

SEASON OF LENT

The Messenger

Friendship United Methodist Church
5222 Hwy. 150 East, Browns Summit, NC
336-656-7151
March 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

"Therefore, you also should be prepared, because the Son of Man will come at a time you don't know."
Matthew 24:44 (CEB)



I once heard someone say, *"If it were raining soup, I would be caught outside holding a fork instead of a spoon."* I laugh each time I try to imagine that in my mind. Puddles of soup everywhere, and all I have is a fork! Have you ever felt that way? Under-prepared and ill-equipped, we go through life trying to navigate some of life's most difficult obstacles; illnesses, financial inadequacies, relationship conflicts . . . soup and no spoon. How can we be better prepared for life? How do we meet the challenges of life that will surely come our way?

The Christian church is in a season of preparedness right now. The season of Lent, the 40 days prior to the resurrection of Jesus, didn't begin as a "season" the way we know it today. It grew out of several early Christian practices that eventually converged into a single, meaningful period of preparation. At its heart, Lent began because the early church needed a structured way to prepare people for Easter. Lent is a great time to reconnect to and recommit with the church and to reconsider our relationship with God.

Jesus' list of warnings in Luke chapter 12 reminds us, *"Be dressed for service and keep your lamps lit."* (CEB) When trouble comes, you don't want to be stumbling in the dark trying to find your shoes, right? Be ready to respond at any moment, not only to the call of God, but to the complications of life as well. This is Jesus' call to a particular kind of readiness — not anxious, not fearful, not frantic — but faithful. Jesus is telling his disciples to live awake, attentive, and responsive to God. How do we learn and practice that? You guessed it — the church.

Matthew 24:44 is Jesus' invitation to a way of life that is awake, faithful, steady, hopeful, and aligned with God's kingdom. Preparedness through faithfulness means living each day in such steady obedience to Christ that you are ready to face anything, dressed and illuminated, and even if it's raining soup.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Kevin



New Month, New Beginnings

WELCOME

March

As we move forward to the bright days ahead I encourage you to bring a grateful, giving, open heart full of love, compassion & kindness for yourself and others..

A peaceful mind full of positive thoughts of only great things to come.. and A renewed spirit full of passion & purpose of your souls dreams & desires.

~Babz

Spring Ahead..

INSPIRE
Positive
SOUL SENSATIONS

IMPORTANT DATES



Sunday, March 1

World Day of Prayer service
Fairgrove UMC—5:00 p.m.

Mondays, March 2-March 23

Lenten Bible Study
Brown Summit UMC—7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, March 3-March 24

Lenten Bible Study
Friendship UMC—10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 10

UMM Meeting
Sanitary Café—6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 27

Let Your Light Shine Easter Egg Hunt
Friendship UMC
6:00 p.m.—8 p.m.

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday
Friendship UMC—9:30 a.m. worship

NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU HAVE WALKED AWAY FROM GOD, THE RETURN TRIP IS ONLY ONE STEP.



TIME CHANGE

SPRING FORWARD

1 HOUR



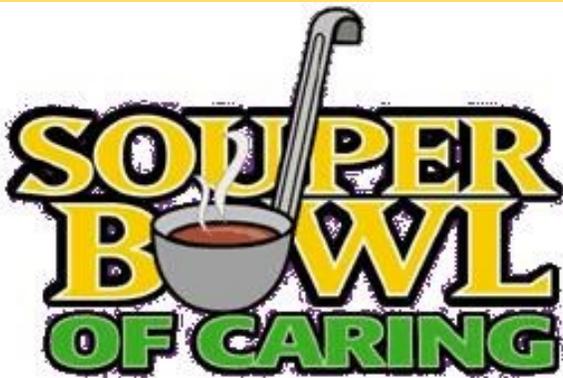
MARCH 8

Community FOOD PANTRY



The Community Food Pantry in February fell on Ash Wednesday this year. We weren't together on Fat Tuesday, but Rev. John Murphy and Leon made up for it by making pancakes for a takeout lunch for all the clients. The whole building smelled delicious! Everyone seemed excited to get that treat. Rev. John also placed ashes on the foreheads for all who wished to receive them. We had a good crowd! We

gave out 26 boxes of non-perishable foods, milk, eggs, bananas, and fresh meat. Those 26 boxes are going to feed 74 people! We had 1 new family represented and there were 7 families of 5 or people. Everyone also had the opportunity to "shop" for household goods, toiletries, shoes, and clothing. So many folks are in need, but no one should have to be hungry in this country. We are able to make a dent in the problem in our community through the food pantry. The March food pantry is Wednesday, March 18. For the month of March, we need: broth (boxes), peanut butter, canned fruit, saltine crackers, Instant Mashed Potatoes (pouches or small boxes), dried pinto beans, rice, cookies, canned green beans, canned corn, canned green peas, Jiffy Cornbread mix, and mac & cheese. We will take any egg cartons. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Fairgrove UMC, and in the memo line, show "Food Pantry." You can mail your check to Janice Henley, P.O. Box 462, Browns Summit, NC 27214. As always, we appreciate your generosity as you give food, monetary donations, and your prayers for the Community Food Pantry. We thank you and we thank God for the opportunity to help in this small way, and for always being faithful.

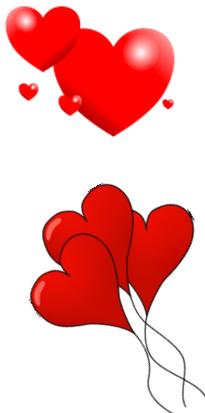


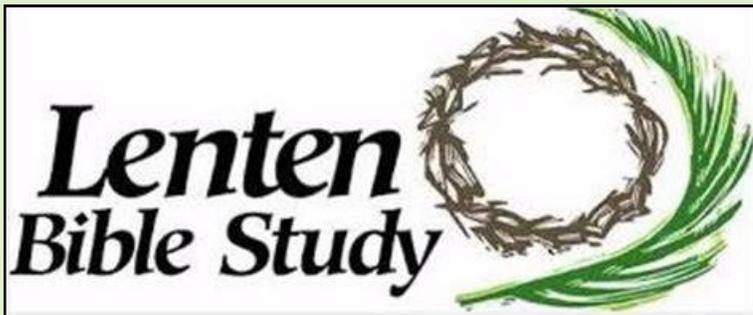
In the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 8, the Seattle Seahawks defeated the New England Patriots 29-13. With your generosity, you helped defeat the hunger and poverty in our community by donating cans of soup for the Community Food Pantry as Friendship supported the Souper Bowl of Caring. Friendship collected 62 cans of canned soup! Thank you! By coming together, you can make a difference in our community.

VALENTINE'S BREAKFAST

The United Methodist Men hosted the Valentine Breakfast on Sunday morning, February 15. Everyone enjoyed a great meal and a time of

fellowship. Many thanks to the United Methodist Men for their work in preparing the food. It was delicious. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and had a wonderful time.





Lenten Bible Study “The Last Supper: Conversations That Led to the Cross”

Pastor Kevin continues a five-week Lenten Bible Study entitled “The Last Supper: Conversations

That Led to the Cross” by Rev. Dr. Will Willimon (retired Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the UMC). Experience Lent through the stories Jesus told on the way to the table. This Lenten season, gather at the table with Jesus and his disciples to experience the journey from Palm Sunday to the cross through the stories that prepared the way. Willimon's accessible yet profound insights will transform how you understand both the Last Supper and your own place at Christ's table. Please join us on **Mondays from March 2 through March 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Brown Summit UMC and Tuesdays from March 3 through March 24 at 10:30 a.m. at Friendship UMC**. Mark your calendar, invite a friend and join us! For additional information, please contact Pastor Kevin (336-552-7912).



Let Your Light Shine Easter Egg Hunt Celebration Friendship UMC—Friday, March 27

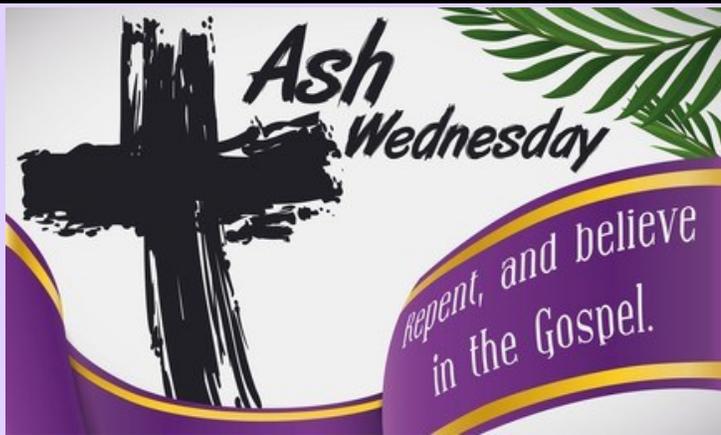
Hop on over for a fun-filled evening at Friendship UMC's Let Your Light Easter Egg Hunt celebration! We are excited to welcome you to join us at

Friendship on Friday evening, March 27th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for an evening packed with Easter fun! Join us for a glow-in-the dark egg hunt, games, food, and more. Bring your kids, your neighbors, your friends, and your springtime joy. Let's celebrate hope, community, and the beauty of Easter together. Come expecting fun, fellowship, and a whole lot of smiles. We can't wait to see you there!



☰ What's Happening

- April 2—Maundy Thursday Service at Brown Summit UMC
- April 5—Joint Easter Sunrise Service at Friendship UMC
- April 5—Easter Sunday
- April 14—UMM Meeting
- April 15—Community Food Pantry at Fairgrove UMC
- April 18—Spring Food Drive at Hicone Shopping Center
- April 22—Earth Day



Ash Wednesday Service Held on February 18, 2026

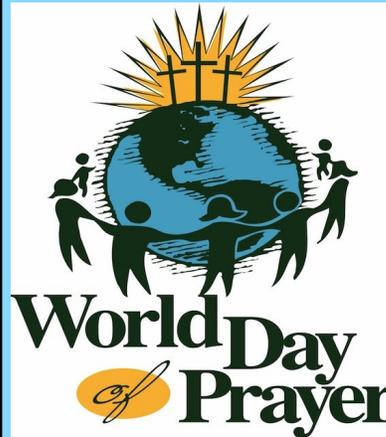
Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lent season, traditionally observed as 40 days of prayer, fasting, and repentance in the days before Easter. A Joint Ash Wednesday service was held at Brown Summit UMC on Wednesday, February 18. The combined choirs from Brown Summit and Friendship provided special music. Participants received a blessing of ashes on their foreheads as a reminder of our mortality.

“Repent and believe in the Gospel.” The ashes were prepared by burning the palms used at last year’s Palm Sunday celebration. They represent death and repentance, a reminder that we are human – mortal, sinful, and in need of repentance. We encourage you to enter into this season with prayer, reflection, and repentance. Taking a season each year to reflect on your life, confess your sins to God, and recommit to walking in God’s way is a powerful way to enter into Easter.



The Friendship United Methodist Church first annual Chili Cookoff was held on Saturday, February 28, and was a huge

success! Attendees of the event tasted chili samples from 7 entries in this year’s cookoff (Malisa Cochran, Brian Estes, Janice Henley, Mike Knight, Shannon Law, John McLamb, and Jodie Strader). Our prestigious judges were Ken Ball, Randy Brande, and John Smothers. Their final decision was based on appearance, aroma, texture and taste. A variety of chilis were entered into the “heated” competition, ranging from beef, chicken, turkey, and venison – some spicy and some not spicy. It was a time for good food and good fellowship. Following the cookoff, we all enjoyed several games of Bingo! Congratulations to our chili winners: First place: Brian Estes; Second place: Malisa Cochran; and Third place: Jodie Strader. Brian became the 2026 Chili Cookoff Champion and has bragging rights until next year! A big “Thank You” to all the adults who helped out and to the congregation for being so generous! “Many hands make light work!” Thank you to all who attended, the chili cookoff contestants, and the judges. A fun time was had by all! Until next year – keep stirring the pot and spreading the flavor.



Fairgrove UMC hosted this year’s World Day of Prayer service on Sunday, March 1, and was joined by Friendship UMC, Brown Summit UMC, Jackson UMC, and Monticello Christian Church as we celebrated the 99th World

Day of Prayer. The country of focus this year was Nigeria, and the theme, “I will give you rest: come,” is based on Matthew 11:28-30. The service this year shared the stories of three Nigerian women: Beatrice, Jato, and Blessing. Their experiences revealed how God provides rest through community support, faith, and hope. There is hope for the many burdens the women of Nigeria are carrying. When we bring our weariness to Christ and support one another in community, we find rest and strength to continue our journey. We collected a special offering of \$411 which will impact the lives of women and children around the world.

Faith Step

Take a walk today. Talk to Jesus as you go. Surrender your plans, whatever they are, to Him. Invite Him to direct your path, and thank Him for being trustworthy.



The Easter lily commemorates the resurrection of Christ and is believed to appear in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's suffering. The lily is a flower that comes from a bulb. It seemingly dies away, then returns to new life each year. The Easter lily is one of the showiest and earliest-blooming flower of the Easter season. It looks like a trumpet, as of the trumpeting of the resurrection. Easter lilies are a symbol of purity, hope, innocence and peace. If you wish to place Easter lilies in the Sanctuary for Easter in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Frances Cable (336-908-1543) and she will include a list of dedications in the bulletin. Also, you may bring them to church on **Saturday, March 28, between 1 and 3 p.m.** They will remain in the church on Palm Sunday, March 29, and Easter Sunday, April 5.



Palm Sunday is Sunday, March 29, where we commemorate the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1–9), when palm branches were placed in His path. It marks the beginning of Holy Week and the final week of Lent. It is a time where we remember and read about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, as the King of Israel who had come to save all mankind. Palm Sunday is traditionally celebrated by the blessing and distribution of palm branches representing the palm branches the crowd laid in front of Christ as he rode into Jerusalem. At the end of the Bible, people from every nation raise palm branches to honor Jesus (Revelation 7:9). We want everyone to do the same. In this time of adversity and uncertainty, let us put our faith in our constant friend and savior, Jesus Christ. Palm Sunday marked the start of what is often called "Passion Week," the final seven days of Jesus' earthly ministry. Palm Sunday was the "beginning of the end" of Jesus' work on earth. Please join us at our **9:30 a.m. worship service at Friendship on March 29**, for Palm Sunday. In addition, special music will be presented by the choir.



Maundy Thursday, also known as "Holy Thursday," is the Thursday of Passion Week, one day before Good Friday. It is a time when our church family will remember the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room before his

arrest and crucifixion. Maundy Thursday marks three events in Jesus' last week: His washing of his disciples' feet, His institution of the Lord's Supper, and His new commandment to love one another. Maundy comes from the Latin mandatum novum, and refers to the "new commandment" Jesus taught his disciples (John 13:34). In other words, this is "new commandment Thursday." It is a day filled with meaning and centered on a table of love, forgiveness, hope and hospitality. We hope that you will join us **Brown Summit UMC on Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m.** for a combined worship service of quiet reflection and communion.

***Easter Sunrise Service—Friendship UMC
April 5, 2026, at 7:00 a.m.***

On Easter Sunday morning, many Christians will rise before the sun to attend a sunrise worship service. We'll gather early in the morning to worship our resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we gather to face the east to watch the sun rise and realize this is the beginning of a new day, we are reminded of new life. Coming to worship on Easter Sunday at an hour and place different than we normally do, offers a sense that something unexpected has happened. Where there appeared to be no hope, there is now hope. Everyone is welcome to join us at **Friendship UMC for a joint Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday morning, April 5, at 7:00 a.m.** You're welcome to join us for breakfast immediately following the Sunrise Service in the Fellowship Hall.



Church Family — Wanda Ball, Wayne Brann, Norma Gordon, Henry & Sue Lambeth, Pastor Rick & Dianna LeBaube, Giles & Jewel Lewis, Mike & Karen Linnane, Kylene McMillan, Pastor Nick & Libby Scandale, Steve & Sharon Troxler

Other Friends & Family — Hal Augustine, Dr. Christy Bailey, David Brann, Arline & Lester Brown, Henry & Linda Chapman, Darryl Chrismon, Melvin Chrismon, Rita Cundiff, George Cunningham, George & Ruth Gilchrist, Michael Gordon, Doris Hall, Jane & John Hall, Harold & Tammi Howle, Don Huskey, 5-month-old Fuller Jordan, Cynthia Laborde, Dot Lambeth, Mike Lee, Mary Luking, 8-month-old Rider McLamb, Michael Payne, Veronica Percell, Bobby Joe & Faye Roberts, Kristin Shores, Wendy Snider, Sabrina Soyars, Judy Taylor

In Sympathy — the families of Stormy Staley Bleiberg, Willie Britt, Mitch Brown, Rose Elliott, Anne Finn, Mark Harris, Matthew Marshall, Ella Moody, Angel O’Baugh, John Paisley, Frank Plaster, Gene Pratt, Willie Shelton, Angela Simpson

In Our Military—Sgt. Wade Lynch; Staff Sgt. Will Brann

FUMC Contacts

Bulletin Items:

Frances Cable (336-908-1543)
(fcable@triad.rr.com)

Prayer Chain Requests:

Frances Cable (336-908-1543)
(fcable@triad.rr.com)

Fellowship Hall Requests:

Laura Rumley (802-236-4614)
(fumcfellowshiphallrsvp@gmail.com)

Messenger:

Frances Cable (336-908-1543)
(fcable@triad.rr.com)



Sgt. Wade Lynch
c/o Pam Lambeth Lough
8018 Old Reidsville Road
Browns Summit, NC

Staff Sgt. Will Brann
2790 Magnum Drive
Sumter, SC 29150

Pastor Kevin’s Office Hours

Friday/Saturday—Days off

Other hours by appointment
(336-552-7912)

If you have a pastoral need, Pastor Kevin can be reached at his cellphone number (336-552-7912)

Pastor Kevin requests that only emergency calls be made between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.

His email address is:
kcochran@wnccumc.net



HOMEBOUND

Our **homebound members** can’t come to church due to health or other reasons. Please pray for them or take a moment to send a note or card to let them know that they are missed. It will brighten their day!

Henry & Sue Lambeth
8020 Old Reidsville Road
Browns Summit, NC 27214
336-656-3178

7 Goals for 2026:

1. Put God first.
2. Pray more.
3. Read the Bible.
4. Love like Jesus.
5. Stay away from conflict.
6. Trust the Lord with all your heart.
7. Give thanks in all things.

Dear God, please open every door in 2026 for those who echo AMEN and share!

MARCH

2026



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 World Day of Prayer—Fairgrove | 2 Lenten Bible Study | 3 Lenten Bible Study | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins Happy Birthday! Tracy Forbes Happy Anniversary! Wesley & Beth Cable | 9 Lenten Bible Study | 10 UMM Meeting Lenten Bible Study Happy Birthday! Nikki McLamb | 11 Happy Birthday! Jake McLamb | 12 Happy Birthday! Jewel Lewis | 13 | 14 Happy Birthday! Misha Lambeth Sean Cochran |
| 15 | 16 Lenten Bible Study | 17 Lenten Bible Study | 18 Happy Birthday! Tracie Chrismon Toni Andrews | 19 | 20 <i>First Day of Spring</i>  | 21 |
| 22 Happy Birthday! Kenzie Boyd | 23 Lenten Bible Study | 24 Lenten Bible Study | 25 | 26 | 27 Easter Egg Hunt | 28 Happy Birthday! Luke Cable |
| 29 Palm Sunday Happy Birthday! Christal Brande | 30 | 31 Happy Birthday! Giles Lewis | | | | Maundy Service- April 2—Brown Summit UMC Easter Sunrise Service—April 5 Friendship UMC |



Ash Wednesday



CHILI COOK-OFF

Chili Cook-Off WINNERS



WORLD DAY of PRAYER





LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

EASTER EGG HUNT
CELEBRATION AT

FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Friday, March 27, 2026

6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

5222 NC HWY 150 East

Tell your Peeps! Join us for a glow
in the dark egg hunt, games, food
and more.

**MARCH
14th**

2-4 pm



ST. PATRICK'S

Celebration

MONTICELLO COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

OPEN HOUSE

DANCE PERFORMANCE BY

Walsh Kelley School of Irish Dance

Featuring our own LAUREL COX

Refreshments and activities for kids.

Sponsored by the MCC Outreach Center Rental Team

Made with PosterMyWall.com

2026 Church Calendar

Friendship UMC / Brown Summit UMC

January

- 04 – BSUMC Admin meeting, 12:30pm
- 11 – Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 13 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 21 – Community Food Pantry
- 22 – BSUMC Calendar Meeting, 6pm

February

- 01 – Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 08 – Super Bowl Sunday, Souper Bowl of Caring, F/BS
- 09 – FUMC Admin. Meeting, 7 pm (Rescheduled meeting)
- 10 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 15 – FUMC Valentine Breakfast, 8am
- 18 – Community Food Pantry
- 18 – Ash Wednesday Service, BSUMC, 7pm
- 23 – Lent Study @ BSUMC, 7pm
- 24 – Lent Study @ FUMC, 10:30am
- 28 – Chili Cook Off / Bingo @ 5 pm

March

- 01 – Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 01 – World Day of Prayer Sunday @ 5 pm– Fairgrove UMC
- 02 – Lent Study @ BSUMC, 7pm
- 03 – Lent Study @ FUMC, 10:30am
- 08 – Daylight Savings Time begins
- 09 – Lent Study @ BSUMC, 7pm
- 10 – Lent Study @ FUMC, 10:30am
- 10 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 16 – Lent Study @ BSUMC, 7pm
- 17 – Lent Study @ FUMC, 10:30am
- 18 – Community Food Pantry
- 23 – Lent Study @ BSUMC, 7pm
- 24 – Lent Study @ FUMC, 10:30am
- 27 – Easter Egg Hunt @ FUMC, 6pm-8pm
- 29 – Easter Cantata, F/BS

April

- 02 – Maundy Thursday Service, Brown Summit UMC, 7pm
- 05 – Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, FUMC, 6:49am
- 05 – Easter Service, F/BS
- 05 – Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 07 – FUMC Admin meeting, 7pm
- 12 - BSUMC Admin meeting, 12:30pm
- 14 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 15 – Community Food Pantry
- 15 through 20 – Pastor Vacation, need coverage
- 18 – Spring Food Drive
- 22 – Earth Day

May

- 03 – Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 07 – National Day of Prayer
- 10 – Mother’s Day Sunday, F/BS
- 12 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 17 – Rural Life Sunday, F/BS
- 20 – Community Food Pantry
- 25 – Memorial Day
- 31 – 5th Sunday Singing – Brown Summit UMC

June

- 07 – Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 09 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 14 – Graduation Sunday, F/BS
- 17 – Community Food Pantry
- 18 through 21 – WNCCUMC Annual Conference, Need Coverage
- 21 – Father’s Day Sunday, F/BS

July

- 05 – Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 05 – Independence Day Recognition Sunday
- 12 – BSUMC Admin meeting, 12:30 pm
- 14 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 15 – Community Food Pantry
- 19 – FUMC 170th Homecoming, combined worship at 11am
Covered Dish Lunch
- 26 – FUMC Choir Vacation

August

- 02 – Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 03 – FUMC Admin meeting, 7pm
- 11 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 16 – Blessing of the Book Bag, F/BS
- 19 – Community Food Pantry
- 22 – School Supply Giveaway
- 30 – 5th Sunday Singing – Fairgrove UMC
- *Clothing Giveaway?
- *Back to School Bash?

September

- 06 - Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 07 – Labor Day
- 08 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 09 – FUMC Choir Practice begins at 7 pm
- 13 – Grandparent’s Day Sunday, F/BS
- 16 – Community Food Pantry

October

- 04 – World Communion Sunday
- 04 - Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 04 – CROP Walk, FUMC
- 04 – BSUMC Admin meeting, 12:30pm
- 10 – Pastor’s Cook Out
- 11 – Children’s Sabbath Sunday, F/BS
- 11 – Pastor Appreciation Sunday, F/BS
- 13 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 18 – BSUMC 135th Homecoming, combined worship at 11am
- 21 – Community Food Pantry
- 31 – FUMC Trunk or Treat, 5pm
- *Fall Food Drive?

November

- 01 – Daylight Savings Time ends
- 01 – All Saints Sunday, F/BS
- 07 – FUMC Ham Supper, 5 pm
- 08 – Veteran’s Recognition, F/BS
- 10 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 11 – Veteran’s Day
- 14 – FUMC Crafty Christmas, 8am
- 16 – Shoebox Collection begins
- 18 – Community Food Pantry
- 22 – Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 28 – Decorate the Church, F/BS
- 29 – Hanging of the Greens, F/BS

- 29 – Advent Sunday 1
- 29 – 5th Sunday Singing – Friendship UMC
- 30 – Advent Study @ BSUMC, 7pm

December

- 01 – Advent Study @ FUMC, 10:30am
- 06 – Advent Sunday 2
- 06 – BSUMC Admin meeting, 12:30pm
- 07 – Pearl Harbor Day
- 07 – Advent Study @ BSUMC, 7pm
- 08 – Advent Study @ FUMC, 10:30am
- 08 – FUMC UMM, 6:30pm
- 13 – Advent Sunday 3
- 13 – Christmas Cantata, F/BS
- 13 – BSUMC Christmas Dinner, 6pm
- 14 – Advent Study @ BSUMC, 7pm
- 15 – Advent Study @ FUMC, 10:30am
- 16 – Community Food Pantry
- 20 – Sacrament of Holy Communion, F/BS
- 21 – Advent Study @ BSUMC, 7pm
- 22 – Advent Study @ FUMC, 10:30am
- 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, BSUMC, 5pm
- 27 through Jan. 5 – Pastor Vacation, need coverage
- *Birthday for Jesus?