

# JANUARY NEWSLETTER

## *From the Pastor's Desk*



Volume 24. Issue 1

January 1, 2021

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Happy New Year! If there is one thing that everyone can agree on, it's for 2021 to be a better year than last! The kids and I discussed on Zoom today that our God is all about doing something new. We looked at a lot of verses from the Holy Scriptures related to that, in particular Isaiah 43:19, which is translated in the New Living Translation, "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."

God has already been making a way for us as we travel through this pandemic. God has created rivers in the dry wasteland. Some of those rivers came in the form of stimulus checks and new vaccines. Some came as virtual worship and drive-through food distribution. Some came in the way of daily conference calls for prayer and sharing. Some came in cards, phone calls, emails, and text messages. God has made ways for us to stay connected; God has provided oases in the midst of the wasteland.

Our District Superintendent, Rev. David Christy, wrote a very eloquent note to the clergy regarding 2020, and I share parts of it here with you. He wrote: I think about Nathanael's question to Philip in John 1:46, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" It is almost as if the world is asking us, "Can anything good come out of 2020?" Like Philip, we can say, "Come and see." I thank God for Catawba Valley District and you all who serve so faithfully...because of you allowing God to work through you we can show the world that Jesus is alive, even in a pandemic and times of division!"

The District Superintendent continues: We can show the world creative ways churches have adapted to "online"; ways children have received school supplies; ways the hungry have been fed; ways the homeless have been cared for; ways we have continued to offer God's Grace and proclaim a Risen Savior! The Church has been the Church in the midst of a pandemic. Emmanuel – God with us – indeed!

We have indeed learned to do things in new ways, but only with God's grace, strength, and guidance. How exciting that God is already making a pathway for us through 2021. As we prepare to set goals for the church's new year, please be in continued prayer for an end to the pandemic, wisdom for the new church leadership, safety for us all, and for God's perfect will to be manifested in our planning, activities, and daily lives. Let us eagerly look forward to what God has already begun for 2021!

Grace and peace in the New Year,  
*Pastor April*

### Birthday And Anniversaries

- 1/01 Tom Wallrichs
- 1/02 Madeline Paige Sigmon
- 1/10 Samuel Cornwell
- 1/15 David Hallyburton
- 1/16 Susan Munday
- 1/19 Kyle Avery Drum
- 1/22 Lucas Rector
- 1/26 Tammy Havens
- 1/27 Jeannine W. Prichard
- 1/28 Mike Baumberger
- 1/30 Danna Hallyburton
- 1/30 Elizabeth Robbins

Anniversaries:

- 1/05 Richard & Amanda Icard
- 1/19 Bobby and Lili Ann Rector

## Wright's Food Pantry

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021

### 9 TILL NOON



### Ruth Bolick Scholarship Applications

STUDENTS! If you plan to apply for the Ruth Bolick Christian Scholarship, you can access the application and other requirements on the Community Foundation of Burke County's website, [www.cfburkecounty.org](http://www.cfburkecounty.org). Click on the scholarships tab to review the list of available scholarships, including the Ruth Bolick Christian Scholarship. Please note the application **deadline is March 1, 2021**. Get your materials in on time! If you need additional information regarding the application process, contact Nancy Taylor ([nwtaylor@cfburkecounty.org](mailto:nwtaylor@cfburkecounty.org) or 437-7105).

Join us for our evening prayer line by calling on your cell phone, or home phone with a long-distance plan. The number is **Dial-in number (US):** (425) 436-6349 and the **Access code:** 421493# If you are unable to join us, then please use the prayer list which is printed in this newsletter to pray at your convenience. Also, please contact the pastor by email, phone, or text if you have prayer requests or thanksgivings you would like to share with your church family. We would love to pray for you and with you.



Rev: 12/30/2020

Prayer List (please join us in praying for the following people and situations)

Deaths

Norma Lester  
 Marcia Sanza  
 Chris Padgett  
 Sandy Hallyburton  
 Esther Whisnant

Cancer

Robin Beaver  
 Stephanie Shuffler  
 Carolyn Annas  
 Karen Harris  
 Rosie Prince  
 Nancy Shuffler Hudson  
 Anthony Locke  
 Ann Berry

Medical or Surgical Journey

Kay Gouge  
 Caulder Keys  
 Linda Wilkinson  
 Debbie James  
 Bruce and Marcie Culbreth  
 Dick Bravard  
 Connie Humphries  
 Linda Brinkley  
 Dewey Fox  
 Mrs. Bill Eady  
 Ashley Maynor  
 Linda Durmire  
 Dale and Clara Glenn  
 Lili Ann Rector

COVID-19

Carolyn and Ivey Griffin  
 Nancy Holloway  
 Kathy Curtis  
 Mandy Lowman

Other

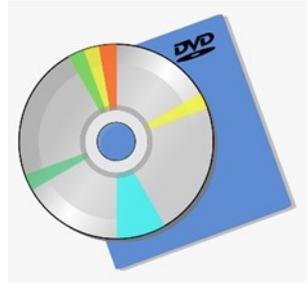
Barry Downer  
 David Pons  
 Homeless folks  
 Those with depression (holidays, pandemic, isolation)  
 Frontline workers  
 Pantry guests



## Worship DVDs

Would you like to watch our weekly worship services but do not have internet available to watch on Facebook or YouTube? We can now make DVDs of the worship services! If you have a DVD player, please contact the church office (828-879-8894) and request a worship DVD.

If you are unable to come by and pick up a copy, we will mail it to you.



## Staying Connected!!

Conference Call Prayer Line—every day at 7:15 p.m. (425-436-6349 code 421493#)



Adult Sunday School Lesson—every Sunday at 7:15 pm on Conf Call (see above info)



Zooming with Kids—every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. (call Pastor for contact information)

Weekly Virtual Worship - Worship is posted on Abernethy Memorial United Methodist Church Facebook Group and on YouTube [Pastor April AMUMC channel] every week so you can safely worship at home!

Don't forget to call, send cards, text, email, check on your pew buddies and others you've been missing.

## ANGEL MINISTRIES

2020 HAS BEEN DIFFICULT FOR EVERYONE. . . THINK ABOUT OUR SCHOOL STUDENTS, THEY WERE OUT OF SCHOOL FOR MANY MONTHS . . .

THEN BACK TWO DAYS A WEEK STARTING IN SEPTEMBER. WE HAVE BEEN AT WORK TRYING TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR OUR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

OUR ANGEL MINISTRIES HAS FILLED THE CLOTHING CLOSET AT HERITAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH NEEDED CLOTHING ITEMS AND AN ABUNDANT AMOUNT OF HYGIENE ITEMS. THESE ARE THE ITEMS REQUESTED BY THE SCHOOL COUNSELORS.

IN TALKING TO DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL, THEIR REQUEST WAS THAT WE HELP THOSE SEVEN (7) STUDENTS WHO CARRY FOOD HOME EVERY WEEK FROM SCHOOL TO HELP FEED THEIR FAMILY. WE HAVE DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB TO SHOW THESE SEVEN STUDENTS OUR CHURCH CARES. . . THEY EACH RECEIVED A QUALITY PAIR OF SHOES, SOCKS, UNDERWEAR, HYGIENE PRODUCTS, CANDY, ETC ALONG WITH GIFT CARDS FROM McDONALDS, DOMINOS PIZZA AND A \$75. GIFT CARD FROM WALMART FOR THEIR PERSONAL SHOPPING. THIS IS A CHRISTMAS THESE STUDENTS WILL NOT FORGET.

MAY THEY ALWAYS REMEMBER THE PEOPLE OF ABERNETHY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, THAT ROCK CHURCH OVER THERE ON MALCOLM BLVD, WELL THEY CARED ABOUT ME WHEN I NEEDED THEM.

WE HAVE PURCHASED CHRISTMAS FOR SEVERAL CHILDREN IN THE PANTRY FAMILIES WHICH ARE IN NEED ALSO.

TO EACH OF YOU WHO HAVE MADE PURCHASES FOR THESE STUDENTS, OR HAVE MADE DONATIONS TO OUR ANGEL MINISTRIES FUND, MAY YOU FEEL THE TRUE JOY OF CHRISTMAS GIVING. THESE ARE THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE RARELY REMEMBERED.

OUR ANGEL MINISTRIES IS OPEN FOR DONATIONS ALL YEAR. WHEN THERE IS A NEED WE ARE HERE TO ANSWER.

JOAN BENFIELD

# Abernethy Memorial 2021 Officers

The purpose of AMUMC is to welcome all people to a safe community where we worship God, grow disciples for Christ, and share God's unconditional love through outreach.

## Administrative Council

Chairperson	Melinda Wallrichs (23)
Vice Chairperson	Ed Whisenant (23)
Lay Leader	Jessica Sanchez (23)
Annual Conference Delegate	Mike Baumberger (22)
Trustee Chair	Darel Malcolm (23)
Finance Chair	Marty O'Toole (22)
SPRC Chair	Cathy Doolos (21)
Nurture Chair	Jeana Whisenant (23)
Outreach Chair	Jane Jensen (21)
Worship Chairs	Judy Wishert (21) Gaynell Donnelly (21)
UMW President	Barbara Barnhardt
UMM President	TBD
Membership Secretary	Zachary Cagle
Recording Secretary	Carol Malcolm (23)
Financial Secretary	Clara Glenn (23)
Pastor	April Abernethy
Treasurer (without vote)	Marie Lowdermilk

## Administrative Committees

### Nominating Committee

Chair: Rev. April Abernethy  
Melinda Wallrichs (21)  
Carolyn Martin (21)  
Kim Drum (22)  
Gary Donnelly (22)  
Lillian Coffey (23)  
Carol Ribet (23)  
Rev. April Abernethy, Pastor  
Jessica Sanchez, Lay Leader (23)

### PPR Committee

Chair: Cathy Doolos (21)  
Kim Drum (21)  
Cathy Robinson (22)  
Ivy Beth Skeen (22)  
Dale Glenn (23)  
Rev. April Abernethy, Pastor  
Jessica Sanchez, Lay Leader (23)  
Mike Baumberger, Conference Delegate (22)

### Finance Committee

Chair: Marty O'Toole (22)  
Judy Wishert (23)  
Rev. April Abernethy, Pastor  
Marie Lowdermilk, Treasurer  
Clara Glenn, Financial Secretary  
Jessica Sanchez, Lay Leader  
Mike Baumberger, Annual Conference Delegate  
Melinda Wallrichs, Administrative Council Chair  
Cathy Doolos, PPR Chair  
Darel Malcolm, Trustee Chair

### Trustees

Chair: Darel Malcolm (heating/cooling, 23)  
Vice-Chair: Jamie Donnelly (church building, 21)  
Secretary: Amanda Icard (columbarium, 21)  
Barbara Barnhardt (scout hut, 21)  
John Abernethy (cemetery/grounds, 22)  
John Sherrill (general, 22)  
Mark Drum (electrical/plumbing, 23)  
Larry Baker (bus, 23)

## Ministry Committees

### Worship Committee

Purpose: To ensure that people have meaningful and excellent worship experiences; responsible for having everything ready for worship on Sunday mornings (and other special worship events).

**Co-Chairs:** Judy Wishert (21) Gaynell Donnelly (21)

**Committee Members:** Mike Baumberger, Barbara Barnhardt, Lillian Coffey, Carol Malcolm

**Pastor:** Rev. April Abernethy

**Choir Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pianist/Organist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lay Leader:** Jessica Sanchez

**Special Area Coordinators:**

**Acolyte:** Judy Wishert/Gaynell Donnelly

**Lay Reader:** Rosie Prince

**Communion Stewards:** Kim and Mark Drum

**Ushers:** Dale Glenn and Richard Wagoner

**Children's Choir:** Tuesday Sigmon

**Children's Worship:** Jessica Sanchez

**Worship Technology:** Yates Jensen

### Nurture Committee (Growing Disciples)

Purpose: to care for the spiritual (and other) needs of all members, ensuring that they feel included, loved, and vital to the church; to provide opportunities for fellowship and spiritual formation. Includes special events, senior adults, youth, children, visitation, small groups, Sunday School.

**Chair:** Jeana Whisenant

**Special Area Coordinators:**

**Special Events:** Merri Rudisill (Homecoming, XYZ, fellowship meals, Thanksgiving, etc.)

**Visitation (of members):** Larry and Mary Baker

**Senior Adult Ministry:** Larry and Mary Baker (activities, visiting shut-ins, nursing home)

**Youth Ministry:** Pastor April, Mike Baumberger

**Children's Ministry:** Jessica Sanchez

**Prayer Ministry:** Jessica Sanchez

**Lay Shepherd:** Nelda Goodman

**Discipling Ministry:** Jeana Whisenant (Sunday School, Small Group Studies, Training Classes)

### Outreach Committee (Sharing God's Unconditional Love)

Purpose: to reach outside the church to the community and beyond; ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy (being the hands and feet of Christ); Christian unity; Christian Witness; missions

**Chair:** Jane Jensen

**Special Area Coordinators:**

**Pantry:** Joan Benfield, Jane Jensen

**Missional Activities:** Gaynell Donnelly (Missional Net work, disaster relief, shoeboxes, etc.)

**School Liaison:** Joan Benfield

**Hospitality:** Clara Glenn (greeters/welcoming, guest care, church promotion, follow-up)

**Special Events:** Becca Stephens (parade, festivals, back to school bash, etc.)

### Children's Ministry Committee

Purpose: to ensure that the children have opportunities to grow in their faith and to build Christian character and friendships.

**Chair:** Jessica Sanchez

**Committee Members:** Becca Stephens, Jessica Sanchez, Tuesday Sigmon, Tammy Jensen,

**Pastor:** April Abernethy

### Ruth Bolick Scholarship Committee

Purpose: to select and award students the Ruth Bolick Scholarships

**Chair:** Melinda Wallrichs (21)

**Committee Members:** Lillian Coffey, Amanda Icard, Tuesday Sigmon, Kim Drum, Yates Jensen

**Pastor:** Rev. April Abernethy **Lay Leader:** Jessica Sanchez

### Parsonage Committee

**Chair:** Carolyn Martin (22)

**Committee Members:** Amanda Icard, Tammy Jensen, Mary Baker, Carolyn Martin

**Pastor:** Rev. April Abernethy

**Trustee Chair:** Darel Malcolm

**Lay Leader:** Jessica Sanchez

### Cemetery Committee

(responsibilities now fall under trustees with John Abernethy as contact person)

### Columbarium Committee

**Chair:** Amanda Icard

**Committee Members:** Richard Icard, Bob Rector, Jennifer Abernethy, Bruce Abernethy, Mark Drum, Zachary Cagle, Nelda Goodman

**Lay Leader:** Jessica Sanchez

**Trustee Chair:** Darel Malcolm

**Pastor:** Rev. April Abernethy

**Administrative Council Chair:** Melinda Wallrichs

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING AND PLANNING SESSION**

The Administrative Council will have a zoom meeting on Sunday, January 17, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be the annual training and planning session for 2021. We will evaluate our mission and purpose statements, make adjustments as needed, and set goals for the coming year. All members of the Administrative Council are required to attend this vital meeting. If you are not able to attend, please have a representative from your ministry area attend in your place and let Pastor April know who will be attending. Thank you in advance for attending this very important meeting as we venture into 2021!



## **Winter Leadership Training** *Webinars Series* January 10-14, 2021



 **Western North Carolina Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

Like most events during the pandemic, our District Winter Leadership Training Events will look a little different for 2021. Rather than hosting in-person events in each district, we will offer a series of Conference-wide training webinars during the week of January 10-14 to resource and equip all areas of your Church leadership.

Jason Moore of Midnight Oil Productions will lead the keynote webinar to launch the series on “Telling the Old Story in a New Time.” Other topics will include: Financial Faithfulness in Un-

certain Times, The Ministry of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Evangelism During A Pandemic, Leadership During a Pandemic for Church Councils, Racial Equity and Justice, Courageous Conversations, and much more.

For more information and to register, visit the following link

<https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/winter-leadership-training-webinar-series-14811696>

On our Zoom meeting, the kids (Bobby, Annelise, Madeline, Harrison) were asked to write a poem about the New Year. They were challenged to use words that rhyme with NEW. Enjoy!

NEW Year Poem for 2021

We are so glad that 2020 is through  
And we can start anew  
2020 left us blue  
We didn't know what to do  
We didn't even have a clue  
We had each other to get us through  
We met each week on Zoom  
We missed sitting with friends on the church pew  
And being in Sunday School too  
We felt like animals in a zoo  
While trapped in our houses with nothing to do  
The coronavirus grew and grew  
While the year flew and flew  
We were in a stew  
And certainly due  
For some relief—it's true  
We can't wait to see you  
When we're back in the pew  
Remember this whatever you do  
God is making all things new!

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR



ABERNETHY MEMORIAL  
UMC

Primary Business Address  
PO Box 127  
960 Malcolm Blvd  
Rutherford College, NC 28671

Phone: 828-879-8894  
Fax: 828-879-6141  
Church E-mail:  
amumc@abernethymemorialumc.org  
Pastor E-mail: abernethy1@gmail.com

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.ABERNETHYMEMORIALUMC.ORG](http://WWW.ABERNETHYMEMORIALUMC.ORG)

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*The purpose of AMUMC is to welcome all people to a safe community where we worship God, grow disciples for Christ, and share God's unconditional love.*



*Pastor April and John would like to thank everyone for the many Christmas cards and gifts! Your love and support continue to bless us. We look forward to beginning a new year in ministry with you.*

*Grace, peace, and lots of love in 2021!*

Special Notes of Appreciation

Thank you to all who helped make our Advent and Christmas season special, even though it was much different from usual. The familiar decorations in the sanctuary brought a sense of normalcy—the Chrismon Tree, the Advent Wreath, the poinsettias, and candles. Thank you to the worship committee—especially Gaynell Donnelly and Judy Wishert. Thank you to Jamie for keeping the poinsettias watered and the sanctuary clean and sanitized.

The Christmas Eve Worship was a blessing! While we normally experience a packed house on Christmas Eve, this year we worshiped at home, yet experienced the same peace and presence of the Christ Child.

Thank you to all who had a part in contributing to the worship video. What a blessing to have baby Krew and his parents to portray the Holy Family! The vocalists and musicians did an awesome job, and the narration was wonderfully performed. Thanks to our children and youth for participating (and to their parents for encouraging and recording them). Lacey Malcolm blessed us again with her sacred dance. And of course, Jesus Christ was present in the holy sacrament of Communion. The virus may have kept us from gathering in the sanctuary, but nothing can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ!

Thanks be to God!