

The Congregational Connection

Volume 76, Issue 1

May, 2026



Pastor Michael C. Dubbs

Community Congregational Church goes Hollywood?

Not a chance! In fact, if you said that to any of the crew working on the film 'Brothers Twice', they would be offended. This is not a Hollywood project. This is a relatively low-budget operation done by a small Christian studio. They shot scenes all over Southern Pines and Sanford. Several of those scenes were shot right here in our Church which brought with it more than a few inconveniences! However, I for one, cannot wait to see the finished product knowing that the scenes were shot here.



I'm not sure what I expected when we allowed the crew to shoot here, but the actual event was so much more than anything I expected. Friday, May 1 especially, there was more equipment in our halls and more people than I would ever have expected! Hopefully some of the pictures give you an idea of what I'm talking about.



The story is about two brothers. One became a preacher, and the other, well, the other went down a dark road of drug and alcohol abuse. Although there are some dark themes, it is a redemption story. The story is a local story; in fact, many of you knew the Frye brothers, Sammy and Bruce. In this

photo, I'm in the center. Next to me are the actors playing Sammy and Bruce, and then the actual Sammy and Bruce!



I asked the crew how long it would be until the film was somewhere we could see it. They told me that sometimes it takes up to a year after the cameras stop rolling until the final product comes out.

They asked me if I would be an extra in a bar scene shot in Sanford. I replied, "So let me get this straight; you're shooting scenes in a church in which I am the pastor, and you want me to be an extra in a bar scene?" Well, for about four hours, I was an extra in a movie! I won't know if I actually make the screen until the movie comes out, but it was a neat experience nonetheless.

So, again, let me apologize for any inconvenience, but I hope you will look on this experience as a positive one. The film is an opportunity for people to meet Jesus! Especially those who may currently be in a dark place. And if we can be a part of that, we are participating in God's work in the world and that is what we should be looking to do!

~ In Christ, Pastor Mike ~

New Deacons: Bethann Neiter & Ann Smith



We are pleased to welcome Bethann Neiter and Ann Smith to the Board of Deacons, and appreciate their willingness to serve; their caring spirit will bring blessings to God's work and the Church.

Welcome, New Members!



We are happy to welcome Carlos Rodriguez, Theresa, and Gary Faulkner to our Church family and feel grateful to have them as part of our community.

Holy Smokes !!!



Holy Smokes BBQ does it again. What a wonderful day everyone had during Springfest '26. The crowds were joyful and the weather was gorgeous. And Community Congregational Church was able to earn funds to support the church's many charitable projects. This year the Deacons took the lead with the support of the Women's Fellowship and the Men's Fellowship. Individual baked treats were offered along with hot dogs and drinks, but the highlight was (once again!) the superb pork Bar-B-Que provided by Holy Smokes BBQ. How lucky are we to have Rob Harding and the crew providing such a unique and outstanding culinary choice! And as Pastor Mike said, "It's not just about the food. It's the BBQ that gets their attention, but the exposure to the Church is also very important." The Church was open and folks were invited to take a peek around inside as well. Additionally, our participation during Springfest highlights our positive involvement within the community.



And it's all about to happen again! **Hero Appreciation Day is Saturday, June 13th.** We will be honoring our local law enforcement, firefighters and first responders who will be invited to the church to enjoy Bar-B-Que for lunch, courtesy of Holy Smokes BBQ. The public will be welcome as well. A 'Donations' jar will be available but no one will be charged. Once again, we're happy to have this opportunity to offer our active support within our community. We hope to see you there!

Acts of Random Kindness

Some time ago, the youth of our church implemented a new program for the church members. It was named "ARK" which stands for 'Acts of Random Kindness'. The youth dreamed up dozens of activities, some simple and others more complex, that were designed to bring joy to others.



There is a small box in our church hallway labeled 'Acts of Random Kindness'. In this box there are slips of paper revealing these suggested activities. The idea is that when

the spirit moves you, you take one of these slips of paper from the box and you perform the activity on that slip of paper.

Well, in January Joan and David Daniels reached into the box and pulled out a slip of paper that suggested they "Do something nice for a local Fire or Police Department".



Joan and David live in Red Springs, NC, and just up the road is the South Antioch Fire Department.

This photo was taken when they delivered their Fruit and Candy Basket to the volunteer firemen.



Thank you, Joan and David, for being such wonderful stewards of our church.

Happy 100th Birthday to our young at heart, Richard Lawrensen!



It was a great day to celebrate you, Richard. We hope you know how much you mean to us!
You are amazing! God Bless You!



On Youth Sunday, June 7, the Scholarship Committee will formally recognize this year's scholarship recipients. Our Church, in keeping with its commitment of service to the community, will award scholarships to seven deserving Moore County students. As outlined in our Church Constitution, scholarships are awarded annually to local students based on individual effort, academic achievement, moral character and/or financial need.

This year's recipients are Macey Jackson, Kileigh Cameron, Harriet Hutchens, Torre Nordgren, Addison Nordgren, Kendall Berry and Nikolas Epstein. The Church wishes these outstanding individuals great success in all of their future endeavors.



Robin's voice and piano students will present a studio recital on Saturday, June 13th, at 3:00 in the church sanctuary. Approximately 25 students will perform, ranging in age from the single digits through their 70s. There will be a mix of students early on in their studies and those with more experience. Robin regrets that a few of her most advanced students will not be performing this year due to family and travel commitments that were unavoidable. However, there will be a wide range of repertoire presented, both sung and played, and the congregation is welcome to attend. There will be a reception (beverages only) in the Fellowship Hall afterward.

Robin Lynne Frye
Mezzo-Soprano, Voice and Piano Teacher

Kileigh's Signing Day

It seems like it's almost weekly that Pastor Mike has another story about Kileigh Cameron hitting another home run! It's true; Kileigh is a very good softball player. And now she will be taking those talents to Carson-Newman University, a Christian University in Jefferson City, Tennessee.

When Kileigh was looking at schools, she focused on finding someplace where she felt she could commit to staying in one spot, playing softball for all four years. The Carson-Newman Eagles will be the beneficiary of Kileigh's talents.

Union Pines High School recently hosted Signing Day, a day where students in local high schools signify their commitment to play their sport at a particular college or university. Congratulations, Kileigh; and as they say at Carson-Newman, "Talons up!"



CARSON-NEWMAN
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

May 4 ~ Sunday Afternoon on the Golf Course!

Golfers of all ages had a wonderful time and hopefully we will do this again soon!



Wee Pines Mini Golf



April 26 ~ Fun Game Day & Delicious Pizza!

Following today's church services, we had a fun Game Day with delicious pizza. We appreciate the Board of Christian Education for always organizing activities which create fun and fellowship for all members!



March 29 ~ Crop Walk

Conditions were perfect this year for the Sandhills Crop Hunger Walk. We feel blessed to be able to provide free water to everyone and participate in the event.



MUSIC News

He is Risen! And Some Musings on Time

I hope you have all had a joyous Easter season! We once again enjoyed the musical gifts of James Miller on trumpet on Easter Sunday, joining our choir for one of their anthems and also on the organ prelude and postlude.

As Bob and I celebrate 30 years together in June, it has me reflecting about time, both past and future. How life can surprise us! I had no idea when we moved back to the Sandhills in July of 2021 that I would have a church job as of September. We had been settling in, restarting my voice and piano studio, reconnecting with old friends and musical colleagues and meeting new ones when one of those in the former category, Sue Aceves, called me and asked me to be a substitute pianist, and here we are.

But there are some things in life on which we can depend, and those include the highlights of the church year. Looking back at this program year, the choir presented an Advent and Christmas Music Sunday in December. We sang several anthems, including some old favor-

ites (Still, Still, Still and Do You Hear What I Hear) and some others you might not have recalled hearing before or for a while. The choir celebrated the season following that service with a brunch at Table on the Green. We had our beloved candlelight service on Christmas Eve, with happy faces glowing throughout the beautifully decorated sanctuary.

We then moved into Epiphany, with the Baptism of Jesus and Transfiguration. With our contemplative Ash Wednesday service marking the start of the season of Lent, the choir shared some lovely meditative anthems. Of course, Palm Sunday began Holy Week, with its joyful hosannas pivoting into the solemnity of Jesus' Passion. I was happy to see more members of the congregation attend our moving Maundy Thursday service than in recent years. Our church doesn't have a service on Good Friday, but we keep it in our hearts as we await the joy of Jesus' resurrection two days later.

We celebrate not only Easter Sunday but a full 50 days of Eastertide, which includes Ascension and culminates with Pentecost, which is on May 24th this year. After Pentecost, we move into a period often referred to in the wider church as "ordinary time," where the major liturgical events are Trinity Sunday, All Saints and

the Reign of Christ (also known as Christ the King). The year as far as our church calendar is concerned begins anew with the start of Advent once again.

The last choir Sunday of the season this year will be on June 7th. Due to some members' travel plans late in the season, the choir will have its annual end-of-season celebration at Vito's after one of our May rehearsals so that more of us can be included. From June 14th through the summer, we hope to have some choir members singing and/or playing in both solos and small ensembles, and we are finalizing plans for those now. The choir will return shortly after Labor Day.

I wish you all a wonderful summer of fun and relaxation. I hope you will have the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends, including your church family!

Thank you!
Robin Lynne Frye



ROBIN LYNNE FRYE
Let your music soar

Easter Sunday ~ Resurrection Day!



Community Congregational Church Concert Series

We have had a wonderful year so far in our Community Congregational Concerts series:

♦ In October, concert pianist Kristina Henckel, recently-returned from an international concert tour, delighted our audience with works of Bach, Mozart, Smetana, Verdi and Liszt. She had just released her first solo CD, which included the Smetana she played for us.

♦ February saw our own baritone Barron Maness, pianist Stephen Gourley, saxophonist Scott Tortora and percussionist Wayne Osborne performing a concert of "Iconic Songs from the Heart" that had everyone tapping their feet to old favorites. Stephen provided an entertaining set of pre-concert music to set the mood. Barron spoke touchingly about what our church has meant to him.



♦ April brought us The Brandenburg-Shea Duo, with flutist Kelly Bolam Shea and harpist Laura Logan Brandenburg enchanting our audience with "Songs and Dances for Flute and Harp." Their concert spanned Renaissance, jazz, ballet, tango, and Celtic selections. Some of us are newly minted fans of the gorgeous sounds of the alto flute.

♦ Still to come, our season will conclude with Trio Arundo presenting "Reeds Unleashed!" Oboist Matthew Covington, clarinetist Joshua Bottoms and bassoonist Jack Fanning will present a dynamic program showcasing the virtuosity and expressive range of various combinations of oboe, clarinet, and bassoon. That concert will be on Sunday, July 19 at 4:00 pm and we do hope you will join us then.

Trio Arundo ~ Reeds Unleashed!



Coming up in our 2026-2027 concert season, I have some exciting plans in store and our artists are confirming dates now. They include an elite chamber choir from Fayetteville, a string quartet of players both local and from further afield joined by two vocal soloists, and a terrific area brass quintet. You will be the first ones to know once we have settled everything for the season.

~ Robin Lynne Frye ~



June

Georgia Snow	06/02
Louise Wilson	06/04
Anna Harris	06/06
Jessica Crafton	06/10
Annie Kline	06/13
Steve Coman	06/14
Paul Dana	06/19
Elaine Portman	06/26
Joan Smith	06/29
Rick Cavanaugh	06/30
Rosemary Read	06/30

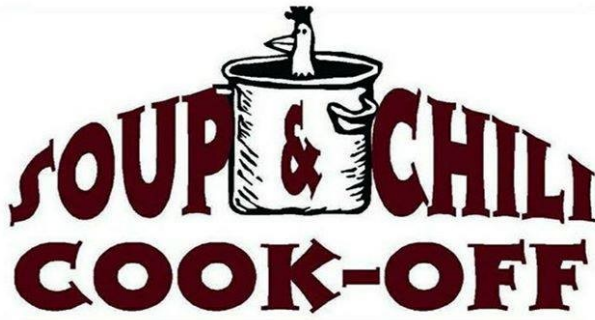
July

Karina Cameron	07/06
Mark Harrop	07/06
Susan Angeloff	07/07
Donna Myrick	07/09
Dave Daniels	07/12
Paul Jackson	07/18
Jeanne Dennis	07/19
John Portman	07/22
Barron Maness	07/22
Carlos Rodriquez	07/24
Carolyn Buchan	07/29

August

Randy Spaciell	08/06
William Williams	08/10
Macey Jackson	08/14
Lois Womack	08/16
Luvina Davis	08/18
Chuck Barron	08/22
Robert Mobsby	08/24
Chelsea Carter-Ellis	08/28
Sue Aceves	08/28
Nancy Cameron	08/31





Congratulations to the winners of the Soup & Chili Cook-off: Joanne Pileski (Pastor Mike's Mom), the Chili Winner, and Brenda Williams, the Soup Winner. The event was marked by an abundance of delicious soups and chili, as well as warm fellowship.



Brenda Williams, Pastor Mike & Joanne Pileski

Potato Soup

Brenda Williams

Ingredients:

Frozen Hash Brown Potatoes (diced, large bag)
 Cream of Chicken Soup (one can Campbell's)
 Milk-one cup; more if needed
 1 can Swanson Chicken Broth
 8 oz. Cream Cheese

Shredded Cheddar Cheese - amt. as desired
 Salt & Pepper

Optional Toppings: Bacon bits, additional shredded cheese, sour cream, green onions etc.

Preparation:

1. Combine frozen hash browns & chicken broth in a stockpot.
2. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce heat to medium and simmer for about 5/10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Cook until potatoes are soft and break apart easily.
4. Add chicken soup, reduce heat to low.
5. Blend together milk and cream cheese until smooth, using an immersion blender or regular blender. (Alternatively, add the milk and cubed cream cheese to the pot and stir until cream cheese melts).
6. Stir cream cheese mixture into the soup mixture.
7. Add shredded cheese and stir until melted.

Easy Chili Recipe

Joanne Pileski (Mike's Mom!)

Ingredients:

1 pound of browned ground beef
 1 jar of Heinz Chili Sauce
 1 14.5 oz. can of petite diced tomatoes
 1 can of light kidney beans
 1 can of dark kidney beans

Mix, heat and simmer!





Southern Corn Souffle

Carol Coates

Ingredients:

16 oz. can of Kernel Corn
16 oz. can of Creamed Corn
1 Box of Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
2 Eggs
2 TBSP Sugar
3/4 cup Sour Cream
2 TBSP of Butter, Melted

Mix all together

Bake in a greased 1 quart casserole for one hour at 350°

Thanksgiving Dressing

Maureen Gloster

Ingredients:

1 bag each Pepperidge Farm regular and cubed stuffing. You can tear and toast any stale bread you have and add that. I used sourdough.
1 onion
3 stalks of celery
1 apple, chopped
Handful of Craisens
1 lb good sausage. (I use Bass Farm mild)
Chicken broth
1 egg

Preparation:

1. Sauté the onion and celery. Add the chopped apple and a handful of craisens. Set aside.
2. Sauté the sausage.
3. Add warmed chicken broth and an egg to the stuffing per package directions. Mix with a large fork.
4. Add the sautéed sausage, veggies, and chopped apple/craisens.
5. Pour into a buttered casserole dish. Cover with a buttered piece of foil.
6. Bake about 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove foil and bake until top is browned, about 10 minutes.



Submitted by Joan Daniels

Today's Jokes from Bill Shockley!

A friend asked me, "What was the stupidest thing you ever did in your life?" To which I replied, "It's quite a stretch for you to assume that I have peaked."

Coffee was just voted the best drink in the little country of Walla. It was an unfair vote, though, because there were absent tea ballots.

What do you call a shark that shreds cheese? A grate White.

If you are ever being chased by an angry pack of taxidermists, do NOT play dead.

What's a shark's favorite shout? "Man overboard!"



Youth Highlights



Raegen Boan: Raegen is finishing her freshman year at Union Pines High School. She continues playing soccer for Wake FC Girls Academy Team in Holly Springs and is finishing her Varsity High School team season. This summer she plans to take a short break from school to compete in the Girls Academy National Championship Playoffs in California with her travel team. The rest of her summer she will be visiting relatives in Massachusetts and enjoying July 4th at Disney World. Raegen plans to obtain her drivers permit this summer so she can drive her fixer upper truck!

Abri and Nico Chiapperino: Abri and Nico are wrapping up a wonderful school year, finishing 7th and 5th grade at STARS Charter School. Nico is excited to head to Southern Middle next year for 6th grade. Abri has stayed busy with volleyball and dance, while Nico continues to enjoy baseball with the Sandhills Optimist and Sandhills Select teams. They are eagerly counting down the days to summer, which will be filled with time spent with their Bogey brother Nick, and trips to Las Vegas, Florida, New York, and Maryland.



Paul Dana: Paul has had a big spring! He attended Cotillion through his school at SCCS and he got a truck! He will be 16 in June and is looking forward to summer break, working for gas money and going to camp.



Macey Jackson: Macey is finishing her freshman year of college at North Carolina Wesleyan University where she plays softball. She is proud of her grades for her first year in college! She is looking forward to playing coed softball over the summer with her Dad, Paul.

Kileigh Cameron: Kileigh will be graduating from Union Pines High School on June 12. She has been selected as the Moore County Schools "Engage, Inspire, Succeed" Student Honoree for the Month of May. This recognition honors individuals who exemplify Moore County Schools' mission to Engage, Inspire and Succeed. She was honored at the Moore County Board of Education Meeting on May 11. Kileigh will be attending Carson-Newman University in the fall where she has signed to play softball.



For Jet's 16th birthday his parents took him to Las Vegas to see Bruno Mars!

Jethro Jawanda: Jethro's sophomore year has been a busy one! He continues to be involved with Pinecrest's Speech and Debate Team and HOSA (Health Occupations Society of America) club, and added FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) club this year. This spring was all about tennis, where he plays doubles. Jet's family is excited to announce that he has been accepted into the North Carolina School of Science and Math (NCSSM) for his junior and senior years. He will complete their on-line program while still being enrolled at Pinecrest. This summer he will do a research program through NCSSM at UNC-Wilmington. We are so proud of him!

Josie Jawanda: Josie has completed her freshman year at Carolina! She loves being a Tarheel and is working hard in her studies so she can apply to the nursing program which would begin Junior year. This summer she is taking summer classes while working in a lab. She has been blessed with a great roommate and suite mates which she will live with again next year! Her family eats cheeseburgers on the 12th of every month in honor and remembrance of Jasper! (His favorite food.) This photo was taken before Josie's Mom moved her back onto campus.



Word Search

Psalm 121:1-2

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

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
 from where will my help come?
 My help comes from the Lord,
 who made heaven and earth.*

LIFT
EYES
HILLS
FROM
WHERE
HELP

COME
LORD
MADE
HEAVEN
EARTH

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



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."*

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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
2nd Sunday - Deacons Meeting - 1:00 pm
3rd Sunday - Women's Fellowship - 12:30 pm
- Mondays:** 2nd Monday - Trustees Meeting - 5:30 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.