Jasper United Methodist Church

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Facebook: Jasper United Methodist Church / YouTube: Jasper UMC

July 2026

A View from the Crowe's Nest

There is something about a road trip that creates memories.

Growing up, my family traveled a lot. One summer we packed into a tent camper and set off on an adven- ture across America. We visited some of our nation's most incredible places: the Dinosaur National Monument, Crazy Horse Memorial, Mount Rushmore, Yosemite, the Redwood Forest, the Alamo, Death Valley, the Grand Tetons, the Grand Canyon, the Badlands, and many other national treasures.

Looking back, those places were amazing. But what I remember most are often the unexpected moments along the way.

One of those memories happened at a small ice cream shop in the middle of nowhere. It was a scorching hot day, and after hours on the road our family of six decided to stop for ice cream. We all ordered, eager- ly waiting for our treats to arrive.

A few minutes later, the waitress brought out two bowls of ice cream. Just two.
After some confusion, my parents told the first two people to go ahead and eat before it melted. When they finished, the waitress collected the bowls and returned a few minutes later with two more servings. Then she repeated the process for the final two family members.

As it turned out, the little ice cream shop only had two bowls!

It wasn't one of the famous landmarks on our trip. It wasn't on any travel brochure. Yet decades later it remains one of my favorite memories.

Life is a lot like that.

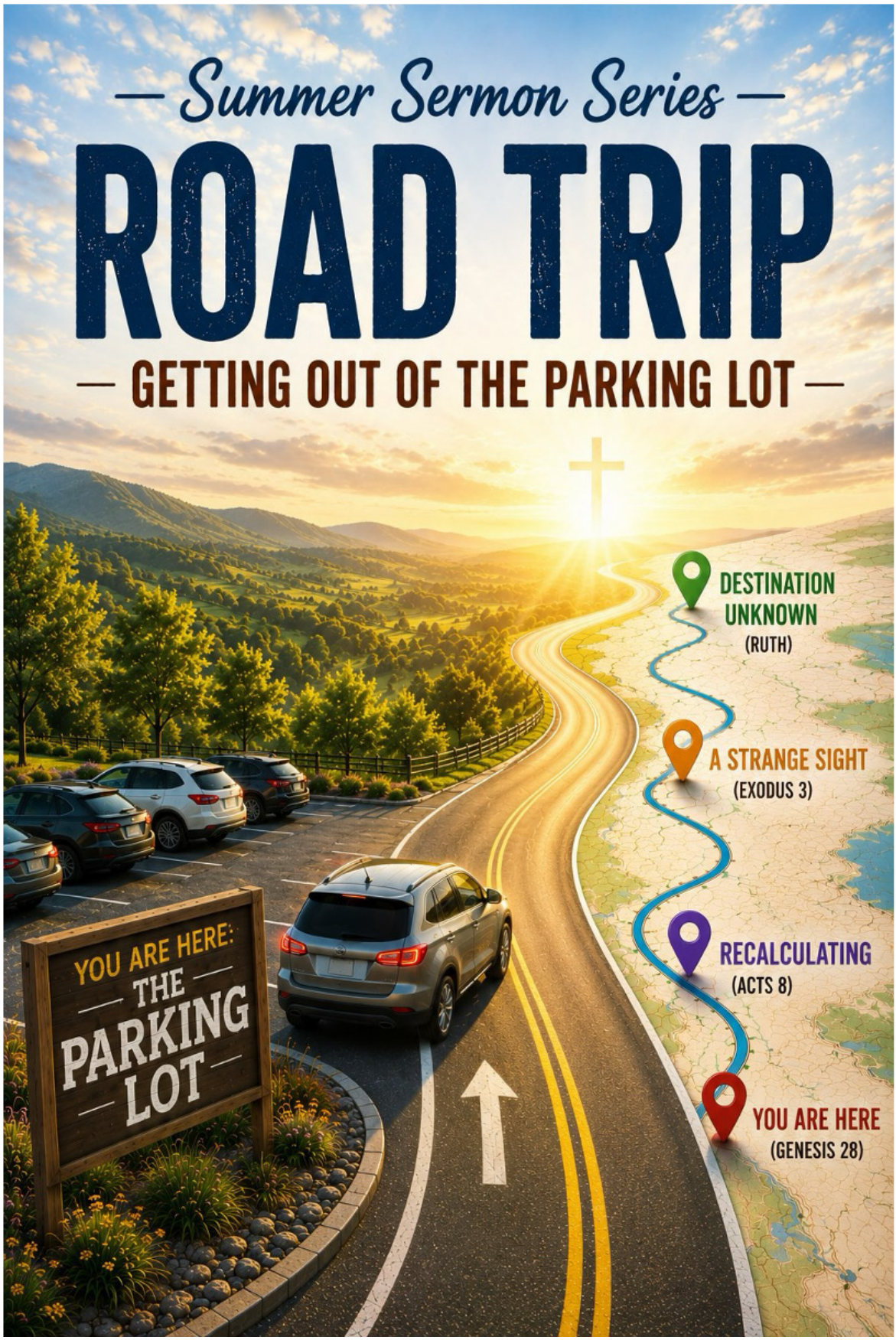
We often focus on the destination and overlook the journey. We spend our time looking ahead to where we want to be instead of paying attention to what God is doing along the way.

This July we will begin a new sermon series called Road Trip: Getting Out of the Parking Lot. Through the stories of Jacob, Philip, Moses, and Ruth, we will discover that faith was never meant to sit still. God rarely gives us the whole map for the journey. More often, He invites us to trust Him with the next step.

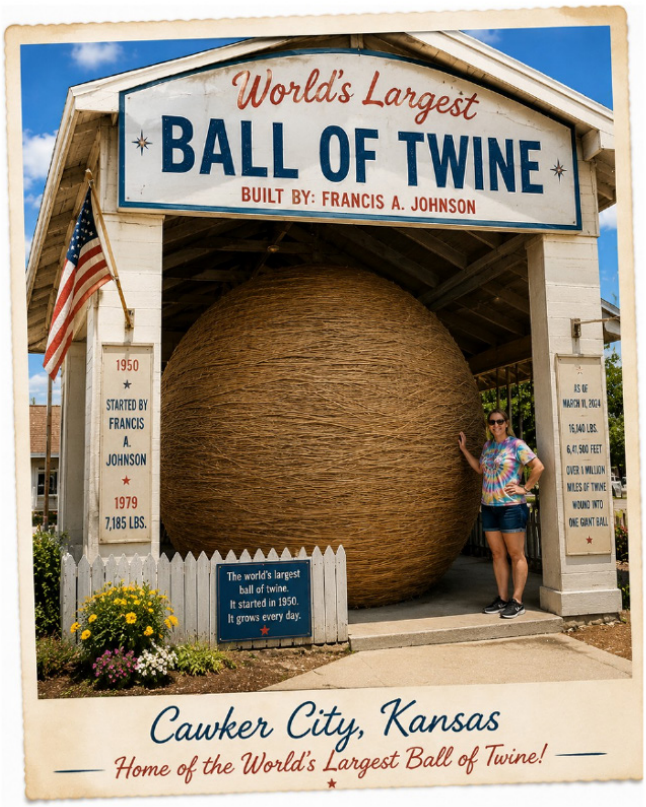
Many of us find ourselves spiritually parked—living on old faith, old experiences, and old expectations. This series will challenge us to identify what is keeping us stuck, discover the next step God is calling us to take, and find the courage to move forward with Him.

So pack your bags, grab a map, and join us for the journey. You never know what surprises, holy mo- ments, and unexpected blessings God may have waiting just around the next bend in the road.

See you on the road,
Rev. Dr. Sheila Crowe



For the Month of July—Many people find themselves spiritually parked—living on old faith, old experiences, and old expectations. Through the stories of Jacob, Philip, Moses, and Ruth, this series challenges us to identify what is keeping us stuck, discover the next step God is calling us to take, and find the courage to move forward with Him.



JUMC Preschool
JASPER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JUMC Preschool is out for the summer. We have just a few spots still available in each age category, and we need a few more teachers. School will start on Monday, August 10th.

Donna Dooley, Preschool Director
dooley@jasperumc.org
470-560-9696

Mission Matters

As you travel, collect and save the hotel hygiene products provided for your stay. We have a mission project coming up soon!!

Questions? contact Dex: 470-203-9595 or hummerlover60@hotmail.com
You'll be glad you did!!

Welcome Guest!

First time visitors are invited to stop by the Welcome Center to pick up a gift, along with a bit of information about our church activities. Please be on the lookout for new faces and bring them over to the Welcome Center after the service. Let's turn those visitors into guests!

Our fellowship coffee hour is a wonderful time to gather and socialize before Sunday school or Worship, and it's a great opportunity to introduce ourselves to those familiar faces we've not had a chance to meet. Remember to wear your name tag!

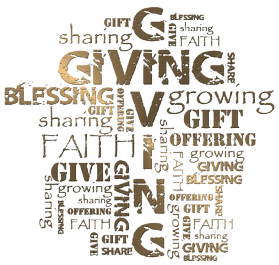
Would you like to occasionally help with the fellowship coffee hour? Send an email to nancyhenson.bt@gmail.com.

Would you like to occasionally be the one who opens the door to welcome those who enter? This would be for about 20 minutes prior to the Worship Service. Send an email to nancyhenson.bt@gmail.com

The Marble festival Road Race

committee continues their search for someone who is interested in being the race director for 2027. We have decided to take a respite year in 2026 to renew our leadership team and allow the GDOT and City of Jasper time to confirm the implementation of the Pickens County road project. This will also allow opportunities and time to work through some issues with the current & future route of the race and to continue our search for a new director. Contact Juanita Tatum or other Dorcas circle members for details if you are willing and able to serve in this position (nitawa27@gmail.com)

Online Giving



Use your smart phone to Scan the QR Code to make an online donation to the church. Fill out the information and send.

Great Volunteer Opportunity!

Are you passionate about the challenges of single parents in our county? Did you know that 100% of the single parents in our county struggle every month whether to put food on the table or keep their utilities on?

They need our support. We have available an opportunity to fund a co-hort program of a small group for single parents. The goal of the project is to lend a helping hand through mentoring, encouragement and educational assistance. We need someone to help organize and manage the program.

Is God calling you? Call Pastor Sheila to learn more and discern if you just might be the answer to someone's prayer.

PRAYER LIST

Call the church office to have names put on the list.
(Names will be on the list for 2 months)

Pray for those who are in need of our Lord's Healing Touch:

Pam Ewards, Martha Foster, Sara Fowler, Peggy Higgins, Kathy Huntington, Maureen Huntington, Linda Judkins, Tom Judkins, Don Larson, Joyce Leist, George Montgomery, Mary Russell, Susan Sherrell, Bobbye Jean Warford, Connie Tudor

Please call the church office if you have a prayer concern, update or to notify us of any family illnesses, deaths or hospitalizations.

For any emergencies after office hours,
Pastor Sheila can be reached on her cell # 770-842-3025

Music Ministry

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens…" Ecclesiastes 3:1

I have worked in the United Methodist Church through several seasons beginning as a college intern to part-time music director to full-time director of music and education. All had their challenges, but the most difficult season is realizing it is time to put the baton down. The JUMC Chancel Choir made this decision a hard one to make. It isn't just a choir, it is a spiritual small group of people who love and support each other and the church. They will always have a special place in my heart. I know whoever becomes the new Director of Music will be blessed.

I will still be working in the office. Feel free to stop in!

Cathy Riley, Director of Music
criley@jasperumc.org
706-253-2100 or 618-384-6254

JUMC Office Information:

We are all moved into our new office rooms:
Room 100: Pastor Sheila's Office
Room 101: Confence Room and Work Room
Room 102: Treasurer's Office
Room 103: Cathy's Office

▷ Please note that these rooms are no longer storage rooms and not a place to put extra items from other rooms in the church.
▷ Just a reminder to check with the office before scheduling any activity, including meetings. Even in the summer months, JUMC is a hub for community activities!
▷ If you have something for the Sunday bulletin, send it to the office by Monday afternoon.

Cathy Riley, Office Manager
criley@jasperumc.org
706-253-2100 or 618-384-6254

Happy Summer from Kids of the Kingdom!

We hope everyone is enjoying a fun and relaxing summer break. It was such a blessing to see many of our KOK kids at Vacation Bible School! We loved spending time with you, learning about God's Word, and sharing in all the fun activities together.

As a reminder, Kids of the Kingdom will begin meeting again on August 12th. We are already looking forward to another exciting year of learning, growing, and serving together.

Until then, we pray that you and your families have a wonderful Summer filled with fun, laughter, and God's blessings.

Have a safe summer, and we can't wait to see you in August!

"Let all that you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14

— Amy Swancey
Director of Children and Youth
amy@jasperumc.org

The United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men meet on the second Thursday of each month. Dinner is served at 6:00pm in the sanctuary with a devotion and business following. All men of the church are invited to join UMM.

For more information contact Richard Lewis: rtlewis145@gmail.com or call 678-492-6257.

ELEVATE

Happy July, Youth Group Families!

We want to give a huge shout-out to all of our youth who volunteered during Vacation Bible School. Your willingness to serve, help with activities, encourage younger children, and represent Christ through your actions made a big difference. We are so proud of the way you stepped up and served our church family!

July 4th Fireworks Outing

Join us as we celebrate Independence Day together! We have a youth group outing planned to watch the fireworks on July 4th. Be sure to watch for details about meeting times and locations. We look forward to a fun evening of fellowship and celebration. Elevate will start back up on August 16th.

Blessings,

— Amy Swancey
Director of Children and Youth
amy@jasperumc.org

The Dorcas Circle

The ladies of Dorcas Circle will meet Thursday, July 9th at 6pm.

2026 North Georgia Annual Conference Report

The 2026 North Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church was held June 18–20, 2026, at The Classic Center in Athens, Georgia, with a clergy executive session on June 17. The conference theme was based on Matthew 25:37–40 ("whatever you did for one of the least of these…"), emphasizing ministry with and for people in need. I was blessed to represent JUMC as the church lay delegate.

The 2026 session continued the North Georgia Conference's effort to strengthen local churches, support clergy and lay leadership, and align ministries around serving communities through the love and grace of Jesus Christ. The gathering combined worship, decision-making, accountability, and planning for the future ministry of United Methodists across North Georgia.

Throughout the three-day conference, delegates addressed:

Election of delegates to the 2028 General and Jurisdictional Conferences
The One Georgia Unification Report
Conference budget and financial matters
Nominations and leadership elections
Safe Sanctuaries updates
The Voting Rights Resolution and other submitted resolutions
Ordination and commissioning of clergy
Memorial recognitions and worship services

Budget Summary:
The District Treasurer and CFO report that the North Georgia District remains financially strong, with a healthy balance 22 sheet and prudent reserves. The mission work of the local church remains the focus of the Conference, while also supporting the work of the General Church and the North Georgia Conference itself. The total number of North Georgia Conference churches was 408 21 including newly emerging congregations and missional churches. A total of 303 churches, or 22 74.3%, paid 100% of their apportionments in 2025

Ordination Actions:
Thursday evening brought the conference attendees together for a beautiful ordination service During this service, candidates approved through the conference's credentialing process were ordained as elders and deacons as well as recognized for licensing.

Unification:
Both the South and North Georgia Conferences voted to unify both conferences into one Georgia Conference. What's next? A special session of the Southeastern Jurisdiction is expected to consider and approve the necessary conference boundary changes in August 2026. This step is required because annual conference boundaries are established at the jurisdictional level. Assuming all approvals are received, the new Georgia Annual Conference would officially begin on January 1, 2027. Conference boards, agencies, budgets, and administrative functions would transition into the new structure. The first regular session of the unified Georgia Annual Conference is planned for June 2027, when the new conference would conduct its normal 2026 North Georgia Annual Conference Report.

Annual business:
The Conference Treasurer and CFO report that apportionments are not set to be increased due to unification.

Service of Remembrance:
The Service of Remembrance was held Friday afternoon to honor clergy, clergy spouses, and lay leaders who have died since the previous annual conference.

Mission Updates:
The mission reports celebrated how North Georgia United Methodist churches are living out Christ's call to serve "the least of these" through local and global outreach, disaster relief, community ministries, and discipleship efforts. Leaders reported ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships, develop leaders, and expand the church's impact while remaining focused on serving people in need with compassion, justice, and Christian witness. Wellroot is expanding their campus in order to provide services for more youth and families.

The Handbook for the 2026 Annual Conference is available for all to read on the North GA UMC website. There you'll find more details regarding all of the business conducted during the session. It was an honor to represent JUMC at Annual Conference. I'm excited about the future of the one Georgia District and the work of the UMC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Kleinberg, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

Got a dollar?

(This was the opening sermon by our Bishop Dease at the 2026 Annual Conference. It is an outstanding sermon. Please read it and hear her words. May it challenge and inspire you.)

Got a dollar? It's a question that we hear often. Sometimes it's asked by someone in need. Sometimes it's asked just to test us. But today, Jesus turns that question, "Got a dollar?" into a spiritual X-ray. Because in the kingdom of God, the question is never just about the dollar. It's about the heart behind the one giving it. Because that single

dollar, often overlooked, dropped in a jar, or spent without thought, carries a whole lot of weight—not just financial weight, but spiritual, moral, and communal significance.

Got a dollar? It's more than a question. It's an invitation to give, to see, to love. It's a question that I had to ask in my own life when I was a seminary student in Washington, D.C. And I want you to know Lori Muller knows this story because my seminary professor remembered it over thirty years ago and just happened to share it with her.

I decided to hop on a bus to treat myself to dinner and a movie. I got on the subway train, and when I got off and reached the restaurant, I realized that my wallet had been pickpocketed. Ooh. And I'm new to D.C., and for you young delegates, they didn't have cell phones back then.

But it would cost only a dollar for me to get back on campus to the seminary. And I'm in a high-rent district Chevy Chase, Maryland, if any of you know that area and I thought that if I stood in front of Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, or Bloomingdale's, I knew I could get a dollar from someone there and get back on the bus.

Because it was cold. Not Atlanta cold. Up-in-New-York cold. Washington, D.C. cold. It would have taken me two hours to walk back. So I began begging for about an hour, maybe an hour and fifteen minutes, as people were trying to get to their cars.

"Excuse me, do you have a dollar? I just want to get back home. Can you spare a dollar?" Then I thought, "Well, maybe if I tell them I'm at the seminary, studying to be a pastor, they would see and understand…" Shoot, please. They didn't even know what seminary was.

Begging strips a person of the illusion that they are seen and valued and safe. It forces someone to rely on the mercy of people who may or may not give a damn. No one should have to beg for what God created them to deserve: food and safety and dignity and justice and belonging.

So they kept walking past me. Some wouldn't even look at me. Some ignored me. And here is what I learned: The more that you move up, the less you look back. Because comfort dulls memory. Hear me.

Once people breathe easier, they forget what it feels like to gasp for air. Even in the church, we leaders rise and forget the pews that formed us. Churches grow and forget the neighborhoods that surround them because suc- cess dulls compassion. Society advances and forgets the ones who labored to make advancement possible be- cause distance erases memory.

Yeah. Got a dollar? The question confronts our comfort, our assumptions, and our hearts.

My friends, this sermon is not about guilt. It's about grace. It's about dignity and the radical love of Christ. Jesus' promise in Luke—the scripture that was just read for your hearing is not a financial formula. It's a spiritual invitation. It's a radical reorientation of power, discipleship, and leadership.

Yeah. Every dollar is a test of our stewardship. When we cling to resources, we shrink our imagination. But when we release what we have our time, our compassion, our influence, our dollars yes, we participate in God's economy, where gifts circulate, dignity is restored, and communities flourish.

Friends, this is a call for you and me to lead differently. It's a call to see the least of these not as recipients of

our generosity, but partners in a shared liberation. Yeah. To build ministries where resources flow toward those who need them most and to cultivate congregations where generosity is not an obligation, but a spiritual practice.

When we give to the least of these, we are not filling a gap in someone else's life. We are healing the fractures in our own. Yeah. Having money. Having money, church, does not mean we're vital. Let us not confuse wealth with worth. Yeah.

The least of these are not just those who have nothing. They are those whose voices have been muted, whose bodies have been burdened, and whose futures have been deferred. So when we serve the least of these, we are not stepping down from a place of abundance. We are stepping into a place where Christ already stands.

Yeah. Because when the poor rise, the whole community rises. When justice rolls down like water, it washes over every single one of us. Do you know that in this month alone, five hundred people will be evicted from their homes in Atlanta? And I'm just talking about Atlanta proper.

So that Friday night, standing on the corner, begging for a dollar, after a little over an hour, from the shadows came a homeless man who handed me a dollar. And I was scared of him. I didn't know what he was going to do. I didn't know. And here he was following behind me, and he hands me a dollar. Then he goes back across the street and lays down on a bench, which was his home.

Here was a brother with no possessions, but a heart full of grace. "Sister, go home." His helping reminded me that generosity is not charity. It is a spiritual practice of remembering that my well-being is bound up with yours. Yeah. And that abundance is revealed only when we share. For two weeks I went back to that bench so I could give him twenty dollars for what he did for me that night. And I never saw him again.

Maybe he was an angel. Maybe it was a holy encounter at the margins. Because God tends to show up where you and I, and society, often avoid. Maybe it was a divine interruption. Because the person that you and I pass may be the person that God is sending to you. Maybe, just maybe, he was a reminder to me to look back no matter how far I rise and to resist the altitude sickness of leadership.

From that day on, almost thirty years ago, I made a commitment to keep dollar bills in my car. Because if I can remind someone they are seen, even with just a dollar, then I've done something good today.

My friends, charity can be a form of distance, but solidarity is a form of discipleship. Solidarity means, as the late Pope Francis said, that the shepherds smell like the sheep. You and I must begin to smell like the sheep.

Hear me now, clergy and laity. To smell like the sheep means you've been where they are in the briars, in the cold, in the confusion, and in the joy. Because if we are not close enough to smell like the people we serve, we are not close enough to lead them.

So may we resist the fear that tells us we do not have it to give. To see the poor as partners is to trust that God has placed gifts in every single community and that the church's role is not to deliver Christ to the poor, but to discover Christ among them.

So, as we gather throughout these next few days, may we remember that God is not waiting for us in the safety of our sanctuaries, but in the faces of the ones the world has forgotten.

Because this is the work that will shape the future of the United Methodist Church in Georgia and beyond. Not charity, but covenant. Not pity, but partnership. Not distance, but shared liberation.

And so now, this benediction.

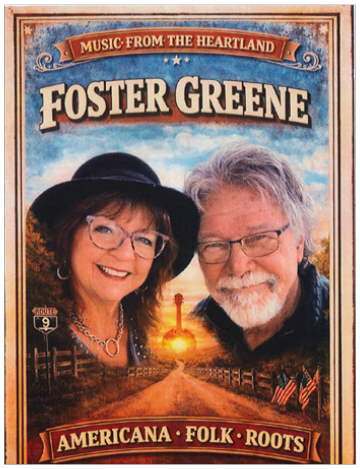
Go now and serve until the kingdom of God comes on earth as it is in heaven. May it be so in your life and ministry, and may it be so in mine.

Amen.

Ice Cream Social
and
Music

July 19 3 PM

Bring a tub of homemade ice cream and join our fun Favorite Flavor Competition. Or just come and sample all the delights. Then stay for great fun, music and laughter.



August 9

It is almost that time of year already. Kids will be going back to school and its time to get back to church. Join us on August 8 for a Blessing of the Bookbags, Teacher Recognition and Blessing and a **POTLUCK DINNER!**

The Recognitions and Blessings will be during the Worship service and then following the morning worship we will fellowship together with a good old fashion church potluck. This will be a great kick off to our Fall activities. Choir and Kids of the Kingdom will start back the following Wednesday and we want you to be part of it. So join us August 9 for Back2Back!

Saturday, Aug. 1st

9 am– 11am

Adults $7

Children (under 12) $4

Pancakes, Sausage, coffee and orange juice

Sponsored by JUMC Men's Group

FREE Basic Drawing Class with Alan Young

Limited Seating—Register Today

July 11th 9 AM—1 PM

Learn basic drawing techniques at "No Cost". Sponsored by the Jasper United Methodist Church, the class will be held July 11th from 9 AM to 1 PM in the church classroom.

Award winning wildlife artist and instructor Alan R. Young, will have students learn and practice alignment, perspective. forms, and scale as it relates to shading. Ages twelve and over are welcomed, and is for beginners. This will be a non competitive setting. All materials wil be provided. Ten seats are available.

Call the church office to register: 706-253-2100.