

# THE KRESGE KOURIER OCTOBER 2021



ANNA KRESGE MEMORIAL  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
15 BOOGER HOLLOW  
ROAD  
CEDARTOWN, GA 30125  
*Rev. Ed Dickens*  
OFFICE 770-748-4308

From our Pastor's Heart .....

September 29, 2021

As we look to the future, it is imperative that we not speak in generalities but be specific as we set goals for the mission and ministry we desire to offer.

1. We are in a **critical season** for our congregation. We are a welcoming congregation, there is no doubt about how warmly we receive those who arrive at our doors. But I challenge us to consider how well we invite and keep inviting those we know who need Christ as much or more than we do. Do our neighbors and other residents of Cedartown know anything about us? Thousands of cars drive by our building everyday – do the occupants of those cars know anything other than what they see? A big, beautiful building on a huge lot .... Our signs and our mostly empty parking lot. How many of those are struggling to find and experience peace in their lives?

Annual Conference leadership consider us as in the "Critical Zone" in the life of a congregation. Our Average Worship Attendance (AWA) is less than 100 and we have had less than 5 Professions of Faith (POF) (Baptism or First time Profession) annually for a number of years. The only things keeping us out of the Critical Zone is not being on Equitable Compensation (receiving assistance to pay pastor's salary).

Along with reaching out into our community to serve those in need we have 2 immediate goals: Increase AWA to 100+ and return to having professions of faith and baptisms. Inviting Seekers and new Believers not harvesting believers from other churches is the way to do this. Searching out, finding and inviting the inactive members of this congregation to return would help as well.

So far this calendar year we have had 0 Professions of Faith, 0 Baptisms, our highest in person worship total is 63 and our lowest 24; online high is 112 and low 14. Last year 2020, we averaged 58 worshipers in person and 110 online. FYI – most of those viewers watch for 0-3 seconds, very few watch an entire service.

How will we change this dynamic? By inviting those we enter relationships with individually and as a congregation. Our neighbors: the families we serve through our clothing ban; the folks we serve through Pop-Up lunches; and the citizens we encounter when we serve at Samaritan House are just a few examples. Who among your friends and acquaintances at work, social clubs, fraternal organizations, sporting events etc. do you know who do not have a church home? Have you invited them, more than once or twice?

What can we do to take our church to them? How can we be the hands and feet of Christ in our Community? We don't have to wait until the start of 2022 to be the Body of Christ in Cedartown, let's get started now!

2. Charge Conference is quickly approaching, ours is scheduled for Oct 24, 3:30 pm via a Zoom call along with the other UMCs in Zone 6 (Floyd/Polk counties) and Zone 3 (Bartow and Gordon counties).

As of 9.29.2021, 12:49 pm we are still **searching for volunteers to serve on the One Board** in the following positions:

Vice Chair One Board class of 2023 (also serves as Lay Delegate to Annual Conference) -

Trustee Specialist #1 class of 2024

Outreach Coordinator class of 2024 -

Witness Coordinator class of 2024 -

Please pray, ask God for discernment. If He leads you to volunteer to seek to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of one of the above positions let Rev Ed or one of the members of the Nominations Committee (Michael Davis, Krista Cooper, Terry Simpson, Susan O'Neal, Linda Moody, or Charlie Self) know.

3. I've been asked about the **future of our denomination** and why I haven't said much from the pulpit or held conversations. The biggest reason is that until the General Conference meets and acts on the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation (the Protocol) The United Methodist Church is defined by the current

approved Book of Discipline (2016) with addendums approved by the 2019 called special session of General Conference. Anna Kresge United Methodist Church is a local congregation defined by and will comply with the work accomplished by the General Conference – the only governing body that speaks for The United Methodist Church as a whole.

There is a provision in the 2019 Addendums that allows local congregations to seek disaffiliation from the UMC. There is no reason for us to do so currently that I know of. If however, there is some interest to pursue that course of action here is what it would cost us: Unfunded Pension Liabilities as of Sep 1, 2021 = **\$47,061.06 + \$13,436** (2022 apportionments) + **\$5022.36** (remainder of 2021 apportionments) = \$65,519.42. This doesn't include any of the costs to remove "United Methodist Church", UMC, etc from signage, letter head, Incorporation documents and or etc. If General Conference 2022 is convened in late August-early September next year and if the Protocol is considered, voted on and approved then then North Georgia Annual Conference will have the opportunity to decide to remain in the Post Separation UMC or become a member of The Global Methodist Church or another expression of Methodism. When the Annual Conference takes a decision, Anna Kresge will have an opportunity to make a decision. Given the Protocol is passed as written, the Trust Clause would be suspended and there would be no charge to leave. We are waiting for the General Conference to act and speak. In the meantime, we will conduct ourselves as United Methodist in accordance with our approved Book of Discipline with Addendums.

4. I highly encourage members of our congregation to form 3-5 person **discipleship bands** to read, pray and meet together. See info in this newsletter that describes the commitments and format of these groups. Flyers and cards are on bulletin board around the church and on the table in the narthex. Community group leaders and Sunday school class teachers please consider encouraging your members to organize into bands.

In His grip, Rev Ed

A discipleship band is a group of 3-5 people who **read together**, **pray together** and **meet together** to become the love of God for one another and the world.

The Seven Commitments are the foundational rules of engagement for how band members should respect and honor each other

1. **Respect the clock** You have 15–20 minutes to share. Please do your best to stick to that time frame.
2. **Challenge by choice** You have permission to skip a question at any time. For example, you can say, "I don't have anything on question 4 this week."
3. **No cross-talk** When someone is sharing, don't give advice or interrupt.
4. **One Counselor (come Holy Spirit)** When someone is sharing, listen deeply and pay attention to how the Holy Spirit might prompt you to pray.
5. **Comfort with empathy** Hold space for others with open hearts. Rather than offering pity or sympathy, show up and tune in—bless, encourage, and build up.
6. **Community of grace** When someone confesses sin, pardon by saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven." If someone shares a secret, thank them for their courage and never judge.

## discipleship bands weekly meeting format

### opening

**ONE VOICE:** Awake, O Sleeper and Rise from the Dead.

**ALL OTHERS:** And Christ Will Shine on You.

#### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we pray that out of your glorious riches you would strengthen us with power through your Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. And we pray that we, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

### questions

*Each person takes 15–20 minutes to share around the questions below.*

1. How is it with your **soul**?
2. What are your **struggles** and **successes**?
3. How might the **Spirit** and **Scriptures** be speaking in your life?
4. Do you have any **sin** that you want to confess?
5. Are there any **secrets** or hidden things you would like to share?

**WHEN YOU ARE READY TO GO DEEPER . . .**

*When each person has finished sharing, allow time for prayer.*

### closing

#### PRAYER

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

*(prayers adapted from Ephesians 5:14 and 3:16–21)*

THE MONDAY SMALL GROUP MEETS EACH MONDAY AT 4:30 PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU COME AND JOIN THIS SMALL GROUP AND GET INVOLVED WITH BIBLE STUDY, MINISTRY, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP.

CONTACT:  
LINDA STANTON \*  
770-468-5957  
LYNN SELF \*  
706-936-1711

THE TUESDAY SMALL GROUP MEETS AT 12:00 EACH TUESDAY. WE DO BIBLE STUDY WITH DISCUSSION AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. BRING YOUR LUNCH AND COME JOIN US! WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU!!

The Thursday Morning Small Group

continues our Clothing Ministry for newborn to 5 years of age. We are open the first Thursday of each month at McBrayer Furniture on Main Street. Claire Nichols graciously offered us space in the store along with storage for our out of season clothes and diapers. We are serving more children now that we are more accessible. We are beginning a new study on the Sermon on the Mountain. We welcome anyone interested in joining us on Thursdays at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

**SAMARITAN HOUSE**

Please remember to bring supplies for the Samaritan House the first Sunday of each month. The Samaritan House is open on Tuesday and Thursday.

Volunteers this month are:  
Oct. 26 - Pam Himes \* Oct. 27 - Maria Masi

*We encourage you to read these scriptures as you bring your praises prayers to God daily.*

**CELEBRATIONS AND JOYS**

Read: Psalm 100:1-2  
Psalm 37:4

**STRESS AND WORRY**

Read: Psalm 55:22  
John 14:1

**FEAR AND ANXIETY**

Read: Philippians 4:6  
2 Timothy 1:7

**FAMILY**

Read: 1 Timothy 5:4  
Joshua 24:15

*"I pray to you, my Heavenly Father, because you desire it and I need it. Prayer not only changes things; it changes me. Help me, Lord, never to face the demands of the day without first spending time with you. Amen"*

**K.L.M.**

**Kresges' Ladies' Ministry Updates**

Our September 21st gathering was full of laughs, yummy snacks and discussions of Upcoming events that we wanted to do. The upcoming activities range from outreach (which naturally turns into fun) to supporting our church activities (which naturally turns into fun). If you are a lady of Kresge and want to join this fun, we'd love you to be a part of this group! Our upcoming gatherings are:

**\*\*October 19-** 5:00 p.m.-Mums -- Linda M. will bring ribbons and Maria and Cindy will bring mums with little pumpkins for decoration. We'll make them at 5 and deliver them.

**\*\*October 27-** 10:00 a.m.-help fill bags for Trunk or Treat

**\*\*October 30-** Trunk or Treat Drive Through- Everyone is invited to come! 5- 6:30 p.m. Talk to Linda Stanton if you have any questions.

**\*\*November 23-** 9:00 a.m. -Our ladies will help decorate the church for Christmas. All help is needed.

**\*\*November 24-** Help Clara Jean with Thanksgiving meal. Talk to her if you can help.

**\*\*December-** (DATE TO BE DISCUSSED ON OCTOBER 19TH) We'll have a Christmas party and make baskets for our community workers



# October 2021



SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS ARE NOW ON THE CALENDAR					1  Clean Team: Moody, Masi  Matthew 1-2	2  Matthew 5-6
3 Worship @ 10:55 Social Dstancing Masks Optional  JIM & MARIAN WILLIAMS  Matthew 7-9	4  Small Group 4:30  Matthew 10-11	5 JANE CAMPBELL BETTY PERKINS  Tues. Morn Prayer Group 10:30 am Small Group 12:00 Matthew 12	6 ADAM HIMES  Matthew 13-14	7  Small Group 11:30 am  Matthew 15-17	8 JEFF MASI  Matthew 18-20	9  Matthew 21-22
10  Worship @ 10:55 Social Distancing Masks Optional  JILL WELLS  Matthew 23-24	11  Small Group 4:30  Matthew 25-26	12 Tues. Morn Prayer Group 10:30 am  Small Group 12:00 Matthew 27-28	13  BOBBY & ANN WOODS  Mark 1-3	14  Small Group 11:30 am  Mark 4-5	15 BILL & ELLEN DICKERT  Clean Team: Edge, Cook, Willingham Mark 6-7	16  Mark 8-9
17  Worship @ 10:55 Social Distancing Masks Optional  ONEBOARD 6:00  Mark 10-11	18  Small Group 4:30  Mark 12-13	19 Tues. Morn Prayer Group 10:30 am  Small Group 12:00 Mark 14-16	20 BEAR PLOOF  Luke 1	21  Small Group 11:30 am  Luke 2-3	22  Luke 4-5	23  Luke 6-7
24 Worship @ 10:55 Social Distancing Masks Optional Luke 8-9  31 Worship @ 10:55 Social Distancing Masks Optional DEBORAH EDGE Luke 23-24	25 HARRIETT NORRIS  Small Group 4:30  Luke 10-11	26 SH - Pam himes  Tues. Morn Prayer Group 10:30 am Small Group 12:00 Luke 12-13	27 S.H.- Maria Masi  Luke 14-16	28  Small Group 11:30 am  Luke 17-18	29  Clean Team: Petersmarck, Cooper, Williams Luke 19-20	30  MIKE & WHITNEY DAVIS Luke 21-22