



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2026

From the Pastor



The Rev. Richard Moeller

Our “Back-to-School Cookout” was a great success. There was lots of good food, good fellowship, good music, and good fun. There are a few more events like this planned for the upcoming months.

These events are what the church is all about. The “good food” is not just the burgers, dogs, desserts, and sides that were shared. The “good foods” are the things that sustain us during our life’s journey. They are the feelings of acceptance, family, and sharing with our brothers and sisters. They are the gathering of the family of faith around one another.

Good fellowship is the mark of any gathering at the church. When church people come together, whether around a table, an altar, or in the side yard of the church, we learn more about one another. We share stories and events in our lives and celebrate the good things and the concerns we have.

Music has been the hallmark of the United Methodist Church since the very beginning. Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Movement, wrote about 6500 hymns and religious poems. John Wesley translated between 30-40 hymns from German and other languages. Every worship service in the church has hymns and singing. Hymns not only teach us theology but join us together in praise and worship.

Our History: Sources of Inspiration and Appreciation



A historical and devotional presentation by Dr. Jerry Beasley, delivered during a Sunday worship.

Our History: Sources of Inspiration and Appreciation

History helps us — not by rewriting the past, but by inviting us to remember it faithfully. Our stained-glass windows, glowing with evening light, remind us of people whose faith and work shaped the community we inherit. As we turn to the stories in our windows, we take a brief tour of our Ebenezers — the men and women whose lives are pictured in glass. Their histories have been gathered thanks to the work of Randy Belcher, Fred Cooper, Joe Marsh, Joe Parker and many others.

A Brief Tour of Our Ebenezers

David and Hester Martin

David and Hester Martin met at a court day gathering in Wabash, where David’s attention was quickly drawn to Hester’s graceful presence.

Their meeting proved providential: seventeen months later they married and eventually raised thirteen children, forming a family line that includes the Oxleys, Keatleys, and Fannings. Camp meetings on the Martins’ property later inspired the founding of three local churches, planting the seeds of the congregations we know today. The window “in memory of David and Hester Martin” has a C and E at the top surrounded by olive branches. That stands for Christian Endeavour, especially active in British Methodism in the 1800s.

William and Sarah Holroyd

William and Sarah Holroyd left England seeking opportunity and ministry, traveling 35 days across the Atlantic before settling among early Athens families. William became the first minister of Bethel and later the second minister of Concord, serving through the Civil War as a chaplain. Their home became a place of warm hospitality, welcoming neighbors,

students, and even visiting presidents. Their window honors a life of faith, service, and steadfast devotion. The window “in memory of William and Sarah Holroyd” commemorates one of our founding families, associated with our church for more than 120 years.

William and Sarah Reynolds

Married in 1852, William and Sarah Reynolds built a life shaped by education, farming, and civic service. William taught in winter and farmed in summer, later serving as a Major in the Confederate Army and as Superintendent of Mercer County Schools. His leadership helped establish Concord as part of the State Normal School system, securing its building and future. Their window stands as a tribute to hard work, integrity, and a lifelong commitment to learning. The window “in memory of William and Sarah Reynolds” has a sheaf of wheat and a sickle, for harvesting.

Financial Update

Financial Update

The checking account reconciliation for the end of July 2026 showed an unencumbered operating balance of \$21,258.57.

Our 2026 apportionment is \$19,341, and we have paid to date \$14,945, leaving us a total of \$4,396 to pay. Thank you to everyone who has faithfully supported this commitment throughout the year. Because of your generosity, we are in very good shape as we move toward the finish line.

The 2026 District Fund of \$725 has been fully paid.

Further discussion will be needed to explore additional ways to repay the funds borrowed from the Endowment Fund for the roof replacement at the next Church Council/Committee meetings.

The church's assets include trust funds and endowments managed by the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia. The 1H2026 statement reflected an ending balance of \$280,353. The Joseph F. Marsh, Jr. TUV FBO account was valued at \$536,245 at the end of the first half of 2026. Each trust fund has specific designated purposes for how its resources may be used.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Church Committee and Council meetings are scheduled for Sunday, September 20. Council and Committee members, please save the date.



Fond Farewell to Mary & Ken

Celebrating Ken and Mary Graybeal as They Begin a New Chapter

This September, our church family bids a very fond farewell to two beloved long-time members, Ken and Mary Graybeal, as they prepare to move to Raleigh to be closer to their daughter, Sydney, who was baptized and became a member of our church a few years ago. Their move also brings them four hours closer to their daughter, Lindsey, and her family in Atlanta. While we are excited for this new season in their lives, we will miss them tremendously—both for their faithful presence and the countless ways they have blessed our congregation over the years.

Mary is a lifelong resident of Athens, WV, rooted deeply in the history and heart of this community. She met Ken while attending college in Tennessee, beginning a partnership that has spanned decades of love, family, and shared ministry. After college, Ken and Mary lived in

Johnson City, TN, before making their home in Atlanta, GA, where they remained until Ken's retirement. At that time, they returned to Athens to care for and live on Mary's family farm—a property that has been in her family since 1911, carrying more than a century of stories, memories, and heritage.

Recently, the Graybeal's made the difficult decision to sell the farm and relocate to Raleigh. While we celebrate this opportunity for them to be near family, their absence will be felt deeply within our church.

Ken and Mary have been pillars of quiet, dependable service. Every Sunday, Ken could be found faithfully counting the offering—a ministry he carried out with care and consistency. And every Thanksgiving, our congregation looked forward to the delicious turkey lovingly prepared by Ken and Mary, a tradition that brought warmth



and joy to our holiday gatherings.

Their kindness, their steady presence, and their servant hearts have shaped our church in ways that will be remembered for years to come. As they begin this new chapter, we send them with our love, our prayers, and our gratitude for the many ways they have enriched our lives and our community.

Ken and Mary, thank you for everything. You will always be part of our Athens church family, and we look forward to the times when your path brings you back home.



SUNDAY, AUG 23, 2026 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Athens-Concord Town Social Celebrated Community Spirit on Sunday, August 23

The Athens-Concord Town Social was held on Sunday, August 23, bringing together neighbors, families, students, alumni, and friends for an afternoon of fellowship on the front lawn of Concord University.

A particularly meaningful part of this year's gathering was the dedication of the event to the memory of William T. "Tom" Bone III. Tom was a cherished member of our church, Concord alumnus, longtime public information director, public address announcer, and a cherished volunteer who brought joy to countless Town Socials — sometimes as a clown, sometimes as a cartoonist, always as a friend. Tom's passing in October 2025 left a noticeable absence, but his legacy continues to shape the spirit of the event. Tom's creativity, humor, and deep love for both the university and the town made him a pillar of the community, and many who attended the Social remembered him fondly, celebrating the ways he strengthened the connection between Athens and Concord University.



(Windows, from page 1)

James French Holroyd and Betty Lively Holroyd

James French Holroyd took on responsibility early, managing family businesses and serving as postmaster before becoming Concord's first assistant (dean) and librarian. For 34 years he taught history and mathematics, earning the affection of generations of students. Betty Lively Holroyd brought equal dedication, riding horseback to attend Concord and later shaping civic life as a teacher, community leader, and the first woman on the Athens Town Council. Their window reflects a legacy of education, service, and community leadership.

Closing Reflection

Why pause for a history lesson this Sunday? Because their story is our story. Their names may not be ours, but their faithfulness built the place where we worship, learn, and gather today. They were as human as we are — sometimes weary, sometimes unsure — yet they worked for something larger than themselves: a town, a college, a church, a faith whose roots reach back through Samuel and Eli into the mists of pre-history.

We do not always get it right either. But we should remember the times we do — and remember that we have never done it alone. So when we pass these lovely windows on summer evenings, let us remember and give thanks. And after giving thanks, let us go and do likewise.

A full version of this history, including extended biographies and source notes, is available on our church website under the About tab – History.

Sending Care to our Soldiers Overseas

Supporting Chaplain (MAJ) Chip Bennett and Our Soldiers Overseas

As Chaplain (MAJ) Chip Bennett begins his deployment overseas, many in the Southern District have asked how they can offer encouragement from home. Chip reminds us that while he lacks for nothing, small morale-boosting items become a tremendous asset—not only for him, but for the Soldiers he ministers to each day. A simple box of snacks, coffee, and handwritten notes can brighten a long week and remind our troops that they are held close in prayer.

Chip shares that the care packages he receives quickly become part of his ministry. He distributes items to Soldiers he encounters, using each package as a tangible expression of the love and support flowing from home. Your kindness becomes a blessing multiplied.

Below are helpful suggestions for anyone wishing to send a care package during his deployment.

Suggested Items

Salty: crackers, chips/pretzels, jerky, nuts, trail mix

Sweet: M&M's, Tootsie Pops, gummies, hard candy, cookies

Caffeinated: coffee (ground, whole bean, pods, instant), tea, energy drinks, drink mixes

Packing Tips:

Send only unopened, commercially packaged items. Avoid anything that melts, glass containers, aerosols, homemade food, or perishables. Use a sturdy box.

NOTE: The church will be sending boxes as they fill up. Please bring your donations to the church on Sundays.

If you are not local, the address is BENNETT, CHRISTOPHER, 111th EN BDE / CAMP TITIN, APO, AE 09315 UNITED STATES.

Encouragement Welcome

Notes, cards, children's drawings, prayers, and messages of support are deeply meaningful. These reminders of home often become cherished keepsakes.

Thank You

Chip expresses deep gratitude for every prayer, every note, and every box sent his way. Your support strengthens not only him, but the Soldiers who serve beside him—many of whom are far from home and family. Your kindness becomes a ministry of its own, reminding our troops that they are remembered, valued, and lifted in prayer.

I can't wait for the next event to be planned. I can't wait to share with each of you the good, fellowship, music and fun we can all have. Stay tuned for the next

Yours in Christ,




Calendar



Recurring Dates September - October

Sunday Worship
11 AM — Worship

Roots & Wings Children's Church
2nd and 4th Sundays of each month
11 AM — Worship

Thursday Night Yoga
6 PM — Anderson Hall

**Special Dates
September – October**
Wednesday, September 2
7 PM — Zoom Bible Study
Week 3

Saturday, September 5
8 AM — Men's Breakfast
Anderson Hall

Monday, September 7
Labor Day

Wednesday, September 9
7 PM — Zoom Bible Study
Week 4

Wednesday, September 16
7 PM — Zoom Bible Study
Week 5

Sunday, September 20
Church Council Meetings
2 PM — Trustees
3 PM — Finance Committee
4 PM — Administrative Council

Wednesday, September 23
7 PM — Zoom Bible Study
Week 6

Sunday, September 27
Mountain Lion Sunday

Saturday, October 3
8 AM — Men's Breakfast
Anderson Hall

Sunday, October 11
11 AM — Worship w/ Rev. Dr. Ellis Conley preaching the morning sermon.
12:15 PM — Concord UMC Charge Conference

Wednesday, October 15
6:00 PM — CU Homecoming Parade

Princeton Parish Project Collection
September - boxed macaroni and cheese
October - Instant Potatoes and stuffing mix

(Moeller, from page 1)

I have always said, "fun is not just for the kids." Fun is when you are enjoying the things you like to do. Fun is being with others and doing things together. Fun are the things that bring you pleasure, enjoyment, or are a source of amusement. Being with friends, going to a worship service, these should be a source of pleasure and fulfillment for us.

Church staff

Pastor:

Richard Moeller

Church Secretary:

Jayne Ford Jones

Worship Leader:

Elizabeth Muldoon

Technician:

Matthew Thomas

Custodian:

Carol McManaway

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Church Website:

Concordathens.org

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Meet Rev. Dr. Ellis Conley

As Chaplain (Maj.) Chip Bennett begins his military deployment, the West Virginia Conference has appointed **Rev. Dr. Ellis Conley** to serve as **interim superintendent for the Southern District**. A retired elder with decades of faithful ministry, Rev. Conley is well known for his steady leadership, compassionate spirit, and genuine love for the local church. Many across the conference remember his joyful presence at Annual Conference and his ability to bring both wisdom and humor to ministry.

Rev. Conley steps into this temporary role with gratitude and a pastor's heart, supporting clergy and congregations during this season of transition. As we pray for Chip's

safety, we also welcome Rev. Conley's guidance and care for our district.

Rev. Conley will be visiting Concord United Methodist Church in October 11th to preach the morning sermon and preside over our Charge Conference. We look forward to welcoming him into our congregation and sharing in worship together.



CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

109 Vermillion Street
P.O. Box 746
Athens, WV 24712-0746

Roots & Wings



Children's Church
2nd & 4th Sundays

