

# Winstead Connection



Pastor Patrick Murphy

I wonder if you've ever heard someone say, "I'll sleep when I'm dead." We say this half jokingly when it becomes obvious that life has become too busy and our time is over-scheduled. Our joking, however, betrays the truth about how little room we leave to experience the sacredness of *rest*. None of us would rather wait to experience rest when we're dead if, in fact, God has made rest essential to life.

The opening chapter of Genesis tells of God speaking the cosmos into existence, uttering words that explode atoms, coagulate planets, and ignite stars. From there God sets in motion the building blocks of all the life that has ever lived, calling all of it "good." The crowning glory, we read, are human beings, which God calls "very good." But then, on the final day of creation, God *rests* and *observes* all that had been accomplished, and God considered this "supremely good."

Why did God rest? Was God tired? Did God need a breather? No.

God rests as an act of love for creation, to model how God intends for us to live in sync with our biology. God's idea isn't that we would be defined by productivity or what we choose endlessly

to do. God's vision is rather that we learn to be wise in how we live, work, and rest.

Have you ever noticed also that humanity's first full day of existence was this day of *rest*? That small detail in Genesis lets us know that our worth is not determined by what we accomplish or how productive we are. God loved us before we ever *did* anything useful. That doesn't mean we don't labor to earn a living or provide for others, but rather that for Christians, productivity and efficiency are not how we measure a life. We say instead: "I am not what I do; I am a beloved child of God."

Because: *God has built us to work out of our rest, not to rest from our work.*

To this end I am grateful later this month to be entering into a time for spiritual renewal and rest for the sake of myself and our shared ministry. Pastors burn out and experience both physical and mental health struggles at rates much higher than the population averages. Now in my fourteenth year, I have discerned with the help of the church leadership to take some time to renew myself, connect deeply with God, and refresh my soul so that I may be the best pastoral leader I can for Winstead.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

**Pastor Patrick**

While I am on leave for these five weeks, local UM pastors will be serving week-to-week for pastoral care needs and emergencies. Gretchen will have their contact information in the office. Also, for preaching and worship leadership, several of our *wonderful* certified lay ministers will be filling in for me, as well as (possibly) a retired UM pastor. I'll send this schedule to you soon. Know that Winstead will be in superb hands.

Of course, this time of renewal leave is not just for me. I invite you during these weeks to be in prayer *with* me about where God is leading Winstead, where we can strengthen our focus on mission, and step into good things later this summer and into the fall.

I am deeply grateful for all of you, and the ways you love and support my family and me, and each other, as an expression of the love of Jesus Christ.

– Pastor Patrick

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

**ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, July 5**  
No ECHO Youth            Happy 4th of July

**Sunday, July 12**  
5:30 - 7:00 pm            Youth @ Winstead

**Sunday, July 19**  
5:30 - 7:00 pm            Youth @ Winstead

**Sunday, July 26**  
5:30 - 7:00 pm            Youth @ Winstead

**Tuesday, July 28**  
Kings Dominion with West Nash UMC

## Thank You

Gretchen received this thoughtful letter with a peanut order payment.

Dear Gretchen,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you - not only for helping me order the peanuts we love so much, but for the way you handled everything. I was incredibly and genuinely touched by your trust and kindness. You made my day - if not my year. In today's world, it's rare for some to say, "We'll ship them to you, and you can just send a check when they arrive." That simple gesture meant more to me than you may realize. Truly one of the nicest things I've experienced in a long time.

I have to admit that I'm not very religious, but what you did gave me real hope. It reminded me that there are still people and communities who lead with generosity, honesty, and goodwill. There should be more people like you and your church in this world.

As a small token of appreciation, I'm also enclosing a donation to your church. It's my way of saying thank you for the kindness you showed me.

Thank you again for your help - and for the reminder that trust and kindness are still very much alive.

Best regards,  
Miguel Nunez Wolff

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

# CHILDREN & YOUTH



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

I personally enjoyed so much putting together our bible stories and the theme behind them for this year's VBS!

But what really made it work was all of you who helped out. There were so many who helped out with the food for the children each night. Juice drinks, snacks, hot dogs, chicken nuggets, pizza, deli sandwiches and let's not forget the wonderful fruit that was provided!! Thank you so very much to each of you who had a part in that.

And to each one who led the lessons each night: Fred and Sanda Height, and Ryan Kirby. The children were so blessed to have adults who are willing to take their time and energy to share God's word and the love of Jesus to our children.

And to the many, many helpers that helped each night: signing in the children, putting the snack dinner together, leading us in music (Sandy Pittman and Faye Jones). Thank you to all of you. And a very big thank you to our church family who held us in prayer! We had a fantastic time, and the children were fantastic!

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded, be strong and courageous, don't be timid, don't be discouraged. God, your God will be with you every step you take!"

Blessings,  
Marty Johnson, Jodi Ruotolo

## Sunday School

The children and youth Sunday School concluded for the year on Sunday, May 31. We will resume Sunday School on Sunday, September 13.

On Sunday, August 23, we will have our traditional Blessing of the Backpacks during the Sunday morning worship hour.

Please be in prayer for our teachers and students as they spend quality time with family. Our prayer is that as our children and youth are spending time with families and friends on vacation that it gives them time to talk about God's gracious love for all while they are enjoying God's gracious and wonderful creation.

If you would like to help in teaching or assisting our children and youth in Sunday School, please contact Marty Johnson or Jodi Routolo.

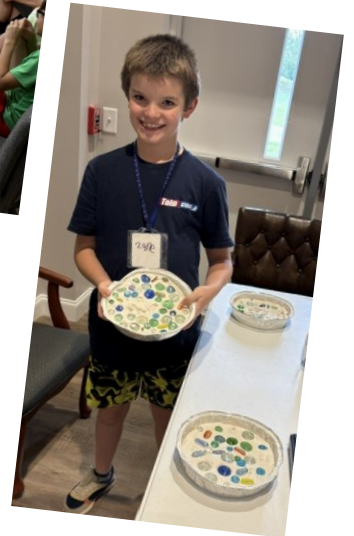
Also, pray for us and the disciple education team as we develop our curriculum for the fall of 2026 and beyond!

## VBS 2026 Is in the Books!!

First of all, I would like to thank Jodi Routolo, S. S. Superintendent, for a marvelous job of organizing and helping out with the planning of our VBS this year. We are so blessed to have someone who takes so much time and energy to pull all the details together.

## Playground Dedication July 12 after Worship

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



## Listening Session with DS

By Peggie Shultz, SPRC Chair

Beginning July 1, we will have a new District Superintendent. As we welcome The Rev. Dr. David Joyner, you are invited to an upcoming Laity Listening Session.

One of David's priorities as he begins his ministry in the Capital District is listening. These gatherings are an opportunity for lay leaders and congregants to share their stories, celebrate the ministries taking place in their congregations, discuss challenges and opportunities facing the church, and help David become better acquainted with the people and communities of our district and discern how to best support us and our church.

Members of Winstead are invited to attend the session on Monday, July 20 at 6:30, at First UMC, 100 Green Street.

Please plan to attend this listening session so that Rev. Joyner can get to know Winstead's people and concerns.



## All Church Picnic

On Sunday, July 12, we will have an all church picnic immediately after worship when we will also dedicate the playground. Bring your favorite potluck dish as we wish Patrick well on his time of renewal.

## Women of Winstead

by Sanda Hight

Women of Winstead had a successful chicken salad sale in April. The sale had a profit of \$1,433.77, thanks to hard work and cooperation of the congregation and community. Decisions about how to make contributions to church and community missions will be made after WOW meetings resume in the fall. A possible chicken salad sale in the fall has been mentioned. WOW thanks all those who worked on the sale, sold tickets, and bought chicken salad this year. Information about the next WOW meeting will be shared in August.

## 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

	<b>May</b>
Expenses	21,336.75
Income	<u>15,608.21</u>
Budget Shortage	\$ (5,728.54)
YTD Expenses	113,867.73
YTD Income	<u>74,668.41</u>
YTD Budget Shortage	\$(39,199.32)

## Outreach Committee

### Priscilla Morello, Chair

The Outreach Committee will meet at Priscilla's home on Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:15. We will finalize plans for Christmas in July and start our plans for the Whirligig Festival. Priscilla's address: 2050 Airport Blvd. Apt. 213 Wilson, NC 27896



Winstead is part of the Backyard Buddy program sponsored by Seeds of Hope Wilson. Check out the vegetable garden next to the Peanut Building. There are cherry tomatoes, peppers and more in the two raised beds! Help yourself to whatever is ready to be picked.



**We need volunteers for our Christmas in July event to be held: Saturday, July 25.**

**Arrive at 9:45 am Work: 10-12:00 noon**

Volunteers will help pack 100 Project Agape boxes for children in Armenia. We will also need volunteers to verify contents in each box, label, and secure with a rubber band.

If you can help for 2 hours on Saturday, July 25 please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex and plan to arrive at 9:45 am on July 25.

**WE STILL NEED THESE ITEMS** (bring to church and place in the plastic bin marked CIJ)

- 120 prs. of girls crew-style socks (ages 3-6 shoe size: 7.5-13)
- 120 prs. of boys crew-style socks (ages 3-6 shoe size: 7.5-13)
- 100 small notepads
- 85 packs of washable markers (10 pack)
- 85 small board books for 3-6 year old children (no larger than 5" X 5")
- 50 packets of hairbows or hairbands for girls



## Trustees Report

### by Fred Hight, Chair

The dead tree hanging over the handbell trailer will be removed. Tim will finish cutting up the other tree that fell on the property and will get rid of it within the next couple of weeks. We will have a dedication of the new playground on the property on July 12 at the picnic following the worship service. The Trustees continue to work at keeping the church property safe and in good repair.

# JULY AT WINSTEAD

See the online calendar for the most current information - [winsteadumc.org/events](http://winsteadumc.org/events)

## Friday, July 3

Office Closed

## Sunday, July 5

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
 10:15 am Fellowship Time  
 10:30 am Worship  
 5:30 pm ECHO Youth

## Tuesday, July 7

10:00 am Wellness Class  
 6:30 pm Ministry Board

## Thursday, July 9

9:00 am Worship Team Planning

## Sunday, July 12

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
 10:15 am Fellowship Time  
 10:30 am Worship  
 11:30 am Drive-In Food Drive  
 12:00 pm Potluck Picnic (pg. 5)  
 5:30 pm ECHO Youth

## Tuesday, July 14

10:00 am Wellness Class

## Sunday, July 19

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
 10:15 am Fellowship Time  
 10:30 am Worship  
 5:30 pm ECHO Youth

## Monday, July 2

6:30 pm Listening Session with DS David Joyner  
 (pg. 5)

## Tuesday, July 21

9:00 am DS Meeting with Pastors  
 10:00 am Wellness Class

## Saturday, July 25 - Newsletter Deadline

## Sunday, July 26

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
 10:15 am Fellowship Time  
 10:30 am Worship  
 5:30 pm ECHO Youth

## Tuesday, July 28

10:00 am Wellness Class  
 Youth at King's Dominion



## July Birthdays

Karen Thomas.....	12
Malary Rowe.....	13
Bridget Boaz.....	16
Gretchen Hunt.....	17
Walter Edwards.....	21
Debbie Williams.....	21
Nazir Wells.....	27

## July Anniversaries

Danny & Peggy Wilson.....	15
Larry & Linda Lane.....	21

Sunday, July 12

Leave your items on the table  
in the foyer.

DRIVE IN

FOOD  
DRIVE



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



### The Winstead Connection

Published monthly by:  
Winstead United Methodist Church  
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Wilson, NC 27893  
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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 Orchestra Rehearsal  
5:30 pm ECHO Youth  
5:30 pm WAM (Children's Choir)

Pastor: Rev. Patrick Murphy  
Email: pmurphy@nccumc.org

*Come, grow closer to God with us!*

**Quilt Raffle**  
Seeds of Hope Wilson Presents:  
**The American Stars Quilt**

Sewn & Quilted by Joyce Wolfe—size 75" x 90" (Queen)

**TICKETS:**  
\$5 for 1 ticket ~ \$20 for 5 tickets  
\$50 for a baker's dozen (13)

Purchase Tickets at SOH Booth at Wilson Farmers & Artisan Market  
or call Priscilla at 252-236-8673

**Drawing will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2026**  
Proceeds benefit Seeds of Hope programs