

September 18, 2020

# THE EPISTLE

Community Collection Continues



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# **UMC Western NC Conference Annual Report**

## **Submitted by Frank Fields, Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference**

### **Sedgefield UMC**



Due to Covid-19 travel and mass assembly restrictions, the 2020 Western North Carolina Annual Conference was conducted on-line this year. Conference staff made great efforts to organize the event so it would be meaningful and informative despite the limitations of on-line gatherings. There were a number of presentations, all of which had been thoughtfully prepared and recorded prior to the live streamed event on August 8. The topics of these reports included district updates, conference finances, church vitality, racial justice and reconciliation efforts, and mission engagement. Even though we have all been challenged by health and safety concerns over the past few months, it was clear that our Church has remained not only active, but proactive during this time

In addition to reports, lay delegate and clergy attended to the normal business of the conference. This attention included a memorial for those members lost during the preceding year, as well as the discontinuation of 17 churches whose membership had fallen to the point that they became unsustainable. Unfortunately, the loss of smaller churches is something that happens virtually every year, and serves as a reminder that the vitality of any church is fragile and dependent on careful nurturing of our congregations, their needs, and most importantly their faith.

Petitions and general business requiring votes to ratify or approve were securely conducted on-line. All agenda items brought before the conference were passed. One change that was out of the ordinary this year was the process of disaffiliation of seven churches. All petitions to disaffiliate were voted on individually, and all were approved.

For a complete review of conference documents and presentations, you can browse to <https://www.wnccumc.org/ac2020>. On this site here is also a recording of the stream that was delivered during the conference. The 2021 Western North Carolina Annual Conference is slated to take place at Lake Junaluska, and hopefully we'll be able to attend in person again next year.

## Religion & Politics



Jesus prayed a lot. I know it's hard to explain. How can Jesus ask God for something when Jesus and God are one in the same? (When you get that one figured out, call me!) Within hours of Jesus' death, Jesus asked God for something that would fix the political chaos in our nation *immediately!* The nastiness, the name-calling, the unhealthy divisiveness...all would be things of the past. The question is, will God answer his Son's prayer? The answer to this question isn't in God's hands. It's in your hands and mine. The good news? There's still time!

~Pastor Jim

## This Week in Worship

Sunday, September 20, 2020

### Pre-Service Music

*Ms. Lynn Hager*

10:25 a.m.

### Message

*Religion and Politics: It's Possible!*

**John 17:1-23**

10:30 a.m.





## Weekly Study Guide

What do you look forward to the most—and dread the most—about this and every Presidential election season?

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Think of the people with whom you interact the most. What percentage of those people think pretty much the same way as you politically? If it's a high percentage, why do you think that is?

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Which are you more likely to do:

- Evaluate your political views through the filter of your faith?
- Create a version of your faith that supports your political views?

Think carefully about these two choices, and explain your answer.

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Read **John 17:1-23**. In verse 5, Jesus asks God to “glorify” him (to “light him up”) as he goes to the cross. Did God answer that prayer? Why or why not?

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In **17:11**, Jesus asks God to protect (“watch over” or “keep”) his disciples. Yet this cannot be about their physical protection. Jesus has already told his disciples they’d be arrested and flogged; some would even be killed. So what is Jesus asking of God? (Look carefully at verse 11. The answer is there.)

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Who is Jesus praying for in **17:21**? What exactly is Jesus asking of God?

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Have you ever prayed for unity? Why or why not?

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Which of the following do you want to do, do you think you can do, and do you think you will do? Explain your answers.

- Agree to disagree politically
- Love unconditionally
- Pray for unity

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**Daily Prayer:** *God, make us one so that we can influence many. Amen.*



## Ways to Give Your Offerings to Sedgefield UMC



### **Online Through**

[sedgefieldchurch.org](http://sedgefieldchurch.org)

Make a credit card  
or electronic  
contribution.



### **Bank Draft**

Set up automatic  
contributions  
through your  
bank's Online  
Bill Pay.



### **Church**

Mail your check to:

Sedgefield UMC  
2830 Dorchester Pl  
Charlotte, NC 28209

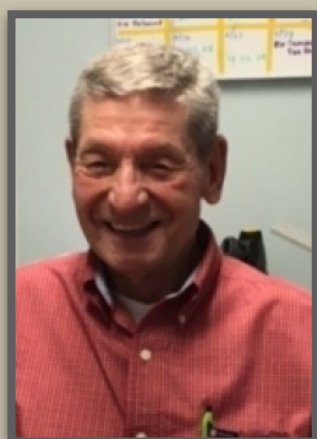


### **Online Through**

[wnccumc.org](http://wnccumc.org)

Make a credit card  
or electronic  
contribution.

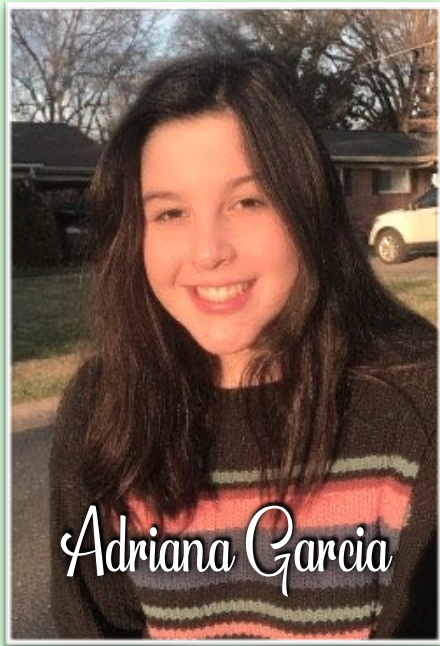
## Nominations Committee



One sign that autumn is approaching is when our Nominations Committee goes to work preparing a slate of nominees to serve on committees and in leadership roles for the upcoming year. These nominees will be presented to the Church Council for acceptance at our Charge Conference on November 12, 2020. Please be in prayer for your 2020 Nominations Committee members: *Mary Jo Bridges, Jim Brookshire, Shea Clarke, MaryAnne Garcia, Hal Kidd, Kimberly Little, Logan Smith, and Jim Thompson* as they undertake the important task of filling leadership positions for 2021. Each of you is also encouraged to pray for discernment in your own life as to how God may be leading you to serve.



# Sedgefield Student Spotlight



Adriana Noelle Garcia is a junior at Myers Park High School where her favorite subject is English. Classes related to the medical field are also among Adriana's favorites as she would like to attend Wake Forest University to study Biology. Her eventual goal is a career in the field of Pediatric Oncology.

Adriana is vice-president of the Myers Park High School Unified Champions Club, a club that focuses on unifying their special education classmates with the entire student body. Adriana has joined the debate team this year and is currently taking a spin cycle class at Ride or Die Spin Studio.



Adriana is happiest when she watches the sunset with her friends or creates new memories with her family. Adriana is the daughter of Jaime & MaryAnne Garcia and the older sister of Adelyn. Adriana says what she likes best about Sedgefield United Methodist Church is "the sense of community and that everyone is a second family. I truly miss spending Sundays there and being with my youth group!"



Adriana will be celebrating her 17th birthday on Monday, September 21st.





SEDGEFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# COMMUNITY COLLECTION

FOR OUR NEIGHBORS LIVING AT DOVE'S NEST

**SEPTEMBER 12 - 27**



**WOMEN'S &  
CHILDREN'S**

new/gently used

**SHIRTS  
AND SHOES**

of all sizes

\*please attach pairs together

**PORCH DROP OFF: 2830 DORCHESTER PL**

For additional information on how your home can be a drop off location please email

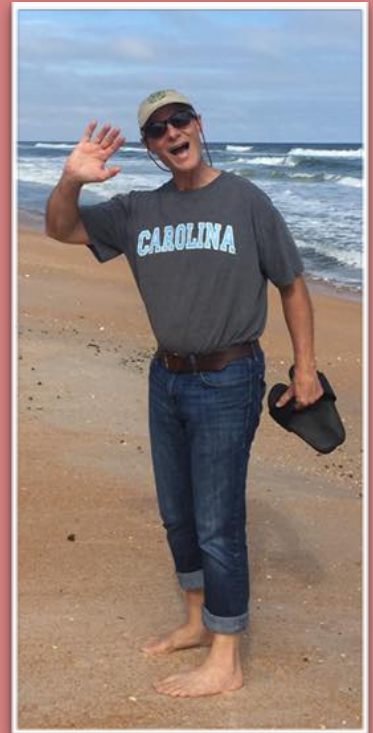
Kimberly Little: [kimberlyelittle@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlyelittle@gmail.com)

Tom Little: [tal21951@gmail.com](mailto:tal21951@gmail.com)

## Altar Flowers

The altar flowers on Sunday, September 20 have been given by Leigh Fresina in appreciation to our worship leaders who work tenaciously to broadcast our worship services online so that we can continue to worship together during these days of pandemic. Thank you...

*Lynn Hager, Ron Aldridge, Marshall Bain  
Frank Fields, Rick Langford and Pastor Jim*



# Hymn Sing

Joyful voices, friendly greetings and smiles abounded at our front lawn hymn sing on Tuesday. Thanks to the event planners, Carol & Kimberly Little and Lynn Hager, accompanist, for making the hymn sing possible.



## Current Sermon Series



September 13, 2020

*Religion & Politics: Back to Basics*

Previous services can be viewed at  
[www.sedgefieldchurch.org/sermons/](http://www.sedgefieldchurch.org/sermons/)

**UNITED  
METHODISTS  
STAND AGAINST  
RACISM**



**UMC.org/EndRacism**



You're invited to  
**Join Us**


Each **Wednesday** at **1 o'clock** Pastor Jim hosts a time of conversation and fellowship.

Everyone is invited to **Connect** 

To connect online: [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)

To connect by phone: 646-876-9923

Meeting ID: **954 3442 7851**



The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

**Remember In Prayer**

**Jaime Garcia, Ruby Gardiner, Polly Haney,  
Jerry Meyer, Tommy Reep, Sue Van Vynckt**

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If you have a request or concern that you would like added to our prayer list,  
please send the request to:



[prayerrequest@sedgefieldchurch.org](mailto:prayerrequest@sedgefieldchurch.org)

# CALENDAR

**Virtual meetings are indicated with this symbol  and are held via Zoom.**  
**To join a Zoom meeting by phone, call 1-312-626-6799.**  
**To connect by computer, go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)**



## ▶ **Nominations Committee** ◀

Tuesday, September 22  
6:30 p.m.

 Meeting ID: 867 6525 4475  




## ▶ **Let's Connect!** ◀

Wednesday, September 23  
1:00 p.m.

 Meeting ID: 954 3442 7851  




## ▶ **Board of Trustees** ◀

Thursday, October 1  
6:30 p.m.

 Meeting ID: 885 9129 8578  


## ▶ **Annual Charge Conference** ◀

Thursday, November 12  
6:30 p.m.

 Meeting ID: 858 9238 2400  






**Rev. Jim Brookshire**, Pastor  
PastorJim@SedgefieldChurch.org  
704-232-4878



**Ron Aldridge**  
Worship Leader



**Mary Jo Bridges**  
Director of  
Children's  
Ministry



**Bud Davidson**  
Treasurer



**Robin Moore**  
Nursery Caregiver



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