



**ADDRESS:**  
8305 Loyola Drive  
P. O. Box 38  
Stokesdale, NC 27357

**PHONE:**  
336-643-4850

**WEB-SITE:**  
www.stokesdaleumc.org

## Stokesdale United Methodist Church

May 2023

*We are reflecting God's love in the heart of the community*

### ED – itorial for May 2023

This is a text message I received Sunday, April 16, following worship:

*Hi! I think there was a turning point at the church this morning. Many people approached us and welcomed us, because I think they understand that we aren't just part of the Easter/Christmas crowd! The really kind lady behind us told us we were needed. Man, that felt good.*

*I know anytime you can snag young people in a church it's a good thing, because it means the church will continue. This was our fourth Sunday there and the newness has worn off. The best part may be that the anger and bitterness and sadness I felt at my previous church is slowly starting to dissipate with each passing Sunday. I was so mad because I knew that I had been so hurt and if I didn't start going somewhere else immediately, I might never go to church again.*

*I have been a UMC member my ENTIRE life. I also told your parishioners today, when approached, that we were here because they were a lighthouse church, and we needed that. Thanks for welcoming us. The music program is phenomenal and it's what I am used to as I was from Jordan Memorial UMC in Ramseur, NC my entire childhood. As we had kids and started going to churches w contemporary services, it never felt like home.*

*Your church feels like home. Sometimes when the organ is playing I physically tear up. It's like reuniting with an old friend. I can remember these same hymns from so many stages of my life. It is nice to be needed and not just a number. Thank you!*

There are at least ten stories like this from people who are now attending Stokesdale UMC. You have rolled out the red carpet, and I'm thankful for it. On Saturday, April 22, at 6pm, we had our first ever gathering of these lighthouse families in our fellowship hall. Donna Friddle and I facilitated the session for adults. Shannon Englehorn and Sarah McKinney offered a session for young people. We will offer other opportunities for our lighthouse people to share their stories and provide opportunities for healing.

A lighthouse congregation is one that is particularly equipped to welcome anyone whose church has closed or disaffiliated. Stokesdale UMC is a United Methodist faith community that will serve as a resting place with people who will care for these people while providing a haven of peace and grace. Stokesdale UMC has been featured in two publications regarding our lighthouse status: United Methodist News Service and The Christian Post. Here are links to those articles:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/lighthouse-congregations-offer-hope-amid-schism>

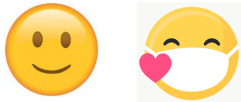
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/umc-creates-lighthouse-congregations-in-response-to-schism.html>

Also, the Western NC Conference Communications is currently producing a video series entitled "The Great 50 Days." Each day from Easter to Pentecost, the conference is posting testimonies on wnccmc.org and through other social media platforms (@WNCCUMC) about the ways the power of the Resurrection and the Holy Spirit are showing up in our lives and in our churches and ministries. Stokesdale UMC's day was Saturday, April 22, the 14th Day of Easter. Michael Hahn and I recorded a video about Michael's experience of finding a home at Stokesdale UMC. Here's a link to the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cf7d7YHnv0Y&t=213s>.

On Easter Sunday, we had 156 people in worship. That is the most we've had for an 11am worship service since June 2, 2019! We are receiving more and more guests because of our designation as a lighthouse congregation. We are making changes to the narthex to facilitate a more welcoming experience for those coming to worship.



Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney - Pastor  
Jeff Fink - Music Director  
Beth Kasai - Music Assistant  
Robin Howerton - Handbell Director  
Sarah McKinney - Youth Director  
Sharon Moon - Office Manager



#### MASKING POLICY

Wearing face masks while in the building is optional. Please respect the choices of others and continue to follow health and safety guidelines.




*Stokesdale UMC is a  
Lighthouse Congregation  
of The Western North Carolina  
Conference of The United  
Methodist Church,  
in partnership with  
The United Methodist  
Collective of the Western  
NC Conference.*

#### BUILDING USE

If you are needing to reserve the building for personal use, please be mindful of the activities going on inside the church building. We will attempt to accommodate all requests to use the building. Please call the church office in advance to check availability and reserve the facility.

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## Bible Study



**Join Us!**

**Every Sunday**

**5 - 6pm**

Contact Rev. Allen Ridenour via email:  
[allen.ridenour@outlook.com](mailto:allen.ridenour@outlook.com) or phone/text 336-331-2727



**Upcoming Meeting:**

**May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Next Meeting:**

**May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**@ 10:30am**

For more information:  
 Rev. Donna Friddle 336-427-4813 Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney 336-643-4850



**Upcoming Meeting:**

**May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**9am – 12pm**

**Spiritual**


**Renewal Retreat**

(Gideon Grove UMC)

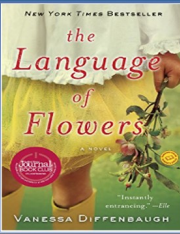
**Join Us**

**Meet at SUMC at 8:45am if you need a ride.**

Contact Elaine Christopher for more information



**Goshen Book Club**



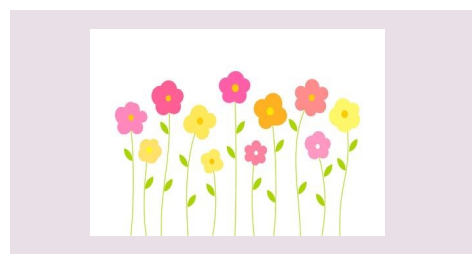
**Next Meeting:**


**DATE: May 25<sup>th</sup>**

**TIME: 5:15pm**

**@ Sally's House**

**Book of the Month: The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh**





### Stokesdale UMC to be a Lighthouse Congregation

Our congregation, Stokesdale United Methodist Church, has decided to become a Lighthouse Congregation of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church in partnership with The United Methodist Collective. In doing so, we not only commit to remaining a part of The United Methodist Church but also to serving those who have lost their church homes through disaffiliation or closure. In doing so, we commit to the following:

1. Provide a welcoming place to belong during this time of grief and transition, which might be for just a season, or for a lifetime. This includes a safe space with caring relationships, listening hearts, and unconditional love within a congregation that is confident it is remaining in the UMC.
2. Offer "No pressure" ministry opportunities (if the person or group is willing). These will include worship, discipleship, and mission.
3. Organize local Remaining UMC groups by proactively finding and connecting with individuals and groups displaced by disaffiliating churches.
4. Connect individuals or groups with Conference and District resources to help them discern their next steps as they consider a new church home.

If you would like to know more about being a Lighthouse Congregation or how you can offer hospitality to those seeking a church home, contact Pastor Ed McKinney at 336-643-4850 or Pastor Donna Friddle at 336-402-0378.



## Girl Scout Troop



Girl Scout Troop 2469 is maintaining this flower garden as a gift to our community. Unfortunately, someone clipped the rosemary bush and it will not grow back. Please allow the Girl Scouts to care for this project.

If you have any questions, contact Sharon at 336-643-4850.



## Stokesdale Rural Outreach Program

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>  
10:30am – 12:00pm

Stokesdale United Methodist Church

Call or email to reserve your lunch!

336-373-4816 x265

or email [ruraloutreach@senior-resources-guilford.org](mailto:ruraloutreach@senior-resources-guilford.org).

## Meals on Wheels



**MEALS on WHEELS**  
AMERICA

TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER.

**Driver NEEDED!**

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday  
of each month**

For more information contact Ed Campbell @ (704) 438-3456

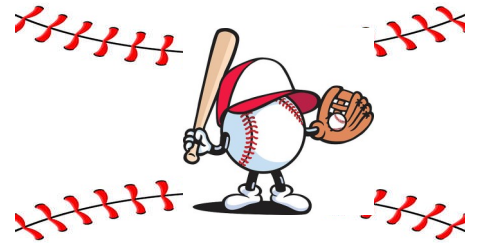
## Pocket Change Sunday



**Coming Up!  
May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Bring your change!**

All Donations go to Children's Ministries



**Tickets**

**\$11**

**Faith Night at**

**Winston-Salem DASH**

**Tickets**

**\$11**



**Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM**

Call or email for tickets:

**336-643-4850**

[admin@stokesdaleumc.org](mailto:admin@stokesdaleumc.org)

**Deadline for buying tickets: Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

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## Quail Acres Mobile Market



### Distribution Day

Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
@ 3-5pm

## GSM Food Pantry

### Distribution Day

Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>  
@ 9am  
(Stokesdale UMC)



# Scholarship Committee



*We have 3 scholarships  
available this year  
for \$1000 each.*

*Any high school graduate or anyone pursuing  
a post secondary education and that is a  
member of this church is eligible to apply.*

For an application please contact the church office 336-643-4850.

## Blood Drive

### American Red Cross

*Stokesdale UMC, Fellowship Hall*



**DATE: May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**  
**TIME: 2pm – 7pm**



Call **Randy Southard** at **336-908-1301** for an appointment or  
visit **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter Sponsor Code:  
**Stokesdale UMC**

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Mr. Michael Hahn and Pastor Ed McKinney  
share their testimony



Watch a 5 minute video of us talking at:

<https://youtu.be/cf7d7YHnv0Y>

# Good Samaritan Ministries

## Upcoming Events: **YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!!**

- **Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM** - FIFTH SUNDAY SINGING (Stokesdale CC)
- **Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7PM** - BOARD MEETING (Bethel UMC)
- **Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM** - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER (Stokesdale Fire Station)
- **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> @ 2-3PM** - WALK FOR HUNGER: (Bethel UMC). Ice Cream Social at Bethel Fellowship Hall afterwards. **\*\*Start collecting funds NOW and bring it to the Walk for Hunger on May 21<sup>st</sup>.\*\***



*We have started having Worship Leaders as part of our Sunday morning Worship. Worship Leaders are . . . Ushers, Acolytes, Children's Sermon Person, Liturgist.*

*This is not a commitment for every Sunday. Would you like to be involved in leading Worship?*

### WE ARE OFFERING FIVE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE TO THE CHURCH:

1. Bring your offering on Sunday morning
2. Go to [www.StokesdaleUMC.org](http://www.StokesdaleUMC.org) and click on the "GIVE" tab
3. Bring your offering to the church office Monday through Thursday from 9AM-2PM
4. Mail your check to Stokesdale UMC, P O Box 38, Stokesdale, NC 27357
5. Set up bill pay through your bank to Stokesdale United Methodist Church



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## May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Girl Scouts 7PM Missions	2 10:30AM Grief Group Noon – Word & Table 1PM Al-Anon 3-6PM Operation Xcel 7PM GSM Board Mtg	3 6PM Handbell Practice 7PM Choir Practice	4 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 3-6PM Operation Xcel	5 3-6PM Operation Xcel 5-7PM Parent Night – ACP dinner 7PM Youth Retreat Camp Guilrock	6 7AM-5PM Youth Retreat Camp Guilrock 9-12PM UWF (Gideon Grove UMC) 10-4PM Purple Wagon Spring Croft Festival 11-2PM Leona Vaughn's 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party
7 10AM Sunday School 11AM Worship Youth – Confirmation Day 5PM Bible Study	8 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Girl Scouts	9 Noon – Word & Table 1PM Al-Anon 3-6PM Operation Xcel 7PM Trustees	10 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Handbell Practice 7PM Choir Practice	11 10:30AM Senior Resources 3-6PM Operation Xcel	12 3-6PM Operation Xcel	13
Michelle Southard Christina James	Chris Landreth	Eve McKinney	Karen & Jimmy Landreth	Rita & Allen Ridenour		
14 MOTHER'S DAY Pocket Change Sunday 10AM Sunday School 11AM Worship 5PM Bible Study	15 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Girl Scouts	16 10:30AM Grief Group Noon – Word & Table 1PM Al-Anon 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6:30PM Finance 7PM Admin Council	17 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Handbell Practice 7PM Choir Practice	18 3-6PM Operation Xcel	19 3-6PM Operation Xcel	20
21 10AM Sunday School 11AM Worship SPM Bible Study	22 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Girl Scouts	23 Noon – Word & Table 1PM Al-Anon 2-7PM Red Cross Blood Drive 3-6PM Operation Xcel	24 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Handbell Practice 7PM Choir Practice	25 3-6PM Operation Xcel 5:30PM Goshen Book Club	26 3-6PM Operation Xcel 3-5PM Quail Acres Mobile Market Shannon Byrne Elisha Harris Doug Stephens	27 9AM GSM Food Pantry (Stokesdale UMC)
Lisa Joyce Lisa Southard Allen Ridenour	Bonnie Mills	Gail & Tony Dowdy	Melissa Hanks	Douglas Stephens	Brisha Compton	
28 10AM Sunday School 11AM Worship SPM Bible Study Tracey Belton Kennedy Combs LuAnn & Teddy Royal Lynn & Kenneth Simpson	29 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	30 10:30AM Grief Group Noon – Word & Table 1PM Al-Anon 3-6PM Operation Xcel	31 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Handbell Practice 7PM Choir Practice			
Robin & Steve Howerton	Todd Compton	Angel Cook Best				