



September 07 Lydia Walsh
September 14 Renee Johnson
September 15 Emma Snow
September 16 Rob Church
September 17 Dr. Laura Crysel
September 19 Nancy Bumgarner
September 23 Jasmine Johnson
September 30 Gary Elrod



September 22 Tony & Renee Johnson



The Union Messenger

Union United Methodist Church

Pastor: Rev. Randy Lankford

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Pastor Share

Ready. Set. September! Get ready to watch time fly by, maybe even faster than any four-month period. September ushers in a new school year, a new football season, and everything pumpkin spice, not to mention the dreaded church charge conference scheduling. Before we know it, we'll be trunk-or-treating, eating turkey, and celebrating Christmas Eve Communion. But before we get too far ahead of ourselves, September 2026 will mark a new ministry we are wanting to support. Every day during the school year, students are identified who are in a situation that causes food insecurity. I can't hardly imagine what it would be like to go home and wonder if I was going to go to bed hungry. The Backpack Program organized by Samaritan's Kitchen is a way to help feed students at their home. I have a hard time wrapping my brain around families in 2026 not having enough food. Thank God that someone saw a problem and found a way to help. We have an opportunity to help also. As of right now, our plan is to collect food for a period of time, and then match the amount of pounds of food collected with the same dollar amount. Hopefully this will be an ongoing ministry as the need is ongoing as well. I'm sure there will be some fine tuning, but supporting our neighbors, especially our youth, is certainly a good cause. Since time is getting ready to shift into high gear, I think it will be awesome and amazing how God will work through our church family and how much of a difference we can make in our community in the next few months. I hope you have a blessed September, and may your favorite football team sponsor pumpkin spice everything! - Pastor Randy



Help Us Fill a Backpack — and a Child's Weekend

Too many children in Wilkes County face a simple but heartbreaking problem: they may have enough to eat during the school week, but not enough food at home for the weekend.

Wilkes County has 22 schools serving students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Many children in low-income homes qualify for free meals at school. Through Samaritan's Kitchen Project Backpack, school staff identify children who may need additional help, and those children receive a backpack filled with 7 meals to help provide food for the weekend. **Currently, 950 backpacks go home with children in our county weekly!**

Project Backpack focuses on complete meals that store well, with an emphasis on high-quality proteins and whole grains—giving children nutritious food they can enjoy at home.

How Can You Help?

Union United Methodist Church would like to support this important need in our local community by hosting a Food Drive for Project Backpack and collecting some of the items that are needed most.

Most-needed items include:

- Ramen noodles
- Canned spaghetti
- Oatmeal packets
- Granola bars
- Cans of pork and beans
- Beef stew
- Similar shelf-stable, easy-to-prepare foods
- Cheese crackers
- Microwave mac & cheese cups
- Pop tarts
- Beenie-Weenies
- Jars of Peanut Butter
- Small cans of tuna or chicken (or the pouches)

Every item donated represents a little more food security for a local child. We believe that no child should have to worry about where their next meal is coming from, especially on the weekends. This is an opportunity for our church family and community to come together and help meet a very real need right here in Wilkes County.

Let's fill some backpacks, fill some shelves, and help make sure local children have food for the weekend.

More details about our food drive and how you can participate will be coming soon!



Union United Methodist Church

Upcoming EVENTS



Saturday, November 28th
9:00am 'til noon
Decorate for Christmas



Sunday, November 29th
6:00pm
**First Sunday of Advent,
Annual Hanging of the
Greens Service**



Thursday, December 24th
5:00pm
**Annual Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion
Service**

*We look forward to celebrating
this beautiful season of **Advent**
with you!*

Community
COMMUNION
Thanksgiving
SERVICE

Union United Methodist and
Millers Creek United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 22nd
at 6:00pm

Location: Union United Methodist Church,
708 Curtis Bridge Road,
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

Officiating:
Rev. Bradley Lisk of Millers Creek UMC
and Rev. Randy Lankford of Union UMC

*Join us for a dessert fellowship
immediately after the service.*

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Join Us for A Drive-In Movie Night!

We are doing something different for our September fellowship gathering! Have you ever been to a drive-in movie? It should be great fun and fellowship so plan to join us!

We will meet at the church on Saturday, September 19 at 5:30pm to travel to Parkers Farm to watch the movie.

Please sign up by September 13th, listing what you'd like to pre-order so that we will be able to provide the headcount and order pizza or any concessions prior to our visit. Sign-up sheet is on the table in the vestibule. Be sure to fill in all details for planning purposes.



Silo Cinema Drive-In is a seasonal, outdoor drive-in movie theater located at **1070 Speedway Road, North Wilkesboro**, on Parker Farms near North Wilkesboro Speedway. The drive-in was created by two local friends who wanted to bring something unique, nostalgic and family-friendly to the community. The theater combines the old-fashioned drive-in experience with the beautiful setting of a working Wilkes County farm.

Movies are shown outdoors after dark, with gates opening about 1½ hours before the movie begins. It is a single-screen drive-in, and movie sound is provided through your vehicle. The movie for Saturday, September 19 will be ***Remember the Titans***. This is a powerful story of faith, friendship, courage, reconciliation, and learning to see others through the eyes of character rather than prejudice.

Hope you will join us for this unique experience and inspirational movie!



 **Union United Methodist Church**

Annual
HOMECOMING
and
REVIVAL SERVICES

Sunday, October 11th – Tuesday, October 13th.

 **HOMECOMING SERVICE**
will be at 11am on
Sunday, October 11th
followed by a
covered dish lunch
in the fellowship hall.

 **REVIVAL SERVICES**

 *Sunday Evening*
(October 11th) at 6pm

 *Monday & Tuesday Evenings*
(October 12th & 13th) at 7pm

 Revival Guest Speaker:
Reverend Stacie Eller

 *Special music*
each night of revival!



 **Union United Methodist Church**

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 31st
at 6:00pm

Everyone is Invited!

Monetary donations to help buy candy for the little spooks would be greatly appreciated!

GOD'S LOVE TREATS EVERYONE!

TRICK or BLESSINGS!