View email in your browser



AUMC News | Children's Newsletter | Youth Newsletter | Missions Newsletter
Merch Shop | Church Center | Financial Updates | Give Now

Generosity Season

Building in Faith

John Wesley. LEGO. This should be interesting.

What do the founder of Methodism and a pile of LEGO bricks have in common? You're about to find out.

Generosity Season begins this Sunday, and we're building something a little unexpected. Over the next three weeks, we'll explore John Wesley's wisdom about earning, saving, and giving—with a three-part video adventure, stories from our church family, an original jingle, and more LEGOs than you'd expect to find in worship. There's a surprise gift in the mix, too.

SAVE THE DATES!

ART & GIFT MARKET | OPEN TABLE 5K
November 7

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY
November 11

BIBLE STORY TIME
November 17

SAGE CROSSING SUPPORT GROUP | GATHER, GOBBLE & GROOVE
November 18

YOUTH FRIENDSGIVING
November 22

FIRST SUNDAY OF

Growing in Generosity, Building in Faith.



Every Brick Matters!

Come for the fun. Along the way, discover how generosity can become a practice that strengthens our faith and helps us WELCOME ALL. LOVE ALL. SERVE ALL.

Ready to join in?

- Read Pastor Laura Katherine's introduction letter for the heart behind this year's campaign.
- Join us in worship all three Sundays. You won't want to miss what happens next!
- Bring your pledge on Commitment Sunday, November 22. You may bring a completed paper pledge card or a printed confirmation of your online pledge. Stations in both worship lobbies will receive your cards—and you'll receive a surprise gift.

A little Methodist history. A lot of LEGO. And a next step in generosity we can each make our own.

-Laura Katherine Stern
Senior Pastor

Behold

An Invitation to Advent 2026

Christmas is just around the corner! Before we know it, our calendars will be filled with Christmas shopping, family gatherings, decorating, and perhaps a little too much Christmas music (if there is such a thing!). In the midst of all this excitement, Advent invites us to slow down and pay attention to something wonderful.

ADVENT
November 29

BIBLE STORY TIME
December 1

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY,
CHURCH WORKDAY,
APEX CHRISTMAS PARADE
December 5

CHRISTMAS STORE GIFTS DUE | POINSETTIA ORDER DUE | SERVICE OF HOPE & LIGHT
December 6

BIBLE STORY TIME
December 8

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 13

HANDBELLS ON SALEM STREET
December 16

ADVENTURE KIDS EXTREME CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 18

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES
December 24

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 28

VBS 2027 - SAVE THE DATE!
July 6 - 9, 2027

AOSP 2027 - SAVE THE DATE!



Our Advent worship series this year is called ***Behold***. It is a word that appears throughout Scripture, often when God is about to reveal something extraordinary. From Isaiah's promise of Immanuel to the angel's announcement to Mary, we will explore how God invites us to pause, pay attention, and recognize God's presence among us.

And perhaps that is exactly what we need this Advent season. An invitation to notice the wonder of God's love in the midst of our ordinary, busy lives.

There are several ways you can join us as we celebrate and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this Advent season:

1. Join us for Sunday worship beginning November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, as we explore our Behold sermon series and reflect on God's promises and presence in our lives.
2. Read the Daily Advent Devotional written by members of Apex UMC. Each day's reflection invites us to pause, pray, and reflect during this holy season. To request a printed devotional booklet, Register Here.
3. Join an Advent Bible Study through one of our participating Sunday School classes or small groups. This year's church-wide study, *An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story* by Rachel Billups, invites us to see the familiar Christmas story through fresh eyes. Together, we will explore how God works through unexpected people and unlikely circumstances to bring hope into the world.
4. Attend the Service of Hope and Light on Sunday, December 6, from 4 to 6 p.m. This special service offers a gentle space for those experiencing grief, loss, or the heaviness that the holiday season can sometimes bring. https://apexumc.org/news/hope/
5. Celebrate Christmas Eve with us! Invite your friends, neighbors, and family as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We have

several worship opportunities throughout the day, including our Children's Services at 10:30 a.m.! Full details at www.apexumc.org/advent

As we enter this Advent season, I hope we will find moments to slow down and behold the wonder of Christmas. Sometimes God's presence is found in the most unexpected places, and sometimes it is right in front of us, waiting to be noticed.

May this Advent be a season when we open our eyes and hearts to the good news that God is with us, now and always.

Grace and peace,
Daeho Kang
Community Life Pastor

This Week's Celebrations!

Red Cross Blood Drive

The October 24 Red Cross Blood Drive was successful because many of you came to the CLC to donate your lifesaving blood! I also want to acknowledge the many AUMC Donors who responded to my urgent calls to donate during August and September. The American Red Cross at that time was at their lowest point in available blood supplies.

As a result of your generosity, we were able to collect 24 unites of blood for patients in our area. I want to specifically thank the three donors who gave through the Power Red program. Their donation counts double as the result of the way the blood is collected.

I also want to call out all the special people who made this drive a hit: Jerilyn Hardaway, McKenna Stephenson, Patti Anderson, Jeff Pate, Jen Morton, Paul Stephenson, and Mary Pelletier (baked goods). I am mentioning them because we were very short of trained team members and several of these folks stepped in the make the drive a success! Thank you!

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be ***Saturday, April 24, 2027***. We hope to see you there! NC patients are depending on your for their emergency and/or elective surgery! If you have questions, please call Jim Ahler at 919-522-7061.

Jim Ahler
-Blood Drive Coordinator

GENERAL

9TH ANNUAL ART & GIFTS MARKET

Come join us for the 9th Annual Art & Gift Market on Saturday, November 7, 2026 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The event proceeds from vendor fees and the silent auction will benefit our missions budget. Don't miss this great chance to buy from local artisans and get unique gifts for your family and friends. Great food and beverages will be available too. Please invite your friends and neighbors to support this fun event and worthy cause. Check out the Apex UMC Facebook page for a great event post you can share. And don't forget to bid on some fantastic items in the Silent Auction NOW!

MISSION eNEWSLETTER

The purpose of this eNewsletter is to help YOU connect with ways you and your family members can serve in our community. This will be a quarterly email. We look forward to serving in missions with you! View recent edition here.

ZOE SOUP & COOKIES SALES

This primary fundraiser supports the Empowerment of our ZOE kids each year. We have 3 soup flavors: beef, white chili & curried lentil and 3 cookies: chocolate chip with M&M's, chocolate peppermint & snickerdoodle. Purchase at Art & Gift Market on 11/7, from a ZOE committee member or after worship on 12/6. for $12 per jar.

HOLIDAY EVENT ON CAMPUS

Lumos Experiences is hosting an independently organized holiday candlelight event in Apex UMC's Sanctuary on Friday, December 4. For tickets, please visit the Lumos Experiences website. While this event is happening on Apex UMC's campus, it is not affiliated with any Apex UMC missions or ministries.

CHRISTMAS STORE NEEDS NEW LEADERSHIP PARTNERS

In 2000 AUMC received a call from the New Horizons Fellowship Church (now United Church) to see if we would partner with them, other churches, and local businesses to create a Christmas Store for the community where parents who needed financial support could shop for free and provide Christmas gifts for their children. The Genesis Circle agreed to chair the project and AUMC fully committed to its support. Christmas of 20026 will be our 27th Christmas supporting this project. AUMC has provided thousands of gifts and supported hundreds of families in seeing that their children have smiles on Christmas morning.

For a number of years I have represented the Genesis Circle as their primary coordinator in implementing the Store for AUMC. It has been a tremendous privilege, but the time has come to seek a new leadership partner for the Christmas Store. I would love to find a leadership partner(s) that I could support and mentor as they learn the ins and outs of running this project for the future and taking over leadership in 2027. *Could that partner be you?* Are you in an established group in the church that might be interested? Are you a church member that might want to create your own group of family and friends to coordinate the Store for the church? If this in any way inspires or interests you, please reach out to me at marymorris115@gmail.com. We will talk and see how I can help and continue to support you.

It has been so gratifying to be a part of this project for so many years. The project structure is so well developed that it is very easy to carry out. United Church is less than 5 minutes from AUMC, and delivering toys there is easy. It has been an absolute gift to get to know the staff at that church. They are wonderful and supportive. But the greatest gift has been year after year to see the amazing generosity of AUMC in caring for children in this community. Thank you for reflecting the love of Christ

during the Christmas season for all these many years. -Mary Morris

APEX UMC MERCHANDISE STORE
We are so excited to share that we now have a NEW Merchandise Store that features our beloved window logo on hoodies, T-shirts, hats, vests, children's ministry items, and more! Whether you're shopping for yourself, your family, or your favorite little disciple, there's something for everyone. Perfect for Sundays, mission projects, church events, and sharing our *Welcome All. Love All. Serve All.* spirit wherever you go! It's time to shop new Apex UMC swag! Check out the new store details here, find your favorites, and rep Apex UMC in style!

ALTAR FLOWERS 2027
Donate altar flowers for Sunday services in the sanctuary in 2027. Sign up online to see available dates and details about how to place your order. Questions? Contact Jennifer Higdon.

CONNECT

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY DINNERS

Join us for food and fellowship. Registration for each meal opens the Thursday before and close Monday before the meal. Ruckus will be catering all of our Wonderful Wednesday meals again for this series. The menu plan is as follows, though may be subject to change. Gluten-friendly and vegetarian options will be available for every meal. Please indicate dietary needs as part of the registration process.

- Nov. 11 - Pork Loin
- Nov. 18 - Fried Chicken **Gather, Gobble & Groove!, more information below!*

  Can you help Serve? The Dinner Team needs volunteers to help provide this opportunity for community, fellowship, and spiritual growth! Please select the dates you can help serve here.

GATHER, GOBBLE & GROOVE!
We're having a Thanksgiving feast, jamboree, and hoedown all wrapped into one shindig. Everyone is invited to grab your partners and come join us on Wednesday, November 18! The festivities start at 6 p.m. with a delicious dinner of fried (or grilled) chicken and fixin's catered by Ruckus. Dinner will be followed by praise music led by the new Mosaic Kids worship group and the Youth Praise Band. Then, we'll kick up our heels with an old timey square dance! No experience is necessary and all ages are welcome; a caller will be there to lead us in all the steps. Register online now. The cost is $14 per adult and $6 per child with a cap of $40 per family. For questions, contact Ellen at ellen.griffin@apexumc.org.

BIBLE STORY TIME FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
If you love "library story time," come join us as we read books, sing, and play simple games using faith-based stories. This 30-minute story time series is geared toward ages 2-6, but all ages are welcome and it is open to anyone in the community. Whether you have a lifelong background in faith or you are just becoming curious about Jesus, this is a great place to introduce your child to the God

who loves us all. Come prepare your hearts for the Christmas season ahead with stories of Jesus' birth - new stories each week! *Tuesdays, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, and Dec. 8, at 9:30 a.m. immediately after preschool drop-off in the Fellowship Hall Children's Choir Room.* Contact Ellen for more information at ellen.griffin@apexumc.org.

SAVE THE DATE - YOUTH FRIENDSGIVING
Friendsgiving on November 22, 6 p.m. will be a great opportunity for just that - Friends. All are welcome! We will have a great meal (we are planning to eat at one long table!), games and activities for new students to plug in. Join us!

SAGE CROSSING CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
Sage Crossing is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of seniors living with dementia. If you are a caregiver and are interested in learning more about the program or signing up a loved one, please visit www.sagecrossing.org. They are 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: 11/18, 12/16.

SERVE

WALK IN THEIR SHOES
Saturday, November 7, Southern Boundaries Park in Durham, 17th Annual 'Walk in Their Shoes' fundraiser, which supports Open Table Ministry's mission to end homelessness through community. This fun event will feature a Walk and a 5K fun run, and all ages (and leashed pets) are welcome! Music, prizes, refreshments, goodie bags for everyone, and a raffle! Questions? Contact Chris Finch https://secure.qgiv.com/for/opentableministry/event/walkintheirshoes2026

CHRISTMAS STORE
Beginning November 7 (at the Art & Gift Market!) you can take a tag from one of the Christmas trees in Crossroads, the CLC or the Discipleship Center. You purchase new toys/gifts appropriate to the age and gender on the tag and *place the gift under the tree with the tag attached by December 6*. The Christmas Store will be held this year at United Church in Apex on December 11 & 12. Parents will have the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their children from the donations we help provide. This is a great opportunity to involve your kids in a generosity lesson for the holidays. For more information or to volunteer at the Christmas Store, visit their website at christmasstorenc.com. Please contact Mary Morris at marymorris115@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for your generous support!

CHURCH WORK DAY - NEW TIME
Please join us for a church workday on December 5 to beautify our campus for the holidays. We will start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, and plan to be done by 1:00 p.m. We will have wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, and pruners, or you can bring your favorite tools from home. There will be tasks for all ages. Come join us and see your efforts rewarded in a more beautiful campus. Please join the Church Workday Group in Church Center to let us know you are coming. Email Anne Helm helm2nc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Join us on Saturday, December 5 from 8:30-10 a.m. to clean up a stretch of Salem Street from the water tower to the Hwy 64 overpass: 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.)

COME GREET WITH US

We say "Welcome All" - and we mean it. One of the simplest and most meaningful ways to live that out is by greeting others on Sunday mornings. A friendly face, a warm hello, and a helping hand can make all the difference for someone walking through our doors. If you'd be willing to help us welcome all as a Sunday greeter, please sign up here to join this important ministry.

LOVE IN ACTION

We have relaunched our mission to support Penny Road Elementary and other local K-5 schools. This mission works in tandem with the school's staff to serve the children and their families when needs are present. **They currently need the following items:** shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, adult size toothbrushes, bars of soap and hand sanitizer. Please place donations in the bin located in Crossroads Circle. We are grateful for the thoughtful and benevolent ways you have supported those within these communities. If you have any questions, please contact Kara Matthews for more information.

NEIGHBORUP - APEX PANTRY NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER

Items most needed are: canned chicken, canned fruit, side items (Knorrs, rice-a-roni, etc), snack items other than crackers, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil, condiments, shampoo, and women's hygiene items. Reusable shopping bags, plastic grocery bags and egg cartons are also needed. All donations of shelf-stable food, hygiene & cleaning items are appreciated. Place your donations in the NeighborUp marked bins found outside in the traffic circle, where there is a chart of our progress towards making our goal. Thank you for all your donations and your support of our neighbors who need a helping hand. www.neighborup.org.

SIMPLE GIFTS COMMUNITY GARDEN - FALL 2026

Garden hours will change in November, Saturdays only through Nov.21, 9 a.m.-Noon. Fall is a beautiful time in the garden! We're transitioning to fall crops including carrots, kale, broccoli, cabbage and other cool season crops. Joining the garden team is fun and involves no requirements. You, your parents and kids can all come as your schedule allows. No guilt gardening is our motto! It's a great place to learn about organic gardening, composting and planting for pollinators. You'll find a great community and a place to learn from people of all backgrounds and cultures. Service hours are available too! Help us feed our neighbors in need and take home some fresh, organic (safe!) produce! For more information, contact Anne Harrison at anneh21@gmail.com or 919-616-6659, 3109 Tingen Rd., Apex, NC, simplegiftsgarden.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), Canned Vegetables, Individual Pre-Packaged Fruit, Single Serving Breakfast (Grits, Oatmeal, Cereal), Ramen, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Macaroni and Cheese, Peanut Butter (plastic jars) 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!

GIVE

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 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.

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS: July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

- General Fund Income: $453,341
- Other Income: $11,585
- YTD Expenses: -$500,108
- Difference: (-$35,182)

Mortgage Balance Update
Apex UMC has returned to paying mortgage principal and interest payments of $10,466 monthly in addition to all debt reduction donations received. The balance at the end of September is $1,984,828. Please visit our website for more detailed information.

GIVE NOW

Welcome All. Love All. APEX UMC Serve All.

*Copyright © *|CURRENT_YEAR|* *|LIST:COMPANY|*, All rights reserved.*
|IFNOT:ARCHIVE_PAGE| *|LIST:DESCRIPTION|**

Our mailing address is:
|HTML:LIST_ADDRESS_HTML| *|END:IF|*

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list

|IF:REWARDS| *|HTML:REWARDS|* *|END:IF|*