

MISSIONS @ WILDWOOD

Missions is not only what we do, it is who we are in Jesus Christ



Impacting the lives of others

June was another meaningful month of serving our community and demonstrating the love of Christ through action. One of the month's highlights was Big House, where an incredible group of youth dedicated a week to serving others throughout our community. These young servants embraced the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus, reminding us that no one is too young to make a lasting impact.

As we celebrated Father's Day, we also gave thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, mentors, and father figures who faithfully lead their families and communities with Christ-like love and compassion. We are grateful for the many men of Wildwood who model servant leadership both within our church and beyond.

- Cindy

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Our Mission

Wildwood strives to provide faith-based, community-wide solutions to individuals and families who need hope for a better future. Whether the need is a ramp enabling a wheelchair-bound individual to achieve a better quality of life, a family in need of groceries, or parents unable to provide gifts for their children at Christmas, Wildwood offers services year-round. Our outreach spreads from Magnolia to as far away as Honduras so see where your talents can be used for the Glory of God! We can always be reached by email at Missions@Wildwood-UMC.org.

Cindy O'Donnell, Missions Chair

Rev. Jessica McMullen, Associate Pastor

Mission Leaders

Adopt a Reading Buddy - Rev. Jessica

Angel Tree - Beverly Robertson

Big House - Rev. Jessica

Family Promise - Kathy Miller

Food Pantry - Cindy O'Donnell

Hearts & Hugs Bear Ministry - Chris DuBois

Household Assistance - Mike Cooley

Littles Mentor Program - Rev. Jessica

Prison Outreach - Glenn Smith

Ramps - Steve Ramsey

Sew Much Love - Jean Kreutzer

Stitches of Love - Cindy O'Donnell

The DAD University - Jeff Springer

Worship for All - Rev. Jessica

Reach Out!

Wildwood UMC

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In 2026 ...

Neuro-Welcoming Worship - August 16th

Family Promise - week of October 26th

Ramps

Steve Ransey

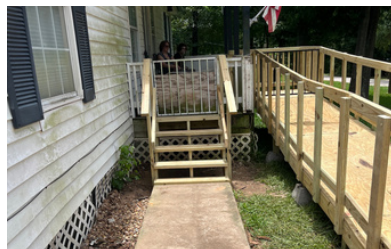
I am continuously amazed at the support this church does for the Ramps mission. Friday was a pretty easy build, since two of the sections we had in inventory - a 5x5 platform and a 4x4 ramp section (thanks to the 2026 Big House folks). So we had a 12'x4' ramp section and a 6'x4' ramp section to build as well as the RFP entry piece. So, in 1 hour we had everything pre-assembled and the trailer loaded. I have to thank Greg Miller, Rick Ruhman, Ed Schott, Ron Newman, Special Guest Ethan Ansley, Susanna Gilson, Paul Sipes, Rus Banning, Doug Kerins, Ken Roemershauser, Jim Peterson and Craig Kelly. It was a steamy humid day this morning, but everyone worked hard to get it all done.



Despite all the hype by the folks on the weather channels we did not get rain on Saturday. In fact we got sunny skies about 11:00 or so. But what a steam bath. The humidity was breathtaking... like taking your breath AWAY! But we got a good start and in about 30 minutes we demo'd out the old ramp, with stairs soon to follow and cut out the porch, for the new ramp access. And before you know it, there looks like a ramp coming together and handrails going on.

I really can't thank all the folks enough, who came out despite today's threatening weather forecast. We had Ron Newman, Paul Sipes, Norm Quinn, Greg Miller, Ken Roemershauser, Rick Ruhman, Kerry Kilgore, Susanna Gilson, Jim Grinnan and special guest Ethan Ansley. All to help Lynda O'Keefe (far right) and sister, Karen, enjoy life just a little bit better, now that she can get out of the house.

All up this project produced a 34' ramp structure (or 141sq ft) in 63 man-hours. And don't forget we also had to install a new set of stairs!!!



Household Assistance

Mike Cooley

The team accomplished three projects in June.

- We helped a lady in Montgomery who only recently got running water after a 3 year wait. We repaired multiple water leaks under the home, installed new kitchen and master bathroom faucets, installed new sink drains in the master and second bathrooms, and started her hot water heater.
- For an elderly couple in the Spring area we installed gutters in front and back of the home and an awning over the garage side door.
- For a church member in Magnolia we installed an additional safety bar in the master bathroom shower.



The DAD University

Jeff Springer

Below is an article I wrote for NCMM, a national organization for men's ministry, that I was asked to share for June's emphasis on the importance of Dads and their role!

Also we are "Piloting" a new program in schools for students that are ages 13 to 18 beginning August in Kenya. We are starting with three schools in the pilot program but we have up to 15 in the queue waiting (they will be launched later in the fall and the beginning of next year).

At right is the cover of our new curriculum with the new Future DADU logo every student will receive.



So, I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of life. God has given them under the sun.
Ecclesiastes 8:15

In the summer of 2020, I returned from my daughter's home in Arkansas, where I got to play for almost two weeks with my granddaughters. I attended many tea parties, built castles, rode slides, and watched almost every Disney movie ever released. The girls and I played nearly 24/7. Although exhausting, this was one of the most precious gifts at this stage in my life. Simply being present and playing with my granddaughters provided such priceless moments.

This playtime helped me continue to prepare and open my heart to gratitude, conversations, and investing at home. I could have done many other things for myself but have learned from my past that you do not get these moments back. Men, there are questions you never want to stop hearing, like "Daddy, will you come jump on the trampoline with me?" or "Grandpa, do you want to go play tea party?"

They will stop asking soon enough, and you will one day yearn. Yes, I said yearn for those sweet, precious, and innocent requests once more! What areas in your life are calling you to establish and prepare you for play? Not tomorrow, but today?

DADs, do not be like the man spending a lifetime building his house, only to die before he can live in it. When was the last time you stopped to play?

Zechariah, the prophet, shared, "And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets" (Zechariah 8:5). He was casting a picture of our homes and neighborhoods full of healthy people. Yes, even adults, rich with joy and hope for all. A place held with peace and plenty within reach, where play is not just visible in the children, but in those raising them as well.

DADs, what exists in your lives that, because of your intentional preparation for play, becomes a sanctuary for you, your family, and others?

Play is essential in your work, in your relaxation, and in those spontaneous, unexpected moments. Play can be found in your creating, innovating, wonderment, and celebrations. Beyond food and shelter, I have read that play is the third most important biological need we, as God's children, have, and yet it is often the most neglected.

DADs, when was the last time you truly played, for yourself, for your spouse, or for others? It's time, my brothers, to prepare to play! It's time to pause and sit down again, either figuratively or around the tiny tea party table. Let us build those castles and prepare to play today!

The DAD Deep Dive

- What does the word play mean to you?
- Is it hard for you to play?
- What can you do to invest in more play in your life and in the lives of those around you?

DADs, "Get in the game!"

Today is game day...and so are every day God gives you!

So, c'mon, men, suit up!

Food Pantry

Cindy O'Donnell

Many thanks to a Woodforest church for their generous donation. **Our greatest needs continue to be soup, jelly, cereal, snacks (for children's lunches, granola bars, etc.), canned tuna and chicken, pasta, and crackers.**



Hearts & Hugs Bear Ministry

Chris DuBois

The Hearts and Hugs Bear Ministry continues to churn out bears. If you like to sew, cut, iron, or stuff please join us Mondays at 10a in room 322.

Stitches of Love

Cindy O'Donnell

We weren't able to meet in June but if you crochet or knit, please join this fun group of ladies from the community as they share their creations, new patterns, and lots of laughs! We meet at 2:00p each month so check the website for dates as some months vary. We have yarn for you to choose from!

Sew Much Love

Jean Kreutzer

Sew Much Love is now on our summer break. Our next project will be Montgomery County Women's Shelter. See you in September on Wednesdays from 10-2pm.

Worship For All

Rev. Jessica

Worship for All: A New Ministry of Welcome

Wildwood UMC is excited to launch **Worship for All**, a new ministry dedicated to ensuring that every person has the opportunity to experience God's love and fully participate in the life of our church. This ministry will include two programs.

Neuro-Welcoming Family Worship is a monthly sensory-friendly worship service designed for neurodivergent individuals, their families, and anyone who benefits from a more accessible worship environment. This service will be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month beginning in August, at 4:00pm in Hayley Hall.

The **Worship Buddy Program** will provide trained volunteers during Sunday morning worship to offer one-on-one support for children 3 years old - 4th grade with special needs, helping them participate more fully in worship while providing encouragement to their families. We hope to begin the Worship Buddy Program in September as we continue to recruit volunteers and prepare through training for our buddy partners.

Our prayer is that Worship for All reflects Christ's invitation to all people by creating spaces where everyone is welcomed, supported, and encouraged to grow in faith together. If you feel called to be involved in this new ministry or would like to learn more, please contact Rev. Jessica McMullen.

Prison Ministry

Glenn Smith

Kairos #17

Kairos #17 is scheduled for October 22-25, 2026. The Prison Ministry Team asks the Wildwood congregation for their continued support through their prayers, donations, prayer chain links, colored place mats and “Chewy” Chips Ahoy Chocolate Chip Cookies.

If you are interested in serving on the next four-day event, Kairos #17 (October 22-25, 2026), please contact any one of the following Wildwood volunteers: Glenn Smith (drwgsmith@att.net), Bryan Johnson (bryan.p.johnson@exxonmobil.com), David Kennedy (apoliticalguy@gmail.com), Derek Reese (jderekreese@aol.com), Andy Rhodes (skinnyman180@me.com), Nick Smith (senornicksmith@gmail.com), Glenn Taylor (gbtaylor75752@gmail.com) and John Osborne (josborne003@hotmail.com).

Class Program

Wildwood UMC sponsors the following classes that are currently restarting: GriefShare (7 inmates), Winning at Work and Home (39 inmates), Quest for Authentic Manhood (62 inmates), Hebrew Basics (9 inmates), Disciple Classes I-IV (42 inmates), Disciple I in Spanish (25 inmates) and Life Skills (25 inmates). In addition, Glenn Taylor and Assistant Warden Justin Wade are counseling a group of twenty inmates who are addicted to K2 (a powerful synthetic marijuana). Inmates at the unit have overdosed resulting in numerous deaths and hospitalizations. The counseling has been very effective.

Music Program

Wildwood UMC volunteer David Kennedy oversees the Luther Chaplaincy Music Program on Mondays from 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon. Currently, he rehearses both the Kairos Band, which plays for the Kairos Weekends and Kairos Prayer and Share on Saturdays, and the NRC (Non-Roman Catholic) Band, which plays for the Protestant Worship Services on Sundays.

Starting soon, David Kennedy will add a second two-hour Band practice on Wednesdays from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. On Mondays the Band will practice for Kairos weekends and Kairos Prayer and Share and on Wednesdays from 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon the band will practice for church services.

Wildwood Pastors Preach in Luther Prison

Rev. Jarboe will preach again at Luther Prison on Sunday, September 27, 2026, and Rev. Young will preach again on Sunday, November 26, 2026. Cindy O'Donnell is now TDCJ trained and approved and will be eligible to attend the worship services when Revs. Jarboe and Young preach in prison.

Christmas Blessing Bags

Christmas Blessing Bag Day IV is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2026, from 2:00 pm -7:00 pm. If you are interested in serving on this event, please contact Glenn Smith (drwgsmith@att.net).

Certified Volunteer Chaplain Assistant (CVCA)

Andy Rhodes has completed the almost one-year-training program to become a Lay Chaplain at the Luther Unit and awaits final approval from TDCJ in Huntsville.

Big House

Rev. Jessica

What an incredible week of serving our neighbors through Big House 2026!

Together, our teams completed projects that made a lasting impact in the community. We built four accessibility ramps measuring 37 feet, 45 feet, 16 feet (plus a 5' x 8' porch), and extended another existing ramp by 12 feet. In addition, volunteers painted a garage, a storage shed, and a fence, then transformed the fence with a beautiful mural.

Our teams also spent countless hours mowing yards, clearing overgrown properties, and hauling away 13 trailer loads of tree limbs, brush, and yard debris using a 16-foot trailer.

This ministry was made possible by 76 participants, including 51 students representing five different churches. Throughout the week, students and adults served side by side, demonstrating Christ's love through practical acts of service, building relationships, and making a tangible difference in the lives of homeowners.

Thank you to every student, adult volunteer, church partner, homeowner, and supporter who made Big House 2026 an unforgettable week of faith in action. We are grateful for all God accomplished through this ministry!

