

The CONNECTION

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**Pastor
Anita Sain**

The Blessing of Different

I don't know about you, but this whole year has been filled with "different." The obvious "different" is all the life changes that have accompanied dealing with a global pandemic. In addition to that, I'm sure we all have other things that are different in our lives this year as well. For our family, we're in a different town, a different church, a different school, different jobs, and a different house (x2). I'm still finding light switches at home and in the church!

What's your "different" this year? All of you are getting used to a different pastor. Maybe this year is different because you find yourself alone. Perhaps you are in a new job, or have a new child or grandchild, or the youngest just moved away and your nest is empty, or you too have recently moved to call Ashe County home. All these experiences of "different" can be overwhelming and challenging, but if we look closely through eyes of faith, we can see God in the "different" times. Different times can be a blessing. Even though Covid is a tragedy in so many ways, the reality of the pandemic has forced us all to slow down, stay home, and spend more time with our families. That is a difference that is a blessing. Even though empty nests and empty homes may be lonely sometimes, that difference might open the space for new hobbies, friendships, or holy callings. Even though new pastors, new church, and new schools are a little frightening for the congregation and the pastor's family alike, the opportunity for new friends and new ways to serve Jesus together are blessings. In the midst of all the "different" in our lives right now, may God help us all to peek through the challenges and focus our hearts on the blessings. Let's trust that in all of it, God is NOT different. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and His love will continue to hold us and keep us through all our "different" times. His grace is sufficient in all times and in all circumstances, and that is the greatest blessing of all.

**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
Hebrews 13:8**

Blessings on the Journey,
Pastor Anita

OUR PEOPLE: GATHERED TOGETHER

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

Maxine Miller,
Willa Mae
Campbell, Nita
Lewis, John &
Audrey Wasner, Liz
& Robert Poulos,
Cecile Worrell, Fran
Cook, Mable
Coleman, John
Scott, Hal Johnson,
Bette Schwartz,
Mary Rhodes, Edie
Merritt, Polly
Himm

MILITARY

Anatoly Ray, Riley
Watson, John
Wooten, Dustin
Seaman, Nicole
Seaman, Jake
Harrington, Anna
Wooten, Tate
Miller, Chloe &
Kaleb

FRIENDS

Philip Santiago,
Donald Marsh, Bill
Baker, Heather
Harmych, Kirk Levi,
Courtney Erzkus

Our Staff

Anita Sain, Ashley
Church, Christina
Wagoner, Michael
Bell, Clay Camp,
Angie Taylor,
Jimmy Taylor,
Rebecca Rash,
Sylvia Zahner

Worship Indoors Resumes Oct. 18th

After 7 months, Jefferson UMC will begin offering indoor worship on **Oct. 18th**. Our safety/reopening team has worked hard to help us make this transition safely. It will not be "worship as usual" inside. Many things will be different, but we are grateful to God to be able to come inside as cold weather approaches quickly. **We will continue to post service online for those who are not comfortable attending in-person.** The Administrative Council has approved the following plan and here's what you need to know as we transition.

Safety/Reopening Plan for Jefferson UMC

1. Continue with outdoor worship through Oct. 11, weather permitting.
2. **Begin indoor worship on Oct. 18th, AND continue online worship - at least through Dec. 2020.**
3. **Worship only. Two services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall** (for ease of maintaining social distance requirements, and for speed of cleaning and sanitizing).
4. No Sunday school. We encourage people to take part in Wed. discipleship groups.
5. Space will be sanitized before, between, and after services.
6. Chairs will be socially distanced, while allowing immediate family groups to sit together.
7. Capacity is limited to 50%. **We can safely seat about 40 people per service.**
8. We will ask people to commit to attending at either 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. to manage room capacity.
9. Masks are required at all times while inside the building. (ages 3 and up).
10. A sanitizing station will be at the entrance with hand sanitizer, masks, and gloves.
11. Other parts of the building (sanctuary/office area/kitchen/children's rooms) will be inaccessible on Sunday mornings.
12. No bulletins.
13. No name tags.
14. No hand holding or "hugs and handshakes" / "passing the peace"
15. No food will be served and no gathering tables in entry.
16. We encourage people to bring their personal Bibles.
17. One-way entry and exit. (Enter by the pastor's office. Exit out the front fellowship hall doors. 6-ft distance will be marked on floors).
18. Only bathrooms outside the pastor's office will be open (one person or family at a time).
19. Signage will be posted throughout the building with instructions. There will be one-way traffic to enter and exit the building. Enter at the door Near the pastor's office, and exit out the front door of the fellowship hall.
20. Ushers/Greeters will be placed to register attendance and assist worshippers.
21. No choir or congregational singing.
22. Music will be provided by soloists or socially distanced small groups.
23. Collection basket will be at the front of the room for offering.
24. Children will stay with their families (in chairs or on blankets are fine). No children's church.
25. AV equipment will be sanitized before each use.
26. The building IS NOT open for outside groups at this time.

Christian

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK

Discipleship groups are underway and we are studying *Christian: It's Not What You Think* by Andy Stanley. We have about 40 people participating in discipleship groups this fall. That's about 1/3 of our congregation! What a blessing it is to grow together as followers of Jesus. If you haven't joined us yet, it's not too late. There are 6 more spots for in-person groups and there's always room in our online groups. Contact Ashley in the church office to join a group (jeffersonumc@skybest.com). Watch for pics of other groups on social media this month. Here we grow in Christ!



SHHH! ARE YOU LISTENING?

One of my memories of my mother is hearing her say Shhh! Maybe you, too, have heard that sound! Prayer is about listening.... not just about asking for something! Recently, we have all had plenty of time to ask God for many things.... keep our children safe! Bring peace to our divided country! Let me get home safely in this fog! Lay your hand, Lord, upon my grandchildren who are in college and trying to make a way and follow the Covid rules! Protect those who serve our country! Keep our sworn officers safe and bring them home to their family! Give me peace when I am torn apart by all the clutter on social media, the TV, and radio!

Prayer is a conversation with our friend, Jesus. He is always listening! He knows our needs before we ask. Yet, it is the relationship that He desires. We love our family, we love our friends, we love Jesus. How often do we acknowledge this! Give thanks for this faithful relationship. Be bold and courageous! Grow your faith through prayer. Be ready to listen to your name. It is being called and you are encouraged to listen, to answer the call! Shhh! ... Are you listening?

Jennie Hallsey

Our prayer team is forming now. If you feel called to be part of this team, please contact Jennie Hallsey at 336-877-8831 or jhallsey@skybest.com.

CONDOLENCES

We are sad to announce that Belinda Laws passed away on September 8th. Her celebration of life service was held at New Hope Baptist Church in Purlear on Saturday, Sept. 12. Memorials may be made to the Humane Society of Wilkes, PO Box 306, North Wilkesboro or Wilkes Playmakers, PO Box 397, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659. Please keep Rick and the family in your prayers.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Ruth Gambill
Legacy Fund
Clairene Cockerham & Family

In Memory of Betty Reavis
Legacy Fund
Clairene Cockerham & Family

In Memory of Belinda Laws
Legacy Fund
David Jones

BUDGET REPORT AS OF 9/22/2020

Year-to-Date Budget Receipts	\$206,803.93
Year-to-Date Budget Spending	\$198,283.07

The church address is PO Box 236 Jefferson, NC 28640. Donations can be mailed to this address. Another option is to go online to your bank and do a bank draft or bill pay. If you have questions, please contact the church office at 336-846-9512.

*A big WELCOME to our newest members at Jefferson UMC!
We are so glad you're here!*



October 2020

SERVICE

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Randy Gambill
Karson Fazenbaker
Jayden & Jordan Jones
- 2 Kevin Kurtz
Layla Roop
- 3 Dana Henson
Karen Miller
- 4 Shawn & Jason Baker
- 6 Peggy Bailey
- 10 Margo Levi
- 12 Jill Ferguson
- 13 Sharilyn Owens
- 15 Zach Fulbright
- 18 Janice Henson
Laura Kesler
Amanda Wescott
- 20 Cheryl Baker
Billy Smith
- 21 Tommy Jones
David Howell
- 23 Jerry Lafferty
Tracy Vannoy
- 24 Susanne Black
- 26 Laramie Johnson
- 27 Mark Johnston
- 28 Leslie Fazenbaker
- 30 Travis Perkins
- 31 Paul Horan

FOOD LION WEEKEND PICKUP

Oct. 3rd & 4th	Bill & Janice Henson
Oct. 10th & 11th	Jones/Perkins
Oct. 17th & 18th	Bill & Janice Henson
Oct. 24th & 25th	Jim & Susan Powers
Oct. 31st & Nov. 1	Youth



LAITY SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to **Joe Clayton** (left) and **Jim Hallsey** (right) our Laity Service Award recipients for 2020! These guys keep our Jefferson Breakdown band going, and we are so grateful for their dedicated service to Jefferson UMC, especially during the pandemic. Thanks to all the musicians in the Breakdown Band for making our outdoor worship services SING PRAISE to God!

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Tom & Carol Seaman
- 16 Keith & Amelia Franklin
- 17 Kevin & Beth Kurtz



Welcome!

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P.O. Box 236
115 East Main Street
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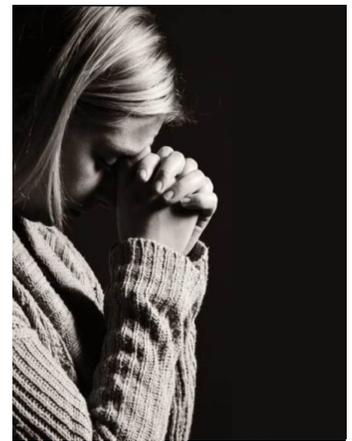
We're on the web!
www.jumc.church

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

October Sermon Series Hey God, Can We Talk?

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." (Mark 1: 35)

Jesus prayed. If Jesus needed to pray, we know we should pray. It's how we communicate with God and God with us. We know these things, but sometimes, prayer is not easy. Have you ever wondered...If God knows everything, does prayer really matter? How should I pray when I don't know what to say? Does God really hear me and answer my prayers? Why would God listen to me? If somebody asks me to pray out loud, I might just die! Prayer is so important in our lives as disciples. Join us for worship in October as we tackle some of our prayer insecurities and learn to listen for God's heart.



- 10/4 Hey God, Does prayer really matter?
(Holy Communion - World Communion Sunday)
- 10/11 Hey God, when should I pray?
- 10/18 Hey God, How do I pray? Words and more.
- 10/25 Hey, God, when you answer, how do I know it's You?