

February 2025

THE SEAGULL

Doug Lain

Pastor

Julia Hayes

Pastor

Eunsoo Kang

Pastor

David Haley

Pastor

Donna Pinckney

Executive Director

Carey Bland

Director of Youth Music

Jamie Borum

Director of Finance

Valerie Clark

Administrative Assistant

Lennie Collins

Interim Director of Music

Joseph Hughes

Asst. Choir Director &

Accompanist

Pam Hutsell

Asst. Director of Children &

Youth Ministries

Kelly Jewell

Morning Worship Musician

Mel Kowalski

Nursery Coordinator

Ryan Mansbery

Sound Technician

Gina Martin

Director of Facilities

Lisa Menius

Data Manager

Christina Norvell

Director of Children, Youth &

Family Ministries

Jackson Norvell

High School Youth Coordinator

Mikki Perry

Director of Congregational

Care

Courtney Rickert

Preschool Director/Director of Children's Music

Kristin Selby

Director of Communications

Mac Wallace

Building Superintendent

Phone 910.256.4471 www.wrightsvilleumc.org Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8:30-2:30/ Fri 8:30-12

Annual Check-Up

In 2022, our church was reconnecting as the Covid-19 pandemic was beginning to wane; and as we began to gather in person again our Administrative Council took on the task of deciding what would be the core values that would guide us in the post-pandemic world. Three years later I thought it would be good to see how we are doing. Some of our core values are hard to measure; but where it is possible, it is worth seeing if we are living up to the values we say are important to us.

Our first core value says:

1. We are rooted in Christian faith, through prayer, the study of scripture, communal worship, and openness to the Holy Spirit.

This is important because being Christian is integral to who we are. It is good to support humanitarian causes or find fellowship in different clubs; but our fellowship centers on Jesus - knowing him, following him, worshipping him, doing what he did, and choosing him to be the Lord and Savior of our lives. There should be no mistaking that we are a church of Jesus Christ.

The largest gathering we have each week is communal worship. As you know, we have three Sunday morning services and two online offerings. Our combined inperson attendance across the three services averaged 542 people per week in 2024 (up from 501 in 2023); and our combined online services averaged 711 views per week (up from 558). Our combined reach last year was 1,253 people per week.

One notable day of worship that is not included in those figures is Christmas Eve. 1,987 people came to our five Christmas Eve services in 2024. That's by far the most we've ever had in person. We may have to move to six services next year to better accommodate everyone. By the way, an additional 656 worshipped with us online that day.

2.We are building a community of people practicing compassion, love, and forgiveness.

As I said above, some things are hard to measure. How does one measure how much compassion, love, and forgiveness are happening in a church? That's pretty difficult. But, we can measure the number of people who are involved in a spiritual formation group that studies how to live out these important Christian qualities. In 2024, more than 1,000 people were part of a small group ministry at Wrightsville UMC.

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One of the things that helped us do that was the re-opening of the Oleander campus as a part of Wrightsville UMC. We are now using those buildings every day of the week and they have been a great addition to our mission and ministry to the community.

In 2025, we are looking forward to the addition of a Memorial Garden so that church members can have a place where their ashes can be interred on the church grounds. This will be a beautiful and holy place for families to gather to remember their loved ones.

3. We strive to be generous in our outreach, both locally and globally, with our time, talents, and treasures.

The most common way we live out core value number three is through our participation in community life around the Cape Fear region. Many of you volunteer and serve with lots of local charities and service organizations. But, through the church we raised and gave away more than \$230,000 to help others in need. The three organizations that received the most financial help were UMCOR to help victims of Hurricane Helene, Mission of Hope to support the hospital in Rotifunk, Sierra Leone, and The Warming Shelter which sets up cots and gives out food and clothes to people in Wilmington who are experiencing homelessness. In addition, we gave more than 5,000 pounds of food to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard in downtown Wilmington. (That's 2.5 tons!)

The three areas that attracted the most volunteers were Teach Reach with the staff of Snipes and Freeman Elementary School, the Miracle Field that helps people with disabilities play baseball, and the Warming Shelter, already described earlier.

4. We welcome and extend hospitality to all of God's people.

41 people were baptized in 2024. That's the most people who have ever been baptized in one year at Wrightsville UMC. I'm not sure anything says we love all people like baptism. Baptism means that the person is now officially a part of the church; and baptizing babies means we love them before they have even had a chance to commit sins or confess Christ as their Savior. It is unconditional love.

We also welcomed 112 new members in 2024. That included 37 youth who professed their faith through confirmation and 6 adults who also professed their faith in Jesus Christ for the very first time. 16 people came to us by transferring their membership from another United Methodist Church, and 53 came to us from a non-United Methodist Church.

Wrightsville UMC is continuing to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. 2024 was one of the best years our church has ever had; but I'm looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2025. Will you please join me in praying that we will be faithful to God's call in the coming year?

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Doug

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February



EMPTY NESTERS & FRIENDS



OYSTER ROAST

Friday, February 28 6:00 pm Hanover Seaside Club

RSVP by Feb. 10 - we have to know how many oysters to buy and you don't want to miss this!

Email donna@wrightsvilleumc.org

Click <u>here</u> to sign up to bring something.



Have you experienced the loss of a spouse or significant other?

All men and women of WUMC are invited to join us for a Dutch treat luncheon with others who have been through the same difficult time.

Carrabba's Italian Grill Monday, February 17 11:30 am

Sign up on the deep roots bulletin board or email mikki@wrightsvilleumc.org



Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, February 10th at 4:00 pm at the home of Betsy Summey. Call Betsy Summey at 910-338-7379 with questions.

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 11th at 10:00 am in the church Parlor. Call Marie Cooke at 910-620-4241 with any questions.

Circle of Hope will meet on Tuesday, February 11th at 12:00 pm in Room 206. Please contact Jeannie DeGaetano at 910-617-7268 for more information.

Esther Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:00 pm in Room 206. Contact Kristi Jarnigan at 910-538-5221 with questions. PAGE 4 THE SEAGULL



ADULT STUDIES

Monday Morning Co-Ed Bible Study

Join us for Co-Ed Bible Study starting on February 3 at 7:30 am at WOO (Wrightsville on Oleander). We'll be studying "Fisherman - Romans," led by David Ray and Jay Harris. If you're looking for a class to attend with your spouse or friends, we'd love to have you join us!

Monday Night Lights Bible Study

A women's study led by Sherri Ingle, this class meets at 5:30 pm at The Landing. We are exploring "Fisherman – Romans" until April 28. Join us for an enlightening journey in faith and fellowship!

Monday Night Blessings Bible Study

A women's study led by Ann Jenkins, this class meets Mondays at 6:00 pm in Room 206. We are currently on vacation but stay tuned! We will resume on March 3. Come and be blessed by the Word as we grow together!

Lenten Study

Led by Rev. David Goehring, this class begins on March 5 and meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Chapel. This year, we will explore Jesus' teachings through the lens of the Old Testament. Come and walk the Lenten journey with us!

Thursday Morning at 10 Women's Study

Led by Donna Hickman, this class meets at 10:00 am in Room 206. Starting January 16, we are studying "Help Is Here" by Max Lucado. Join us for enriching discussions and spiritual growth!

For more information: Contact Pastor Eunsoo eunsoo@wrightsvilleumc.org PAGE 5 THE SEAGULL



Women's Retreat 2025: Created for Connection

Join the women of Wrightsville UMC for a weekend of connection and community! We'll kick off on Friday at 6 pm with a shared meal to get to know one another. On Saturday morning, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist Meg Gemelli will lead a discussion on building meaningful relationships. In the afternoon, breakout sessions will let us explore activities and discuss important issues.

The cost is \$40, covering dinner on Friday, a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and all session materials. Financial assistance is available as needed. Women of all ages are welcome. We can't wait to see you there!

Registration link:

https://forms.gle/3RyPhuADcK24Dds16

Fellas in Fellowship is a group geared toward men in their 20's to 50's, and our 2025 retreat is taking us to Charleston, SC. We'll depart Wilmington the afternoon of Thursday, March 6th. On Friday we'll tour Ft. Sumter and the USS Yorktown, and visit the Hunley, a Civil War submarine. That evening, we'll have a discussion themed on the concept that iron sharpens iron, on how men need fellowship with other men and how this helps us grow in our faith. On Saturday we'll play a round of golf (for all those who wish to play), and we'll head home Sunday.

Cost will be approximately \$400, which will include lodging at an AirBnB, all breakfasts, and one of the dinners, along with tickets to the historic sites. Deadline to register is 2/1/25.

OR 910-352-4867

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If which will include the historic sites.

RSVP TO CHRIS RICKERT AT CHRISTOPHERBRICKERT@GMAILCOM

Fellowship

MEN'S RETREAT

MARCH 6-9

CHARLESTON, SC

IRON SHARPENS IRON

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CHURCH PARKING UPDATE

Paid public parking begins on March 1st.

Free Parking will be available in gravel lot B (between the Narthex and Chapel doors) Sunday-Thursday but not Friday-Saturday. Both gravel lots and the parking spaces on Live Oak Drive are free on Sundays and for large church events.

Paid parking for gravel lot A and the parking spaces on Live Oak Drive will be in effect Monday-Saturday. Please use gravel lot B and the covered parking lot during the week beginning March 1.





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The Season of Lent

March 5: Ash Wednesday

Impostion of Ashes 7–8:00 am & 12–1:00 pm Traditional Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 pm

April 13: Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Palooza from 9:15-11:15 am under the covered parking lot

April 17: Maundy Thursday

Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

April 20: Easter

Community Sunrise Service at 6:30 am
Easter Sunday Services in the Sanctuary at
8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 am

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Enjoy this special message from Kevin Bradley on his recent mission trip to Rotifunk, Sierra Leone.

Mission of Hope is devoted to supporting a rural hospital in Sierra Leone that is the primary treatment hospital for over 155,000 people. The hospital provides treatment without regard to religious affiliation and often without charge. By our sponsorship, the hospital offers a program for free maternity care, and sponsors an adolescent girl empowerment program.

Donna Hudson, Chelsea Shettlesworth and I went on a Mission Trip in November to the hospital in Rotifunk, Sierra Leone. We stayed at a guest house on the hospital campus located in the remote village of Rotifunk. While there, we met with hospital leadership about health issues and joined personnel on an outreach visit to an outlying village for check-ups and screenings for high-blood pressure, hernia and malaria. On the outreach visit numerous children screened positive for malaria. The children were given medication to treat this potentially life-threatening disease.

This truly inspiring mission trip opened my eyes to the way we view global healthcare, and offered firsthand contact with the hospital personnel we support and the patients they treat. Having done this, I returned with a renewed sense of what we do and how our Church community is such an important part of it. We know that our mission saves lives every day in the Rotifunk community and surrounding areas. We praise the dedication, resilience, and success of hospital staff in making healthcare a reality to so many people.



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The Wrightsville United Methodist Church Outreach Committee supports and nurtures individuals and organizations who are in need in our community, nation and world. We also seek to provide members of our congregation opportunities to define their own ministry in service of Christ.

Weekly Donations Needed



- Pop top canned green beans, corn & green peas
- Plastic veggie cups
- Brown pasta
- Brown paper grocery bags with handles



Wrightsville UMC donated <u>5,072 pounds</u> of food to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard in 2024!



LOVE YOUR Meighbor

Our Racial Unity Group participated in the Wilmington community celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr by giving out friendship bracelets and showing love to our neighbors.



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VBS REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1ST!



VBS Registration links by age or grade:

4 year olds - Click <u>here</u>.

5 year olds - Click here.

Kindergarten - Click here.

1st Grade - Click here.

2nd Grade - Click here.

3rd through 5th Grades - Click here.

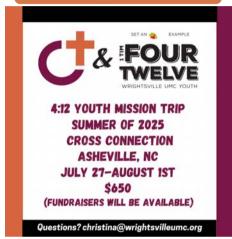
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FOUR TWELVE

WRIGHTSVILLE UMC YOUTH

Click <u>here</u> to register for the mission trip this summer.





























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We are excited to announce a district-wide mission event! With multiple opportunities to get involved, there will be ways for all ages to come together and help at a number of locations in the Harbor district. Please save the date for **Saturday, March 15, 2025**. More details and registration will be available soon.













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CONNECT WITH US

If not and you would like to be added to our email distribution list, email Kristin Selby at kristin@wrightsvilleumc.org.

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February 2025 Birthdays

- 1. Jan Beste, J.C. Lyle, Courtney Easley, Dan Shires
- 2. Trey Ford, Holly Kilian, Norah Meyers, Mills Faulkner
- 3. Jane Hardwick, Wilson Freshwater, Paul McNamara, Chase Kelly, Linda B. Wilson, Myers Dean, Casey Keen, Jessica Dobbins, James Whitney, Tom Harris, Ted McIntire, Chase Kelly, Kaleb Dalton, Jake Stone
- 4. Christopher Jones
- 5. Clint Briley, Kaitlin Sweyer, Buz Miller, Nick Giachino, Corbett Rogers, Garrett Doyle, Scott Brouse, Caz Crittenden, Caroline Loftus, Witt Reynolds
- 6. Joanne Rockness, Robin Pearsall, Macy Ford, Robert McNeill, Birdie Smith, Collins Joyner, Kate Brown, Margaret Pattison, Wade Gowdy, Chelsea Long
- 7. Dawn Riddle, Warren Phillips, Jr, Sunny Lee, Leah Noland, Annie Mulligan, Everley Long, Jim Pope, Luka Dalton, Eamon Cassidy, Mike Ott, Mary Gretchen Turner
- 8. Don Steele, Mitzie Isear, Maizie Lewis, Cooper Spach, Bennett Ward
- 9. Catherine Perry, Luke Richardson, Smith McNamara, Charlie King, Brody Brown, Sissy Broadwater, Jeremy Hoff, Molly Helfrich
- 10. Doug Lain, Allison Graham, Hope Brewer, Madeline Eckel, Noah Aughtry, Zack Nichols, Cooper Murphey
- 11. Nancy Noel May, Greg Morton, Everett Lain, John Hoover, Tom Jividen, Margot Rawl, Clara Rawl
- 12. Jim West, Della Conway, Parson Conway, John Spencer, Amy Ford, Hunter Collins, Nancy Dooley
- 13. Mason Morgan, Lennon Smith, Mary Margaret Wise
- 14. Sarah Huettl, Cameron Zurbruegg, Huck McNamara, Will Corbett, Vivian Levesque, Amelita Cofini, Poppy Wise
- 15. Linda Allred, Todd Beste, Kathey Craig, Jack Sullivan, Wayne Roberts
- 16. JoAnn Johnston, Logan Chadwick, Grant Peebles, Rebecca Little, Anna-Kate Cohen, Tom Mansbery
- 17. Sally Crandall, Kristi Jarnagin, Wanda Peacock, Jordan McCorkle, Morgan Luther
- 18. Mary Morris, Scarlett Sweyer, Liam Yorba, Parker Luhring
- 19. Brent Williams, Carly Carter, Jacob Locklear, Anna McNamara, Maddie McNamara, Steve Lester, Jeanie Lackey, Dagny Gilbert, Tad Bruton, Ashley Cahn, Sophie Bachman, John Weibel, Madeline Cox
- 20. Emily McNamara, Kelsey Elmore, Milly Kelley
- 21. Jill Giuffre, Phyllis Deats, Joseph Hughes, Gerald Hardison, Lauren Smith, Lawton Mayo, Kathy Gresham
- 22. Charles Mincey, Neah Farr, Jake Marks, Scarlett Smith, Anna Wallace
- 23. Jane Kester, Teresa Smith, Hope Conway, David Shumpert, Neil Senter, Carter Luhring, Joey Fitzgerald, Laynie Fortun, Cierra Brock, Lizzy Wilson
- 24. Susan Howell, Virginia Breeden, Jeff Petroff, Mary Jane Cooke, Beck Hilker
- 25. Stephen Conway, Caroline Wellford, Pierce Barden, SJ White, Catherine McDonald
- 26. Charlotte Mansbery, Luca Bolton, Elaine Medlin, Brook Kelley, John Ridenhour, Cameron Brewer, Jude Benfer
- 27. Fred Dortch, Caroline Beam, Scott Fagan, Kaylee Landen, Barrett Zurbruegg, Libby Shelton, Gemma Hommel
- 28. Susan Snider, Gentry Witmer, Gordon Chambers, Walker Bartlett, Savannah Moore, Colin Carter, Chris Eisenzimmer. Dustin Gross
- 29. Jesse Johnson



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Prayer List for February 2025

"Pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." (James 5:16)

Valerie Clark
Suzanne Murdock
Kristi Midgett
Bill Dreitzler
Gretchen Justice
Baker Weatherford
Andrea Terrill
Leslie Wade
Susan Russell
California Wildfire victims

California Wildfire victin Bill & Jennifer Lynch Tom & Kathy Gatlin Jordan Shomaker
Mike Ewing
Sandee Swain
Frances Fiel
David Culp
Pam E. Carroll
Bryan Janney
Sarah Burris
Pastor David Haley

Bill Barr Hector Sanchez Peace in Israel Lydia Desmond
Pat Boyer
Don Steele
Jim Farrior
Janet Harper
Jonathan Rowell
Lisa Anderson

US Military & their

families

A requested prayer of thanks from many who have benefited from your prayers.

Condolences to the families of...

Matthew Knight, Chris Wade, Marian Careatti, Carolyn Nix, Al Wordsworth, Faye Rose

We encourage you to lift up the names of people in our church, your family, or friends you know personally so that the church might pray for them.

If you would like to add a person's name to the prayer list please contact Mikki Perry at mikki@wrightsvilleumc.org.



Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:15, 9:45, and 11:15 am

9:15 & 10:45 am Coffee Hour

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18	FRI	THC	WED	TUE	Z 0 Σ
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9:45-10:45 a					ιń
Sunday School					

						1 VBS Registration Opens 8pm NA
2 COMMUNION 4pm God's Girlz 5pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 5pm Youth Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm 4:12 Youth	3 7:30am Monday Morning Adult Co-Ed Bible Class 9:30am Peace, Love & Yoga 5:30pm Monday Night Lights	4 6pm Young Women's Group	5 5:15pm wrightsville remix 7pm HS Bible Study	6 6:45am Men's Bible Study 9am Ladies Bible Study 10am Women's Bible Study 8pm AA	7 4:12 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SKI TRIP	8 4:12 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SKI TRIP 8pm NA
9 4:12 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SKI TRIP 9am Chili/Chowder Cook Off Fundraiser	10 4:12 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SKI TRIP 7:30am Monday Morning Adult Co-Ed Bible Class 9:30am Peace, Love & Yoga 4pm Lydia Circle 5:30pm Monday Night Lights	11 10am Ruth Circle 12pm Circle of Hope 5:30pm Outreach Committee 6pm Esther Circle	12 11:30am STARS Luncheon 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm HS Bible Study	13 6:45am Men's Bible Study 9am Ladies Bible Study 9:15am Moms & Friends' Bible Study 10am Women's Bible Study 8pm AA	14	15 8pm NA
16 5pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 5pm Youth Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm 4:12 Youth	17 7:30am Monday Morning Adult Co-Ed Bible Class 9:30am Peace, Love & Yoga 11:30am Healing Connection Luncheon 5:30pm Monday Night Lights	18 6pm Young Women's Group	19 5:15pm wrightsville remix 6pm Middle School Boys 7pm HS Bible Study	20 6:45am Men's Bible Study 9am Ladies Bible Study 10am Women's Bible Study 8pm AA	21 WOMEN'S RETREAT	22 WOMEN'S RETREAT 8pm NA
23 YOUTH SUNDAY 3pm Faithful 5th 5pm Children's Choir Rehearsal	24 7:30am Monday Morning Adult Co-Ed Bible Class 9:30am Peace, Love & Yoga 5:30pm Monday Night Lights	25	26 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm HS Bible Study	27 6:45am Men's Bible Study 9am Ladies Bible Study 9:15am Moms & Friends' Bible Study 10am Women's Bible Study	58 6pm Empty Nesters & Friends Oyster Roast	



4 Live Oak Drive / PO Box 748 Wrightsville Beach, NC. 28480

Return Services Requested

)eep Roots Bountiful Fruit (it happens here.)

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