

Junaluskans General Meeting
Harrell Center Auditorium
January 7, 2026

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

Caring and Sharing No report this month.

Opening Prayer - Rev. Gary Phillips offered the opening prayer.

Guest Speaker – Dr. Mike Pass, Sarah Tamaka, and Dr. Christina Francesca, of Heartfelt Haywood presented information about this group. The group seeks to organize a community where no one dies alone and no one grieves alone. Mike Pass retired physician in Haywood County and Junaluskan, shared about the group's mission. Sarah Tamaka, vice-president of Heartfelt Haywood, has been involved in developing programs for grieving children. Healing Hearts Equine Support (a camp for grieving children and families), Partnership with Haywood County Schools (to help children use artwork to express grief), Circle of Life Garden Program (with First UMC's afterschool program). Christina Francesca has organized support programs at the Organic Bean and the Wells Event Center (including films, food, discussion, and sharing, focused on death, care-giving, grief, and grief support). Additional programs for adults: Heartfelt Book Circle, Creative Healing workshops. Mike Pass explained about Comfort Home, a national program to care for people at the end of life, who are dying without any support (homeless, alone, etc.) It is not a medical model, but a social model, like taking care of someone in your own home. Home hospice care can provide support. Grace Episcopal and First UMC have offered their parsonages to be used for this purpose. Volunteer help and financial help are needed for all of these. Their goal is to raise \$75,000 in 2026, and they invited us to make donations to reach that goal.

Birthdays, anniversaries and first-time attendees Larry Roberts asked, but there were no first-time attendee. January birthdays and anniversaries were recognized.

Committees

Membership – Margaret Amick announced that dues for 2026 can be paid by check or cash: \$10 per year per person. She invited us to look for new people to join the Junaluskans. She has membership forms available for people to do so. The directory for 2025 Junaluskans will be ready by the end of this week. To get a copy, please sign the notebook after the meeting, and she will email the directory to you.

Scholarships – John Scott announced that we received more than \$3200 for scholarships from the December appeal.

Christmas Decorations – Steve Crites announced that the Christmas decorations will be left up until the week of February 2, coinciding with the Haywood County Ice Festival in Maggie Valley.

Library – Stephanie Schultz asked people to check their rentals to see if there are any books stamped “Lake Junaluska Library,” and to return them. There is a great selection of children’s books. The library space can be used for small groups. **Additionally**, she announced that she has a “Welcome to the Lake, Neighbor” packet that we can give to new neighbors. The packets are available at the library.

Some Events for 2026

- July 3 – cornhole tournament for adults and children in grass near Stuart Auditorium
- Participate in July 4 parade
- BBQ with country western dance
- Game day on Tuesday afternoons at the library every week except first week of month

Updates from Ken Howle

- Ken wished us a Happy New Year. He expressed appreciation to those who put up the decorations for Christmas. He expressed appreciation for financial support; we exceeded our goal for 2025.
- 8 new Automated External Defibrillator will be added, bringing the total to 10 around the grounds, thanks to a Junaluskan's gift.
- Department of Transportation is planting evergreen trees as a buffer between the Lake and the highway.
- In front of the train depot, stormwater drainage remediation will soon begin.
- The stoplight project at the main entrance is expected to be completed by May 16. The entrance to the campground will be changed; work is now underway.
- Revitalization of the Susanna Wesley Garden to remove and change the vegetation, using the Frederick Law Olmsted approach, "considering distant effects in always sacrificing immediate success and applause to that of the future." This is a two-year project that will begin in the upcoming months.
- The "Be Courteous" sign at the dam has proven not to be enough. New signage, that is more specific, will soon be installed.
- The deep, profound impact that this place makes in peoples' lives every day. Thanks to the volunteer service and gifts from the Junaluskans that contribute to that ongoing impact.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Mickle,
Recording Secretary