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# The Congregational Connection

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April 5th, 1895



Pastor Michael C. Dubbs

## Pastor's Message

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.  
Proverbs 22:6

Almost every week, in the prayer during the children's message, I say something like, "surround them with Christian brothers and sisters to guide them in their walk." And that is usually followed by, "help us to provide them good examples, as we may be who they look to."

In case you haven't noticed, we have some great kids in this church! (Yes, we would love to have more, but we need to celebrate the ones we have!)

They are involved in all kinds of wonderful activities both in and out of school. Two of our kids led a prayer at a softball game between two rival schools after a student at one of the schools was hospitalized.

Last month, they led worship as the first Sunday in June was designated "Youth Sunday". The kids were the greeters, the acolyte, Macey, did the prayer concerns, Reagan read the Scripture, Kaleigh did the Children's Message. Everyone involved did a fantastic job. Way to go guys! Look out! Next time one of them may preach!

Watching them do such a great job reminded me of Proverbs 22:6. Part of our job as Christians is to train the children. Not only train them, but be good stewards of the church to pass things on to the next generation. Youth Sunday showed me that things are in good hands.

My mom was a huge believer in the phrase, "it takes a village to raise a child." Some of the biggest influences in my life are the folks from First English Baptist Church, in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

May we continue to provide our children, our youth, good examples, as we may be who they look to! We may never know the influence we have on the kids, but THEY know!

Blessings,  
Pastor Mike



## *A Prayer from the Iroquois Indian Nation*

Most tribes worshipped a higher power, called by different names, but it was God!

"We return thanks to our Mother, the earth, which sustains us, to the wind, which moving the air has banished diseases. To our grandfather "He-no" that he has protected his grandchildren and has given us his rain. To the sun, that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye."

Iroquois Prayer of Thanksgiving  
Submitted by Rose Bowers



God has created you and rejoices in all that you are...

God has chosen you and called you His very own ...

God has blessed you and made your life a blessing.

## 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



Raegen just completed the Jr. Elite Soccer Camp with UNC Chapel Hill. She was so excited to train with the National Collegiate Women's Soccer Team!

Congratulations,  
Raegen!!  
That is FANASTIC!

#### Raegen's favorite Bible verse is Psalm 27:1

"The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?" Raegen chose this verse because for all the darkness in the world, God is the light and lifts us up in time of need.

### Maria Chase

This summer Maria is taking Driver's Ed.! In late July Maria's family is going to Hawaii before school starts up again in August. Maria recently enjoyed a trip to see her aunt in New Hampshire. Enjoy all of your travels, Maria! We want to hear all about them when we see you in August!

#### Maria's favorite Bible verse is 1 Peter 3:3-4

"Your beauty should not come from outward adornments, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." Maria chose this verse because self worth shouldn't be correlated with the clothes someone wears or what they look like, it should be determined by their heart.



While in New England, Maria visited Harvard University in Cambridge

### Macey Jackson



This summer Macey is continuing to play softball. June 24-29 she played in the "Space Coast World Series" hosted in Melbourne, Florida. Also, take notice, Macey will get her driver's license in August! GO Macey!

#### Macey's favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 43:2

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you". Macey chose this verse because she says it shows that even when things get hard, He will always be with you.



*The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at that tempting moment.*

## Kileigh Cameron



Kileigh has just completed the classroom portion of Driver's Ed. She had to take a break from sports this summer due to a broken wrist. But, that hasn't stopped her from achieving other goals. Kileigh has been selected for invitation into membership in the National Society of High School Scholars. AWESOME academics, Kileigh!



### Kileigh's favorite Bible verse is Matthew 17:20

"For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." Kileigh chose this verse because she says it shows that when we love and trust God, He will help us succeed even in what seems impossible.

## Paul Dana

Paul has big news! He is now a teenager! Paul turned 13 on June 19 at the beach!! He is glad to be out of school for summer break and he's looking forward to spending time this summer at their lake house with his cousins and going to Camp Caraway in July. HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY, Paul!



### Paul's favorite Bible verse is Luke 6:31

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Paul chose this verse because he says he always likes to treat others the way he would like to be treated.

## Thomas Hall

Thomas has super news! Thomas graduated from 8th grade through Connect! Virtual Academy this year. Thomas also was awarded Certificates for Perfect Attendance, AB Honor Roll, and Most Improved in Math! WAY TO GO Thomas! That is so much of which you should be very proud!



### Thomas' favorite Bible verse is Luke 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Thomas chose this verse because he learned this verse from the basketball group called "Upward" and he will be playing again this fall.

Today I'm wearing pink to raise awareness of people like me



who forget to separate their red laundry from their whites!

~ Thank you, Joan Smith ~

Never buy flowers from a monk...only you can prevent florist friars!

If I am ever on life support, unplug me and plug me back in in a few seconds. It brings my computer back to life!



~ Courtesy of Bill Shockley! ~

# Psalm 23:1-4

S	K	O	N	V	W	B	O	B	M	G	U	D	F	S
Y	N	A	M	E	P	X	K	U	E	V	I	L	E	T
Q	N	T	B	E	S	I	D	E	D	F	T	A	A	I
G	R	E	E	N	R	C	O	M	F	O	R	T	R	L
P	I	D	V	W	E	D	W	A	L	K	V	T	H	L
A	S	E	A	K	S	S	A	K	E	W	C	R	E	L
S	O	A	L	P	T	G	E	V	A	D	N	T	E	E
T	U	T	L	A	O	A	L	O	R	D	V	J	G	A
U	L	H	E	T	R	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	D
R	Q	U	Y	H	E	P	G	D	J	L	K	C	Z	E
E	S	H	Y	S	T	I	S	S	T	A	F	F	Y	T
S	X	H	P	S	H	A	D	O	W	C	X	W	P	H
W	A	T	E	R	S	T	S	E	A	W	F	X	S	X

LORD

SHEPHERD

GREEN

PASTURES

LEADETH

BESIDE

STILL

WATERS

RESTORETH

SOUL

PATHS

NAME

SAKE

WALK

VALLEY

SHADOW

DEATH

FEAR

EVIL

STAFF

COMFORT

### Nicolas & Madison Cameron

Madison Pace Zaidel and Nicolas Alexander Cameron were married on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at the Old Orchard Creek Farm in Lansing, NC. Congratulations to Nick and Madi Cameron!



*Congratulations*

### Thanks to All

On Christmas day unfortunately I broke my ankle and my life came to a standstill. Not having family close by, I was helpless. My Church found out and the kindness was overwhelming. I received a wheelchair (my greatest need), food, offers to take me wherever I had to go and all the phone calls to check on me. I never experienced anything like this. To my church and the wonderful people who helped me, God bless you all!  
~ Ingrid ~



I also have to give thanks to Art Harris who leads our Bible Study class. I'm learning the History and all of the people of the Bible and most of all what God expects of us and how we should live our lives. I wonder if it will change me? I doubt it, but I am striving to be the best I can be. Thanks to all in our class; I feel like I'm with family.

God's blessings,  
Ingrid



### *July*

John Martin	07/02
Abbie Hodges	07/05
Karina Cameron	07/06
Mark Harrop	07/06
Susan Angeloff	07/07
Donna Myrick	07/09
Sarah Coley	07/21
John Portman	07/22
Robert Ryder	07/27
Carolyn Buchan	07/29

### *August*

Dotty Garman	08/01
Randy Spaciel	08/06
Lois Womack	08/16
Chuck Barron	08/22
Sue Aceves	08/28
Amanda Mattingly	08/29
Nancy Cameron	08/31

### *September*

Robert Angeloff	09/04
Barb Whitehead	09/08
Vickie McInnis	09/17
Ann Shields	09/20
Thomas Beddow	09/28

## Congratulations to our First-Year Teacher!

We are very proud of one of our fine young adult women! We asked Lillian Richardson to share her experience as a first-year teacher. We are thankful for outstanding teachers such as Lillian.

“My name is Lillian Richardson and I just completed my first year of teaching. This year, I taught second grade at Robbins Elementary School. I had 21 amazing students in my class, who started school in the middle of COVID-19, so they had just started getting used to a traditional classroom when this year started. My first year had a lot of difficult moments, but they were heavily outweighed by all of the wonderful moments I had. I made many great relationships with my students and my fellow teachers, and memories that will last a lifetime. Next year, I will continue my career in second grade at Robbins Elementary. Although summer has started, I look forward to my next year and all the years of teaching I have to come! Thank you to everyone at Community Congregational for helping me through my journey”.



# MUSIC News

The choir began its annual summer break following the service on June 11th, but that doesn't mean the music stops for the summer - everything from gospel to Bach, spiritual to beloved hymns, to "classical" tunes you know! We've already had vocal solos and a quartet from several of our choir members - have a look at the church's Facebook page in case you missed them. Coming up, we'll have numerous members of our choir providing both instrumental and vocal solos and a duet that you won't want to miss. In August, our former choir member Jeanne Dennis will take a brief break from playing the organ for the Lutherans and will cover for me while I'm on vacation. When the choir returns in September,

they'll start preparing for the beautiful Christmas Eve music presentation that we have planned, which includes string quintet, piano and baritone soloist - the *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* of English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. The work includes carols you have heard before such as "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing," a variant on "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen," and bits of "The First Nowell" and "The Wassail Song," along with some lesser-known but charming carols. This will be a special service to which you'll want to invite your family and friends. We'll ask for your help in getting the word out to the community as well.

Won't you consider joining us in the fall? We have the friendliest, most fun group of people in the choir that one could want! We

have members at all levels of vocal and musical abilities, and we all learn the music together and support one another along the way. If you've ever thought about singing in the choir, make this your year to do it, and you'll be glad you did. If you have any questions about what choir membership is like, I'm happy to answer them. Our first rehearsal is on September 6th, with a mini-retreat in the afternoon of September 9th to get a jump start on preparing for our first few Sundays back in worship, beginning on September 10th. Add these dates to your calendar now and come check us out!



## Youth vs. Adults Kickball

Recently, our church youth challenged our church adults to a kickball game. The youth were mighty and the adults were determined! In the end, the enthusiasm of the youth won the game by one point over the adults. Could there be a rematch in the future?

It was a fun afternoon event and both youth and adults were very excited to have church fans who came to watch, provide support and to encourage both teams by cheering for them during the game! The group was treated to delicious food including 'pigs-in-a-blanket' shared by Kristy Boan and homemade pound cake with fresh strawberries shared by Lois Womack.



A great time was had by all!

Thanks go to all who participated in the game, and all who came to watch!

## Rembrandt's "Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee."

A few Sundays ago, Pastor Mike spoke about the stained glass window in the rear of the church and how it depicted Christ's displeasure with the disciples who couldn't stay awake long enough to share a meal with him. Up until that day, I always thought that window was a seascape of some sort. Probably because it made me think of the painting by Rembrandt, 'Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee'. I was familiar with Rembrandt's painting because in 1990 I remember hearing about the art theft at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.



On the morning of March 18, 1990, two thieves dressed as policemen talked their way into the Museum in Boston - tied up the security guards on duty - and walked out with 13 pieces of art valued at half a billion dollars. Thirty-three years later, it remains the largest unsolved art heist in history. In the Dutch Room of the museum, there now hangs the empty frame of the most famous of the missing paintings, "Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee," an illustration of that famous passage in the New Testament (Matthew, 8):

*23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.*

*24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.*

*25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.*

*26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.*

Rembrandt's painting from 1633, is one of Rembrandt's most dramatic. We are at the height of a violent storm. Dark clouds hover above, high waves are lashing the boat, and the wind has already torn the mainsail in half. Jesus and his disciples are in the boat. Some of the disciples are in a state of panic. Some are working to hold the boat together. If you look carefully, you can see Jesus waking up from his nap, not the least bit worried. "Oh, ye of little faith." And then "there was great calm."

~ Carol Coates ~

Historical information from [www.WBUR.org](http://www.WBUR.org)

## Wonderful Summer Vacation Trip

Barb and Thomas Hall have already had a wonderful Summer! In early June they traveled to New Jersey to see the sights and to visit family. There was a new adventure every day!



Thomas at the Cape May Lighthouse



Thomas and Barb visit Lucy the Elephant in Margate, NJ. Lucy is six stories high!



Thomas and his Mom at the Wildwood Boardwalk!



Thomas and his Dad, Thom (Barb's son), at the Cape May County Zoo



# The Community Congregational Church

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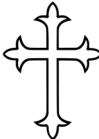
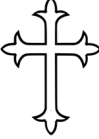
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<b>Community Congregational Church</b>		
141 N. Bennett Street, Southern Pines, NC 28387		
	<u>Sunday Worship Service</u> 9:00 am and 11:00 am	
	<u>Sunday Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	



The Community Congregational Church,  
UCC  
Established in 1895

## 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 - 6:00 pm
- Tuesdays:** Bible Study - 10 am - Art Harris, Book of James
- Wednesdays:** Choir Rehearsal - 7 pm  
2nd Wednesday - Women’s Fellowship - 12:00 noon Sept—May  
4th Wednesday - Prayer Shawl Group - 10:00 am

*Our newsletter will be interesting & helpful to our congregation, if YOU help us make it so! Call the church office with your news.*