

THE
KRESGE
KOURIER
December
2022



ANNA KRESGE MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
15 BOOGER HOLLOW ROAD
CEDARTOWN, GA 30125

REV. ED DICKENS

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From Pastor Ed's Heart

November 30, 2022

We've laid the groundwork for 2023!

I am thankful for all those who pray. Those who have prayed in the past, are praying now, and agree to pray in the future.

I am thankful for those who share their presence (worship, Sunday school, small groups, Kresge Ladies group). Those who have been present in the past, are present now, and plan to be present in the future.

I am thankful for all those who give. Those who have given in the past (2021 – 60 giving units), are giving now (2022 – 51 giving units) and commit to giving in the future (2023-10 pledges to General Fund, 4 to special offerings and 4 to Samaritan house).

I am thankful for all those who serve (teachers, small group leaders, liturgists, shepherds, acolytes, greeters, ushers, AV Techs, Team leaders, team members, Committee chairs, committee members, cleaning teams, volunteers, good idea thinkers and good idea carry-outers). Those who have served in the past, are serving now, and agree to serve in the future.

I am thankful for those who witness to others telling of Christ's love of them and their love of Christ. Those who have shared their story in the past, those who share it today and those who commit to share the Good News of the Gospel again and again tomorrow and many tomorrows in the future.

We will need all of the above as we journey into 2023 growing as disciples of Jesus Christ, who go to make more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In this new year may we covenantal commit together to be disciples who worship God passionately, love God and each other extravagantly and witness boldly.

This is a difficult time in the life of The United Methodist Church. It is a difficult time in the life of this local outpost of the body of Christ. The next few months will require all of us to pray, study, converse and discern as we make decisions about the future of this congregation. Will we remain a United Methodist Congregation? Will we disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church, if so will we affiliate with another Wesleyan/Methodist denomination or remain independent. PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY! All this while we carry on with the mission of the church – Being disciples of Jesus Christ, continually growing in and by His sanctifying grace who go, who reach out to others to assist them becoming disciples of Jesus Christ as He transforms all into His likeness.

May it be that what we accomplish in the future builds upon the strong foundation of all the saints who have gone before us!

In His grip, Rev Ed



Merry Christmas

From our One Board Leadership ...

After several months of prayer, study, discernment, and discussion your One Board has agreed to hold a congregational vote concerning disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church. This week we mailed a letter to our District Superintendent informing her of the decision and requesting she schedule a church conference for the matter to be voted on by the congregation.

When that date is established, we will schedule at least two congregational town hall meetings for public discussion and question/answer periods. We will invite some outside subject matter experts to speak from different perspectives.

It takes 66.6% of the number who vote to approve disaffiliation. If that percentage is not met then Kresge will remain UMC; if that percentage is met Kresge will initially become an independent congregation. If there is desire, we can join with another denomination, but that would be a separate matter to vote on.

Steps for disaffiliation can be found in the 2553 Disaffiliation Packet, Revised 6-1-2022. Copies are in the church office.

Please take time to read and study reliable and moderate sources. There are extreme voices making noise on all sides of this issue that is before the General Church as a whole and our congregation specifically.

There are copies of many of the articles and sources your One Board has been reading in the office for your use.

Your One Board will keep you informed as dates are known and next steps are scheduled. Pray for us, pray for Reverend Ed, pray for Kresge as whole, pray for The United Methodist Church, pray for future expressions of Methodism, pray God's will be done on earth as it is heaven.

Anna Kresge United Methodist Church
March to the Manger
Christmas 2022



"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again." - John 3:16-17, The Message

How do we respond to God's awesome, fantastic, free gift? Do we love God first, foremost and always? Do we love others as God loves us? Do we love ourselves as God loves others and us? Do we believe God loves us so much He sent His only Son to take on all our sin? So that we may live eternally, everlastingly with Him, starting now?

Proceeds from this year's March to the Manger offering will be used to bolster and support the missions and ministries included in our approved 2023 General Fund Budget. Please pray about your gift, then be obedient to that which God lays on your heart.

This year we bring a special offering to the manger during our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Please designate your gift to "March to the Manger" offering. You may donate during a Sunday service if you will not be able to attend our Christmas Eve service.

The approved 2023 budget is \$226,838, an \$1693 increase compared to 2022. As of 10.31.2022 (10 months into the year) we have spent only \$169,664 or 75.36% of the approved budget. While giving is \$14,270 behind the same time last year our spending is \$55480 less than the total budget. This means we haven't accomplished as much through missions and ministries as we had hoped and planned. May this not be the case in 2023. Let's pray that in 2023 we will be better disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love God, others and self extravagantly and witness boldly.

Merry Christmas from the One Board and Pastor Ed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES ARE ON THE CALENDAR IN DARK RED				1 SMALL GROUP CLOTHING BANK DIANE MINSHEW KENDRA COOPER Luke 24	2 John 1	3 John 2
4 Worship @ 10:55 Masks Optional NURSERY CINDY John 3	5 SMALL GROUP 12:00 LINDA MOODY John 4	6 TUES. MORN PRAYER GROUP 11 AM John 5	7 John 6	8 SMALL GROUP 11:30 CT - David Owens John 7	9 MADISON HINKLE John 8	10 John 9
11 Worship @ 10:55 Masks Optional NURSERY CAROL WHITNEY DAVIS John 10	12 SMALL GROUP 12:00 ALLI HICKS John 11	13 TUES. MORN PRAYER GROUP 11 AM John 12	14 John 13	15 SMALL GROUP 11:30 John 14	16 John 15	17 CHARLES HIMES John 16
18 Worship @ 10:55 Masks Optional NURSERY EMMA ONE BOARD John 17	19 SMALL GROUP 12:00 John 18	20 TUES. MORN PRAYER GROUP 11 AM EMERALD HINKLE John 19	21 LYNN & CHARLIE SELF John 20	22 SMALL GROUP 11:30 John 21	23 CT - Moody, Masi Catch Up	24 Christmas Eve  Service @ 4 pm LAMAR OWENS
25  Worship @ 10:55 Masks Optional NURSERY CLARA JEAN	26 SMALL GROUP 12:00 Catch Up	27 TUES. MORN PRAYER GROUP 11 AM S.H. GAYNELLE OWENS Catch Up	28 Catch Up	29 SMALL GROUP 11:30 Catch Up	30 Catch Up	31 MARIA & JEFF MASI Catch Up