

Lake Views and News

THE JUNALUSKANS

◆
May 2026



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LAKE JUNALUSKA

- Come check out the newly refreshed Susanna Wesley Gardens at our next **Junaluskans Meeting** on Wed May 6 at 10a in the Warren Center. Our speaker will be Melissa Marshall, Director of Grounds.
- **National Day of Prayer Service** is May 7 at 10a in Memorial Chapel.
- Join the **Steve Sutton Fest** at Stuart Auditorium May 8-9 for a weekend of bluegrass and mountain music honoring the legacy of Steve Sutton. This nonprofit festival supports the community he loved, with all proceeds benefiting music programs for Haywood County schools and Haywood County JAM.
- **Mother's Day Brunch Buffet** will be at the Terrace Dining Room on May 10. Reservations can be made online.
- **Beautification Day** is May 13 from 9-11a. Sign-up at the meeting or contact bschuessler@lakejunaluska.com

Junaluskan Email Service

Frank Stith kindly serves as our go-between, sending messages out to the community on behalf of others. Just a quick heads up—if you hit “reply” to one of these emails, your message will go to Frank—not the original sender. If you wish to contact the person who submitted the message, please reach out to them directly. Only use “reply” if you intend to contact Frank.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2027

Do you enjoy working with others and giving back to your community? Are you interested in getting more involved with the Junaluskans and the projects we support? Or maybe you'd simply like to meet more people?

If you answered "yes" to any of these, the Nominating Committee would love to connect with you as we begin filling positions for 2027.

We hope to see you at the meeting—or feel free to reach out by email!

Steve Berwager (sberwager@aol.com)

Jackie Dingus (jgdswan12@spectrum.net)

Jeff Mickle (jeffmickle@vaumc.org)

Junaluskans Nominating Committee



SACRED SPACES RETURNS

On Tue, May 19, the Spiritual Life Committee will host its first event of 2026 as the ever-popular Hymn Sing returns to the Biblical Garden. Singing begins at 5p.

We'll provide the hymnals and instrumentation—just bring your voice and a chair! Hilda and Marq Ryan will lead us in an evening of joyful praise.

As part of this year's focus on the sacred spaces around our grounds, Mrs. Pat Poag will also guide us through the garden, sharing a bit about its history and significance.

JUNALUSKANS FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Fellowship Groups are a wonderful way to connect, build friendships, and share meals together. Each group stays together for two years, and you can attend as your schedule allows—no pressure, just community!

If you'd like to join, simply complete a sign-up form. Forms will be available at the May 6 Junaluskans meeting and online via the QR code listed here. You may request to be placed with a friend, and please note any special needs, such as wheelchair accessibility.

Groups meet September through May, and we'd love for you to be part of it. We're also looking for a few additional group leaders to help keep gatherings small and meaningful. It's an easy role that makes a big difference!

For more info, please contact Susan Folds at susan.folds@yahoo.com



2026 Junaluskans Flea Market is Happening on Jun 13!

Time to Clean Out and Donate!

Now's the perfect time to clean out your closets, basements, garages, and attics for items to donate to the upcoming flea market!

Donation Drop-Off:

Bring your donations on Friday, Jun 12, to the Weldon Gym between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM.

Need a Pick-Up?

If you need assistance with transporting items, volunteers are available to pick up donations that Friday morning. Please email Todd Stewart at rts0375@gmail.com to arrange a pick-up time.



Flea Market Team

Co-Chairs:

Ed & Judy LaFontaine

☎ 828-456-8308

✉ edjudyl@outlook.com

Departments & Coordinators

- Arts & Crafts: *Wanda Kenney & Cat Golson*
- Bath: *Patricia Parrish*
- Baked Goods: *Sondra Shepherd*
- Books: *Ann Scott & Kathy Higdon*
- Boutique: *Grace Gattis & Jan Lipp*
- Electrical: *Rick & Debbie Irons*
- Furniture: *Ted Singletary*
- Toys/Games: *Lynette Stewart*
- Holiday Items: *Nancy Hood & Nancy Toney*
- Home Decorations: *Sharon Johnson*
- Junaluska Gems: *Hardy & Sarah Tippett*
- Kitchen: *Margaret Ervin*
- Linens: *Susan Folds*
- Luggage & Pets: *Nancy Thomason & Lanier Bayliss*
- Plants: *Jan Lemasters*
- Sports: *Jan Nesbitt*
- Tools: *John Johnson*

Bake Sale

Find your favorite dessert recipe, bake it and bring it to the baked goods tent on Friday, Jun 12 or early Saturday morning, Jun 13, wrapped, labeled, and priced to sell (nothing under \$1). The Baked Goods tent will be open on Jun 12, set-up day, for volunteers to sit, take a break and enjoy a refreshment or snack. On Jun 13, we will be selling coffee, water, soda, and the goodies you, the Junaluskans, provide. We hope you can join us for delicious treats and fun fellowship. For more information and questions contact Sondra Shepherd (405-990-5752).





LIBRARY

NEWS

SPRING HOURS:

Mar 27 - May 21

Mon-Sat

8a – 5p

Upcoming events:

- Bible Study on Tues at 11a-12:15p
- Cards & Games on 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Tues at 2p
- Book Club 2nd Thu beginning at 2p

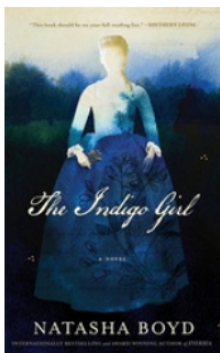
Don't forget to drop off your **used books** anytime the library is open—just leave them by the computer desk. Thank you!

Have questions or want to help? We're looking for a few new **volunteers** for the busy summer season, especially on Saturdays. Contact Stephanie Schulz at 850-445-4375.

Do you have a **new neighbor**? Are you new to the Lake? We now have Welcome Neighbor Folders available at the library. Stop by and pick one up and give it to your new neighbors!

May Book Club Selection

Based on historical records, including Eliza's own letters, ***The Indigo Girl*** tells the story of a teenage girl who helped establish indigo as one of South Carolina's most valuable exports—shaping the wealth of many Southern families for generations. Though often overlooked by historians, Eliza Lucas's achievements had a lasting impact on the course of American history.



New Books at the Library:

Ancestral Landscapes by NC author, Cindy Geary...tracing her NC roots lead to a study in ancestral heritage art

Theo of Golden by southern writer, Allen Levi...who is Theo? Why did he come to this small southern town? What is his connection to portraits?

Gideon's Book by local author, Maureen Miller
...pull up a chair and enjoy this award-winning inspirational novel

Caring & Sharing

Cynthia Lindberg

caringandsharing@lakejunaluska.com



The Lake Junaluska community mourns the loss of a beloved member this past month:

- On March 28, we lost John Edwards Rutland, Jr. He is survived by his wife Ginger, of Lake Junaluska, NC, sons Jeremy Edward Rutland (Kristee) of Huntsville, AL, and Jarrett Rutland (Natalie) of Asheville, NC.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

A service to be held in connection with the National Day of Prayer will take place at the Memorial Chapel at Lake Junaluska on May 7 at 10a. The event will be an opportunity to come together to pray for the nation, and representatives from the community will lead all gathered in prayers for family, church, workplace, education, military, government, and arts and media.

The service will be one of thousands of local National Day of Prayer events to be held across the country. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May. The theme for the 2026 National Day of Prayer is "Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations!" The scripture that inspired this theme is 1 Chronicles 16.

Parking will be available next to the chapel.

For more information about the National Day of Prayer, visit www.nationaldayofprayer.org.



INVESTMENTS IN THE FUTURE OF LAKE JUNALUSKA

I am thrilled to share some great news regarding the future of Lake Junaluska. We have recently secured significant funding that will allow us to strengthen our infrastructure, repair storm damage and ensure our community remains a resilient and beautiful place for generations to come.

Governor Josh Stein recently announced that Lake Junaluska Assembly has been awarded \$8,818,934 in drinking water and wastewater funds from the NC Department of Environmental Quality. This is a massive investment in our community's resiliency. We expect more details in the coming weeks and will keep you updated. Thank you to Junior Woody, Leisa McDonald, and Buddy Melton.

I am also happy to report a major breakthrough regarding our sediment disposal site. With the current site at capacity, we moved to expand it by 350 feet. The Army Corps of Engineers has issued a permit for this purpose, allowing us to move forward with plans for construction. This directly supports the Board of Trustees' 2020 Strategic Vision to develop and begin implementing a plan for the preservation and maintenance of the Lake Junaluska lake and dam.

Preserving the Lake and Dam is one of the components of the Sharing Our Gifts campaign. Your donations toward this effort can now go twice as far, thanks to a matching grant. All gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$60,000, doubling your impact. To learn more about the campaign or to make a gift online, please visit lakejunaluska.com/give/sharingourgifts. Contributions can also be mailed to the Office of Development (759 N Lakeshore Dr., Lake Junaluska, NC 28745) with "Lake and Dam" noted on the check.

For more information about these projects as well as other matters of interest to the community, please mark your calendar for the following meetings:

- Junaluska Assembly Community Council (JACC): Meets the second Tue of each month (except Jul/Dec) at 4p. Minutes from meetings are posted online.
- Lake Junaluska Assembly Property Owners Organization (LJAPOO) General Meeting: Meets in Feb and Jul. The next meeting is scheduled for Fri, Jul 3.
- Junaluskans: Meetings are on the first Wed of each month. Meeting minutes are available online.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping make Lake Junaluska a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind and body.

Yours in Christ, Ken Howle

COMMUNITY LAKE CLEANUP A SUCCESS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Steve Crites and the Junaluskans for their leadership in organizing another successful Community **Lake Cleanup Day**. Their commitment to our shared home brought together 176 participants, including Girl Scout Troop 13283, Cub Scout Pack 370, a handful of students logging community service, and many local families. Working alongside staff and partners like the Haywood Waterways Association, these volunteers ensured our shorelines and roadways are clean and safe for the season ahead. Thank you!



Beautification Day will be May 13, from 9-11a. This is a wonderful opportunity for Junaluskans to work side by side with the Lake Junaluska staff to refresh our grounds, facilities, and gardens. Our projects this year include planting flower beds at Memorial Chapel and in front of Stuart Auditorium, as well as general dusting and cobweb removal at the Chapel, the Terrace, and the Lambuth balconies. We will also focus on trash pickup at the West End of campus, covering Dellwood Road, Massage by the Lake, the Nanci Weldon Gym, and the West Entrance treeline. Sign-ups for these projects will begin at the next Junaluskans meeting on May 6. We hope you can join us for this day of community and care for our beautiful campus!

THE COST OF FREEDOM

The Memorial Chapel at Lake Junaluska stands as a serene example of English Gothic architecture, built from local granite and crowned with a Celtic cross. While many admire its beauty, the chapel's true significance is found in its Book of Memory. Among the 80,000 names of Methodist service personnel recorded there is Private Jack Rathbone, whose story reflects remarkable sacrifice.

Jack Rathbone grew up at Lake Junaluska alongside his close friend, Thomas W. McKee Jr. Their lives were deeply rooted in the lake and its community, but World War II carried them far from home. McKee would later die in a plane crash in India in 1945, while Rathbone's life was lost two years earlier in the icy North Atlantic.

In February 1943, Rathbone was serving aboard the USS *Dorchester*, a converted coastal liner bound for Greenland. While traveling through the dangerous waters known as "Torpedo Alley," the ship was struck by a German submarine. The explosion was devastating, and within minutes the ship began to sink. During those final moments, four Army chaplains of different faiths famously gave up their life jackets to others and were last seen arm in arm, praying and singing as the ship went down. Rathbone was among the 674 men who perished, either in the sinking or in the freezing waters that followed.

The impact of his loss was deeply felt at Lake Junaluska. His mother, Mrs. Sam D. Rathbone, became a Gold Star Mother. In remembrance, the chapel's beautiful Rose Window honors both Rathbone and McKee, and his Purple Heart and a letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt are preserved in the Lake Junaluska Archives. His name remains in the Book of Memory, alongside that of his childhood friend. Though Jack Rathbone never returned to the lake he called home, his legacy lives on—woven into the chapel's stone and glass, and remembered as a powerful symbol of courage, sacrifice, and the enduring cost of freedom.

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Rev. Dr. Jerome Smith
Lake Junaluska Assembly Archivist



LAKE JUNALUSKA GUESTS

- All Hands & Hearts: May 1-31
- Canton Middle School: May 1
- RCCG, Living Waters Parish: May 1-3
- Tuscola ROTC: May 2
- Dialogue House Associates: May 3-9
- Air and Gas Solutions: May 5-7
- Baptist Children's Homes: May 7-9
- Hillcrest Baptist: May 7-9
- OSHO Meditation Retreat: May 7-10
- Manna Food Bank: May 7
- WNC PIO: May 7
- Sutton Fest: May 8-10
- NC 11th District Republican Party: May 9
- Billy Graham Association: May 11-15
- NC Dept of Agriculture: May 11-15
- Vibration Institute: May 13-15
- North Carolina General Service: May 14-17
- First Baptist Ch Kings Mountain: May 14-16
- Feline Urgent Rescue (FUR): May 14
- Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists: May 17-June 1
- Ruhani Satsang-Divine Science: May 17-22
- United Missionary Baptist Assoc: May 21-23
- Iglesia Cristiana de Cary: May 22-24
- Holston Conference: May 30-June 3

2026 Junaluskas Events - Save the dates!

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

- May 13 - Beautification Day
- May 19 - Hymn Sing at
Biblical Gardens
- Jun 13 - Annual Junaluskas
Flea Market
- Jun 16 - BBQ Summer Social
- Jul 3 - Junaluskas Corn Hole
Tournament
- Jul 4 - Various Lake Events
- Jul 21 - Sacred Spaces
- Aug 18 - Hymn Sing
- Sep 22 - Sacred Spaces
- Dec 12 - Lessons & Carols

**WANT MORE INFO ABOUT LAKE
JUNALUSKA 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/
Calendar](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/Calendar)
- Junaluska Assembly
Community Council
Minutes and Lake Views &
News can be found at
[lakejunaluskacommunity.
com](http://lakejunaluskacommunity.com)



FINANCIAL REPORT

2026 - 1st Quarter

| JUNALUSKANS FINANCIAL REPORT 2026 | | 2026 | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| March 31, 2026 | | | | | | |
| 772 | | BUDGET | JANUARY - FEBRUARY | MARCH | YTD | Balance AMOUNT OVER/UNDER BUDGET |
| Bank Balance: | | | | | | |
| RECEIPTS: | | | | | | |
| Flea Market | 17,000.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$17,000.00) |
| Member Contributions | 10,000.00 | | 5,495.00 | 1,710.00 | \$7,205.00 | (\$2,795.00) |
| Miscellaneous (Balance brought forward) | 13,000.00 | | 11,596.26 | | \$11,596.26 | (\$1,403.74) |
| TOTAL INCOME | 40,000.00 | | 17,091.26 | 1,710.00 | \$18,801.26 | (\$21,198.74) |
| EXPENSES: | | | | | | |
| ADMINISTRATION | | | | | | |
| PRINTING LV&N & COPIES | 1,800.00 | | 135.05 | 135.80 | \$270.85 | (\$1,529.15) |
| FLEA MARKET EXPENSE | 1,500.00 | | | 160.00 | \$160.00 | (\$1,340.00) |
| POSTAGE | 300.00 | | | 106.80 | \$106.80 | (\$193.20) |
| BANKING CHARGES | 450.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$450.00) |
| TOTAL ADMINISTRATION | 4,050.00 | | 135.05 | 402.60 | \$537.65 | (\$3,512.35) |
| SERVICES & BEAUTIFICATION | | | | | | |
| ANNUAL FUND GRANT | 7,000.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$7,000.00) |
| BIBLICAL GARDEN | 1,000.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$1,000.00) |
| CORNEILLE NATIVE GARDEN | 1,000.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$1,000.00) |
| CLEAN FISHING CAMPAIGN | 1,200.00 | | | 29.99 | \$29.99 | (\$1,170.01) |
| LAKE & BOOMS (Operation & Beautification) | 750.00 | | 864.45 | | \$864.45 | \$114.45 |
| SEASONAL DECORATIONS | 3,000.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$3,000.00) |
| SWAN FEEDING PROGRAM | 2,500.00 | | 161.99 | 133.37 | \$295.36 | (\$2,204.64) |
| TOTAL SERVICES & BEAUTIFICATION | 16,450.00 | | 1,026.44 | 163.36 | \$1,189.80 | (\$15,260.20) |
| MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP | | | | | | |
| PRAYER MINISTRY | 350.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$350.00) |
| CARING & SHARING | 200.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$200.00) |
| CHORAL SOCIETY | 2,000.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$2,000.00) |
| LAKE JUNALUSKA ARCHIVES | 250.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$250.00) |
| EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE/SCHOLARSHIPS | 1,000.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$1,000.00) |
| JUNALUSKANS DINNERS/PROGRAMS | 3,000.00 | | 118.11 | 137.16 | \$255.27 | (\$2,744.73) |
| CLOTHES TO KIDS | 1,000.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$1,000.00) |
| LJA STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY | 500.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$500.00) |
| HAYWOOD COMMUNITY BAND | 1,000.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$1,000.00) |
| INTERNET SERVICE | 1,200.00 | | 94.53 | 86.13 | \$180.66 | (\$1,019.34) |
| TOTAL MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP | 10,500.00 | | 212.64 | 223.29 | \$435.93 | (\$10,064.07) |
| Miscellaneous & Special Projects | 9,000.00 | | | | \$0.00 | (\$9,000.00) |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 40,000.00 | | 1,374.13 | 789.25 | \$2,163.38 | (\$37,836.62) |
| PROFIT/LOSS (MONTHLY INCOME LESS EXPENSES) | 0.00 | | 15,717.13 | 920.75 | \$16,637.88 | \$16,637.88 |
| 775 | | | | | | |
| JUNALUSKANS SPECIAL PROJECTS | | Beginning Balance | INCOME | EXPENSE | YTD BALANCE | |
| p9096 - EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE/SCHOLARSHIPS | \$5,126.24 | \$832.20 | \$0.00 | \$5,958.44 | | |
| p9128 - JUNALUSKANS DESIGNATED GIFTS (Swans) | \$4,199.95 | \$1,020.00 | \$2,227.33 | \$2,992.62 | | |
| p9099 - JUNALUSKANS DIRECTORY FUND | \$613.41 | | | \$613.41 | | |
| p9103 - VESPERS FUND | \$3,684.02 | | | \$3,684.02 | | |
| p9108 - SEASONAL DECORATIONS MEMORIAL | \$1,216.39 | | | \$1,216.39 | | |
| p9110 - MISC SALES | \$2,973.50 | | | \$2,973.50 | | |
| p9130 - FOOD MINISTRY | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 | | |
| p9101 - TENT FUND | \$4,030.52 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$4,030.52 | | |
| p9116 - TRAVEL COMMITTEE | \$2,115.76 | | | \$2,115.76 | | |
| TOTAL | \$23,959.79 | | | \$23,584.66 | | |
| 772 | | | | | | |