

# State of the Church 2022

The 2022 year encompassed working both inward with Clover Hill UMC member's spiritual growth and outward to God's community. During 2022, we had several highlights of group activities, but one that stands out is the inception of our Women's group named Faith Friends. This group has been instrumental to reaching the spiritual needs and fellowship of those in our congregation (recently widowed, needing community, and just missing Godly church companionship) ...the group has had great activities to make each event not only meaningful but also fun. Some of the group's activities included a Mother's Day meal, Father's Day meal, movie night, guest speakers, and a recent luncheon and hike to Storybook trail to see the Fall foliage.

Another active group for outreach is the Rebuilding Hope team...with construction projects for those in need. Another successful year for this group included projects with roof work, handicap ramp building, bathroom renovations, door and window replacement, soffit work, painting, and taking on the upcoming fund raising activities of a silent auction.

Our Ministry team took a leaner more efficient approach by going from three committees to one and touching on each of our mission areas "Seek, Serve, Share." Many of our planned activities came from this group's brainstorming. Activities included: quarterly themed mission collections (Ukraine donations, collections for Open Doors and District Mission Central, West Rockingham Food Pantry donations, school supply collections for Ottobine Elementary School), camp outs, hikes, a care table, monthly meals after church, and many more activities. CHUM also had a great Easter Egg Hunt with teachings of the Easter Story and a record number of nearly 50 children. CHUM also had a very good Bible school "Fruits of the Spirit" a 2-day event including food, activities, crafts, and bible stories, which ended with the grand finale day that celebrated with ice cream and a water slide (24 in attendance).

I cannot say enough about the leadership of Pastor Sarah Bailey during these difficult worldly distractions of Covid, the political climate, and our own Methodist challenge of human sexuality questions. She encourages our church to both pray and study the Bible for direction. Pastor Bailey also held many themed worship services, advent study, all saints service, prayer groups on Facebook live, Cross walk, a thoughtfully planned leadership retreat for our church leaders, and honoring our graduates were a few of the events. It is also a blessing to have not only Pastor Bailey, but our musicians play and sing for our congregations each Sunday morning during worship; they all have great gifts utilized to praise God. Pastor Bailey has also done a fabulous job integrating technology into our church to reach those who cannot attend in person whether it be for worship or council/ministry team meetings, etc. Her leadership and desire to point our congregation to God has been resilient.

Some of the other activities included: Thanksgiving meal, on-line Thanksgiving service, Ash Wednesday service, kite flying, making chili for Open Doors meal, Lenten box collection for society of St. Andrews, providing ice cream after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Clover Hill while promoting VBS, 4H group utilizing our facilities, Dayton Day's participation of a food booth once again, and hosted Miss Mae's Thrift Shop appreciation dinner.

I also wanted to mention a few of our property upkeep activities which included new outdoor lights for both safety and security, headphone hearing aids for our sanctuary, a new computer sound system, and the looming need to replace our church roof.

Our active church group may be smaller, but CHUM has been as active as ever in our desire to bring people to God.

Respectfully,

Grant Martin

Church Council Chairperson