

**Junaluskans General Meeting  
Harrell Center Auditorium  
February 5, 2025**

Jan Lemasters called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Caring and Sharing** - Cynthia Lindberg introduced Leigh Kammerer, who announced that Rev. George Thompson died last Thursday night. George was very involved with the Junaluskans and First UMC for many years. His service will be March 1 at Christ UMC in Greensboro at 2:00 p.m.

**Opening Prayer** - Rev. Mark Schultz offered the opening prayer.

**Guest Speakers** – Patricia Parrish and John Johnson shared about a new initiative about protecting swans via a Clean Fishing campaign. Participants in the Clean Fishing Task Force include Ken Howle, Jackie Dingus, Laurie Gower, Kathy LaLonde, Melba Hanson, John Johnson, and Patricia Parrish. Lead fishing weights are easily ingested by swans. We lost two swans in the past two years due to ingestion of lead weights. Fishing line is also a danger. Reducing lead weights, fishing line, and trash is the primary goal of the Clean Fishing campaign. We cannot impose restrictions, but ask fishers voluntarily to do something different. The campaign will launch in March and continue through the summer, distributing rack cards explaining the campaign and samples of tin weights. John Johnson presented information about tin weights and fishing line. Tin weights are like the lead weights, except for the metal used; they are available from Walmart. Fishing lines break when they are caught on obstacles while fishing, and the weights are lost with the line. The initiative will be publicized through numerous channels at the lake and with partners in Haywood County and NC Wildlife Federation. Patricia invited interested persons to help with the campaign. Jan announced that the effort is funded by \$2000 from the Junaluskans budget.

**Birthdays, anniversaries and first-time attendees** – Steve Berwager recognized Bob Carlisle and his wife as first-time attendees. February birthdays and anniversaries were recognized.

**Chairperson reports**

**Membership** Margaret Amick reported the registration form went out with the utility bill and on Junaluskans email service. The total membership is 189 so far, including 51 this morning.

**Flea Market** Judy LaFountaine announced the date is June 14, 2025. Chairpersons have been set, everyone agreeing who was asked. She will be available after the meeting for people to sign up to help with the flea market. She offered to pick up and store furnishings of people who are moving or downsizing and want to donate their belongings to the flea market.

**Worship Opportunities** Gary Phillips described modifications in the vesper services, to focus on the sacred spaces around the Lake. The next event will be mid-March, Thursday at 6:30 p.m., focusing on rededication of the recently-restored baptismal font at Memorial Chapel.

Two hymn sings, in summer and fall, will take place. Lessons and Carols in December.

Milsaps Dye announced that **Jim Hart** died recently.

Jan Lemasters announced that **Brian Aldridge** has retired from Department of Public Works.

## **New Business**

**Book Club** Sue Cobb announced Junaluska Books and Friends started last month, with 13 persons. They will meet Thursday, February 13, 2:00 at the library. Interested persons are invited.

**Walk about Wednesday** will be on Wednesday, February 19.

## **Old Business**

**Administrative updates** - Ken Howle shared the following:

1. Brian Aldridge left because his daily commute from TN was more than doubled after Hurricane Helene damaged the road indefinitely.
2. Hurricane Helene recovery is almost complete in the Harrell Center. The stone work on the Rosewalk is complete; they are now rebuilding the columns; concrete will be poured in the next few weeks; it should be reopened soon. The earthen dam shrubbery has been removed; that area will need to be reinforced; the walking trail will need to be closed while this work is done, probably next week. Stuart Auditorium still needs to have the bathrooms renovated. The total cost is about \$1,000,000. We do not qualify for FEMA grants, but we may qualify for a loan. We have raised more than \$500,000 in charitable giving; the surplus from the operating fund from last year, insurance funds, and grants also have been received, totaling more than \$900,000 all together.
3. The Terrace Dining Room is being renovated. The cost will be \$200,000.
4. Public Works will come and check your house while you are out of town, at no cost. They also have a public safety lock box program (cost \$16), that allows law enforcement to have a key to get into that box and there retrieve a key to your house so they can get into the house in case of emergency.
5. DOT will again close the Route 19 ramp. Date unknown.
6. General information about what is going is accessible: Staff at all meetings; two websites ([lakejunaluska.com](http://lakejunaluska.com) and [lakejunaluskacommunity.com](http://lakejunaluskacommunity.com)), email service, monthly newsletter.
7. Amazing resilience in this community. Pictures of the greenhouse filled with blooming flowers and crocuses blossoming along the Francis Asbury Trail are evidence.
8. Ken expressed appreciation for the resilience of the community members who work together to accomplish the Lake's mission.
9. A question was asked about law enforcement presence at the boat ramp. Ken answered.

**Lake Cleanup Day** will be on Saturday, February 22. Steve Crites announced that we will meet at the York Parking Lot at 9:00 a.m., for registration and disbursement to various cleanup areas. Online registration will be available soon. Area coordinators will be available. Wear mud-proof shoes, gloves.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey Mickle,  
Recording Secretary