

Winstead Connection



Pastor Patrick Murphy

Red-Letter Lens

The first “grown-up” Bible I ever received was a red-letter edition, which meant that all the words of Jesus were printed in red ink as opposed to black. The idea was to focus our eyes on the most important words in the Bible, which come from the lips of Jesus himself. As Christians we’re called to view the world and people through what I’ll call the *red-letter lens*.

One of our biggest struggles today has to do with the many “other” lenses that have shaped our worldview over and beyond the red-letter lens, standing in place of Jesus, who taught us to love our neighbors, to welcome the stranger, and to pray for our enemies.

I confess that the events of recent weeks in our country, particularly in Minnesota, have caused me to feel deep sorrow, anger, and pain of a kind that absolutely wrenches my gut; things we should not have to live through. These are not new feelings, but ones that have been growing in my soul for some time. Perhaps you’ve felt similar feelings, or others like fear, confusion, or indifference. Sometimes it’s hard to know what to do with these feelings, where to put them.

I’m grateful to have learned from a young age that our feelings matter. Studies have shown over

and again that feeling our feelings, whatever they are, improves our overall health, whereas suppressing them can do real harm. As Mr. Rogers often reminded us, it’s what we **do** with our feelings that matters most.

Knowing what to do with our feelings has to do with how we’ve been formed throughout our lives. It also depends on where we’ve learned to turn when we need perspective and wisdom. Christians know, or should know, that our formation and lens come from our relationship with Jesus Christ: what he says, how he lived and died, and the ways he continues to teach us through his presence today. Learning to feel our feelings by turning to Jesus humanizes both ourselves and our neighbors, and opens the door to reflection, something we need but often neglect.

Reflection gets us past initial reactions, and helps us to ask better questions, like, “Why is this thing causing me to react this way?” or, “What does the love of God require of me here?” or, “Where is the hurt?” Without reflection and without tending to our feelings, we allow space for those other lenses to color the way we see, hear, and respond to what is happening, which can harden our hearts and conflict with the red-letter lens of Christ.

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Pastor's Message (cont'd)

In Matthew 13:13-15, Jesus pauses to explain why he teaches in parables to his disciples. He tells them that just because people see doesn't mean they *really* see. Just because they hear doesn't mean they *really* hear or understand. He's quoting Isaiah here, who observed in his time how people had become calloused by the state of disrepair and disregard in Israel. They'd become so sure of the lenses through which they'd come to view the world that they no longer remembered what God required of them. They turned away from the very source that could help them to feel and heal.

Could it be that the red-letter lens can help us to better reflect and to feel our feelings in the midst of tragedy and horror, difficulty, and uncertainty? Could it be that the red-letter lens can help us to harness our feelings for something that looks, sounds, and feels like the kingdom of heaven?

I think so. It's where we've always been able to turn or return.

I want you to know in the midst of everything we have seen and heard, I am here for you, whatever you are feeling. My door is *always* open to you and my prayers are *always* with you. We can only get through this life the way Jesus taught us: together.

Welcome New Members



Karen Thomas and Arsenio Ortiz joined Winstead's family on Sunday, January 18.

Arsenio, originally from Puerto Rico, moved to Wilson from Florida. He works for Old Dominion Freight.

Karen is a Navy veteran currently working in New Bern as a registered nurse at CarolinaEast Medical Center.

They love travel, trying new foods, and spending time with friends and family.

Welcome to Winstead!

Congratulations



Congratulations to Tessa for taking 1st place in the speech contest sponsored by the Wilson County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Pastor Patrick is in the office
Monday - Wednesday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Email: pmurphy@nccumc.org

CHILDREN & YOUTH



*Marty Johnson,
Minister of Children & Youth
336-402-5000*

Children's & Youth Sunday School

Sunday School (S.S.) has returned. Our theme for this semester is the Beatitudes. Each Sunday, as we gather for assembly, we will be working through the eight Bs of the Beatitudes.

We invite all children and youth to come and join us. The children will continue working through the New Testament stories of the Bible in S.S. class. The youth will be learning more of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in their S.S. class.

Please be in prayer for our teachers and students as they grow in knowledge and favor of our Lord, Jesus Christ through the study of God's Word!

Sunday School Luncheon

On Sunday, March 1, we will have a soup luncheon after the worship service. This luncheon is to celebrate and promote Sunday School.

The children & youth of our church will be preparing several varieties of soup for our congregation and their guests that Sunday.

We are encouraging everyone to invite someone to Sunday School and church. The soup luncheon is free, however, there will be a donation bowl for anyone who wishes to give money towards Sunday School materials, mainly for curriculum. Please make sure that your guest does not

pay or donate any money. They are our guest and their presence is their donation.

Please go out of your way to invite someone to church that Sunday as we promote Sunday School in our church as a way of growing closer to Christ!

Whether you invite someone or not you are very, very welcome to our soup luncheon.

But please start even now praying that God will put someone on your heart and that you will invite them and make them feel welcomed as they come and worship with you here at Winstead.

Blessings,

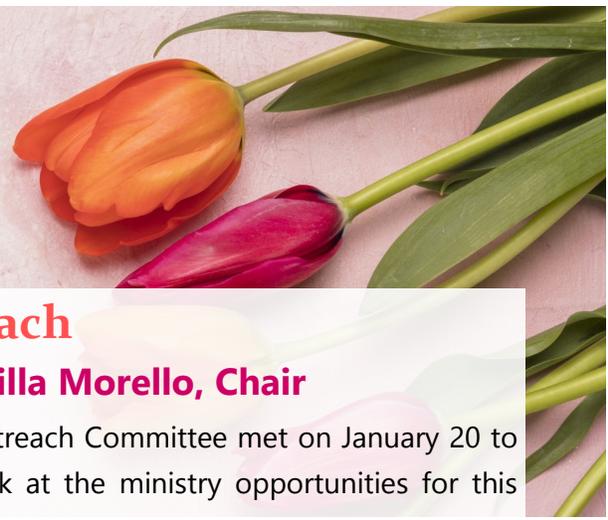
Jodi Ruotolo, S.S. Superintendent

Marty Johnson, Youth & Children Minister

ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

February 1	
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Youth @ West Nash
February 8	
No Meeting	Super Bowl Sunday
February 15	
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Youth @ West Nash
February 22	
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Youth @ West Nash

Marty Johnson, Minister of Children & Youth
Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Email: martykeithjohnson@gmail.com or
Cell phone: 336-402-5000



Hand in Hand by Sanda Hight, Chair



As this year progresses, we will be thinking about and planning for the 2026 Books for Vick. We are thankful for the success of all the planning, donations, and work involved in providing books for the students in December, and we are praying for another opportunity this year.

We are also thankful for the commitment of our congregation to sign Prayer Partner cards during the school year and for those who step up to help and support Vick Elementary School throughout the year. Prayer Partner cards for February will be available for signing from February 1-8. Please try to sign cards in the narthex each month through May, and continue to keep the students, staff, and families in prayer for safety and academic success.

Donate Online

If you would like to give your tithes and offerings online, scan this QR code.



Outreach by Priscilla Morello, Chair

The Outreach Committee met on January 20 to take a look at the ministry opportunities for this next year.

The committee will oversee several projects, events and ministries that were part of the grant funding for the past two years. We will be able to do that because of a generous donation of \$5,000 from one of our church families.

We will continue with Winstead Wellness and help fund the Easter Eggstravaganza to be held in March. We will participate in the Rise Against Hunger event on May 2 and sponsor Christmas in July on July 25th. We will help fund the Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat in October. And we will participate in the Whirligig Festival in November and host the Hole Lotta Love outreach on December 24.



We have several other ministries that Outreach will support and will share those later this year.

Thank you, members of Winstead United Methodist Church, for all the ways you reach out to others in the name of the Lord.



Women of Winstead

by Sanda Hight

Women of Winstead (WOW) met on Saturday January 17 to plan events for mission and service for the spring of 2026. Following are upcoming events and service opportunities.

- WOW continues to provide the Upper Room. Large-print and regular- print editions are available in the narthex.
- Valentine cards will be sent to approximately 20 of our members and friends, many of whom are unable to attend worship services. Cards will be mailed for a delivery prior to Valentine's Day.
- The spring CHICKEN SALAD SALE be held in late April. Kitchen setup will be done on Wednesday, April 22; preparation and mixing of the salad will be done on Thursday, April 23 starting at 9:00 for those who can help in the morning. Another shift will start around noon. Chicken salad can be picked up on Friday, April 24 and also on Saturday and Sunday. More details about pickup times, price, orders, etc. will be announced in the worship bulletin and screen and in the March and April newsletters. We will be asking for donations of chicken and other supplies and also volunteers to work on this project. Please talk to friends, neighbors, and family members about the sale in April, and be prepared to help with taking orders prior to the sale. Profits from the sale will be used for church and community service. An announcement about how to use the profits will be announced at a later time.

- A fall CHICKEN SALAD SALE is planned for November. So many people have asked that we prepare chicken salad more than once per year. Look for announcements in the fall and start spreading the word.
- WOW members are available to help with service activities as the needs arrive throughout the year. If you have questions about WOW, please contact Karen Rowley, President of WOW.
- The next WOW meeting will be held on Saturday, February 21 at 10:00 at the new Carolinian apartment complex, our new neighbor on Airport Boulevard. WOW members are excited about meeting new people in the area and sharing our church's love and hospitality with them.

DID YOU KNOW



In calendar year 2025 the peanut ministry distributed 4,708 cases of peanuts.

- 2,951 cases were delivered to stores in Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham, Greenville, Raleigh, Wilmington and Wilson. Peanuts are delivered monthly.
- 595 cases were mailed nationwide. Orders are mailed the same day received.
- 860 cases were sold to other churches in Farmville, Greensboro, and Pleasant Garden.
- 302 cases were sold out of the office.
- Almost a quarter of sales are in November and December - 1,173 cases.



Community Lenten Services

Please plan to join us for our community Lenten worship services and fellowship meals. Services start at 12:10 pm, and should be 30 minutes. The host church will provide lunch after the service. Meals are \$7.00.

	<u>Host Church</u>	<u>Preaching</u>
February 25	Calvary Presbyterian Church 209 Pender St. E	Rev. Savannah Demuynck First Presbyterian Church
March 4	First Christian Church 207 Tarboro St. NE	Rev. Patrick Murphy Winstead United Methodist Church
March 11	St. James Christian Church 1739 Martin Luther King Pkwy.	Rev. Andre Green St. John's AME Zion Church
March 18	Ascension Lutheran Church 2512 Nash St. N	Rev. Heather Herrin Wong West Nash United Methodist Church
March 25	Howard Chapel at Barton College Whitehead Ave. NE	Rev. Morgan Daughtry First Christian Church

The Good Friday service will be at 2:00 pm.

April 3	First Baptist Church 311 Nash St. N	Rev. Daniel Pinell La Guadalupana/St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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February Birthdays

Brittany Murphy.....	5
Linda Lane.....	6
Colton Griffin.....	8
Denise Lamm.....	10
Jodi Ruotolo.....	10
Austin Newcombe.....	14
Sara Ann Pollock.....	20
Sue Morris.....	21

February Anniversaries

Butch & Lisa Tedder.....	8
Jeff & Kathy Creech.....	11

Finance Report By Linda Lane, Chair

Please take time to review the financial state of our church. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Gretchen Hunt or Linda Lane.

General Budget Totals

	December
Expenses	20,043.77
Income	<u>19,351.80</u>
Budget Shortage	\$ (691.97)
YTD Expenses	234,783.44
YTD Income	<u>194,464.99</u>
YTD Budget Shortage	\$(40,318.48)

FEBRUARY AT WINSTEAD

See the online calendar for the most current information - winsteadumc.org/events

Sunday, February 1

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm ECHO Youth @ West Nash UMC
5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Monday, February 2 - Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, February 3

9:00 am Worship Team
10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study
2:00 pm Hand in Hand

Wednesday, February 4

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 5

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Sunday, February 8

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Drive-In Food Drive
5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Monday, February 9

3:00 pm Finance Committee

Tuesday, February 10

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, February 11

4:00 pm SPRC Meeting
5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 12

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Sunday, February 15

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm ECHO Youth
5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Monday, February 16 - Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, February 17

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study
5:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 18

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 19

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Saturday, February 21

10:00 am Women of Winstead

Sunday, February 22

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm ECHO Youth
5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Tuesday, February 24

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, February 25

Newsletter Deadline

12:10 pm Lenten Lunch (Calvary Presby. - pg. 6)
5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 26

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Saturday, February 28

10:00 am Youth Preparing Soup



1851 Airport Blvd. W
Wilson, NC 27893

Pastor

Rev. Patrick Murphy

Minister of Children & Youth

Marty Johnson

Minister of Music

Sandy Pittman

Organist & Handbell Choir Director

Joyce Wolfe

Church Musician

Faye Jones

Office Administrator

Gretchen Hunt

Lay Leader

Sandy Lamm

Come, grow closer to God with us!

The Winstead Connection

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Winstead United Methodist Church

1851 Airport Blvd.

Wilson, NC 27893

252-237-3709

WinsteadUMC@gmail.com

www.WinsteadUMC.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:30 am Worship

5:30 pm ECHO Youth

5:30 pm WAM (Children's Choir)

Pastor: Rev. Patrick Murphy

Email: pmurphy@nccumc.org

Sunday, February 8
Leave your items on the table
in the foyer.

DRIVE IN
FOOD
DRIVE



Find us on:
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