

Crowd Overflows Moral Monday Rally

Written by Steve Frank

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The parking lot was full to overflowing, as was the Harvest House with over 600 people attending the “Forward Together/Moral Monday” event in Boone yesterday. At times, the event had the feeling of a pep rally, at others, a gospel camp meeting, but throughout the message was clear— to start the political push back against policies passed by the state legislature in this past session. Dr. Matt Robinson, criminal justice professor at Appalachian State University reminded the crowd of local issues, “Or how about right here in Watauga County, where our election board combined three precincts into a massive new one—one that has 9000 voters and only 28 parking spaces. One that’s a 17 minute walk from campus with no sidewalks and no bus service. How about moving another precinct to a different location. How about limiting early voting. How about closing the precinct at Appalachian State University.” In the end, one of the organizers, Rev. Tommy Brown, Presbyterian campus minister said the rally was a start, “I think the energy’s great. This is just the start—the continuation of a movement that will continue. There are going to be changes that we’re going to be a part of making. The energy that starts here—we’ve got to keep it going—we’ve got to keep it going for a long time. So this is the first of movements and marches and energy that is going to continue here in Watauga County and throughout the state and I plan to be a part of it and I hope everybody who has been here today will be a part of it as well.”