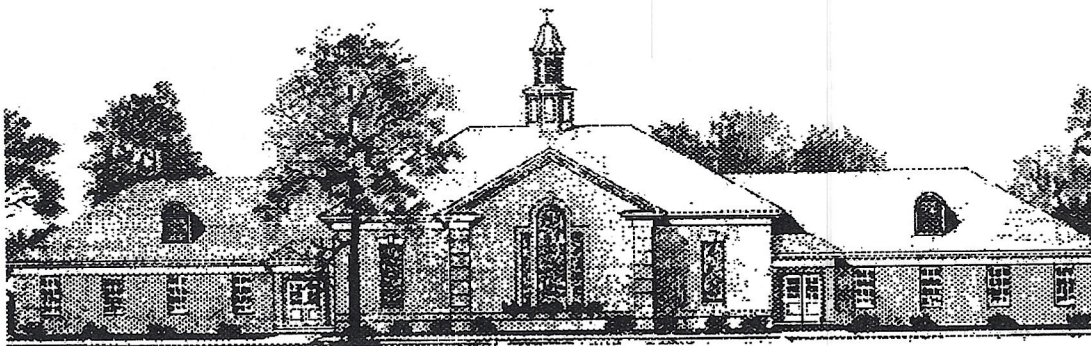


VOICES OF HARMONY

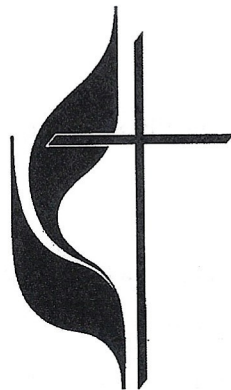
February 2026

Volume 21

Number 11



HARMONY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS



From The Pastor's Desk.....

Living in the Word of Life

"Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven... Neither is it beyond the sea... No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe."

(Deuteronomy 30:11-1, NRSV)

As I have prayerfully considered God's vision for the people of Sharon and Harmony Grove Churches this year, a single phrase has continued to echo in my heart: **"Living in the Word of Life."**

The beauty of this vision is that it requires only our willingness and our time. It doesn't ask us to chase after the latest news, podcasts, or self-improvement books, but to open ourselves to the **word of life given by God in the Bible.**

When Moses spoke to the Israelites, he revealed that God's Word wasn't a mystery to be solved; it is a gift to be lived. He assured them that they didn't have to scale the heavens or cross the oceans to find God's will. Fast forward to the Gospel of John, and we see this promise take on a human face. **Jesus is the Word of Life.** He did not stay distant in heaven; He came down. He did not remain a far-off concept; He came as our neighbor becoming our savior.

In 2026, **"Living in the Word of Life"** means we don't have to climb a spiritual ladder to reach God. Through faith in Jesus, the Word is already "very near you." By the Holy Spirit, God's Word shapes us from the inside out. He is as close as the breath in our lungs and the faith in our hearts.

So this year, let's stop striving for a "new" version of ourselves and instead rest in the nearness of the One who makes all things new. To live in the Word is to live in Christ—and in Him, there is life, and that life is the light for all people who accept him at his word.

Our 2026 Commitment: Walking the Way Together

To put this vision into practice, I invite everyone at Sharon and Harmony Grove to join me in following the **Daily Lectionary** this year.

This is not about checking a box or simply "getting through" the Bible. It's about allowing the Word to be "very near" to us every day. By reading the same scriptures together, our private devotions and Sunday worship become one continuous conversation with God.

The Commitment: Choose one of the daily readings (usually a Psalm, an Old Testament passage, or a New Testament passage) and spend 10 minutes with it each morning.

Where to Find the Readings:

- **Weekly Bulletin:** We will list the upcoming daily readings in each Sunday's bulletin.
- **Online:** You can find the daily texts at Lectionary.Library.Vanderbilt.edu.
- **Mobile App:** Download the **"Lectio 365: Daily Bible Prayer"** app (available for iOS and Android) to have the day's Word right in your pocket.

Pastor Ryan Mendenhall

336-414-9296

email: rmendenhall@wnccumc.net

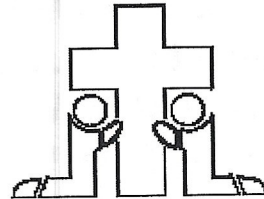
THIS 'N THAT.....

PRAYER LIST

Dot Luper
The family of Bill Adair
Myra Williams
Walt Liebscher
Brenda Stanley
Bill & Callie Nugent
Jennifer Nugent
John Craft
Gena Howard
Lenny McLaughlin
Loretta McClain
Rev. Ken Eller
Robin Barefoot

Bob & Linda Ellerbe
Peggy Brookshire
Paul Thompson
Libby Bibb
Bill Williams
Wendy Armstrong
Karen & Norris Griffin
Allene Gaither
Trudy Jones
JoeAnn Ogburn
Sandra Miles
Scott Todd
Jason Jones
Larry Tate
Cole Stephens

Our Youth
Our church
Our community
Our Nation & World



HARMONY GROVE FINANCIAL RECAP

Truist Checking **\$17,638**

Truist Building Checking **\$15,005**

Truist Designated Savings **\$21,077**

UMF Building **\$178,923**

UMF Parsonage **\$138,656**

UMF Scholarship **\$40,671**

FUN & GAMES.....

Wordsearch G41 - The First Disciples

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch G41

Matt.4:12-22

The First Disciples

P A N D R E W A L K I N G D W
E F S T E N F U L F I L L E O
T L I C I O V H C A E R P M D
E E N S L R E R N U S R U A A
R O D L H T E A S E M A J N H
E N O I A E D T D E N E S U S
P W P E S R R N U R L N I L U
E J R E O E A S E R F P M U S
N G O J K Z B P G E N O O B E
T R P H A A A A D N D E N E J
A E H R N C L R O A I E D Z P
O H E H A I A S I G W T B I V
B T T E L L I G H T O N S E U
H A R E S R L I V I N G E A Z
I F E N P S S S E N K R A D C

BESIDE ANDREW
BOAT CASTING
GREAT DARKNESS
ISAIAH DAWNED
JAMES FISHERS
JESUS FOLLOW
JOHN FATHER
LAKE FULFILL
LIGHT GALILEE
LIVING JORDAN
NEAR NAZARETH
NETS PROPHET
ONCE RETURNED
PEOPLE SHADOW
PETER SIMON
PREACH WALKING
PRISON ZEBEDEE
REPENT ZEBULUN
CAPERNAUM

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a
Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES CALENDAR

Thursday, February 5 Donna Smith

Sunday, Feb. 8 Youth @ 12pm; Justin Hurd, Kay Harper

Tuesday, Feb. 10 Prayer Gathering/Bible Study @ 1pm

Wednesday, Feb. 11 Choir @ 4:30pm (new time), Wendy Anderson

Friday, Feb. 13 Fonda Anthony

Saturday, Feb. 14 Valentines' supper at Southern Family @ 4pm, Randy Taylor

Sunday, Feb. 15 Random Acts of Kindness week

Tuesday, Feb. 17 Bible Study @ 1pm, Christy Ogburn

Wednesday, Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday service @ 7pm, Choir @ 4:30pm

Friday, Feb. 20 Pat Bullard

Saturday, Feb. 21 Vision quest planning retreat – 8:30am

Sunday, Feb. 22 Youth @ 12pm, Admin Board meeting @ 2pm

Tuesday, Feb. 24 Bible study @ 1pm

Wednesday, Feb. 25 Choir at 4:30pm, UMM & UWF meetings @ 5:30pm(moved due to Ash Wednesday)

Thursday/ Feb. 26 Ayden Stack

- The UMM are treating the women of the church to a Valentines' supper at Southern Family Restaurant at 4pm on Valentines Day. Sign up in the narthex if you will be attending. We can carpool from the church.

Harmony Grove UMC
5041 Styers Ferry Road
Lewisville, NC 27023
Phone: 712-0057
Church Email: harmonychurch@bellsouth.net

Address Service Requested

**Ministry and Staff
of the Church**

Rev. Conforti
District Superintendent
Rev. Ryan Mendenhall
Pastor
Kim Marpoe
Sunday School Superintendent
Chris Center
Music Director
George Powers
Chairperson of Trustees
Jennifer Nugent
Chairperson of Administrative Board
Eric Hurd
Chairperson of Vision Quest Team
John Craft
Lay Leader
Norris Griffin
Chairperson of Evangelism
Carole Rosenbaum
Chairperson of Outreach
Donna Ireland
Administrative Assistant

February Outreach Needs

Prison Ministries - Anti-perspirant deodorant— stick or solid

Samaritan Ministries – Lysol All purpose spray, Hot Cocoa packets, Salt & Pepper

Church- School partnership – Underwear (children's sizes), sweat pants (children's sizes)

LCAP— Cream of chicken soup, chicken broth, beef broth, tomato soup, brownie mix

Bethlehem Center—Disinfectant wipes

March Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, February 27