

September 2023

Catching Up with The Road



FROM THE PASTOR... "We've got spirit, yes we do!"

I know the "vote of disaffiliation" is heavy on everyone's heart/mind, and the topic of conversation around the Church. It's a difficult season to be United Methodists; yet we are called to be faithful followers of Jesus every day and the Church to shine His light and love all around us. So to keep us focused, a few thoughts of wisdom:

SEE PAST IT: Yes, it's an important decision in the life of your church family; yes, it's been a focus of discussion for a couple of months now; but see past it. September 10 will come and go, and some people may leave because of how it turns out. But look even further past that! Can you see that things will get back to normal around here again? See past it... sounds a lot like FAITH: *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."* (Hebrews 11:1) See past this vote. Trust God with the results. Focus on what He has in store for your church family. He is just that good!

LOVE ONE ANOTHER: I know you folks love each other. I've commented before on how abundantly clear LOVE is in the DNA of this place. But this is a tough season... living in a world right now where our differences rip us apart... a personal and passionate issue... streams of politics and "isms" causing friends & neighbors to stop talking. The Church is supposed to float above those streams running all around us... like Jesus walked on water! His love is bigger than you, me, or any class or group here. Everything should reflect Him here, and that means His dying, sacrificial love. world in which we live... just on Sunday mornings! So let not the church's focus be on politics or candidates, or race or nationality, or college football identity or sexual identity. Very clearly purpose is GREATER THAN the sum total of all those together! His name is Jesus. He lived & died in love. Set everything else aside for his us, His brothers & sisters in Christ. Drop the mic. No questions. The vote is over September 10. Back to business for Blair Road Church! Don't let the world tear us apart!

RESERVE EXPRESSION: There's a good chance that September the 10th, if you come to vote as you should, one of two outcomes is very likely:

- 1) You will feel sad, upset, angry, and/or dejected because the results were opposite of what you'd hoped. Don't sulk! Yes, it's completely human to have all those emotions, and you are free to feel them! But don't erupt in emotion of shrieks, wailing, screaming, or balling. Save your sulking for home or time alone with a like-minded friend.
- 2) Some will feel happy, jubilant, excited, and relieved that the vote resulted in your opinion's favor. Don't cheer! Yes, it's completely human to have all those emotions, and you are free to feel them! But cheer, drop balloons from above, or throw confetti. Have a piece of "humble pie" to tie you over until lunch, and save your cheering & celebrating and high-fives for home, or time out with a like-minded friend.

*"But the fruit of God's Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."
Galatians 5:22-23*

Hoping to see each of you
on the other side!

Pastor Mark

Sunday, September 10th

"Vote for Denominational Disaffiliation"

"Professing Members" arrive promptly by 12:15pm
to register & receive a ballot! Results to immediately follow. Contact
the church office with any questions.

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40-day SEASON of PRAYER

In preparation of the vote on 9/10, dedicate time out every day to pray: for your church, it's leaders, wisdom & discernment, God's Holy Spirit to direct us individually, and together!

PRAYER WALKABOUT

Come at 7pm on Sun/Tues/Thurs for the Prayer Walkabout outside around our campus perimeter. Meet at the FLC entrance, or grab a prayer card found on the railing there to do it alone, anytime. In the event of rain, prayer will happen inside the

PRAY on the DAY: September 10

The Sanctuary will be unlocked at 8am that morning. Please come to pray for yourself and your Church silently before the 8:45am worship, during the 10am hour, or before the vote at 12:15pm. The "Prayer Room" is down the hallway from the sanctuary (2nd room on the left) and will be available for prayer also.

Begins September 20!
Wednesday Bible Study at 7pm



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BLAIR ROAD

Schedule of dates for Fall of 2023

September

Weds. 9/13, 9/20, 9/27 – Weekly “Fuel Up” meals at 5:45pm

Mon. 9/4 – OFFICE CLOSED (Labor Day)

Thurs. 9/21 – “Young at Heart” Meal & Music at 11:30am

October

Weds. 10/4, 10/11, 10/18 – Weekly “Fuel Up” meals at 5:45pm

Sat. 10/14 – Group to “Lord of Light” at Narrow Way dinner theater

Wed. 10/25 – “Trunk of Treats” 5:30-7:30pm (NO “Fuel Up”)

Sun. 10/29 – 5th Sunday Fellowship in FLC (9:45-11am)

November

Weds. 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/29– Weekly “Fuel Up” meals at 5:45pm

Thurs. 11/2 – Seniors Safety Community Event with lunch at 11:30am

Sun. 11/5 – All Saints Remembrance at 8:45 & 11:11am

Sat. 11/11 – Christmas Marketplace in FLC 8am-Noon

Sat. 11/11 – BBQ Sold 11am-2pm; OFFICE CLOSED (Veterans’ Day)

Wed. 11/22 – NO “Fuel Up” Meal

Thurs/Fri. – 11/23-24 – OFFICE CLOSED (Thanksgiving)

December

Weds. 12/6, 12/13– Weekly “Fuel Up” meals at 5:45pm

Sun. 12/3 – Worship Service for Healing at 5pm in Sanctuary

Sun. 12/10 – Christmas Cantata at 8:45 & Band Jam at 11:11

Wed. 12/13 – Ornament Making at 6:30pm (after “Fuel Up”)

Thurs. 12/21 – Group to “Charlotte Strings” concert

Sat. 12/16 – Public outreach Christmas event 10am-Noon

Sun. 12/24 – Morning Worship (8:45am ONLY) in Sanctuary

–Candlelight Services at 4pm in FLC and 6pm in Sanctuary

Mon. 12/25 – OFFICE CLOSED (Christmas)

Sun. 12/31 – 8:45 & 11:11am Worship Services

January, 2024 Mon. 1/1 – OFFICE CLOSED (New Year)

Pastor’s Bible Study

Wednesdays - 6:30pm

Beginning Sept. 20





Wednesday Night Fuel Up Resumes!



September 13 at 5:45

We will kick off our Wednesday night meal and ministries with a **Hawaiian**

Luau! Wear your 

Hawaiian attire and join in fun **with a purpose.** *There will be no charge for the meal, instead, we ask that you contribute to the victims of the Maui wildfire.*

We will have a hula hoop contest and show the Lilo and Stitch movie following the meal.

Catching Up with The Road

Virtual Charge Conference Scheduled for Tues. September 12

Our District Superintendent Dan Pezet has authorized (and will preside at) a Virtual Special Session Charge Conference in the Fellowship Room of the FLC on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30pm. It will be held by Zoom, and members of the Church Council need to attend, with those attending constituting a quorum. The Conference is necessary in the event that the "Vote for Disaffiliation" (on 9/10 at 12:15pm) PASSES by 66.6% required, so that motions can be made and votes taken to convey all real & personal property of Blair Road UMC to the new church entity. As is always the case, charge conference sessions are open meetings in the UMC. If you are not a member of our Church Council/Charge Conference session, please contact Rev. Dan Pezet at 704-525-3396 for information about how to join the online meeting. However, only elected church council/charge conference members will be able to participate in with voice and vote.

alzheimer's association®

Alzheimer's Support Group is for the caregivers of those with memory/dementia diagnosis. The goal of our group is to educate, support, and be a safe space to share the challenges of caring for memory patients. Please join us or share with someone you know that would benefit from our group. Maybe you know someone that you could accompany to the group. We meet the **THIRD TUESDAY** of each month. For more information, please contact Lynn Smith at 704-545-6785 or email: lynns--mith@blairroadumc.org .



The focus for September is Chef Boyardee, Cans or plastic jars of spaghetti sauce & spaghetti pasta

- Easy Mac Cups- Mac & Cheese dinners
- Canned Tuna/Chicken
- Chef Boyardee
- Kids soups *
- Granola/Cereal Bars *
- Canned Fruit & Fruit Cups *
- Canned Veggies
- Peanut Butter/Jelly *
- Canned Beans *
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Box of Pasta
- Instant Oatmeal Packs
- 1 lb. bag of Rice
- Crackers packed in Sleeves

* Most needed items

Please no glass jars or expired items!

Thank you for your support of this ongoing BRUMC Mission!



stephen MINISTRY.

Are You Going through a Difficult Time?

A Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through a crisis or a difficult time.

To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential care, contact Pastor Mark, Lynn Smith, or Chris Weiant by calling the church office at 704-545-6785.

Catching Up with The Road



In Memory of Martha Coulter

Memorial Fund:

- By: Jeffrey & Patricia Kohler
- By: Susan Bumgarner
- By: Donald & Barbara Dickinson
- By: Tony, Tina & Jennifer Pagan
- By: The Merrill Family
- By: Julie Fox
- By: Doris L. Baker
- By: Jack Power & Family

Missions Fund

- By: Rebecca Barnes

In Memory of Debbie Schuyler (Sheryl Jones' sister)

Missions Fund

- By: Rebecca Barnes



In Honor of Kathy Madden's Birthday

ASP Youth Missions Fund:

- By: Ed & Sheryl Jones



Interested in Joining A Small Group?

Small groups meet on Sunday at 10:00am. We have 7 adult groups that would love for you to join them. Each has its own personality so I'm sure you can find a good fit. If you would like information about the various groups check out our website or call Lynn Smith at 704-545-6785 or lynnsmith@blairroadumc.org

IT'S COMING!!!!!!!!!!!!



BAKE SALE

It is time to dust off those cookbooks and start thinking about what you are going to make for the **BAKE SALE** on November 11th, 2023.

This will take place along with the Marketplace and BBQ.

More details will be coming next month as to what sells best and how to package things.

We need everyone's help to make the bake sale a big success. Questions can be sent to Becky Barnes

at wtbarnes@twc.com



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Ways to Help @ Lebanon Rd Elementary

Lebanon Road Elementary (one of Blair Road's partner schools) had made known the following need for volunteers.

Please contact Debbie Oliver if you can help with any of them, so that she can connect you. Thank you!

- A **PHONE RECEPTIONIST** to answer the phone in the office, for a morning or an afternoon in their office Sept. 5-8th.
- Volunteers to **SIT & LISTEN** 1-2 hours a week to younger students trying to improve their reading skills (free 2-hour training class offered on 9/13/23).
- Anyone willing to help **SERVE a LUNCH** of appreciation for teachers on Sept. 20th.
- Someone with knowledge & tools to clean & de-algae a **COY FISHPOND** in the school courtyard.
- Help with **COPYING & FILING** in their office any Tues. 8-10am (called "Helping Hands").
- Assistant to help new Media Specialist to **ORGANIZE/FILE RESOURCES** in Library.
- **BUY & DONATE** any amount of "#2 Ticonderoga pencils (presharpened)".



Blair Road to Host an Emmaus Gathering Sept. 9th at 6:00 in the Family Life Center

Each month the Emmaus community gathers for a meal and short message. All are welcome to attend the monthly gathering even if you have not participated in a weekend retreat. Come and learn a bit more about the opportunity and enjoy an evening of fellowship. **Please bring a covered dish to share.**

The Walk to Emmaus is a three-day retreat which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a life-style. The program is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and through them their families, congregations, and the world.




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Lunch and a Show!

 Thursday, September 21st at 11:30
Jem Crossland, a great entertainer and singer will be here followed by lunch. At the low cost of \$6. Please sign up Sept. 14. All are welcome so bring your friends and neighbors!

LORD OF LIGHT

Sign Up NOW for Narrowway
Christian Theater

Saturday, October 14th at 12:00

This will be a real treat! The show, "Lord of Light" will be amazing! A meal is served consisting of BBQ chicken, alfredo tortellini, vegetables, bread, and chocolate cobbler prior to the show. The cost for show and lunch is \$43.

Please no later **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 14TH** so I can confirm our tickets. Church bus will be leaving the parking lot at 11:00.



TRUNK OR TREAT!

**Wednesday,
Oct. 25th 5:30-7:30**

We need your trunk! The more the better for everyone.

The church supplements your candy needs. Decorations can be simple or over the top! Contact Lynn Smith for more information

at lynnsmith@blairroadumc.org or 704-545-6785.

Fifth Sunday



Oct. 29th at 9:45-11:00 am.

Join your church family for a time of fellowship and refreshment in the Family Life Center.

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If you are a singer and would like to participate in our Christmas Cantata, please let me know. We will have our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 PM (our regular rehearsal night) in the church Sanctuary. We will start with Cantata music at the beginning of rehearsal each Wednesday and you can leave after the Cantata music ends. Please know, we would love for you to sing in the choir from September thru December if you would like to!! We will have our final rehearsal on Saturday morning, December 9 from 10:00 to 12:00 noon. The Cantata will be performed on Sunday, December 10 at the 8:45 service. If you are a singer, please consider joining with us! Ron Payne



Updates from Teen Ministry! Get Ready for September's Activities!

Our Teen Ministry is gearing up for a September filled with fun, adventure, and unforgettable memories. We're about to begin a series of events that will make this fall an absolute blast for our teens and their friends.

What's in store for September?

🔑 Escape Room Extravaganza - September 8th, 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM 🧑🏻♂️

This is not your ordinary evening. On September 8th, from 6:45 PM to 8:00 PM, we're breaking out the puzzle-solving skills and

teamwork vibes with our very own Escape Room challenge! Imagine working with your friends to crack codes, solve riddles, and unlock the mystery before time runs out. It's an adventure you won't want to miss!

🔍 Epic Scavenger Hunt - September 22nd, 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM 🇺🇸

Gather your wits and your sense of adventure because on September 22nd, from 6:45 PM to 8:00 PM, we're hitting the great outdoors with an exhilarating Scavenger Hunt! Hunt for clues, conquer challenges, and enjoy the thrill of the chase as we explore, laugh, and create lasting memories together.

Who's Invited? Teens from 6th to 9th grade, this is your ticket to an amazing time! Come one, come all and bring your energy, enthusiasm, and a sense of adventure.

Parents, Listen Up! Safety first! We kindly request that parents ensure timely drop-offs and pickups for the events. Let's work together to make these events as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

👩🏻♀️ Calling all Volunteers! 🧑🏻♂️

The magic of these events wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our amazing volunteers. If you're passionate about making a difference in the lives of our teens and creating memorable experiences, we want you! Reach out to us at 973-432-8233, and let's chat about how you can contribute.

Did You Know? Our Teen Ministry now has its very own website, exclusively tailored to cater to the interests and needs of our teens. Connecting with us is just a click away! You can access our website by simply clicking on the designated picture on the church website. Alternatively, type in this URL: <https://blair-rd-umc-kids-and-teens.mailchimpsites.com>. Stay in the loop with the latest updates, events, and interactive content - all curated just for you and to be used as a tool for your to reach out to families with kids and teens.

Help us spread the word! Reach out to families with teens, neighbors, friends, and anyone who might want to join in on the fun. The more, the merrier!

Stay connected, stay curious, and get ready to rock September with the Blair Rd UMC Teen Ministry. Remember, the adventure starts the moment you choose to live your life to the full.