

THE GARDEN POST

794 Sedge Garden Road

Kernersville, NC 27284

January 7, 2022

LETTER FROM THE STAFF

Happy New Year! As unbelievable as it may seem, it is 2022! I do not know for you, but for me, 2021 felt like a month in terms of time. I appreciate everyone's sharing of the salutation – it is a new year, which means another opportunity to experience what the year brings. It's another chance to live into the moments that pepper our lives, as well as all that life will throw at us.

Here's a question - do we celebrate the coming of a new year with the same fervor as in years past? I think back, and New Year's was a BIG deal. I remember staying up late and watching the ball drop over what appeared to be billions of people in Times Square. Every station on television broadcasted a separate celebration of the holiday. Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve was the best, of course. The symbolism of a new start was so promising, and what lied ahead in the year to come was exciting.

Within the past few years (even prior to COVID), the New Year just has not felt like it did before. As if the mind-set of novelty or "newness" has evaporated. Will 2022 be any different for you than 2021? Is there a sense of optimism and anticipation of what's coming next year, or is it just "more of the same?" Although this phenomenon is probably due to several factors, it is possible that the mechanism of New Year Resolutions has produced this.

Some people have let go of the notion of resolutions, and maybe rightfully so. Statistically, only 9% of resolutions are reported to be successfully completed within the year. Let that sink in for a moment. Nine out of ten people who attempt resolutions have come to associate not achieving success (failure) with the changing of the calendar. Is the New Year just a reminder for many of not making the changes desired?

Not to sound like a counselor, but maybe a shift in perception of the New Year is due. Resolutions, or as I like to call them "re-solutions," are just that – our attempt of fixing something with the same old solution and expecting a different outcome. Einstein said something about this, and branded it as insanity.

So what to do? When questions arise, go to the Bible! What does the Bible say about setting goals?

May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. -Psalm 20:4

Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. -Psalm 37:4-5

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans. -Proverbs 16:3

In their hearts human plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. -Proverbs 16:9

And what did Jesus say about obtaining what we want in our lives?

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." -Matthew 19:26

"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith." -Matthew 21:22

When I look at these verses, two things become apparent. God wants us to have goals. He wants us to seek our desires, pending they align with His will for us. It is ok to want to experience changes in our lives, to seek self-improvement and the joy that comes from achieving success. He wants us to experience self-appreciation. The second observation is we **MUST** invite God into this process. Without His involvement, we will most likely fall short. The weight won't come off, the addiction won't go away, the relationships won't heal. We should expect to see more of the same. And it makes sense...if we could not make the change **on our own** in 2021, what besides a new calendar is different in 2022?

So, this New Year, seek Him to help you discover what you want to see in your life in the coming months. Invite Him into the process that is change and commit to keeping Him central to the experience. It may just be the best year you've had in quite a long time.

Again, Happy New Year my friends!

-Chad

January ~ Birthdays ~ Anniversaries ~ Celebrations

Birthdays

		1/12	Lisa Dunlap Zach Shearer	1/23	Gwen Ashley
1/1	Ann Coffey Brooks Parker Travis Karr Norma Joyce	1/13	Eleanor Ross Will Tuttle	1/24	Josh Weaver
1/2	Will Bovender Chase Langham	1/14	Jonathan Baker	1/25	Donna Bowman Samantha Hogan Janet Idol Truitt Cyndi Miller
1/3	Nancy Swaim	1/15	Hall Conley Michelle Baillargeon	1/26	Sara Burns Evangeline Davis Courtney Robbins Dana Shetzler
1/4	Josh Miller Scott Sapp	1/16	Tom Martin Jeff Molesa	1/27	Melinda Barrett David Chapman Susan Sapp
1/5	Paul Miller	1/17	Nina Holder Carol Hoover Mary Katherine Kearney Tom Riley Elaine Sapp	1/28	John Miller
1/6	Megan Riley	1/18	John Hester	1/30	Esther Lowe
1/7	Caroline Elizabeth Daley Maggie Langford	1/19	Isaac Langford	1/31	Jim Harrison Lynn Julian Jennifer Pike
1/8	Bryan Staley	1/20	Carleigh Gray		
1/10	James Alley Kevin Craver	1/21	Mike Berry Nancy Blue		
1/11	Becky Karr Alisa Saunders Mike Powell	1/22	Andy Holder Thomas Denny		

Anniversaries

1/02	LeRoy & Becky Honeycutt
1/09	Derek & Tammy Caudle

Choose how you give:



Place your gift in
the offering
during worship



Text your gift to
336-777-7864



Click "giving" at
sedgegardenumc.org



Download the app
shelbyNEXT | giving

For more information and links: www.sedgegardenumc.org/giving

From the Finance Committee...

Due to the end of year financial processes still completing, we will have finance information in the next newsletter.

During the Christmas Eve services monies were collected for UMCOR tornado victims support. To date **\$3,689.18** has been collected and donations will continue through this Sunday. We will have a complete report on the next newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support!

grounded YOUTH MINISTRY



UMYF Schedule

- January 9th
 - 9:45-10:45am - Youth Small Groups In-Person & on Zoom
 - 1:45-2:45pm - Confirmation in the Youth Room
 - 3-4:30pm - GYM in the Youth Room
 - 4:30-5:15pm - Youth Council Meeting
- January 16th
 - 9:45-10:45am - Youth Small Groups In-Person & on Zoom
 - 1:45-2:45pm - Confirmation in the Youth Room
 - 3-5pm - GYM in the Youth Room
- January 23rd
 - 9:45-10:45am - Youth Small Groups In-Person & on Zoom
 - No Confirmation
 - No GYM



"Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you."
Philippians 4:9

"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves."

1 John 4:19

Youth Christmas Party



The Youth came together to celebrate Christmas and the New Year on January 2nd! After escaping the Youth Room through a series of clues, puzzles, and challenges, we enjoyed a four course dinner (provided by the parents, and served outside)! We also competed in the candy cane Olympics, and shared gifts "white elephant" style!

Parent Meeting!

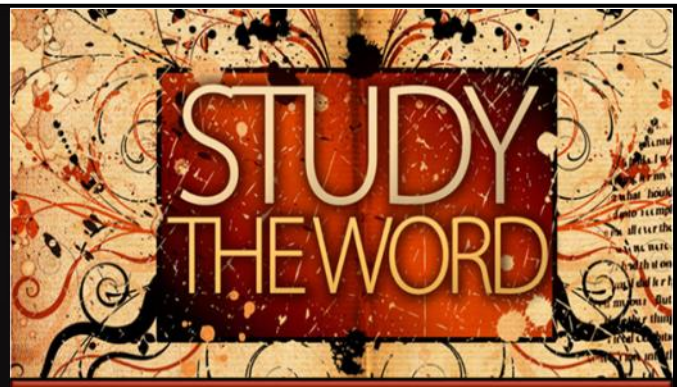
Join us for the Youth Council Meeting!
Sunday, January 9th @ 4:30pm
On the agenda...

- Summer Trips/Participation Requirements
 - Fundraising
 - Calendar

Chad & Amanda Betters, Co-Directors of Youth Ministry
chad@sedgegardenumc.org amanda@sedgegardenumc.org
336-682-6899 & 336-624-1423 youth@sedgegardenumc.org

Join us in praying for our church everyday at 3pm!

*God, help Sedge Garden
United Methodist Church
to be faithful to the call you
have for us and to be fruit-
ful in Your Kingdom. In
the Name of Jesus, Amen.*



Bible Study with Rev. Karen
Wednesdays at 11:00am or Sundays at 4:00pm

The Covid-19 team wants to share a recent article from the WNCC Bishop Ken Carter for your information.

Covid-19 and Your Congregation: Best Practices for Your Congregation

With COVID infections on the rise, increased hospitalizations over the past 4 weeks, and the highly contagious nature of both the Delta and Omicron variants, the Bishop and the Cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference are sending this reminder of best practices for ministry gatherings.

We do this, recognizing the importance of our gathering for worship in this season of Advent and Christmas, and in gratitude for many of you who have led faithfully in an extended and complicated period of almost two years of the pandemic.

We remain committed to our biblical mandate to "love our neighbors as ourselves" and our Wesleyan call to "do no harm." We also know that there are many among our membership who have health challenges. Continuing to follow these recommended protocols is the best protection for the most vulnerable in our congregation.

1. Wear a mask while indoors, even if you are fully vaccinated.
2. Practice social distancing while indoors to avoid unmasked extended contact (spending longer than 15 minutes less than 3 feet from those outside your "pod").
3. Stay home if you do not feel well. Get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms, or if you have had close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19.
4. Singing in worship is acceptable but masks should be worn, especially if social distancing during worship is difficult. The use of hymnals and bulletins is ok as well.
5. Minimize the serving of food and beverages so as not to encourage removing masks to eat or drink unless socially distanced.
6. Encourage getting the booster for those who can. (Persons 16 and older can receive it at this time. – CDC.gov)

Continue to encourage the use of hand sanitizer and proper handwashing.

Hello from the front office!

Greetings Sedge Gardeners! Happy New Year and thank you all so much for your warm welcome as I settle into my new position as Church Coordinator. I can't tell you how much I have appreciated all the good wishes and wonderful help.

We are working to update our software system and you can help. If you have a new address, email, or phone number please would you be so kind as to call or email me with that information? It would be much appreciated. To that end, we are also finding errors in birthdates and anniversaries too! If in listing the monthly birthdays and anniversaries there is an error or omission, please know it is certainly not intentional! If you could let me know I would be most grateful.

And finally, please let me know if you might be interested in volunteering some hours in the office in the coming year. It's a great way for me to meet more of the membership and your help is of great benefit to the church. If you are interested, let me know and we can discuss this in more detail! To reach me please either call the church office at 336-788-2297 or my email is corine@sedgegardenumc.org. I look forward to hearing from you and meeting more of you in 2022!

Corine Brouwer

Memorials

We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts:

In Memory Of...

Nick Smothers

General Fund

Thomas Holland

General

Jim & Sue Whitehead

Mary Katherine Stratton

David & Fran Amberg

Scott & Donna Fulton

Ann & Kim Clarke

Gale Love

Mary & Larry Motsinger

Francis Manuel & Family

Sheila Hicks & Family

John & Diana Ross

Yvonne "Vonnies" Motsinger

Erlene Shelton

John & Diana Ross

Shirley Matthews

Ann & Kim Clarke

Richard & Sandra Hogan

Bob & Karen Manning

Berry Walker

Mary Katherine Stratton

Dale & Cheryl McLean

Hanna & David Jackson

Robin & Roger Jarvis

Otis & Linda Eubanks

Manuel Sunday School Class

Risa Polk, Synco Properties

Andy Holder

Gale Love

Lynette Hampton

Joey & Yvonne Coffey

Richard & Carol Hoover

LeRoy & Becky Honeycutt

Barbara & Ronald Tuttle

Golden Agers

Youth

In Honor Of...

Sedge Garden Ladies of the

UMW Circles

United Methodist Women

Pastor Justin Lowe

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Peggy Conaway

Peggy Conaway

To Sedge Garden UMC:

Thank you so much for your donation to our school! We are so appreciative of your prayers and generosity. We have some great items in the works as we await our new playground. Thank you again! **Smith Farm Elementary PTA**

Hello Sedge Gardeners and Happy Epiphany!

Thank you again for extending me this time to rest and care for my family. My formation and spiritual growth leave began by helping get everyone to their appointments or school/daycare. One week we juggled eight doctor visits and several weeks we saw six different doctors. Esther hit her head really bad one evening dancing in the living room and we've become better acquainted with Brenner's Children's Hospital. Thankfully, she did not fracture her skull doing an arabesque! I am grateful for each doctor, nurse, and medical professional who is providing care for Melissa and/or the rest of our family. I found myself not knowing what to do during Advent and Christmas as it is such an important season of our Christian Year. I kept finding myself grateful for the incredible gift to worship as a family together. Most evenings we have found ourselves working on puzzles or playing various games. Andrew has learned how to whip us all at the game called Trouble. While the kids were from school and daycare, I took on a new title, the Director of Naps, and the best part is I get to participate as well! We visited with Melissa's family for Christmas in Cleveland, TN, and were blessed to have two nights during that trip to slip away for our 12 year wedding anniversary. For fun, we took a cooking class. All of this has rekindled my love for cooking. I too have found myself loving the extra time to spend in Scripture and to read. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for us all. Melissa is improving, however we are still seeking a definitive diagnosis for her condition. I give God thanks for each miracle we witness! I pray that you have a wonderful Epiphany and start to 2022!

Much Love and Many Blessings,
Pastor Justin

January Projects and Activities

January 2022 Outreach Project



Coats for Hall Woodward and Smith Farm Elementary Students

It is the time of the year to go through closets and collect outgrown but still in good shape coats to donate to Hall Woodward and Smith Farm Elementary School children. The Pre-School and the UMW Millennium and Rachel's Daisy Garden will sort and deliver to the two schools at the end of January. Share the warmth and help take care of those in need of a coat this winter. Collection boxes are at the west portico and hallways.

Sedge Garden UMC Blood Drive



Roll up your sleeve and be a part of helping to save up to three lives!

February 1, 2022 - Tuesday

2:30 – 7 pm

Brian Ray Holland Fellowship Hall

Appointments: Call Lynn Lamb at 336-993-4260 or The American Red Cross 1-800-733-2767

Help save a life and help the church to meet it's goal !!!



Happy New Year Golden Agers! Time to Play Bingo!

Our January Golden Agers meeting is coming up this Monday, January 10, 2022 at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be playing Bingo for this meeting. Remember to bring a White Elephant item that can be used added to the prize table. Please have lunch before you come. Our Bishop is discouraging meals in the church right now due to the rise in Covid cases in our area. **This means we will not be serving lunch or drink on Monday.**

The Golden Girls look forward to a great time of fun and fellowship with each one of you. And of course the Golden Girls will have a little extra treat for those in attendance!

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family of

Rev Karen Smith in the death of her husband Larry Smith who died on December 30, 2021.



Hospitalization and Rehabilitation:

Dick Martin (recent procedure) Betsy Richardson (recent procedure)
Mary Sudlow (current hospitalization) Mona Terrell (upcoming procedure)
Doug Braswell (upcoming procedure) Kathy Paschall (recent hospitalization)
Henry Leetz, III (recent hospitalization)

We extend ongoing prayers of petition for comfort and healing to the following:

Congregational Care Circle of Concern

Shirley Ayers
Evangeline Davis
Diane Hatfield
Betsy Lindsay
Dick Martin
Linda Sites
Dennis Stout
Dana Wooten

Kailey Brewster
Nancy Ellison
Jimmy Hill
Caitlin Little
Kathy Paschall
Pat Smothers
Mona Terrell
Vickie Wooten

Lynn Cash
Fran Fiumara
Tommy Holder
Melissa Lowe
Erline Shelton
Bryan Staley
Carolyn Voss



Ann Coffey
Jennell Hart
Peggy Holder

Myrtis Holder
Dick Martin
Gladys Paschal

Jean Shelton
Dot Sides
Pat Vogler

Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Independent Living Residents

Betty Bryant (Westchester Manor Nursing Home)
Imogene Elam (Trinity Elms Rehabilitation Center)
Thomas Hamilton (Kerner Ridge)
Gayle Hampton (Homestead Hills)
Murphy Ann Hastings (Arbor Ridge)
Hugh & Willie Hill (River Landing, Colfax)
Jimmy Laughter (Kerner Ridge)
Jenny Linville (Arbor Ridge)
Josephine Mathis (Arbor Ridge)
Patsy Murray (Providence Place, High Point)
Betty Peddycord (Kerner Ridge)
Larry Smith (Kerner Ridge)
Peggy Smith (Arbor Ridge)
Virgil Smith (Heritage Woods)
Linda Southern (Kerner Ridge)
Ruth Tucker (Arbor Ridge)

Church Members Currently on Active Military Duty

Jared Robbins Sam Tice Markus Hamilton Cameron Ashburn Matt Craddock

Updated on January 8, 2022

***All names above have given permission to the Congregational Care Ministry to be listed**

PREPARE — THE — WAY

SGUMC Contact Information

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Church Office Coordinator	Corine Brouwer	corine@sedgegardenumc.org
Director of Children & Youth Ministries	Amanda Betters	abetters106@gmail.com
Co-Director of Youth Ministries	Dr. Chad Betters	cbetters106@gmail.com
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Congregational Care Team Leader	Anne White	anne@sedgegardenumc.org
Music Associate	PG Hazard	hazard.pg@gmail.com
Guest Organist	John Fair	
Tech Coordinator		
Director of Preschool Ministry	Judy Hoyle	judyh@sedgegardenumc.org
Sexton / Security	Marshall Faircloth	marshalmusicman4@aol.com