



# WASHINGTON COOPERATIVE PARISH

## **September/October 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](mailto:clollar65@gmail.com)

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

*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*



## **“The Way of LOVE”**

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.

Paul’s words in **1 Corinthians 13** give us a beautiful picture of what this kind of love looks like. It’s not just about warm feelings, it’s love that shows up in action.

*“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” — 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NRSV)*

As we reflect on Paul’s relationship with the believers in Corinth, we find a beautiful example of spiritual care and loving guidance. Paul saw himself not just as a teacher, but as a spiritual father to the church, someone deeply invested in their growth, much like a parent lovingly nurtures their children.

His heart’s desire was to see them flourish in their faith, not only in what they believed, but in how they lived each day. Paul longed for their lives to reflect the love, grace, and truth of Jesus Christ in practical, meaningful ways.

With great care, Paul guided them with both encouragement and correction. When the Corinthians lived in unity, walked in love, and followed Jesus faithfully, Paul celebrated their growth and praised their progress. And when they struggled, when pride, division, or other missteps crept in, Paul didn’t shy away from speaking the truth. Yet even his correction came from a place of deep love and concern, never condemnation.

His example reminds us that both affirmation and accountability are expressions of love. Through it all, Paul’s message was clear: true faith is not just something we believe, but something we live out with integrity, humility, and love.

Nowhere is this more powerfully expressed than in 1 Corinthians 13, “The Way of Love.” Paul lays out the foundation for Christian living, love that is patient, kind, enduring, and true. It’s the kind of love that not only transforms individuals but strengthens the whole church.

As we journey together in faith, may we also embrace both encouragement and loving challenge, helping one another grow into the likeness of Christ. Let us live in such a way that our faith is seen in our actions, heard in our words, and felt in our love.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Jeff

## Notes from a Lay Leader

We say it together every Sunday—usually right after the sermon. Where did the Apostles' Creed come from? Why do we say it?

### **We Believe: The Story of the Apostles' Creed**

*The Apostles' Creed, also known as the Twelve Articles of Faith, expresses essential biblical doctrines that have been articulated, defended, and embraced for nearly two thousand years of church history. Many evangelical Christians throughout history have used the Apostles' Creed as a personal proclamation of their own faith. Further, all evangelical denominations since the Protestant Reformation have affirmed the Apostles' Creed without reservation.*

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit***

***and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

### **Against Heresy**

*The precise origin of the Apostles' Creed is shrouded in mystery. Though there is no historical or textual evidence that it is the direct product of the apostles, the Creed does have roots in the apostles' teachings and the generation of disciples that followed the apostles in the early church. An abbreviated version of the Creed can be traced back to the second century. It seems to have been used first as a confession at one's baptism, and it also appears in some martyrdom accounts. By the fifth century, the Apostles' Creed developed into the form as it is now used today (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 1:204).*

*The Apostles' Creed, like all creeds during early church, was composed as a direct response to heresy in defense of the gospel and the Christian faith. It was intended to be apologetic in nature — to articulate the essentials of the Christian faith against a backdrop of heresy. The immediate heresy that the Creed responded to was Gnosticism. Gnosticism denied, among other tenets, the divine creation, the incarnation of Christ, the deity of Christ, and salvation by faith in Christ alone, all doctrines that are expressly affirmed in the Creed.*

*The early church fathers frequently cited articles of the Apostles' Creed in their own writings, most of which were written for pagan recipients in the Greco-Roman world. The articles of the Creed were succinct, yet weighty enough to be effective tools for sharing and defending the Christian faith in the first three hundred years of the church's existence.*

## ***Our Common Creed***

*Since the time of the early Christian church, the Apostles' Creed has been affirmed in Reformed traditions and taught as a summary of our faith's cardinal doctrines. In his Institutes of the Christian Religion, John Calvin averred that the Creed "furnishes us with a full and every way complete summary of faith, containing nothing but what has been derived from the infallible word of God". The Reformers also frequently used the Creed as a didactic tool for their congregations and readers. Not only did the evangelical clergy of the Reformation embrace and teach the Creed, but Protestant traditions since the Reformation have consistently upheld and defended its articles.*

## ***Hold Fast the Confession***

*Subscribing to and systematically teaching the Apostles' Creed is rooted in historical precedent and has timeless spiritual benefit for Christians of all eras. The Creed has been and continues to be a helpful aid for worship and discipleship in providing Christians with the summations of the essential doctrines of the faith. The Creed has been a centerpiece of evangelism. Its truths remind Christians of the essence of their faith and to "contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).*

*As we rehearse the Creed together as a church, however regularly, we pray that God would make Hebrews 10:23 true for us — that we "hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering," knowing that "he who promised is faithful."*

*(adapted from We Believe The Story of the Apostles' Creed by Brian Hanson (@brianlhanson) . Brian is assistant professor of history and theology at Bethlehem College and Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota)*

For me, the Creed gives me a place to start when I tell others what it is I believe. Based on the Bible, it is the core, the foundation of our faith. Saying it together each Sunday in worship helps to etch it on our hearts and minds, and gives praise and adoration to our Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and reminds us why we are there!

In His Service,

Chris Mosig, Lay Leader

[cmosig67@gmail.com](mailto:cmosig67@gmail.com), 914-262-9106



“ ‘When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God.’ ” Leviticus 23:22

## **HARVEST TIME**

**Lord, we see it all around us; the farmers harvesting grain  
We thank you for your provision of the sunshine and the rain.  
We hope for an abundant harvest, for the farmers have done their best  
Let there be enough for everyone, for their families and the rest.  
You ask them to leave the gleanings, for the poor and refugees,  
That they, too, may be fed-- that we might meet their needs.**

**Now most of us aren't farmers, but we can share gleanings too.  
We can share the many blessings that we gratefully receive from you.  
We can meet their needs for housing—a safe place to live and grow  
We can meet their needs for clothing---that they will not feel the cold.  
We can meet their needs for work, so that they can provide for themselves at last  
We can meet their needs together, so that their suffering will be in the past.**

**Lord give us hearts that feel for the poor, for those that struggle in life.  
Open our eyes to see them as they suffer through all kinds of strife.  
You are the great Jehovah who provides for our every need,  
Let us be your hands and feet on earth so everyone can succeed.**

**Amen.**

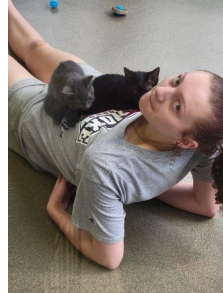
*Christine Mosig*





## Summer Youth Mission Complete!

With the generous donations from Halesford and Epworth United Methodist churches, the youth were able to deliver pet food, cleaning supplies, paper products and more to the Franklin County Humane Society in the month of August. Thank you to everyone who was able to donate for another great way to give back to our community. ~ Katie & Emily Wells



## Epworth Breakfast

IT'S BACK! The Epworth Breakfast has returned, after a hiatus of five years! The community is excited! With the only advertising was the sign in front of the church, a steady stream of folks came in to enjoy the delicious food. Spearheaded by Cathy Anderson and her team, volunteers were on point for cooking, cleaning, and hospitality. Several compliments were heard as thoroughly satisfied participants left the church to continue on their day. The next Epworth Breakfast will be September 13, from 8am to 10:30am, with the following Breakfast on October 11, same breakfast time, same breakfast place!







United  
Women  
in Faith



**Held on July 28**, Halesworth UWF welcomed representatives from three other units and speaker Rev. Mark Ogren. Pastor Mark shared the process that the taskforce, charged with listening to three different viewpoints, learned from as they wrote the report on "Journey to Understanding". Bishop Sue approached Pastor Mark to set up a team, which was made up of 5 Progressives and 5 Traditionalists. The United Methodist Church had included the words that "Homosexuality was incompatible with Scriptural teaching" in the



1972 Book of Discipline. These few words created discord and pain for decades. The format of the team meetings was to use Intentional Holy Listening, an active, non-judgmental practice of asking open-ended questions and bearing witness to each story. After sharing lunch with the ones who came, the team came back in the afternoon to answer the question, "What did you hear?" Not "What did you think?" but "What did you hear?" The big job was to invite people to come share their feelings, and assure them they could say what was on their heart, and no one would say, "That's not right"! In one session, Homosexuals were heard, in another, Progressives were heard, and in two other sessions, Traditionalists were heard. Stories were told of pain, of trauma, of PTSD. The task force began with the metaphor of a big tent, which they realized was imperfect. A tent narrows toward the center; pulling some close while others linger at the edges. The metaphor that the Task Force embraced at the end of the four sessions was one of a round table, which offers no hierarchy, no hidden corners, only the open grace, with Jesus in the middle, where each person finds a seat and a voice. UWF members asked questions and left with more of an understanding of UMC history and its future going forward. The Book of Discipline has been updated, with the painful words from the 1972 edition deleted.

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**For the August UWF meeting**, Halesworth had a planning party, with food, fellowship, and deepening friendships as we made plarn balls for Pat to take home. The members prayed over the completed homeless mats before Jim and Pat delivered them to RAM House. Pat has recently completed homeless mat #58, which each mat keeping 1500 plastic bags out of the landfills. The mats are a ministry for the homeless and also a ministry of good stewardship for the Earth! Our next meeting is September 22, all ladies are invited!





## 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Always a time of fellowship, food, and strengthening the ties in the Washington Cooperative Parish! Recent 5th Sundays are celebrated at Halesford June 29<sup>th</sup>, while Epworth hosted 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday on August 31. Parish members have spiritual food as we worship together, and then enjoy delicious physical food and fellowship after the service. The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday comes on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!



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**Pastor Appreciation:** Halesford will hold Pastor Appreciation in honor of Pastor Jeff and First Lady Jennifer on October 19, 2025. Reverend James Clayborne from 1<sup>st</sup> Mt. Airy Missionary Baptist Church will preach the morning, with the Halesford Gospel Singers providing the music. Lunch will follow, with Rev. Gary Alexander, choir and congregation from Chestnut Grove Missionary Baptist Church leading the afternoon service. All are invited!



**Halesford's Homecoming, celebrating 135 years of ministry in the same place, was held on August 24, 2025.**

Halesford Gospel Singers sang well during the morning service, which was preached by Elder Shawna Banks, who used the Scripture from Luke 15:17-20. Her sermon title was "There's No Place Like Home." The younger son acted entitled to his share 1/3 share of the estate, and the father doesn't say anything, just gives him the money. Just like the son, our resources aren't ours, they belong to the Father, and we should be good stewards of what He has lent us. After a while, God will say to us, "What did you do with my stuff"? How will we answer? We may judge the son, who finally came to his senses, but don't we sometimes put our hands in stuff, make messes, and then finally ask God for help? God wants us to be truly obedient and truly repentant, like David. He asked forgiveness for a sin, and then didn't do that sin again. This insightful sermon was followed by a delicious lunch, with Rev. Roy Gunn and the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church coming in the afternoon for more spiritual food. The Men's Chorus did a fine job rendering the music for the afternoon. Rev. Gunn used the Scripture, Philippians 3:14, and the sermon title, "Pressing On". God didn't bring you this far to drop you, the Scripture speaks to us in past, present, and future, moving forward and pressing on. Paul was in prison, challenged himself and all Christians to have spiritual growth. He refused to look behind, as running with eyes on past failures makes us stay back and not try, or if we look at past successes, we may not do as much. It doesn't mean we erase the past, we accept the past, learn from it, and go on. Stop looking at others running the race, for then we have a tendency to take our eyes off the Lord. Sometimes we look at the past with regret, and miss opportunities. God is more interested in our future than our past. Representatives from more than ten churches, including our sister church Epworth, learned from this powerful sermon. Halesford appreciates all who came to celebrate our Homecoming. Praising God for our wonderful Homecoming day, we look forward to another year in His ministry!





SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE

**DINE**  
**out**  
**TO LIFT UP**

**One meal. One community.**  
**One step closer to ending local hunger.**

This September, your lunch or dinner out can help lift up neighbors in need! Local restaurants are teaming up with Lake Christian Ministries and SML Insiders for **Dine Out to Lift Up**—and you're invited to be part of it.

Dine out at a participating restaurant on the date they selected and **10% of your tab** will go directly toward LCM's hunger relief programs right here in the Smith Mountain Lake region.

**Dine Out to Lift Up** is part of the community-wide momentum building toward the SML Walk to End Poverty on Sept. 20. Please join us in making a real impact!

<https://smith-mountain-lake.com/dine-out-sml/>

September 1-19, 2025

**Saturday, September 20, 2025**

**SML**  
**walk**  
**TO END POVERTY**  
Make a Difference Together

To join team **"Wesley's Walkers"** or to make a donation, click here:  
<https://runsignup.com/wesleyswalkers2025>

Walk will be held @ the Smith Mountain Lake State Park  
(donations are being raised to help Lake Christian

Ministries continue to assist vulnerable families)



**September Birthdays**

4	Gus (Toney)	(Epworth)
11	Jim Young	(Epworth)
13	Marie Flippen	(Epworth)
14	Evelyn Sartell	(Epworth)
17	Nancy Lawrence	(Epworth)
18	Roy Bolling	(Epworth)
22	Sue Ruple	(Epworth)
24	Marcella Banks	(Halesford)
25	Brenda Finnell	(Epworth)
27	Hubert Blankenship	(Epworth)
28	Brad Enslow	(Epworth)
30	Cathy Anderson	(Epworth)

**October Birthdays**

6	Maxine Hall	(Epworth)
7	Theresa Dewitt	(Epworth)
10	Taylor White	
11	Wayne Loomis	(Epworth)
11	Linda Devlin	(Epworth)
13	Teresa Edwards	(Halesford)
18	Sandra Jordan-Candis	(Halesford)
19	Dior Loggins	(Halesford)
19	Emily Meador	(Epworth)
25	Emily Wells	(Epworth)
26	Joan Seifred	(Epworth)
30	Randy Flippen	(Epworth)

**September Anniversaries**

4	Jim & Pat Young	(Epworth)
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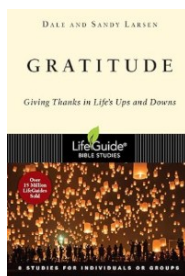
**October Anniversaries**

10	John & Cindy Lollar	(Epworth)
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- **September 13** — Community Breakfast @ Epworth 8 am - 10:30 am
- **September 20** — SML Walk to End Poverty
- **September 22** — UWF meet at Epworth @ 4pm
- **October 11** — Community Breakfast @ Epworth 8 am - 10:30 am
- **October 19** — Pastor Appreciation at Halesford
- **October 25** — Fall Festival @ Epworth
- **October 26** — UWF meet at Epworth @ 4pm



## 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/>

# September 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	4 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	5	6
7 Communion	8	9	10	11 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	12	13 Community Breakfast @ Epworth UMC 8 am -10:30 am
14	15	16	17	18 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	19	20 
21	22 UWF Meeting 4 PM @ Epworth	23	24	25 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	26	27
28	29	30				

# October 2025

AA meets every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday @ 9:00 a.m. @ Epworth UMC  
Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. @ Epworth, and  
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			1	2 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	3	4
5 Communion	6	7	8	9 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	10	11 Community Breakfast @ Epworth UMC 8 am -10:30 am
12	13	14	15	16 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	17	18
19 Pastor Appreciation @ Halesford	20	21	22	23 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	24	25 Fall Festival @ Epworth
26	27; UWF Meeting 4 PM @ Epworth	28	29	30 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	31	