

**Junaluskans General Meeting
Warren Center
May 6, 2026**

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

Caring and Sharing - Cynthia Lindberg shared that Pat Stewart is in the hospital.

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

Jan sent around a **signup sheet for the June 16 BBQ** Trivia night.

Guest Speaker - Melissa Marshall, Director of Grounds, presented about updated Susanna Wesley Garden. She thanked us for the generosity that support the Grounds, including the Garden. The trees in the Garden had grown too high and too close, so it needed a new chapter, to restore visibility and openness, to sustain plant health over the long haul, and to align better with the surrounding landscape. The plan looks ahead to how the Garden will work in 30+ years. She is focusing on native plants that support our pollinators and birds and the larger ecosystem. It will be a multiyear process, adding new things as time goes on. The plan is for year-round beauty, changing with the seasons. New steps and rails are being installed. She hopes it will provide a place where people will feel peace, enjoy the beauty of nature, and slow down. She invited us to take a tour of the Garden at the conclusion of the meeting, which did not happen because it was raining at the end of the meeting.

Birthdays, anniversaries and first-time attendees Larry Roberts asked if there were any first-time attendees: Letitia Morgan, the Sanders. May birthdays and anniversaries were recognized.

Committees

Nominations – Jackie Dings nominated George Kenney to be the Chairperson of the Christmas Decorations Committee, starting immediately. The nomination was approved. George spoke briefly, inviting the current sub-chairs to see him after the meeting to confirm whether or not they will continue.

Fellowship Groups – Susan Folds reported that the next two-year cycle will start in the fall, to continue through May 2028. She has forms for anyone who is interested in being part of a group.

Spiritual activities – Gary Phillips highlighted newsletter articles about National Day of Prayer and Memorial Chapel. May 19 at 5:00, we will have a hymn sing in the Biblical Garden. Sarah Tippett will inform us about the Garden. A July event will feature Inspiration Point and International Chapel.

Scholarship – Gary Phillips announced that funds are being received for the scholarship fund for anyone who is interested in donating.

Membership – Margaret Amick encouraged us to invite new neighbors to know about all the good things the Junaluskans do and to consider becoming members. She announced that we will begin using nametags at our monthly meetings, beginning today.

Announcements/Events

- Linda Carlson and Melba Hanson invited us to participate in the May 7 National Day of Prayer event. Due to the weather, this year it will be in the Memorial Chapel at 10:00 tomorrow.
- Paul Starnes asked for volunteers to be ushers for the Lake Junaluska summer worship series. He has signup sheets at the table near the door.

- Rev. Jerome Smith, Archivist of the Lake, announced that he has memorabilia with him today related to the Memorial Chapel and the people who were highlighted in his newsletter article.
- John Johnson told about the June 16 BBQ dinner and Trivia contest at York Dining Commons at 5:30. Cost is \$10.00 payable by the end of the next meeting, by cash or check, to cover the cost of meat and drinks. We will provide the side dishes, and a signup sheet is being circulated today. Country dress (cowboy hats or boots, etc.) We will divide into teams of a maximum of 6 people for the Trivia Contest.
- Wednesday, May 13, 9:00, is Beautification Day. Betsy Schuessler has signup sheets at the door.

Updates from Ken Howle

- Paul introduced David Moody, who has lived his entire life at Lake Junaluska, since July 1939. His uncle, Jack Rathbone, died in World War 2. He recently gifted his uncle's purple heart to the Lake, for our archives. Jerome Smith has it here today.
- At the former Hillside Lodge (behind Lambuth Inn) work has been done recently to make it usable in the future for staff housing, or perhaps for recovery workers.
- Beautification Day is coming up on May 13.
- We have seven swan cygnets on the Lake.
- We have seven new swan paddle boats coming to the Lake, funded by a charitable gift.
- The DOT traffic light project at the front gate should be finished in about three weeks.
- On the highway, there will be nighttime closures on the ramp in the coming days.
- Construction between here and Asheville will be ongoing for the next 10-15 years.
- 3800 plants were sold this past weekend at the annual Plant Sale.
- Whenever we host a conference here, events are mostly open to the public. Lake Junaluska residents are invited to attend, including the Seventh Day Adventist event at the end of May. He encourages us to take advantage of these opportunities.
- We have been awarded a grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality for \$8,818,934 for use over a five year period to implement projects related to drinking water and wastewater capital improvements.
- The sediment disposal project has received a permit to proceed with expansion of the disposal site, at a cost of \$250,000 for the permit (a reduction from the original estimate of \$500,000).
- Sharing Our Gifts campaign update: the mini-golf project and the preservation of the area around the Cross have both been fully funded. Focus is now on Stuart Auditorium preservation and upgrade, as well as the dam, and recreation ministry (shade and walking trail).
- He expressed appreciation for the good work that was shared at the recent Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, as well as the ongoing support from the Junaluskans.

Jan announced that Ken will be our speaker next month.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jeffrey Mickle,
 Recording Secretary