** at noon, we will host a special fellowship luncheon / recognition service in the church's Fellowship Hall.

If you or a family member have served in the United States Armed Forces, we would love for you to join us so we can express our deepest gratitude for your sacrifice and dedication.

Please sign up by contacting the church office by **November 1** so we can prepare accordingly.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- September 20--NOW service in Chapel at 6:00pm
- October 3--pumpkins arrive at 8:00am!
- October 10--Really, Really Free Market
- October 18--Trunk or Treat, Hot Dogs, and NOW
- Oct. 25-30--Helene Rebuild Mission Trip
- November 7--Never Forget Veterans event
- November 19--Charge Conference
- November 20--annual *Kernersville Christmas Stocking Fund* concert in our Sanctuary at 7:00pm
- December 6--Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes due
- December 20--one combined service at 10:30am for "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Lessons & Carols service

KIDS CONNECT

October 2026



ELEMENTARY

This month, we want to equip kids to understand that no matter what they face, God is fighting with them and for them. Jesus wins! And in the end, everything will be made right, even if it's not our timeline. With this truth in mind, we can always find strength and courage in God! Our theme for the month helps kids discover THE SAFE PLACE: God is stronger than anyone or anything.

WHAT'S NEW?

Save the date! NOW in the
Patch & Trunk or Treat!
Oct. 18th



PRESCHOOL

We want preschoolers to know that our strength comes from God and that we can trust Him no matter what comes our way. So, let's pray for our preschoolers, that they will see both the power and love of God in these stories and that they will grow to trust that God's got it.



A Record of our Faithfulness

OUR PRESENCE:	8-23-2026	8-30-2026	9-6-2026	9-13-2026
Sunday School	117	101	85	103
8:30am In-Person Worship	69	80	64	69
8:45 Jubilee In-Person Worship	65	63	66	77
10:55am In-Person Worship	80	102	99	123
In-Person Worship Totals	214	245	229	269
8:45am Jubilee Live Stream Worship (<i>unique views</i>)	19	22	14	24
10:55am LiveStream Worship (<i>unique views</i>)	64	38	42	61
Total Live Stream Unique Views	83	60	56	85
Live Streaming Totals (<i>unique views x 1.8</i>)	149	108	101	153
Attendance Totals	363	353	330	422
OUR GIFTS as of:	8-23-2026	8-30-2026	9-6-2026	9-13-2026
Building Fund Weekly Contributions	2330	11,040	2180	1775
Weekly Contributions to Budget	18,509	21,045	6728	12,746
Budget Contributions YTD	571,261	592,306	599,035	611,781

Main Street Ministries as of August 31

Regular Giving \$ 588,486

Expenses \$ 676,723

Over/(Under) \$ (88,237)

Budget \$ 725,752

Building Fund as of August 31

Building Fund Giving \$ 92,007

Building Loan Payments \$ 96,000

Over/(Under) \$ (3,993)

Loan Balance \$ 1,121,777

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

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 in the Chapel
- Traditional Worship Service*: Sundays at 10:55am in the Sanctuary
- Oasis Mid-Week Service of Meditation: Wednesdays at 5:00pm (September-May)
- Night of Worship (NOW) service*: Third Sundays at 6:00pm in the Chapel

** childcare is provided at these services*

Main Street UMC Staff

Lanny Lancaster, Senior Pastor
Sarah McIntosh, Associate Pastor
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth Ministries
Victoria Smathers, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Jill Gardner, Director of Music Ministries
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director

Tina Crew, Business Manager
Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant

Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Dir.
Cynthia Barron, Kitchen Hostess
Anthony Simmonds, Custodian