

THE BEACON

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

November 2026

A Message from Pastor Chip

Saints, Priests and Angels: Seen one lately?

It's that time of the year when we consider the saints among us. Sunday, November 1, we will observe All Saints Day, mindful and grateful for the blessings of the redeemed in our lives, and the gracious influence of the saints in the world on God's behalf. Among many others, I will remember my Daddy, Jim, his big red tractor, and his log-splitter.

On Saturday night, October 31, even the most secular among us will contemplate the movement of seen and unseen beings among us, mostly benevolent spirits looking for candy; but, the spiritually sensitive perceive the presence of benevolent and malevolent influences.

Behold I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare the way before thee.
~ Malachi, quoted in Mark

The name Malachi means Messenger Of God, literally, "my messenger", and is of Hebrew origin. In the gospel of Mark, the Hebrew term, Malachi, is translated by the Greek word, *angellon*, angel. A messenger of God is an angel. Sometimes angels appear silently, and sometimes they speak. At times, their presence is the message! Sometimes angels are easily recognized; sometimes, we figure it out later. One fine morning a couple of years ago, I met my friend, Troy Lee, in Tyro to get some hickory for the big weekend barbecue in Vienna. It was Troy's first visit to the farm on Sink Farm Road, and I was delighted to see him. He's smart. He knows about tractors.

The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ~ Ephesians 4

God provides to us governance, guidance, and grace. Through the governance of God, creation is sustained along with blessings of life. Within the created order, God provides us with guidance on how to behave gratefully and in relationship with other living beings. Then, I contend that God drops loads of grace on us. Remember that grace is defined as unmerited favor. God blesses us with a deluge of favor. Favor can come directly from our creator, and indirectly, through others. Jesus is the very best example of God's favor bestowed to the world through another. Under the direction of the Spirit, favor is delivered through messengers, saints and priests.

I paid little attention to Dad's log-splitter. Really, I had no appreciation for the whole concept, and neglected the small, but weighty details of getting that beast to bust wood. The Tyro Webbs are surrounded by trees: some are growing; many have fallen. We need sharp tools, and saws that crank, and a tractor that lifts, and a sawmill that runs, and a splitter that can be operated by the operator.

(continued on next page)

A Message from Pastor Chip (continued)

In the Bible we read of ***the chosen people, the holy nation, the royal priesthood, and the peculiar people*** who give praise to God for the favor that has been shown. Peculiar people connect us to God's favor. Priests help us to recognize God's accompanying presence.

Back in Tyro, the day started with anxiety about the chainsaw. It worked fine. Then, there was that wood-splitter, which had not been hooked up to a tractor in nearly fifteen years. Then, Troy Lee Apperson showed up, bringing all of his tractor knowledge, and guided us through a successful wood-busting couple of hours right in middle of the rain. Others might have seen dreary labor. I declare that we were bathed in a heavenly light, surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses" (my daddy would have been ecstatic!), and delighted in the gift of physical work in cooperation with the Divine. It was a revelation! A visitation! A religious experience!

I concluded that I had experienced a visitation from an agent of the Almighty, and was blessed by a guiding presence, favored with instruction, and encouraged by a message of promise and hope.

The angel never gave his name, but I spotted it embroidered on his shirt: "**Troy**"

All Saints Day

"Oh, when the saints go marching in!"
Thank You, Jesus, for counting me in that "number"
of those saved by Your grace and love. Today we sing praises
to God with the saints in heaven, gathered around God's throne.

Charge Conference

Sunday, November 22 at 12:15pm

Our annual local church Charge Conference will be held immediately after the 11am Worship Service November 22. This will be a brief meeting to approve the 2027 budget and clergy compensation, as well as adopt the 2027 slate of church officers.

We will gather afterwards in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck lunch for everyone!

United Methodist Student Day

Sunday, November 29

A Special Offering will be taken during worship to support deserving United Methodist students as they prepare for a life that unites faith and knowledge.

These gifts help students continue their education and their faith journeys, as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them to do.

Your generous gifts connect students to their faith and enrich their ministries.

Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 25, 7pm

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service this year will rotate to Bethlehem A.M.E. Zion Church, with Olivet Moravian and Brookstown Churches attending. Make plans to attend this special service of thankfulness and gratitude to God for His many blessings, and invite family and friends!

Thank You, Lord

As families, friends, and even strangers gather this Thanksgiving, may it be a holy day of gratitude to God for life and salvation.

Mark Trammell Quartet

Sunday, November 8 at 6pm
Lewisville Baptist Church
Info: 336-945-3706

Give Thanks to the Lord

Laity Service Award

Congratulations to John Steppo, Brookstown's "2026 Lay Servant of the Year"! John was presented with a certificate from Brookstown on Laity Sunday, October 18. The Yadkin Valley District Lay Service Ministry Award Ceremony was held that afternoon at St. Paul's UMC in Winston-Salem.

The recipient of this award "exemplifies a commitment to the Christian way of life. The recipient's contribution to the life of the church and community reflects a devotion to the service of others."

Thank you, John, for all that you do for your Brookstown church family.

Pastor Appreciation

October was Pastor Appreciation month, and Pastor Chip Webb was recognized on October 25 at all three morning services. He was presented with cards and notes, and a Love Offering from his devoted congregation and friends. And it was a surprise!

Thanks to everyone who wrote notes and cards, called, donated, and kept it all secret!

Thank you, Chip, for all you do for your church, the community, and the world, in the precious name of Jesus.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
~ 1 Peter 4:10, NIV

All Saints Day

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Day falls on the first day of November, and in many Protestant churches, including the United Methodist Church, it is recognized on the first Sunday in November, "All Saints Sunday". This year, it is both!

It's a day to remember Saints, and also to remember those who have died from the congregation, or among families and friends, within the last year. In some congregations, a bell is tolled and/or a candle is lit as each person's name is called.

While the dead are solemnly remembered during worship on All Saints Sunday, the tradition is ultimately a celebration of Christ's victory over death.

For all the saints who have lived and died in Christian faith and set us an example to follow, we give You thanks, O God.

The Meaning of Life

"The greatest thing is to give thanks for everything. He who has learned this knows what it means to live. He has penetrated the whole mystery of life: giving thanks for everything."
~ Albert Schweitzer

Remember to "Fall Back"

Daylight Savings Time Ends at 2am Sunday, November 1. Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed Saturday night. Enjoy that extra hour of sleep!!

for He is Good...

The Brookstown Express

Thank You, Veterans!

On Veterans Day, we honor men and women who've served and sacrificed in one of America's armed leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the services. On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or "truce" day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country's quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when "nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." *(Isaiah 2:4)*

Thank a Veteran!

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.
~ William Arthur Ward





Veterans Day Fellowship Meal

Wednesday, November 11 at 6pm

Brookstown's Children & Youth will sponsor a special evening to honor our Veterans. We want to include as many of these very special people as possible, so please be thinking of Vets in your circle of family and friends that you can invite. We will make invitations for them, so let us know how many invitations you will need. If they have pictures we can show that evening, please give them to us ahead of time. We will have some small gifts for them as well, to show our appreciation for their dedication to our country and the freedoms we all are blessed with.

The ladies of the United Women in Faith have offered to prepare the meal. Many thanks to them for participating and helping us out!

Mark your calendar now and invite Veterans you know to come to this evening of fellowship and appreciation and celebration! Please help us express our deep gratitude to our Veterans. It's important that our children understand their sacrifice and continue to honor the freedoms they helped ensure for us. *~ Marsha Campbell, Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Youth Ministry News

Our Bible study continues as we work our way through Deuteronomy and towards Joshua. Our Youth are keeping track of their notes in their new Bible carrying cases and are asking the tough questions! Thanks for supporting us as we learn the word of God. *~ Jonna Daniel, Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 29 at 11am

The Children & Youth will conduct this service again this year to prepare the church for the beautiful season of Advent.

We will meet to practice on **Sunday, November 15** in the sanctuary, immediately after the 11am Worship Service. If you'd like to help, let Jonna Lasley know (336-995-2861).

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 13 at 11am

Children ages 3-10 will practice upstairs at **11am the first four Sundays in November and on Sunday, December 6.** This is a commitment of one hour for six Sundays. Knowing your children's availability will allow us to plan. Please confirm with Marsha Campbell (864-617-1621).

~ Kelli Rush, Children/Youth Music

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

United Women in Faith

Our monthly meeting is Wednesday, November 18 at 11am, in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have a potluck lunch before a short business session, and a program on "Thanks for Every Part." We will be collecting our World Thank Offering so don't forget to bring the coins or dollars you have saved throughout the year for this. Maura McCoy and Anita Clifton are hostesses. All women are invited to join us to enjoy the fellowship and learn more about what we do.

Thanks again to those who helped make our October mission projects successful. We helped in the district Ubuntu Day at Bethlehem Center by washing lots of windows, cleaning and sanitizing the children's toys, and donating school supplies and underwear for the children. We also collected 66 pounds of arts and crafts supplies to give to The Art Shac for another district mission project. We also had our monthly afternoon at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC, packing about 1,000 meals for food insecure people in our district.

~ Martha Isenberg, UWF President





For Your countless blessings, God, we thank You. May we always use them to bless others.
~ Anonymous

Blood Drive

Wednesday, November 4, 1:30-5:30pm

Make plans to come out to Brookstown and give the gift of life by donating much-needed blood! The Red Cross will set up in the Fellowship Hall, and they will take good care of you.

You can make an appointment by calling Tim Lasley at 336-817-4593, or sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org.

Use Sponsor Code: Brookstown.

Vienna Civic Club BBQ Chicken Fundraiser

Saturday, November 7 11am until Sold Out
West Central Community Center
6130 Yadkinville Road

A plate includes 1/2 chicken, baked beans, slaw, and roll for $10. Proceeds support local scholarship and benevolence funds. These meals are a community favorite and always sell out, so don't wait to get yours!

The Generosity Cycle

God makes us rich in every way so we can be generous on every occasion, which will result in thanksgiving to God. ... God doesn't bless us to provide for our own needs; He blesses us so we can be generous. ~ Rick Warren (based on 2 Corinthians 9:11)

Poinsettia Orders

It's time to order poinsettias for Advent! See the outside page of this newsletter for the order form. The deadline to order is November 22.

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 29

The church will be decorated for Advent during worship at 11am. See the Children & Youth page of this newsletter for details.

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him; bless His name!"
(Psalm 100:4, ESV)

Thanksgiving,
to be truly Thanksgiving,
is first "Thanks" and then "Giving".

"Thanksgiving, after all,
is a word of action."
~ W.J. Cameron

"Thanksgiving was never meant
to be shut up in a single day."
~ Robert Caspar Lintner

Crisis Control Honor Cards

Each year, CCM offers beautiful holiday cards for sale as a way to honor friends and family during the holidays.

For a minimum donation of $5 per card, Crisis Control Holiday Honor Cards can be sent by the purchaser themselves, or be signed and sent by Crisis Control volunteers. All proceeds support our neighbors in financial crisis who are facing hunger, eviction, utility shut-offs, or illness without prescription medication. Donations are tax-deductible. To order or pick up cards visit:

https://crisiscontrol.org/ways-to-give/holiday-honor-cards.html

Crisis Control Gift of the Month

Baking Items (Cooking Oil, Baking Mixes, etc.)
For Kids: "Little Bites" Snack Cakes & Cookies

Other items that are needed regularly: Dish Detergent, Shampoo, Disposable Diapers, Feminine Hygiene Supplies, Bath Soap, Laundry Detergent & Deodorant

10th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Date To Be Announced

We will light the Brookstown Christmas tree for the beautiful season of Advent again this year at a date and time to be announced closer to the event. Please join us as we gather by the tree on the Lewisville Vienna Road corner by the marquis.

The Brookstown Christmas Tree was given in memory of Pete and Jo Thomas by their family, as a reminder of their love and support of their church. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this celebration of the beginning of the Advent Season.

November

Anniversaries

Larry & Michelle Snider	6
Jerry & Nancy LaPrad	13
Ralph & Beverly Collins	21
Jay & Darlene Burton	24
Bob & Susan Harrell	26

Birthdays

Ace Lasley	1	Sandra Snarski	15
Lynda Jackson	5	Jeffrey Swart	16
Pat Lowrance	5	John Stepto	16
Leah Greenwood	5	Jerry Hopping	16
John Burton	6	Bill Mock	16
Megan Colf	6	Christine Huntsman	24
Karolee Hutchins	7	Ralph Collins	24
Vonda Brown	8	Dauna Scofield	27
Karen Powers	11	Aaron Hopping	28
Larry Conrad	15	James Plummer	30

If your birthday or anniversary needs to be added, please let me know.
Lavonda

Church Contact Information

336-945-3029

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Email: Brookstown@triad.twcbc.com

Webpage: BrookstownUMC.com

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The Power of Gratitude

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.
It turns what we have into enough, and more.
It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity.
It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.
Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today,
and creates a vision for tomorrow.
~ Melody Beattie

Flowers for Worship Services

November 1
Lasley Family

November 29
Poinsettias

Other weeks are open.





Cornucopia

Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.

Brookstown United Methodist Church
6274 Yadkinville Road
Pfafftown, NC 27040



Time to Order Poinsettias!

It's time to order poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary during Advent. All the poinsettias will be red, and the cost is $15 per container (wrapped, no bow). You may have them placed in memory or in honor of someone. Proceeds will go towards the Children & Youth programs.

Please include payment with your order and mail it to the church office or put it with your offering on Sunday. Checks should be made payable to Brookstown UMC. Please note on your check that it is for poinsettias. The deadline to order is Sunday, November 22.

Your Name: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____