



Dear Church Family,

In his song, "Forgiveness," Matthew West says, "It's the hardest thing to give away . . . It always goes to those who don't deserve." In Colossians 3:13, we are told to "Bear with each other and forgive one another and, if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." But, in our humanity, this command is at the least challenging and at the worst seemingly impossible. So many negative situations could be avoided if, when confronted with words or deeds that "offend" us, we instead call on the Holy Spirit to give us the supernatural power needed to forgive as we have been forgiven. Ever been frustrated in traffic? How about angered by what someone said? What about wrongly accused? Offense can trap us . . . It is one way sin gets a toehold in our lives. The irony is that, ultimately, when I become "offended" and refuse to forgive, I am the only one who really suffers.

John Bevere calls offense the bait of Satan. In fact, he wrote a book entitled The Bait of Satan. Remaining in offense opens the door of our lives for Lucifer to attack us spiritually. Other areas of our lives become affected. We can lose our joy, happiness, peace, tranquility, and the ability to give and receive love. Then we begin reacting based on our emotions rather than intentionally making decisions about our actions through prayerful thought. Offense and the stress that accompanies it can lead to bitterness which can even affect our health, as well as our soul and spirit.

Even when, from the world's perspective, we feel "justified" in our offense, we need to remember that Jesus said we should forgive 70 x 7 times - which leaves no room for offense. Jesus said that we should love our enemies - which absolutely leaves no room for offense. God created us with emotions. Having "feelings" is not the problem. It is how we choose to react to the feelings that matters. We must make an intentional decision to follow Christ's example.

Consider our Lord Jesus. He was mocked, beaten, falsely accused, and ultimately crucified. If a human ever had a right to be offended, it was Jesus! He could have called down angels to destroy the offenders. Instead, He asked the Father to forgive them. Love instead of hate? It takes the Holy Spirit, but this is what Kingdom Living is all about. We must be proactive. Love instead of hate. Forgive instead of grudging. Repay good for evil. It sounds backwards by worldly standards, but herein is life eternal! May our prayer echo the words of Matthew West's song, "Show me how to love the unlovable . . . Reach the unreachable . . . Do the impossible, Forgiveness."

Grace and His peace,  
Pastor Ralph

# Children & Youth

**VBS Reminders:** We're busy making final plans for this summer's VBS, "Maker Fun Factory," that will be held July 16-19 from 5:45-8pm each night.

- There is a link to sign up at [www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET](http://www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET). Be sure to register your child(ren) and their friends, ages 3 to rising 6th graders, by July 10. Children not registered online by the 10th can register onsite the first night of VBS.
- Everyone preregistered will be notified by email when t-shirts arrive. Please be on the lookout for more information about t-shirt pickup in the upcoming weeks.
- VBS music CDs will be available for registered participants Sunday morning, July 9, in the Gathering Area. One per family, please. Get your CD ahead of time to begin enjoying and practicing this year's VBS songs!
- New to VBS this year are nightly meals for all volunteers and participants. Dinner will be served nightly at 5:45pm, immediately after check-in.
- If you have any questions regarding VBS, contact Nichole at [nichole@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:nichole@nashvilleumc.net).

**Attention VBS Volunteers:** We will have a final training session on Sunday, July 16, at 4:15pm in Cockrell Hall. If you need Safe Sanctuaries training, it will be offered on Sunday, July 16 at 3pm, before our VBS activities begin. Please make plans to attend the final training.

**Youth Summer Bible Study:** Rising 6<sup>th</sup>-Rising 9<sup>th</sup> are enjoying their study on the book of John on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30-3 pm. It's not too late to join them. They start at church and go somewhere in Nashville for lunch, so please bring money with you. Contact the church office if you need transportation.

**Shine On!** During the summer, you can sleep in on Wednesdays. The Pathfinders' Bible study will take place at 7:30pm. Join Luke & Kaitlyn at the new Nashville Sheetz.

**Weekday School:** We have a few spaces open for the 2017-2018 Weekday School. Visit [www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/WEEKDAY\\_SCHOOL](http://www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/WEEKDAY_SCHOOL) for applications.

**Safe Sanctuaries Training:** If you will be volunteering with children or youth during VBS or Sunday night ministries, make plans to attend Safe Sanctuaries Training. Training is required yearly and Wayne Lamm will have classes on July 16 at 3:00 and July 31 at 6:30—both in Cockrell Hall.

**Children & Youth Email Updates:** Weekly updates are sent to parents of Pathfinders, Youth PAC, and Children. If you do not currently receive these or need them sent to a different or additional e-mail, contact [nichole@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:nichole@nashvilleumc.net) (children), [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net) (Pathfinders), or [ps1powell@suddenlink.net](mailto:ps1powell@suddenlink.net) (Youth PAC).

## Note from Nichole

### *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*

As I sit down to type, I have the world's sweetest newborn asleep on my chest, with his head resting on my shoulder. Everything else seems to have disappeared, and at least for the next hour or two, time will stop as I breathe in the innocence and wonder that is our new son.

Pastors Ralph and Luke often encourage us to consider the miracles and wonders of Christ around us. The miracle of life is no exception. As some of you know, the last weeks of my pregnancy were taxing. From increased blood pressure, to bed rest, to monitoring distress in the baby, I relied on the strength of Jesus like never before. I seemingly prayed without ceasing for Asher's health, for a safe delivery, and for God's hand of protection upon us—and countless others prayed for us and interceded on our behalf. We are so thankful that our prayers were answered on June 17 at 6:01pm, after 21 hours of active labor, when a beautiful and healthy baby boy joined our family.

From the hair on his head to the precious toes on his feet, I stand in awe of the miracle God has entrusted to our care. Our sweet boy was sent from above (*James 1:17*) and created in Christ Jesus with a purpose (*Ephesians 2:10*). And today we praise Him for our fearfully and wonderfully made miracle.

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

Psalm 139:14

While Asher is clearly special to us, the miracle of life and the beauty of His creation are not unique to our story. We are all God's masterpieces, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. And friends, we have all been fearfully and wonderfully made by the Creator of the universe. As we age (and as our children age), how quick we are to forget these truths!

Today stop to praise God for the wonderful work He has in you. Psalm 139 isn't context specific. It isn't void if your circumstances are less than ideal, or if you're dealing with uncertainty or challenge. There is an implied {REGARDLESS} in the text. Regardless of your circumstances, you have been fearfully and wonderfully made. Your children, your spouse, your neighbor. We are all living and breathing miracles, with divine purpose woven into our DNA. Today, know that full well!

In His Love,  
Dr. Nichole Huff  
Director of Children and Family Ministries

## Welcome Kaitlyn!

I am incredibly honored and blessed to be able to work at Nashville United Methodist Church as the new Youth Intern. This church holds a very special place in my heart. I was baptized here at NUMC, involved in Kings Kids, Covenant Kids, Youth Pac, Pathfinders, and anything else the church had to offer. The members of Nashville UMC are the people who raised me and created in me a firm spiritual foundation, and for that I am beyond thankful!

I graduated from Nash Central High School and from there I ventured to the University of North Carolina Wilmington where I obtained my B.A. in Psychology. During my college career I worked at Camp Willow Run, a summer camp on Lake Gaston. It was here I began to understand how to put my faith into action.



For three consecutive summers, I experienced ten weeks of constant love, joy, accountability, and spiritual truth while being immersed in that strong Christian community. The purpose of Camp Willow Run is a model I strive to follow still today. Their mission is to win youth to Christ, help mature those who are already Christians, and demonstrate that you can be a Christian and have fun. Being able to witness the Holy Spirit move in the hearts of the campers was a humbling, yet powerful experience that undoubtedly shaped my walk with the Lord.

As I was nearing my college graduation, my stress level seemed to skyrocket because my future was so uncertain. I couldn't find a clear sense of direction. During this season of feeling lost and defeated I was continually pointed back to scripture that reminded me of what our purpose truly is and what it means to live (Phil 1:21, Gal 2:20, Lk 9:23, Mt 28:19-20). As I was listening to a friend talk about his missionary work he said something I will never forget: "My life is not my own, so I don't want to waste it on myself." From that point on I continually prayed that the Holy Spirit would use my body as a vessel and lead me in the ways in which He wanted me to go.

It wasn't long after that I was enrolled at Liberty University pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Christian Ministry with a concentration in Discipleship and Church Ministry. I am overflowing with joy and excitement as I begin my position here at NUMC as the Youth Intern and I am eager to see how the Lord uses me upon graduation. I am extremely grateful for this amazing opportunity and I look forward to the journey ahead!

In Christ,  
Kaitlyn Beal

## Events

**Combined Worship:** On July 2, we'll have a combined worship service at 10:00am in Braswell Hall. Sunday School will be at 9:00am. Note that PreK will combine with K5/1st in room C104. All other classes will meet in their regular rooms.

**Healing Service:** Spread the word about our Healing Service on Sunday, July 9 at 6pm in the sanctuary. Come for physical, emotional, or spiritual healing.

**Methodist Men's Breakfast:** Our UMM Breakfast will be on Sunday, July 9 at 7:30am in Cockrell Hall. All men are invited for great food, fellowship, and a short meeting to discuss upcoming ministry events.

**Road Runners:** Our next Seafood Friday trip is July 14. We will be going to the Backfin Crab Shack in Wake Forest. Sign up with Victoria at 459-2396 or kvcfrazier@gmail.com by Monday, July 10.

**Ladies Summer Book Club:** Our July book will be Land of Silence by Tessa Afshar. Discussion will be on Tuesday, July 25 from 6:30-9pm in Cockrell Hall. Sign up online at [WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/WOMENS\\_MINISTRIES](http://WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/WOMENS_MINISTRIES). Please note if childcare is needed.

**Church Cards:** We have new church information cards printed. Pick up several in the Information Centers to use as an easy way to invite others to church.

**Costa Rica Missions:** Now that our ASP Missionaries have returned, it's time to start planning for our next mission trip! If you are interested in helping with building improvements and ministering in Liberia, contact Reid Hildreth (373-1131) or Dennis Coggins (908-4033).

**Men's Bible Study:** Our Men have a Bible Study every Tuesday at 8:30am in the Bus Garage. This study is open to all men in our community, regardless of church affiliation. Come study God's word with others who are growing in their faith.

## prayers

Do you have a prayer request or want to pray for those in need? Join our **Prayer Chain**.

Contact our office at 459-7178 or [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net) to be added to the email or phone distribution list.

Submit prayer requests to 252-459-7178 or [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net). Join our Prayer Warriors on Tuesday mornings at 7:00am in the Parlor for Prayers with the Pastor. They'll be praying for our community, country, and all known prayer requests in the church.

## stay connected

Get schedules for Children, Youth, and Adults at our Information Centers located at both entrances.

You will also find brochures on various ministry groups, Church Council Minutes, and more.

Save a tree and postage costs by receiving your newsletter via email or view the newsletter anytime at [www.NashvilleUMC.net/newsletter](http://www.NashvilleUMC.net/newsletter).

For Announcement & Communication guidelines, visit the website under *About Us*.



Nashville United Methodist Church  
Children at Nashville UMC



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# Facts & Figures

## Attendance

### Year-to-Date Averages

Contemporary: 262 Traditional: 96  
Thursday Nights: 57  
Youth Worship: 52

Average of all Services: 456  
Includes combined  
and special services.

***Vacationing on the weekends?***

***Don't miss Church!***

***Come to***

**Thursday Night Worship  
6:30pm | Braswell Hall**

## Weekly Events

### Sunday

- 8:30am Contemporary Worship  
10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Traditional Worship  
6:00pm Small Group : Bus Garage

### Monday

- 7:00am WICK Emmaus : Hardee's

### Tuesday

- 7:00am Prayers with the Pastor : Parlor  
8:30am Men's Bible Study : Bus Garage  
7:00pm Praise & Worship Band Practice  
7:00pm AA : Bus Garage

### Wednesday

- 7:00pm Rockfish Practice : Braswell Hall  
7:30pm Youth Bible Study : NSVL Sheetz  
8:00pm NA : Bus Garage  
8:00pm NarAnon : Cockrell Hall

### Friday

- 6:30pm Real Life Living Small Group

### Thursday

- 6:30pm Praise & Worship

### Saturday

- 10:00am La Estrella Ministry  
4118 W Hwy 97, Stanhope

## Special Dates

### July 2 - Combined Worship Service

- 10:00am : Braswell Hall  
(Sunday School at 9:00)

### July 6 & 7 - NUMC @ Compassion Café

- 11am : Bus Garage

### July 9 - UMM Breakfast

- 7:30am : Cockrell Hall

- 6:00pm - Healing Service  
Sanctuary

### July 14 - Road Runners Trip, 10am

### July 16 - Safe Sanctuaries Training

- 3:00pm : Cockrell Hall

- 4:15pm - VBS Training : Cockrell Hall



### July 25 - Women's Book Club

- 6:30pm : Cockrell Hall

### July 31 - Safe Sanctuaries Training

- 6:30pm : Cockrell Hall

### Do You Have an Announcement or Upcoming Event?

All events should be scheduled using the Church Event Form located online at [NASHVILLEUMC.NET/ABOUT US/FACILITIES](http://NASHVILLEUMC.NET/ABOUT_US/FACILITIES). Hardcopies are available in the work room.

### Team Meetings:

- July 5 Administrative Chair Breakfast  
6am : Dortches  
July 11 Trustees, 7pm : Parlor  
July 24 Church Council  
7pm : Cockrell Hall  
July 25 WDS Meeting, 6pm: Chapel  
Finance, 7pm : Parlor

## **Staff**

**Pastor :** Ralph A. Brown

**Associate Pastor :** Luke Whitehead

**Director of Children & Family Ministries :** Dr. Nichole Huff

**Director of Welcoming Ministries :** Wayne Lamm

**Youth Ministry Intern :** Kaitlyn Beal

**Receptionist :** Jackie Swindell

**Administrative Assistant :** Dana Nethercutt

**Bookkeeper :** Dot Binkley

**Minister of Music & Worship :** Gary Rapp

**Contemporary Worship Leader :** Joanna Hale

**Thursday Night Praise & Worship Leader:** Kevin Shaw

**Minister of Visitation :** Jim Boehm

**Organist and Membership Secretary :** Ellen Ward

**Weekday School/KidSpace Director :** Denise Calloway

## **Connect:**

**E-mail:** [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net)

**Website:** [www.NashvilleUMC.net](http://www.NashvilleUMC.net)

**Phone:** 252-459-7178 (office) 252 459 7636 (Weekday School)



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Children at Nashville UMC



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