

A photograph of the Nashville UMC church building, a red brick structure with a steeple, and a colorful playground in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

NASHVILLE UMC

Offering Better Life Through Christ

Connecting Point - January 2018

Dear Church Family,

In Haggai 2:9, the scriptures offer a promise that certain “latter” things will be greater than the “former.” Joel 2 also promises that the Spirit is being poured out upon all who will receive. God’s powerful anointing is on the increase! This is so important because part of God’s nature, which is to create, is accomplished by the anointing! Someone said that the universe is ever increasing or expanding. This assertion is consistent with God’s nature because God is a God who creates. He is always doing a new thing. As with all construction, it’s all about location, location, location. God’s favorite place to do a new thing is in us, by His powerful anointing.

Each new year we have an opportunity for a fresh start and a new beginning. We go on diets, start a new savings plan, begin a hobby, or launch some other new endeavor. These new activities can be challenging and often end in failure. Too many times I have failed because I didn’t even consider the anointing of the Lord.

Jesus said, “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all of these other things will be added unto you.” When I seek God’s anointing with any new endeavor, like Elisha chased after Elijah, then God helps with my diet, savings, or any new thing that comes up in my life. The anointing makes the difference. The anointing ALWAYS makes the difference!

The new year will come and resolutions will be made, but be sure and certain that the glory of the Lord will increase in your life if you seek Him most of all. We must take care to be in the places of blessing like worship, bible study, small group, and “wherever two or more gather.” As 2018 approaches, please enter the new year with hope and confidence in God. Jesus never fails, and He will usher in the power of God in your life. May 2018 be a year of God’s increased anointing!

Grace and His peace,
Pastor Ralph

Children & Youth

Sunday Nights: All Children & Youth Sunday Night Programs will start back on January 7 at 5:00pm: Kings Kids (3 year olds - 5th grade), Youth PAC (Middle School), Pathfinders (High School). Invite a friend and come for supper, fun activities, and to grow closer to Christ and each other.

Opportunities to Serve: We're updating our acolyte, junior communion servers, and scripture reader schedules for the new year. If your child is interested in serving in one or more area, email nichole@nashvilleumc.net.

Children & Youth Email Updates: The best way to stay updated on children and youth events is through the weekly email Updates. To get on the distribution list, contact nichole@nashvilleumc.net (King's Kids), ps1powell@embarqmail.com (Youth PAC), or kaitlyn@nashvilleumc.net (Pathfinders).

Pathfinders - Shine On! Invite a friend and join Luke and Kaitlyn on Wednesday mornings for breakfast and Bible study at the Sheetz on Old Carriage Rd. at 6:15am.

Sunday School: Build lasting friendships and explore and learn strong Biblical teachings in Sunday School. High School meets in the Basement, Middle School meets upstairs in A201, and Children meet in the classrooms behind Braswell Hall at 10am.



**Jingle Bell Beach
Children's Musical**

Note from Nichole

Living Anew

Call me optimistic, but the New Year always gets me excited for new possibilities. For new beginnings, restarts, and even closure. It's like the first day of a new school year—but with black-eyed peas and cabbage tossed in for good measure!

For me, January 1st brings with it restored faith, renewed energy, and reclaimed grace. *Faith* in what is possible. *Energy* to tackle what lies ahead. And *grace* to let go of what didn't work out as hoped for in the previous year.

How blessed are we to serve a God of new beginnings! Salvation itself is a rebirth. It's the transformation of who we are into who we can become through the power of the Holy Spirit. This sanctifying grace allows us to live each day anew, striving to be less like the world and more like the Savior as we grow in faith.

Before joining the NUMC staff, I was a professor who specialized in interpersonal neurobiology—or the study of how the brain and body respond to interpersonal connection. If you've heard my testimony in part, you've heard me mention how the deeper I dove into science, the more I saw the fingerprints of the Father everywhere. We are His masterpieces; though we are broken, we were built for greatness.

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—
his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

Romans 12:2

It was God who wired our brains and bodies for renewal, and God who wove into our DNA the ability to change. It was God who set the earth into motion, giving us days and months and New Years.

As we usher in 2018 (black-eyed peas and all), let's move past surface-level resolutions and aim for true Christ-led transformations. For renewed minds, restored bodies, and refreshed spirits. *For revival.* Whatever changes you seek this year, seek Him first. Then wait with an Ephesians 3:20 expectancy: *"To Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine."*

Happy New Year! Here's to 2018!

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



Discipleship Retreat



You may have heard Pastor Luke or our youth talking about the wonderful things that happened at their Fall Discipleship Retreat. Lindsey Ray, who was baptized during 8:30 worship following the retreat, shares why this retreat was so special.

The Discipleship retreat was amazing. That trip is by far one of the best youth trips I have ever been on, and one of the mosts spirit filled trips I have ever attended. The day before the retreat, I really did not want to go on the trip because none of my close friends were going, but during the trip I made new friends and had a great time with them. Saturday night during worship, the Holy Spirit filled the room and I think everyone felt it. I felt called to go to the front and pray. Then I talked to Pastor Luke about how I was ready to let go of everything holding me back from fully accepting God into my heart. That night I was truly moved by the Holy Spirit, as were many others, and I experienced pure joy.



New Worship Leader



Jackson, Blakely, and Fenway

Thank you, Nashville United Methodist Church, for allowing me to be your Contemporary Worship Leader on Sunday mornings. My wife, Blakely, and I are extremely excited about this opportunity and new relationship with the church.

Music has been a part of my life in various capacities since I was a kid, and started when my family received a brand new Baldwin piano from a church member who was just looking to get rid of it before they moved. Little did they know the blessings and

happiness that piano brought to my life as countless hours were spent learning to read music, hymns, and play along with songs on the radio.

As much as I enjoy picking up an instrument and making music, nothing brings me greater joy than using the gift of music to glorify God. Some of my greatest memories in this church are when I am worshiping through song and praise. In my 13 years at NUMC I have always enjoyed being a part of music ministry, whether it was serving with the Youth Band in high school or driving home on weekends from college to be able to worship with the band on Sunday mornings.

As my relationship with Jesus Christ has matured, the power of the Holy Spirit has transformed my life and the way I perceive and use the gift of music. It is no longer just a hobby or an opportunity to sing and play my guitar in church, but has become more of an act of worship where I can experience an intimate encounter with the Living God and usher people into His presence. I am very excited about the rapid growth of our church, the active participation in worship, and most importantly, the movement of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the people in our church and around our community.

I am looking forward to getting to know each of you more, growing with you, worshipping with you, and walking with you into a place of freedom and pure JOY by the power of the Holy Spirit and His guidance.

In His Love,
Jackson

ASP Missions

Several years ago when my family was visiting NUMC, the Appalachia Service Project Mission Team (ASP) was delivering testimonies about the work in which they had performed during a previous trip. I recall telling my wife that I was not a master carpenter, but I thought I could be a part of this ministry. But what is ASP? Appalachia Service Project is a mission program started by a UMC Pastor, Tex Evans, some 50 years ago. The goal of this ministry is to make homes in Central Appalachia 'Warmer, Safer and Drier', along with showing the love of Jesus to the families we have been called to serve. NUMC has been a part of ASP for over 17 years. For the June 24-30, 2018 mission trip, NUMC has 56 missionaries (8 teams of 7) that will be traveling to West Virginia to serve. This past year we carried 42 missionaries to Virginia and were a part of over 14,000 volunteers serving that year.

I have attended ASP for several years. It is truly amazing how God has worked and placed me on the job site in which I have been assigned. A few years ago, Lynn Ward asked me about taking the lead role for our NUMC team. I didn't think I was ready to serve in that role, so I declined. The next year, Lynn and I served on the same team and at the end of the week he advised me that this would be his last year attending. I heard the call just as Samuel did, but didn't realize God was talking to me. After returning home, a group of adult leaders met and I accepted the call to lead the NUMC ASP Mission Team. It has been a blessing to be a part of this ministry. I have seen so much love from our team members to people in really bad situations.

I recall working on a roof in Avery County, NC - trying to install metal panels working to beat an approaching thunderstorm. As I climbed down the ladder I felt horrible that we had only finished one side of the roof and it was beginning to rain. The homeowner looked at me and said "Don't worry, I have more buckets available now than before,



Lynn Ward and Lewis Smith relax on a completed porch project with a grateful homeowner.

because you completed the front side." At that time I thought I had failed him, yet he was rejoicing with the progress we had made. Simple changes of perspective make a difference in our lives.

I also remember receiving a call on Friday night prior a trip, asking us if we would be willing to help with disaster relief following the 2016 flooding in West Virginia. GOD had been preparing me for this

ASP Missions

over the past 30 years, as I have been involved in Emergency Services and Emergency Management. I didn't hesitate to lead our team that God had put together to serve those in need. However, this was not a typical ASP work experience. The LOVE shown to us and LOVE and support our teams provided to the citizens of Clendinin, WV was amazing.

The cost of ASP is approximately \$550 per person. We fund this trip by individuals paying a portion, fundraising, donations, and the Outreach portion of the NUMC budget. This year's trip is estimated to cost around \$30,000. We are offering a 2018 Team T-shirt for donations of \$50 or more. If you would like to make a contribution to ASP or would like more information about becoming a member of our team, you may contact me at 252-903-9848 or eatnsnake4u@gmail.com. Donations can also be made through the church offering, online by visiting the NUMC website at www.NashvilleUMC.net/worship#give or mailed to NUMC, PO Box 86, Nashville, NC 27856.



Lewis teaches carpentry skills to youth team members, Jenna Smith and Hailey Dinota.

Thank you to all of those that have and will continue to serve, donate, pray, and support the ministry

Yours is Christ's service,
Lewis Smith
NUMC ASP
Coordinator



Team "Emerald City" on the 2017 ASP Mission Trip.

Events

Blood Drive: The Red Cross has asked us to help with a critically-low blood supply by hosting a Blood Drive in Cockrell Hall on January 3, 2018 from 3-7pm. For information or to schedule a donation, please contact Brian Lindquist at 314-7211 or blindquist57@gmail.com

Begin Band: Interested in starting the year off right with intentional discipleship? Consider starting a Begin Band, a group of 3-5 people who pray together, read together, and meet together all under the banner of Jesus through the power of His Spirit. Contact the Church Office or attend the Begin Band Q & A Session on January 17 at 6:30pm in the basement with Pastor Luke.

Safe Sanctuaries Training: Wayne Lamm will offer the first training session of 2018 on Sunday, Jan. 7 at 4pm in Cockrell Hall. Training is required once each calendar year for anyone working with children, youth, or vulnerable adults. Its purpose is to keep children, youth, vulnerable adults, and all workers safe.

Disciple Bible Study: Lynn Ward and Chris Cobb will be leading the second part of "Disciple II—Fast Track" beginning Jan. 9 at 6:30pm in the Library. This in-depth Bible study consists of 12 weeks on Luke-Acts. Contact Lynn Ward at 459-5679 for more info.

Pork Chop Plate Sale: Our Methodist Men will be having their Annual Pork Chop Plate Sale on Friday, Feb. 9 from 11am-2pm. Tickets will be sold through Feb. 4 for \$7 and can be purchased from any of our Methodist Men or at the church office.

Costa Rica: The Costa Rica team leaves on Jan. 18 to serve those at Fuente de Gracia Methodist church. Be in prayer for Dennis & Kay Coggins, Reid & Wanda Hildreth, Jason & Ashley Vinson, Terri Griffin, George Beck, and Jane & Randy Carlson. If you have a passport, it isn't too late to join them! You can come all or part of the time. Contact Reid Hildreth (373-1131) or Dennis Coggins (908-4033) for details.

Senior Adult Ministry: S.A.M. is proud to host our own Kate Burns, Nashville's newest town council member, as our January 16th speaker. Following our lunch at noon, Kate will be sharing her personal testimony, her love of Nashville, and her vision for its future. Lunch of homemade soup, sandwich, dessert, and beverage is \$5 at the door. Please bring cash in an envelope with your name and amount on outside. Contact Victoria at 459-2396 to make your reservations ASAP.

Methodist Men's Breakfast: Our January UMM Breakfast will be on Sunday the 14th at 7:30am in Cockrell Hall. All men are invited for great food, fellowship, and a short meeting to discuss upcoming ministry events.

Now Hiring The nursery is hiring a part-time nursery attendant to work 5-10 hours per week. Youth and young adults are also encouraged to apply for part-time shifts. Contact nichole@nashvilleumc.net for details.

Prayers with the Pastor: Join our Prayer Warriors every Tuesday morning at 7am in the Parlor as we pray for those in our congregation and community.

Events

Men's Bible Study: Our Men have a Bible Study every Tuesday at 8:30am in the Bus Garage. This study includes men from several other churches in our area. Come study God's word with others who are growing in their faith.

Methodism 101: Anyone interested in joining NUMC or members who want a refresher on our core beliefs and mission are invited to this class. No need to sign up, just come to Cockrell Hall on Jan. 24 at 6pm. If childcare is needed, call the church office.

Save the Date: Mark your calendars for our Centennial Celebration on Apr. 13-15. Contact the church office with names and addresses of former members, inactive members, and friends of the church that you would like to invite. Sign-up sheets will also be in adult Sunday School classes throughout Dec.

Prayer Watch: Join with others at NUMC if you desire to pray for NUMC, our nation, government, and individual needs. Come monthly on the fourth Friday at 6pm in Braswell Hall. Contact Marilyn Poll (252-452-3006) with any questions.

College prayers: We are beginning a prayer list in the bulletin for our college students. If you would like someone added to the list, email the name to Jackie@nashvilleumc.net.

Youth Worship: Our youth have a worship service as part of their Sunday night activities. Everyone is invited to the basement from 6:15-6:45 for music led by the youth band, scripture, and sermon by Pastor Luke.

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 to be added to the email or phone distribution list.

Submit prayer requests to 252-459-7178 or 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.

To schedule a church event, complete the church event form at www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES and submit to info@nashvilleumc.net



Nashville United Methodist Church



@nashvilleUMCNC



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Facts & Figures

Attendance

Contemporary: 267
Traditional: 96
Thursday Nights: 53
Sunday Night Youth Worship: 55
Average of all Services: 485
Includes combined
and special services.

Team Meetings

Jan. 2 Trustees, 7pm : A205
Jan. 3 Admin Chair Breakfast
6am : Oak Level
Jan. 10 Audit Team Meeting
7pm : Library
Jan. 14 Stephen Ministry
5pm : Men's Bible Class
Jan. 16 WDS Meeting
6pm: Chapel
Finance, 7pm : Parlor
Jan. 24 Theme Team
5:00pm : Basement

Do You Have an Upcoming Event?

All events should be scheduled using the Church Event Form located at NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES. Hardcopies are available in the work room.

Weekly Events

Sundays

8:30am Contemporary Service

10:00am Sunday School

11:00am Traditional Service

4:00pm Youth Band Practice : Basement

5:00pm Children & Youth

6:00pm Ralph's Small Group :Parlor

6:15pm Youth Worship : Basement

Monday

7:00am WICK Emmaus : Hardee's

6:30pm Disciple II : Men's Bible Class
(Beginning January 9)

7:00pm Bells of Praise : Handbell Room

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

6:15am Youth Bible Study : Sheetz

6:30pm Choir Practice : Choir Room

6:30pm Begin Band : Parlor

7:00pm Rockfish Practice

8:00pm NA : Bus Garage

8:00pm NarAnon : TBD

Thursday

6:30pm Thursday Praise & Worship
Braswell Hall

Saturday

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

Special Dates

Dec. 31 - Watch Night Service

11:00pm : Braswell Hall

Jan. 2 - Tutoring at NES Begins!

Jan 3 - Blood Drive

3:00-7:00pm : Cockrell Hall

Jan. 4 & 5 - NUMC @ Compassion Café

11:00am : Bus Garage

Jan 7 - Children & Youth Start Back

Safe Sanctuaries Training

4:00pm : Cockrell Hall

Jan. 14 - Methodist Men's Breakfast

7:30am : Cockrell Hall

Jan. 16 - S.A.M, 12:00pm : Cockrell Hall

Jan. 17 - Begin Band Q&A

6:30pm : Basement

Jan. 18 - Costa Rica Missionaries leave

Jan. 22 - Church Council

7:00pm : Cockrell Hall

Jan. 24 - NUMC 101, 6pm : Cockrell Hall

Jan. 26 - Prayer Watch

6:00pm : Braswell Hall



— STEPHEN MINISTRY

Never be lacking in zeal, but
keep your spiritual fervor,
serving the Lord.

Romans 4:11-12

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 Nehrerutt

Bookkeeper: Dot Binkley

Minister of Music & Worship: Gary Rapp

Contemporary Worship Leader: Jackson Rollins

Thursday Night Praise & Worship Leader: Kevin Shaw

Minister of Visitation: Jim Boehm

Organist and Membership Secretary: Ellen Ward

Nursery Coordinator: Jennifer Bunn

Weekday School/KidSpace Director: Denise Calloway

Connect:

E-mail: info@nashvilleumc.net

Website: www.NashvilleUMC.net

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



Nashville United Methodist Church
Children at Nashville UMC



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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