NOVEMBER 1, 2026

VOLUME 2

Camp Ground Connection

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving."
— W. T. Purkiser



HOMECOMING AT CAMP GROUND UMC

Homecoming at Camp Ground – A Wonderful Celebration!

What a joyful day we shared at Camp Ground for Homecoming! We welcomed more than 75 people to our church campus for a morning filled with worship, fellowship, and the warmth of God's love.

We were blessed to hear an inspiring message from our guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Tom Greener, followed by a wonderful fellowship meal. Our sanctuary was filled with laughter, smiling faces, and the joy of old friends and new coming together as one church family.

If you missed Homecoming, don't worry—there's so much more to look forward to! With Thanksgiving, Advent and the Christmas season just around the corner, we invite you to join us for the many special worship services and celebrations ahead.

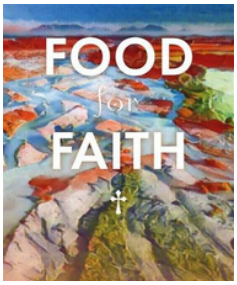
There's something wonderful happening here at Camp Ground, and we'd love for you to be part of it!

Fall Sermon Series: "Food for Faith"

The "Food for Faith" Sermon Series has resumed. Please share your favorite recipes by emailing them to nccampgroundumc@gmail.com or bringing them to Sunday Service. All recipes will be put into a booklet when the series ends. Please bring the following recipies on:

Nov. 1 - Baked Goods
Nov. 8 - Desserts
Nov. 15th International Foods
(Or bring a favorite cookbook to display)

You can continue to turn in vegetable, salad and fruit recipies from previous weeks as well. Thanks for your participation!



Newsletter Highlights

Homecoming at Camp Ground

Fall Sermon Series

S'more Faith Youth Group

Take and Bake

Voices Of Advent Class

November events:
Hootycreek cookie class
Military Appreciation
5th Sunday Worship and Fellowship Meal

UMW

December Events and Services

Camp Ground Daycare

Calendar and upcoming events





S'more Faith Youth Group News

Our S'more Faith Youth Group continues an exciting year of faith, fellowship, and fun! On November 13th and 14th, our youth will participate in Pilgrimage, joining this special weekend of worship, inspiration, and spiritual growth virtually from here in Fayetteville. We invite our church family to keep our youth in prayer as they share this experience together.

Heavenly Father, bless our young people as they gather for Pilgrimage. Open their hearts to Your love, strengthen their faith, and help them discover the wonderful plans You have for their lives. May they grow closer to You and to one another. Amen.

All youth in grades 5 and up are welcome to join us! S'more Faith Youth Group meets every other Sunday from 5:00–7:00 p.m. Come enjoy friendship, activities, and opportunities to grow in faith together!



Take & Bake Fundraiser – Holiday Edition!

Sunday, December 6th

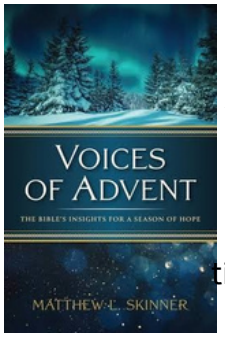
Following the success of our first Take & Bake fundraiser, we're excited to announce a special Holiday Edition on December 6th!

We're once again asking for donations of homemade casseroles and soups, but this time we're adding a little holiday sweetness! We would also gratefully welcome pies, cookies, and other festive baked goods.

If you're willing to prepare an item, please contact Barbara Poole. Every contribution helps make this fundraiser a success!

On December 6th, be sure to stop by the Fellowship Hall and browse the delicious offerings. Whether you're looking for a dish to take to a holiday gathering, a homemade treat to share with friends and loved ones, or something tasty for your own table, we've got you covered!

Thank you for supporting this delicious way to give back to our church!



VOICES OF ADVENT – ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

As we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season, our Adult Sunday School class invites you to join us for Voices of Advent, a special Advent study beginning Sunday, November 22nd. Together, we'll reflect on the hope, peace, joy, and love of the season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. All are welcome! Join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a meaningful time of study, conversation, and fellowship. Whether you're a regular attendee or joining us for the first time, we'd love to have you!

Sunday School Schedule Updates

Please note a few changes to our Sunday School schedule as we approach the holidays.

Sunday, November 29th: There will be no Sunday School as we observe our Fifth Sunday worship service. Following worship, everyone is invited to enjoy a fellowship meal together.

Sunday, December 27th: We will also take a break from our regular Sunday School classes. Instead, those who are in town are warmly invited to gather for a special holiday brunch and enjoy a little extra fellowship during the Christmas season.

We look forward to sharing these special times together!

CRANBERRY HOOTYCREEK COOKIE MIX CLASS



November 15
Join us after worship on Sunday, November 15, for a fun-filled time of fellowship as we make Cranberry Hootycreek Cookie Mix jars! Everyone is encouraged to participate, and you'll leave with a delicious cookie mix to bake at home or share with a neighbor as a thoughtful holiday gift. A sign-up sheet for ingredient donations is available in the narthex. Come enjoy some fellowship, laughter, and a little Christmas cheer!

Military Appreciation Sunday

On Sunday, November 15th, we will honor the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our country. We give thanks for their courage, dedication, and sacrifice, and pray that God will bless them and their families with strength, peace, and protection.





Fifth Sunday Worship in Owen Chapel November 29th

Join us on Sunday, November 29th, for a special Fifth Sunday worship service in Owen Chapel! Together, we'll celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, share in the joy of Baptism, and begin our new Art and Liturgy: Restoration Now series. Following worship, everyone is invited to gather for a fellowship meal as we enjoy good food, friendship, and the blessings of Camp Ground Family and Friends.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our UMW circles will continue to meet this fall. The dates will include:

Monday, Nov 2 UMW executive meeting 5:30 pm
Monday, Nov 9 UMW 11 am
Thursday, Nov 12 Wesleyanna 6 pm
Saturday, Dec 5 Christmas Luncheon

The groups will be continuing their collection of diapers and feminine hygiene products, sharing in fellowship and finishing the year with a wonderful holiday get-together. All women are welcome to participate! And you don't want to miss our Christmas Luncheon. We will share in fellowship, an amazing meal and holiday fun!

Share Your Christmas Memories!



As we prepare for the Advent season, we invite our church family to help us create something special!
We would love for you to share a favorite Christmas memory. Whether it's a cherished family tradition, a meaningful Christmas from years past, a heartwarming story, or a poem that captures the spirit of the season, we'd love to hear from you.
Please submit your short stories, memories, or poems to the church office. We'll gather these contributions into a special Advent booklet to share with the congregation before the First Sunday of Advent.
Help us celebrate the joy, love, and memories of Christmas through the voices of our own church family!



Light the Way This Christmas Eve

Youth Group Luminary Fundraiser

This Christmas Eve, our Youth Group will once again help light the way as we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ!
We invite you to support our youth by making a donation and dedicating a luminary in honor or memory of someone special. The luminaries will be displayed in front of the church on Christmas Eve, creating a beautiful tribute to those we love. A special booklet will also be available, listing the names of those being honored and remembered. Please submit your donations and dedication names to the church office by December 15th.
Thank you for supporting our youth and helping us fill Christmas Eve with light, love, and remembrance!

Christmas Caroling & Chili Supper – December 6th!



Come spread a little Christmas cheer with your Camp Ground family and friends on Sunday, December 6th! We'll head into the neighborhood surrounding our church to share favorite Christmas carols and invite our neighbors to join us for our upcoming holiday services. Afterward, we'll gather for a warm and delicious chili supper.

Everyone is welcome! A trailer will be available for those who prefer not to walk, and you don't have to be a singer to join the fun. Bring some jingle bells, a big smile, and a joyful spirit as we share the love and light of Christ with our neighbors this Christmas season!



Christmas Cantata – December 13th

A Celebration of Cherished Christmas Carols

Join us on Sunday, December 13th, during our morning worship service for a special Christmas Cantata. Under the direction of Laura Taylor, we'll celebrate the season through the beautiful, familiar carols that have filled our hearts and homes with Christmas joy for generations.

Come enjoy the music, reflect on the story of Christ's birth, and share in the wonder of the season. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us for this special musical celebration!

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service



Thursday, December 24th | 5:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Join us for a beautiful evening of worship as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with Holy Communion and candlelight. We will conclude our service outside, in front of the church, surrounded by the warm glow of our Christmas luminaries, as we share the light of Christ from candle to candle and sing Silent Night together.

Come experience the peace, hope, and wonder of Christmas Eve with your Camp Ground family!

Let's Celebrate Together – Birthdays & Anniversaries!

We'd love to start recognizing the birthdays and wedding anniversaries of our Camp Ground family and friends in our monthly newsletter! Help us celebrate these special occasions by submitting your birthday and anniversary dates to the church office as soon as possible. You can email your information to nccampgroundumc@gmail.com or contact the church office directly.

We look forward to sharing these joyful milestones with our church family!

FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO HAVE JOINED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT



Billy Gene Wray
Billy Gene Wray, 93, died peacefully in his Raeford, NC, home on October 20, 2026.

Billy was preceded in death by his grandparents, Bilo and Kara Millette “Daisy”Jones, who raised him; mother, Mary Jones McQuage, and stepfather, John McQuage; sister, Nancy McQuage Smith, and brother-in-law, H. B. Smith; mother-in-law, Grey Chaffin Covington; brother, David Wray; brother-in-law, Michael A. Covington; son, Steven Woods; son, Darryl Wray; and granddaughter, Kaitlyn Johns.
Billy is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Shelley Covington Wray; daughter, Ava Lynn Wray Price; sons, David Michael Wray (Sema), Dannah Wilde Wray (Leslie), Joel Christian Wray (Linda), Doran Paul Wray (Kimberly), and Caleb Lane Wray (Lillian); stepchildren, Valerie Ann York and Sara J. Navarro; grandchildren, Christopher Woods, Kimberly Woods, Stephanie Woods, Ian Michael Wray, Ava Christine Hailey, Benjamin Anthony Price, Justin Christian Wray, Jordan Neal Wray, Aaron J. Wray, Keith Alexander Locklair, Caroline Elizabeth Locklair, Salem Gates Wray Watson, Sydney Chappell Wray Eddy, David Von York, Grey Andrew York, Allan K. Senties, Raymond M. Navarro, and Nikolai R. Navarro; great-grandchildren, Skyler G. York, Rowan V. York, Mario Gonzáles, Abigail Lynn Hailey, Dayton James Hailey, and Delanney Lorraine Hailey.

The family will receive friends from 11 am to 12 pm, Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 12 noon in the Jernigan-Warren Chapel. Burial will follow at the Campground United Methodist Church Cemetery.



Nicholas Blanton
Nicholas Cameron “Nick” Blanton, 24, of Benson, passed away on September 29, 2026, at his home. He was born on August 9, 2002, in Fayetteville, North Carolina.
After graduating from high school, Nick joined the family business, Blanton’s Air, Plumbing & Electric. He worked in HVAC and electrical before finding his true passion in plumbing, where he loved serving his customers. It wasn’t unusual for Nick to spend hours in deep conversation with the people whose homes he worked in.
Nick loved life and brightened every room he walked into. He loved fishing, hunting, and live music, and he was always up for a good time. Wherever Nick was, that’s where the party was. He was loving, funny, and never passed up a good debate. Nick loved spending time with his family and friends. He loved his momma’s hugs, family dinners, and his dogs, but more than anything he loved hanging out with his brother and best friend, Wyatt, and being “Big Unc” to Huddy Reed.
Nick was preceded in death by his grandfather, Dennis Warden; his step-grandfather, Bob Hayes; and his grandmother, Alice Blanton.
He is survived by his parents, William and Shanna Blanton of Linden; his brother and best friend, Wyatt Blanton, and Wyatt’s fiancée, Sierra, of Benson; his nephew, Hudson Reed Blanton, of Benson; his grandfather, David Blanton of Fayetteville; his grandmother, Julie Hayes (Scott Smith) of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee; and his great-grandmother, Evelyn Blanton of Fayetteville. He was also loved deeply by his aunts, uncles, and cousins.
The family will receive friends from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 10, at Camp Ground United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. A funeral service will follow at 1:00 p.m. at the church. A private burial for family and close friends will follow.
Nick proudly drove the company’s MS Society truck in honor of his grandfather, Dennis Warden, who died from multiple sclerosis, and he was passionate about the cause. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in Nick’s memory.



Professor Kwame Sarpong

Professor Sarpong was an eminent scholar of pharmacognosy—the branch of pharmaceutical science concerned with medicines derived from natural sources, particularly medicinal plants. His career contributed to the development of scientific expertise in natural-product research and the training of generations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. He served as Professor of Pharmacognosy at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and occupied several important academic leadership positions, including Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Provost of the College of Health Sciences.

Across many years in academia, Professor Sarpong helped to educate, mentor and inspire pharmacists who subsequently assumed important roles in universities, hospitals, regulatory institutions, industry, community practice and pharmaceutical research. His influence therefore extended far beyond the lecture hall: it can be seen in the careers of the many professionals he taught and in the institutions they now serve.

His career also highlighted the strategic importance of pharmacognosy and medicinal-plant research in Ghana. In a country with a rich tradition of plant-based medicine, the scientific evaluation of natural products remains essential to establishing their safety, quality and therapeutic value. Professor Sarpong's work and mentorship helped strengthen the academic foundation upon which current research in herbal medicines and natural-product drug discovery continues to develop.

For many pharmacists, however, his most enduring legacy will be personal. He will be remembered as a teacher, mentor, senior colleague and professional statesman whose contribution can be traced through successive generations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana extends its deepest condolences to his wife, children, wider family, former students, colleagues and all who were privileged to know and work with him.

As the pharmacy fraternity mourns his passing, it also celebrates a life of distinguished service—a life dedicated to knowledge, professional development and the advancement of pharmacy in Ghana and West Africa.

Funeral and memorial arrangements will be communicated by the family in due course.

May the gentle soul of Professor Emeritus Kwame Sarpong rest in perfect peace.



George Adrian Bennett

May 22, 1943 – October 27, 2026

George Adrian Bennett, 83, passed away peacefully on October 27, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. Born on May 22, 1943, in Cumberland, Maryland, George was the son of Harry F. Bennett and Clara B. Bennett. He lived a life defined by hard work, devotion to his family, service to his country, and a sense of humor that brought laughter to those around him. A proud veteran of the United States Air Force, George served his country during the Vietnam War. His commitment to his fellow veterans continued throughout his life. While residing at the Fayetteville VA Community Living Center, he remained an active member of the VA community and served on the Residents Committee, representing and advocating for his fellow veterans. During his time there, he received compassionate and loving care from the dedicated VA staff, whose kindness and support were deeply appreciated by George and his family.

George enjoyed a long career with Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, where he demonstrated the strong work ethic and dependability for which he was known. A man of faith and community, George was a member of Camp Ground United Methodist Church and the Masonic fraternity.

Above all, George was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He and his beloved wife, Sandra Kay Bennett (Earsom), shared 60 years of marriage, building a life centered on love, family, and commitment. George was a hardworking man who took pride in providing for his family. He had a playful sense of humor and enjoyed teasing family members and friends, often bringing a smile to those around him. His love for his family, steady presence, and the memories they shared will be cherished for generations.

George is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Sandra Kay Bennett; his four children, Kimberly Hulon (Daniel), Sheri Cobern, Brian Bennett (Kelly), and Kevin Bennett (Erin); his grandchildren, Zachary Fegan, Halley Miller, Olivia Riggins, Brett Bennett, Sophia Bennett, Bailey Gray, Carter Gray, Lillyanna Bennett, Eli Bennett, Cristabel Zamora and his great-granddaughter, Syrene Yancey. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry F. Bennett and Clara B. Bennett; his son-in-law, John Cobern; and his grandson, Tyler Miller. George's legacy of service, hard work, love of family, and laughter will live on through the generations of family and friends whose lives he touched.

Little Hands, Big Blessings

News from Camp Ground's Daycare

Our daycare continues to be a place filled with laughter, learning, friendship, and love. We are grateful for the many ways our Camp Ground church family supports this important ministry and the children and families we serve.

A Heartfelt Thank You: We want to extend a special thank you to everyone who has generously supported our daycare through donations, volunteer time, and prayers. Your kindness is making a real difference. Many items from our daycare wish list have already been donated, and the children are happily putting them to good use in their classrooms. It is wonderful to see the generosity of our congregation helping create an even better environment for learning and growing. There are still additional items on our wish list, and we welcome anyone who would like to help. An updated wish list is available in the church office. Every contribution, large or small, is appreciated.

Trunk or Treat: A Wonderful Success

Our recent Trunk or Treat celebration was a tremendous success. We enjoyed a wonderful assortment of creative and adorable decorated trunks, a fun pumpkin decorating contest, plenty of treats, and, most importantly, lots of happy children.

It was a special opportunity for our daycare families and church community to come together, make memories, and enjoy some fall fun. Thank you to everyone who decorated a trunk, donated supplies, volunteered, or helped make the celebration possible. The smiles on the children's faces said it all.

Looking Ahead: A Season of Thanksgiving

As November arrives, our daycare is looking forward to its annual Thanksgiving Feast. This special gathering is an opportunity to share food, fellowship, and gratitude with the families who entrust us with the care of their children.

We are reminded daily that our daycare is about so much more than childcare. It is a ministry of love, providing a safe and nurturing place where children can learn, grow, build friendships, and experience God's love through the people who care for them.

Help Us Spread the Word

Our daycare currently has spaces available for new children. If you know a family searching for a high-quality, loving childcare environment, please encourage them to come visit and see all that Camp Ground's daycare has to offer. Recommendations from our church family are one of the most meaningful ways we can reach families in our community.

Thank You, Camp Ground

To our church family, thank you for continuing to believe in and support this ministry. Whether you have donated an item, volunteered your time, offered a prayer, or simply shared a kind word, you are helping make a difference in the lives of children and families.

Together, we are planting seeds of faith, kindness, and love that will continue to grow for years to come.



2026 November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am All Saints' Sunday with Communion	2 Monday Madness 10 am UMW exec. meeting 5:30 pm	3 Bible Study at Barb King's 9am Election Day- Fellowship Hall unavailable	4 Golden Sneakers 9am Medicare Presentation 11 am	5 Preschool Chapel 9:30 am Called Charge Conference Zoom 5 pm Jonah Bible Study 6 pm	6 Golden Sneakers 9 am	7
8 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am S'more Faith Youth 5 pm	9 Monday Madness 10 am UMW meeting 11 am Girl Scouts 5:45 pm	10 Bible Study at Barb King's 9 am Daycare Committee meeting 6pm	11 Golden Sneakers 9am Daycare and Church Closed Veteran's Day	12 Preschool Chapel 9:30 am Wesleyannas 6pm	13 Golden Sneakers 9 am S'more Faith Youth Pilgramage Rocky Mount NC	14
15 Sunday School 9 am Military Appreciation Worship 10 am Cranberry Hootycreeks Class after service	16 Monday Madness 10 am Girl Scouts 5:45 pm	17 Bible Study at Barb King's 9am Daycare Family Luncheon 11 am	18 Golden Sneakers 9am Medicare Presentation 11 am	19 Preschool Chapel 9:30 am Jonah Bible Study 6pm	20 Golden Sneakers 9 am	21 Red Hat Society Friendsgiving
22 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am S'more Faith Youth 5 pm	23 Monday Madness 10 am Girl Scouts 5:45 pm	24 Bible Study at Barb King's 9am	25 Golden Sneakers 9am Church Office Closed	26 Happy Thanksgiving! Daycare Closed Church Office Closed	27 Golden Sneakers 9 am Daycare Closed Church Office Closed	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent Worship Owen Chapel 10 am 5th Sunday Potluck "Holiday Foods"	30 Monday Madness 10 am Girl Scouts 5:45 pm	Notes:				

December 2026

Camp Ground United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 am Bible Study at Barb King's 6:00 pm Advent Dessert and Discussion at the Parsonage	2 9:00 am Golden Sneakers 12:00 pm UMW General Mtg	3 9:30 am Preschool Chapel	4 9:00 am Golden Sneakers	5 12:00 pm United Women in Faith Luncheon
6 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Sunday Worship 3:00 pm Caroling and Chili 5:00 pm S'more Faith Youth Group	7 10:00 am Monday Madness 5:45 pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm Advent Dessert and Discussion at the Parsonage	8 9:00 am Bible Study at Barb King's	9 9:00 am Golden Sneakers	10 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 6:00 pm Wesleyanna's Fellowship Hall)	11 9:00 am Golden Sneakers	12
13 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Christmas Cantata during Worship	14 10:00 am Monday Madness 5:45 pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm Advent Dessert and Discussion at the Parsonage	15 9:00 am Bible Study at Barb King's	16 9:00 am Golden Sneakers	17 9:30 am Preschool Chapel	18 9:00 am Golden Sneakers 9:30 am Daycare Christmas Program	19 Red Hat Friendsmas Gathering
20 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Sunday Worship 5:00 pm S'more Faith Youth Group	21 10:00 am Monday Madness 5:45 pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	22 9:00 am Bible Study at Barb King's	23 Daycare Closed (Christmas Break) 9:00 am Golden Sneakers	24 Church Office Closed at Noon 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (Communion and Candlelight)	25 Church Office Closed	26
27 10:00 am Sunday Worship	28 Church Office Closed 10:00 am Monday Madness 5:45 pm Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	29 9:00 am Bible Study at Barb King's	30 9:00 am Golden Sneakers	31 Church Office Closed 2:00 pm Daycare Closes		