

The Inman Informer

The Newsletter of Inman United Methodist Church
Fayetteville, GA 30215 July 2021



Inman UMC Family

It is my pleasure to begin my ministry here, serving as the pastor of Inman UMC. In the transition period and my first few days of living in the community, y'all have been so welcoming and hospitable. You have made me feel welcomed and part of the family, sharing the love of God in your hospitality. I look forward to the joyous and fruitful ministry that God will create in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead.

I know that transitions can bring out anxiety and uncertainty in all of us. We all are getting to know one another over the next few months and facing a lot of change. In addition to the pastoral change, we are simply in the middle of a huge transition period for the Church and the world. We have endured over 15 months of a global pandemic, causing us to quickly change how we operate and function as a church. That's a lot of change at once. We are now entering this period of re-start, where we slowly are returning to a "new normal". The question that has been on my mind the last few months, is where is God leading us in this season of fresh re-starts? We read in Scripture

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.” (Isaiah 43:18-20)



Time and time again, I have watched and witnessed streams pop up in the most unlikely places by faithful people who listen to where the Holy Spirit was leading, even in the driest season. We serve a God who is always at work, even in the moments where we can't see. It is so easy to give way to anxiety, seeing only the wilderness and forgetting to look for where God is at work. What would it look like though, if we adopted a spirit of anticipation at Inman— anticipation for what God is doing in community which isn't yet visible, anticipation for new ministries that will serve the unreached, anticipation for the ways God wants to grow each of us? I am excited for all the possibilities before us. I encourage you to be in prayer with me, as we all listen to where the voice of God is leading us in the days, months, and years ahead. My prayer is that Inman UMC will continue to share the radical love of God, making an impact on the community and the world through making disciples.

Once again, thank you for welcoming me into this community of faith. I look forward to meeting those of you that I have not met yet and to continue building relationships with each of you. Know that my office is always open. Office hours at the church are Tuesday thru Thursday from 9am-1pm. You can reach me by calling 770-461-2135 or by emailing me at pastor@inmanmethodist.org. I look forward to seeing y'all Sunday at 11:00am.

Yours-in-Christ,
Pastor Whitney



VIEW FROM THE BOARD

A Challenge Before Us

The Inman Family has a major challenge before us as we move forward, I passionately believe this, that our very survival is at stake. To “go and make disciples for Jesus Christ”, this will require us to step out of our comfort zone to be successful. We must remember that this is not “My Church” or “Your Church” but it is barely “Our Church”, when in fact it is “His Church”, “on this Rock I will build My Church”. And by that also meaning God’s Church, because we know that they are one and the same. And the “rock” was not a place, but the people. We cannot rest on the laurels of our past but look forward to whom and where we can be of more service to our community. Our past is a history of successes and failures meant to be used as a guide for future service, not a play-book that cannot be deviated from. Inman has a rich history, our ups, downs, and list of service to others near and far, and for being known as a “praying” church.

I will try to talk about some of the challenges as I see them and hope we can have a discussion on how to move forward.

Here is my first challenge for you, go up to someone before or after church tell them you “love them with the love of the Lord” and that you will be praying for them BY NAME if you feel the need tell them that you have included them when you pray for the church, but that you have failed to do it by name. Now some of you are overachievers, and I know you will hit almost everyone. But I feel like the key is to find that person that maybe you normally do not pray for, maybe even someone you have had strife with or a disagreement, be it staff or laity we are all in need of this demonstration of Christian love for one another.



My second is to have you proudly wear the bandanas handed out as an outward sign of solidarity and commitment to the Great Commission and Inman’s roll in the fulfillment of that commission. A sign of appreciation for God leading us through this COVID mess, the hard work of those behind the scenes, the faithfulness of giving and our Pastors

past and to come. So where does that put us the family of Inman? I am not sure, sounds weird, huh. No, I do not have the answers, but we need to come together and figure it out!

I think some items we need to start with are just like Ed Roehm said at the last board meeting. We were talking about the Wednesday Night Suppers and programs, I questioned how we should gauge the number of participants to prepare for, how we could have a count with the cost of the mission. And that is what it really is, a Mission, where we hope to have you invite friends and family to come break bread with us. Anyway, Ed stepped up and told us we “needed to step out in faith”! For me, the high point of the meeting, and I think he is right on. While the meal allows us to fellowship, another chance to come together as the Body of Christ, but also to invite those who hunger for the same experience. Way to go Ed! And a “thank you” ahead of time for all those who will join in with the preparing, serving and clean-up, a true sign of the “servant” attitude that Christ showed to His disciples at the last supper before His crucifixion.

Let us be sure and break up our usual mealtime groups and sit with those we normally do not sit with, gee won't that freak the kids out? And especially guests and new faces when they come. I think we have a challenge with new membership, young families with kids and youth, we need the next generation of leaders at Inman. That is where the “comfort zone” will get the hardest test. The next group of leaders we cannot expect to like everything we have done in the past. They should not be expected to do church, “the way we always have” in the past.

As parents our children do not always follow in our footsteps. Their hair is colored oddly they have tattoos and piercings, but if we have by example taught them anything it is our faith. We are going to need to learn that the younger members are not going to worship the way we have in the past. The music might be louder, that should not be an issue most of us are losing our hearing anyway, (that was an attempt at levity!). Different clothes, make up musical tastes and types of worship. Video being used and prerecorded music, I know “a show”, and I myself take pause. But as I told Hooked, “we are not professional, but passionate, it is not a show but a worship service”, if we can not find Jesus in any sermon any song then we have our eyes and ears closed.

Some of these new forms of worship are going to be how new members are drawn to Inman, if we can get them here and then treat the well, we will see the growth that will sustain our Missions. All for now, I welcome you feedback, except if it is about my poor spelling or grammar.

“Loving you with the Love of the Lord”,
Jeff Wedge

Fayette Samaritans Inc.
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Dear Church Members,

Fayette Samaritans will resume all operations on our pre-pandemic schedule beginning Tuesday, July 6, 2021. We will be open Monday - Friday 9:00am to 12:00am. No appointment is necessary, interviews are required for all services and mask will be required.

If we can be of service to anyone in your congregation, please call our office.

The following are the items most needed for July, however, all donations are appreciated:

1. Canned Tuna
2. Hamburger Helper
3. Canned corn
4. Canned Green Beans
5. Boxed Mashed Potatoes
6. Canned Fruit
7. Toilet Paper
8. Tooth Brushes
9. Tooth Paste
10. Shampoo



Our Clothes Closet will no longer accept bed linens. We do need summer clothes and tee shirts of all sizes for men, women and children.

Jerry Daughtry, Secretary, Fayette Samaritans, Inc.

“They also will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you? “He will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” Matthew 25:44-45

Read any good books lately?



Wow, I never thought I would be doing this, reviewing a book, I have not done this since high school. Some may question if I have ever “read” a book, but here goes. While taking part in the Annual Conference last month I had some time to wander around the internet looking for some resource materials. I happened on a book titled “An Autopsy of a Deceased Church”, scary name, right? It was written by Thom Rainer and is a short book, but an eye opening one.

The premise is factual, the author interviewed 14 closed churches, speaking with pastors, staff, and laity, to try and ascertain the possible causes for their closing. Some of them closed in a speedy fashion is as little as three years at the earliest, to ten years of slow painful decline. There he found commonality in the failures, and he goes into those issues in some depth. It could have gone on for pages and pages, but the ending did not take long to get to.

It would be easy to dismiss if Thom Rainer were just any old author or columnist, but his background as a Pastor of several churches, having a Master’s in Divinity, a PHD in Philosophy, CEO and President of Lifeway Christian Resources and the founding Dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, he struck me as having a thing or two worth reading. The most unsettling thing, about the book, was I could see myself in the context of its pages. I could identify common circumstances in my actions or lack thereof, in our committees and in our church laity, with ones in the book. I could even see causes in the North Georgia UMC’s dealing with its churches today. I could see patterns in operations that the failed churches and we have in common.

Now this obviously is from my point of view, so I had to walk away from it and read it again, trying to make sure I had an open mind. And I did but with little change, I still drew the same conclusion, we could, have or are doing some of the same things. I think that many of the themes in the book are worthy of exploration and discussion, with 23 UMC Churches closing last year and 8 more in the 2021, just North Georgia Conference, something is going on. The overall decline of church attendance was sited as one of the issues but was not identified as the “death Blow”. It would be easy to take the defensive stand by stating that “it has always been done this way”, but that is probably part of the problem.

For all those concerned with keeping Inman alive and doing the work we as Christians have been charged with, I recommend reading it. The book is available from christianbook.com online, and from that site as a paperback, hardback, or eBooks, if you are interested, and it is not expensive.



MUSIC NOTES



Trust in Him

Most of the people of our community have never lived through such a time as the one we have just passed. "Trust and Obey" and "Only Trust Him" are two hymns that give us reflection and direction as we continue on the Lord's path in our lives. Let us keep on singing His praises in worship with our fellow congregants and be in song and prayer for those around us and those across seas and oceans. I would like to thank the singers and instrumentalists at Inman who have been diligent in their support of the music program at Inman UMC through this time. No matter how limited we were, someone was always there to backup our music worship with solos, instrumentals, and voices. God knows our every song and hears our every voice and song of praise! Keep on trusting in and singing for Him!

-Jolynn Stevens-

UMW LOVE & FELLOWSHIP

All ladies in our church are welcome to attend our meeting on Thursday, July 8th @ 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



All are welcome to attend our UMCOR CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES PACKING PARTY on Tuesday, July 20th @ 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Blessings to all,
Joni Janssen, President

MEMBERSHIP CARE

Everyone is invited to a "Meet and Greet" luncheon to welcome our new minister, Rev. Whitney Hair. It will be held on Sunday, July 11th, immediately following the 11:00 service. Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall and everyone is invited to attend.

Please join us in fellowship and to meet and welcome Rev. Hair to IUMC.



FINANCE

Thank you for your generosity to Inman UMC, if the Finance Committee can be of assistance to you, please see Linda Wagner or Linda Price.



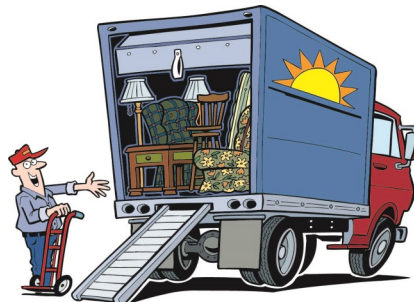
Financial Report for May, 2021

Income	May	Year to Date
Gifts & Tithes	\$ 17,268	\$ 106,291
ASP	\$ 150	\$ 2,665
Other Designated Funds	\$ 190	\$ 1,970
Grand Total Income	\$ 17,608	\$ 110,926
Expenses	May	Year to Date
ASP	\$ 2,375	\$ 5,000
Committee Expenditures	\$ 221	\$ 943
Operational Expenses	\$ 1,414	\$ 13,372
All Other Expenses	\$ 13,622	\$ 60,659
Grand Total Expenses	\$ 17,633	\$ 79,974

TRUSTEES UPDATE

New LED lighting in the educational wing is almost complete thanks to Herm Janssen and Linda Wagner. We're a year plus ahead of the original schedule.

Parsonage renovations are mostly completed in the interior and many of the exterior items are finished. The parsonage is ready for Rev. Whitney Hair's move in on June 29th. Thanks to all of our members and supporters who volunteered their time and talents to make it happen.



We will have a complete update on the parsonage renovations and LED lighting status in the August Informer

Our Prayers

For healing from health concerns

Carlos Allen (Gloria Reid's brother)
Sara Ballard
Roger Barnhill
Michael Barb
Ray Barday (Charles Cox)
Liz Beardon (Judy Becco's sister)
Gene Benton (Sandy Mathis)
Glenda Berman (Dixie Berner)
Jack Brannon (Jeff Wedge)
Cheryl Chance
Russell Clarke (Maggie Clarke)
Darleen Cornelison
Kay Cox
Lane Cox (Lyn Wheeler)
Karen Glessner (Kay Cox)
Nicole Henry
John Kozisek
William LaTerre (Martha Kozisek)
Tommy Mask
Joanne Minter
Eugene Pritchard
Miriam Schmidt
Scott Smith (Melanie Wagner)
Ruth Sitton
Jane St. Amour
Claire Starkey
Roger Starkey
Katy Swanger
Marvin Tidwell
Patricia Vaughn
Luz Webster (Gloria Reid)
Jeff Wedge
Rhonda Wheeler (George & Lynn Wheeler)
Kathey Young

For healing from cancer

Roger Allgood
Tim Barnes
Katherine Bennett (Linda Wagner)
David Booth (Martha Kozisek)
Tim Casteel (Dena Anderson)
Jackie Clayburn
Nancy Cox (Cox's sister-in-law)
Walter Delia (Martha Kozisek)

Dan Dudley (Pat Pratt)
Mary Lee Giddings
Bill Haleday
Leigh Hawkins
Daniel Houghton (Martha Kozisek)
JL Houze (Charles Cox)
Burl Hurley
Jean Jones (Nancy Allgood)
Luke Key (Mary Jane Fortner)
Matt Kirkindall
Carol Kline (Linda Chaffin)
Katie Schmidt (Brenda Schachle)
Joey Shelton (Deborah Morris)
Bobby Smith (Tammy Cox)
Brent Taylor (Jim & Karen Blue)
Earl Terry (Charles Cox)
George Wheeler
Ruth Williams
Louise Woods (Ann Hembree)
Kay Young (Forrest & Sara Ballard)

For Those Mourning the Death of These Loved Ones

Jody Allen
Brandon Brown (Claire Starkey)
Billy Bob Cheek (Donna Stilwell)
Lee Wagner
Donna Hilton

Other Concerns

For the children/youth programs of Inman
Unspoken prayers of the congregation

The Informer is a publication of
Inman United Methodist Church
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Fayetteville, GA 30215
(770) 461-2123 www.inmanmethodist.org



BOARD MEETING

Please join us Tuesday, July 13th @7:00pm for our board meeting. We are asking all who can to please attend. This will be Pastor Whitney's first meeting, and will be a great opportunity for you to meet her. Due to the expectation of a larger crowd the meeting will take place in the Sanctuary. Member's expected, visitors welcome.



Inman Staff

Rev. Whitney Hair, Pastor

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Jolynn Stevens, Director of Music

music@inmanmethodist.org



Pat Pratt	July 1st
Preston Scurry	July 7th
Sue Mahaffey	July 11th
Kenny Corley	July 13th
Debi Creel	July 18th
Jolynn Stevens	July 20th
Linda Price	July 22nd
Moody Elliot	July 23rd
Leigh Ann Hicks	July 24th
Gayle Harp	July 26th
Darleen Cornelison	July 27th
Karen Millman	July 30th

If you see that a birthday is missing, please notify the church office so that we can make the correction in our records.