



MAY 2023 ISSUE

THE PINEVILLE CONNECTION

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



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Pineville Connection

FROM PASTOR MARK

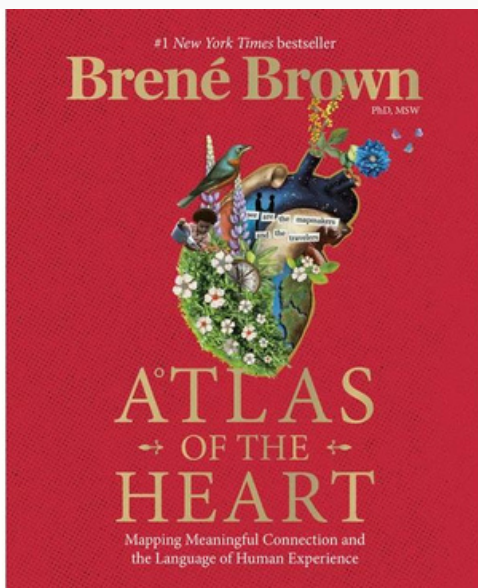
Our staff team is reading *Atlas of the Heart* by Brené Brown. Some of you may know her for her TED Talk on Shame and Vulnerability, or her earlier works such as *The Gifts of Imperfection* or *Daring Greatly*.

The back-cover jacket reads:

In Atlas of the Heart, Brown takes us on a journey through eighty-seven of the emotions and experiences that define what it means to be human. As she maps the necessary skills and an actionable framework for meaningful connection, she gives us the language and tools to access a universe of new choices and second chances- a universe where we can share and steward the stories of our bravest and most heartbreaking moments with one another in a way that builds connection.



Rev. Dr. Mark Curtis



Current Staff Read

When did being in relationships become so difficult, so complicated, so utterly confusing? Like many things in life, something that God intended as good, even very good, has become something corrupted and often not very good at all. We long to belong to something, better yet, someone. We are biologically, emotionally, and spiritually created to be in relationship. We naturally seek connection with other people.

Paul addresses the difficulty of relationships in his letter to the church at Corinth by pointing them back to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. God became human. Vulnerable. Perhaps for Paul, Jesus' life, death and resurrection was a way to "share and steward the stories of our bravest and most heartbreaking moments with one another in a way that builds connection."

God seeks connection with us. Always has. Always will. It's just who God is.

Pineville Connection

FROM PASTOR JESSICA



I love compost. I enjoy the whole process of taking my eggshells and vegetable scraps to the compost bin. At the end of the growing season, I mourn a little as I pull up the dying unproductive plants, however I am gladdened as I throw them into the compost to rot away for the winter. I can't think of a better use for the old and spent plants than to become the dark, fertile soil for next spring.

That is how God uses everything in our lives. The changes that you are mourning today can become the rich soil for helping someone else in the coming seasons. It takes a while for the kitchen scraps to break down. Vision for what is next is lost while the rain and cold break down the leftovers even more.

When I stir my compost pile mid-winter, it looks like a rotten mess, so does life sometimes. It is only in the heat of summer that the mess transforms into soil that is rich in nutrients.

Praying that in the middle of your journey, you hold on to hope. He has a good plan for you.



Jessica Edwards

CARING FOR EACH OTHER THROUGH STEPHEN MINISTRY

BY MELISSA MCGILL

Walking with each other through difficulty, grief and change is in the DNA of Pineville United Methodist Church. In 1996, the Church commissioned its first class of Stephen Ministers and the ministry is going strong in 2023 with a new class of four Stephen Ministers set to be commissioned on May 21 in the 11:00 a.m. service in the Crossroads Center.

First and foremost, Stephen Ministry provides a caring ear and a connection to resources for anyone struggling after a crisis, like a death, health challenges, a job loss, or any kind of change.



*First Class of Stephen Ministers
Commissioned at Pineville UMC in 1996*

“Grief is very heavy to carry by yourself. As a Stephen Minister, we’re not in there to solve anything, we’re there as a conduit for God’s love and healing. We focus on the process of the caregiving and walking alongside someone navigating these changes,” says Diane Hill, who heads up the ministry at Pineville UMC.

Diane decided to become a Stephen Minister to know what to say when friends were struggling. “I had gone through some deaths in the family and of friends and I was very interested in Stephen Ministry. I thought ‘I’ll be able to find out exactly what to say to help someone,’” Diane says. When she learned that training took 50 hours over the course of 20 weeks, she reconsidered. But God kept nudging and Diane was commissioned in 2014. After shepherding this important ministry through the challenges and changes of the pandemic years, she’s excited to see it continue to grow - both in Stephen Ministers and care receivers.

Debbie Eaker was part of the inaugural class of Stephen Ministers in 1996. She says, “Often, what people need is someone to sit with them and just listen. It helps to have someone on the outside, not a family member or a friend, who is there to listen - not to give opinions, not to judge - just to listen.”

Care receivers are paired one-on-one with a Stephen Minister based on gender (men are paired with men and women are paired with women) and on the particulars of their current crisis. If you’re interested in receiving care or in learning more about training to become a Stephen Minister, contact Diane Hill or the Church office at (704) 889-2022.

MEET OUR NEW STEPHEN MINISTERS

JESSICA EDWARDS

Jessica Edwards is the Assistant Pastor at Pineville UMC. She has a Masters Degree in Creative Leadership Ministry, and has served as Children's Minister at two churches in Virginia Beach, VA. Her husband, Jim Edwards, is a retired choir director of 30 years and currently teaches private violin and piano lessons and coordinates the Stateline Community Orchestra. She has four children and two granddaughters who fill her world with love and light.

GEORGE HEELAN

Born in Danbury, Connecticut, George Heelan joined Pineville UMC in 2016. Prior to his retirement, he served for 33 years as an assistant professor and Chief Financial Officer at a Baptist United Negro College (UNCF) located in South Carolina. He also served in the U.S. Army. He says: "I look forward to working, learning, and sharing in Stephen Ministry at Pineville UMC. I pray for God's guidance."

REBECCA RUSHING

Rebecca Rushing and her husband Dennis Rushing have attended Pineville UMC for about four and a half years and been members for three and a half years. She says: "I am honored to be involved with Stephen Ministry. I pray that I will be able to empower women to heal through God, the cure giver."



Stephen Minister Commissioning Sunday, May 21

In the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Crossroads Center on Sunday, May 21, our Stephen Ministers will be commissioned. They will also be presented at the 9:00 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary. Plan to attend to meet and support these new Stephen Ministers.

SUZANNE GOLD

Suzanne Gold has been member of Pineville UMC since October, 2000. She says: "I was raised in another denomination and had very good faith experiences as a young child and youth. I found that the Methodist church was a much better fit as an adult. My earliest experience at Pineville was in a new member class where our group learned about early Christian history and about early Methodist history. We also spent time discerning our spiritual gifts, which was a great help in finding my fit in the ministries of this church. I continue my search while in the rigorous study of what being a Stephen Minister entails. Our Stephen Leaders and my fellow students have really been a great support on this journey and I look forward to serving in this new ministry."

UMW Tea Party: Saturday, May 20

Pineville United Methodist Women are hosting their annual tea fundraiser on Saturday, May 20, at 2:00 p.m. It will be a Garden Tea Party held in the Fellowship Building. All women are invited. The tickets are \$10. It will be a wonderful time for food and fellowship. All proceeds will help fund special missions. Some of the funds raised last year supported Ukraine through UMCOR, Crisis Assistance Ministry, the church backpack ministry, Pineville Neighbor's Place, and more. Mark your calendars now. Tickets will be on sale starting the end of April. Please help support our missions while having lots of fun. For more information, contact Sharon Thompson at (704) 552-0656.



A Pentecost Celebration: Sunday, May 28

BY MAJIE JOHNSTON

Sunday, May 28 is Pentecost Sunday. It is also Memorial Day Weekend. Pineville UMC has a special celebration planned for Pentecost this year at 11:00 a.m. I would like to encourage you to make Memorial Day plans close to home so you can be with us in worship.

Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus. It is the last celebration before the church goes into "ordinary time." We won't celebrate again until the Holidays. In my opinion, Pentecost is a day well worth celebrating. It is also the Sunday when we wear either red, yellow or orange. I would love for our congregation to resemble a sea of fire.

I want to wish you a beautiful, wonderful and unforgettable Pentecost. May you be blessed by the Holy Spirit with happiness, good health, great fortune and prosperity as you celebrate Pentecost with the people you love.



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

Prayer Ministry List for Healing:

Julie Della Monica; Patsy Payne; Marietta Young; Stephen DeCapua; John Rea; Jeanne Long; Sammy; Seth Poling and Brittany Alden and parents Holt and Mary Alice; Sue Weed; Sue Glendening; Martha Turner; Hannah Claire Calbreath; Theresa Potts; Libby McManis; Carl Weatherman; Lisa Johnston; Gene Pharr; Sylvia Ashcroft; Janice Walker and family; Betty Luetkemeier; Ken Walker; Carolyn Harris; Eve Perry; Joe Thompson; Donna Threewitt; Carol Payne; Amanda DeHeaven; Diane Snead; Mike Kish; Barbara Anderson; Sharon Thompson; Debbie Babington; Barbara McInerney; John Hopkins; Toni Marquette; Bob Nark; Sara Collins; Peter Hodes; Chris Harmon; Debbie Rivers; Vito Banci; Toi Warren.

On Going Concerns:

Tracie Clark; Teddy Quimet; George House; Glennette Ranson; Robert Kagel; Glen Walker; Mary Ella Treece; Gloria Baker; Ray Phillips; Christel Short; Ruth Gleason; Sharlene Adams; Prakash Laud; John Racey; Larry Wadsworth; Allen Morris; Gary Short; Lisa Akers; Dr. Bill James; Doris McClee; Mary and Bill Hawkins; Mike House; Jackie; Dot Phillips; LaVon Sigmon; Les Haga; Nicole Rippy; Wyamon Price; Joyce Hunter; Mark Decker; Brian Naylis; Flor Quesada; Judy Workman; Allie Gulledge; Rev. Dean Guest; Gwen Brown.

Military Concerns:

Joey Calbreath; Jerome Menendez; Scott Weeks; Bill Hillis; Adam McClary; Joe Soderlund; Elijah Read; Michael Douglas; Noah Lewis; Chase Lewis; Arielle Aeby; Matt Windisch; Tyler Baucom; Samuel Faulkner; Garrett Rodriquez; Cameron Jackson; Richard Beaman.

Share a prayer request:

We would love to join you in prayer. You can share a prayer request by submitting a Prayer request card in the Attendance Pads or by contacting the church office.

Join the Prayer Team

Our Prayer Team meets every Monday at 11:00 in Stacy Hall. Contact Darlis Gross at Hidol51@aol.com for more information.



Easter

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all of the volunteers that came together and worked together to make all of the services and events of Holy Week come to fruition.

A number of church members have reached out to say that it was an especially spiritual and meaningful Lent and Easter. While we don't have the space in this publication to name each of you individually, please know that we appreciate each one of you and the contributions you have made!

From participating in worship, to decorating Flower Crosses, to baking breakfast casseroles, to setting up and cleaning up, we could not have done any of this without you. You are all a blessing to this church and to each of us!

Marcy Eaker and Debbie Gafney
Worship Committee Co-chairs



We love seeing your Church photos on Instagram! Tag us @pinevilleumc and we may share on social media or here in the Pineville Connection!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Calling all heroes! VBS will be July 17-21, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day. We welcome all children rising Kindergarten through rising 5th grade. **Register at pinevilleumc.org/vacation-bible-school.**

We also need volunteers! For more information, contact Kelly Chiseck at kchiseck@pinevilleumc.org!



MAY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



KEY DATES

- 5/2 - Stateline Orchestra Concert
- 5/3 - Golden Pines
- 5/14 - Mother's Day
- 5/20 - UMW Tea Party
- 5/21 - Stephen Ministry Commissioning
- 5/21 - Church-wide Picnic
- 5/24 - United Methodist Women
- 5/28 - Pentecost

For the full calendar and more information, please visit pinevilleumc.org/events/month.

May Birthdays

Debbie Eaker 5/2
 Niki Shenise 5/2
 Tootsie Hathcock 5/3
 Ferris Blankenship 5/3
 Lillian Blankenship 5/3
 Theresa Potts 5/6
 Ken Knebusch 5/6
 Kaylan Wilson 5/6
 Alexis Aschenbrenner 5/6
 Sharlene Adams 5/6
 Bob Boice 5/7
 Stephanie Burns 5/7
 Paddy Mulhearn 5/7
 Joey Calbreath 5/7
 Thomas Peters 5/8
 Scott Weeks 5/8
 Don Heiges 5/11

Chris Babin 5/11
 Sarah Campbell 5/11
 Davis Harrelson 5/11
 Leland Harrelson 5/11
 Abby Phillips 5/11
 Stacey Dickey 5/13
 Doris Alls 5/13
 Harrison Rogers 5/13
 Virginia Moore 5/14
 Brian Green 5/14
 Kris Stokes 5/15
 Charlene Marze 5/16
 Sandy Meeks 5/16
 Martha Turner 5/17
 Marry Marze 5/18
 Jodi Ebert 5/18
 Ricardo Carranza 5/19

Larry Rager 5/20
 Nancy Hoover 5/21
 Zoe O'Brien 5/22
 Linda Rager 5/22
 Josh Cable 5/22
 Andrea Aschenbrenner 5/23
 Nancy Walkup 5/25
 Gregory Scibilia 5/25
 Stephanie Bridges 5/27
 Erin Blankenship 5/27
 Bill Hawkins 5/28
 Bill Maphis 5/29
 Romi Gibbons 5/29
 Ashley Heldman 5/31

A Note About The Pineville Connection:

The Pineville Connection seeks to share the stories of our church as we fulfill our mission. If you would like to submit an article for next month's newsletter, please send it to mmcgill@pinevilleumc.org by May 15th!

Pineville UMC
PO Box 3
Pineville NC, 28134

Rooted in Community Picnic

SUNDAY, MAY 21 FROM 4-6 P.M.

Join us for a church family picnic at Pineville Lake Park's large shelter. Hamburgers/hot dogs, chips, toppings and drinks will be provided. We'll have cornhole, giant Jenga, face painting and crafts for kids. Bring: Lawn chair and any outdoor games you enjoy. We will have a short Vespers (evening devotion/prayer) at 5:45.

