



WELCOME TO OUR NEW EXEC BOARD!

President - Jan Lemasters
First Vice-President - Gary Phillips
Second Vice-President - Steve Crites
Recording Secretary - Jeff Mickle
Treasurer - Frank Dunnewind
Membership Secretary - Margaret Amick

How About Starting a Holiday Friends Group?

We're excited to launch "Holiday Friends Groups" in 2025! These voluntary groups bring together neighbors or others nearby who can't be with family for the holidays. The idea came from a Thanksgiving gathering of a dozen people, some meeting for the first time. By the end of the day, we had new friends, shared laughter, and enjoyed delicious potluck dishes. It was such a success we met again for Christmas, and the joy of it all made us wonder how many Junaluskans might spend holidays alone. Holiday Friends Groups are flexible and informal. Groups can vary in size (6-12 people is ideal), and attendance may change from holiday to holiday. Potluck meals work wonderfully, and you can choose which holidays to celebrate together. If this sounds like something you'd enjoy, consider starting a group in your neighborhood.

I'm happy to help you get started! - Jan

A New Year is Upon Us!

While the world seems as though it is in uncertain territory, here at Lake Junaluska we can be joyful for the peaceful and loving community that surrounds us. I always think of Lake Junaluska as “a slice of Heaven” and try to live like it is. I hope each of you feels the same and can join me in becoming an even closer knit family of dear friends in this special community.

We have accomplished some wonderful things together this past year (check out some pics on the next page). Amazing and generous volunteers quickly restored a Helene ravaged lake and neighborhoods into this beautiful place we call home. Many volunteers helped to make the first responders feel welcomed, nourished and provided a clean, organized space for them to operate. A special shout-out to Jim Pearson, John Johnson and Todd Stewart who kindly guided volunteer teams in the storm cleanup. Throughout the year volunteers participated in chapel clean up, lake clean up and Beautification Day.

Then there was the marvelous team that provided thousands of volunteer hours yearly caring for our beloved swans. A special thanks to Jackie Dingas who continues to provide leadership to the swan team. The team works tirelessly regardless of weather conditions. We are so grateful for them!

We were blessed by spiritual events such as vespers, hymn sings and the magnificent Lessons and Carols. Hilda Ryan miraculously organizes the most uplifting Lessons and Carols one can imagine. These events are a blessing to all who attend.

We had fun this year, too. There was the Spring dance in May with a beach party theme. The dedicated NOMADS who work to improve LJ several times a year, joined us for lunch in the Spring and dinner in the Fall. The soup potluck in October was another delicious treat we will continue to have each Fall. The Christmas dinner sparkled with beautifully decorated tables, thanks to artistic Junaluskans and the entertainment enhanced the Christmas spirit.

In 2025, game days, a book club, “senior pickle ball”, a luau and “holiday friends groups” are just a few things being planned. I encourage you to become a part of the dynamic Junaluskans. We know through research that the happiest and healthiest people are those with active social lives. An easy New Year’s resolution is to join Junaluskans, be happier, healthier and make lots of new friends.

Blessings to you all, Dr. Jan Lemasters



Lake Junaluska Continues Reconstruction of Damage from Hurricane Helene

Happy New Year, Junaluskans! Lake Junaluska remains steadfast in our commitment to restoration following the damage sustained during Hurricane Helene. Progress is evident though some challenges remain as we continue to diligently repair and rebuild the affected areas.

Efforts to renovate the lower level of the Harrell Center are approximately 90% complete, only the lower-level bathrooms remain to be finished. Materials for these final repairs have been ordered, and work will continue once they arrive. The Harrell Center is now available for group bookings, and part of the Art of Music Festival was held there the weekend of December 6-7, marking a significant step forward in restoring its role as a hub for community events. What a transformation after significant damage on September 27! I look forward to you seeing this restored space in January.

Repairs beneath the stage at Stuart Auditorium are complete, however the restoration of the bathrooms has yet to begin. Once we have a better idea of the cost of repairing the Rose Walk, we will know how much is available to allocate for the bathroom renovations in Stuart. Meanwhile, the Art of Music Festival concerts that were held in Stuart Auditorium, filled the space with music and joy.

The cost of repairing the iconic Rose Walk is estimated at \$350,000. To address this, we plan to lower the lake by approximately four feet in early January. This drawdown will allow engineers to evaluate the damage and thoroughly develop a comprehensive repair plan. Work is also underway to design updates to the dam gates and address other essential repairs to safeguard this vitally important structure against future storms.

Although the number of recovery organizations staying at Lake Junaluska has dropped since the storm, we continue to make our facilities available to those traveling to our area to help with efforts in our region. This partnership underscores the community's enduring spirit of support and solidarity in the face of adversity.

The repair of damaged Lake Junaluska facilities is primarily funded by charitable donations. Since Hurricane Helene swept through this area, we have received over \$500,000 in philanthropic contributions to support Hurricane restorations and to help underwrite the hosting of recovery workers housed at Lake Junaluska. We remain deeply grateful for the support of the Lake Junaluska community and friends. Together, we will restore our beloved spaces and continue our mission to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind and body.

Yours in Christ, Ken Howle

JUNALUSKANS BOOK CLUB

Sue Cobb, a new member of the Junaluskans, has offered to start a book club. This will be a wonderful opportunity to share thoughts on books the group is reading and, perhaps more importantly, a way to make new friends. The first meeting will be Thursday, January 16 at 1:30 pm in the library in the Harrell Center, which is just past Gifts and Grounds. At the first meeting, those attending will determine how the book club will be organized; the best day of the week and the frequency the book club will meet, the kind of books they will read, etc.

If you are interested in being a participant in the book club, you may contact Sue Cobb at suecobb8@att.net or call 864-901-8868 or see you on the 16th!



LIBRARY NEWS

Stop into the Lake Junaluska Library in Harrell Center and check out our many new books by your favorite authors like Baldacci, Penny, and Thor! We have a great selection of children's books for young families and visiting grandchildren, too.

- If you have had a change of address, cell, or email address please stop by the library and give us your new information.
- LJ Library is closed on Sunday and Monday during January – March (as is Gifts & Grounds).
- Join a card or board game on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm.
- We are ALWAYS looking for your donated used books. Just leave bags and boxes by the desk. What we cannot use, we will sell to purchase new books. THANK YOU!
- We welcome new volunteers for as much or little time as you can give! Subs are always welcome!

Stephanie Schulz
stephanienschulz@gmail.com
850-445-4375

Caring & Sharing
Cynthia Lindberg
ljcaringandsharing@gmail.com

It has been my privilege to serve you as Caring and Sharing chair for the past four years. Beginning January 2025, Cynthia Lundberg will be taking this over for the Junaluskans. You can contact her at ljcaringandsharing@gmail.com.

Thank you, Hilda Ryan

LAKE JUNALUSKA GUESTS

- Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation (Jan 1-5)
- Encounter (Jan 10-12)
- Winter Ski (Jan 10-12)
- WNCC United Methodist Church (Jan 13-15)
- Outdoor Ministries Connection (Jan 15-18)
- Encounter (Jan 17-20)
- Winter Ski (Jan 17-20)
- Lakewood UMC Youth 2023 (Jan 17-20)
- Encounter (Jan 24-26)
- Winter Ski (Jan 24-26)
- Duke Divinity School (Jan 27-29)

2025 Junaluskans Events - Save the dates!

*(General meetings are always
the first Wednesday of the
month at 10 am)*

- January 8 - General Meeting at 10a, Harrell Center Auditorium
- January 16 - Book Club at 1:30p in LJ Library
- February 22 - Lake Junaluska Clean-up Day
- May 1 - Beautification Day
- June 14 - Annual Junaluskans Flea Market

More event dates coming soon!

WANT MORE INFO ABOUT LJ ACTIVITIES?? CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES



- Bethea Welcome Center
- Terrace Hotel Front Desk
- Lambuth Inn Front Desk
- Gifts and Grounds
- Assembly Public Works
- Junaluska Weekly (can be picked up at any of the locations listed above and also online at <https://bit.ly/LJweekly>)
- www.lakejunaluska.com

“Swan”derful News!

We, the Lake Junaluska swans, Bobby, Pamela, Bubba, Ellie, Kenny, Ms. Rae, Evelyn, Lacey, Mae, Faith, Hope, and JR send you winter greetings. We are enjoying the quietness of the lake this time of year and look forward to our daily interactions with our friends who feed and care for us each day. We would like to get to know some more of you, so if you would like to help take care of us, just reach out to our ‘swan mom’ or one of our other good swan friends. They will share everything you need to know about each of us.

Jackie Dingus, Swan Keeper ‘mom’
jgdingus@charter.net



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE - Winter Art Classes 2025

We will be offering several art classes during January and February 2025.

All classes will be held in Wilson Children's Complex Room #1018

Space may be limited. Please contact the individual art instructor to register for a class, and for details regarding time and fees if applicable.

- January 14 "Stained Glass Demo" - 2:30 pm, no fee for this class, no class size limit; George Kenney (george.kenney@hotmail.com)
- January 21 "Jewelry Making - Beaded Earrings" - 1-4 pm, \$20, class size 10 students; Sarah Workman (swwberry@gmail.com)
- February 4 "Intro to Folk Art Birds and Flowers" Paint a Heart – 4pm, \$50, class size limit 10 students; Stephanie Schulz (stephanienschulz@gmail.com)
- February 11 "Everyone Loves Silk" Paint/Dye a ladies handkerchief bandana. The silk pieces will have designs prepared and you paint/dye the designs. 2 to 5 pm, \$50, class size limit 10 students; Pam Winn (pamela.thesea@gmail.com)
- February 18 – "Early Learning Homeschool Art Class" - 10 am –12 pm; Stephanie Schulz (stephanienschulz@gmail.com) (closed group)
- February 25 "Beginner Oil Painting" – Beginner friendly and hands on introduction. 12-3pm, \$50, class size limit 10 students; Haidee Wilson (haideewilson@gmail.com)



Junaluskans Christmas Card

A heartfelt thank you to the Junaluskans for your generous contributions to the scholarship fund through the "Christmas Card Fundraiser." Your kindness and support make a meaningful impact, helping to create brighter futures for our community. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and care!

Roy and Nancy Watkins
Anna Ruth Conway
Randy and Linda Carlson
Frank and Pat Dunnewind
John Johnson
Margaret Ervin
Lynda Varner
Rush and Nancy Hood
George and Wanda Kenney
Jackie Wolfe
David and Melba Hanson
Bob and Mary Stark
Dan and Sarah Szymanski
Ed and Judy LaFountaine
Wanda Rogers
Delmas and Nancy Copeland
Rhonda and James Furr
Paul Davenport
Debbie Stanton and Barbara Stanton
Dianne Goodgame
Pat and Linda Stewart
Chuck and Ellen Bryan
Rob and Susan Huckaby
Paul and Judy Starnes
Jan and Chuck Lipp
Willie Hubbard
Margaret Fite
Leo and Barbara Coffee
Flo Johnson
Allan Zacher

Sandra and John Scott
Paul and Laura Young
Ron Clauser and Nancy Oates
Steve and Susie Crites
George and Sondra Shepherd
Jim and Evelyn Correll
Hardy and Sarah Tippet
Danny and Cindy Compher
Sylvia Russell
Jan Lemasters
Jeanette Shaver
Jody and Gene Lipscomb
Jay Langford
Donna Surrent
Larry B. Roberts
Margaret and Mike Jordan
Phyllis Capponi
Diana Foederer
Kathi Whalen
Deborah Austin and Jeff Mickle
Steve Berwager
Wayne and Anna Allen
Deana Little
Jack and Cynthia Ewing
Daphne Chapman
Greg and Danna Meek
Doug and Alyce McSwain
Clark and Cherry Stone
Vic and Jackie Dingus

Thank you