



ROOTED IN CHRIST  
SHAPED BY HIS WORD  
BEARING FRUIT IN THE WORLD

# Inman Informer

May 2025

## Meeting Dates:

### SPR:

Mon. May 5  
at 6pm

### Administrative Board:

Tues. May 6  
at 7pm

### Town Hall Meeting:

Wed. May 7  
at 6:30pm

### Social media:

Sun. May 18 at  
12:00pm

### UMM:

Wed. May 21 at  
9am

### Nominations:

Thurs. May 22  
at 5:00pm



### Thank you to the Kitchen Crew:

As we wrap up the year with WNS on Wednesday, May 7, we want to say a special thank you to our kitchen crew who shop, prep, cook, and clean up each week in order that we can enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship!



### Graduate Recognition Sunday:



Sunday, May 18

This year, Inman has students graduating from high school and college. We will have a reception for them on Sunday, May 21 from 10:00-10:45am in the Fellowship Hall with a recognition of them during the 11:00am service.

### Congrats to our Graduating Students:

High School: Noah Starkey

College/Masters: Caroline Creel

# Why are We Having A Church Conference

## What has led the Church Leadership to Consider a New Leadership Structure?

At Inman UMC, we are blessed with people who love their church and are willing to step up wherever there is a need. However, that same commitment—while admirable—has, over time, become a heavy burden. As our membership has declined and our pool of active volunteers has grown smaller, many of our leaders are now serving in multiple roles for many years, attending frequent meetings, and carrying more responsibility than is sustainable. Simply put: we are burning out the very people we depend on the most.

This reality has become increasingly clear over the last couple of years. In response, the Administrative Board has worked diligently to explore meaningful solutions. Over the past several months, through prayer, study, and intentional listening, we have considered whether a new model of church governance could better support both the life and mission of our congregation.

## What We Discovered

Through our discernment season of reading *Mission Possible: A Simplified Structure for Missional Effectiveness*, working with the Conference coach, gathering church participation statistics, and holding listening sessions with groups in the church, what we have learned was both sobering and clarifying:

- Inman UMC currently has 90 committee positions, but only 52 active participants in the life of the church—many of whom are limited in how they can serve due to health, family, or other personal circumstances.
- Of the 56 positions on our four governing committees (Trustees, Finance, Staff-Parish Relations, and Administrative Board), only 28 individuals are currently serving—21 of whom are carrying multiple roles. Only 10 people are serving on a committee that are not also serving on the 4 governing committees.
- Each year, the Nominations Committee struggles more and more to fill all the necessary leadership positions. Many of our most dedicated leaders have expressed exhaustion and a growing sense of burnout and are not able to rotate off after their time is up.
- As a result, people are often serving not where they are most gifted or passionate, but rather out of a sense of obligation—simply to help keep our church afloat.

This structure is not only unsustainable—it's also misaligned with our mission. While our committees work faithfully, the current model tends to prioritize maintaining the status quo rather than advancing our mission.

Meanwhile, we are facing the broader challenge of church decline. Active participation has been decreasing for several years, with the number of deaths now outpacing new memberships. Since 2014, we have gone from an average in-person attendance in worship of 120 to 44 today.

## **Finding a Way Forward**

In light of these challenges, the Administrative Board—accepting the recommendation of the SAS Discernment Team—believes the **Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS)** presents a hopeful and viable way forward. This model would consolidate our four main governing committees into a single Leadership Board made up of nine individuals, tasked with overseeing the strategic and missional direction of our church.

This structure would increase efficiency by reducing administrative demands and free up people to do the work of ministry. Instead of focusing on internal administration, more people would be able to focus on our mission: “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”

This is not a decision we take lightly. But through prayerful conversation, our church leadership has come to believe that without a significant change to how we operate, our future as a congregation is at risk. For us to thrive and remain on mission, whether through the SAS model or another streamlined approach, we must consolidate committees, refocus on engaging our community, and adopt a culture of accountable, mission-focused leadership.

## **What’s Next?**

With the recommendation of the Administrative Board, the next step will be an in-person Church Conference vote on **Sunday, June 22 at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**. All professing members will be eligible to vote.

In preparation, we will be hosting Town Hall Meetings where you’ll have the opportunity to learn more about the SAS model, ask questions, and pray with one another as we seek God’s direction. Town Halls will be held on **Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30 pm** and **Sunday, June 1 at 12:00pm**. We are encouraging all members to attend a Town Hall session, as together, we continue to discern God’s will for our church. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to talk with one of the discernment team members, Lay Leaders, or the Pastor.

In faith and service,

Pastor Whitney Hair

Kathy Barb (Chair of Administrative Board and Discernment Team Member)

Clay Brisbois, (Vice-Chair of Administrative Board, Discernment Team Member, & Lay Leader)

Donna Stilwell (Discernment Team Member)

Brad Wagner (Lay Leader)



# United Methodist Men

At our meeting on April 16th, we discussed our charitable giving for 2025. The organizations selected are as follows: Fayette Samaritans, Murphy Harpst Children's Center, Toys for Tots, Square Foot Ministry and the Masonic Children's Home.

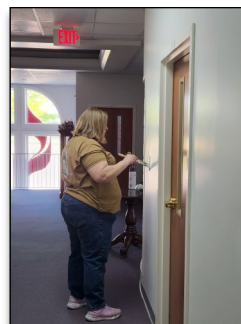
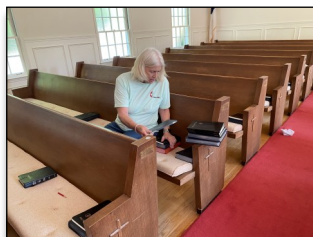
Thanks to all that attended our April meeting. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21 at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. A light breakfast will be served.

A special thanks to all the men and ladies who helped at the "church wide workday" on April 12th and the UMM Easter Breakfast on April 20th. Both events went well thanks to everyone's hard work.

## Trustees

The Trustees would like to thank everyone for their help and support of the Church Wide Workday on Saturday, April 12th! The following people contributed to a tremendous amount of work being accomplished over several days: Pastor Whitney, Ed & Judy Roehm, Herm & Joni Janssen, Joe & Nancy Gratzer, Forrest Ballard, Jean & Jerry Haygood, Robin & Jerry Hewell, Will Chance, Deborah Morris, Cyndie Hogeland, Linda & Brad Wagner.

Thanks to everyone for their efforts and contributions towards sprucing up the church facilities inside and out!



# Missions and Outreach

**Mother's Day "Special Offering Sunday" will be for Wesley Woods Senior Living and will be celebrated on May 11, 2025.**

Mother's Day is a **"wonderful"** time to celebrate and remember mothers and all the special women who have significantly impacted our lives.

**WELCOME to WESLEY WOODS, WELCOME HOME!**

As a "pioneer" (70 plus years); Wesley Woods was among the first, thanks to the concern and compassion of The North Georgia of Conference of the United Methodist Church. Founder Rev.

Dr. Candler Budd, and leaders from the greater Atlanta community saw a need for safe, accessible, independent and affordable housing for older adults. Their guiding principle was "In every respect, residents should have as much independence and autonomy as possible." This principle remains the core of our resident-centered care and mission.

**Our Mission:** To create communities of connection, well-being and promise.

**Our Vision:** We envision a world in which older adults are celebrated for the lives they have lived, the wisdom they share and everything they have yet to teach us.

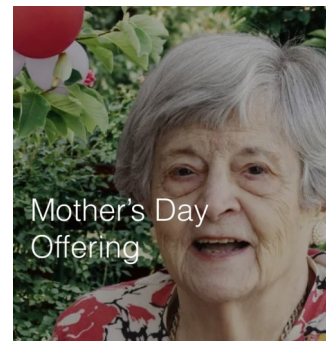
The Wesley Woods Mother's Day offering will help in the financial assistance for meals, housing, wellness programs and Pastoral care for the 1800 older residents each year.

**BIG or SMALL, All Offerings ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

"Wisdom belongs to the aged, understanding to the old". Job 12:12



Blessings,  
Deborah Morris,



## Love & Fellowship Circle (United Women in Faith)

The LAF circle is sponsoring Recognition of Women In the Mother's Day Bulletin again this year. Everyone is encouraged to list your mother or any woman who has influenced your faith journey.

We are asking for \$1.00 for each name . Please also indicate whether in Memory or in Honor.

Forms may be dropped in the offering plate by May 4th .

The Mission: United Women In Faith seeks to connect and nurture Women through Christians spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.



# Finance

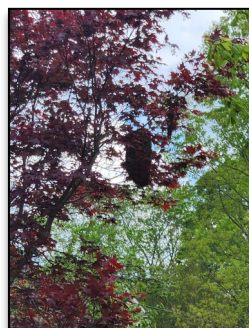
<b>January - March Giving</b>	
Tithes & Offerings	\$ 56,964.18
Special Offerings	\$ 950.00
Memorials	\$ 1,775.00
United Women in Faith	\$ 445.00
United Methodist Men	\$ 200.00
All Other Giving	\$ 647.80
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$ 60,981.98</b>

## Buzzing Into Action

As believers, we are called in Genesis to be stewards of the Earth, tending to all of God's creation.

A couple of weeks ago, we were able to witness stewardship in action as Jerry & Jean Haygood saved a swarm of bees that had been displaced in the parsonage front yard after the storms.

"We praise God for the diverse and abundant natural resources that sustain life, the interconnection of all that exists, and the wonders of creation that inspire and humble us."





# For Our Prayers

## **For Healing From Health Concerns**

Glenda Berman (Dixie Berner)  
Cheryl Chance  
Darleen Cornelison  
Madge Cox (Lyn Wheeler)  
Moody Elliott  
Katy Fowler  
Rebecca Goss  
Whitney Hair  
Brenda Harp  
David Harp  
Leigh Ann Hicks  
Jan Janssen (Herm and Joni Janssen)  
Kathe Leo (Nancy Allgood)  
Kathy McBrayer  
Sara Jane Overstreet  
Eugene Pritchard  
Riley Rada (Kim Jeffords)  
Gloria Reid  
Reid Rogers (Mary Jane Fortner)  
Miriam Schmidt  
Steven Siders (Joni Janssen)  
Lisa Spears (Nancy Allgood)  
Billy Ward  
Jenny Ward  
Doug Wheeler  
Rhonda Wheeler (George & Lyn Wheeler)  
Chance Whittington (Will Chance)

## **For Healing From Cancer**

Denise Anderson (Joni Janssen)  
Judy Becco  
Betty Chally  
Walter Delia (Martha Kozisek)  
Dan Dudley (Pat Pratt)  
Daniel Houghton (Martha Kozisek)  
Tory Howe (Ruth Sitton)  
Steve Stingecomb (Mary Jane Fortner)  
Diane Tankersley (Donald Whiteside)  
George Wheeler  
Louise Woods (Ann Hembree)

## **For Those Mourning the Death of Loved Ones**

Anne Hembree  
Jean Allen

## **Other Concerns**

For the children/youth of Inman UMC

For our Pastor, District Superintendent (Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas), Bishop (Bishop Robin Dease), and leaders of the United Methodist Church.

Unspoken prayers of the congregation

Discernment team and Administrative Board

We encourage you to call or email the secretary to update any prayer requests to help keep our prayer list current.

# Birthdays & Reminders

Jeff Creel	May 1
Erica Gassaway	May 3
Brad Wagner	May 3
Courtney Allen Woodall	May 9
Katy Swanger	May 12
Deborah Morris	May 13
Whitney Hair	May 13
Jen Owen	May 16
Jerry Hewell	May 20
Jen Fendley	May 23
Linda Wagner	May 25
George Wheeler	May 28
Janet Hilten	May 31

*If you see a birthday is missing,  
please notify the church office  
so we can update our records.*

## Offering Counters

<b>May 4</b>	Linda W. & Nancy G.
<b>May 11</b>	Brenda N. & Linda W.
<b>May 18</b>	Donna M. & Chuck J.
<b>May 25</b>	Nancy A. & Joni J.

## Wednesday Night Meals

**5:30-6:30pm**  
\$9.00 for adults  
\$5.00 for children under 12  
Three and under eat free

**May 7: Smorgasboard**  
Helpers: Technology

# Office Information

## Office Hours

**Tuesday - Thursday 9am-1pm**

You may call 770-461-2123  
or email  
secretary@inmanmethodist.org  
to reach our secretary,  
Katie Nalley

## Our Staff

**Rev. Whitney Hair, Pastor** | pastor@inmanmethodist.org

**Frank Stenbridge, Pianist**  
pianist@inmanmethodist.org

**Katie Nalley, Secretary**  
secretary@inmanmethodist.org

**The Informer** is a publication of Inman United Methodist Church  
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