

The Congregational Connection

Volume 73, Issue 1

March 2023



April 5th, 1895



Pastor Michael C. Dubbs

Pastor's Message

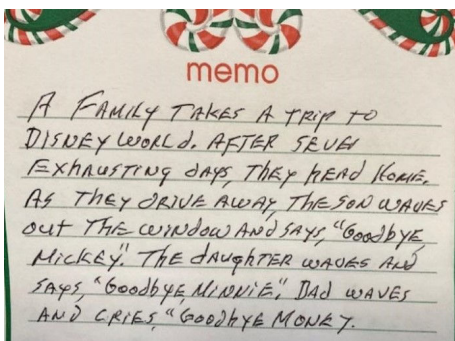
As the newsletter deadline approached, we lost one of the true characters of our church family. Eli Jaksic passed away at the age of 98 years old.

Many of you will remember Eli as The Candy Man! He loved the ministry of passing out candy before church. He continued that practice at Southern Pines Gracious Living, where he lived for the past several years.

I once asked him why he loved handing out the candy, and his response will warm your heart. He said, "I like to see people smile, and maybe, just for a minute or two, they will forget about their problems!"

He also always had a joke! It was not uncommon to pass Eli in the hallway of the church, and he would say, "Got a joke for you!" His own laugh at the conclusion of the joke was better than the joke itself!

Eli would oftentimes hand me a piece of paper before church with a joke written on it, and he would say, "This one you can use in church!" Sometimes I did that, and as a tribute to a great man, here is one of the jokes he gave me:



That's Eli's handwriting...and notice the candy stationery!

In addition to all he did here at this church, Eli was very involved with the special needs kids program at the Southern Pines Elks Club.

Eli was a World War II Veteran, who served in the U.S. Navy, and some of his Navy stories are as funny as his jokes! Eli once told me that he tried out for the baseball team at Great Lakes Naval Station. Eli said, "Dom DiMaggio (Joe's brother) told me I had a good chance of making the team! I shipped out the next day!"

Something about Eli that some of you perhaps did not know, he was on the committee that got the Pro Football Hall of Fame to locate in Canton, Ohio. (He could still get you tickets!)

He told me so many jokes, some I can't share in this format! But I thank God my path crossed with Eli Jaksic.

~ Pastor Mike Dubbs ~



Eli Jaksic

Valentine's Day Kindness

Recently the youth of our church came together to make Valentine's Day cards for members of our church who are unable to attend church in person. Cards were mailed to their respective representatives and special connections were made. This small act of kindness made everyone's day a little brighter.



Pictured from left to right are: Raegen Boan, Kileigh Cameron, Youth Advisor, Ginger Rolfe, Thomas Hall, Caroline Oakley (guest), and Macey Jackson.

Acts of Random Kindness (A.R.K.)



Please support our youth project by taking a slip of paper from the Acts of Random Kindness (A.R.K.) box located in the hallway, just outside of the sanctuary. You will be supporting their endeavors and setting a great example for them to follow. Plus, you will be performing an act of kindness for someone else who will greatly appreciate your time and effort. Thank you!

From Your Stewardship Committee

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are age 70 ½ or greater, you know that you must make Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) each calendar year. While your contributions to your IRA were made with pre-tax dollars, distributions are fully taxable at your current tax rate if you take them in cash. The exception to that is if you make a distribution to a charity or other 501-c3 organization such as our church. Those are Non-Taxable up to a limit of \$100,000 per year. So this could be an efficient way to take care of all or part of your annual pledge to our church. If you are planning to use this method, or if you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Blue.



March

Daniel Newton	03/01
Michael Garber	03/08
Sandra Coman	03/19
Patsy McDonald	03/19
Robin Lynne Frye	03/25
Ginger Rolfe	03/25
Glenda Snider	03/26

April

Sandy Dana	04/06
Stephen Dana	04/07
Michael Harris	04/08
Richard Dana	04/10
Peter Mattingly	04/10
Lucy Miller	04/12
Judy Page	04/22
Michael Kline	04/23

May

Jackie Boreliz	05/05
Carol Coates	05/08
Anne Ryder	05/16
Robert Coates	05/17
Barbara Hall	05/19
Charlotte Gallagher	05/21
Kileigh Cameron	05/22



Family Promise® of Moore County provides shelter, meals, and opportunities to help families experiencing homelessness or financial insecurity achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. Our church provides the evening meal for the families four times a year. If you are interested in helping with the meals, please contact Sally Raynor at sraynor98@yahoo.com



The choir recently celebrated Richard Lawrenson's 97th (!!!) birthday!
Happy Birthday Richard!

Youth Highlights

We are so blessed to have such courteous, kind, caring, thoughtful, talented and smart youth in our church! We see them come up for the Children's Message, but do we really know them? Let's take time to highlight the magnificent youth in our church and find out more about each one as the wonderful individuals they are!

Raegen Boan

Please meet the newest member of our group of youth. This is Raegen Boan. She is a home schooled 6th grader. She enjoys many interests such as playing soccer, basketball, piano and singing in the Christian Home Educators of the Sandhills (CHES) choir. She also enjoys sewing clothes and banners. Raegen is President of the CHES Public Speaking group. She also enjoys photography and met Pastor Dubbs when he taught photography classes. Flowers are one of her favorite objects to photograph.



One thing you should never forget about Raegan is that she absolutely loves school....especially Math! We are thrilled that Raegen has joined our youth! WELCOME Raegen!



Maria Chase

Many of us already recognize Maria because we have heard her beautiful voice in our 9:00 Worship Service each Sunday. But we may not know much more than that. Maria is a 9th grader attending Lee Senior High School. Along with singing (of course), Maria enjoys acting in school productions and participating in her school's show choir. When she is not performing, she enjoys reading, talking to her friends and playing video games. Maria has a broad spectrum of other interests including law, American history and Greek mythology.

One thing you should never forget about Maria is that she is a mixed Hispanic and often sings in Spanish which she enjoys very much!



Youth Highlights - Cont'd



Macey Jackson

Macey is a 10th grader attending Pinecrest High School. She enjoys hanging out with her friends, watching softball games on tv and is the "Starting" pitcher for the Pinecrest High School Varsity Softball team. We should all go watch Macey pitch! What better way to spend an evening than enjoying our beautiful outdoor weather while watching an exciting high school fast-pitch softball game with Macey on the mound!

One thing you should never forget about Macey, if you haven't noticed already, is that she always has a happy attitude and she will make you happy to be around her!

Kileigh Cameron

Kileigh is a fifth generation member of our church with her great, great grandfather being the first generation. Kileigh is a 9th grader who attends Union Pines High School. She enjoys spending time with her friends and family, reading, and playing sports. This year Kileigh played on the Union Pines High School Varsity Volleyball team and is currently playing on the Union Pines High School Varsity Softball team as first baseman and catcher. She recently hit an over-the-fence homerun, too! If you really want to be entertained, you should plan to watch Kileigh (Union Pines High School) play against Macey (Pinecrest High School) in softball. That will be quite the competition!

One thing about Kileigh that you will never forget is that, in the future, she plans to go into a medical field hoping to be an Anesthesiologist.



Paul Dana

This very handsome young man with the contagious smile, is also a sixth grader and attends Sandhills Classical Christian School. As handsome as he looks here in his white dress shirt and tie, he also enjoys a variety of outdoor activities including fishing, hunting, swimming and playing with puppies! Paul also enjoys gaming.

One thing you will never want to forget about this young man is that he really LOVES dogs! Another unforgettable fact about Paul is that he is the fifth generation in his family to attend our church! The generations include: Mattie (Martha Jane) and Carl Klabbatz, Sarahbelle and Red (John Tyler) Overton, Grace and T (Tyler Terry) Overton, Richard and Sandy Dana, Stephen and Danielle Dana.

Thomas Stephen Hall, Jr.

If you attend the 11:00 Worship Service, you will no doubt recognize this talented young man. Thomas sings in our church choir. He is an 8th grader attending Connect! Virtual Academy. Besides enjoying singing in our church choir, Thomas also loves to play video games, he is a member of the Robotics team in school, he loves and is very good at kickball, he enjoys learning golf with First Tee and had a spectacular season playing basketball with Upward Sports. Thomas looks forward to playing basketball again this coming year.



As you can see in the pictures, he loves Disney World too.

What is the one thing you should know and never forget about Thomas? That he may seem shy, but he really likes to talk to people! So please, strike up a conversation with Thomas the next time you meet him!



Homecoming Sunday

Our Church will be celebrating Homecoming Sunday on April 2nd. This date marks the 128th anniversary of the founding of Community Congregational Church.



In 1895, a group of devoted Christians consisting of local businessmen and winter visitors from New England formed the First Congregational Church in Southern Pines.

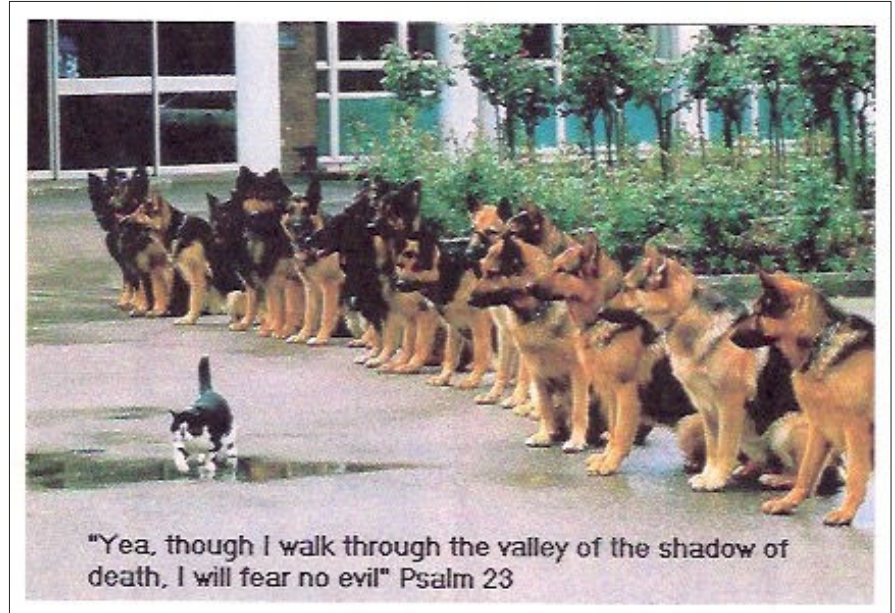
In 1967 the church was renamed Community Congregational Church in order to reflect its commitment to being a church open to all, hence we are known as "The Church of Wide Fellowship."

There will be a reception with light refreshments following our 11:00 a.m. worship service on April 2nd.

COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE
Study

I wish everyone could come to our Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. It is so exciting and interesting. We are a group seeking, discovering and discussing God's word. This group is led by a dynamic man, Art Harris, who attends our Church. He is leading an in-depth study of the Book of Acts. Art makes it so interesting you want to come back each week to learn more. Please come out and see for yourself. We can always make more coffee!

~ Rose Bowers ~



"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" Psalm 23

MUSIC
News

The choir is hard at work on music for the remaining Sundays in Lent and is about to begin rehearsing for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. On Palm Sunday, in addition to our anthem, we will be treated to a piano solo version of The Palms. This Easter, we will have two joyous musical selections along with vocal and brass soloists to celebrate Jesus' resurrection in song. Both before and after Easter, soloists from our choir will share their talents during our services.

I'm delighted to say that our choir has been invited to join three other area choirs in the presentation of a major musical work. Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines has asked us, as well as Southern Pines United Methodist and Culdee Presbyterian in West End, to sing **the exquisite Requiem of Gabriel Fauré** with them and guest soprano and bari-

tone soloists, accompanied by orchestra. The concert will be on **Sunday, May 21st at 7:00**. The work is about 40 minutes long and was completed in 1890. It represents very clearly the composer's strong faith in eternal rest and has a sense of consolation throughout. It would be great to see a contingent of Community Congregational folks at the concert to hear our choir be part of about 60 singers performing this beautiful piece!

A number of you have asked me to let you know when I have concerts of my own coming up. Here are a couple of events in May and June with which I'm involved. I would love for you to come!

- **Thursday, May 25th at 6:00** - at Midland Country Club, as part of Table on the Green's monthly Music Night, soprano Alina Cherkasova, my husband, baritone Bob Mobsby, whom most of you know, and I, accompanied on

piano by Anastasia Bryant, will be presenting **favorite operatic arias, duets and trios** - including the ones to which you know the tunes but maybe not the names. This includes a buffet dinner.

- **Friday, June 2nd at 7:00** - at Brownson Presbyterian, an evening of **glorious chamber music of Brahms**. Performers will include pianists David Jesse and Christopher Tavernier, tenor Aaron Carlyle and, once again, Alina, Bob and me. Repertoire will include solo piano works and four-hand piano works, as well as solo songs (and I will sing my favorite song ever written, a setting of the 1st Corinthians text about love), duets, and the first set of the beloved Liebeslieder Walzer (Love Song Waltzes) for vocal quartet and two pianists.

Did I mention that I would love for you to come?!

~ Robin Lynne Frye ~

Pot-Luck Bunch-for-Lunch

Sunday, March 19, 2023
at 12:00 noon

Guest Speaker: Dr. Charay Smith
Executive Director of
Drug Free Moore County, Inc.

As a community outreach, the Deacons will take up a Love Offering to support Drug Free Moore County in its critical efforts to help individuals who struggle with addiction and mental health disorders.

A sign-up sheet for menu items is on the bulletin board at Church. Or more importantly, if preparing a dish isn't feasible, please just plan to join us!

Curry Chicken Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 cups cooked chicken, chopped
- 1 can (5 oz.) water chestnuts, diced
- 1/2 lb. seedless grapes (green or red), halved
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup honey dew melon balls, (optional)

Dressing:

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp. curry powder
- 1 Tbl. lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Instructions:

1. In a large bowl, combine chicken, water chestnuts, grapes & celery.
2. In a small bowl, mix mayonnaise with lemon juice, soy sauce, curry powder, salt & pepper.
3. Combine with chicken mixture.
4. Serve in lettuce cups, placing melon balls around salad (optional).



~ One of my favorite recipes! Elaine Portman ~

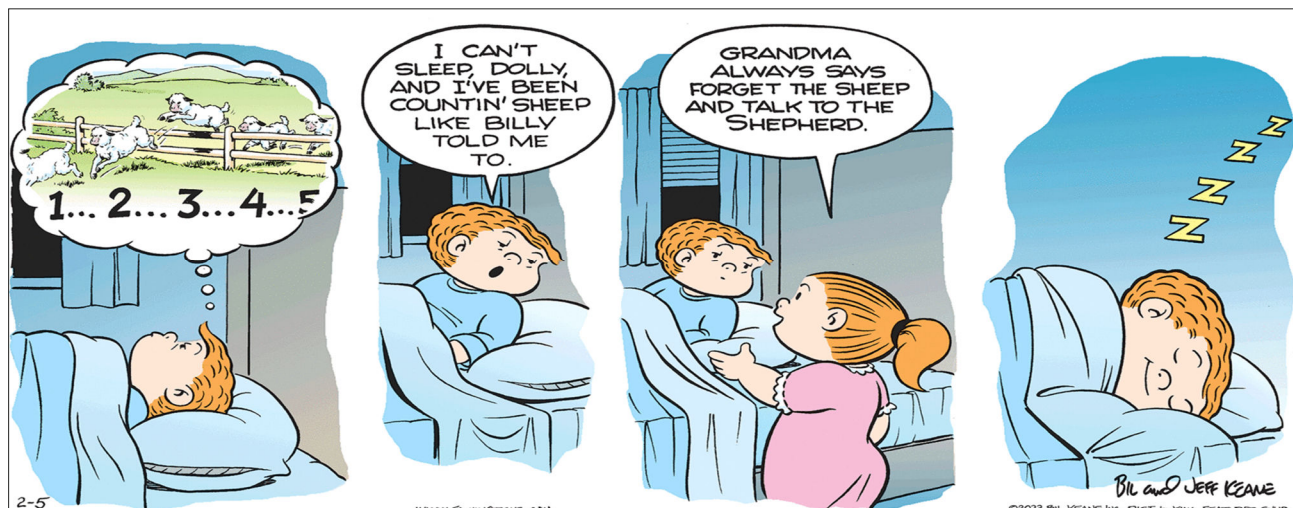


A fellow decides to attend a church where he has never been before. He comes in, seats himself and listens to the entire service. When the service is over, he's walking out and a lady comes up to him and stops him saying, "Hello, I'm a member here. I noticed that you are a visitor and we were glad to have you. I'm Gladys Dunn." The fellow says, "So am I. That sermon was way too long."

A boy attending his first day at school followed other students to the cafeteria at lunchtime. Going through the line, he saw a bowl of apples displaying a sign that said, "Take one apple only. God is watching." At the end of the line was a bowl of cookies with a sign saying, "Take only one." The boy turned the sign around backwards and changed it to read, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples!"



~ Today's jokes courtesy of Bill Shockley! ~





The Community Congregational Church

United Church of Christ, Inc.
P.O. Box 62
Southern Pines, NC 28388-0062

“The Church of Wide Fellowship”



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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www.communitycongregational.org



Community Congregational Church		
141 N. Bennett Street, Southern Pines, NC 28387		
	<u>Sunday Worship Service</u> 9:00 am and 11:00 am	
	<u>Sunday Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	

Weekly Calendar

- Sundays:** Worship Services - 9 am and 11 am
Adult Bible Study - 10 am - Bill Shockley, Moderator
- Mondays:** 1st Monday - Deacons Meeting - 5:30 pm
2nd Monday - Trustees Meeting - 6:00 pm
3rd Monday - Church Council - 6:30 pm
- Tuesdays:** Bible Study - 10 am - Art Harris - Book of Acts
- Wednesdays:** Choir Rehearsal - 7 pm
2nd Wednesday - Women’s Fellowship - 12:00 noon
4th Wednesday - Prayer Shawl Group - 2:00 pm



The Community Congregational Church, UCC
1895-2019
Photo by Renee Shawn Clement