

AUGUST 2026

THE GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Winder First United Methodist Church
280 N. Broad St. Winder, GA 30680 -- (770) 867-4594

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

***Around our Church
Missions Update
Children's Ministry
Birthdays & Calendar
Prayer Concerns,
Memorials & Thanks***



HAPPY AUGUST!

Rev. Dr. Geoff Murphy



Happy August,

I am so thankful to get the opportunity to serve as your pastor in this our 190th year as a church. The history of our church is rich and the names of those who have impacted our story is vast.

This month I'm taking time to be thankful for every person who answered God's call and has served as a pastor throughout the years. I'm guessing you know some stories and have heard others about the things Winder FUMC has done to be the church it has been and is.

Again, I'm thankful that this season of ministry belongs to me and that I get to share it with you.

Our celebration on the 30th is going to be wonderful so invite everyone. Tina and I pray blessings over us all as we prepare!

Rev. Dr. Geoff Murphy





Kindred Spirits

LUNCHEON FOR WIDOWS - OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!

Kindred Spirits is a monthly ladies luncheon in the Winder FUMC Fellowship Hall for women who have lost their spouse, be it years ago or just recently.

This event is open to the entire community. If you know someone who is also a kindred spirit, please invite them!

**Thursday August 27th
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM**

*280 N. Broad Street
Winder FUMC Fellowship Hall*

RSVP by Text/Voicemail to (706)
389-8507 by Friday August 21st.

Or RSVP via QR Code!



WINDER FUMC

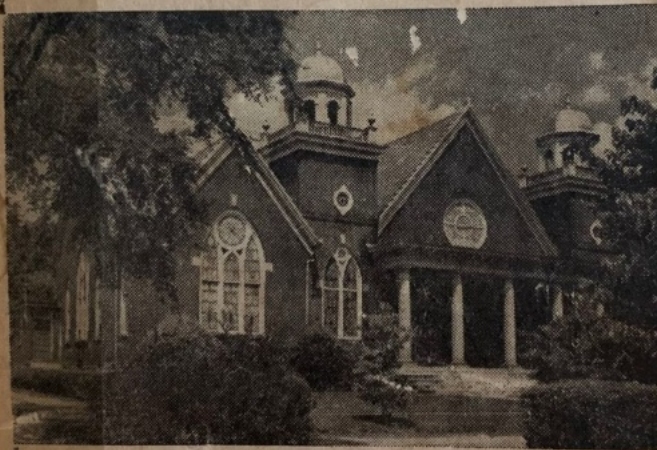
190 Years!

HOME COMING SUNDAY - 8/30/26

History and Directory

First Methodist Church

Winder, Georgia



Delma L. Hagood, Pastor

McLOWERY ELROD, District Superintendent

ARTHUR J. MOORE, Bishop

1948

WE ARE COLLECTING PHOTOGRAPHS, DOCUMENTS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, BULLETINS, AND ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT HELP TELL THE STORY OF OUR CHURCH THROUGH THE YEARS. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU'D BE WILLING TO SHARE, PLEASE EMAIL DIGITAL COPIES (OR CONTACT US ABOUT SCANNING PHYSICAL ITEMS) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO HISTORY@WINDERFIRSTUMC.COM

SUNDAY AUGUST 30TH, 2026

Homecoming Sunday

**Celebrating 190 years of
Winder First United Methodist Church**


WINDER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US
TO CELEBRATE THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF**

**W I N D E R F I R S T
U N I T E D
M E T H O D I S T
C H U R C H**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST THIRTIETH
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX**

8:45AM COMMUNION

11:00AM SERVICE

12:00PM LUNCH

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL DAY OF WORSHIP, CELEBRATION,
AND FELLOWSHIP AS WE GIVE THANKS FOR 190 YEARS
OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY AT WINDER FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH. FORMER MEMBERS, CURRENT
MEMBERS, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, AND GUESTS ARE ALL
INVITED TO CELEBRATE OUR RICH HERITAGE AND GOD'S
FAITHFULNESS THROUGH THE GENERATIONS.**

AUGUST 2ND, 2026

New Member Sunday

Have you been thinking about making Winder First United Methodist Church your church home? New Member Sunday will be held on August 2nd, 2026, and we would be delighted to welcome those who feel called to become part of our church family!

If you are interested in joining the church, please contact Rev. Dr. Chris Strickland prior to August 2nd so that we can answer any questions and help you prepare for membership.

Phone: 678-938-1999

Email: chris.strickland@georgiaumc.net





You're Invited to

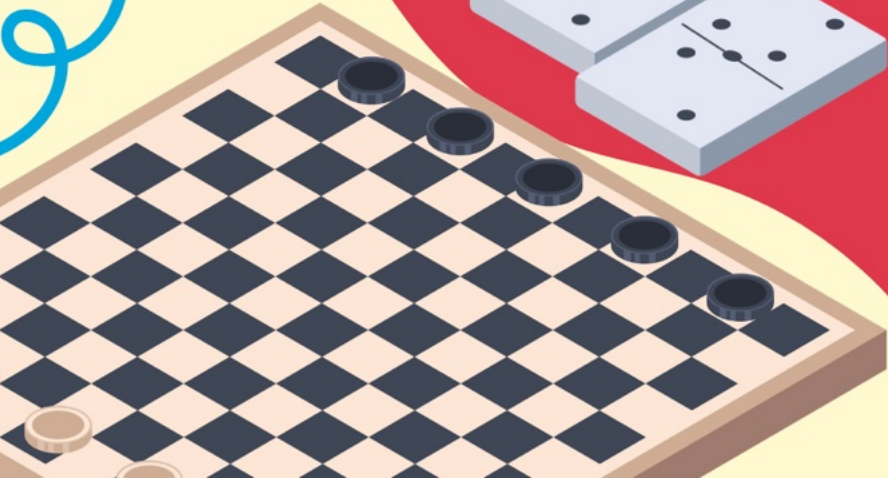
54 & MORE

Pot Luck Meal & Game Day Program

WED August 19th | 12:30 PM

**Winder FUMC
Fellowship Hall**

You are invited to bring
a game that you would
like to share. Euchre,
anyone?



Upcoming

AUGUST 2026

2
AUG

**NEW MEMBER
SUNDAY**

Join us as we welcome and celebrate those who are becoming members of the Winder First family during New Member Sunday.

7
AUG

BLOOD DRIVE

**12:30PM, FELLOWSHIP
HALL**

Give the gift of life by donating blood at our upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drive. Your donation can make a lifesaving difference!

13
AUG

**ON THE ROAD
AGAIN TRIP
DELTA MUSEUM &
DWARF HOUSE**

This month we visit the Delta flight museum and the Dwarf House/Chick Fil A for lunch. The group rate for the museum is \$17. We will meet in the back church parking lot at 9:45a and leave at 10a. If you have any questions or would like to sign up to go, please contact Dwight at (321) 284-7653 or dwightoakes@gmail.com

30
AUG

**HOMECOMING
SUNDAY**

- 8:45A COMMUNION
- 11A SERVICE
- 12:15P LUNCH

Join us for Homecoming Sunday as we celebrate 190 years of God's faithfulness, worship together, and honor the rich history of Winder First United Methodist Church.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

A Note from Ms. Victoria!

Hello Church Family!

We are so excited for the start to the new school year!

Our next big event will be the Back to School Bash on August 9th, from 2pm-4pm. Please consider partnering with us as we invite all our VBS Challengers, preschool families, and kids in our community for a back-to-school celebration like no other!

Are you looking for a way to serve?

Our children's ministry is growing, and we are looking for caring and enthusiastic volunteers to help lead on Sundays.

Whether you want to help check in our Winder Kidz or assist in lessons and crafts, all are invited to invest in the lives of the littles in our church!

No experience is needed - just the passion to inspire and willingness to serve.

Please reach out to Victoria at victoria@winderfirstumc.com or call the church office, (770)867-4594, for more information on how to get involved!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**WINDER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!

**TODDLERS
THRU 5TH
GRADE**

**BRING YOUR FAMILY TO OUR
COMMUNITY WIDE
BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**



**August
9TH**

2PM-4PM



FOOD



WATER GAMES



MUSIC



BACKPACK PRIZES

**280 N. BROAD STREET
WINDER GA 30680**

770-867-4594



WINDER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL UPDATE

June need	\$84,334.50
June actual	\$71,258.30

YTD need	\$506,007.00
YTD actual	\$381,646.00

As of the end of June we have received 75% of our budget to date, \$381,000 vs \$506,000. Our expenses have been 90% of our budgeted expenses, \$455,000 vs \$506,000.

We are thankful for the reserves we have and that is what has covered our shortfall. Our budget reserves currently are \$350,000.

As the ministries of the church continue through summer and into the fall we hope your faithfulness in giving, that has put us in a solid financial position, will continue and we can make up some of our shortfall.

Thank you

MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

Legacy Brick Campaign – Now Active!

Winder FUMC has launched the Legacy Brick Campaign to honor and remember members and families of our church. Order forms and details will be available soon. For more information, contact Victoria Patrick at vpatrick62@gmail.com.

SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



August 1st - Macie Parsons

August 2nd - Dwight Oakes

August 3rd - Larry Rary

August 4th - Chris Strickland; Joy Nicholson

August 5th - Sarah Lomax

August 6th - No Birthdays!

August 7th - Christina Hamilton; Harper Vaughters; Ted Wood

August 8th - Jane Wood

August 9th - Cheng Her

August 10th - No Birthdays!

August 11th - Lynne Dale Jacobs; Alley Mathis; Calley Mathis; Clay Mathis

August 12th - Kay Botters

August 13th - Steve Harris; Bill Prescott

August 14th - Scott Shope; Loren Kimbrough

August 15th - Amy Maddox

August 16th - Cali Oakes; Woody Reagin; Charles Skinner

August 17th - John Huff; Evan Shope; Meredith Winfrey

August 18th - Kea Horne; Charisse Lackey

August 19th - Weston Fields; Donna Sue Gallups

August 20th - Peyton Hester; Chue Vang

August 21st - Kayla Gosnell

August 22nd - Pam Clack; Ann Mays; Carmen Yurk

August 23rd - Charlee Horne

August 24th - No Birthdays!

August 25th - Lewis Petree

August 26th - Jeremy Thao

August 27th - No Birthdays!

August 28th - Ronnie McCranie

August 29th - Lynette Davis

August 30th - No Birthdays!

August 31st - No Birthdays!

PRAYER LIST

Dan Dixon - Dan Dixon will be having shoulder surgery on 8/5. He will be at Emory Ortho & Spine Hospital in Tucker for 2-4 days.

Patsy Reynolds - Health issues.

Carol Miller - Returned home from the hospital. Continued prayers for Carol and Larry are appreciated.

Carlton Ealy - Carlton Ealy, Ellen Petree's brother -- Back surgery was successful. Prayers for a smooth recovery and favorable pathology results.

Richard Hyslop - Is now home and doing well after surgery. Appreciative of prayers!

Polly Jones - Amanda Hill's mother; Polly is battling with cancer.

Carol Camp - Having issues with a broken shoulder.

Elaine Carson - Starting physical therapy to recover from a stroke.

Shelly Epperson - Continuing treatments.

Haley Sue & Allen Williams - Prayers needed

Gary & Penny Wright - Please keep in prayers.

*****PLEASE NOTE:** In order to keep the prayer list as precise and up-to-date as possible, starting in February, ALL entries to the prayer list will stay on the list for FOUR WEEKS, and will then be automatically removed from the list. If you would like to stay on for longer than the four weeks, you must re-submit the person(s) to the prayer list by emailing Jeremy at jeremyfumc@gmail.com Thanks!

AUGUST 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

2

New Member
Sunday
2:00p FH
rental

3

10:15a Staff
Meeting
12p AA
6:30p Boy Scouts
7p Yargo Band

4

10a Tue AM Bible
Study
1p Winder 1st
Women
2p Caring for the
Caregiver
5:30p Weight
Watchers

5

7a Prayer Group
12p AA
5:30p Kids Choir
5:30p Handbells
6p Youth Group
6p Kids Bible Study
6:30p Choir
Practice
6:30p Grief Group

6

8a Take Off
Pounds Sensibly
8:30a Weight
Watchers
6:00p Kiwanis
Club
11:30a Rotary of
Winder

7

6:30a
Men's Study
Breakfast
12p AA
12:30 Blood
Drive



1 & 8

7:45a
Weight
Watchers
10a AA
10a Car
show (8/8)

9

See Sunday
Schedule
12:15pm
Missions
Meeting
2p-4p Back to
School Bash!



10

10:15a Staff
Meeting
12p AA
6:30p Boy Scouts
6:30p Trustees
Meeting
7p Yargo Band

11

10a Tue AM Bible
Study
5:30p Weight
Watchers

12

7a Prayer Group
12p AA
5:30p Kids Choir
5:30p Handbells
6p Youth Group
6p Kids Bible Study
6:30p Choir
Practice
6:30p Grief Group

13

8a Take Off
Pounds Sensibly
8:30a Weight
Watchers
10a On the
Road Again
11:30a Rotary of
Winder

14

6:30a
Men's Study
Breakfast
12p AA

15

7:45a
Weight
Watchers
10a AA

16

See Sunday
Schedule
12:15p Lay
Leadership
Nominations

17

10:15a Staff
Meeting
12p AA
6:30p Finance
Meeting
6:30p Boy Scouts
7p Yargo Band

18

10a Tue AM Bible
Study
2p Caring for the
Caregiver
5:30p Weight
Watchers

19

7a Prayer Group
12p AA
12p 54 & More
5:30p Kids Choir
5:30p Handbells
6p Youth Group
6p Kids Bible Study
6:30p Choir
Practice
6:30p Grief Group

20

8a Take Off
Pounds Sensibly
8:30a Weight
Watchers

21

6:30a Men's
Study Breakfast
12p - AA

22

7:45a
Weight
Watchers
10a AA

23

See Sunday
Schedule

24

10:15a Staff
Meeting
12p AA
6:30p Church
Council
6:30p Boy Scouts
7p Yargo Band

25

10a Tue AM Bible
Study
5:30p Weight
Watchers
6:15p United
Methodist Men

26

7a Prayer Group
12p AA
5:30p Kids Choir
5:30p Handbells
6p Youth Group
6p Kids Bible Study
6:30p Choir
Practice
6:30p Grief Group

27

8a Take Off
Pounds Sensibly
8:30a Weight
Watchers
12:30p Kindred
Spirits

28

6:30a
Men's Study
Breakfast
12p AA

29

7:45a
Weight
Watchers
10a AA

30



Homecoming
Sunday!
190th
Anniversary.

31

10:15a Staff
Meeting
12p AA
6:30p Boy Scouts
7p Yargo Band



By the time you read this, school will be back in session. This means alarm clocks are going off earlier; backpacks will be sitting by the front door; the traffic will be worse. As we settle into the dog days of summer, I want to pause and say thank you.

During July, Winder First served as the Church of the Month with Barrow County Benevolence Ministry, collected school supplies for local children, and continued sharing Birthday Blessings with foster children. I am deeply grateful for the generosity, compassion, and willingness to serve that you demonstrated. Whether you donated items, volunteered your time, prayed for these ministries, or quietly helped in ways others may never see, you made a difference. Thank you for showing our community what it means to BLESS others.

We have already begun August by distributing school supplies at the Farmers Market and celebrating New Member Sunday. What a joy it has been to welcome more than five new families into the life of our congregation! Each new person and family brings gifts, experiences, and stories that will strengthen our church. I hope you will continue offering them the same warmth and hospitality that makes Winder First such a special place.

In August, our worship will be campmeeting style. That means we sing a little more. As you may know, I am leading our worship music, and I would love to hear suggestions of songs you would like included. Is there an old hymn or gospel song that we have not sung in a while that you would enjoy hearing again? Let us know! Perhaps we can bring back a few favorites as we worship together. Be sure to read this month's Mission Spotlight and learn more about our Birthday Blessings ministry. These ministries remind us that the Church is at its best when our faith moves beyond the walls of the building and becomes a blessing to others.

As I watch you serve, welcome, give, and worship, I continue to be grateful that God has allowed me to serve as your associate pastor. It is a privilege to share in ministry with you, and I look forward to seeing where God leads us next.

Blessings,
Chris

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00a	Young & Living Group
8:45a	Traditional Worship
9:45a	Coffee Time
10:00a	Sunday Groups
10a-11a	Youth Program
10a-12p	Children Programs
11:00a	Traditional Worship

WINDER FUMC CHURCH STAFF:

Church Office: 770-867-4594

Senior Minister - Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Murphy
geoffreyab.murphy@gmail.com 404-354-6637

Associate Minister - Rev. Dr. Chris Strickland
chris.strickland@georgiaumc.net 678-938-1999

Senior Adult Minister/Building & Grounds Director - Dwight Oakes
dwighttoakes@gmail.com 321-284-7653

Director of Communications - Jeremy Thao
jeremyfumc@gmail.com 706-389-8507

Finance Manager - Nannette Klein
finance@winderfumc.com

Children's Minister & Communications Assistant - Victoria Mathis
victoria@winderfirstumc.com Church Office: 770-867-4594

Preschool Director - Kimberly Richardson
krichardson@winderfumc.com Preschool Direct Line: 770-307-2089

Family Life Center Director - Donna Sue Gallups
dgallups@winderfirstumc.com FLC Direct Line: 770-586-5417

Minister to Youth - Kelly Yarbrough
winderfumcyouth412@gmail.com

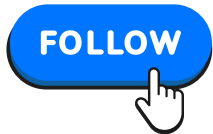
Musical Accompanist - Dr. Amanda Kim

First United Methodist Church
280 North Broad St. Winder, GA 30680
770-867-4594

Return Service Requested



winderfumc.com



on Facebook!



GIFTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO OUR CHURCH IN MEMORY OF:

- **Steve Otto:** Lewis & Ellen Petree; Gwen Hill
- **Tony Mariotti:** Ted & Jane Wood
- **Keith Rice:** Gwen Hill
- **Luellen Hart:** Ellen Petree
- **Dana Wissuter:** Ellen Petree; Gwen Hill

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY:

Kim Smith's friend - *Caleb Frazier*; Louise Bradberry's grandson - *Robert Davis*; Sally Brown's nephew - *Lucas Cahoon*; Barbara Clark's grandsons - *Griffin & Garrett Longino*; Rose Higgins' grandson - *Alan Cupps*; Jill Murphy's fiancé - *Chad Courtney* (Stationed in Ft. Lewis in Tacoma, WA); Jill Murphy's friends - *Lando Turner & Brayden Ritenour* (completed US Marine Basic Training); Pete & Nancy Paulos' daughter and her husband - *Vanessa Paulos Guest & Colin Guest* (who are Diplomatic Foreign Service Officers for the US State Dept., serving a three-year post at the US Embassy in Beijing, China); Dottie Reynolds' grandson - *SSGT Troy Mayfield*;