



*Faith Harbor*  
A beacon of hope, anchored in Christ, sharing God's love through joyful service.

## Parker's Prayer Warrior's



This Sunday, December 3rd at 11am there will be a benefit walk for Parker Fox and family. This will be in the Summerhouse neighborhood of Holly Ridge. The meeting place will be the gazebo at Spicer Lake (it is next to 212 Spicer Lake Drive). In May 2022, at three years old, many of you know Parker was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma. After a surgery to remove the tumor from her belly, she underwent a grueling 40 weeks of chemotherapy and 3 weeks of daily radiation at UNC Chapel Hill. In April of 2023, she finished her treatment, and all her scans came back clear. At the start of September 2023, Parker began to complain of belly pain once again. She had an ultrasound that devastatingly showed a large mass had formed. She has since had an additional surgery and is undergoing cancer treatments again. We would like to invite the church to participate in this event. You can check out their website to learn more: <https://sites.google.com/view/parkersprayerwarriors/home>

# Country Christmas

Christmas with Cinnamon "La Canela"

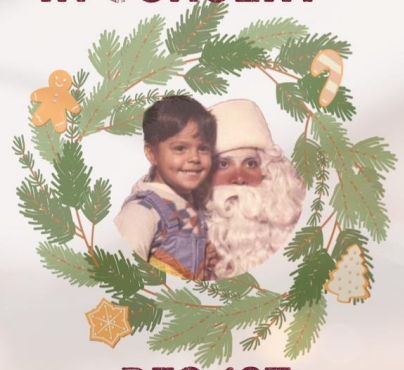
GRASS SEATING • BRING A CHAIR

Surf City, NC



Bonfire  
S'mores  
And more....

IN CONCERT



DEC 1ST  
7PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsored by :



Location...  
119 Juniper Trail, Surf City NC



## From your lay leader...



### **STAY SOAKED IN THE WORD OF GOD!**

Have you ever noticed how shiny and beautiful the rocks look on the beach after the waves wash over them? The colors are so vibrant. You pick a few up and take them home. You get home and take your beautiful rocks out of your pocket or bag and lay them out to admire them. What is this you see before you? Where are the beautiful rocks you picked up? What you have laid before you are a bunch of dull and not very pretty rocks... What gives?

Those rocks reflect us. When we stay in the word of God we shine, we sparkle, and we attract others to the One we represent. When we stay out of the word of God and get to busy for Him, we start drying up and can become unpleasant to the eyes of those around us and do not shine the love of God to others because it is hard to share something beautiful with others when you are lacking it yourself.

Stay soaked in the Word of God and let's be a bright and shining light of God's love to all we meet. Share with someone today what you have read in God's Word. It may be just the spark they needed to shine through their tough day.

*Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 4:1-6 esv***

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**WOW!! It's here! And lots of help is needed... Friday 6-8pm to help vendors bring in their crafts, Saturday 6:30-8:30am to help vendors bring in their crafts and Saturday 2pm to help vendors load up the little amount they might have left. Then at 2:30 we will need all chairs put back in place for church service and finally we need to bring in the large Nativity scene from the shed and set it up. The stable is very heavy so strong backs are also needed. Thank you all for your willingness to serve. We could also use a few wagons, mine are falling apart.**

**Jessica Blackburn**

# News & *Announcements*

## WELCOME TABLE:

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jeanette Mason & Sherri Davila

## Communion servers:

Stephen & Carrie Olmstead; Doug & Sherry Mewborn;  
Cathy Medlin gluten free.

## SCRIPTURE CARD beginning Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

Centering Prayer: Restore us O God. Psalm 80

M Isaiah 2.1-5, Matthew 8.5-11

Tu Isaiah 11.1-10, Luke 10.21-24

W Isaiah 25.6-10, Matthew 15.29-37

Th Isaiah 26.1-6, Matthew 7.21-27

F Isaiah 27.1-6, Matthew 8.18-22

Sa Isaiah 30.1-21, Matthew 9.35-10.8

Su Isaiah 40.1-11, II Peter 3.8-15, Mark 1.1-8

Key scripture: Isaiah 40.3: "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord'."



Receiving and service for Susan Wieland will be 10 am until noon this Saturday, Dec 2 at Andrews Funeral Home in Hampstead.

The United Women in Faith will offer crafts, baked goods, and frozen entrees for sale during Faith Harbor's Craft Fair on Saturday, December 2, 9am to 2pm. We need donations of baked items and frozen entrees. Your entrees should be in a pan suitable for warming up in the oven. Please identify your item, how many it will serve, and provide warmup instructions. Call or text Bonnie Hunter at 540 621 3645 so that I can list and price the available items. Entrees can be stored in the church freezer (behind the kitchen door) or brought to the church by 9am, Saturday, 12/2.

Thank you for your support towards programs benefitting women, children, and families.

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### **Harbor Thrift Store News~ *The Annual Christmas Sale!***

**When: December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Time: 10:00- 3:00pm**

**Where: Harbor Warehouse (2nd Building behind church)**

**\*All sales CASH ONLY!**



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### **Monday Afternoon Bible Study**

We are taking a pause in our Monday Afternoon Bible Study. We will return on January 8, 2024, at 1:00 pm. At that time, we will continue our study with Chapter Isaiah 50. We hope as you enter the season of the new church year... Advent...you will recall the word Advent, comes from the Latin, Adventus, which means "coming" ... "for us the coming of Christ...the coming of God's kin-dom, when all will be made well in the world."

### **A Poem**

#### **Two Peoples, One Land**

Two peoples, one land,  
Three faiths, one root,  
One earth, one mother,  
One sky, one beginning,  
One future, one destiny,  
One broken heart, One God.  
We pray to You:  
Grant us a vision of unity.  
May we see the many in the one and the one in the many.  
May you, Life of All the Worlds,  
Source of All Amazing Differences,  
Help us to see clearly.  
Guide us gently and firmly toward each other, toward peace.

- Rabbi Sheila Weinberg



If anyone would like Pastor Neal's new address, feel free to let me know and I'd be happy to pass it on.

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The 2023 Advent Devotionals will be available in the Narthex this Sunday.  
ONE PER FAMILY PLEASE

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Do you have a heart for worship? Join us at 5:30pm in the sanctuary~ **Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>** for a contemporary Worship service!

Bring your friends and come with an open heart.

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CHAP (Community Holiday Assistance Program) will be collecting toys and gift cards for children of families in need. Bring toys or gift cards (for teens: Ulta, Target, GameStop, Walmart, etc.) to Faith Harbor. **Toy drop-off and set up will be December 14 & 15 at Blakes Chapel with distribution on Saturday, December 16.** Families with children are paired with volunteers and invited to “shop” for new toys/gifts for their children in a special Christmas shop where everything is offered free of charge including wrapping materials. Each individual/family also receives a Christmas card, along with a list of all

participating organizations in the area. Volunteers are needed. For information, please contact Faye Strickland at: [fayestr46@gmail.com](mailto:fayestr46@gmail.com) or 910-264-6151. Thank you!

**We are blessed to be a blessing to others!**

**Faye Strickland**

**UPDATE!**

CHAP now has 389 families representing 620 children on its list for Christmas. It's time to bring the new toys, unwrapped, for all ages and for girls or boys. We need stocking stuffers and bicycles and everything in between. And don't forget gift cards for those hard to shop for teens! Last date to drop off in narthex is the morning of December 15th. So, pick up a list or pick an angel off the tree and bring joy to our community.

# Faith Harbor Pilots

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A ministry for men, by men, for the good of all.

The Faith Harbor United Methodist Men invite all men to be a part of something special. The men of the Church are being called to serve as **“A beacon of hope, anchored in Christ, sharing God’s love through joyful service.”**

The meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month unless otherwise designated. We meet at 8am for breakfast and fellowship. Please join us as we begin our planning for the future. All men are eligible to join. The only requirement is the desire to become a disciple of Christ.

**We hope to see you at our next monthly meeting on Saturday December 16, 2023 at 8am.**

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## Monday Morning Men’s Group

**Come as you can, if you can** - This weekly men’s group will meet at Sears Landing every Monday beginning around 8:30am and waiting until 9:00am to order for those wishing to eat. This will be an informal gathering for all men who are interested in food and fellowship. If you have any questions, contact Roger Morton at [rramorton@gmail.com](mailto:rramorton@gmail.com).

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### **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

OUR CHRISTMAS CANTATA~ “One Incredible Moment” by Mac Lucado and Tom Fettke

Date: **Sunday, December 17th**

Time: **10:00a.m.**

Be sure to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy the beautiful music!

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The **Nursing Home Ministry** will join members of the Gathering Church of Surf City on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am in the Memory Care Unit at the Woodbury Wellness Center located at 2778 Country Club Dr, Hampstead. **You are welcome to join us every second Sunday for worship and visit with the residents.**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* —John 3:16

Contact: Bescye P Burnett (678) 882-6721 or [bescyep@gmail.com](mailto:bescyep@gmail.com)

“Love...Loves...Loved”

“Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced”. —James Baldwin (1924–1987)

Please join us for our 13-week Grief Share Group held by the Stephen Ministry group here at Faith Harbor. We will meet every Monday from 10am-12:00pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome! Feel free to contact Gail Robinson with any questions~ [gail.robinson0694@gmail.com](mailto:gail.robinson0694@gmail.com)



Nourishing Joy Women's Group will be taking a break in the month of December. We will let everyone know in January when we will begin meeting again. Thank you so much!

### **Women Rooted in Christ, Anchored in Love, Building each other up.**

Connections matter...connections with God and with each other. Come and see how God creates a place for women to be encouraged & strengthened, as we learn about Jesus's love for us and how to share it with others. Regardless of what stage of life you are in, you have gifts and insights that others need, and we want you to be a part of building up God's Kingdom. If you have any questions, please call Stacie Holmes at 910-270-9465 or email: [stacieaholmes@gmail.com](mailto:stacieaholmes@gmail.com).

When? Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30



Perhaps you have noticed that the new tax law has reduced your ability to deduct your contribution to charitable entities, including Faith Harbor. For the past couple of years, you were able to deduct at least \$600 per couple. However, that amount has now gone away. In fact, unless you can itemize your deductions for more than \$27,700 for a couple (\$13,800 for a single), you can't deduct any contribution that you make to a charity. Those of you who have paid off your home mortgage usually have a tough time getting past that. **BUT THERE IS A SOLUTION.** A Qualified Charitable Contribution can be made from your IRA, 401K, or any brokerage account directly to the charity on your behalf, and

it is not included in your income (eliminating the tax you would have paid on it) and the charity gets the benefit of your donation. And if you are over the age of 73, you may need to do an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution). This is a great way to take the distribution and avoid paying income tax on those tax-free dollars and profits that you put away years ago. As we get close to the end of the year, you may want to consider taking advantage of this. For more information, see Gail Widholm, Finance Chairperson, or your tax advisor.





Are you missing anything? Please check out our lost and found box over by the mailboxes (across from Room 6). We have several umbrellas, water bottles, glasses, and many other items.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS...



Hello Faith Harbor Families,  
I pray everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day wherever you were.  
Please take a minute to look over our schedule below and mark your calendars.  
Lots going on in the next two months!

### December

Dec. 10th: Jr. Basic we will be heading to Woodbury to sing Christmas songs for residents and hand out handmade cards.

Dec 17th: Jr. Basic Christmas Party at 3:30pm! We will have a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Families are welcome to come to Lake Linda after to enjoy the Christmas light display.

### A look ahead:

#### January

Jan 14th: Jr. Basic. Pick up at 12:30pm

Jan. 21st: Safe Sanctuary Training after church. This is required for anyone working with our children or youth. This presentation will take no longer than 30 minutes.

Jan. 28th: Jr. Basic. Pick up at 12:30pm.

Jan 28th: Children's Counsel meeting after church in classroom 1.

Blessings,

*Melissa Schleinkofer*, Children's Ministry Director

[mxcook8@yahoo.com](mailto:mxcook8@yahoo.com) or <http://www.faitharborumc.org>



Greetings everyone!! 🎄

The Christmas season is here already, and we have a lot of exciting happenings coming up this month! Please see below and mark your Calendars accordingly:

**\*Saturday., Dec. 2nd~** Christmas Craft Fair Youth Concessions Sale from 9am-2pm. MS and HS youth, please sign up for a shift to help with this fundraiser & wear your festive attire if you desire. We will be selling Hot Dogs and Taco Bowls. Church is buying the main ingredients for the Sale. Parents- please sign up to bring other side items needed. Here is the Sign Up Genesis link to do so. Thanks so much!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848AEAF22A1FF2-46454749-christmas>

**\*Sun., Dec. 3rd~**

MS youth -Regular youth group meeting from 4-5pm in The Reef

MS & HS youth- 5-5:30pm Fellowship time

HS youth- Regular youth group meeting from 5:30-6:30pm in The Reef

**\*Sun., Dec. 10th~** This will be our Youth Sunday for the month of December at the 9:30am Service. Opportunities to serve include:

4 Readers (Psalms, Opening Prayer, Prayers of the People, Nicene Creed), 2 Doorman, 2 Greeters, 4 Ushers, 2 Children's classroom helpers. Please let me know if your youth can serve. Thank you!

**That evening~**

MS youth- Regular Meeting from 4-5pm in The Reef. We will be having our Christmas Party & activities!! Please bring a \$2 to \$3 silly gift for our exchange game!

HS youth- Regular Meeting from 4-5pm in The Reef. We will be having our Christmas Party & activities!! Please bring a \$2 to \$3 silly gift for our exchange game!

**\*Sun., Dec. 17th~** Christmas Cantata at 10am with a light brunch to be held afterwards, all are welcome!

**That evening~** Dec. monthly meal & outing! For all youth- Let's gather together for Appetizers & Finger foods at 4pm in The Reef. Afterwards, at 5pm we will head over to Lake Linda to enjoy the Lights together in the Van. Parents are welcome to join us also. Pick up time for youth riding in the Van will be 6:30pm back at the church. You don't want to miss this fun night!!

**\*Sun., Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve~** Morning services at 8am and 9:30am. Candlelight Services at 5pm and 7pm. Please plan to come and enjoy any of these beautiful services. No Regular youth group meetings that evening.

**\*Sun. Dec. 31st~** Covenant Renewal Morning services at 8am and 9:30am. Happy New Year's Eve! No Regular youth group meetings that evening due to the holiday break. Regular youth group meetings to resume on Sunday, Jan. 7th.

**\*Other Info./Missions~**

Thank you to all that participated in the Coat Drive with CWS (Church World Services) for refugees coming into the local area during the Winter months. If you wanted to donate coats but didn't get the chance- please let me know. **\*We will be starting a NEW Drive for bedding.** They can only accept NEW bedding, in particular Twin sheet sets, then next is Queen sheet sets. We will be placing a marked bin in the Narthex soon.

**\*\*Special Note!** The Christmas Caroling event- "Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa" date is to be determined. I would love to partner with the Praise music band to go with us!! I will send out that date and time asap, thank you!

If you should need further information or details about any of these events or the Fhumc's bAsiC (brothers And sisters in Christ) youth group, please reach out to me. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and your youth!

Peace of Christ be with you,  
Jewels Swain, Fhumc Youth Coordinator  
(910)232-9844  
[julietswain@hotmail.com](mailto:julietswain@hotmail.com)

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God gives me the courage to step out in faith.

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.*

~Psalm 143:10 (NIV)



**Members:** Joyce Arnette; Ray Blackburn; Nancy Buckman, *Families of: Marcus Burnett Jr, Charles nephew, whose wife crossed over and Venita Marie Burnett, Charles' cousin, who crossed over; Doris & Mike Davis; David Decatur; Patty Feige; Judy & Ken Hoopes; Janet Hughes; Janice Long; Martha Marlow; Pastor Neal McHenry; Tony Merlino; Larry & Becki Modlin; Judy Pratt; Rachel Shade; Steve Wells; the family of Susan Wieland; Jim Wygant*

**Military:** Joe Fraley, Alex Harris, Andy Harrison, Ryan Hermance; Greg Holmes; Sgt. Joey Horne; Abbie Kizer, John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, David Ritz, Michael Roberson, Charlotte Taylor

**Family and Friends:** David Abernethy (Jewels Dad); Johnsie's great niece Rebekah and family; Kelly Bonnell's Husband; MK Clewis's daughter, Harper, and family; Eileen Eifert (John Pratt's sister); Parker Fox; Sue Heavner (Jewels Grandmother); Linda Holt (Mike Hopper's Sister); Rick Hughes; Elizabeth Lilly (Gail's granddaughter); Catherine McDowell; Tommy Mears; Jenny Merritt; the family of Rachael Meyer; Todd Rice (Colin's brother); Barbara & Neil Schilling; Julie Scott (Hank & Jan Maser); Sue Thomas (Janet Hughes Sister); Brenda (Harriet Rice's friend)

*And all unnamed persons needing God's peace, comfort, and healing. Heavenly Father, I am praying for complete healing and good health. Please take away my worries & grant me inner peace and strength. AMEN*



## December

1<sup>st</sup>: Kelly Byrd

3<sup>rd</sup>: Marion Shade

4<sup>th</sup>: Leslie Jones; Hayden Arnold; Katherine Alexander; Neal McHenry

6<sup>th</sup>: Sherry Sliwa

8<sup>th</sup>: JoAnn Rivenbark

9<sup>th</sup>: Bill Widholm

10<sup>th</sup>: Laura Alexander; Melanie Greene

11<sup>th</sup>: Danielle Shepard; Reagan Shepard

13<sup>th</sup>: Don Mizelle

14<sup>th</sup>: Doug Mewborn; Sandi Lowry

15<sup>th</sup>: Harriet Rice

16<sup>th</sup>: Kenny Burgess; Judy Paliotti; Madison Fox

17<sup>th</sup>: David Henry; Charlie Clark

21<sup>st</sup>: Robert Barnes; Sonya Burgess

22<sup>nd</sup>: Marlaine Hopper; Caroline Hinkle

25<sup>th</sup>: Alex Harris

26<sup>th</sup>: Ann Cassler; Alexis Medlin Passingham

29<sup>th</sup>: Jill Strohpaul

31<sup>st</sup>: Perry Chase Smith; Stephen Cosner; Gerry Colman

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## HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

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### **Sunday, 12/3**

8:00 Communion Service  
9:30 Communion Service  
10:30 Disciple Bible Study  
4:00p MS Youth Group  
5:00p MS/HS Fellowship time  
5:30p HS Youth Group

### **Monday, 12/4**

7:30 Open Prayer  
8:30 Sears Landing Men's Breakfast Group  
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6  
10-12p Griefshare Group, Sanctuary  
6:30p Cub Scouts

### **Tuesday, 12/5**

7:30 Open Prayer  
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6  
6:00pm Praise Band Practice  
6- 7:45p MDT  
6:30p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Rm. 6  
7:00p.m. Women's AA/Reef

### **Wednesday, 12/6**

9:30 Communion  
10:00 Reading Circle, Rm. 6  
11:30 Women's Group, Sanctuary  
7:00p.m. Boy Scouts/Reef  
7:00pm Cantata Practice/ 7:45p Choir

### **Thursday, 12/7**

7:30 Open Prayer  
12:00p AA Group, Rm. 6  
6:30p GS Troop #2424

### **Friday, 12/8**

8:30 Women's Breakfast Group  
10:00 UWIF Brunch/Installation of Officers  
5:30p GS Polar Express

### **Saturday, 12/9**

9:30- 12p Roots of Recovery Baking  
2 – 4:00p Christmas Recital

### **Sunday, 12/10- Youth Sunday**

8:00 Communion Service  
9:30 Worship Service  
10:30 Disciple Bible Study  
10:30 JR Basic to Woodbury  
4:00p MS/HS Youth Christmas Party