



WASHINGTON COOPERATIVE PARISH

July/August 2025 **Bi-Monthly Newsletter**



Epworth United Methodist Church

60 Merriman Way Road
Moneta, VA 24121
540-721-4926

<https://epworthumcmoneta.org>

Sunday Worship—9:30 a.m.
Livestream also on Facebook:

click link:



Halesford United Methodist Church

1601 Lakewood Forest Road
Moneta, VA 24121
540-520-7875

<https://www.halesfordumc.com>

Sunday Worship—11 a.m.
Livestream also on Facebook:

click link:



Go green! If you would like to subscribe to a full color electronic copy of your monthly newsletter (instead of paper) please email Cindy Lollar - clollar65@gmail.com

Design Team: Teresa Edwards, Kaye Hancock, Betty Johnson, Cindy Lollar



"Deep Reflection into Psalm 23"

To all who are in Christ Jesus,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that you and your families are well and that this correspondence finds you in perfect peace.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want..."

These familiar words from Psalm 23 have comforted hearts for generations. In just six verses, David paints a portrait of deep trust in God's provision, protection, and presence.

As your pastor, I invite you to slow down and reflect on each line of this beloved psalm. In times of uncertainty, we are reminded that God is not distant, He is our Shepherd, intimately aware of our needs and lovingly guiding us through both green pastures and dark valleys.

"He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters."

God doesn't just lead us to busy tasks; He also leads us to rest. In a world of constant motion, the Shepherd reminds us to pause, to breathe, and to be renewed.

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil..."

The valley is real—but so is His presence. We are never alone, even in our darkest moments. His rod and His staff are symbols not of punishment, but of guidance and comfort.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life..."

God's blessings are not fleeting. His goodness pursues us, even when we're too tired to notice. And His mercy picks us up when we fall short.

This week, whether you are resting in green pastures or walking through a valley, remember: The Shepherd is near. Let Psalm 23 remind you that your life is held in the hands of a faithful, loving God.

Let us continue to work toward ministries of excellence as we make disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Jeff

IT'S BACK!!!

“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.” Acts 2:46

For many years prior to the Pandemic, Epworth was known as the Little White Church on the Hill—Home of the Community Breakfast. The first Saturday of the month, the community was invited to come to Epworth for a buffet breakfast. There was no specific charge for the meal, but attendees were encouraged to give a free will offering. Anything collected was used to cover expenses and any money left over went to the designated charity for that month. It was a great way to meet people in the community—and a wonderful way to feed a houseful of weekend guests!!!

We all know what the pandemic did to community gatherings. And when the “all clear” sounded, we were leery of getting back into it—it is a lot of work. Luckily, we have extensive notes, instructions and recipes from the founder of the breakfast, Tina Rex, so we have a road map to follow. But why should we bother?

This verse from Acts illustrates the early Christian community’s commitment to fellowship through shared meals. Breaking bread together signifies unity and mutual support. Their glad and sincere hearts show that fellowship is about more than food—it’s about shared joy, hospitality, and a sense of belonging in the body of Christ.

So, what can we learn from examples of hospitality in the Bible? First and foremost, we can see the value of welcoming strangers and treating them with kindness. Extending hospitality to others can help break down barriers and create a sense of unity in a world that often feels divided and polarized.

Second, we can see the importance of sharing food and fellowship. Eating together is a powerful way to build relationships and create community. It allows us to connect with others deeper and share in each other’s joys and struggles. As Christians, we gather together to eat, both with people we know and people we don’t know, because Jesus did. If you read through any of the Gospels, you will find [Jesus eating](#) with all kinds of people, in all kinds of situations. Jesus [eats in homes](#), Jesus [eats with crowds](#), and [Jesus eats with his close friends](#).

In all of those situations, Jesus is sharing the good news of the gospel by being present with people, by engaging in some of life's most basic and essential activities with them, and by spending time with them. If we follow Jesus's example, we'll probably be part of all kinds of community meals too. Food ministry is as wonderful a way to share the gospel and build community today as ever.

Hospitality is a theme throughout the Bible and is just as relevant today as it was thousands of years ago. By welcoming strangers, sharing food and fellowship, and extending kindness and generosity to others, we can help create a more just, compassionate, and connected world.

So, on August 16th, we are going to give it a try. We have a great Kitchen Committee and folks from Halesford are helping as well. And we have Tina's instructions. The menu will be the same: sausage, eggs, biscuits, gravy, pancakes, potato casserole and baked apples. We have 15 volunteers signed up, but we can certainly use more. There are jobs for all kinds of abilities---even things you can do sitting down!! The committee is meeting on July 14th to finalize plans and then there will be a training meeting for the volunteers the week before. And certainly, plan on coming to eat, and bring your friends. We'll have lots of food and love to share!

In His Service,
Chris Mosig, Lay Leader
914-262-9106, cmosig67@gmail.com

EMBRACING SUMMER

**Your seasons, Lord, mark the time each year,
Each with their blessings and troubles to bear.
Summer has arrived with its sunshine and warmth,
Looking like a world transformed.**

**Summer is a wonderful gift You give –
We thank You for Your provision so we can live.
We marvel at the wonders of Your beautiful creation.
And all it provides for every generation.**

**Summer can be a time when we like to get away
Seeking rest, rejuvenation, and even time to pray.
We find solace, inner peace and rest, Lord, in You,
Your presence provides comfort, and a new point of view.**

**Summer is a season of ripe fruit and harvest,
Reminding us of the spiritual fruit that the Holy Spirit promised.
It prompts us to evaluate our spiritual condition and
Prepare ourselves to bear fruit for Your holy mission.**

**Summer, with its abundant blessings and the fulfillment of our needs
Can remind us to trust Your promises, Your marvelous deeds
It encourages us to have faith in Your faithfulness, knowing that You can bring
To fruition our salvation and the desires of our hearts, O King.**

**Christine Mosig
7-1-25**



Youth Mission

In an ongoing effort to support all areas of our community, this summer the youth department will be collecting donations for the Franklin County Humane Society starting now through August 3rd. We are asking for donations of dry dog and cat food. Other donations being accepted are; used towels, used washcloths, and used small throw blankets. In addition, they will also accept paper and cleaning products such as paper towels, paper plates, dawn dish soap, and Clorox bleach. We will be planning a future date in August to deliver the items and spend time at the facility, either walking dogs or snuggling with cats. Everyone of all ages is welcome! We appreciate your consideration to donate towards this cause!

Here is the link for further donation items requested by the Humane Society:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/56CWZSCGWSZ7/ref=topnav_lists_1



United
Women
in Faith

For the May meeting, a planning party was held, with fellowship, food, and fun as we worked together in ministry to create homeless mats. Unfortunately, the need never goes away.

Our most recent meeting was held on June 23, with Betty sharing a portion of one of the sessions from Annual Conference taught by Scott Erickson (who gave permission to share his video). Scripture reading Luke 24:13-35 tells the story of two disciples walking away from Jerusalem, after Christ's crucifixion, because they no longer felt safe. The group discussed that sometimes walking away from a situation or ministry is also walking toward something new. The two disciples went back to Jerusalem to start a new ministry of telling the Good News! The "Great Ship Story" sparked a discussion of failure leading to a new perspective or ministry. The group continued the discussion as we made plans, and enjoyed Cindy's cookies. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 4pm, at Epworth. More details will be shared, please make plans to come and see!



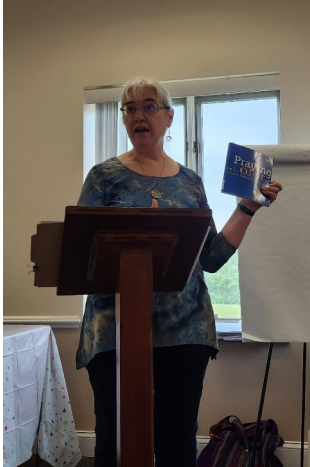


United
Women
in Faith

Halesworth UWF hosted the Mountain View District Spiritual Life Retreat on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at Epworth. The theme was "Praying in Color". Forty two ladies from across the Mountain View District attended, worshipping together with music provided by Melodi Huston and led by the Halesford Gospel Singers, and with the participation of several members from other units.



The workshop was then turned over to the speaker of the day; Rev. Kimberly Barker-Brugman (KimB2 or Pastor Kim) who began by asking how we pray, and what keeps us from praying. Several people shared, and then she asked ladies if there was an orange slip of paper in front of them, to read it. The slips contained excuses for not praying, 16 in total. These excuses included: can't sit still past the "our Father" or "hello, God"; my prayers sound like a Santa Claus list; my mind wanders; I start praying and realize I am thinking about bills that



are due; I can't pray like others; there are people who can pray better than I can. KimB2 shared that are 4 ways to connect with God. Augustine studied God-read the Bible, talked to scholars. John Wesley prayed from the heart, as did Martin Luther King, Jr. who was highly intelligent but came to God with emotion. Mother Teresa came with her body, said that as she washed a person she understood she was



washing Christ. The 4th way is mystic.

Lunch and fellowship were enjoyed, with Renee Naden cooked a delicious meal, served with the help of Cathy Anderson and members of Halesworth. After more discussion, we celebrated



Communion. The workshop was very enjoyable and enlightening.

For more information on Pastor Kim's ministry, please go to soulstoryministries.org.

Halesworth UWF was represented by Renee, Sue, George and Betty at the recent Potato Drop, held in Roanoke

There were 36,000 pounds of potatoes, more than I have ever seen! We joined other volunteers as well as Roanoke Police Department 's graduates from their police academy to bag, sort by organization, and assist organizations in the picking up of the potatoes. Some of the recruits showed off their traffic directing skills! The potatoes that were a little soft, (okay, and the few that were yucky), went to the Mill Mountain Zoo for the animals to eat. Water, snacks, and lunch were provided, as volunteers filled each bag with approximately 10 pounds of potatoes, creating 160,000 helpings for neighbors in need throughout the area. A hot day but we felt blessed!



Virginia United Methodist Church Annual Conference

Annual Conference is a time praising God, conducting Church business, learning from teaching sessions, fellowshiping, having early morning Communion and understanding more of the connectional ministries of the Virginia United Methodist Church (VAUMC). Pastor Jeff, Jennifer and I attended, representing the Washington Cooperative Parish. Bishop Sue gave a powerful sermon to open the conference, speaking from Ezra about rebuilding the temple, as we now are rebuilding the UMC. The sessions were emotional, as the participants mourned the closure of churches and death of leaders, and rejoiced in the beginning of new ministries and the ordination of new leaders. We voted on the issue of regionalization of the church, which is the restructuring of the worldwide UMC, and wrestled with new technology as we voted. This wrestling with glitches in the voting system prompted Bishop Sue to remark that this situation is what Paul wrote about, that as one person suffers, we all suffer, leading to laughter which brought down the level of annoyance. The conference sessions can be found on Youtube. Here are links to two videos, the Thursday morning sermon, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pn1cD-7Pxsc> and the Journey in Understanding <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na9NLhljPhA>. The video with more of Scott Erickson's teaching, mentioned in the UWF report, is on the Thursday afternoon video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AONAtD08wJE>. Jennifer and I will be making a more detailed report on the Conference during a Sunday worship service.





Halesford's Men's and Women's Day was held on June 8, 2025, with Rev. Vincent Jones and Mt. Zion Baptist Church leading the afternoon service. The theme for the day was "Working Together for God". Rev. Jones began by saying that every day was Men's and Women's Day, since we as a church work together for God. His sermon title was "Protecting the Sacrifice", using the Scripture of 2 Samuel 21:1-14, bringing out the example of David asking God for wisdom, and pointing out that David and Rizpah worked together to do what was right. Rev. Jones then asked the congregation if we protect the sacrifice of Jesus, a profound question that made all there pause. Rev. Jones then explained what he meant by the question. The day was a blessing of physical food and spiritual food! As always, Halesford appreciates Epworth's support!

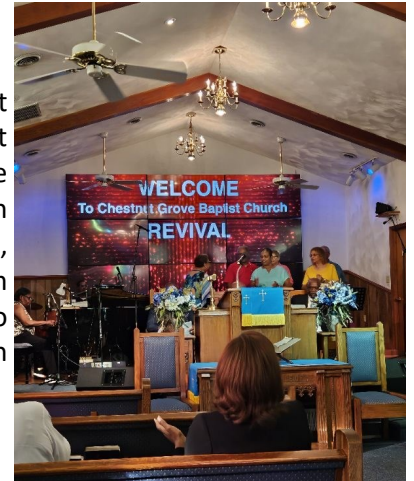


Pastor Jeff had two engagements recently and was accompanied by Halesford congregation and choir.

On June 22, we went to Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church where Halesford Gospel Singers rendered the music and Pastor Jeff preached for their Men's and Women's Day, Romans 8:32-37, 39, "Still We Rise".



On June 25, the engagement was at Chestnut Grove Missionary Baptist Church, on the occasion of the opening night of their Revival, with Scripture coming from I John 1:1-3, referencing Ephesians 4:1-3, "From Encounter to Assignment". So thankful that God blessed both services!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays

1	Margaret Rose McGuire	(Epworth)
6	Clarence Allen, III	(Halesford)
7	Bridgett Allen	(Halesford)
7	Mike Wells	(Epworth)
11	Jennifer White	
13	Jayden Allen	(Halesford)

August Birthdays

2	Amy Wells	(Epworth)
2	Diane Taylor	(Halesford)
3	Imiya Crider	(Halesford)
3	Katie Wells	(Epworth)
16	Lisa Ferguson	(Halesford)
18	Robin Banks	(Halesford)
29	Tyson Banks	(Halesford)

July Anniversaries

1	Michael & Brenda Goad	(Halesford)
1	Randy & Marie Flippen	(Epworth)
8	Roy & Ann Bolling	(Epworth)
11	Dan & Sarah Morris	(Halesford)
27	Rick & Carol Jean Gramling	(Epworth)

August Anniversaries

7	Rev. Kelvin & Teresa Edwards	(Halesford)
14	Melvin & Faye Wuergler	(Epworth)



Volunteers Needed

Lake Christian Ministries needs volunteers! We have an engaging, fun, and fulfilling environment. Flexible opportunities are available across all our programs from food assistance to warehouse support. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting your volunteering journey, there's a place for you at Lake Christian Ministries.

Service hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon and the last Tuesday evening of each month from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Can you spare a morning once a week or even twice a month to make a tangible difference in combating local poverty? Apply online on our website at www.lakechristianministries.org under the Volunteering tab. A full list of volunteer opportunities is also provided on the website. <https://www.lakechristianministries.org/becomeavolunteer>

LCM Welcomes Two New Board Members

The LCM Board honored retiring board members Jim Caskie and Rev. Scott Davis and welcomed two new members at its January 2025 meeting. Committed to serving those in need within the Smith Mountain Lake community, our board members bring a wealth of experience and passion to our mission. Please join us in welcoming these two exceptional individuals to the Lake Christian Ministries board of directors.



Bob Evans

Bob Evans and his wife recently moved to Smith Mountain Lake. His work experience includes a variety of corporate management positions throughout the US. Most recently, Bob served as the President of the United Food Bank in Mesa, AZ. He is now retired and volunteers in his church and the community.



Rev. Jeffrey White

Rev. Jeffrey White joins the board as the member church advisor. He serves as the pastor of Epworth and Halesford United Methodist Churches. Rev. White is currently advancing his theological education in a course study program at Duke Divinity School. In addition to his ministry, Jeffrey is a military veteran and holds a class A contractor's license. He and his wife, Jennifer, prioritize family as a central part of their lives.

2025 Officers

Board Chair – Ron Willard II
Vice Chair – Derek Layman
Secretary – Kate Ellis
Treasurer – Paul Marx

Committee Chairs

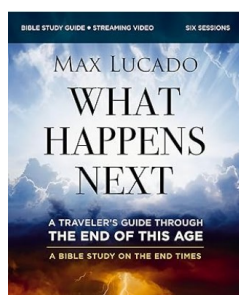
Governance Committee Chair – Derek Layman
Communications Committee Chair – Andie Gibson
Finance Committee Chair – Dave Banks
Fund Development Committee Chair – Jane Winters
Special Committee Chair
Facility Expansion Committee Chair – Jim Bennett
Planned and Major Gift Committee Chair – Jim Gilbert

Members at Large

Andy Crawford
Roy Enslow
Rich Sours
Bob Evans
Julie VerSluis
Jeffrey White



- **July 28**— UWF meet at Epworth @ 4pm
- **August 16** — Community Breakfast @ Epworth 8am-11am
- **August 24** – Halesford will celebrate its Homecoming with morning service, lunch, and afternoon service at 2pm. Rev. Roy Gunn, of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, will be coming with his choir and congregation. Come ready to lift your hands, lift your voice, and experience God like never before! Be a part of this celebration, and don't miss this powerful day of worship and unity!
- **August 25** — UWF meet at Epworth @ 4pm
- **August 31**— 5th Sunday Combined Service @ Epworth



Sunday School

Thursdays @ 7:30 p.m.

via Zoom

contact Cindy Lollar for link:
clollar65@gmail.com

Prayer Meeting —Every Other Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

(see calendar for schedule)



via Zoom—contact Cindy Lollar for link: clollar65@gmail.com



**Sundays @
Epworth UMC
9:30 a.m.**

Please let Cindy (Epworth) or Betty (Halesford) know if you have a prayer request you would like added and also updates on those currently listed.

Prayer Meeting held every other Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Collecting: plastic bags from your grocery or department store for plan (plastic yarn) to make into homeless mats. Help the Halesworth UWF keep these bags out of the landfills. Please place in the recycle bin located in the Narthex. Thank you!!

Collecting New Socks for the Homeless ~ Drop Box is in the Narthex at Epworth UMC
"Socks for Lost Souls"



Socks are currently being donation to Rescue Mission in Roanoke:
<https://rescuemission.net/>



Thank you to all who are signed up with the Kroger Community Rewards program for Halesford (QD391) or Epworth (EP178). Without realizing that when you shop, a percentage of your total order is shared with our churches through the Community Rewards Program.

Here is the link to get started:
<https://www.kroger.com/i/>

July 2025

AA meets every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday @ 9:00 a.m. @ Epworth UMC
Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. @ Epworth, and
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. @ Halesford UMC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 No Sunday School	4 	5
6 Communion	7	8	9	10 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	25	26
27	28 UWF Meeting 4 PM @ Epworth	29	30	31 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom		

August 2025

AA meets every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday @ 9:00 a.m. @ Epworth UMC
Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. @ Epworth, and
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. @ Halesford UMC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion	4	5	6	7 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	15	16 Community Breakfast @ Epworth UMC 8 am - 11 am
17	18	19	20	21 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	22	23
24 Halesford Homecoming (see upcoming events for details)	25 UWF Meeting 4 PM @ Epworth	26	27	28 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	29	30
31 5th Sunday Combined Service @ Epworth						