

# June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2 Communion &amp; Promotion Sunday</b> 9am Contemp. Service 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Service 2pm Emmaus Meeting 5:30pm VBS Begins	8:30am Summer Camp 9am Aerobics 1:30pm UMW 5:30pm VBS	8:30am Summer Camp 5:30pm VBS	8:30am Summer Camp 5:30pm VBS	9am Aerobics 9:30am Crochet/Knitting 6pm VBS Family Night	6pm Youth Pool Party 	1 8 Bread of Life Brunch
Vacation Bible School 5:30-8:00 pm (June 1-5) & 6:00-8:00 pm (June 6)						
9 10am Sunday School 11am Blended Service 12pm Retirement Lunch for Rev. Dickens  <b>Pentecost Day of Pentecost</b>	8:30am Summer Camp 9am Aerobics 11am WWW (offsite) Our Daily Bread 1pm Bridge 5:30pm Zumba	8:30am Summer Camp	8:30am Summer Camp 1pm Bridge 7:30pm Choir	9am Aerobics 9:30am Crochet/Knitting 7pm Praise Team	14 Brazil Mission Team Departs 6pm Godly Queens	15 8:15am The Men's Club/UMM
North GA Annual Conference June 11-14 @ Athens Classic Center						
16 9am Contemp. Service 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Service  <b>Trinity Sunday Father's Day</b>	8:30am Summer Camp 9am Aerobics 5:30pm Zumba 6pm Stephen Ministry	8:30am Summer Camp	8:30am Summer Camp 1pm Bridge 6pm Summer Harbor 7:30pm Choir	9am Aerobics 9:30am Crochet/Knitting 7pm Praise Team	21	22
23 9am Contemp. Service 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Service 12pm Club 45	8:30am Summer Camp 9am Aerobics 1pm Bridge 5:30pm Zumba 6pm Children & Youth Council Mtg.	8:30am Summer Camp 1pm Staff On Boarding Mtg. Brazil Mission Team Returns	8:30am Summer Camp 9am Staff On Boarding Mtg. 1pm Bridge 5:30pm Laity Dinner 6pm Summer Harbor 7:30pm Choir	9am Aerobics 9:30am Crochet/Knitting 7pm Praise Team	28 6pm Godly Queens	29
30 9am Contemp. Service 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Service 12pm Club 45						

# The Tuckston NOW



June 2019

Dear Tuckston Family,

Summer is here and Jim and I will be leaving Athens as I retire and transition to what the Lord has for us in the next phase of our lives. We have been in ministry for as long as I can remember—long before I went to seminary—and we can't wait to find out the next ministry God has for us. **It has been a privilege to be your pastor here at Tuckston and the Lord has done some remarkable things in the last two years.**

**We have launched multiple young people into ministry**, including Bobby and Bess who went to a church plant in Oregon; Luke Shumake, a youth intern who is now his home church's first youth pastor in Newnan; and, Josh Garner, who is on track to be an Elder in the UMC and is now the family pastor at Sixes UMC. In addition, our youth intern, Mikayla Stapleton, is moving into fulltime ministry at Tuckston as Contemporary Worship Pastor/Youth Assistant as Ryan and Merrick move onto other fulltime ministry.

Victoria Grubbs, our new Youth/Young Adult Director, has recently joined the Tuckston team. **The call on her life to fulltime ministry will add much to TUMC as she ministers to our youth and young adults.** We also revamped the Children's Ministry and **Amanda was a Godsend** as Children's Director. She is working on multiple children's events and activities in preparation for the summer and fall. Her contributions to the After School Program (ASP) are bringing new consistency and structure. **Currently, we are working on a partnership with Action Ministries in the ASP.** Action Ministries has had a great success in Atlanta and with other churches in their similar programs, so I've asked Amanda, Victoria, Mikayla and Jency Showker to work with them to shore up the ASP structure for maximum impact with community youth and children who come to us.

God has also blessed us with a partnership with Interfaith Hospitality Network on a regular basis. There were some doubts and a little pushback when we first participated in this ministry, but now we are hosting IHN several weeks a year. We have seen the homelessness cycle broken time and again as we serve the community as Christ's hands and feet. **If you want to make a meaningful difference for the Kingdom, the ASP and IHN are where you will see tangible results in the lives of those we serve.**

**Bright from the Start certification of the TUMC Preschool is another win for the Kingdom.** Our preschool enrollment has increased remarkably as the program has been revamped and expanded. We are currently working with the Quality Rating organization to take the extra step of becoming a center that is one of the best of the best. Our teachers have taken additional courses to update their credentials. **We have hired three new teachers in the last two years due to increased enrollment and we are excited that 6 babies are coming to us in the fall** as a result of our expanded age range. We expanded our old hours of 8:30-1:00 to 7:30-4:00, and in the fall we will again expand to 7:30-6:00. The entire preschool wing has been painted and new equipment brought in and we are in the process of certifying another room for the babies. **We established a new preschool advisory board** to help the staff ensure the preschool is operated efficiently and with good stewardship. New families have joined the church in the last two years through the preschool, which is an intentional goal of having a preschool and an important component of our evangelism ministry. As more young children join, we want to move more families from the preschool to church attendance and membership.

(cont.)

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 Athens, GA 30605  
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(cont.)

**God also led Tuckston to escape debt for the first time in 60 years. How great is this!** When resources going to debt service are freed up, wonderful things happen! More money is available for missions and for better stewardship of the great facilities God has blessed Tuckston with. The exterior of the church was painted for the first time in 25 years, we acquired a new shuttle bus (should be arriving in June), **put a new sign up on the street so we say loud and clear to those who pass by, "we are here and want you to visit us."** We repaired the old sign too, so people see it from both sides of the church. We can provide Dave Ramsay curriculum to people who are struggling with debt, our local outreach expands, scholarships are provided for youth and adults for missions abroad and the trustees are not wondering how they can replace an air conditioner (in fact, we have replaced three in two years without an appeal for money). The small kitchen was refurbished and repairs were made in the big commercial kitchen.

**We've also incorporated the Cemetery as a separate entity and established a Board of Directors to manage cemetery affairs.** The cemetery fund is invested in a secure, earning account with the Methodist Foundation. There is a new buffer of holly trees planted around the cemetery and the grounds are being managed by the landscape company that takes care of the church. This has all been done with no additional cost to the church, through renegotiation of contracts. In fact, all church contracts have been renegotiated for the future.

You also recently voted to sell the parsonage that was renovated when Jim and I moved in. Not only did God affirm that decision, but did it with a bang...five contracts in 24 hours with multiple offers above selling price! **How Good is Our God!** The list of what has been accomplished these last two years goes on **because we were willing to be used by the Holy Spirit. Many people have joined the church but importantly, many came by Profession of Faith.**

The Spirit swept through and so much has been accomplished. When I arrived here two years ago, I asked you to dream big because I am a big dreamer. **I live with an expectation of what God can and will do because we worship a big God.** I've been privileged to see over and over again what God will do when we have faith. **We are called to do our part and if we do and we stay in alignment with God's will, we just have to get out of the way and let the Spirit soar!**

Jim and I will miss all of you very much. **We love Tuckston and we thank you for being who you are and for the support you've shown us.** I want to thank the church leadership for their hard work and commitment to the Kingdom. I thank Lynn Fowler and the parsonage committee for helping Jim and me make the parsonage a home. **I especially want to thank those whom I've worked with every week, the staff, and Joel Schofield and Randy Bramlett.** It's been a privilege to serve with them.

**Thank you for all you've done for the Kingdom and never let anyone tell you something can't be done. God is always ultimately in control and can do anything!**

Love in Christ,

Jeanette



**MISSIONS**  
across the street & around the world

### June's Change Our World Offering

Each month, we collect loose change to support special mission opportunities. During June, we will be collecting for **The Sparrow's Nest**. The Sparrow's Nest is a place where those in need can find help in a Christ-centered environment – a hot meal or a bag of groceries shared in love; showers and laundry facilities for the homeless; donated clothing for the needy, and vibrant ministries to children and youth in our community. Dig deep into those pockets and sofa cushions and bring your spare change each Sunday to put in the globe for C.O.W.

**Christmas Shoe Boxes (sponsored by the UM Church) will be distributed on Sunday, July 28 and Sunday, August 4. Filled boxes will be due back no later than September 1. Watch for the table in the Narthex and support this great project. The Change Our World offering in July will be used for the \$5 per box postage cost.**



Tuckston will be serving an Our Daily Bread meal on June 10, 2019.

See Marsha Keech or Sue Stone for more info on how to volunteer.

**TUMC also supports local charities with donations of supplies year-round. Some on the ongoing projects include the following:**

**Project Safe:** Used clothing can be placed in the box on the hall past the office. The clothing is then delivered to the Project Safe store as the box fills up.

**\*\*The following project's donations can be placed in the brown shelf unit located outside the men's restroom in the Narthex.**

**\*\*Athens Nurses Clinic & Mercy Clinic:** Toiletries of all kinds are needed. Any size is appreciated. Also needed are laundry pods.

**\*\*Danny Stevens' Family Court Program:** Miscellaneous items such as small toys for client's children, makeup, toiletries, note-pads & pens, jewelry, etc. are appreciated. Re-gifted items are okay also.

**\*\*Lion's Club:** Donations of used eyeglasses are needed and can be placed in the marked box.

*Congratulations!*

*We wish to congratulate*

*Jordan Pringle & Chandler Williams  
on their marriage June 3, 2019*

*&*

*Marie Evans & Mike Burger  
on their marriage May 11, 2019*



**Lucas Ryan Blair**

**born May 17, 2019**

**to parents Scott & Amanda Blair**

**&**

**Harper Raegan Smith**

**born May 20, 2019**

**to parents Chris & Maggie Irwin Smith  
(and grandmother Malinda Erwin)**

*Dear Church Family,*

*Our Family, Joe & I are so thankful for the many expressions of love and care shown to us during my recent breast cancer diagnosis, surgery & recovery. Your prayers have once again enabled us to withstand all that follows such news. Please know how much we treasure each of you. Thank you for your caring hearts.*

*Love to you in His Name,  
Pam & Joe Mize*

**Celebration & Retirement Luncheon for  
Rev. Jeanette Dickens**



*Please join us on Sunday, June 9, for a combined worship service at 11am, followed by a catered luncheon in the fellowship hall. We will celebrate Jeanette and her accomplishments, as we say goodbye and wish her well in retirement. If you wish to contribute to a Love Offering of Appreciation for Jeanette and Jim, please do so by June 5. Checks can be made out to TUMC and marked for Dickens Love Offering.*