

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

June 02	Todd Church
June 06	Beth Marsh
June 08	Elodie Marsh
June 16	Hunter Church
June 21	Lisa Thomas
June 25	Marolyn Lankford
June 28	Ann Nichols Allen

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

June 01	Emory & Ann Nichols
June 04	Randy & Anna Lankford
June 07	Todd & Colleen Church
June 16	Dylan & Adrienne Griffith
June 18	Tyler & Jessie Stotler



The Union Messenger

Union United Methodist Church

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Pastor Share

June is a really good month to go on vacation. School is out, the weather is warm, and summer is here! If you're like Anna and me, the beach and ocean waves are calling you hither. If you prefer a more moderate climate, then the mountains or another inland destination may be calling your name as well. For some folks, graduation is now behind them and it's time to celebrate! For others, a June wedding may be on the agenda. All those festivities are what you might call big ticket items. It's fun to plan and anticipate and day-dream about the good times that are almost at fruition. The Bible is similar in that most of the chronicles and stories are about big things. Noah and the Ark, the Ten Commandments, David slaying Goliath, Daniel in the lion's den, Elijah whooping-up on Jezebel's priests, Jesus being born under a brilliant star, Jesus turning water into wine, Jesus healing people, Jesus walking on water (my personal most mind-blowing), and Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life, just to name a very few. It's almost like every month was June and every-day was a big event. But all these chronicles and stories (non-fiction, of course) took place sandwiched in between ordinary weeks, months, years, decades, and centuries. I don't know exactly how long a span of time the Bible covers, but it is a long time, so there were a lot more ordinary days than there were big event days. I am intrigued by the times in the earthly life of Jesus in between the miracles and the teachings Jesus blessed people with. I like to try and imagine the disciples gathered around a campfire with Jesus and the conversations that took place. I would love to have been a fly on the camel and observe how Jesus relaxed and joked around with the disciples. I would love to have seen Jesus in those simple times, maybe even those small ticket times. I hope during the next month we all have an opportunity to go small and simple. Might I suggest sitting outside and rock, or swing, or just sit. Might I suggest going outside and looking at the stars, or going barefoot in the cool grass. God is a big God, and He is in control of this big 'ol world, so every once in a while consider tuning out, looking up, and keeping it simple. I think even Jesus did that every once in a while. - Pastor Randy

Celebrating Our Congregation's Brightest Moments

This month, we're celebrating the achievements of our members who have stepped forward with courage, dedication, and faith. From academic success to community service, these accomplishments reflect the blessings and support we share together.

Jessie Lankford Stotler graduated on May 7 from Appalachian State University with her Master's Degree in Curriculum Specialist. She currently works in Yadkin County Schools as a 5th grade teacher and hopes to one day serve as an Instructional Coach role in her district. We are so very proud of her for this accomplishment all while pregnant, having a baby girl, and making it through that tough first year of sleepless nights.



Oaklynn Johnson graduated kindergarten this year and received the "3 Musketeers Award" for always working well with others. She also completed her 4th season of dance and first as a company star, where she performed Sesame Street as a mini company star. Her group received first overall in their division and high gold during one competition.



Welcome to our New Members

We are overjoyed to welcome our newest members who have joined our congregation recently! Each of you is a precious blessing, and we believe God has brought you here for a special purpose. As you become part of our church community, we pray that you will find this to be a place where your faith can flourish, your spirit can be renewed, and your unique gifts can be used to glorify the Lord.

Here, you are not just part of a church — you are part of a family united in Christ. We look forward to worshipping alongside you, sharing in fellowship, and serving our community together. May you feel the warmth of God's love through every handshake, smile, and prayer you encounter here.



Randy and Sheryl Malone were received into full membership at Union UMC on Sunday, April 12, 2026 by Letter of Transfer from Oakwoods Baptist Church.



Allen and Mary Hudler were received into full membership at Union UMC on Sunday, May 24, 2026 by Letter of Transfer from Millers Creek UMC.

Celebrating New Life

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.” -(Psalm 127:3)

Bradley and Melissa Wingler and big sister Wyatt welcomed **Lenora May Wingler** on May 12, 2026. Lenora May weighed 9 lbs. and was 21 inches long at birth. Mike and Vickie Wingler are the proud paternal grandparents!

Ellie Lynn Weaver was born to Lindsey Malone and Matt Weaver and big sister Hannah on May 19, 2026. She weighed 6 lbs., 15 oz and was 19-1/2 inches long. Ellie’s proud maternal grandparents are Randy and Sheryl Malone and paternal grandparents are Ben and Diane Weaver.

We are delighted to also share that Caleb and Amber Johnson are joyfully awaiting the arrival of their next little blessing! **Morgan Renee Johnson** is expected to join us on or about July 7th. Caleb, Amber and Oaklynn are filled with excitement and gratitude.

Let’s keep these families in our prayers during this special season, asking for health, peace, and God’s abundant blessings in each of their families!

Why Is It Important to Attend Church?

There are several reasons why attending church is important:

1. Gods says in His Word we should attend church regularly.
2. Worshipping Jesus together at church is powerful.
3. We need Christian community found in the church.
4. We grow more spiritually when we gather together at church, than we can by ourselves.
5. Church is a place of belonging.
6. Church offers people to help you through difficult times.
7. Church gives us hope and brings peace to our lives.
8. Regular church attendance provides physical, spiritual, and emotional benefits.
9. The Church is God’s idea, and it is how God is accomplishing His work on earth today.

Hannah Vine (Randy & Sheryl Malone’s granddaughter) ranked higher than 91% of North Carolina Grade 4 students on her AOG testing this year. She also participated in the 2025/26 Annual Quiz Bowl team representing C. C. Wright Elementary School. Hannah recently participated in her first Guitar Recital.



Congratulations to **Braxton C.** on completing third grade in April! He will be transitioning from homeschooling and will begin fourth grade at Millers Creek Christian School in August.



We also congratulate **Grayson S.**, who will be starting Pre-K at Millers Creek Christian School in August.

Abbigale Church, a sophomore at East Wilkes High School and an A Honor Roll student, was inducted into the National Beta Club at a ceremony held on May 7. The National Beta Club recognizes students for academic achievement, character, leadership and service. Abbigale also served as a Student Council Officer and Yearbook Editor during this school year and earned her full driver's license.



Lyla Church, a 7th grader at East Wilkes Middle School and an A Honor Roll student, served as a Student Council Officer this year. She was voted by her peers to be on the Yearbook Staff for next school year. She also performed in the Pamela Myers Wurde-man's Academy of Dance, Arts and Performance Recital on May 9, titled "Ballet and Beyond: Excerpts from the Nutcracker-Land of Sweets." Lyla performed a contemporary solo to "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", as well as jazz, lyrical, ballet and pointe numbers. Lyla auditioned and was accepted to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Young Dancer Summer Intensives program.

Astrid Marsh is 8 years old and has accomplished quite a lot this year. Astrid had 3 separate art pieces exhibited at the Wilkes Art Gallery. She has earned her Orange belt at Common Ground Martial Arts and needs 1 more stripe on her belt to advance to the next level. She is learning self defense, discipline and many other life skills.

Astrid received the Creative Champ Award in her 2nd grade class at Wilkesboro Elementary School. This award is for using her unique imagination to solve problems and create beautiful original works of Art.



Elodie Marsh is 4 years old and attends Wilkesboro Elementary Pre-K program. Elodie has made many friends and has transitioned well to school life. She earned the Lifting Others Award for her compassionate nature and helping others to feel better. Elodie is an awesome cheerleader and is always the first to lend a helping hand.

