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Prayer Partner Initiative

Spring 2026

This month will be my second anniversary as a member of the Prayer Partner Initiative team. During my tenure, I have gained an in-depth appreciation for the power of prayer. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 we are directed to “pray continually.” For many years my prayer time was “good” but not great. I had always felt comfortable talking to God daily but had no idea what praying aloud with others could do for my own spiritual growth. As a member of our prayer team, I learned to “pray the Scriptures.” Depending on God’s Word, prayer, and guidance of the Holy Spirit has not changed since the teachings of the original disciples. How can we strengthen our faith and know God’s will if we don’t spend time not only praying, but praying the Scriptures?

The prayer team is continually exploring new opportunities for our congregation to individually build a stronger prayer life. Last summer we provided a small experiment of prayer partnerships for six weeks. With the help of a few volunteers from our congregation, the prayer team provided a weekly session guide for the prayer partners. At each session, prayer partners would take turns reading Scripture aloud, talking to God aloud in prayer, and praying aloud for mutual prayer concerns. There is something very powerful about hearing another person pray about things you also care about. At the end of the experiment, we asked for feedback from the volunteers. The responses were overwhelmingly positive in both development of closer relationships with fellow believers and intentional growth of a connection with God.

With refinement of the Prayer Partner Initiative our prayer team, in collaboration with our pastoral leadership, is ready to offer this faith-building opportunity to the entire congregation! We hope this experience of praying the Scriptures will guide you and your “prayer partner” in growing closer to God as you seek Him and discern His way for guiding your lives.

Register online via [Church Center](#) or call the Church Office at 919-362-7807.

Cheryl Batchelor

-Prayer Initiative Team Member



**SUNDAY AFTERNOON
PARENT'S STUDY
January 13**

MONDAY MORNING
BIBLE STUDY
January 12

WOMEN'S TUESDAY
BIBLE STUDY
January 13 - March 31

DISASTER RECOVERY
TEAM TRIP
January 18-23

YOUTH ENGAGED
IN SERVICE
January 23-25

NEW MEMBER CLASS
February 1

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY DINNERS
February 4

GetREAL 4th&5th GRADE
February 4

YOUTH TALENT SHOW
February 6

**WINTER FAMILY
PLAY DATE
February 7**

ENCORE CHILI COOK-OFF
February 19

PROM SHOPPE

February 27 & 28

DISASTER RECOVERY

TEAM TRIP

March 1 - 6

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

March 7

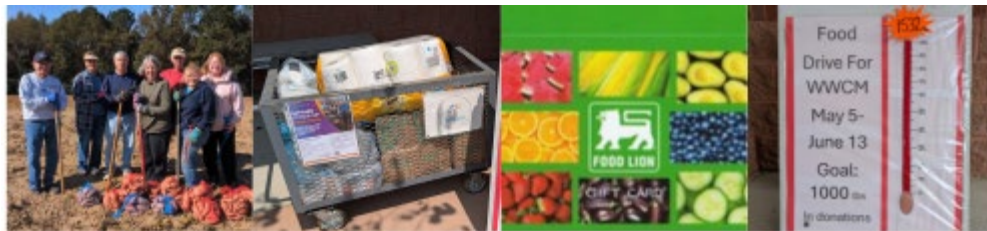
This Week's Celebration

Thank You For Your Support of the NeighborUp (formerly WWCM)

Food Pantry in 2025

NeighborUp, formerly Western Wake Crisis Ministry, has a food pantry that helps over 400 households monthly in the Apex, Holly Springs and Fuquay-Varina area who are struggling with food insecurity. This requires constant restocking of pantry items. Apex UMC contributes donations year-round to the NeighborUp food pantry through weekly donations, a summer stock-the-shelves special event and small group (classes, circles, youth groups, etc.) donations. In 2025, our Apex UMC congregation donated over 8,000 pounds of food, hygiene and cleaning items. We also donated 354 gift cards for the Thanksgiving meals NeighborUp provided to their clients. THANK YOU to everyone for your awesome generosity this past year! It is greatly appreciated!.

We are continuing this mission in 2026. Donations will be collected weekly, and a list of most needed items will be placed in the monthly announcement sheet and in the announcement section of the Crosspoints newsletters. Look for announcements throughout the year for special church wide collections. Collections within your small groups are a great way to help, too. Again, thank you so much for your support of the NeighborUp food pantry and, through NeighborUp, our neighbors in difficult situations. For more information on NeighborUp, visit <http://www.neighborup.org>.



2025 REVIEW

Vicki Versprille
-WWCM/NeighborUp Coordinator

GENERAL

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 1/19

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 19, for MLK Day.

YOUTH TALENT SHOW 2026

Make plans to join us on Friday, February 6, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the CLC Gym for another incredible dinner and talent show hosted by our Apex UMC youth! This annual fundraiser supports youth missions and music opportunities. Register online [here](#). Questions? Contact [Casey Purdy](#).

ALTAR FLOWERS 2026

Donate altar flowers for Sunday services in the sanctuary in 2026. Sign up [online](#) to see available dates and details about how to place your order. Questions? Contact Jennifer Higdon at jennifer.harper89@gmail.com.

CONNECT

JANUARY DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **Parent's Bible Study on Psalms:**

Sundays, January 4 - February 23, 4:00-4:45 p.m. in Crossroads (no meeting Jan. 18, 25)

Join Pastor Daeho for this no homework Bible study on The Psalms We Actually Pray.

Together we will explore selected Psalms that give voice to real life emotions such as joy fear anger grief gratitude and trust. Each week focuses on one Psalm and invites honest reflection on how prayer sounds in the midst of everyday life. This class will meet during the Children's Choirs and offers a welcoming space to bring your whole self before God.

Daeho Kang: daeho.kang@apexumc.org

- **Women's Bible Study on Ephesians:**

Tuesdays, January 13 - March 31, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall Rm 103

Join Phyllis Stern in the discovery of Paul's passion and energy in this letter to the young churches even though he wrote it in prison. The letter reveals Paul's longing to see them grow in faith and understanding, that is rooted in Jesus himself and worked out in practice. We will explore it's relevance for our lives today. Phyllis Stern: phyllisgstern@gmail.com

- **Monday Morning Bible Study:**

Mondays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

This in-depth Bible study led by the Senior Pastor invites conversation and reflection on how Scripture guides our daily living. This year, the class will focus on the Book of Exodus.

Pastor Laura Katherine: laura.katherine@apexumc.org

*Childcare is available for January classes! [Register online](#).

- **SAGE CROSSING GROUP**

Apex UMC is proud to announce a new community partnership with Sage Crossing, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of seniors living with dementia through meaningful, service-based programs that foster intergenerational connection, nature-based engagement, and compassionate caregiver support. Sage Crossing is currently hosting a group respite program for individuals living with dementia at Apex UMC on Wednesdays and Fridays in the Fellowship Hall from 10 am to 2 pm. Their goal is to create a new kind of enrichment center where seniors are supported, caregivers are empowered, and every generation finds connection. If you are a caregiver and interested in learning more about the program or signing up a loved one, please go to sagecrossing.org. Sage Crossing is also offering a Caregiver Support Group open to Apex UMC parishioners from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Green Room, CLC on the following dates: January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, and June 26. Please reach out to Sarah Moore (sarah.moore@apexumc.org) if you have any questions.

- **New Member Class**

February 1, 4-5:30 p.m. Are you interested in learning more about Apex UMC? Are you ready to become a member? The New Member Class will orient you to the history, the values, and the ministries that make AUMC such a special place. This class is open to people who are curious about the church, and those who are ready to join. Childcare is available through the [registration](#) link. Please register at least 5 days in advance if childcare is required.

- **Wonderful Wednesday Dinners**

Wonderful Wednesday Dinners return on February 4 at 6 p.m. in the CLC Gym! Registration for each meal will open the Thursday before and close Monday before the meal. You may register [HERE](#) for the FULL series for Spring 2026 until Monday, February 3. The cost for the whole series of 7 dinners is \$84 per adult and \$42 per child (12 and under) with a cap of \$252 for families.

- **Get REAL for 4th & 5th Graders Spring Session**

Get REAL is a fellowship group for preteens to learn faith practices such as scripture study, prayer, and service, while having fun making friends. Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m., February 5 - March 25. [Registration required online](#). Optional catered dinner at 6:00 p.m. in conjunction with Wonderful Wednesdays, open to the whole family. Register and pay separately for each week's dinner during the week prior. For more information, contact Ellen at ellen.griffin@apexumc.org.

- **Winter Family Play Date**

Saturday, February 7 from 10 a.m.-12 noon, Christian Life Center gym. Bring some toys to share for this open-to-all fellowship time in the church gym. It will be a warm location and a relaxed environment to get to know other families with children. No registration required. Email Cathy Kennedy with any questions: ckennedy2610@gmail.com.

- **Encore Chili and Soup Cook-Off**

RESCHEDULED to February 19, 12:00-1:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Contestants are invited to bring in a large pot of their best Chili or Soup to share. Participants will sample each entry and vote on their favorite. Prizes will be given to first and second place winners. We'll provide sour cream, cornbread, salad, desserts, and drinks. Contestants will provide the Chili and Soup. [Register](#) on Church Center as contestant or participant.

SERVE

DISASTER RECOVERY TEAM TRIPS

Our upcoming week-long trips to Spruce Pine, NC are **January 18-23, March 1-6, and April 12-17, 2026**. If you are interested in being part of this incredible ministry, please join the [Disaster Recovery Team Group](#) on Church Center for trip dates and registration info. Want to donate? Please choose 'AUMC Disaster Response Team' under [Give](#) on Church Center. (<https://apexumc.churchcenter.com/giving>)

PROM SHOPPE 2026

Prom Shoppe is an annual outreach ministry of Apex UMC. It's a 2-day shopping event being held this year on February 27 from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. and February 28 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. for North Carolina teens in need. Volunteers are needed, look for the sign up in the next few weeks! The committee also needs donations of dresses, shoes, jewelry, accessories and new makeup. Gift cards and monetary donations are also helpful for behind the scene set-ups. You can bring items to the church office during office hours 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. M-Th, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Friday. Follow and share the Prom Shoppe event on social media [here](#), shop the Amazon Wish List [here](#)! Thank you for serving!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY 2026

Save the dates! Join us on the following Saturdays from 8:30-10 a.m. to clean up a stretch of Salem Street from the water tower to the Hwy 64 overpass: March 7, June 6, September 12, December 5,

2026. No experience necessary! Project takes about 1.5 hours once per quarter and is a great experience for families to work together to help keep Apex the Peak of Good (and clean) Living. Let us know you're coming on [Church Center.](#))

NEIGHBORUP (formerly WWCM) PANTRY NEEDS - JANUARY

The NeighborUp food pantry needs non-perishable food, hygiene and cleaning supplies. Items most needed are: peanut butter, jelly/jam, pasta sauce, canned peaches, canned pineapple, all varieties of beans, snacks (cookies, poptarts, crackers etc.), deodorant, toilet paper, and laundry pods/detergent. All donations are appreciated. Place donations in the NeighborUp (WWCM) labeled carts located outside in the Crossroads traffic circle. Thank you for helping our neighbors facing food insecurity. For more information on NeighborUp visit www.neighborup.org.

FEED THE KIDS

Since 2013, the mission of Feed the Kids has addressed food insecurity in our local schools. They are in need of the following items: Canned Meat (Chicken or Tuna), Individual Pre-Packaged Fruit, Single Serving Breakfast (Grits, Oatmeal, Cereal), Ramen, Macaroni and Cheese, and Individually Wrapped Snacks. You can donate at any time by bringing your food donations to the church and deposit them in the FTK cart located near the Crossroads and CLC entrance. For more information on Feed the Kids, please visit our website at www.feedthekidsnc.org. Thank you for helping to feed children in our schools!

SIMPLE GIFTS COMMUNITY GARDEN (WINTER)

There will be called winter workdays announced via email if you subscribe to the garden website. Come help us put fresh, nutritious veggies on the food bank shelves. 3109 Tingen Rd., Apex, NC. For more information visit <https://simplegiftsgarden.org/> or contact Anne Harrison at anneh21@gmail.com or 919-616-6659.

SIMPLE GIFTS - PLASTIC RECYCLING

Simple Gifts Community Garden (a mission of Apex UMC) will continue collecting plastic film at the church and the garden to be recycled by the Trex company into composite deck boards and furniture. There are tall white boxes near the other recycling containers in the CLC and Crossroads where you can place your clean, dry plastic. (Please do not put other recyclable products or trash in the bins!) If you have any questions, please contact Anne Harrison at anneh21@gmail.com or 919-616-6659.

GIVE

READY TO PLEDGE?

Submit your pledge online at: apexumc.org/give.

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS: July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

- General Fund Income: \$938,345
- Other Income: \$15,729
- YTD Expenses: (-\$969,508)
- Difference: (-\$15,434)

Deferred mortgage payments NOT included above.

Early payments to the Forward Capital Campaign totaling \$2,973,816 have allowed us to reduce our total debt to \$2.21 million, which remains due by February 2035.

Please visit our [website](#) for more detailed information.

GIVING TO APEX UMC

Your offerings help AUMC offer spaces that welcome, ways to love, and people that serve. Our collective offerings allow us to live out AUMC's mission to *Welcome All. Love All. Serve All.* You can set up a recurring gift online, place your offering in the offertory plate during worship, or you can

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text GIVE followed by the donation amount (e.g., GIVE \$25) to +1-855-490-6338. To find out more, [visit our website](#). Questions? Contact our [finance office](#).

UMCOR DONATIONS

[UMCOR](#) (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) is always one of the first organizations to arrive and one of the last to leave when natural disasters occur. UMCOR also works with other nonprofit agencies to provide water, food, medications, and additional items to those in need. Please mark your donation UMCOR or choose from the menu when donating [online](#). Thank you for caring for our neighbors in need!



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