

A photograph of the Nashville UMC church building, a large brick structure with a steeple, and a colorful playground in the foreground. The church is surrounded by green trees and a clear sky.

NASHVILLE UMC

Offering Better Life Through Christ

Connecting Point - March 2018

Dear Church Family,

In Ephesians 6:13, God tells us to stand. There are many times that the saints took a stand for God in the scriptures. One of the most recognized stands is found in Joshua 24:15. The Israelites were surrounded by different cultures, religions, and races each with differing perspectives and points of view, much like America and the world today. Joshua was confronted with following God's will versus popular, worldly opinion. He stood before the host and took a Godly stand when he said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

We are required to take stands all of the time. For example, parents take stands to keep their children safe physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Sometimes we take stands with our friends or loved ones and sometimes at work. Like Joshua, spiritual leaders must take a stand. Scriptural churches take stands in the community and the world. NUMC has recently taken a Godly and scriptural stand by joining the Wesleyan Covenant Association, a "coalition of United Methodist congregations, clergy, and laity that are committed to promoting ministry that combines a high view of Scripture, Wesleyan vitality, orthodox theology, and Holy Spirit empowerment." Stands are important and noteworthy. At times stands have changed the course of a nation or the world. Winston Churchill changed history with his stand against Hitler and Nazi aggression.

It has been said that if we stand for nothing, we will fall for everything. Drawing lines in the sand is often not popular in the post modern world. Too many times the world has an "I'm OK you're OK" mentality. This is far from OK. An "anything goes" mindset is a slippery slope - potentially with eternal consequences. I always remember the words of Christ Himself when He said, "Straight is the gate, and narrow the way, and few there may be who find it," Matthew 7:14.

Our "plumb line" is the Bible, God's Holy Word. Any stand must first and foremost be based on Scripture. Our human perspective must take second place to God's Word. Christ came to bring peace, but that is only possible when we are true to His Word. We must make sure that our stands are of the Lord. Only then will we have His blessing. Unity in a church or denomination is dependent on this. When we stand for God and His Word we are standing together.

Grace and His peace,
Pastor Ralph

*This article is reprinted from Feb. 2017, when we began our membership with WCA. NUMC has renewed our WCA membership in support of the work they are doing to hold true to God's word and the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

Children & Youth

Sunday Nights: Kings Kids (3 year olds - 5th grade), Youth PAC (Middle School), and Pathfinders (High School) meet on Sunday nights at 5:00pm. Invite a friend and come for supper, fun activities, and to grow closer to Christ with friends. We will not meet on Mar. 4. Everyone is encouraged to join us for the Revival that night at 6:30pm.

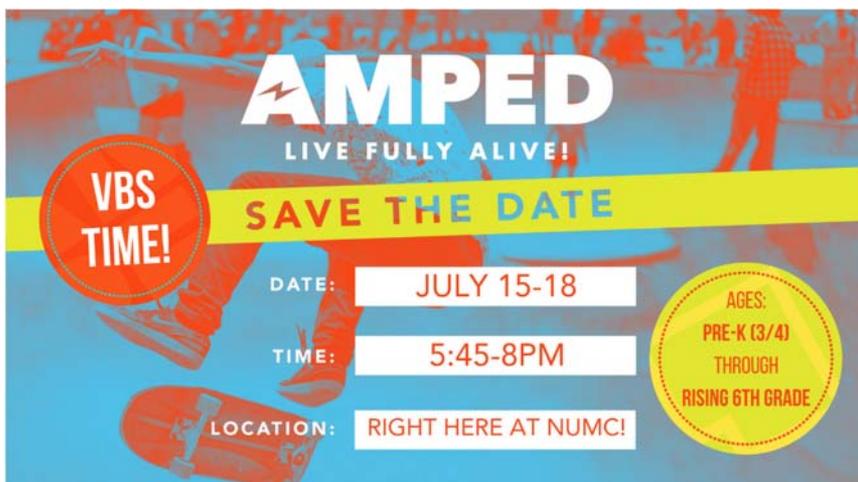
Safe Sanctuaries Training: Wayne Lamm will offer Safe Sanctuaries training on Sunday, Mar. 11 at 4pm in Cockrell Hall. Training is required once each calendar year for anyone working with children, youth, or vulnerable adults. Its purpose is to keep everyone safe in God's House.

Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 1st grade and younger will be held on Saturday, Mar. 24 at 2pm at the Pardue home on 217 Church St. Donations of "unmeltable" candy to fill eggs will gladly be accepted in the Gathering Area. In case of rain, we'll have the egg hunt in the church.

WDS Registration: The NUMC Weekday School will be offering an 18-24 month Monday and Wednesday class for the 2018-2019 school year. Registration is currently open for church members, children already enrolled, and their siblings. On Mar. 5 we will open registration to the public. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a visit, contact Denise Calloway at school@nashvilleumc.net or 459-7636.

KidSpace Registration: It's time to start planning for your child's summer activities. Enroll now for our Summer Day Camp. Applications and more information are available at WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/KIDSPACE.

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).



AMPED
LIVE FULLY ALIVE!

VBS TIME!

SAVE THE DATE

DATE: JULY 15-18

TIME: 5:45-8PM

LOCATION: RIGHT HERE AT NUMC!

AGES: PRE-K (3/4) THROUGH RISING 6TH GRADE

The graphic features a background of children playing on a playground with a red and blue color scheme. The text is overlaid in white and yellow boxes. A yellow banner across the middle contains the 'SAVE THE DATE' text. A red circular badge on the left says 'VBS TIME!'. A yellow circular badge on the right lists the age range. The event details are presented in white boxes with black text.

Note from Nichole

The Value of a Birthright

Recently my daily devotion led me to Genesis 25 where I reflected on the story of Esau and Jacob, and gleaned a new understanding of what can happen when our souls aren't adequately nourished. If you'll recall, beginning in verse 19, a weary Esau traded his birthright to his brother Jacob. *For a bowl of stew.*

In a moment of desperation—*when hunger and fatigue clouded Esau's judgement*—he sold his firstborn rights to his brother, thus forfeiting the inheritance he was promised through his grandfather's lineage. Remember, Esau was the firstborn of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham through whose bloodline the Messiah would come. But Esau didn't grasp the magnitude of this heritage. Instead he was quick to settle for temporary satisfaction. He forsook *whose he was* for something fleeting, and afterwards lived with bitterness in his heart.

Church family, how quickly we can be like Esau! Forgetting that we too have inherited the assurances of God. Instead we exchange our royal lineage for instant gratification. We hunger for something only God can provide, but we look to the world—*its people, places, and possessions*—to fill the emptiness that lies within.

When our souls are starved and weary—*and like Esau, we feel hopeless*—we lack discernment yet gain vulnerability. Much like Jacob who had his eye on Esau's birthright, Satan is waiting for opportunities to lure us away from our Father's promises. In Esau-fashion, when we don't receive nourishment from God, we seek it elsewhere. *Hungry hearts look for sustenance in unhealthy places*—relationships, affairs, alcohol, food, materialism, busyness, bitterness, power, *and the list goes on.* Thankfully we aren't without hope: We belong to the One who restores, redeems, and sustains.

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain me by Your generous spirit."

Psalm 51:12

If you find yourself relating to Esau, I urge you to value your inheritance as a child of God. If you long to experience God's presence, feast on His Word. If your soul is weary, pray for revival to begin in your life. If you are lonely, pursue Christian fellowship and opportunities that will deepen your faith. If you feel hopeless, seek Godly counsel. If you doubt your worth, remember whose you are. *And if you're hungry, forego the stew and await the banquet!*

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

God Is Bigger

***And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28***



Gerry and Debbie Charron
with their daughter and granddaughters.

Submitted by Gerry Charron

As a 72 year old vet and chaplain of American Legion Post 58, I have learned to live by faith. On January 23, that faith was shaken. I was teaching guitar at a music studio in Rocky Mount. After my final student had left at around 5:30pm, two young men came into the store. One had a mask over his face and the other just boldly pulled a gun on me and the store owner.

Having been military police from 1969-1971, I thought I was still young and refused to submit to the demands of giving them my wallet. I was then attacked by the men and knocked

unconscious with the gun. As I lay unresponsive on the floor, I was kicked in the face. My wallet with all my information and rent money was stolen.

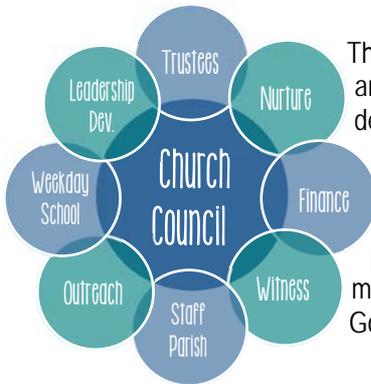
I was still unconscious when the police and ambulance arrived. When I came to at the hospital, I could not remember what happened, what year it was, who was president, or even if I was married. The doctors ordered a brain scan and thanks be to God—my memory returned and all is well.

The following day, I prayed with Pastor Ralph about PTSD that resurfaced after years of submission. The Lord revealed that I am called to pray and forgive the perpetrators. *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us* - Romans 5:8. God forgave me for my sins and I needed to pray forgiveness for the two lost young men and put everything in HIS hands. I truly believe all will work out to God's glory.

My married daughter and two grand daughters (4 years old and 2 months) were supposed to be there after the lesson on January 23 to purchase a piano. At the very moment of the attack, my precious girls could have been involved. However, God, who is watching over His children, prevented that. Through this tragic event, God has revealed His grace and strengthened my faith.

Can we forgive and love as Christ loves us? Whatever happens today, don't look at your circumstances, look at the bigger God. Know His merciful love reaches out to all of us, if we will only accept it.

Church Council



Throughout the letters of Paul, especially in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12, leadership in the congregation is described as the shared work of spiritually graced men and women - the Body of Christ. A church council is greater than the sum of its parts. Gifted individuals, knit together in faith, love, and commitment are empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit to accomplish much more than any individual. We honor and glorify God best when we become the body of Christ together.

Each church in the United Methodist Conference has a Church Council that works together with the minister to coordinate and lead the work and ministry of the church. The purpose of the council, as defined by the conference, is to *plan a program of nurture, outreach, and witness; implement the plan; provide administrative infrastructure, align the plan with the mission of the church, evaluate the effectiveness of the plan; and act as the administrative agency of the charge conference.*

The church council exists to create a strategic plan for our congregation. Therefore, its primary work is one of leadership rather than management. The church council works cooperatively with the other teams of the church. The council works particularly close with the 4 main church committees that are required by the Book of Discipline - Staff/Pastor-Parish relations, Trustees, Finance, and Lay Leadership.

A list of our teams and representatives is available in the Gathering Area and online under About Us/Resources. Acts 15 describes the Council formed in Jerusalem.

Everyone is invited to our Church Council meetings, which take place on the 4th Monday of every other month. Our next meeting is Monday, Mar. 26 at 7:00pm in Cockrell Hall. Come and learn about what exciting things God is doing through the missionaries at NUMC.



Our 8:30 Worship Team loads their weekly song playlist to Spotify - a free music streaming service. Spotify is available with an easy signup through your email or facebook account. Signup and find our playlists by searching *nashvilleumc_nc*. Many of the songs played on Sunday morning may be new to you and not played on local Christian radio stations. Spotify is a great way to become familiar with the songs so you can worship in freedom and truth.

What is Family Ministry?

If you've attended Sunday morning worship, or you have a child in 5th grade or below, you've met Dr. Nichole Huff, our Director of Children and Family Ministries. While her role as our Children's Minister is most visible, what you may not know is that Nichole also offers valuable resources to church families as the Director of Family Ministries.

Family Ministry includes activities offered by the church in support of family relationships—specifically opportunities designed to educate, equip, and strengthen family units. For Nichole, this includes supporting adult ministries and small groups; teaching educational workshops; leading *Hot Topics* discussions; writing articles; speaking to community groups; and providing confidential, faith-based counseling consultations and resources to individuals, couples, and families within our church.

Prior to joining the NUMC staff, Nichole was a university professor, teaching courses in child development, parent education, and family relationships both at NCSU and ECU. Nichole holds a Ph.D. in Family Sciences and a M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy, and is a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) through the National Council on Family Relations. Feeling called into ministry, Nichole left academia to better support children and families seeking to know Christ and abide in His love.

Family Ministry considers the integration of the family and the church, and it works to equip families to better cope with various issues across the lifespan (illness, aging, marriage, divorce, parenting, grief, etc.). Similarly, Family Life Education uses a preventative approach, designed to promote healthy family functioning, improve interpersonal communication, and strengthen relational dynamics within the home. Seeing Jesus as the Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6), Nichole works to integrate her professional experience and training to live out Ephesians 3:14-19:

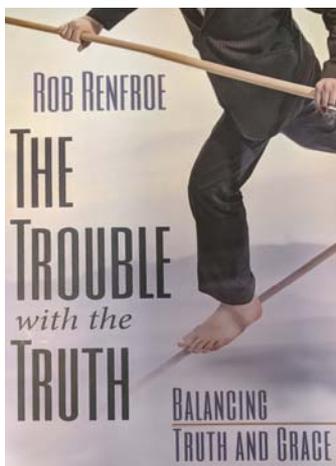
For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



Camp 4 Kids will be selling beautiful spring flowers to help send our church children to Christian Summer Camps.

Order forms can be picked up in the gathering area or see one of the participants to order your flowers. Orders are due on Sunday, March 25 and flowers will be delivered on March 28. Thank you for supporting Camp 4 Kids.

Church-wide Bible Study



Books are now available for our Church-wide Bible study. This study will help us learn to balance the truth of Jesus' teachings with a culture that no longer believes there are universal, spiritual, or moral truths that apply to everyone. Small groups and Sunday School classes will begin discussions on March 4. If you are not in a small group, sign up for a Wednesday night study in the Gathering Area or call the church office.

The author, Rev. Rob Renfroe, is Pastor of Discipleship at Woodlands United Methodist Church, in Woodlands, TX. He is also the President of Good News, a national organization committed to the doctrinal integrity and spiritual renewal of the United Methodist Church. We are excited that Rev. Renfroe will be coming

to NUMC on April 14-15 for our Centennial Celebration. He will be our guest speaker for a breakfast and Q&A on Saturday, April 14 at 9am. He'll be answering questions concerning his book and the evangelical stance in the United Methodist Church. He will also preach on Sunday morning as we celebrate 100 years in our sanctuary.



We're excited to have Rev. John Hobbs back at NUMC for our Revival. Rev. Hobbs was an ordained Methodist Pastor before being called into evangelism. His powerful preaching and amusing stories will leave you revived and ready to live life more fully for God.

Come nightly for worship and to grow in the Spirit. You can learn more about John and his ministry at www.mmu.org.



On Jesus' last night before his betrayal and arrest, he washed the feet of his disciples, instituted the Lord's Supper, and gave the disciples a new commandment—to love one another as he had loved them. Maundy Thursday begins the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. Join us for this moving service on March 29 at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

Events

Blood Drive: An opportunity for thirty minutes of your time to mean life for up to three people in need of blood comes your way on Monday, March 19, 2:30-6:30pm in Cockrell Hall. For information or to schedule a donation, contact Brian Lindquist at 252-314-7211 or blindquist57@gmail.com.

UMCOR Sunday: On March 11, you can give to *UMCOR Sunday* (formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing). Donations lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the cost of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs, because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. You can give through the church offering or through WWW.UMCOR.ORG.

NUMC Ministries & Officers: Our 2018 Ministries & Officers Booklet is now available in the Information Centers and online at WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES. Get your copy for a complete list of teams and officers.

Easter Lilies: Lilies will be used to decorate our church at Easter in memory or honor of your loved ones who will be listed in the Easter morning bulletin. Order forms will be in the Gathering Area or you can order through our website. Orders due March 26 by noon.

Methodist Men's Breakfast: Our UMM Breakfast will be on Sunday, March 11 at 7:30am in Cockrell Hall. All men are invited for great food, fellowship and a short meeting to discuss upcoming ministry events.

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.

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.

Senior Adult Ministry: Our next gathering is on Tuesday, March 20. We are having *Taco Tuesday* at noon in Cockrell Hall \$5 (remember: \$ in envelope with name & amount on the outside). Mrs. Jan Haley from Lake Gaston & her Shag Club will be performing their award winning exhibition routine for us! NUMC members please call Victoria at 459-2396 or email kvcfrazier@gmail.com to **reserve your seat by Sunday, March 18**.

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.

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

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.

Additional Service!



We are blessed that word is spreading in our community that NUMC is a place to worship in truth and love. Our 8:30 service is at capacity and we are planning an additional Sunday morning service to continue spreading God's word to even more people.

We need your help in the many support areas. We'll need additional nursery and children's church volunteers, greeters, A/V support, musicians, singers, and people committed to attend worship with our new guests. Most of all, we need prayer. NUMC is in a revival and we need you to soak all of our services in prayer - that God will send those seeking Him through our doors so we can love, disciple, and continue to grow His Kingdom.

If you are able to help in any way, contact Brad Lewis (bradlewis5@gmail.com, 252-883-0494 or the church office (info@nashvilleumc.net, 252-459-7178).

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
Children at Nashville UMC



[@nashvilleUMCNC](https://www.instagram.com/nashvilleUMCNC)



[@nashvilleUMCNC](https://twitter.com/nashvilleUMCNC)

Facts & Figures

Attendance

2018 YTD Attendance

Contemporary: 273

Traditional: 86

Thursday Nights: 44

Sunday Night Youth Worship: 52

Average of all Services: 478

Includes combined and special services.

Team Meetings

- Mar. 7 Admin Chair Breakfast
6am : Oak Level
- Mar. 11 Stephen Ministry
5pm : Men's Bible Class
- Mar. 12 Audit Team
7pm : Library
- Mar. 14 Trustees, 7:00pm : A205
- Mar. 20 WDS Meeting
6pm: Chapel
Finance, 7pm : Parlor

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

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 Worship Team Practice

7:00pm AA : Bus Garage

Wednesday

6:15am Youth Bible Study : Sheetz

6:30pm Choir Practice : Choir Room

6:30pm Trouble with the Truth Study
Basement

6:30pm Worship Team Practice

8:00pm NA : Bus Garage

8:00pm NarAnon : Cockrell Hall

Thursday

6:30pm Thursday Praise & Worship
Braswell Hall

Saturday

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

Special Dates

REVIVAL

MARCH 4-7

6:30 PM NIGHTLY

Mar. 4 - *The Trouble with the Truth*
Studies Begins
Sunday School Classes, Small Groups, or
Wednesdays @ 6:30pm : Basement

Mar. 5 & 8 - Compassion Café
11:00am : Bus Garage

Mar. 11 - UMM Breakfast
7:30pm : Cockrell Hall
Safe Sanctuaries, 4pm : Cockrell Hall

Mar. 18 - Youth Confirmation Class
4pm : Library

Mar. 19 - Blood Drive
2:30-6:30pm : Cockrell Hall

Mar. 20 - S.A.M, 12:00pm : Cockrell Hall

Mar. 24 - Easter Egg Hunt
2:00pm : 217 Church St., Nashville

Mar. 26 - Church Council
7:00pm : Cockrell Hall

Mar. 29 - Maundy Thursday Service
6:30pm : Sanctuary

———— April 1st ————
Easter Sunday
&
Youth Confirmation

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.

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 Nehhercutt

Director of Finance: 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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Permit 51
Nashville, NC 27856

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED