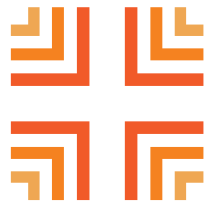


The Main Stream

October 20, 2026 – Volume 2026, Issue 10



Connect with Christ

Connect with Each Other

Connect with Our Community

Thank you for your financial commitment to Main Street United Methodist Church, sisters and brothers in Christ! Your faithful giving is not about meeting a budget. It is about fulfilling our Vision to Connect with Christ, Connect with Each Other, and Connect with our Community! Every single day, Main Street connects and transforms people's lives! As we give thanks for all that God has given us, we are invited to consecrate a portion of our income to our Lord through the Church for 2027. We celebrate the myriad of ways that God is fulfilling this vision through Main Street over the past year, including but not limited to:

- *Five different passionate worship services offered by our church, three each Sunday, one each Wednesday, and the NOW modern worship service offered each third Sunday of the month, reaching over 316 people for Christ each week*
- *Excellent online worship experiences that help people participate in our Passionate Worship Services with over 490 online visits per month*
- *Over 759 souls nurtured in 2025 through Sunday School Classes, Small Groups, and Bible Studies that make disciples of Jesus Christ*
- *A Christian Preschool that makes disciples of 82 children every week*
- *Feeding over 2495 people in 2025 through the ministries of Bethany Café, a free meal offered every third Saturday at Main Street*
- *Partnering with over 30 relief agencies in our community to assist those in need*
- *Raising over \$65,000 for direct relief of the victims of Hurricane Helene in 2024 & 2025*
- *112 Women and Men serving through United Women in Faith and United Methodist Men*

These are just a few of the wondrous ways Main Street United Methodist Church Connects to Makes Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World! As we reflect on the question: "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give to him through the Church?" Rev. Herb Miller offers some engaging thoughts: "Some people answer [this question] by saying, 'I feel God is calling me to give 10 percent of my income to the Lord's work. I have been thinking about tithing for several years, and I want to begin that spiritual journey this year.'

"Another kind of person responds to the question like this: 'Eventually, I want to begin tithing, but I am not ready to do that this year. I feel God is calling me to start somewhere—to drive my tent pegs in the ground at 5 percent or 6 percent or 4 percent—knowing that God will bless that decision by helping me to increase my giving in coming years.'"

Pastor Lanny's article is continued on the next page

continued from page 1

"A third kind of person has been tithing for many years. For example, one couple said years ago when they were just getting started, 'We'll tithe now; later we'll do more.' The years rolled by and now they say, 'Wow! Do we ever have more! So much more that we cannot fathom how we arrived at such a high annual income that 10 percent does not even come close to a sacrifice for us. We feel God is calling us to give 15 percent or 20 percent of our income for the Lord's work.'"[1]

Wherever you fall on the spectrum of what you feel Christ is calling you to give to God through Main Street United Methodist Church, know that Christ is with you on your stewardship journey. Christ is calling you to the joy of consecration, of making your life matter. In fact, as we grow in our giving, our thanksgiving, gratitude, and joy in Christ grows as well. May Christ guide you as you make this important spiritual decision for 2027.

Pastor Lanny

[1] Herb Miller, *New Consecration Sunday: Stewardship Program* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007), 44-45.

Sharing in Joy:

- Congratulations to Lanny & Janet Lancaster upon the marriage of their son and new daughter-in-law, Noah & Lindsay Lancaster.
- Congratulations to Celia M. Leal upon the birth of her new grandson, Crusoe Steven James Leal, son of Taylor & Sally Leal.
- Congratulations to Jacob Hanks and Weatherly Reeves on their marriage this past weekend.
- Congratulations to Ben Robertson and Scout McKinley on their marriage this past weekend.

Guest Preacher for Consecration Sunday

Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti, District Superintendent of the Yadkin Valley District in the Western NC Conference of the United Methodist Church



We are excited to welcome Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti to Main Street on November 22 as we celebrate Consecration Sunday at all three worship services. Rev. Dr. Mark Conforti is the Yadkin Valley District Superintendent. He and his wife, Mary Allen Conforti, have three children. Mark's ministry experience includes rural churches, being the associate pastor at a very large church, and leading a downtown "tall steeple" church. He holds degrees from the University of Florida, Duke Divinity School, and Wesley Theological Seminary. Mark has been an adjunct faculty member of Hood Theological Seminary, and teaches in Duke Divinity's Advanced Course of Study. His podcast, "Object Lesson," can be found online. Mark enjoys reading, watching sports, listening to music, and exploring new places. He seeks to bring to the District Superintendency a pastor's heart, a strategic mind, and a commitment to the connection of The United Methodist Church. Mark is passionate about the local church making disciples of Jesus Christ.



Join us in welcoming our recent new member, Anita Belcher!

CONSECRATION DINNER

**NOVEMBER 22 AT 5:00PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

CHURCHWIDE POTLUCK



What better way to celebrate Consecration Sunday, than to come together with our church family to share delicious food and fellowship?

Please plan to join us at our Consecration Dinner on **November 22** in the Fellowship Hall for a huge church family potluck meal to mark the culmination of our "Connect" stewardship campaign.

The Member Care Team will provide tea and lemonade, but we'll need a variety of main dishes, side dishes and desserts to make this a true potluck dinner. Please bring your food contributions to the JC Groce classroom (adjoining the Fellowship Hall) beginning at 5:00, and label any serving utensils you bring. The blessing will be in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30, and weather permitting, folks will be directed to enter through the outside doors near the library entrance to enter the classroom serving area. Don't miss this opportunity to share God's bountiful blessings, and your cooking talents, while catching up with your church family at 5:00 on November 22.

To help us better plan, please sign up by November 20 to let us know you plan to attend. Sign up at mainstreetumc.org and click "signups" on the red stripe.

In 1856, American scientist Eunice Newton Foote determined that CO₂ (carbon dioxide) was a greenhouse gas and that higher levels of CO₂ would warm Earth's atmosphere. In 1896, Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius predicted that continued burning of fossil fuels would increase levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere and cause global warming. Before the Industrial Revolution, the level of CO₂ was 280 ppm (parts per million). Recently, the CO₂ level measured at Mauna Loa Observatory was 425 ppm.

This past summer (June-August) was the hottest on record for the contiguous United States. July was the hottest month EVER recorded. August was the hottest August. Likewise, we witnessed record heat, fires, floods, droughts, even glacier collapse across the globe.

In early September, as reported by the Associated Press, the United Nations Environment Programme issued its climate report entitled "Limiting Overshoot." This document explained that the Earth would soon "exceed the safe temperature threshold agreed upon by the world in the 2015 Paris climate accord because of warming from the burning of coal, oil and gas...." The UN "acknowledged that Earth has lost its chance to prevent some of the worst of global warming's harms." UN Secretary-General Guterres said that "[h]umanity is speeding past the limit to avoid climate catastrophe."

Global heating is an existential threat to all aspects of our lives. Disbelief, denial, and failure to act will not be a rewarding path.

--submitted by John Stone



**For more
information and
to make a
reservation,
contact
Debbie Smith at
336-671-1215**

November 12 – Southern Supreme Fruitcake Factory shopping and lunch at Best Foods cafeteria. Van will leave the church at 10:00. We will eat lunch first and then go to the Fruitcake Factory. Deadline to sign up is November 9.

December 4 – Dinner at Cody Creek at 6:00. Van will leave the church at 4:30. Reservations are required. Deadline to sign up is December 1.

December 17 – Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater – "An Appalachian Christmas". This will be a magical Christmas story set in the mountains of the Appalachia with new and old songs, finishing with a breathtaking nativity scene. Cost is \$67 for the show and meal. The van will leave the church at 10 AM and we will eat lunch at 12 PM. The show should start at 1:00 or 1:30. Tickets will need to be purchased one month in advance and are nonrefundable. Reservations are required. Please let Debbie know if you are interested ASAP.



\$10 Poinsettia Orders due by November 29

As in years past, we will decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias. A poinsettia may be placed in the church in honor or memory of a friend or loved one.

These poinsettias can be ordered through the church office for \$10.00 each. Orders are due no later than **November 29**. You can write a note on an offering envelope and place your payment in the offering plate or bring your payment to the Church Office. If you would rather make a memorial donation instead of purchasing a poinsettia, there is also an option on the "sign up" to make an Honorarium/Memorial contribution to the Kernersville Christmas Stocking Fund. Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary and Chapel in early December and we will list the gifts (both poinsettias and stocking fund memorials) in the December 15 newsletter.

We extend our sympathies to:

- Mark Key upon the death of his mother, Faith Key.
- The family & friends of David McAdoo.
- Billie Cole upon the death of her husband, Chip Cole.
- Betsy Tang upon the death of her father, Hugh Cameron.
- Kim Bradfield and family upon the death of her mother, Carolyn Haiman.
- Tim Whitley upon the death of his father, Wayne Whitley.

THE UPPER ROOM

The new Upper Room devotional books for November/December have arrived!

Pick up your copy in the Sanctuary Narthex, at the "Member Pick-up Station" inside the Main Entrance to the Connections Building, or in the Chapel Narthex.



Everyone is invited to join us for the Older Adult Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on **November 5** at 11:45am for lunch and fellowship!

RSVP to Pat Knox (336-993-5413).



**November 19
at 7:00pm**

We will have our Church Council meeting and Charge Conference at a combined session on **November 19** at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. As is always the case, Charge Conference sessions are open meetings in The United Methodist Church. If you are not a member of our Church Council/Charge Conference, but wish to observe this Charge Conference session, please attend. However, only Church Council/Charge Conference members will be able to vote.



Our NOW service is held in the Chapel at 6:00pm on the third Sunday of each month. Join us on **November 15** for an uplifting message and dynamic music from the NOW Praise Band!



A New Face in the Church Office

Be sure to stop and introduce yourself to our newest staff member the next time you come by the Church Office!

We would like to welcome **Cynthia Weinstein** to our team as the Receptionist/Administrative Assistant. Cynthia is a wonderful addition to the church staff!

United Women in Faith **Frozen Casserole Pick-Up**



Pick-up your pre-ordered frozen casseroles from the United Women of Faith on **November 8** in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00am to 12:30pm. Bring cash or check (*written to United Women of Faith*) for the suggested donation of \$14 per small casserole and \$18 per large casserole.





BRING JOY TO A CHILD

**Pack a shoebox with toys,
school supplies, hygiene
items, and LOVE!
Deadline to return filled
boxes to MSUMC is
December 6**



Main Street UMC is participating in packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year! Grab a recycled shoebox and consider adding items such as coloring books, drawing and coloring supplies, stuffed animals, toys, school or craft supplies, yo-yos, hair accessories, hats, gloves, socks, puzzles, books and even hygiene items! Main Street will not be providing shoeboxes for packing this year (please use a recycled shoebox or a plastic shoebox-size bin), but the possibilities are still endless! Instructions for packing a shoebox can be found online at samaritanspurserg.org.

Join us on **December 6** at the 10:55 service where the boxes will be blessed and loaded up to deliver to the distribution center near Boone! We will be unable to accept any boxes after December 6 since the van will have already left for Boone.

Have fun shopping and packing the box while imagining the joy that this gift will bring to a child!



Our church decor could use a little bit of refreshing! If you have any seasonal home decor in good shape, please consider donating it to MSUMC for our "unofficial Church Decorator", Susan Furmage, to use around the church property. We are especially in need of small American flags for the cemetery, spring and summer arrangements.

Please contact Susan Furmage directly at 336-671-1244 to discuss your items.

Kitchen Hostess Job Opening

We are taking applications for a positive presence to fill the ministry of Main Street's Kitchen Hostess. Responsibilities would include the preparation of the Mid-Week Connect Meal and coordinating other church-sponsored meals plus general oversight and maintenance of the Kitchen.

If cooking for a crowd sounds like the ministry for you, please email Tina Crew (tina.crew@mainstreetumc.org) for more details.

WE'RE HIRING

Join the MSUMC staff



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.

- Oct. 21 Baked Pasta**
with Grose-Kirkman/Becoming serving
- Oct. 28 Baked Chicken**
with Cornerstone SS class serving
- Nov. 4 Chicken and Dirty Rice**
with Christian Fell/Rise/Genesis serving
- Nov. 11 Hamburger Steak**
with Great Expectations serving
- Nov. 18 Chicken Casserole**
with New Horizons 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 cynthia.weinstein@mainstreetumc.org

COLLECTION BOXES

are in the Main Entrance to the Commons for:

- **BOOKSAPALOOZA** – donate new or used books
- **HOPE CENTER** – donate empty egg cartons, clothing, groceries, housewares
- **CRISIS CONTROL** – donate non-perishable food, each month has an item to focus on; October's item is canned meats.
- **GOT SNEAKERS** – donate used sneakers to be repurposed.



- **November 2**--All Saints Sunday at all 3 services
- **November 7**--Never Forget Veterans luncheon at noon in the Fellowship Hall
- **November 19**--Charge Conference at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
- **November 20**--Annual Kernersville Stocking Fund Concert at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary
- **November 22**--Churchwide Consecration Potluck Dinner
- **December 6**--Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes due by NOON
- **December 20**--one combined service at 10:30am for "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Lessons & Carols service

From Disconnection to Connection

As I was trying to assimilate our new vision statement: **"Connect with Christ, Connect with Each Other, and Connect with our Community,"** I received an unexpected gift; a random "gift of kindness" from one of our church members who I barely knew. She might not have realized the impact this gift would have on my life.

Sometime ago as I was having my nails done, I looked across the salon and saw someone I seemed to recognize but could not place. A few days later while shopping at Michael's, I once again met her in one of the aisles and she made the comment that she had seen me at the salon and thought that she knew me but could not remember where she had seen me or met me. I responded that I too felt the same way and was clueless as to where we had met. Sometime later, our paths once again crossed, this time at the 10:55 service here at Main Street! It was then that we both realized that we **belonged** to the same church. As we talked, I admired her dress and was surprised to learn that she had made it herself.

At a later date, we again met before the worship service began and she handed me a bag and said, "I made this for you!" When I later opened the bag, I found an apron made from the same material that she had used to make her dress that I had admired. What a beautiful gift! I had read somewhere that the Biblical symbol of an apron represents humility and readiness to serve. The apron will always remind me of how Jesus took a towel, wrapped it around his waist, knelt down on his knees and washed the feet of his disciples. My new friend in Christ had just washed my feet and showed me what love looks like and what it means to serve others! This is what we all are called to do as we strive to strengthen our connections with Christ, each other, and community. So, here's to building a community where strangers become friends!



Jennifer Toffel & Cathy Ossif

Go and grow . . . Main Street UMC . . . Go and Glow!

---submitted by Cathy Ossif



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, when 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 **October 26** so we can prepare accordingly.

KIDS CONNECT

November 2025



ELEMENTARY

God View

The connection between truth and God's image, as shown through God's Big Story
Insight : Identity Based on God's Image
"I am created in the image of God and have unique potential and worth."

Application

Confidence: Living like you believe God is with you.

WHAT'S NEW?

Once a month, the Carol Choir will sing in worship. Kids will be invited to stay in service and enjoy the amazing music! Extra activities will be available on the kids packets. This is a great opportunity for parents to teach their kids about parts of the worship service!



Kids Connect



PRESCHOOL

Key Question

Who can thank God for everything?

Bottom Line

I can thank God for everything.

Basic Truth

God loves me,

A Record of our Faithfulness

OUR PRESENCE:	9-20-2026	9-27-2026	10-4-2026	10-11-2026	10-18-2026
Sunday School	102	103	107	93	95
8:30am In-Person Worship	82	108	85	68	75
8:45 Jubilee In-Person Worship	58	65	75	63	70
10:55am In-Person Worship	108	175	109	111	101
In-Person Worship Totals	248	348	269	242	246
8:45am Jubilee Live Stream Worship (<i>unique views</i>)	23	20	20	26	20
10:55am LiveStream Worship (<i>unique views</i>)	60	50	65	53	60
Total Live Stream Unique Views	83	70	85	79	80
Live Streaming Totals (<i>unique views x 1.8</i>)	149	126	153	142	144
Attendance Totals	397	474	422	384	390
OUR GIFTS as of:	9-20-2026	9-27-2026	10-4-2026	10-11-2026	10-18-2026
Building Fund Weekly Contributions	4540	2960	1045	2360	1460
Weekly Contributions to Budget	10,386	36,880	9296	9935	14,679
Budget Contributions YTD	622,168	659,048	668,344	678,279	692,958

Main Street Ministries as of Sept. 30

Regular Giving \$ 654,572
 Expenses \$ 751,764
 Over/(Under) \$ (97,192)
 Budget \$ 816,451

Building Fund as of Sept. 30

Building Fund Giving \$ 103,462
 Building Loan Payments \$ 108,000
 Over/(Under) \$ (4,538)
 Loan Balance \$ 1,114,014

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
Cynthia Weinstein, Admin. Assistant
Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Dir.

Anthony Simmonds, Custodian