

# This Week at Wilkesboro UMC...

Share the Good News of Jesus Christ, Comfort the Troubled, Embrace God's Love

---

## Worship News:

What does it mean to be a Church...in Progress? This week Pastor Karen took a trip down memory lane and invites us all to think about the people who have walked alongside us and helped shape who we are becoming. The story in Acts reminds us that it is often the ordinary things in life that can have the greatest impact. You can read the attached sermon or watch the entire service on

[Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) or read the attached sermon.

---

## Upcoming Events:

**Wednesday Night Bible Study has ended for the season.**

---

**Thanks to all who came and gave blood on Monday**

---

**It is time to take applications for our Summer Literacy Camp!**

If you know of a rising 1st or 2nd grader who is at risk of reading failure we have a proven success record in improving confidence and reading scores. Contact Site Director Tracie Walker at [summerliteracydirector@gmail.com](mailto:summerliteracydirector@gmail.com)

---

**A Thank You from Marie Lenderman:**

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Christian Friendship Sunday School Class of this church for their efforts to celebrate in advance of my approaching 97th birthday, on June 27. I was presented a bound booklet of various writings, poems, essays, speeches, and thesis, having been composed by me in various stages of my life. This was truly a cherished surprise.

The booklets were made available to those desiring to obtain them. It was truly a humbling time in being asked to autograph them. To continue with the surprise forum, a "first class" cake cutting followed. I shall always remember the festivities.

---

### **Pastor Celebrations**

June 14th - Pastor Karen's final Sunday will be celebrated in worship at 10 a.m. followed by a farewell reception in the Fellowship Hall.

July 7th - Pastor Brian and his family's arrival will be celebrated with a meal at 6 p.m.

---

### **WELCOME BASKETS**

The Welcome Wagon is back! In the coming weeks there will be "welcome baskets" around the church and you are invited to leave small gifts or words of welcome in them for Pastor Brian and his family. Gifts should be small items that will be useful to them in the home or community. Remember he has small children so you are welcome to include items for them.

---

## **This week we celebrate....Seasons of Time and Change**



This week we celebrate our season with Hilda Crisman and offer her well wishes and prayers for the next season of her life. Hilda has decided to return to her home state of Georgia and will be leaving us on June 12th. She has quickly become the welcoming face of Wilkesboro UMC and proved a

wonderful addition to the team. We will miss her but we celebrate her new path and are making plans for our next path as well. Please let her know how much she has meant to you in her time here.

---

## Prayer Requests

Phyllis Austin, Chuck Byers, **Diana Cecil**, Wade & Brenda Church, Margaret Cooper, Brenda Dale, Amy DeSouza, Hendrix DeSouza, Charles Drum, Hal Emery, Jimmy Epley, **Emillia Einhardt (20 month old battling brain cancer)**, Kyson Farley, Ronnie Farley, Craig Freas, Terry & Anne Garwood, Cade Gibbs, Jennifer Gibby, Troy Harmon, Sherry Harrold, **Kay Hayes**, Kimberly Hughes, Francoise Hughes, Shannon Hughes, Mark Johnson, Brenda Kilby, Pam King, Tom Kinlaw, Barbara Kitchen, Aislynn Ladouceur, **Becky Lakey**, **Mike Mabry**, Bubby McEntire, Janice McHolland, Joe McMillan, **Ricky Moretz**, Glenda Pierce, Adam Randolph, Debbie Reeves, Mary Jane Rich, James Rizoti, **Tom Sargent**, Mary Sallie Styers, Mary Summerford, Keith Summerford, Amber Thornton, Donnie Thornton, Lee Tedder, Kim Tetzlaff, Cecil Walters, **Jett Warren (great-grandson of Sherry Harold)**, TA. Welborn, Dorothy Wilcox, Edgar Wilcox, Derrick Wilson, Becky Wilson, Seth Wilson, Ernie Winslow, Gavin Young, Hispanic neighbors, Ukraine, our planet in crisis, for God to bring Peace, for our government, for law and order.

**SENIOR LIVING FACILITIES:** Brenda Dale (Wilkes Health and Rehab), Cathy Freeman (Harmony at Brookberry Farm/Winston), Wanda Garwood (Rose Glen Village), Barbara Groce (Wilkes Assisted Living), Troy Harmon (Yadkinville Nursing Center/Magnolias), Caroline Randolph (The Pines in Davidson)

*Rev. Karen H. Roberts,*  
*Pastor*  
*Wilkesboro United Methodist Church*  
*336-293-3697*

**2 Attachments** • Scanned by Gmail

[Preview YouTube video Wilkesboro UMC: Worship for May 31, 2026](#)  
[Preview YouTube video Wilkesboro UMC: Worship for May 31, 2026](#)



SermonMay31.docx

Series: ...In Progress...

Sermon: Be the Church...In Progress...

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Trinity Sunday

May 31, 2026

Rev. Karen H Roberts

Over the years I have heard people talk about the Church as an Acts 29 Church. I heard about Acts 29 Network and Acts 29 Ministries. I thought, what exactly does Acts 29 have to say about being the church? So, I looked up Act 29 and guess what? There isn't one. The Book of Acts ends after 28 chapters. But over the years Christians have used that phrase to describe a simple idea: that the story didn't end when Luke put down his pen. The Holy Spirit is still moving. The gospel is still being proclaimed. The Church is still being formed. In other words, we are living in the next chapter.

The challenge, of course, is that we often imagine those next chapters will be written through extraordinary people doing extraordinary things. But when Luke shows us the Church at its beginning, he doesn't describe a great building campaign or a strategic plan or a celebrity preacher. He describes people who devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. The story moved forward because ordinary people kept showing up for God and for one another. I've been thinking a lot about that as I've been packing up my ten years of ministry here.

I came across this stole - created for me when I left my very first appointment by the people at Liberty UMC in Mocksville. Each patch of material is from something special in the life of someone at that church - baby quilts, weddings, childhood memories - families were asked to bring a swatch of material that meant something and a precious lady sewed them into a stole. On my final Sunday, they came and tied knots in the strings as they prayed for my continuing journey as a pastor. It was an Acts 29 moment.

Yesterday, I traveled up to Jefferson and I officiated at the most precious wedding - held in what once had been a Methodist Church - this old building, floor to ceiling in gorgeous Chestnut wood, ancient pews made over in North Wilkesboro and hauled up the mountain by mule drawn carts were draped in old Appalachian style quilts. The groom was in my youth group at my second appointment - Mt. Olivet UMC in North Davidson area. I had confirmed him and his brothers. Yesterday I got to hug each one and remember the laughter and shenanigans of those days together as we celebrated the men they have become. It was an Acts 29 moment.

In the past few weeks, as we have worshipped together and prepared for our goodbyes, I've been thinking of the pieces of you that I take with me...the parts of you that I've held onto over these ten years together. I've been thinking about the chapters we have written together.

I've thought often of my very first time on this campus - coming to meet the church leadership. Shirley Inscore met me in the parking lot, along with Arnold Lakey. As I chatted with Shirley, Tim was chatting with Arnold. When we started into the church Tim said, "Karen, does this man look familiar?" Pointing to Arnold - I realized he did. Tim said, "This is Doyle's brother!" - Doyle Lakey was a member of our home church in Charlotte, I had sung in the choir with him for years. It was an Acts 29 moment.

I was grateful to join the choir here. They have a ritual - every Sunday morning. They arrive in the choir room and there is a long credenza where Pastor Jim lays out any music that we will be practicing. Often, these are pieces we have sung before and when they were brand new and we were learning those pieces, choir members will write their names on the music and then make notes in it - their own

shorthand reminding them how to count out a difficult measure or where to breathe or where NOT to breathe.

Now, I never wrote my name on music, because I always knew I was temporary here. So, I would go to a stack of music and look for a copy that didn't have a name on it - until Jeannette Harmon died. The next Sunday, I'm flipping through the music and I see a copy with her name on it - I open it and see her handwriting - her notes - her direction and guidance - and I thought - Jeannette can still sing with us...so I started using her music. And over time I added Mary Henderson, and Rosie Shepard, and Jenny Miller to the rotation. It felt like a way to keep them with us - ongoing voices giving praise and leading worship. It is an Acts 29 moment.

What strikes me is that none of these were dramatic moments when they happened.

A woman cutting a square from a baby quilt.

A teenager showing up for youth group.

A choir member scribbling notes in a piece of music.

A greeting in a church parking lot.

They seemed ordinary at the time. But the kingdom of God has always been built out of ordinary acts of faithful participation repeated over time. That's exactly what Luke describes.

The Church wasn't growing because the disciples had discovered a secret strategy. It was growing because they kept showing up.

They showed up for worship.

They showed up for prayer.

They showed up around tables.

They showed up when someone was in need.

They showed up for one another.

I went to see Troy recently, a precious member who was having a tough day with dementia. He struggled to remember who I was, with simple tasks, with words he wanted to say...but when I started praying with him - he then began to try and pray - and first he got frustrated but then I saw him smile and he clearly and confidently squeezed my hand and said, "May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he make his face shine upon you and give you peace." It is a standard benediction offered in the church. That...those words of simple repetition Sunday after Sunday, would not be lost to him. It was an Acts 29 moment.

All of these moments are a reminder that in Luke's story of the Acts of the Apostles and the first church - the church was not writing a brand-new chapter and ending it with a "period." End of story.

Instead, the church was receiving a chapter, adding a few paragraphs and then passing it on...for someone else to add a sentence or two...before passing it on.

We often think being the Church means doing something extraordinary. But Acts suggests something simpler.

Be present.

Be faithful.

Pray.

Sing.

Learn.

Share meals.

Care for one another.  
Keep showing up.

In other words, it is about people being willing to participate in the ongoing story. It isn't just about showing up - it is about engagement - it is living into our Baptismal vows to **participate** with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

It doesn't ask for perfection. It doesn't ask for anything extraordinary - just your participation in the ordinary acts of being a church.

And over time God weaves those ordinary acts into a story far bigger than any one of us could write alone.

I didn't write the Wilkesboro UMC story - I merely added a few sentences to her existing chapters. Pastor Brian, his wife Elizabeth, their little girls Eleanor and Grace, will add a few more - and so will you. Because the next chapter never belongs to one pastor - it belongs to all of us.

That is what makes this thing we call church a beautiful Acts 29 story.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God of community,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
you have called us into a life that is shared—  
a life of prayer and praise,  
of service and compassion,  
of receiving and giving grace.  
As people who are still being formed by your Spirit,  
we bring before you the needs of the world, the church, and our own hearts.

For the world:  
For places where violence drowns out hope,  
where fear divides neighbors,  
and where injustice wounds your children,  
give courage to those who seek peace,  
wisdom to those who lead,  
and strength to those who suffer.  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For our nation and all communities:  
Teach us again how to care for one another.  
Help us to listen before judging,  
to serve before demanding,  
and to remember that every person bears your image.  
Guide us in the work of building communities marked by kindness, generosity, and mutual concern.  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For this congregation:  
We thank you for all those who have shaped this church through their prayers, presence, gifts, service,

and witness.

For the saints whose voices still echo in these halls,  
for those who worship beside us today,  
and for those who will help write the next chapter of this story,  
keep us faithful in the ordinary work of being your people.  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those in need:

We pray for those who are sick or recovering,  
for those who grieve,  
for those facing uncertainty,  
for those who feel lonely,  
and for all who long for comfort, healing, or hope.  
Surround them with your presence and remind them that they do not walk alone.  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of every chapter,  
thank you for weaving our lives together into a story larger than ourselves.  
Give us grace to be faithful in the chapter we have been given,  
trusting that your Spirit is still moving,  
your Church is still being formed,  
and your love is still at work among us.

We pray these things in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

