

The Main Stream

March 18, 2025 - Volume 2025, Issue 3



*“When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face toward Jerusalem.”
—Luke 9.51*

The Journey's the thing
You and I enter this gate
Into these 40 days,
Some of us energized and excited
Some of us haggard and hungry
Some of us inspired and enchanted
Some of us distraught and disenchantd

However we come,
Christ invites us through the Gate
Into Lent,
These sacred 40 days
That remind us, every year to
Re-Center in Christ
To Re-focus in Christ
To be Re-newed in Christ

So, won't you join us?
The only luggage you need
Is intention
The only time you need is this time
The only you you need is
The you who shows up
Just as you are
But willing to travel the
Landscape of the soul

Christ is with you and me
And us all
So, join the journey,
Just as you are
But willing to be
Changed as the Spirit
Forms and reforms us
Christ will not fail. Christ will not fail. Christ will not fail.

Pastor Lenny

Welcome, New Members



Amei and Eric Manten



Dale Duensing and Pamela McKay

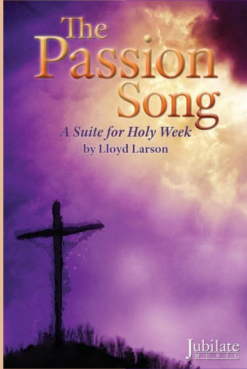
We extend our sympathies to:

- Brent Bingham upon the death of his mother, Joan Bingham.
- Eileen Kirby-Smith upon the death of her husband, Hayden Kirby-Smith.
- Bill Wooten upon the death of his father, Stewart Wooten.
- Dan Whitney upon the death of his father, Ray Whitney.
- Millie Sharma upon the death of her brother.

Children's Choirs to Present "The Lost Sheep" on March 23



The Main Street UMC Children's Choirs will present their spring musical, "The Lost Sheep" on Sunday, March 23 at 10:00 am during the Sunday School hour in Fellowship Hall. We hope the Sunday School classes will once again come out to support our children in this charming retelling of the parable of the "ninety and nine." The cast of little shepherds and a narrator sing songs reminding us that the life of a shepherd is a hard life, risking his life to seek and save the lost sheep. We learn that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, he searches for us when we go astray, and he calls us to use our hands to "feed his flock" with acts of service. You will not hear a better Sunday School lesson on March 23 than "The Lost Sheep!"



**CANTATA
SUNDAY**

April 6
One Service at 10:30 am
Main Street UMC
Choirs and Orchestra

From the triumphal entry to Easter morning, *The Passion Song*, a suite of 4 pieces by veteran church music composer Lloyd Larson features the feast of communion, recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God, the Passover Lamb, and ultimately affirms the risen Christ: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! In addition, the choir will sing Mark Hayes' festive anthem "God's Holy Lamb" and a hauntingly beautiful communion anthem by David Lantz III that features Irish flutist Sharon Fogarty. Please make plans to attend at **10:30am on Sunday April 6**—Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come hear "The Passion Song" at Main Street UMC presented by the combined choirs and orchestra directed by Nancy Blakemore with Jill Gardner, pianist and organist.

COLLECTION BOXES

are in the Main Entrance to the Commons for:

- **BOOKSAPALOOZA** — donate new or used books
- **HOPE CENTER** — donate empty egg cartons, clothing, groceries
- **CRISIS CONTROL**— donate non-perishable food, each month has an item to focus on, March's items are pancake mix and syrup.

Cemetery Clean-Up Day



Saturday April 5



In preparation for the Easter Sunrise Service, there will be a cemetery spring clean on Saturday, April 5 starting at 9:00 a.m. (Rain date will be the next Saturday, the 12th.) Please join us with taking out all the old flower arrangements and cleaning the markers that need cleaning. The landscaping company will handle all the mowing and trimming, we just need to spruce up the other things.

Families wishing to reuse Christmas and other decorations currently there should remove them prior to that Saturday. Also please do not place Easter or spring arrangements out until after the clean-up.

Main Street UMC's Holy Week Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 13 at 8:30, 8:45, and 10:55am
Celebrate Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem and hear the Passion Narrative during our Palm Sunday Worship Services with a message by Rev. Lanny Lancaster and special music at 8:30 and 10:55 from the Carol Children's Choir and the Handbell Choir.

Maundy Thursday

April 17 at 7:00pm
Remember the Last Supper at our Maundy Thursday Worship Service with a message by Rev. Dr. Al Ward.

Good Friday

April 18 at 7:00pm
Remember the Cross at our Good Friday Worship Service with a message by Rev. Lanny Lancaster.

Easter Sunday

April 20 at 6:30am
Celebrate the Resurrection with Holy Communion at our Sunrise Service with a message by Rev. Wayne Purdy followed by a light breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (*donations accepted for breakfast*).

April 20 at 8:30, 8:45, and 10:55am
Celebrate the Resurrection at our Easter Worship Services with a message by Rev. Lanny Lancaster and Holy Communion. There will be joyous praise music at the 8:45am Jubilee service and triumphant music at the 8:30 and 10:55 services from the Combined Choirs with a brass quartet, organ, and timpani.



Nursery is provided for the 8:30/8:45/10:55 services on April 13 and 20. 8:45 and 10:55 services will be livestreamed on April 13 and 20.

Reminder

- We will NOT HAVE our Oasis service or Wednesday Connect Dinner on April 16 due to Holy Week
- Pastor Lanny's "This is the Way" class will NOT MEET on April 16 or 23.

JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN GREECE AND TURKEY

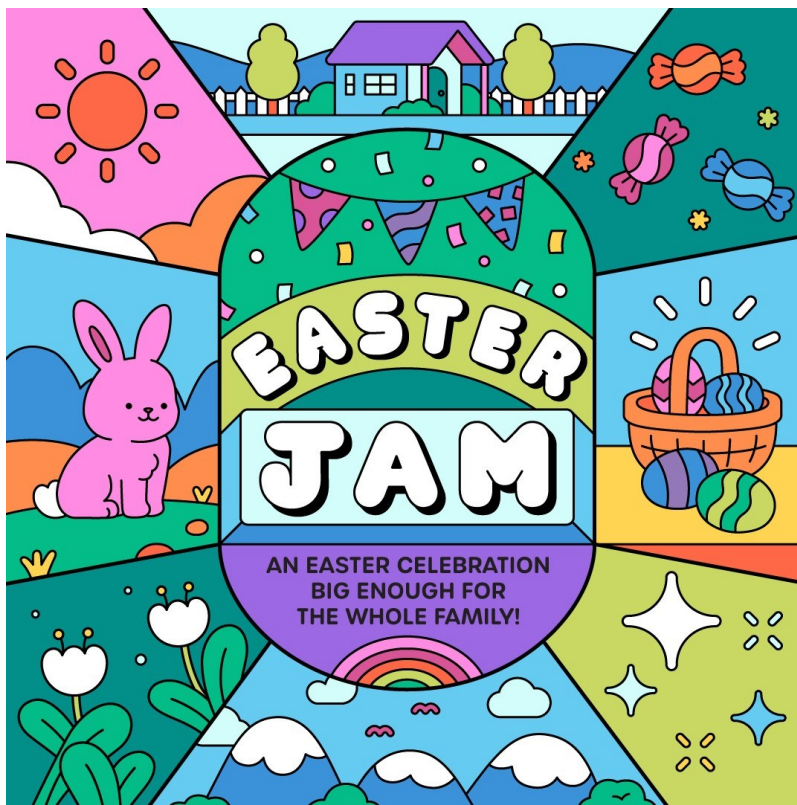
Pastor Mark Key is hosting an educational and spiritual trip to Greece and Turkey tracing the "Journeys of Paul" with Educational Opportunities in September of 2025. The pilgrimage will include a large selection of the places Paul traveled to and wrote letters to. The experience will give the sojourners an in-depth understanding of the apostle who wrote 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament, traveled more than 10,000 miles and started at least 16 churches in the Roman Empire. For more information, contact Pastor Mark at mkey@wnccumc.net.

What are the Stations of the Cross?



The fourteen traditional Stations of the Cross, also called Way of the Cross, is a modern adaptation of a Christian tradition dating to the fifth century. Fourteen stations depict events of Jesus' trial, execution and death, from praying alone the night before to speaking to his mother and John from the cross to his burial. The "Way of the Cross" can be used as a devotion at any time for reflection on Christ's suffering and sacrifice but is most often observed on Good Friday.

Join us at 7:00pm on April 18 for our Good Friday service where we will share readings from the Stations of the Cross as we remember Jesus' suffering and sacrifices, recognize the gravity of sin and our need for a savior, and look forward to the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

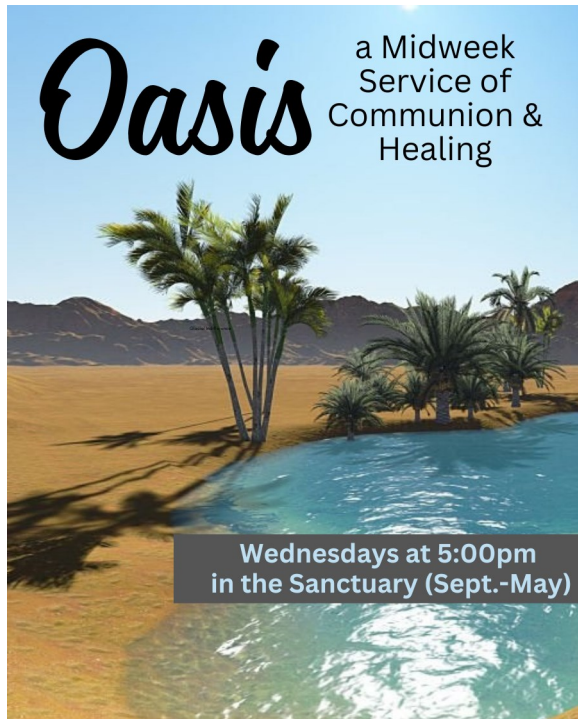


Something new!

Easter Jam

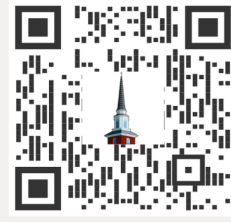
Come join us in the Chapel for an unforgettable **Easter experience** for the whole family! With games, music, laughter, and fun, this is one event you don't want to miss! We can't wait to see you as we dive into the Easter story together! See you there!

**Sunday, April 6
at 3:00 pm
in the Chapel!**



QR Code for your Bulletin

1. **Open your phone to camera mode and scan the QR Code.**
2. **You will now be shown a path to the Main St. website.**
3. **Once on the website, you will be shown the page that allows you to choose the service you want.**
4. **You now have your bulletin for your chosen service.**



SCAN HERE

Needs and Blessings

Sam Martin has a hospital bed for sale that needs a new home. If you are interested, contact the Church Office for Sam's phone number or speak to Sam in person at church.



Thank you Main Street UMC, we are off to a good financial start for 2025! In the first two months of 2025, our total income is \$175,368; and our total expenditures were \$170,744. Therefore, our finances are in the black by a little over \$4600. We are especially appreciative of seven (7) of our church families that prepaid their total annual operating pledges for the year in the first two months. This allows Tina a great deal of flexibility to pay the church's salaries and bills without having to worry about cash flow in the early part of the year. This, in turn, means that all of our monthly apportionments, in addition to our payroll and bills, are paid in full, after being behind in payment for most of 2024.

Also, as you may know, our current three-year building campaign is coming to an end on May 31st. A new Building Campaign will be announced soon. Please be thoughtful as we prepare for this new campaign on how you can be a part of paying down our debt on this beautiful campus, that meets the needs of so many here in our Kernersville community.

youth MINISTRY UPDATES

Main Street family, your youth would like to thank your continued support. Most people are familiar with the phrase “it takes a village”. This is very true in youth ministry; it takes every aspect of the church to help these youth grow in their relationship with Christ. During the past year and a half, we have had Circles, the Heritage club, and Sunday school classes providing meals on Sunday nights and financial support for the group for special projects. We raised approximately \$4500.00 between the Chili cook-off and Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. This financial support is a blessing to these youth and the people we will serve on our mission trips this summer. Your presence at these events have been very meaningful to these youth. The feeling these youth have when they see your willingness to show up as a church family to support them is indescribable. Our trips this summer are scheduled for June 8-14 (high school and college) and July 6-13 (middle school). Please continue to be in prayer for our youth as we approach graduation, the end of Confirmation, and preparing for these mission trips.

Humbly yours,
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth and College Ministries



Main Street’s Prayer Shawl group will meet on March 27, April 9 and 23

at 9:30am in the Church Library.

Contact Patty Rapp for more information —this group loves to have new friends join them!



- **March 27**—Church Council meeting at 7pm in Fell. Hall
- **April 21**—Church Office Closed for Easter Monday
- **May 4** — Linville Schol. applications due (*HS Seniors*)
- **May 3**—Spring Folly Parking Lot fundraiser—*signups start in April!*
- **May 4**—Spring Brunch hosted by United Women in Faith
- **May 8**—Older Adult luncheon
- **May 22**—Church Council meeting at 7pm in Fellowship Hall
- **May 26**—Church Office Closed for Memorial Day
- **June 19**—No Men’s Breakfast and Church Office Closed for Juneteenth
- **July 4**—Church Office Closed for Independence Day
- **July 14-17**—Vacation Bible School—*more details soon!*
- **August 3**—Churchwide picnic at Triad Park
- **August 23**—Hands Together Churchwide Day of Service

Kairos Ministry Team Gives You Thanks!

Mike Tozer, Steve Reid and Bob Langlais want to thank all those people who signed up to pray with us during our 4-day event in Raleigh Central Prison. Combined with other churches, we were able to surround the gym with approximately 3,500 prayer chain links!! The residents were overwhelmed when we told them that each link was a person on the "outside" praying that they discover God's love for them while they were incarcerated. The weekend event went very well!!! The Holy Spirit was present!!! A special thanks to those who baked cookies for us too! Thank you, Main Street!!!

—The Kairos Team

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Genesis 2:15

As we enter the season of rebirth, let's consider new ways to show our appreciation for the gift of God's creation. Could we pick up trash along a street in our neighborhood? Could we donate unneeded clothing rather than toss it in the trash? Could we carry reusable shopping bags and water/coffee mugs? Could we just take a moment to look around us and appreciate the beauty of this season and our awesome God?

April 5 Kernersville Recycle Day

April 26 Piedmont Environmental Alliance Earth Day Fair

April 1 & 15 Take a Hike



Don't cook on Wednesdays, come have dinner with us from 5:30-6:30pm!
Dining together is a great opportunity for fellowship, but if you need to get your meal "to-go", then we can do that, too! We have disposable takeout containers but we encourage you to bring your own re-usable containers for "to-go" meals.

Mar. 19—Spaghetti Preschool Fundraiser

Mar. 26—Taco Bar with Seafarers SS class serving

Apr. 2—Oven Fried Chicken with Rise and Christian Fellowship classes serving

Apr. 9—Meatloaf with Cornerstone class serving

Apr. 16—no meal due to Holy Week

The suggested donation is \$6.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child (10 and under). We accept cash, check, or card. A gluten-free option is available upon request.

Reservations for dining in-person or "to-go" must be made by NOON on Monday: use the Wednesday Dinner reservation form on our website under the red "signups" stripe or contact Kathryn in the church office at 336-993-3411 or email kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org



Main Street's Heritage Club is a group of active adults who gather for fun activities. **Contact Debbie Smith** (call church office for phone number) **for more information and to make reservations.**

The Heritage Club would love to have new friends join them at the next event:

- **April 1** — River Landing Music and Covered dish luncheon at Main Street UMC Fellowship Hall at 12:30. Circle #2 and First Baptist "Be Friendly" group will be joining us! We will be feeding the band before they perform. Please make a special effort to attend and bring a dish or two that will feed a crowd. No reservations needed for this event.



Our **Take a Hike Small Group** comes together to enjoy the great outdoors and appreciate God's splendid creation on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Mark your calendar to join us on **April 1 and 15.**

Meet in the church parking lot at 9 AM and we will carpool to a nearby location to take our hike.

For more information, contact Wade Hampton.

Circle #2 Fundraiser

Shred Event

April 26

9:00am until NOON

MSUMC parking lot

All monies collected go to assist local ministries in our Kernersville area. Due to your participation in the past, we have been able to generously contribute to these local ministries.



Suggested Donation is \$5 per box

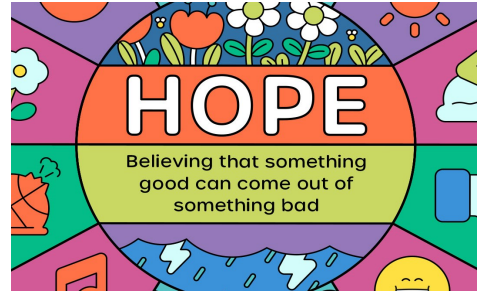


Elementary



March

Cooperation isn't always something that may happen naturally, but it is something that is near and dear to God's heart. Since the beginning of creation we see how God created us to be in community with one another. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God, and throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish God's plan for the world. When we work together, we reflect Jesus to others, and our love for one another can point people to Him as we explore what God wants us to do together.



April

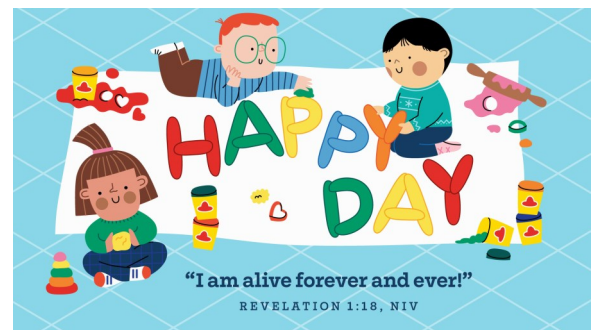
Life can be complicated. In fact, Jesus told His disciples that we would have trouble in this world (John 16:33b). Sometimes, we may not understand why something happens the way it does. Yet, in spite of the things that go wrong or the things we don't understand, we can have hope that God knows what's best and is working for our good. Because of that, we can trust God no matter what as we begin to explore why the story of Jesus is good news for everyone.



March

One common phrase we hear children repeat is, "watch this!" They want us to watch their spins and cartwheels, their dance routines, and what their toys can do. It's fun to pretend to be amazed and say, "Wow," no matter what it is.

This month, we are teaching our preschoolers to watch the One who can do anything. The One who has shown that the power of the Lord is with Him. Who is this One? Jesus, of course! Yes, this month is all about Jesus and how Jesus can do anything!



Prek

April

What would you call a happy day? Maybe a day with no traffic, or a day when your boss gives you an unexpected bonus. How about the day you got married, or the day a child was born? All of these are happy days, but this month, we're talking with preschoolers about days that are happy because Jesus is alive. Easter is the happiest of happy days, and every day can be a happy day because Jesus is alive. What an awesome privilege we have to share the good news with preschoolers that Jesus is alive!

a Record of our Faithfulness				
OUR PRESENCE:	2-23-2025	3-2-2025	3-9-2025	3-16-2025
Sunday School	128	99	77	104
8:30am In-Person Worship	86	74	80	58
8:45 Jubilee In-Person Worship	81	79	52	62
10:55am In-Person Worship	248	117	128	211
In-Person Worship Totals	415	270	260	331
8:45am Jubilee Live Stream Worship (<i>Unique Views</i>)	33	33	15	22
10:55am Live Stream Worship (<i>Unique Views</i>)	69	59	38	106
Total Live Stream Unique Views	102	92	53	128
Live Streaming Totals (<i>unique views x 1.8</i>)	184	166	95	230
Attendance Totals	599	436	355	561
OUR GIFTS as of:	2-23-2025	3-2-2025	3-9-2025	3-16-2025
<i>Moving Forward</i> Building Fund Weekly Contributions	\$ 2,380	\$ 1,750	\$ 610	\$ 550
Weekly Contributions to Budget	\$ 33,921	\$ 8,320	\$ 13,271	\$ 18,514
Budget Contributions YTD	\$ 165,875	\$ 174,195	\$ 187,466	\$ 205,981

Main Street Ministries as of Feb. 28

Regular Giving \$ 167,751
 Expenses \$ 170,744
 Over/(Under) (2,993)
 Budget \$ 197,586

Building Fund as of Feb. 28

Building Fund Giving \$ 37,015
 Building Loan Payments \$ 24,000
 Over/(Under) 13,015
 Loan Balance \$ 1,258,320

PUBLICATION DEADLINE:

Newsletter Articles are due by noon on the FIRST Friday of every month for publication in the mid-month newsletter.

**Main Street
United Methodist Church**

336-993-3411

306 South Main Street
Kernersville, NC 27284

Let's Worship Together

Come and Worship with us at one or all of our services:

- Less-Formal Traditional Worship Service*: Sundays at 8:30am in the Sanctuary
- Jubilee Contemporary Worship Service*: Sundays at 8:45am in the Chapel
- Traditional Worship Service*: Sundays at 10:55am in the Sanctuary
- Oasis Mid-Week Service of Meditation: Wednesdays at 5:00pm (September-May)
- NOW: Night of Worship*: 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month at 6:30pm in the Chapel

** childcare is provided at these services*

Church Staff

Lanny Lancaster, Senior Pastor
Phil Kuntz, Associate Pastor
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth/College Min.
Victoria Smathers, Dir. of Children's Min.
Nancy Blakemore, Dir. of Music Ministries
Jill Gardner, Organist/Pianist
Tina Crew, Business Manager

Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant
Kathryn Jenkins, Administrative Assistant
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director
Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Dir.
Cynthia Barron, Kitchen Hostess
Anthony Simmonds, Willie Craven, and
La'Niah Johnson-Flemming, Custodians