
The Congregational Connection

Volume 75, Issue 3

November, 2025



Pastor Michael C. Dubbs

Matthew 25:35-40

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?' ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?' ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Recently, a group of us went to Ingrid Leeper's house and did a few hours of yard work for her. There were enough of us, and you know the saying, "many hands make light work".

Well that proved true. We only worked for an hour or two. It was more fun than anything else, except for the traffic on Indiana Avenue!

That little work group meant the world to Ingrid! She bragged to me that her neighbors stopped and commented how wonderful her house looked, and she said, "My church did that!"



Now, that's how easy doing God's will can be! We lived the Matthew scripture that day. Often, we only look at that scripture in terms of feeding the hungry or offering something to drink. But the visiting part we sometimes overlook. Scripture is full of advice on how to treat and respect the elderly, and that Sunday afternoon a handful of us lived it.

My personal thanks to all of you who worked with us that day. It really was a fun outing. It was a day that represented what the church is all about. But here's the best part . . . the whole thing was the kids' idea!

Becky asked the kids what they wanted to do! Think how easy it would have been for their answer to be "let's have a pizza party" or "let's go to a movie". Their answer was "Is there someone who needs any kind of work done?"

That brings me to another verse that is the perfect ending for this story!

Isaiah 11:6

The phrase "**and a child shall lead them**" is found in Isaiah 11:6, which states: "The wolf will lie with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and young lion and fatling will be together, and a little child will lead them."

Ingrid passed away on Monday, November 17, 2025. This story happened just two weeks earlier.

~ Pastor Mike ~

A favorite from Pastor Mike's mother

"I might be the answer to someone's prayers ... I better get busy!"



Happy Thanksgiving!

Holy Smokes BBQ ~ "When it's gone...it's gone"



Holy Smokes BBQ does it again! The congregation was treated to a wonderful lunch, courtesy of the trustees, in the Fellowship Hall following church on November 16th. Rob Harding and Nathan Brooks were the pit-masters for the occasion with the assistance of Bill Shockley. Pulled Pork sandwiches topped with 'special sauce' and coleslaw were served. Members of the congregation brought a side dish to share and the result was a delicious feast for all! Thank you to the Trustees, to all of the cooks, and especially thank you to Holy Smokes BBQ!!!

Welcome, New Members!

On Sunday, November 16, three new members joined our Church family. We welcome Bethann and Jeff Nieter of Seven Lakes and Patty Heivly of Southern Pines. Bethann and Jeff moved to this area five years ago from Connecticut and Patty recently moved to Southern Pines from Badin Lake, having lived in North Carolina for roughly 20 years. We welcome them and are happy to have them as members of



Pastor Mike happily honored Bethann's Scottish heritage by wearing his kilt for the New Member Service!

Operation Christmas Child

Once again our Women's Fellowship has participated in Operation Christmas Child. Sixty-nine shoeboxes were packed with school supplies, personal care items and toys and sent to Samaritan's Purse for distribution to children in need around the world. Churches world-wide participate, with the mission of demonstrating God's love in a tangible way to these children.

Thank you Women's Fellowship!



Jokes to lighten your day!

Submitted by Bill Shockley

The man who invented the Ferris Wheel never met the man who invented the Merry-Go-Round. They traveled in different circles.

Running into a stationary object can be quite painful, according to a recent pole.

Of all the inventions of the last hundred years, the dry erase board has to be the most remarkable.



Yesterday, my friend's wife gave him an envelope marked, "Not to be opened until next year." Inside was a list of reasons why he can't be trusted to carry out simple instructions.

A minister told his congregation one Sunday, "Next week, I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To get a background of what we will look at, please read Mark chapter 17." The next Sunday, the minister asked at the beginning of the sermon, "Raise your hand if you prepared with Mark 17." Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Folks, Mark only has 16 chapters. Thus you are prepared for my sermon on the sin of lying."



Submitted by Richard Dana

Smart Giving Ideas for a Stronger Community Congregational Future

Finishing up your 2025 pledge and considering an increased pledge for 2026 will help our church achieve a balanced operational budget and can have tax advantages for you. As you know our church is a 501(c)(3) organization so all cash donations are tax deductible.

A donation of appreciated stock to the church can avoid capital gains tax in addition. The church sells the stock through our broker and the net value after the sale is also tax deductible by you!

A donation from your IRA to the church is non-taxable. So there are several tax-advantaged ways to help balance our year-on year budget.

Longer term you can strengthen our Endowment Fund with end-of-life gifts, making the church a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, trusts, IRAs or 401Ks. Please contact a member of the Stewardship or Endowment Committee, or Cynthia Blue, our Church Treasurer, if you need further information.

Thank you for all you do for our beloved church and to accomplish God's will.

~ Tom Beddow & Your Stewardship & Endowment Committees ~

MUSIC News



From the Director of Music

I'll be honest - I'm here to beg. And I'm here to beg YOU, yes, YOU. I'm speaking to everyone who thinks of themselves as non-singers, to people who maybe sang many years ago but don't think their voices are good enough anymore, to those who don't read a single note of music, and to anyone who does sing and/or does read music but hasn't gotten around to joining the choir because we're all so busy. If you have a willing heart, we need your help!

You may have noticed that between two members moving away, another on an indefinite hiatus to attend to personal matters and another now attending a different church, our already small numbers are way down, especially in the men's sections. We need YOU to consider joining the choir as of January 7th.

Singing in the choir is a ministry. If you've wondered how you can be more involved in the church, supporting the choir is a great way to do it! We are a fun, friendly bunch that cares about and for each other. Singing in a group has been proven to be a healthy activity for both the body and the mind. And as St. Augustine said, "He who sings prays twice."

We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:15. We warm up for the 11:00 service on Sunday mornings at 10:15, and then you have plenty of time to get a cup of coffee and get robed before lining up in the back of the sanctuary to process to

the choir pews on the first hymn. We always rehearse several Sundays ahead, so if you have to miss a rehearsal for some reason, you will still have rehearsed an anthem several times.

In between rehearsals, I send out videos of the anthems we have coming up and, when I can get them, individual tracks for each voice part as well, so you can listen at home. Many, but not all, of the members have sung in the choir for some time and will be a huge help to anyone new who comes in.

For some inspiration, here is the text of the anthem we sing at the beginning of every choir season, followed by a prayer we pray that refers to the anthem text:

*My life flows on in endless song,
Above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet though far-off
hymn that hails a new creation.*

*Through all the tumult and the
strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?*

*What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth. What though the darkness
gather round? Songs in the night
he giveth.*

*No storm can shake my inmost
calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heav'n
and earth, how can I keep from
singing?*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh
my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I
am his! How can I keep from
singing?*

~ Robert Lowry ~

And here is the prayer:

Signs of your goodness, God, surround us on this beautiful day. How can we keep from singing?

Some who worship with us today have never found their singing voice, or have lost it. Others feel they have nothing to sing about. Fill us with your joy and peace that we may sing for those who have no voice or heart to sing for themselves.

Let the love they hear in our songs set their hearts to singing too. In Christ's name, we offer our music today. Amen.

~ James H. Smylie ~

If you would consider joining us even for a month to try us out, please see me before or after a service, or call me at (910) 315-6049, or email me at robinlynnefrye@gmail.com.

Thank you!
Robin Lynne Frye



Join the Choir...

You'll Be Glad You Did!

Word Search

Luke 2:10-11

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

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

ANGEL	ALL
AFRAID	PEOPLE
SEE	BORN
BRINGING	CITY
GOOD	DAVID
NEWS	SAVIOR
GREAT	MESSIAH
JOY	LORD

The words may be hidden in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards and backwards.

Youth Highlights

We are very fortunate to have such outstanding youth in our church! Each and every one of them is multi-talented, kind, courteous, caring, smart, respectful and displays Christian qualities wherever they go. We are proud to have them attending our church and representing us in our community! ~Becky Cameron~

Raegen Boan is a 14 year old freshman at Union Pines High School. Her favorite class this semester is AP World History. She continues to play soccer for Wake FC in Holly Springs and has enjoyed traveling to compete against teams throughout Virginia this season. This year, her soccer team has decided to do a community service project that involves making care bags for the homeless. She is also looking forward to spending New Years at Walt Disney World and starting high school soccer in the spring.

Abriana Chiapperino is a busy and talented 7th grader at STARS Charter School! She recently wrapped up her first season of volleyball with Aberdeen Parks and Rec. and is now preparing for her winter dance recital on December 3–4 at BPAC, where she will perform in both modern and jazz pieces. Tickets can be purchased at starscharter.booktix.com. In January, she'll return to the stage as part of the cast of *The Wizard of Oz*—tickets for that show are available at the same link. Abriana is especially excited for Thanksgiving and winter break, when she'll head to Staten Island to spend time with her family.

Nicolo Chiapperino is a 5th grader at STARS Charter School! He's just finishing up his 10U fall travel baseball season with Sandhills Select, where he shined in center field. This winter, he'll take a break from baseball to play basketball with Aberdeen Parks and Rec. Nicolo recently welcomed two new guinea pigs into his family, named Desert and Snowflake. He's also eagerly looking forward to visiting Staten Island for Thanksgiving and the Christmas holiday.

Paul Dana is doing very well in school where geometry is his favorite subject. Paul is working for his Dad during his spare time to earn money to buy a truck as he looks forward to getting his driver's license in June. In the meantime, he's driving everywhere he can to get plenty of practice! Paul also enjoyed dove hunting this fall on the family farm where he was very successful.

For Macey Jackson, her freshman college experience at NC Wesleyan has been amazing. She got to experience her first Homecoming and Alumni Games. She thoroughly enjoyed attending her first home basketball game of the season too. Macey is currently finishing her Fall workouts for softball as well as papers and final projects to end this semester. She is in her last full week of classes before Christmas break.

Kileigh Cameron is in her senior year at Union Pines High School. During this semester, she is taking a course named "Nursing Fundamentals" that allows her the opportunity to volunteer in a clinical setting at the Peak Resources Pinelake where she is able to work directly with the residents under the supervision of a CNA. Kileigh has also recently made a decision to attend Carson Newman University in Tennessee where she has verbally committed to play softball beginning in the fall of 2026.

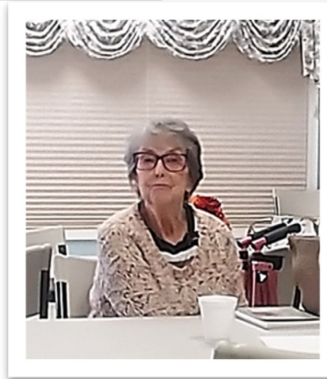
Jet Jawanda has kept busy as a Sophomore at Pinecrest High School with a challenging academic load this semester. Mom and Dad are proud of him for making straight A's! He has enjoyed his continued involvement with Pinecrest's Speech and Debate team and is the only Sophomore in an officer position. He is also in the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and HOSA (Health Occupations Society of America) clubs.

Josie Jawanda has settled into college life at Carolina. She has enjoyed the social aspects of college attending football and basketball games, the fraternity parties, and, of course, Franklin Street shenanigans. With over 800 extra curricular clubs to choose from, she has joined the Jump Rope Club and a Global Health Club. She is strongly considering the nursing degree at UNC and is keeping her grades up so she can apply for the competitive program there her junior year.

In Loving Memory

Ingrid gave me this letter on Thursday, November 14, and as you already know, she passed away on Monday, November 17. When I read her letter for the newsletter, I commented to Carol Coates that it sounded like a good-bye. We will miss her, but I hope you hear in these words how much this Church meant to her.

~ Pastor Mike ~



A letter to my church,

I came to Southern Pines a little over 23 years ago. My life changed when I joined Community Congregational Church. The ladies are busy the year round with special occasions: Easter, Christmas, knitting for Hospice, and oh my goodness, all kinds of food.

There are good times and also sad ones. We lost a lot of good, compassionate people, but others step in to bring compassion. I should know; my health is dwindling down, and I thank God daily for the help I get from our Pastor and from the Congregation. Nobody has ever paid this much attention to me in my time of need.

That's my church, and I want to thank God for everyone who entered my life. You are God's Angels; please don't stop.

~ Ingrid ~

This is a photo of the Bible Study Group led by Pastor Mike that Ingrid so faithfully attended.



Standing: Bill Shockley, Pastor Mike, Lois Womack, Jean Spaciel, Elaine Portman, Lynn Hammond
Sitting: Rose Bowers, **Ingrid Leeper**, Lois Vollmer



December

Jeff Boan	12/04
Michael Dubbs	12/04
Richard McInnis	12/10
Brenda Williams	12/22
Kristy Boan	12/27
Alex Cameron	12/28
Lois Vollmer	12/29
Lillian Richardson	12/30

January

Catherine Boykin	01/01
Bill Shockley	01/04
Shelton Raynor	01/05
Kelly Harding	01/08
Shirley Ward	01/11
Sharon Cavanaugh	01/13
Scot Sorget	01/15
Kathy Beddow	01/15
Richard Lawrenson	01/19

February

Joseph Shields	02/10
Danielle Dana	02/10
Rose Bowers	02/19
Linda Thompson	02/24
Luellen Sorget	02/28



Community Congregational Church

P.O. Box 62, Southern Pines, NC 28388-0062

“The Church of Wide Fellowship”

Our Mission: “Be a place to praise the Lord through Christian teaching, fellowship and outreach.”

Church Office & Fax: (910) 692-8468
e-mail: cccpnc@outlook.com
www.communitycongregational.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Community Congregational Church

141 N. Bennett Street, Southern Pines, NC 28387

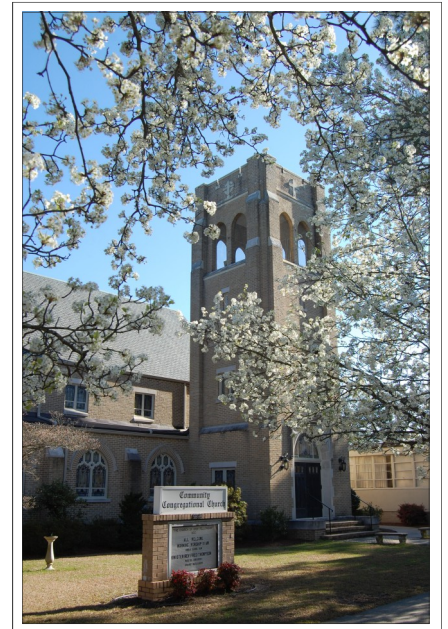


Sunday Worship Services
9:00 am and 11:00 am

Sunday Bible Study
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 - 6:00 pm
- Wednesdays:** Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm



Community Congregational Church
Established in 1895
Photo by Renee Shawn Clement

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