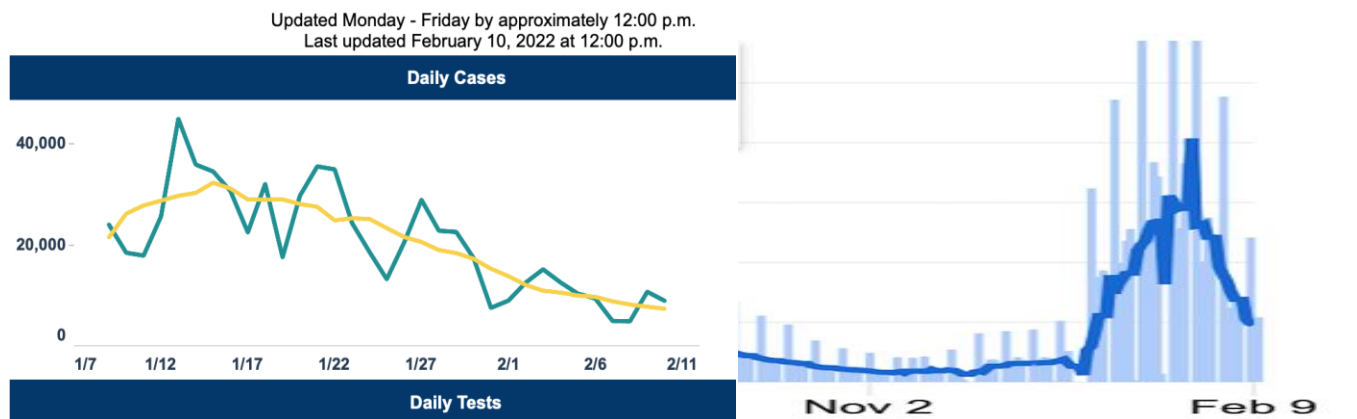


MESSENGER February 10, 2022

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Back in late December when the omicron variant of COVID was surging, we announced the decision to return to the policy of requiring masks in worship for all who were not a part of leading worship in the chancel area. When we made that announcement, we also said that “our hope is that the mask requirement will be for a very limited period of time. We will monitor the situation closely and loosen the restrictions as soon as it is safe to do so.”

As promised, we have been closely monitoring the situation. The two graphs below are evidence of the fact that COVID cases are dropping in North Carolina as rapidly as they were rising in December. This drop in cases mirrors what has been happening nationwide. Thus, we will no longer require wearing masks in worship beginning this Sunday, February 13th.



I realize this decision will be just as unpopular for some as was the decision for others six weeks ago to require masks. Some people may return to worship this week, while others may stop attending in person. Such is the nature of our response to COVID.

Please be aware that this decision does not mean that we are not taking precautions against the spread of COVID. Although we are not requiring masks, we will continue to have masks available at the door for those who want or need one. We welcome anyone who wishes to wear a mask to do so, and we strongly encourage anyone who has not been vaccinated to wear one. We require that masks be worn by unvaccinated children and those working closely with them. Additionally, we are continuing to maintain appropriate social distance spacing between the rows of chairs in the sanctuary and we have hand sanitizer available at several locations throughout the church.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

May God bless us and keep us safe and bring an end to this pandemic soon.

Pastor David

SCRIPTURE CARD Week of February 14th

Centering Prayer: *O God, plant me securely in the truth of your Word.*

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 92

M Jeremiah 17:7-8

T Psalm 1:1-3

W Amos 9:13-15

Th Mark 4:14-20

F 2 Samuel 7:10

S Isaiah 27:6

Key Scripture: *Jeremiah 17:7-8a: Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water.*

The UMC: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

Faith Harbor laity continues our search for information regarding possible changes in our denomination. Please plan to attend a 1-hour presentation of **"Growing a Welcoming Church"**. This presentation will focus on: Speaking our Truth in Love; Understanding Scripture and The Structure of the UMC. An informative video, "An Impulse to Include", will also be included. **DATE: Sunday, February 13, 2022, at 10:30 AM, immediately following worship services.** All are welcome. Questions will be taken at the end of this presentation.



From the Finance Committee

January Giving:

Total: \$32,029.55

*January 23rd – No Service due to weather

Needed: \$37,496.98

Budget Total: \$450,000.00

A note from Allison, Music Director...

The choir will be practicing our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday music on Wednesday nights in the Sanctuary at 7pm. Please join us!



The Colossian Way Sexuality Small Group

You are invited to join us in The Colossian Way Human Sexuality Small Group. It is a Christian practice rooted in the beautiful line in Colossians 1:17 that "all things hold together in Christ". The goal of this 10-week session is to deepen our love of God and love of neighbor as we work together through the difficult issues facing our church.

The Colossian Way is a Christian practice made up of five parts. Each session will begin with an invitation to **gather**. This will be followed with a reminder through Scripture about the deeper meaning of **Christian unity**. The third section is called **Prayer** as we seek to turn to God and prepare to dialogue about a specific issue. This leads us into a section called **Engage** which offers a deeper dive into the issue itself, and in which each of us are invited to share openly as we freely choose. The goal isn't to push us to a particular viewpoint, but to learn to focus on our most difficult questions in ways that build up our congregation. We close with a section called **Godward**, in which we offer up praise to God, as well as our worries and hopes and discern any sense of what God is leading us to do.

This five-part practice takes 90 minutes, and we offer 10 sessions so that the practice happens ten times. The goal is to gather as Christians, practice this way of entering **a difficult topic to gain progress on the problem while loving each other and God, and in the process see the body of Christ grow.**

The groups are composed of 8-12 people who make up a diversity of ages, genders, and perspectives on this issue so that the group can learn to grow Christian virtues (patience, long-suffering, forbearance, love, etc.) across their differences as they meet over 10 weeks. ***It is possible to miss one or two meetings, but if you know you cannot make it to three or more of the meetings, it's probably not good for you to participate at this time.**

Facilitators: Gail Widholm, Kim King and Bescye P. Burnett

Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022-May 12, 2022

Time: from 6:30pm- 8:00 pm

Topic: The issue for this series is *Human Sexuality*.

***Schedule:**

Session 1	February 24, 2022
Session 2	March 3, 2022
Session 3	March 10, 2022
Session 4	March 17, 2022
Session 5	March 24, 2022
Session 6	April 7, 2022
No session	April 14, 2022 (Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday
Session 7	April 21, 2022
Session 8	April 28, 2022
Session 9	May 5, 2022
Session 10	May 12, 2022

If you have any questions about The Colossian Way and our purpose for meeting, or participating in the small group, please contact:

Gail Widholm...gwidholm12@yahoo.com, Kim King... kdking60@gmail.com, or Bescye P.

Burnett...bescyep@gmail.com and be sure to check out The Colossian Forum's website:

www.colossianforum.org/TCW.

The sign-up list is located on the credenza outside the church office (across from the restrooms). Write your name next to date and who the flowers are honoring or in memory of.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS...😊

***Sunday, Feb. 13th~** Regular youth meeting for the High School youth in the Reef from 5-6:30pm. *Note- if parents would like to slightly adjust the times for youth group due to the Superbowl starting at 6:30pm, please let me know. I'll send out a text to the HS parents to check in about this possibility, thanks.

***Saturday, Feb. 19th~** Monday, Feb. 21st~ Youth Winter/Ski Retreat at Lake Junaluska, NC. *Detailed parent email to be sent out about specific times, etc. very soon.

*Note- no regular youth meeting that Sun., Feb. 20th since most of our youth will be gone on this trip.

***Sunday, Feb. 27th~** Youth to serve at the 9:20am Service & share about their retreat. Regular youth meeting for the Middle School youth in the Reef from 5-6:30pm.

Peace & Grace~

Jewels Swain

FHUMC Youth Coordinator, (910)232-9844

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS....



Due to updated Covid protocols, we are asking that children ages 4 and older wear masks when in the children's classrooms.
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Important Dates:

Feb. 13th – Jr. Basic

Feb. 16th – Jr. Basic Field Trip (8:30-4:00pm)

Feb. 27th – Jr. Basic

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God desires good things for my life.

The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

~Psalm 145:9 (NRSV)



Members: Joyce Arnette, Judy Beck, Nancy Buckman, Lanae and Buddy Fowler; *Diane* Geary, Delores Miner, Jenny Mizell, Diane Secary, Paula Smith, Melva Lea Stewart; Jill Strohpaal, Linda Wells, Owen Williams, John (and Lou) Wilson.

Military: Joe Fraley, Andy Harrison, Sgt. Joey Horne, John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, Anthony Ripley, David Ritz, Alex Harris.

Family and Friends: Jane; Paula; Eric Bower; Denise Carton; Mike Fisher and family; Sue Heavner; Dan Pearson; Scarlett Swain

And all unnamed persons needing God's peace, comfort, and healing.

With the dawning of each new day, we need courage to take each new step in our walk of faith.

Dear Lord, help us to quiet the chaos in our minds so that we can take the time to hear your voice, accept it, and put into practice what you tell us. Amen.



FEBRUARY

4 th	Payton Rice
8 th	Jameela Kerr
9 th	Jim Graziano
10 th	Anita Phillips; Cecilia Watson
12 th	Samuel Kerr
17 th	Dawn Ellis; Laura Frazier; Mike Hopper
20 th	Grace Holmes
22 nd	Tom Fisher; Suzanne Fussell; Lucille Horrell
24 th	Lisa Colman
27 th	Avery Harrison

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

Sunday, 2/13

8:00 Communion Service
9:20 Worship Service
10:30 Companions in Christ, Rm. 6
10:30 "Growing a Welcoming Church" Presentation
12:15 Handbells Choir
5:00 Youth Group "B" (HS)

Monday, 2/14

2:00 MABS, Rm. 6
6:30 Cub Scout Troop 777

Friday, 2/18

8:30 Women's Breakfast, Rm. 6

Tuesday, 2/15

6:00 Companions in Christ, Rm. 6

Saturday, 2/19

Youth Ski Retreat

Wednesday, 2/16

8:30-4:00 Jr. Basic Field Trip
7:00 Choir practice

Sunday, 2/20

8:00 Communion Service
9:20 Worship Service
10:30 Companions in Christ, Rm. 6
12:15 Handbells Choir
Youth Group Ski Retreat

Thursday, 2/17

12:00 AA Group Meeting, Rm. 6
5:00 GS Troop #4242 meeting

