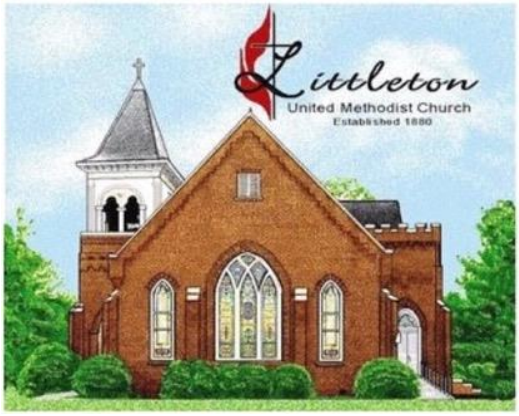


Big News

from

Littleton United Methodist Church

July / August 2026

Pastor: Rev. Keith Porter

Littleton UMC
105 East South Main St.
PO Box 26
Littleton, NC. 27850
252-586-5385
www.littlton-umc.org
Sunday Worship 9:15 am

"When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place." Psalms 118:5

Greetings beautiful people of God. Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

Folks, I know you love this place. You may have heard me say that without people land is just land. People are what make place. The stories, the memories, the heritage, the tradition. Of course, scripture is primary and yet our traditions also inform our path. In our experience we help to define a place. And it doesn't have to be a big thing. It might be in just saying hello or giving a smile to someone you see in town or out near the highway. The testimony you bring in ever so precious help to define the place we inhabit.'

This coming Saturday will be a celebration of two hundred and fifty years of freedom of religion in this place. As Christians we are called and we are sent to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this place. Halifax County is front and center in this country's freedom from tyranny. We celebrate those who originated the movement toward freedom as well. Just like us, their lives defined this place.

Jesus was asked about the most important commandment, "And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." (Luke 10:27 KJV) And so that is our call that we shall never depart from to eternal life. It's not just yesterday or today. It is always and forevermore what all the scriptures hang on. It is at the core of our faith to love our neighbor.

And in that love, we recognize that it is our choice, just like it is our neighbor's choice to believe what they choose to believe. It might grieve us greatly, for it may feel like watching kids play in the street not knowing it is a busy avenue. Even before our Savior died on the cross of Calvary for us, even before King David's time, way back into the time of Moses, the Word of God has been clear, "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live." (Deut 30:19) God calls us to choose eternal life.

Let us celebrate 250 years of freedom. I pray you will be safe. I pray that as you travel, visit, or just rest that you will receive the peace of Christ. I pray that the yoke you have chosen will give you comfort as you walk through the valley and by still waters. I pray we will all remember the Lord is good and love your neighbor. In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray and through the Holy Spirit. Amen

With much love,
Pastor Keith

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

North Carolina Annual Conference



Every year, Rhonda and Marie work together to enter our church's numbers into the conference database. Below is a summary of those numbers for our entire conference:

- Membership for 2025 was 136,130.
- Average attendance at the principal weekly worship service stands at 28,946.
- Professions or reaffirmations of faith for 2025: 1,166, up 11 from 2024.
- Adults and young adults in small groups for 2025: 1,818, up 140 from 2024.
- Worshippers engaged in mission for 2025: 32,181, up 2,070 from 2024.
- The Conference approved a budget of $11,279,314 for 2028, an 4.31% decrease from the 2027 budget.
- 19 clergy entered retired status.
- 10 elders were ordained, with an average age of 37, **including Pastor Keith!**
- 4 elders and 3 deacons were commissioned, with an average age of 34.
- 9 local pastors were licensed, with an average age of 47.
- 2 deaconesses were commissioned.
- 13 lay ministers were certified, **including Bill Kessinger!**

The picture above shows Pastor Keith and Bill after the Ordering of Ministry Service.

School Kits Mission Project



The United Women in Faith assembled 48 school kits to contribute the conference mission project to provide kits for kids returning to school this fall. The picture below shows Marie, Cathy, Sandy, Loretta, and Jesse assembling the kits.

Rhonda and Bill took the kits to Annual Conference and added our contribution to the 400-plus other United Methodist Churches.

In total, over 2,500 kits were contributed! Thank you UWF for supporting this project!

LOTS OF NEWS from MARIE!

The next LUMC "Book Club" meeting is scheduled for July 16 at George's Restaurant in Warrenton at 5 PM...come join the fun!!



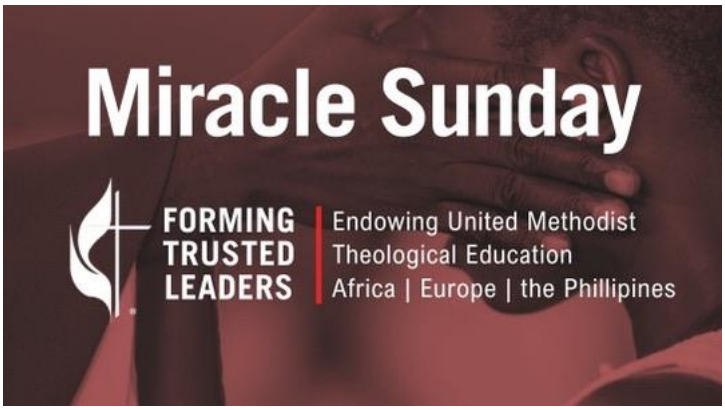


The next Game Night will be at the LUMC Fellowship Hall at 4 on July 8. Bring a Game if you'd like to introduce another game to the group or join us for lively Mexican Train dominoes. We'll break for a light supper at 5:30.

Financially, the mid-year statements will be going out soon. Please look yours over and, if our records don't agree, let Marie know right away. This is a good time for you to see if you are on track with your giving to the work of LUMC and to set your goals for the second half of 2026.

We have several members of our church who are away from the area at this time. Please remember Marj Prescott at Tarboro, Richard Sherman in Greensboro, Dick O'Sullivan in NY, and Pat Chance at Wildwood Point, Littleton with prayers, cards or notes or phone calls. Ann Odom will be GOING HOME on Thursday after her long health issues! Also, please keep families who have lost loved ones in your thoughts, prayers, and card lists as well, such as the families of Kathyn Clark, Don Beazley, and Richard Odom.

LUMC-UWF is on summer break until September 14.



Mission to support clergy education overseas
Rhonda Kessinger

The UMC is growing in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. This year's special offering, Miracle Sunday, establish sustainable support by investing in theological education in this region. Our congregation donated $320 toward this mission. As of the end of the Annual Conference the total collection was over $205,000.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Sandy Millner

In June, we gave books specifically on Native American Indians to the Haliwa Saponi Tribal School. We also participated in a book giveaway for Littleton Academy. We had a going away dinner for Marian Frech at One Eyed Jack's for our monthly book club. Finally, we assisted with VBS on Monday and Thursday by volunteering and bringing snacks.







Above: Celebrating Pastor Keith's birthday

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 2 Terry Newsom
July 8 Sandy Millner
July 26 Helen Burtchell
July 29 Marj Prescott
July 30 Rhonda Kessinger

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug 27 Crickett LeMasters



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 4	Blaine & Elaine Parks
July 26	Duane & Macon White

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 15	Bill & Gloria Kuhns
Aug 17	Jeff & Jodie Dowhan

Refreshment providers

July 5	Marie
July 12	Sandy
July 19	Cathy
July 26	Susan M
Aug 2	Mary
Aug 9	Rhonda
Aug 16	Marie
Aug 23	Sandy
Aug 30	Mary



Lay Reader / Worship Leader Schedule

Date	Worship Leader	Lay Reader
Sunday, July 5	Marie Fields	Marie Fields
Sunday, July 12	Bill Kessinger	Rhonda Kessinger
Sunday, July 19	*Marie Fields*	*Marie Fields*
Sunday, July 26	*Bill Kessinger*	Crickett LeMasters
Sunday, August 2	*Bill Kessinger*	*Bill Kessinger*
Sunday, August 9	*Marie Fields*	Rhonda Kessinger
Sunday, August 16	*Marie Fields*	*Marie Fields*
Sunday, August 23	Marie Fields	Crickett LeMasters
Sunday, August 30	Marie Fields	Marie Fields
Sunday, September 6	Bill Kessinger	Rhonda Kessinger

**Italicized names are changes from the last schedule.*

Thank you for serving as lay readers. Verses will be provided as part of the bulletin information, and as always you can find a large-print copy of the reading in the church office before the service.