

THE BEACON

Brookstown
United Methodist Church
Rev. James T. (Chip) Webb, Jr.

August 2026



A Message from Pastor Chip



FERMENTATION FASCINATION!

Cecil Mock approached me one Sunday a few years ago with one of his regular seasonal questions: "Would you like to have some cabbage to make sauerkraut?" My very eager response was "YES!", tempered by a request for just a regular-sized cabbage, please, not one of those giant Cecil cabbages for which he is famous. That evening, Cecil and Janette dropped off two beautiful cabbages, and my new Monday morning plans were penciled in: "**SAUERKRAUT!**" Three gallons in a few weeks.

For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:17- 5:1

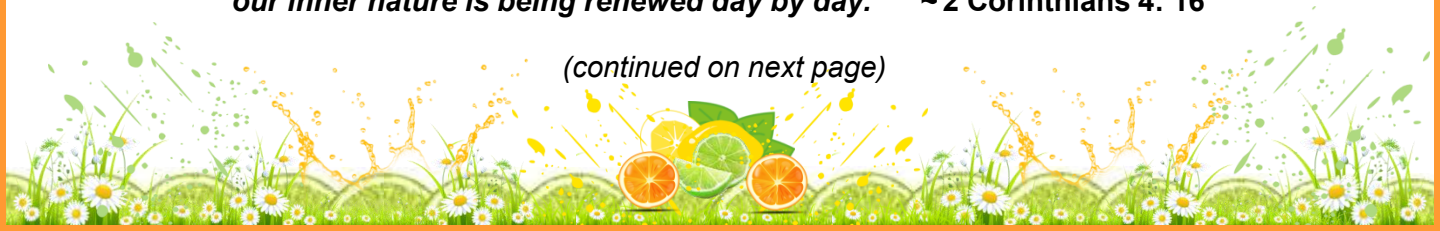
One of the biggest faith challenges in life for some folk is believing in what cannot be seen. The most memorable is Disciple Thomas' protest that "***Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.***" My middle name is Thomas, but I believe in lots of things that I cannot see: powerful, transformative, invisible agents working in our lives, moment by moment, every day. Not only do I believe, but often, I trust my life and eternity to that which cannot be seen; and my faith, relatively speaking, might be well below average.

Leon and Sandy told me about their pool awhile back. I want one. Their pool water is salt-treated, instead of using harsh chlorine chemicals that make your hair turn green, and make you smell like a wet load of white athletic socks going from the washer to the dryer. Floating in their pool is like floating in the ocean on a calm day, only their saltwater is much, much cleaner. All of which brings me back to fermentation, salty brines, and mysteriously delightful foods.

My favorite ferments are sauerkraut and grape-leaf pickles – both produced in a salty brine. In seminary, and on a serious budget, I made my own yogurt in a quart jar each week; and kombucha is one of my very favorite beverages of choice. Starting with cabbage, cucumbers, milk or black tea, people have been fermenting for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. To do so, they must depend on some invisible, transforming agent to prevent the basic ingredient from rotting, and change it into something much more permanent and delightful!

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ~ 2 Corinthians 4: 16

(continued on next page)



A Message from Pastor Chip (continued)

Amazingly and mysteriously, something is going on inside, which cannot be seen on the outside. Ab Martin, one of my favorite Walkertown heroes, gave me his “secret” recipe for grape leaf pickles. There really is no secret except to be brave, expect the best, and eat one! Making grape leaf pickles and eating them require a little bit of faith, since you have to remove the accumulated “scum” on top of the brine to retrieve a pickle. Likewise, kombucha ferments under or around a big gelatinous glob of bacteria and yeast. Pickle people and kombucha connoisseurs have to trust the process, often discounting what they see and smell, **wasting away**, and believing in what they do not see!

In Spring, our backyard is of dandelion flowers. The dandelion is one of the most recognized symbols of the vitality of Brookstown Church, and can be found on our church letterhead, posters, banners, etc. One March, I decided to pick several gallons of flowers, pluck off the yellow petals, add some water, sugar, orange slices and raisins, and let it all sit in the floor for over a year. Assured by fermentation experts that all would be well, I waited until the next March, a full year. I siphoned the liquid into quart jars, tossing out a pile of seriously ugly organic matter. In April, I opened a jar and skimmed off the thick powdery, dangerous-looking, yellow film that had accumulated on top, leaving a crystal-clear, vibrantly yellow nectar. It smelled fermented, but I replaced the lid and tightly screwed on the top, waiting for... the courage to take a sip... some day.

What a great day it is when the cabbage brine is bubbling and the kitchen has a distinctive smell; my family complains. Something amazing is going on! Even fermenting cabbage teaches us to trust in that which cannot be seen.

You cannot always go by how things look on the outside. **Trust.**

*As summer rains fall from heaven,
ripening grass, flowers and crops,
so God's Word comes down
from heaven, producing abundant
harvests in our lives.
(Based on Isaiah 55:10-11)*



*As trees bear summer fruit,
may my life bear the Spirit-fruit
of “love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control”.
(Galatians 5:22-23, ESV)*

The William Shelton Memorial Scholarship

The William Shelton Scholarship Fund of Brookstown United Methodist Church was established in 1989, to support the educational needs of church and community members. With this gift, we honor the memory of church member Mr. William H. Shelton, who was a friend and supporter of young people.

During worship on July 26, scholarships were presented to students who are continuing their educations in the 2026-2027 school year. The Scholarship Committee appreciates everyone's support and donations given throughout the year. We were excited to award scholarships in the amount of \$500 to each of the following students:

Kyleigh Cleary

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Freshman

Noah Macemore

Appalachian State University, Sophomore

Brady Warlow

Elon Law School, 2nd Year



Congratulations to these students! We wish them the very best as they continue their educational endeavors. ~ Susan Jameson, Chairman, Brookstown Scholarship Committee

“The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values.”

~ William S. Burroughs





Annual Conference 2026 Report

Annual Conference 2026 of the Western North Carolina Conference was held June 18-21 at Lake Junaluska Assembly. The theme of “Rebuild My Church” encouraged us daily to “Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously Through the Power of the Holy Spirit.”

Annual Conference was preceded on Thursday afternoon with optional Laity and Clergy Workshops on a variety of topics; I did not participate in any of those. In the Laity Session on Thursday evening, the Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand, Conference Evangelist, challenged lay and clergy leaders to move beyond the walls of their churches and engage their communities with courage and compassion. She reminded the gathering that the Holy Spirit equips ordinary people for ministry and emphasized the unity Christians share in Christ. The session also highlighted United Methodists responding creatively to community needs, including a ministry that served more than 75,000 meals following Hurricane Helene, a church community garden addressing food insecurity, and an apprenticeship initiative connecting high school students with local employers.

Opening Worship on Friday morning under the heading “Love Boldly through the Power of the Holy Spirit” included the celebration of Holy Communion. The sermon, delivered by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, challenged the church to move beyond comfort and complacency and respond to injustice with courage, compassion, and faith. The offering supported the new covenant relationship with the Ukraine-Moldova Provisional Annual Conference and an equity fund for repair of historically Black churches.

Late Saturday, Bishop Ken Carter summarized the actions of the Annual Conference and followed up with an email as follows:

Bishop Ken Carter identified seven key outcomes from this year's conference that reflect our shared commitments, accomplishments, and hopes for the future.

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- 1. We established an equity fund for the repair of historically Black Churches.*
 - 2. We affirmed a covenant relationship with the Ukraine-Moldova Annual Conference.*
 - 3. We reinstated the ordination of Lauren Scruggs who was required to surrender her credentials 32 years ago through our sin of exclusion.*
 - 4. We recognized a Deaconess and 3 Certified Lay Ministers, both of which acknowledge the calling of laity in the life of the church. We also licensed 16 local pastors, commissioned 12 clergy as provisional members, recognized the orders of 4 clergy, approved the transfer of 1 additional clergy, and ordained 1 Deacon and 7 Elders.*
 - 5. We approved an apportioned budget of \$10,893,315 for 2027, which is .01% less than the 2026 apportioned budget, and elected Rev. Meredith Poe Martin as our Conference Treasurer.*
 - 6. We celebrated the retirement of 32 clergy, which represented a total of 845 years of service, and gave thanks for the lives of 28 clergy and 30 clergy spouses who entered the church triumphant this past year.*
 - 7. We learned from each other about rebuilding the church within our particular context, and in those discussion groups experienced the connection at its best.*

Petitions 1-13 addressing 2027 Conference Funds and Financial Policies, 2027 Budget, Pension Programs, Health Benefit Program, and a number of other recurring items requiring action by the Annual Conference. Petitions 14-18 were approved and are reflected in Bishop Carter's takeaways. Because of time constraints, Petitions 19-23 were referred to the Connectional Table for recommendations as to how to proceed. Ironically, Petition 23 was a request to require scheduling of “Adequate Time for Submitted Petitions.”

The Conference website www.wnccumc.org has links to recordings of the livestream sessions on YOUTUBE, as well as a more detailed Annual Conference 2026 Comprehensive Report.

~ Rick Cain, Lay Member to Annual Conference



The Brookstown Express

If they see God's love lived, they learn to live God's love.



Movie Night!

Friday, August 7



Last call for SUMMER BREAK! We want to soak up the island dream one more time by going to see the new "Moana" movie with all our Children and Youth. This is a live action remake of a Disney favorite. It's about a young girl setting sail across the ocean to save her dying island. It focuses on key lessons, such as: Your worth is not defined by the expectations of others; there is strength in listening to your inner voice; learning the wisdom of your ancestors and honoring the past is important; and most of all, that empathy and healing are stronger than anger. It also has great music, island vibes, and a cute side kick or two....in the form of a pig and a chicken! We can't wait!

Please meet us on Friday, August 7, at The Grand Movie Theater, 5601 University Pkwy at 5:45pm, or at Brookstown at 5:15pm, and we can take the Brookstown bus to the theater. Movie tickets and concessions are covered by the Brookstown Youth Fund.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

~ Matthew 19:14, RSV



Back to School



Back to School is right around the corner.... the inevitable transition away from the dog days of summer break, to the hustle and bustle of school is happening August 10 for most of the schools in our area.

As our children and youth head back to the classroom, we are excited for all the knowledge, routine, and friendships they will experience with the new school year. We ask that you say a prayer for our kiddos and teachers this month, that they have a smooth transition and a great academic year!

Sunday School

Our Youth Sunday School continues to thoughtfully work our way through the Bible. We are still in Exodus, taking time each week to read and discuss not just the passages, but the key figures, the context in which it was written, and how it all applies to our lives today.

Our 11am Sunday School and Worship Service in our classroom looks very similar to the adult service, but is geared to the topics and experiences of our youth. We share praises and prayer concerns together, recite the Lord's Prayer, and take turns reading scripture. We also mix it up with music, crafts, and mission work that is Youth-led.



Children & Youth Missions

August 8, 3:15pm, Vienna Village

Speaking of mission work, we are grateful to the United Women in Faith for sewing all the beautiful fish-shaped pillows our VBS and Summer Care students stuffed for the residents of Vienna Village. These pillows are the perfect size to be used as lumbar support, a decorative throw pillow, or a nice prop behind the head for those who are seeking comfort. The children included a strip of scripture, a wooden cross, and lots of stuffing in their fish. Also, each fish is accompanied by a letter from our kids, naming the fish, sharing a message about Jesus, and signed with their names.

We hope this meaningful and useful project will open a cross-generational conversation about faith, bringing comfort to all involved. We will distribute them at **Vienna Village, 6601 Yadkinville Road, at 3:15pm on August 8.** We invite everyone to meet us at the south hall entrance to hand out these fish and join the conversation. If you are driving from Brookstown, it will be the last entrance you will see, and it is the largest entrance. See you there!



*Jonna Lasley, Youth Ministries Coordinator
Marsha Campbell, Children's Ministries Coordinator*

Rise Against Hunger Packaging Event

*Thank You, Lord,
for the beauty of a
summer day, and for
the privilege of
using it to praise
Your name.*

**Lewisville United Methodist Church
6290 Shallowford Road, Lewisville
Saturday, August 15, 10:30am – 12:30pm
Our goal is to pack at least 16,000 meals!**

*“Summer night –
even the stars are
whispering
to each other.”
~ Kobayashi Issa*

Volunteers register online at this address:
<https://www.lewisvilleumc.org/local-opportunities>

Choose “Care” from the menu; Rise Against Hunger is listed there.

*If anyone would like to give a donation to this cause, please note that it’s for
Rise Against Hunger; make checks payable to Brookstown UMC.*

Lend a Hand to People Facing Hunger Across the Globe

“About 733 million people worldwide do not receive enough nutrition to lead an active, healthy life or provide for themselves and their families. At Rise Against Hunger, we work with Hunger Champions — just like you — to end hunger in remote, last-mile communities.

Rise Against Hunger events provide lasting, real-life impact as your group works together for a start-to-finish meal assembly experience to combine rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a packet of 20 vitamins and minerals into life-changing meal packages. The food stores easily, transports quickly and has a long shelf-life to help meet the immediate nutritional needs of people facing food insecurity, paving the way toward resilient and bright futures! Volunteer events provide nutrition, education, and hope.” ~ Riseagainsthunger.org

*These summer days, Shepherd Lord, You lead us
amid green grasses and peaceful waters to restore our souls.
Thank You for Your goodness and mercy!*

Crisis Control Ministries

Gifts of the Month

Toilet Paper & Paper Towels

For Kids: Applesauce Cups or Pouches

Our food pantries are often low on the following items:

Cooking Oil, Spaghetti Sauce, Beef Stew, Canned Meats, Canned Fruit, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Potato Flakes, Box Dinners, and Baking Items
Our client choice food pantries also distribute Personal Hygiene Products, Laundry Aids, Cleaning Supplies, and Paper Products in addition to food.

Some essential items that can’t be purchased with food stamps:

Dish Detergent, Shampoo, Disposable Diapers, Feminine Hygiene Supplies, Bath Soap, Laundry Detergent, Deodorant

Do you have excess produce from your garden?

Fresh produce is always a treat for individuals and families!

**Donations can be delivered to 200 East Tenth Street, Winston-Salem
Monday through Friday, 9am – 4pm**

Your support and donations are greatly appreciated!

Blood Drive

Thanks to everyone who took part in the successful Blood Drive held at Brookstown on July 1, with special thanks to Ann Haynes and Robin Williams for their assistance. It takes everyone to make it all work.

Seventeen units of much-needed blood were collected, and will benefit many people! Your support and donations are greatly appreciated!

~ Tim Lasley, Coordinator

An Enduring Therapy

*Many have discovered helping others
to be the most enduring therapy,
for it's the burdens you help another to
bear that make your own seem light.*

~ Albert Schweitzer



Fellowship Meal

Wednesday, August 19 at 6pm

Our Community Fellowship Meal this month will be hosted by the United Women in Faith. There will be a variety of delicious meat, fruit, vegetables and pasta salads, plus chicken tenders, and watermelon for dessert.

Come and join us for an evening of good food and fellowship.

~ Martha Isenberg, UWF President



United Women in Faith

This month we will host the Fellowship Meal on August 19 at 6pm, so we won't have a separate meeting. All members are asked to bring a large covered dish of your favorite salad. Elsie Yates will provide the watermelon for dessert.

We have 11 members who will be volunteering in the community kitchen at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC this month. On our volunteer days so far this summer, we have packed 3,033 meals for food insecure children and seniors in our district. We are glad we can help people eat who might otherwise not have a meal.

District Annual Celebration is August 29 at First UMC, Mocksville. Registration and refreshments are 9-9:45am, with the program starting at 10am. The event is free, but let Martha Isenberg know if you want to attend by August 20, so she can make a reservation for our group. We can car pool and will hopefully have a few car loads attending.

"Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand."

~ Mother Teresa

Get Well Soon!

"Ms. Marsha" Campbell, our Children's Ministries Coordinator and beloved teacher in the Brookstown School & Summer Care program, is recovering from an injured knee and surgery; both occurred in July, and were unrelated.

We send Marsha our love and appreciation for all she does. We miss her being at Brookstown with us, and lift her in prayer for speedy and successful recoveries from both ailments! ❤️💛💚



Thank You!

The Before and After School and Summer Care Program staff and board members would like to thank the congregation for your recent generous financial donations to the program.

Your support at our June Fellowship Meal was wonderful, raising \$589 to help us update the playground equipment. Donations have also been given on Sundays, and greatly help with expenses.

We are deeply grateful for your gifts, because they allow us to continue to provide a safe and loving environment for children in our community. We appreciate your kindness, prayers, and support of this important ministry.

~ Pam Steppe, BSSC Treasurer



Community Festival

Brookstown United Methodist Church

6274 Yadkinville Road, Pfafftown, NC 27040

September 12, 2026

9:00am-2:00pm



Vendors

Local Merchandise, Services, Crafts

Shopping

Country Store, Chicken Pies, Frozen Casseroles,
Bake Sale & More

Live Entertainment

Tractor Pull for Kids

Food

Breakfast 7:30am - 10:30am

Lunch 11:00am - 1:30pm

Community Festival ~ September 12, 2026

Festival Bible Verse:

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV

We are looking forward to another great event this year, filled with delicious food, great entertainment, a variety of vendors, helpful volunteers, and wonderful fellowship!

We're still accepting vendors; please contact our Vendor Coordinator, Roberta Lasley, if you have questions, need a vendor form, or know of possible vendors.

There are lots of ways to volunteer before, during, and after this very special day. Please contact one of us if you would like to help in any way. There's a lot to do, and it takes everyone to make it all come together.

~ The Festival Committee

Tim & Roberta Lasley, Jimmy Holder



Casseroles Needed!

A popular attraction at the Festival each year is Aunt Bea's Bakery & Bake Sale, with chicken pies, frozen casseroles, and a variety of delicious baked goods.

The frozen casseroles are prepared by members of the congregation; volunteers make them at home, freeze them in 8x8" or loaf pans, and store them in their freezers until the Festival. We usually have a large variety, both with and without meat. An instruction list and recipe suggestions are available from Lavonda. Contact Roberta Lasley (336-817-3051) with any questions.



Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:14a



Chicken Pie Workshop

Thursday, August 27

Please come for the **fellowship** of making chicken pies together on August 27 for our Festival. We hope to make both sizes in one day, and we need lots of volunteers to accomplish this.

Jimmy will cook the chicken early; if anyone would like to help him, please let us know. We hope to be ready for chicken pickers and choppers by 2pm. Pie assembly will begin shortly after the chopping. For that, we'll need: dough pressers, flour applicators, pan fillers, salt/pepper and butter experts, broth pourers, and pie top crimpers. The people bagging and filling the freezer are very important too! We also hold the dishwashers in high regard, as it is a much-needed job!

Please let me know when you can be there and if there is a particular job you wish to do, or maybe try a new one. Thank you in advance for all your hard work; it takes many of us to get this done, and then we and our community get to enjoy the pies later!

~ Thank you! Roberta Lasley

August

Anniversaries

Bill & Karen Swart	10
Phil Norman & Benita VanWinkle	14
Thomas & Carol Sprinkle	20
Troy & Teresa Apperson	25
Mickey & Susan Samuel	25

*If your birthday or anniversary
needs to be added, please
call or email me.
Lavonda*



*“What sunshine is to flowers,
smiles are to humanity.”
~ Joseph Addison*

Flowers for August Worship Services

- 2 – Charlie & Sherrill Sharpe
- 9 – Scott & Robin Williams
- 23 – Tim & Roberta Lasley
- August 16 & 30
are open.



*“Breathe the sweetness
that hovers in August.”
~ Denise Levertov*



Birthdays

James Locklear	1
Darlene Davis	1
Cecil Mock	1
Lois Siegrist	3
Kirsten Webb	7
Kendra Davis	9
Troy Apperson	12
Graham Lewis	12
Mary Alice Stanley	12
Tony Apperson	16
Kayla Lewis Matlock	16
Nicole Procter	17
Kaila Davis	17
Janette Mock	19
Elsie Yates	24
Jim Lasley	24
Kelsey Webb	25
Susan Hughes	25
Kyleigh Cleary	29

*The fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,
self-control; against such
things there is no law.
Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)*



Opportunity

*I shall pass through this world but once,
any good therefore that I can do
or any kindness that I can show
to any human being, let me do it now.
Let me not defer or neglect it,
for I shall not pass this way again.
~ Henry Drumond*

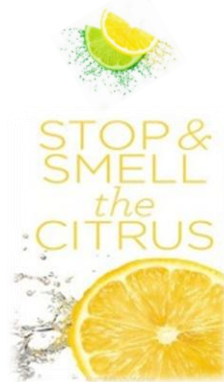
*Summer praises You,
God: Birds sing,
trees clap their hands,
the sun beams,
rain showers
announce Your
goodness – and we
join in. Hallelujah!*

Church Contact Information

336-945-3029
6274 Yadkinville Road
Pfafftown, NC 27040
Email: Brookstown@triad.twcbc.com
Webpage: BrookstownUMC.com
Like us on Facebook

God's Plan

*For every cloud that floats across the summer sky, for every blade of grass that
points its tiny spear heavenward, God has a purpose and a plan. How much more
then, for you who are His own in Christ Jesus, does God have a perfect life plan.
~ James McConkey*





The Generous Sunshine of Summer

Sit in the generous sunshine of summer – a bright blue sky overhead.

Join millions of leaves.

Join grasses and trees.

Soak up the warmth from heaven.

Pause in the generous sunshine of summer; look for a cool, clear brook.

Rest in the shade

That summer has made.

Rest and refresh the soul.

Bask in the generous sunshine of summer.

Indulge in its timelessness – the quiet unfolding of nature itself,

Abundantly giving,

Abundantly living.

Beauty transcends the earth, and leads to eternal worth!

~ Peggy Ferrell