

July 2023

The Fisher

Winters Chapel United Methodist Church ~ 5105 Winters Chapel Road Atlanta GA 30360 ~ 770-396-4550

Celebrating Our Freedom

By Pastor Steve Ring

“You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don’t let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love.” Galatians 5:13

Summer is officially here. If you have any question about the changing of the season, just spend some time outside. Any skepticism about it being summer will quickly evaporate in the 90 plus degree heat. Soon our neighborhoods and backyards will be full of laughter and smoke from cookouts. Boats will be covering the surface of our lakes and the interstates in Atlanta will be packed with vacationers making their way to the beaches and mountains. Of course, the peak of the summer activities will take place on the 4th of July weekend. All of the weekend festivities seem to overshadow the reason for the weekend. Think about it for a second. How often do we even say Independence Day? Most of us just say 4th of July. By not saying Independence Day, we lose the meaning of the day, and most importantly why we are celebrating. It commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. It was a bold statement and a move towards freedom from the British Empire.

The Colonists were looking for freedom from an oppressive government. They wanted to live unbound by the restraints placed upon them by the King of England. They committed their lives to living for freedom and were willing to give their lives to the idea of liberty. The appreciation of independence has escaped us in 2023. Unfortunately, I think it has pervaded our faith as well.

We forget to celebrate and appreciate that Jesus died for us to provide us freedom from our lives of sin and death. Jesus Christ has freed us from the bondage of the things of this world. Paul writes in **Galatians 5:13**, “You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don’t let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love.” We are no longer slaves to sin. Since our spirits have been freed, we no longer need to be drawn to the indulgences of this world that appeal to the flesh. Our desires should not be for money, power, or sex. Our desires should be to be more like Christ in all that we do. In fact, our spirits are called to pursue love in Christ. Paul writes in **Romans 6:18**, “You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”

Another aspect of our freedom that we must remember is that we should not live in fear. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ provides us the hope and promise of eternal life when we declare Jesus as our Lord and Savior. If eternal life with God is the end result of this life, what should we fear? Our pursuit should be to share love, not hate. Instead of divisiveness, we should seek togetherness. Instead of worry, we replace it with prayer. We have one day a year on July 4th to remember our freedom as citizens. As Christians, we are given the chance every Sunday to celebrate our freedom in Christ. However, if we are striving to be more Christlike and sharing the love that Christ offers us, then we should be exercising our freedom daily.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve



INDEPENDENCE DAY

Children & Youth Ministry

Enjoy July 4th Fireworks With Your Family

From Lake Lanier to Six Flags . . .to Stone Mountain and Savannah, there will be fireworks events to celebrate our nation’s birthday around Atlanta and across Georgia.

Here are a few options that we found to enjoy with your family nearby:

Host: Norcross -Red, White & Boom!

Date: Monday, 7/3/2023

Time: 5:00—10:00 PM

Location: Lillian Webb Park

Details: DJ Performance begins at 5:30 pm; Fireworks follow. At 9:30 pm.

Host: Stone Mountain Park's Fantastic Fourth Celebration

Date: 7/1-5/2023 Time: 9:30 PM

Location: Stone Mountain Park

Admission: \$20; Reservations required



Upcoming Events:

⇒ **Sunday, August 6th - Homecoming Sunday:**
11:00 Worship with Luncheon to follow



Winters Chapel UMC Preschool

Summer Camp is underway! We are enjoying so many activities; please consider joining us in July!

Are you considering Preschool for your little one for the **2023/2024 school year**? WCUMC Preschool, a NGUMC School of Excellence for over 40 years, still has a few openings for Fall Preschool. Call Beth Newton, Preschool Director @ 770-393-3478 to schedule a tour or email us at: beth@winterschapel.org.

Winters Chapel Preschool is also seeking **(2) Assistant Teachers** for the fall. Please contact the Preschool (770-393-3478) for more information.





By my Prayers . . .

As a member of Winters Chapel, I will faithfully participate in its ministries . . .

Our deepest sympathies are extended to:

~ The family of **Joan Vining** on her passing **Friday, June 9th**. Joan was a member of **Winters Chapel United Methodist Church** for 86 years and served the Lord faithfully during her time here. Her funeral service was held at Crowell Brothers in Peachtree Corners on **Monday, June 12th** followed by a graveside service held at Winters Chapel UMC.



- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Charles Araiza | Sam & Linda Honeycutt | Tracy & Lisa Stone |
| Chris Ashton | Odetta Hunter | The Family of Joan Vining |
| Rev. Dr. Danny Barton | Jeff Kline | Barbara Waits |
| Beth Bradley | Betty Lancaster | Janice Whitehead |
| Kenneth & Brenda Burton | Thomas McCraw | |
| Bobby Fain & Family | Joy & Eddie McCrory | |
| John Hartman | John Noonan | |
| Rin Hartman | Corie Petty | |
| | Mary Ellen Ray | |

The prayer list is updated each month. Please send your prayer requests to the church office.



(The Month of June)

By my Presence . . .

Sunday School: 3 (5/28); 4 (6/4); 4 (6/11); 5 (6/18); 3 (6/25)

11 am Worship: 20 (5/28); 28 (6/4); 21 (6/11); 18 (6/18); 23 (6/25)

By my Gifts. . .

\$1,095 (5/28); \$5,780 (6/4); \$320 (6/11); \$2,246 (6/18); \$2,105 (6/25)

By my Service . . .

- Altar Guild: Gail Granberry
- Audio: *Thank you to our audio volunteers throughout the year*
- Counters: *Thank you to our counter volunteers throughout the year*
- Greeters: *Thank you to our greeter volunteers throughout the year*
- Lay Leaders: Tim Brown, Harriet Chapman, Kathy Honeycutt, Judy Woodall
- Music: Misha Stefanuk, Organist in Residence, Director of Music
- Ushers: Steve Lackland, Ronnie Letson





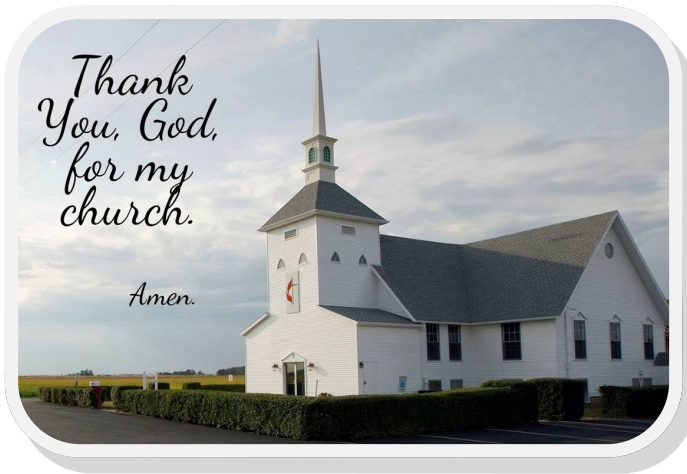
The UMW are Hosting a Baby Shower! Saturday, July 15th

The United Methodist Women are hosting a Baby Shower for **Katie McKinzie**, (daughter of **Pastor Steve and Jennifer Ring**) on **Saturday, July 15th at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

All ladies of the church are invited to join us! For those who need gift ideas: Katie has a baby registry at Target.



Get Them Talking: Our Church



Get Them Talking is a series of resources from the UMC to help families start conversations about issues of faith. This month, we are thanking God for our church and the connection we feel with one another.

Scripture:

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you.” **Matthew 28:19-20a**

Reflection:

When we are growing up, it is important to learn to do things for ourselves - like tie our shoes. Other activities are impossible to do alone, so we join teams, choirs, companies, and churches to be able to enjoy and accomplish things we can’t do by ourselves. Being part of a local United Methodist congregation connects you with a global denomination. Together we share Jesus with the world by building churches, supporting missionaries, helping victims of disasters, standing up for justice, sharing lifesaving medical treatments, and more. Together we participate in God’s work all around the world.

Get Them Talking:

What is something you can do by yourself? What is something you can’t do alone? Name something that is more fun to do as a family than it is to do alone. How does being part of a church connect you with others? What are some ways your church is in ministry around the world?

Prayer:

Thank you God for my church. Amen.

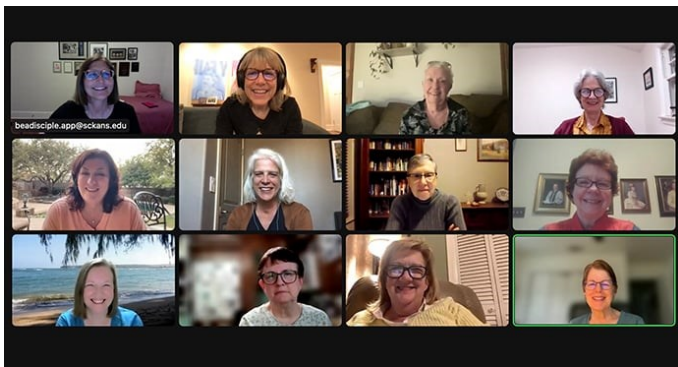
Activity:

Learn about your congregation. Find out about its formation and some previous pastors. Ask about the important work your church does around the world. Do you support a missionary? Talk to a longtime member about their memories of your church.



Disciple Bible Study Goes Digital

For years, Beth Ludlum wanted to join a **Disciple Bible Study** group, but couldn't make it work because she travels frequently for her job as vice president of strategic initiatives at Wesley Theological Seminary. She found a solution: the new [BeADisciple Study App](#). Not only could Ludlum complete the daily readings on her smartphone without lugging around a manual and a Bible when she traveled, she also could attend weekly meetings from the road. Disciple Bible Study has drawn more than 3 million participants since its initial release in 1987. Following Disciple's traditional format, participants join small groups of 8 to 16 people for Bible reading, commentary and video presentations from scholars, as well as shared reflection and prayer. With the app, participants can now access the materials - lessons, commentary, video presentations and the Scripture reading — from their smartphones, or computers. Users read the commentary and Scripture on the app via text or audio, allowing them to complete daily assignments and answer study questions via text or voice-to-text options. The entire text of the Common English Bible is embedded in the app. Groups meet once/week for 24 weeks via an embedded Zoom feature, which eliminates the need to create a Zoom link or find a passcode to join the Zoom. Groups may also opt to meet in person, with participants using the app to complete their homework. During the week, group members stay in constant connection by sharing ideas, photos and videos via the app's private message board, as well as prayers via a private prayer-request board. The option of virtual meetings means that people who might otherwise drift from a congregation - snowbirds, new parents, those who are homebound or who move to another city - can participate. *"Here's a wonderful chance for people in different locations to stay connected,"* said retired Bishop John Hopkins. *"You may have a daughter in college who'd love to be in the church's Disciple Bible Study, and now she can be."*



Beginning Aug. 1, a beta version will be available on the App Store or the Google Play Store for download via smartphone, tablet or computer. The app is free, but participants must purchase their selected course(s). As early adopters, users of the beta version will be surveyed two to four times during the course for feedback, enabling developers to continue to refine the app. The institute hopes to recruit at least 500 groups for fall classes.

To learn more, visit: <https://beadiscipleapp.com/>



Update from the NGUMC 2023 Annual Conference

The 2023 North Georgia Annual Conference opened on Thursday, June 1st and was anchored by three worship services: The Service of Remembrance; The Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination; and The Closing Service of Word and Table & Fixing of the Appointments. Bishop Robin Dease called to order the 157th session of the North Georgia Conference and over the next three days, the delegation heard business reports and took action. The North Georgia Conference board of trustees announced June 2nd that it officially lifted the pause on churches going through the disaffiliation process. NGUMC plans to hold a special session Nov. 18 to vote on disaffiliation requests. North Georgia United Methodists were then introduced to the **Lighthouse Church initiative**. Lighthouse churches are United Methodist congregations devoted to Christian hospitality, and the welcome and care of people who've been displaced from their church home by disruption, disaffiliation, or closure. A Lighthouse designation signals that a congregation is committed to a unifying missional focus of welcoming and caring for people who have been through crisis and/or carry church hurt.



You can find a full summary of the accomplishments of the 2023 North Georgia Annual Conference at this link: <https://www.ngumc.org/newsdetail/2023-north-georgia-conference-wrap-up-and-report-17451965>

Men's Breakfast Saturday, July 29th 9:00 am-10:00 am

The Winters Chapel United Methodist Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday July 29th. Breakfast will be at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall and then we'll tackle work projects at the church.

Look for more details in a few weeks!



Church Work Day

Saturday, July 29th 10:00 am

Our men's fellowship will be sponsoring a church work day on: Saturday, July 29th @ 10:00 a.m.

We hope to have all hands on deck so that we can have things looking really good to welcome our Homecoming guests on August 6th. The UMM are working to come up with a few work projects for the day.

Look for more details to come in our worship service, in the church bulletin and in The Front Porch email news.



Goodbye and Thank You

From: Peggy Bynum, Winters Chapel UMC Administrative Assistant

It is with a heavy heart that I am resigning my position here at Winters Chapel UMC. **Thursday, June 29th** will be my last day. This job has greatly blessed me in my "semi-retirement" these last 8 years. I am now entering a new season of my life as my husband and I have been actively discussing our retirement plans for a while. We want to travel more frequently and that is not possible with this position. Also, I have found an organization that matches marketing professionals who want to donate their time with non-profit businesses who need their skills. I am excited about embarking on this new phase of my life where I can use my marketing skills to help others in need in such a significant way while also affording me the flexibility I need for retirement. I am very grateful for the wonderful experiences I have had at Winters Chapel UMC over the years. It was especially gratifying to be trusted to help so many food pantry families, most notably during COVID.

I hope that I made a positive difference for this church in some small way. I will always hold special memories of the love and generosity so many of you have shared with me over the years. Thank you for everything.

Blessings to all, Peggy



Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, August 6, 2023

We hope to see all of the 'family' back for a special worship service on Homecoming Sunday, August 6th. Following the 11:00 worship service, we would like to invite everyone to stay and share in a covered dish lunch. The church will supply the main course of fried chicken and we ask that everyone bring a side dish to share if they are able. In addition to our lunch, we will celebrate our July, August and September birthdays.

Please assist us in planning by calling (770-396-4550) or emailing (info@winterschapel.org) the church office to RSVP by Wednesday, August 2nd. *Hope to see you soon! Thank you!*



A Prayer for the 4th of July

Ministry Matters™ was launched in 2011 by The United Methodist Publishing House, based in Nashville, Tennessee. This prayer for the 4th of July comes to us courtesy of MM:

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. —Joshua 1:7

“For our country, O God, I am so thankful. For our immigrant ancestors who came here across an ocean that seemed so wide; for their years of struggle against obstacles that I have never faced; for the sacrifices of others who built our country and defended it against all the things that would go wrong; for opportunities in my own lifetime to do something that would really make a difference; for a place in which to raise a family, to seek to do well in my job, to worship you in freedom, and to cherish the hopes and dreams for the years ahead—I am, O God, deeply thankful.”

www.ministrymatters.com/library/#/moments/3a170910069238513bc8e0b822362265/the-fourth-of-july.html

DUMC 2023 Foodstock

Dunwoody United Methodist Church, in partnership with Rise Against Hunger, brings together community volunteers each year to assemble dehydrated meals for children in need across the globe.

The next Foodstock will take place on **Saturday, August 19, 2023**. Go to: <https://www.dunwoodyumc.org/foodstock/> for more information and how to volunteer.



Meet to Eat

Tues, July 11th @ 6:00 pm

The Women of Faith will “Meet to Eat” during the summer months!

Our next meeting will be at the “**Eating Americana**” restaurant in Norcross on Tuesday, July 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Please join us!

And we look forward to launching a new year for our United Women in Faith with you this Fall.

Scholarship Applications for 2023-2024 Academic Year

The scholarship applications are now available. Applications will be accepted until **July 21st** after which time the Scholarship Committee will review the applicants and decide on this year’s recipients to be recommended to the Scholarship Committee for approval and award.

Awards will be made in August!



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, July 30th @ 11:00 Worship

On Sunday, July 30th, we will host our “blessing of the backpacks” during the 11:00 worship service. As the school year begins this week, we will be resuming our “Backpack Buddies” ministry on Wednesdays. We will say blessings for our students, teachers, and administrators for the upcoming 2023-24 school year.

Please join us as we start the school year off with prayer and praise!

Month-at-a-Glance

JULY

Sunday Worship Times: 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12-2: Glaze Party Fellowship Hall
2 11:00 Worship	3 Church office is closed	4 HOLIDAY Happy 4th of July! Church office is closed	5	6	7	8
9 11:00 Worship	10	11 6:00—Women of Faith “Meet to Eat”	12	13	14	15 11:00 Katie’s Baby Shower Fellowship Hall
16 11:00 Worship	17	18	19	20	21 Deadline for Scholarship applications	22
23 11:00 Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29 9:00 Men’s Breakfast 10:00 Work Day
30 11:00 Worship Blessing of the Back- packs	31					

Happy, Happy Birthday to You!



July 4 Michael Stefanuk
 July 7 Jim Bishop
 July 8 Macy Ring
 July 9 Megan Danielson
 July 9 Robert Danielson
 July 17 Sara Williams

July 25 Nita Nash
 July 28 Matthew Albitz
 July 29 Don Dixon

If we are missing your birthday, please let the church office know by emailing info@winterschapel.org



You can reach us . . .

Winters Chapel United Methodist Church Staff

Steve Ring, Pastor
 Misha Stefanuk, Organist in Residence, Director of Music
 Linda Barrett, Bookkeeper
 Beth Newton, Preschool Director

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