



WASHINGTON COOPERATIVE PARISH

July/August 2026 Bi-Monthly Newsletter




Epworth United Methodist Church

60 Merriman Way Road
Moneta, VA 24121
540-721-4926

<https://epworthumcmoneta.org>

Sunday Worship—9:30 a.m.

Livestream also on Facebook:

click link: 




Halesford United Methodist Church

1601 Lakewood Forest Road
Moneta, VA 24121
540-520-7875

<https://www.halesfordumc.com>

Sunday Worship—11 a.m.

Livestream also on Facebook:

click link: 

Design Team: Teresa Edwards, Kaye Hancock, Betty Johnson, Cindy Lollar

Go green! If you would like to subscribe to a full color electronic copy of your monthly newsletter (instead of paper) please email Cindy Lollar - clollar65@gmail.com

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



Word of the Day: Kindness

Kindness is more than just being nice. It is choosing to treat people with love, patience, and respect, even when it's not easy. Every day, we have opportunities to show kindness, a smile to a stranger, an encouraging word to someone who is struggling, a helping hand, or simply taking the time to listen. These small acts may seem ordinary, but they can make a lasting difference in someone's life.

As Christians, we show God's love by the way we treat others. Kindness doesn't require wealth or special talents. It simply requires a willing heart. In a world where people often feel overlooked or discouraged, your kindness can remind someone that they are seen, valued, and loved by God.

Today, ask yourself. Who can I encourage? Who can I help? Who needs to know they are not alone? When we choose kindness, we reflect the heart of Christ and become a blessing to those around us.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

Lord, help us to be kind in our words, our actions, and our attitudes. Teach us to see others through Your eyes and to share Your love in simple, meaningful ways each day. May our kindness bring hope, encouragement, and glory to You. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jeff

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Brothers and Sisters, below is an article I found (and adapted) about the Apostle's Creed. "We Believe" explores the Apostles' Creed as a framework for Christian belief. The Creed traces its roots to early Christian baptismal interrogations, where new believers were asked to affirm their faith in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. It's possible that we have become so familiar with the creed that we've become blind to some of its unique qualities. The creed is not merely a catalog of doctrines but is phrased as a confession. "We believe,"

We Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed

by [Matthew L. Kelley](#)

"We Believe" explores the Apostles' Creed as a framework for Christian belief. The creed is not a checklist of things that one has to agree with in order to be a Christian. It is the place where we begin our conversation about what we believe God has done in Jesus Christ and what that means for the church and us as disciples in our own day and time. Below you will find a description of each part of the creed, as well as the Scripture giving a wider basis of the belief. I hope you will think about these things when we recite it in church on Sunday.

God (Genesis 1:1-5; 1 John 4:7-13)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

We affirm that God is the "creator of heaven and earth," and yet the way we articulate who God is to the world often communicates a vision that falls short of God's greatness and ultimacy. Like the parable of the blind men feeling the elephant, each describing their own experience but making the mistake of assuming there can be no other experience or something beyond the reach of their senses, we, too, paint a picture of God that is far too small. We must recognize our own limitations and not be too quick to cram God into a box in the shape of our own prejudices or keep God on a shelf, to be taken down only when we need it.

Jesus (Isaiah 43:1-7; John 1:1-14)

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;* the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

How is it that Jesus can be fully God and fully human? Isn't impossible to be 200%? We often think of those two things as being contradictory, separated by a wide gulf because of our sin. But God created human beings in God's own image, and nothing can change that. The Word that was present with God from the beginning is able to be made flesh because our flesh was already made in that image. In the incarnation of Jesus Christ, God shows us just how close we are to one another and demonstrates the full potential that God created in each of us.

The Holy Spirit (Acts 3:1-10)

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

After Jesus gave the Great Commission, died and returned, Jesus shared that He would be departing forever. The Holy Spirit, he said, the Counselor, could come and live with people forever, if they invite the Holy Spirit into their hearts. Peter, John and others had invited the Holy

Spirit to live within and were able, by the power of the indwelling of Christ's Holy Spirit, to perform with boldness, miracles and healings. The people expressed amazement at the changes in the Apostles. Peter and others explained that if the people could profess their belief in Jesus Christ and confess their sins, then they could ask for and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as well. The bold new style that Peter received as a gift from the Holy Spirit continues to encourage people to this day as people seek to live spirit-filled lives for Jesus Christ.

The Church: the Communion of Saints (Acts 4:32-37 Matthew 28:16-20)

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,**

The church is called together and empowered by Jesus to carry on his ministry in the world. We do this through our example of freely sharing all we have with whomever has need, just as the three persons of the Trinity fully share of themselves with one another. Through that example, we demonstrate that discipleship is a way of living, not merely giving assent to a certain set of ideas.

The Forgiveness of Sins (Romans 5:12-21; Matthew 5:38-48)

the forgiveness of sins,

God offers us free grace and forgiveness that is beyond our ability to comprehend our grasp by our own power. We repent and begin to allow grace to change our life in response to the grace we have already been given. The person who truly grasps the depths to which they have been forgiven then extends it to others who may not understand their need for it or unwilling to repent, trusting that God's grace will work through us and be made known to them.

Resurrection and Life Everlasting (Ezekiel 37:1-14; Luke 24:36-49)

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting

The bodily resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that the ultimate power of our world, death, does not have the last word in creation. That last word belongs to God, who continues to redeem and shape this world to the Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed.

AMEN!

In His Service,

Chris Mosig, Lay Leader
cmosig67@gmail.com

SUMMER REFLECTION

The summer arrives as it is supposed to do
As it patiently takes its turn from You
As we see it coming through Your time and provision
We thank you, Lord, for such a beautiful vision.

Nature thrives with its beautiful flowers
Birds singing songs between afternoon showers
We see your renewal everywhere we look
As we take in creation in every cranny and nook.

The warmth and light of your presence, Lord
Show us Your love and Your joy from above
Encouraging us to rejoice and reflect
On the blessings and wonders we seem to collect.

Summer invites us to embrace all kinds of growth
Both physical and spiritual—we can always use both.
As nature thrives in the summer weather
Our Spirits flourish, bearing fruit as we gather.

We are thankful, Lord, for all of the gifts
We are grateful, Lord, as in song we lift
Words of love from long ago
Voices raised, our love to show.

“For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.”¹

Christine Mosig

¹For the Beauty of the Earth

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 092

Text: *Folliot S. Pierpoint*



Halesford held its Men's and Women's Day on June 14, 2026. The day began with our 11am service, preached by Rev. Jeffery T. White. A delicious lunch followed the service.

The afternoon service was preached by Rev. Amy Christine Hodge, joined by her choir and congregation. Rev. Hodge preached from Acts 3:6, 16, on the theme, "Higher Ground". She said, in part, if we have more faith, we do more things. With faith in Jesus, we can move to higher ground.

The beggar was accustomed to lower ground, with dust rattling in his cup. Peter says look up at us, Peter demanded focus. We must look at the source of power not at news, bank accounts or things of man. The beggar was used to having scraps, he had low expectations, but he turned his eyes up to the provider. Some folks are too scared to ask for what they want. Jesus came to position you for higher ground, start looking at Him and raise your expectations.

If churches are reaching the community, God will provide for us. Don't get caught up in circumstances, look up, God can do great and marvelous things. The day was a blessing, the preached word was a gift, and the music and fellowship were amazing! Halesford thanks all who supported our Men's and Women's Day!



Submitted by Betty Johnson



United
Women
in Faith

On May 18, Halesworth UWF held a planning party! After reading the purpose of the United Women of Faith, which is to be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church, we began to work, have supportive fellowship while we worked, and were in mission for God.



The goal was to make plarn balls from all the plastic bags that had been donated (thank you for donating!). We also enjoyed the wonderful food shared by our members, and through shared stories, got to know each other better and deeper. Halesworth UWF has made plarn balls and many thanks to our creative crocheter Pat Young who has been crafting these balls into our mission of making homeless mats. At last count, we made 74 mats. It is a blessing to be the hands and feet of Christ!



On June 1, Halesworth UWF met to make encouragement cards in support of the Youth project for the summer, which is to reach out in Christian love to the Ronald McDonald House in Roanoke through a supper, cards, donated items and prayer.

The Ronald McDonald House mission is to provide essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare. When a child is in the hospital, nothing else matters. We make sure families can stay close, rest, and focus on what matters most: their child. Their mission is a world where every family has what they need to ensure the best health outcomes for their children.

<https://ronaldmcdonaldhouseswva.org/>



Marsha Melkinian brought cards, envelopes, stamps and stickers so that we could craft notes of care and concern. We had a marvelous time making a total of 80 cards. We prayed over recipients of the cards, for God's peace,



strength and wisdom for the families and healing for the patients.

Our plan is to deliver cards, donated items, and supper to the Ronald McDonald House in July, which will be our regular July meeting.



Submitted by Betty Johnson



Halesford UMC, in ministry since 1890, will celebrate Homecoming August 23, 2026.

Our 11am service will be preached by host pastor Jeffery T. White, with lunch following the service. Afternoon service begins at 2pm with Rev. Corey J. Taylor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church as guest preacher. The group, Friends of the Gospel, will provide the music.

Join us for a high time in the Lord!!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays

7	Bridgett Allen	(Halesford)
6	Clarence Allen, III	(Halesford)
11	Jennifer White	
1	Margaret Rose McGuire	(Epworth)
7	Mike Wells	(Epworth)

August Birthdays

2	Diane Taylor	(Halesford)
3	Tyson Banks	(Halesford)
3	Imiya Crider	(Halesford)
16	Lisa Ferguson	(Halesford)
18	Katie Wells	(Epworth)
29	Amy Wells	(Epworth)

July Anniversaries

1	Michael & Brenda Goad	(Halesford)
11	Dan & Sarah Morris	(Halesford)
8	Roy & Ann Bolling	(Epworth)
1	Randy & Marie Flippen	(Epworth)
27	Rick & Carol Jean Gramling	(Epworth)

August Anniversaries

7	Rev. Kelvin & Teresa Edwards	(Halesford)
14	Melvin & Faye Wuergler	(Epworth)

Epworth UMC - New Roof completed June 10, 2026



A big THANK YOU to everyone in the community who came out to support and to those who volunteered at the Epworth Community Breakfast held on June 13, 2026





- **July 11** —Epworth Community Breakfast, 8-10am
- **July 12** - Cross Cultural Training, Lane Memorial, 1201 Bedford Avenue, Altavista 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- **July 18**—Ronald McDonald House Youth Mission 4pm
- **August 8**— Epworth Community Breakfast, 8-10am
- **August 10**—Epworth Ad Council Meeting, 6 pm
- **August 16**—Halesford Gospel Singers – St. Paul UMC, 502 Gilmer Avenue, NW, Roanoke @ 2pm
- **August 23**—Halesford UMC Homecoming
- **August 30**—5th Sunday Combined Worship - Halesford

SML
walk
TO END POVERTY
Make a Difference Together

SAVE THE DATE:

Smith Mountain Lake Walk to End Poverty
Saturday, Sept 19, 2026



Sundays @
Epworth UMC
9:30 a.m.

Please let Cindy (Epworth) or Betty (Halesford) know if you have a prayer request you would like added and updates on those currently listed.

Prayer Meeting held every other Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
Praying you will attend!

Collecting New Socks for the Homeless
~ Drop Box is in the Narthex at Epworth UMC

"Socks for Lost Souls"

Socks are currently being donation to Rescue Mission in Roanoke:
<https://rescuemission.net/>

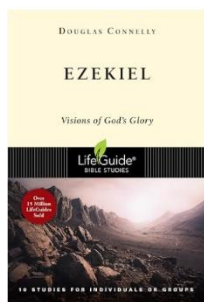
Sunday School

Thursdays @ 7:30 p.m.

via Zoom

contact Cindy Lollar for link:

clollar65@gmail.com



Prayer Meeting —Every Other Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

(see calendar for schedule)

via Zoom—contact Cindy Lollar for link:

clollar65@gmail.com



Thank you to all who are signed up with the Kroger Community Rewards program for Halesford (QD391) or Epworth (EP178). Without realizing that when you shop, a percentage of your total order is shared with our churches through the Community Rewards Program.

Here is the link to get started:

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 
5	6	7	8	9 Sunday School 7:30 PM on Zoom	10	11 Epworth Community Breakfast 8-10 AM
12 Cross Cultural Training, Lane Memorial 2:30-5:30 PM	13	14	15	16 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 PM on Zoom	17	18 Ronald McDonald House Youth Mission 4 PM
19	20	21	22	23 Sunday School 7:30 PM on Zoom	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 PM on Zoom	31	

Notes:

*AA meets every Monday-Friday @
9:00 a.m. @ Epworth UMC
Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. @ Epworth,
and
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. @
Halesford UM*

