



Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Our Mission

To be a transformed and transforming community in Christ.

Our Vision

Change lives, ours and others'.

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Through Cokesbury Windows

August 28, 2017

I shared our conference Board of Laity's weeklong Call to Prayer on Sunday, August 20, and told you that we would send the entire week's prayer plan to you by e-mail. There was some difficulty in doing it, and we apologize. Here's the plan. Please pick it up now and continue to pray this week. Thank you.

In-Yong

Call to Prayer

from The Board of Laity

**Western North Carolina Conference
of The United Methodist Church**

The Board of Laity of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church does not condone hatred, bigotry, violence, prejudice or any form of oppression in the lives of all God's children. We reject the hateful actions and rhetoric of hate groups. We believe the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is where we strive to reconcile and heal those who have suffered and those who have committed these hateful and hurtful acts. We are committed to work to ensure that, just as every person is equal in the eyes of God, all are equal on earth.

With heightened awareness brought on by the events that transpired in Charlottesville, VA this past weekend and occur throughout the world on a daily basis, The Board of Laity is requesting that all members: laity and clergy, join us in a week of prayer beginning Sunday, August 20. Pray for justice for all who suffer from hatred, bigotry, violence, injustice and forms of oppression and that the eyes and ears of those who bring this suffering may be opened to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have listed specific prayers for each of the 7 days. To begin this time of prayer, we ask that you intentionally read the "Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith" from our Baptismal Covenant and pray for the renewal of your covenant.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

On Behalf of the Whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races?

I do.

Day 1: Pray for the victims that were injured and the souls of those who lost their lives in the events in Charlottesville and for victims throughout the world. Pray for their families and loved ones that they are surrounded in Jesus' loving arms and are comforted in some small way.

Day 2: Pray for those who have hardened their hearts toward fellow human beings through acts of bigotry, hatred and violence. Pray that their eyes be opened and hearts softened toward those that are different than them because we are all Children of God.

Day 3: Pray that God's grace and comfort surround those that have lost loved ones to acts of violence and racism.

Day 4: Pray that those affected by Racism and acts of violence remain hopeful knowing that God stands with them in the midst of their suffering and God's grace, love and mercy will strengthen them as they overcome injustice.

Day 5: Pray that as Children of God, we are able to put aside our differences and strive for hearts and souls that allow for conversation, understanding and for the path toward healing to begin.

Day 6: Pray Ephesians 2: 14-16:

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Day 7: That God continues to keep these acts of hatred and bigotry on our hearts so that we may strive to shine the light of Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, deeds and

Statistics in “Emily’s Backpack”

Last Sunday (Aug. 27), we had a skit called “Emily’s Backpack,” showing the toxic stress children in poverty carry around them everywhere they go. Toxic stress keeps them from effectively learning, growing, and prospering. Upon request, we put the statistics¹ here that were included in the presentation, hoping these facts sink in further and we become readier to help them out, particularly through Urban Promise. Thank you. In-Yong

FOOD INSECURITY

During the 2015-2016 school year 52.48% of the children in North Carolina were on Free and Reduced Lunch (State Board of Education, 2017).

During the 2014 federal fiscal year, 21.7 million low-income children received free or reduced-price meals daily through the National School Lunch Program. [xi] Unfortunately, in 2014 fewer than 4 million children participated daily in the Summer Food Service Program and the Seamless Summer Option. (Feeding America)

PARENTAL INCARCERATION

1 in every 28 children currently has an incarcerated parent. Most of these children are under 10. (Rutgers, National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated, NRCCFI)

ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

One in ten High School students attempted suicide last year. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for adolescents 15-19 in NC” (NC Child Health Report Card, 2017).

LIMITED PRESCHOOL ATTENDANCE/ACCESS AND ILLUSTRATION OF PARENTAL EXHAUSTION

91% of 3 year olds and 69% of 4 year olds in North Carolina did not attend a licensed preschool program. (National Institute for Early Education Research 2015)

INADEQUATE HOUSING

Nearly a quarter of North Carolina’s homeless populations are children and another fifteen percent are their parents. (UNC Chapel Hill Demography)

One in Three NC Children live in homes with a high housing cost burden (over 30% of monthly income is spent on housing expenses) (NC Child Health Report Card, 2017)

¹ Compiled by Crystal Imes, NETworX Yadkin Co-Coordinator (An Initiative of RFD CDC) crystal@rfdcdc.org.



We would like to thank everyone who brought food and sent cards and called while we were recovering from our surgeries. It meant a lot.

God Bless,
Ed & Diane Bolster

Urban Promise

By Etta Woodall

Urban Promise offers an after school program and a summer camp that are faith-based to low income families. The children will receive educational assistance from the adult staff, high school students (Street Leaders), and volunteers. The hours are 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday for the Idlewild students. On Fridays, the Street Leaders and adults plan the next week's programs. Urban Promise will welcome their first students for after school at Cokesbury on September 11.

Urban Promise first began in Camden, NJ in 1988. There are sites in Florida, Delaware, Canada, Honduras, and Africa. Cokesbury will be the third site located in Charlotte.

Erika Hernandez, who grew up in this neighborhood and is the site director, is continuing to enroll Idlewild students. Will Darden, who teaches at Harding, is the Street Leader Director. There will be opportunities to volunteer as tutors and reading buddies for the elementary students and as mentors and tutors for the Street Leaders. More information will be provided when the time frames are determined. Thank you for the tremendous response to the request for books! Please be in prayer for this wonderful program and our neighborhood.

Children and Youth Sunday School

By Sara Joines

As we start a new school year, we have something new we are going to try in the children and youth Sunday School classes. We will have teacher rotation. Teachers for the children will be: Marta Cox, Nicky Moran, and Judy Sims. The youth teachers will be: Phil Cox and JoAnne Gunter. Thank you to all these wonderful adults who have volunteered to help with Sunday School!



By Sara Joines

The UMYF is for youths in 6th-12th grades. They will meet on Wednesday nights beginning September 6 at 6:00 p.m. A Parent Meeting will be September 20 at 6:00 p.m.

School Supplies for Urban Promise

By Etta Woodall

The Urban Promise program will begin on Monday, September 11 for the young students from Idlewild Elementary School (grades K-5). There will be several opportunities to serve: tutors and reading buddies for the younger children and also mentors and tutors for the teenagers. More information will be forthcoming.

School supplies are needed for Idlewild School and Urban Promise. The Urban Promise program needs general school supplies such as: pencils, pens, notebook paper, rulers, crayons, markers,

color pencils, scissors, glue, folders, erasers, clip boards, highlighters, tissues, hand sanitizer, and Expo markers. (There will certainly be an ongoing need for these supplies throughout the school year.)

Prime Timers Date Changed

by Kay Dumas and JoAnne Gunter

Mark your calendar for our September Prime Timer meeting which has been changed to **Thursday, September 21 at 11:00 a.m.** The topic of the program will be "Healthy Lifestyle" and will be presented by Sheila Wright and JoAnne Gunter of the Faith Community Health Ministry.

If you plan to attend and have lunch, the cost is \$6. Please use the sign-up sheet that you will see posted in the narthex or call JoAnne Gunter if you will be attending. Her number is 980 785-6626 and leave a message.



By Tom DeVries

Mark your calendars now for the United Methodist Men's 16th Annual Fish Fry!
Saturday, September 23
4:00-7:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall
Adults \$8
Ages 6-10 \$5
Children under 6 eat FREE

Tickets will be available from any Methodist Men's Member.



Music at Cokesbury

By Kay Dumas

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m.** and enjoy Shelly Ruffin and Soul Revival, Americana and gospel music.

Listening Session

By Etta Woodall

You are invited to the Listening Session that will be held on **Thursday, September 28 at Idlewild Elementary School from 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

CMS personnel will be on the panel and ethnic minority parents will be in the audience. Previous sessions have included the police, young adults, and the Nepalese. Creating a safe space in which all of us can share our ideas and experiences by listening to one another, and understanding one another better through it, are the purposes of these sessions.