

WESLEY WINDOW

JULY 16, 2026

**WORSHIP
SERVICES**
JULY 19, 2026

Traditional
8:30 & 11:00AM
Sanctuary
Greg Porterfield

Scripture
Matthew 13:24-30

Modern
9:30 & 11:00AM
Celebration Space
Aaron Talbott

Watch live at
www.wesleyumc.net

Livestream on
YouTube & Facebook

Video will be available
to view afterwards.



**WESLEY
CHURCH**

Playing Favorites

I play favorites. Not in everything or even the most important things, mind you. You remember when the kids were young and they asked you, “Which one of us do you love the most?” I never fell into that trap, though certainly I made my share of other mistakes. I do confess, however, that I play favorites. I have my favorite flavor of ice cream. I have a favorite horse I like to ride. I have a favorite beach I like to go to, a favorite chair at home, I even have favorite ties! I have my favorites. And while I confess that I do have favorites, that designation changes as time goes by. I used to drive a Saab (I loved that quirky car) until parts became scarce and it spent more time in the shop than on the road. Some of my ties are out of date (so says Ann - I’m not always convinced). And when these things occur, they are no longer my favorite.

With that in mind, I tell you that my favorite parable is the Wheat and the Weeds, Matthew 13:24-30. It’s not my favorite because it is the most heartwarming parable. I usually designate that to the Prodigal Son or Good Samaritan found in the gospel of Luke. It’s not because it’s the shortest parable and gets right to the point. Those parables are found elsewhere in Matthew 13 - the mustard seed, yeast and hidden treasure are expounded upon in the span of only two verses. The parable of the Wheat and Weeds is just so honest and unvarnished. It doesn’t explain things the way I wish they were. but tersely as they are. It begins simply - there was a field of wheat, and one night the enemy came and sowed weeds. There is a picture of the parable painted by the 16th century artist Bruegel. It depicts someone sowing something in a field. Is it the farmer or the enemy? After all, the act of sowing is the same. That’s what makes evil so difficult to distinguish from good. Their methods are so similar. In fact, the only way to know is by gazing a long time and seeing that just over the tree line and barely discernable in the band of clouds, is the moon. It’s night. And that is how you understand.



Parable of the Sower, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1557

There is a picture of the parable painted by the 16th century artist Bruegel. It depicts someone sowing something in a field. Is it the farmer or the enemy? After all, the act of sowing is the same. That’s what makes evil so difficult to distinguish from good. Their methods are so similar. In fact, the only way to know is by gazing a long time and seeing that just over the tree line and barely discernable in the band of clouds, is the moon. It’s night. And that is how you understand.

And then there is the curious detail where the servants say, “We can solve the problem; we’ll pull the weeds.” The farmer says no. Why does he say no when the solution is so seemingly apparent? Among other things, this will be the subject of the sermon.

I’ll see you Sunday,

OUR PRAYERS

Charlene Alexander	Garisto Family	Abby Roney
John Amarello	Brenda Goodwin	Clinton Roth
Itala Azzarelli	Jim Griswell	Dennis Scheyer
Heather Beale	Mildred Hammer	George Sealey
Geena Beyersdorfer	George Harley	Sandy Segrist
John Bradley	Joanie Hollis	Simons Family
Delaine Brown	Debra Inghram	Chuck Smith
Cliff Cawood	C. Eddy Ivey Jr.	Donnie Strong
Diane Cawood	Susan Jaspers	Anna Teague
Kimberly D. Cliett	Victor Jones	Lessie Thomas
Bonnie Devereaux	Angie Livingston	Caleb Townley
Jan Devereaux	Sierra Mims	Jackie Troupe
Cindy Dick	Allen Morris	Christina Troutman
Mary Linda Doxzen	Marcia Myers	Catherine Usry
Gene Draisey	Peggy Norred	Ruth Ann Waller
Amy Eubanks	Debbie Poffenburger	Terry Waller
Mike Fielder	Alicia Reeves	Annaliese Wilson
Archie Fisher	Dierdre Reeves	Bonnie Wilson
Megan Fumo	Bob Reitz	Wilson Family
	Kelli Renville	Josephine Workosky
	Charlie Rockwell	

OUR DAILY BREAD

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."
- Proverbs 3:5-6

Often the weight of uncertainty feels heavy upon our shoulders. Hesitation grips our heart followed by waves of anxiety as we wonder in which direction God wants us to go, and how we can discern His voice amidst all the chaos. But when we surrender our fears and uncertainties to the Lord, we can experience a profound sense of peace. Through prayer, meditating on scripture and willingness to obey, we can discover that God's voice speaks loudest in the stillness of trust. Despite ongoing challenges and constant changes in direction, we can learn to rest in the assurance that God is leading us. No matter what obstacles come our way, we can be confident that God's faithfulness will see us through. God will guide us toward His perfect will.

Dear God, in the midst of life's uncertainties, help us to trust in you. May your peace and presence be our constant companions as we navigate the unknown.
Amen.

- The Upper Room

OUR PRESENCE - JULY 12

8:30 Traditional	103	9:30 Modern	104
11:00 Traditional	232	11:00 Modern	114
Jr. Church	15	TOTAL	568

OUR GIFTS

• Operating:	\$	37,192
• Received Through This Week:	\$	1,154,394
• Budgeted Through This Week:	\$	1,379,818

Don't miss the Wesley Theater Camp performance!

**Friday, July 24, 7pm
Celebration Space**



WESLEY EXTENDS CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...

Becky Horner and family upon the loss of her mother, Pat Jamison.

Ken Belzer and family upon the loss of his brother, Geri Dearie.

Ricky Lee and family upon the loss of his wife, Wanda Lee. A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, July 19, at 3PM. Visitation will begin at 2PM.

For these families, Lord, hear our prayers.

COLUMBIA COUNTY CARES JULY FOOD & SUPPLY COLLECTION



**KETCHUP
MAYONNAISE
DOG & CAT FOOD**

If you can donate any non-perishable foods and household staples, place them in the Mission Cart in the Biscuit Area.

HELP US STAY UP-TO-DATE!

If you have had a change in contact information (email, phone numbers, address, etc.), notify office@wesleyumc.net.

**TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING;
IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM,
AND HE SHALL DIRECT YOUR PATHS.**

Proverbs 3:5-6

Middle School Students Sharing Jesus in North Carolina



NEXT WEEK AT WESLEY

SUNDAY, JULY 19

8:30a Traditional Worship
9:30a Modern Worship
11:00a Modern Worship
11:00a Traditional Worship
11:00a Junior Church
2:00p Grief Support Group

MONDAY, JULY 20

9:00a Theater Camp
7:00p AA Meeting
7:00p Scout Troop 615

TUESDAY, JULY 21

8:00a Men in Mission
9:00a Theater Camp
7:00p Scout Troop 1615

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

9:00a Theater Camp
10:00a Women's Bible Study
7:00p Celebration Choir

THURSDAY, JULY 23

9:00a Theater Camp
7:00p AA Meeting

FRIDAY, JULY 24

9:00a Theater Camp
7:00p The Little Mermaid Jr. Performance



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Join our support group and receive practical and spiritual tools to cope with grief.

July 19, August 16

2-3:30pm

Email hillary@wesleyumc.net for information.



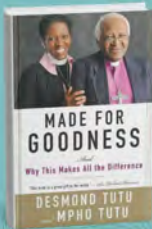
Book Study

Mondays starting July 27

6-7pm, Disciple Conference Room

Email hillary@wesleyumc.net to join

Order your copy & read Chapter 1 before our first meeting!



BECOME A WESLEY KIDS VOLUNTEER

Help us connect kids to God's love and purpose!

Current Volunteer Needs:

9:30 PreK-4 Teacher

9:30 2nd Grade Teacher

**11:00 Large Group
Adult Assistant**

**Adult Assistant
for Various Rooms**

email carol@wesleyumc.net to get involved!

AUGUST 2 MOOOVE ON UP!

**PROMOTION
SUNDAY**

**VISIT THE
HIGHLAND
COWS
10-11AM!**



Kids & Student Ministry

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY MORNING AUGUST 9

**Stop into the
gathering space
between services
to learn about
opportunities for
kids & students
this school year!**



WESLEY CHURCH

Luke Amerson ext 207.....Modern Music Director
Helen Bissell.....Senior Adult Outreach
Neil Brooks ext 223.....Associate Pastor
Laura Croft ext 210.....Preschool Director
Michelle Dodson ext 221.....Evangelism/Program Secretary
Katy Duncan ext 211.....Children's Ministries Director
Amanda Ellis ext 203.....Finance Director
Leslie England ext 214.....Connections Director
Lauren Fackler.....Access Ministry Coordinator
Molly Furse.....Children's Music Director
Ellyn Gilbert ext 224.....Student Ministries Coordinator
Jose Gonzales.....Custodian
Mark Haddon ext 206.....Facilities Manager
Greg Hatfield.....Hospital Pastor
Joel Haywood.....Organist/Pianist
Greg Porterfield ext 201.....Senior Pastor
Makayla Rittwage ext 205.....Student Discipleship Coordinator
Carol Shikle ext 211.....Assistant Family Ministry Director
Kelley Sleeper ext 202.....Missions Assistant
Aaron Talbott ext 213.....Family Pastor
Jeff Wickell ext 225.....Music Ministries Director
Hillary Williamson ext 220.....Care Director

For a complete listing of staff contact information, visit wesleyumc.net.

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@WUMCEVANS