



Courier

Weaverville UMC

March, 2017

Keeping count. . .

Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive his brother. Peter thought maybe seven times might be a fair limit. But Jesus said "seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:21-22.)

We are tempted to keep count of all the wrongs, hurts, and pains inflicted upon us on a daily basis, but the path from the wilderness toward resurrection goes through forgiveness.

Christian discipleship necessitates a few things: creative nonviolence, universal love, peaceable wholeness, and steadfast resistance to injustice. But it requires above all this one thing: forgiveness. Forgiveness toward those who have hurt or reject us helps us reach Gospel heights of bearing the fruits of the Spirit. Forgiveness is a daily discipline.

To inspire to forgive others and ourselves might seem unattainable. But the duty to relentlessly offer forgiveness falls to us — forgiveness day and night because of what Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross.

For a moment, name anyone who churns up a dark cloud in your mental sky. We might need to forgive our parents and siblings, our relatives and neighbors, our classmates and teachers, our politicians and leaders, our presidents and generals, and perhaps ourselves. Forgiving ourselves lies as well within the purview of forgiveness. It is our calling that we should forgive ourselves for all the ways we have hurt ourselves, not accepted ourselves, not loved ourselves as God loves us. Mercy toward ourselves unleashes mercy toward others. Forgiveness is a whole new way of life.

It's a tall order, this business of forgiveness—not just because of our weakness but because of our culture. Ours is a culture of revenge and retaliation. The image I recall of forgiveness is a few years ago when the Amish community displayed amazing forgiveness when a gunman opened fire in a children's classroom. Forgiveness is the path: Interpersonal forgiveness, communal forgiveness, even global forgiveness.

Lent is a good time to ponder forgiveness toward those who have hurt us, to make it a practice that becomes the norm. Only then can we hope to achieve something of the lavish Gospel kind — the capacity to forgive even those who kill our loved ones or would kill. Rather than keeping count, Lent is a good time to ponder his words of forgiveness. Let's pray over them and imitate them, and make Jesus' thrilling saga of forgiveness our own.

Roger

The M&Ms (Mature and Methodist) next event will be on Thursday, March 16th at 12 noon in the Fellowship Center for a great meal and an informative program. The cost is only \$5.00 per person. Ardell Forehand will prepare Chicken ala King with fresh baked biscuits. Salads will be prepared by Fran Durden. Delicious desserts will be provided. Gluten-free alternatives will also be available.



Our program will be presented by Lorraine and Bob Cipriano and is titled "Spirit, Mind and Body: Tips for Healthier Living as we Age". Lorraine and Bob will share insights for a healthier life's journey. It will be informative as well as entertaining. Please register at mandmlunch@frontier.com or call the Foor at 828-484-8680.

Welcome George & Sharon Waltman! George and I are college grads, George with a BA from Cornell College in Iowa and me with an education degree from Purdue University. George and I just celebrated our 35th anniversary. We have five children, four boys and a girl, all but one of which are married with families. We have nine grand children ages eight to seventeen located in PA, MI, IN, and WI. George took an early retirement at age 54 and we departed Naperville, IL for Weaverville with visions of a leisurely life. This changed when we both signed on as volunteers at Mission Hospital, me in the NICU and George in the Emergency Department. In addition, I became involved with Project Linus. I am still active and now work as the coordinator for Buncombe County. George felt the calling too and decided at age 58 to get a degree as an RN. Upon graduation, George accepted a position at Mission in neurology where he worked the 7P to 7A shift for seven years. George is now retired again and gives classes in stroke awareness. We are both looking forward to the fellowship of the WUMC.

UMW

The Minevia Brittain Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 8th, at the home of Vickie Davis.

UMM

The UMM's breakfast will be at 7:55am on Sunday, March 12th. Come and join us! We have 100 AutoBell Carwash tickets for sale, so let me know how many you want. Please help your men's group—\$20 per ticket. You keep a clean car and we keep \$10! Win-win!



March Special Happenings!

Sunday, March 12th—Smoky Mountain Brass Band Concert—3pm—Sanctuary

Saturday, March 18th—UMW Prayer Breakfast—WUMC Sanctuary and Fellowship Center

Monday, March 20th—Trustees Meeting

Monday, March 20th—Church Women of Weaverville—Fellowship Center—6pm



Birthdays—March, 2017

3/1 Nolan Lisenbee	3/10 Jackie Pond	3/21 Christy Cheek
3/1 Sue Magley	3/10 Doris Fisher	3/22 Julian Palien
3/2 Sharon Waltman	3/10 Emily Clark	3/23 Pat Duncan
3/3 Betty Cooper	3/12 Jesse Sigmon	3/24 Zach Banks
3/4 Steve Tensi	3/13 Jason Rodrigue	3/24 Bob Cipriano
3/4 Zac Kemp	3/14 Tom Weaver	3/25 Jeanne Morgan
3/5 Paul Krueger	3/14 Scott Knox	3/26 Elaine Ingle
3/6 Shane Keeran	3/15 Lisa Rhodes	3/28 Joyce Schmidlin
3/6 Jacqueline Ellis	3/15 Walker Corbin	3/29 Josie Clark
3/7 Adah Morton	3/15 Rick Johnson	3/30 Hannah Davis
3/8 Rylee McDaris	3/15 RG Jones	3/30 Fran Durden
3/9 Krystal Owenby	3/17 Dedi Dillingham	3/30 Katherine Rodrigue
3/9 Frank Meadows	3/19 Courtney Kiser	3/31 Peggy Christy
	3/19 Hayden McBride	3/31 Levi Justice





***Smoky Mountain Brass Band—In Concert—Weaverville UMC
Sunday, March 12th, 3pm, in The Sanctuary***

Thank You! I want to thank the church for supporting the youth in this year’s Chili Cook-Off. This kick started our fund raising for our mission to Langley Kentucky. As I listen to the youth and their stories from last year’s trip, it’s apparent to me the blessing this trip was for them. They fostered relationships with children, they witnessed to the gospel in the community, and supported a center whose ongoing ministry creates a network of support year round.

The importance of missions in youth ministry cannot be emphasized enough. Not only does missional engagement create lasting memories of fun and excitement with friends and mentors, mission work also creates opportunities for the development of a lasting and transformative faith in young people. Missions is a time of intergenerational fellowship – a time to share stories and experiences with older adults, and a time to mentor younger children. These moments shape how we see the world, and open us to the transformative power of God to shape our lives around the great commandment – to love God with your whole heart, mind, and soul, and to love our neighbor as our self.

I ask for your prayers and support in the months to come – not only for our youth, but also for the community to which we are heading. Pray that God prepares our way and our hearts to participate in the things God continues to do in the world.

Jeremy Morris

WUMC Finances—February, 2017

	<u>February Actual</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offerings	\$25,749.89	\$52,130.07
Expenses	\$36,098.29	\$69,063.42
Difference	\$-10,348.40	\$-16,933.35



**Serving God by
Serving Others.**

Weaverville UMC

Primary Business Address
PO Box 37
85 N Main Street
Weaverville, NC 28787

Phone: 828-645-6721
E-mail: gailprice@weavervilleumc.org

Adult Sunday School Classes

The Explorer Class - Conference Room

The Explorer Class is covering lesson 2 of the 8 faith lessons contained in Ray Vander Laan's Book/DVD, study of the Life and Ministry of the Messiah. This class divides its time between discussing praise and prayer concerns and study topics.

Living God's Love Class—Love Classroom

This class is studying "Longing to Belong" which focuses on who we are, who's we are and what we are to be about. All are welcome for conversation.

The Ignite Class—3rd Floor

This class is comprised of parents of school-aged children who are dedicated to keeping Christ present in their lives.



They engage in topical studies and contemporary issues.

Bible 101—Wesley-Brown Classroom

Bible 101 is circling back to the beginning and revisiting fundamentals—a review of the origins of the Old Testament and the New Testament. And then will move to the Five Books of Moses.

Cipriano Small Group

This is an evening small group who is reading and discussing "The Complete Guide to the Bible". They enjoy desserts and beverages prior to the group discussions and find this a great way to get to know others.

If you are interested in any of these groups, please contact the church office for more information.