The Beacon

The Latest at **CHRIST UMC** | OCTOBER 2026



Who Do We Follow?

From the Pastor's Desk



One of my favorite questions when talking about our faith is, "What is a disciple?" I usually answer that a disciple is a follower of Jesus whose life is centered on loving God and loving others. I have been talking a lot about loving God and loving others in our recent sermon series: Altogether Christian. But I would like to talk about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. In order for us to follow Jesus, we first have to know who the one we are following is.

To help with this, we are starting a new small group study called "Jesus Is Lord." This 6-week study will dive deep into answering this question and understanding what it means to declare that Jesus is Lord. We will have classes offered on Mondays at 10am, Thursdays at 6:30pm (with childcare), and Sundays at 9am before the worship service. There is a study book available for purchase for $15. Sign-ups will begin on October 4th. I hope some of you will join us!

Blessings,
Pastor Eric Williams

in this issue

PAGE **2 & 3**
United Women in Faith
Plus Pumpkin Unloading Pics

PAGE **4 & 5**
Patch News
and all things Fall!

PAGE **6 & 7**
Security Corner
with the monthly mission highlight.

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9:30am Music 10am Christ Quilters	2	3
4 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15 am Worship 10:30am Adventure Kids 11:15am Fellowship	5 7pm AA Meeting	6 3pm Feed the Hungry 5pm NB--CPR Class	7 10am UWF Board Meeting 10am P/S Chapel 5:30pm Choir Practice	8 9:30am Music 10am Christ Quilters	9	10 9am Pumpkin Delivery #2
11 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15 am Worship 10:30am Adventure Kids 11:15am Fellowship 12pm Youth Group	12 9am Jesus is Lord Bible Study 7pm AA Meeting	13 10am Circle One Mtg 10am Preschool Connection 6:15pm Operations Mtg. 6:30pm Freedom Circle	14 10am Hope Circle Meeting 10am P/S Chapel 5:30pm Choir Practice	15 9:30am Music 10am Christ Quilters 6:30pm Jesus is Lord Bible Study	16	17 9am Christmas in the Patch 11am Fall Festival 2pm Ministry Team Meg
18 9am Heavenly Hash--Jesus is Lord 10:15 am Worship 10:30am Adventure Kids 11:15am Fellowship	19 9am Jesus is Lord Bible Study 7pm AA Meeting	20	21 10am P/S Chapel 3:30pm Worship Design 5:30pm Choir Practice 5:30pm Movie Night at Messy Church	22 9:30am Music 10am Christ Quilters 6:30pm Jesus is Lord Bible Study	23	24 10am NB--CPR Class
25 9am Heavenly Hash--Jesus is Lord 10:15 am Worship 10:30am Adventure Kids 11:15am Fellowship 12pm Youth Group	26 9am Jesus is Lord Bible Study 1pm Congregational Care 7pm AA Meeting	27 10am P/S Connection Craft	28 10am UWF Unit Meeting 10am P/S Chapel 5:30pm Choir Practice	29 9:30am Music 10am Christ Quilters 1pm Book Club 6:30pm Jesus is Lord Bible Study	30	31

CHRIST United Methodist Church
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FOR THE LADIES

United Women in Faith

Our Women's Circles will be meeting on the following dates, and all are welcome. We truly hope to see you at one of these gatherings!

- Circle One will meet on Tuesday, October 13, at 10:00 AM in Wilson Hall.
- Freedom Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 13, at 6:30 PM in the kitchen.
- Hope Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 14, at 10:00 AM in Wilson Hall.

Then join us on Wednesday, October 28, at 10:00 AM in Wilson Hall for our Unit Meeting. ALL are invited; you need not be a member of the UWF. We will have a representative from the Red Cross share with us about their Veterans' Christmas Stocking program. Come and be part of this special event. Refreshments will be served by the Hope Circle.

It's time for Christmas in the Patch! You can read all about it on page 4.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated, baked, and volunteered during our recent Rummage Sale. With your help, it was a great success.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Stay & Fellowship After Worship!

Sunday morning doesn't have to end when the service does! Take a few extra minutes to join us in Wilson Hall for coffee, a cold beverage, and a light snack.

Whether you're catching up with longtime friends, getting to know someone new, or simply enjoying a cup of coffee and a bowl of oatmeal, our Sunday fellowship time is a wonderful way to spend a few extra moments together as a church family.

Help Us Keep the Table Full
Our fellowship time is possible because of the generosity and participation of our church family. There are several simple ways you can help:

- Bring a favorite homemade treat to share.
- Make a contribution to the donation jar on the fellowship table.
- Pick up something from our shopping list the next time you're at the store.

Every contribution, whether large or small, helps make our Sunday gatherings welcoming and enjoyable. Thank you for helping us create a place where everyone feels welcome!

Fellowship Shopping List
Keep an eye out for sales and BOGO deals!

- Ground coffee — regular or decaf, unflavored
- Refrigerated coffee creamers
- Chocolate chips — regular or mini
- Freezer-friendly or shelf-stable snacks such as muffins, cookies, crackers, etc.
- Fresh fruit — bananas, strawberries, grapes, and blueberries are always popular!

Please label donated items "Fellowship" and leave them in the church office or bring them to the kitchen on Sunday morning.

Questions? Contact Laura Williams by text or call at (904) 614-1485.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

October Celebrations

Birthdays
4 Sara Daugharty
5 Stephanie Trefry
8 Fred Boyd
Melody Godwin
Virginia Sussex
9 Steffanie Stuart
11 Christina Fowler
12 Pat Ferguson
16 Bruce Smith
22 Bonnie Dawson
23 Kayla Goodner
Sharon Nunn
27 Cheryl Graham
28 Emma Berry
30 Sandra Pavlick
31 Eileen Patterson

Anniversarys
25 Ron and Faye Powel

COME AND SIT A SPELL

Our October Book Club Pick: Theo of Golden

Join us for our next Book Club gathering on October 29, at 1:00 PM, as we discuss Theo of Golden by Allen Levi, a heartwarming story about kindness, connection, generosity, and the difference one person can make in the lives of others.

The novel follows Theo, a mysterious older man who arrives in the small Southern town of Golden. After discovering a collection of pencil portraits of local residents in a coffee shop, Theo begins purchasing the portraits and giving them to the people pictured. In return, he asks for something simple: the opportunity to hear their stories. What begins as a series of quiet encounters soon creates connections throughout the community and reveals just how powerful it can be to slow down, listen, and truly see one another.

Filled with memorable characters and plenty of opportunities for reflection, Theo of Golden explores friendship, loss, second chances, and the ripple effects of everyday kindness. Pick up a copy and join us on October 29, at 1:00 PM for a great conversation, fellowship, and a chance to share what stood out to you!

SECURITY CORNER

All Present

The Security Task Team recently held its final meeting of the year, where the primary focus was establishing the team roster for 2027.

We are pleased to announce that all current members have committed to returning for the upcoming year. Original members Teresa Romano, Jim Ransom and, Chairperson Bob Strachan will be returning for their 9th year, joined by Pastor Eric Williams, Mike Chambers, and Wanda Lee. Additionally, Don Sussix, who concluded his tenure on the team last year, will continue to serve as a volunteer backup for Sunday security camera monitoring.

Regarding the team's continuity, Bob Strachan shared, "I am thrilled that all members have re-upped for another year. The dedication of each person on this team is vital to our ongoing goal of ensuring CUMC remains a low-profile and secure environment."

While the Security Task Team officially meets three to four times per year, we remain vigilant 365 days a year to oversee the safety of everyone on our campus.

Stay alert, stay alive.

OCTOBER MISSION HIGHLIGHT

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Why bible translation? Because all people should be able to understand that God loves them. For God so loved the world… But how does the world know He loves them if they're not told in a language and format they clearly understand?

Christ United Methodist has partnered with Pat and Melinda Edmiston, Wycliffe Bible Translators, for many years. We celebrated when they finished the translation of the New Testament in the Alamblak Language for the people of Papua, New Guinea.

Today they are in the last stages of recording the New Testament for the Alamblak people. Several health issues with the recording team have put them behind schedule, so Pat and Melinda are asking for prayers to complete this project before they are scheduled to return home.

Christ United Methodist mission team is pleased to partner with them. A donation will be sent from our congregation. If you wish to donate to the Edmistons please designate your check for the Edmistons or Wycliffe.



ONE LAST HELPING HAND

Pumpkin Patch Breakdown

What a wonderful month it will be at the Pumpkin Patch! But after weeks of pumpkins, visitors, volunteers, conversations, and fall fun, our patch will officially come to a close on Halloween. But before we can call the season complete, there's one last big job to tackle together!

Pumpkin Patch Breakdown Day is Saturday, November 7 at 9:00 AM. We'll be taking down the patch, cleaning up, and packing away all of our supplies and equipment until it's time to do it all again next year. Many hands make light work, so we need all the help we can get! If you're able to lend a hand, even for part of the morning, we would be grateful to have you.

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped make this year's Pumpkin Patch possible, whether you unloaded pumpkins, worked a shift, provided food, welcomed visitors, purchased a pumpkin, or supported the patch in another way. It takes an incredible team to make this ministry happen each year!

If you have questions about Breakdown Day, volunteering at the patch, or signing up for any of our pumpkin activities, please contact:
Hanna Thomas • (904) 612-7286 or
Cathy Klein • (904) 477-9150

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Pumpkin Unloading #1

Thank you to everyone who came out to unload our first pumpkin truck! Check out some pictures from unloading day below.



















ALL THINGS FALL

The Pumpkin Patch is Open! 🎃

The pumpkins are here, and our patch is open all month! Stop by Monday through Saturday from 10 AM–8 PM or Sunday from Noon–8 PM.

There's a way for everyone to be part of the patch! Welcome visitors, help with pumpkin sales, straighten up the patch, or give pumpkins a turn to help keep them fresh. More than anything, simply being present, offering a warm welcome, and sharing a friendly conversation is a wonderful way to show Christ's love to our community.

Volunteer Shifts: Ready to join us? Sign up for a shift through our online SignUpGenius using the QR code below, or add your name to the sign-up board in the Narthex.

If you have any questions about anything Fall, or need help signing up for anything, contact Hanna Thomas (904) 612-7286 OR Cathy Klein (904) 477-9150.

HOLIDAY RUMMAGE

Christmas in The Patch

We're now accepting donations for this year's Christmas in the Patch rummage sale. It's a wonderful opportunity to find the perfect holiday decoration or gift, while supporting a mission close to CUMC's heart. Whether it's a festive item you no longer need or a brand new gift, your donation will make a difference.

Donations are due by Sunday, Oct 11. Then join us for a 2-day sale on Friday, October 16, and Saturday, September 17. Everything is inside Wilson Hall, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, both days. Get a jump on your Christmas shopping. It's a great way to contribute and spread holiday cheer.



FUN WITH THE FAMILY

Fall Festival

Fall is here, and we're ready to celebrate! Join us on Saturday, October 17, from 11 AM to 1 PM for our annual Fall Festival, a fun afternoon for the whole family and a great chance to enjoy time together with friends and neighbors.

Come hungry for a free BBQ lunch, then stick around for a bounce house, games, crafts, music, and more! Visit the Pumpkin Patch to find your perfect pumpkin, or get creative with our $5 Paint-a-Pumpkin activity. We'll also have additional treats available for purchase throughout the festival.

And there's even more happening that day! Stop by Wilson Hall to shop our special seasonal-themed rummage sale before or after the festival. (More above)

Bring the kids, invite a friend or neighbor, and come enjoy a beautiful fall day with our church family and community. We can't wait to see you!



ALL THINGS FALL

Our Next Pumpkin Delivery is Coming! 🎃

Our second pumpkin delivery arrives October 10 at 9 AM! Just like last time, we'll need plenty of helping hands to unload and fill the patch. Whether you can stay for the whole morning or just help for a little while, we'd love to have you! We're also looking for volunteers to provide soup for lunch for our hardworking crew. After all those pumpkins are unloaded, a warm lunch will be very welcome!

Come lend a hand, share a meal, and help us get the patch ready for another great week!

MOVIE IN THE PATCH

Messy Church Movie Night

Join us for a fun and relaxing Messy Church Movie Night on Wednesday, October 21! Bring the family, get comfortable, and enjoy an evening together with good food, a great movie, and plenty of fellowship.

We'll start the evening with a sandwich and chips dinner at 6:30 PM, giving everyone time to eat, visit, and get settled before the movie begins. Then at 7:00 PM, it's showtime! We'll dim the lights, pass around the popcorn, and settle in for the movie together.

This is an easy evening to invite a friend, neighbor, or another family to join you. Dinner, popcorn, and a movie with friends... what better way to spend a Wednesday night?



CARS & CANDY

Trunk or Treat & Chili Cook-Off

Get ready for an afternoon of costumes, candy, and a little friendly competition!

Join us for Trunk or Treat and our Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, October 25, from 4–6 PM. Bring the whole family, invite your friends and neighbors, and come enjoy a fun fall afternoon with our church and community.

Want to be part of the fun? We need volunteers to decorate their cars and hand out candy during Trunk or Treat. And if everyone tells you that your chili is the best around, now is your chance to prove it! Bring a crockpot of your "famous" chili and enter the Chili Cook-Off competition. Sign-ups are available for both trunks and chili entries.

Those hosting a trunk should plan to arrive by 3 PM to decorate and get set up. Chili Cook-Off participants should arrive by 3:30 PM with their crockpot of chili, ready for tasting.

Whether you're decorating a trunk, competing for chili bragging rights, or simply coming for the candy and fun, we'd love to have you join us!

