

The Main Stream

April 21, 2026 – Volume 2026, Issue 4



Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! We enter now into the joyous 40-day celebration of Christ's Resurrection from Easter Sunday to Ascension Sunday. The Resurrection changes everything. Christ has faced the worst so that we can have the best. God could have snapped God's fingers and declared us "Forgiven" but no! God took the costly route, descended from the glories of heaven, took on flesh, ministered with stiff-necked disciples, and healed the masses. Then, Christ faced the darkest 24 hours in the history of the world, the Passion, facing the gloom of corrupted Caiaphas (religion gone bad) and Pilate (government gone bad). Taking our sins upon himself, Christ has freed us from guilt and shame. Christ's Resurrection brings victory for our ultimate healing. The words of the hymn, *Christ is Alive*, say it well:

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing
His cross stands empty to the sky
Let streets and homes with praises ring
His love in death shall never die¹

Pastor Lanny

¹Christ is Alive, Brian Wren, 1968, ©1975 Hope Publishing Company.



Audrey Ward became a member of Main Street UMC on March 29--be sure to give her a warm welcome when you see her!



Planting Hope

Spring has arrived, and with it comes the quiet invitation to step outside, breathe deeply, and remember that God's creation is always renewing itself. April is a month of beginnings—buds opening, soil softening, and sunlight stretching a little longer each day. It's also a perfect moment for us, as a church community, to reflect on how we can nurture the earth that God has entrusted to our care.

Planting—even something as small as a pot of herbs on a windowsill—is an act of hope. When we place a seed in the ground, we participate in God's ongoing work of renewal. As Methodists, we understand stewardship not as ownership but as partnership. Genesis reminds us that humanity was placed in the garden "to till it and keep it," a calling that still echoes today.

This spring, consider choosing plants that help creation flourish. Native flowers and shrubs support pollinators like bees and butterflies. Compost enriches soil without chemicals. Collecting rainwater conserves resources. Even leaving a small corner of your yard "wild" can create a haven for birds and beneficial insects.

If you're looking for a simple place to start, try planting:

- Milkweed or bee balm for pollinators
- Tomatoes or basil for your kitchen
- Perennials that return year after year
- A tree or shrub that will bless future generations

As we move through this season of resurrection, may our gardens—large or small—be reminders of God's promise to make all things new. And may our hands in the soil be a prayer of gratitude for the beautiful world we've been given to tend.

--submitted by Anna Marie Price



Each year during Kernersville's Spring Folly, our church parking lot gets heavy use and is a prime opportunity for MSUMC to make a difference in our community. Check out these 2 ways that you can participate on May 2, 2026!



Spring Folly Parking Lot Fundraiser for Crisis Control

We are looking for volunteers to direct cars to available parking spots and accept donations for the benefit of Crisis Control Ministry during Spring Folly. This year, Main Street will need to fill volunteer spots from

10am to 12 and 12 to 2pm on Saturday, May 2.

Crisis Control will provide volunteers for the other time slots. This is a fun opportunity for friends, family, and small groups to volunteer for a 2-hour shift on Saturday. While there is no charge for parking, donations benefiting Crisis Control Ministry in Kernersville will be accepted. For more information, contact Dave Black (336-817-4081) or Curt Brown (228-234-3317). To sign up for a shift in the parking lot on May 2, please go to mainstreetumc.org and click "signups" on the red stripe.



Spring Folly Welcoming Event

Main Street will have an "Ask Me About My Church" tent in our parking lot during Spring Folly and we need friendly folks to sit under the tent and share information about MSUMC. The goal is to give everyone who parks in our parking lot an opportunity to learn more about the ministries of MSUMC so they feel welcome and ready to come back and worship with us.

Shifts are 2 hours and run from 10am until 4pm on May 2

To sign up for a shift under the tent on May 2, please go to mainstreetumc.org and click "signups" on the red stripe.

Both of these events are great opportunities to fulfill service hour requirements!

Dear Church Family,

We are excited to share a new opportunity to serve and make a meaningful impact each week—**our Parking Lot Greeter Team is restarting, and we'd love you to be part of it!**



Every Sunday, before anyone hears a song or a sermon, they experience a first impression in the parking lot. A warm smile, a friendly wave, and a helpful hand can set the tone for someone's entire morning. Whether it is guiding cars, welcoming new guests, helping families get inside, or simply showing Christ's love through kindness, our greeters play a vital role in creating a spirit of hospitality from the very moment people arrive.

You would be a great fit if you:

- Enjoy meeting new people
- Have a friendly, positive attitude
- Want a simple yet meaningful way to serve
- Are willing to help create a welcoming environment

No special experience is needed—just a heart to serve! We will provide all the guidance and support you need.

If you feel led to join the Parking Lot Greeter Team or would like more information, please reach out to Tina Crew in the church office. We'd love to talk with you and help you get connected.

Thank you for considering this important ministry. Together, we can make every Sunday a warm, inviting experience for all who come through our doors.

With gratitude,

Your Trustees Team

We extend our sympathies to:

- The family & friends of Nancy Willis.
- Bob Stamper, Tina Higgins, and Chadwick Stamper upon the death of their wife/sister/mother, Sharon Stamper.
- The family & friends of Dave Plyler.
- Nancy Downs upon the death of her brother, Thomas Durgin.
- Barry Greeson upon the death of his father, Joe Greeson.
- Pat Drewry upon the death of her cousin, Bolivar Deacon.
- The family & friends of Sharyn Prescott.
- Andrew Wells upon the death of his grandmother, Janot Wells.
- Darrell Davis upon the death of his uncle, Bob Davis.



We will be collecting Graduation Cards from our church members for the High School Graduates that will be given to the Graduates during the 10:55am service on Sunday, May 17. The next time you are at the store, pick up cards for the High School Seniors listed here and place them in the collection box that will be located in the Narthex until **Sunday, May 10.**

Laney Blevins
Jack Christy
Ryan Engle
Daniel Hall

Alexis Hunter
Testimony Olubunmi
Grayson Phillips
Nathan Pitts

Notes of Gratitude from our Members



Dear Main Street Family,

We would like to thank you all for your many prayers, cards and words of encouragement to us during Jack's recent surgery and recuperation. Special thanks to our pastors for their prayers, visits and calls during this period. We are so thankful for the many kindnesses shown to us. We are so blessed to be a member of this special church family.

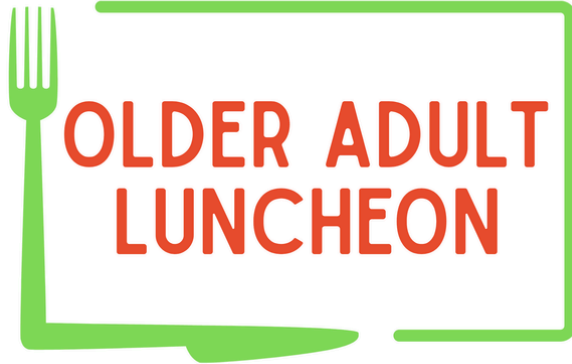
Much Love,
Jack and Robin Rayfield

To our Main Street Family,

Betsy and I wish to give you a heartfelt thank you for your prayers, cards, and kind words during my mother's recent illness and passing. We hope that you all know how much it meant to us to have your support during a difficult time. Your kindness meant a lot to our whole family.

When Betsy and I moved to Kernersville almost forty years ago, we knew no one. When we joined Main Street, we had met only a few members, but over the years you all have come to be family to us. We are grateful to call Main Street home.

Again, thank you for being Family,
Betsy & Chuck Dagenhart



Join us in the Fellowship Hall on
May 14
at 11:45am
for lunch and fellowship!
RSVP to Pat Knox (336-993-5413).

Circle #2 Fundraiser
Shred Event

April 25
9:00am until NOON
Main Street UMC parking lot



All proceeds go to
benefit local missions
in Kernersville.

Suggested
Donation is
\$5 per box

A Kairos Success Story

Dear Main Street UMC,



**Kairos Prison Ministry
International**

Please hear what your contributions did this past March at Kairos #57. One of the team members was sitting at a table with a Crips gang member, and was wondering in the first couple of days if the Holy Spirit was making a dent in this Central Prison resident. He didn't say anything, seemed distracted, often looking around the room, and did not participate in the singing. Finally, on Saturday, the last day, the gang member told our volunteer he was sad we were leaving. He thought the volunteers "spoke the truth and were wise", and he very much enjoyed the experience. He was indeed being touched by the Holy Spirit.

After the Kairos 4-day event, we follow that up with a one-hour weekly "Prayer and Share", and monthly reunions on the third Saturday of each month. Would this Crips member be at the first Prayer and Share? Not only was he there, but he also sat down next to our volunteer. And then he confided in him. "I have been a gang member for 21 years and have spent much of my life in prison." (Our volunteer estimated him to be about 40.) He said that Kairos opened his eyes to a better life, and he was ending his relationship with gangs and wanted to be a follower of Jesus. He said his nephew was now getting involved with a gang, and he did not want that to happen as he knew how it had destroyed his life. He wanted to be a better example for his nephew!

Main Street, you became the hands and the feet of the Holy Spirit. Your \$10.00 meal tickets, your dedication to missions, and supporting your church family did this. Kairos is but one of probably 15-20 missions of our church, and you seem to support them all. To say "Thank you" seems so feeble. Praise God Almighty. He is alive and living at Main Street UMC.

Thank you from The Main Street UMC Kairos Team

YOUTH UPDATE

Love Your Neighbor

In the summer of 2004, I attended my first youth summer mission trip as an adult volunteer. This summer, 2026 marks my 22nd year of being the hands and feet of Christ with the youth here at Main Street UMC. Every year brings on its own unique challenges for us and every year God provides everything we need to help those in need. This year is no different. One unique challenge this year was having to reschedule our largest fund raiser, The Chili Cook-off. Main Street, you responded in force helping us raise over \$2200.00 on a warm Spring evening. Main Street, you also responded after the bad weather and before this event by helping us raise over \$1500.00 at our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

This summer, we will have 48 youth and adults attending our two mission trips. The first trip will be June 7-13 followed by a second trip June 28-July 4. The theme for ASP this summer is **Love your neighbor**, based on Romans 12:12-13 "Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop praying. Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home."

Thank you, members of Main Street, for your continued support of our youth program and summer mission trips. These trips are not possible without your financial support and your prayers. While we are beginning our preparations for these trips, please keep us in your prayers. If you have not had the opportunity to help financially, there is still time. You can place your donations in the offering plate or bring it by the church office. Please indicate that the donations are for the Youth Mission Fund.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Wayne



High School Seniors (and their parents) are reminded that the deadline to submit applications for the **Linville Scholarship** is **May 3**.

The Grose-Kirkman Sunday School Class announces that applications are open to award the 15th annual **J. C. Grose Memorial Scholarship**. Application is available at mainstreetumc.org under Ministries and Youth on the red stripe. The scholarship provides financial support to MSUMC members and children of members who are pursuing college degrees at an accredited 2 or 4 year institution of higher learning. The scholarship provides up to 1000 dollars for a student who has completed his or her freshman, sophomore, or junior years. Prior award recipients may also apply for additional years of support by reapplying each summer and maintaining an acceptable grade point average. **The deadline for J.C. Grose scholarship applications is May 23, 2026, 5:00 PM.**

Current college students should also be on the lookout for application information for the **Frank & Mary Palmer Scholarship** very soon!



Musical Highlights for April and May at Main Street

Please mark your calendars below for these upcoming highlights of our Music Ministry here at Main Street, especially as we highlight the contributions of our Carol Choir and Youth in worship as well as our Young Adult Ensemble, Adult Chancel Choir and the Main Street Ringers.

Sunday, April 19 -- Sophia Cochran will accompany the Adult Chancel Choir for the anthem by Hal Hopson entitled "The Gift of Love", with Jill Gardner directing. This will be Sophia's first time in accompanying our Choir! Our A & O Choir will also sing at all three services that day as well, under the direction of Jenny Lail.

Sunday, April 26 -- Our Carol Choir will be a special feature of our 10:55 worship service as Harper Foster and her Granddaddy, Chuck, will lead the Carol Choir in a song featuring the Scripture from Matthew 6 entitled "Seek Ye First", with Jill Branoff accompanying. The Carol Choir will also do a chant on the Beatitudes, with Cole Sheppard accompanying on drums. The Adult Choir will do a fun and enthusiastic anthem called "The Bells of Easter" with a quartet of ringers from our Main Street Ringers.

Sunday, May 10 -- The Carol Choir will join the Women of the Adult Choir in singing a very touching anthem, "A Mother's Love" at both services to honor ALL the special women of our lives. Our Service Music that day will also feature pianists Sophia Cochran, Finn Riddle, and Harper Foster!

Sunday, May 17 -- For Graduation Sunday, The Young Adult Ensemble will reprise the Lauren Daigle anthem by Heather Sorenson, "You Say", with soloists Alicia Lail and Athena Malit, accompanied by Kincaid Vinay in liturgical dance.

Thank you for your continued support of our Music Ministries here at Main Street!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Jill Gardner" with a small red heart at the end.

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, April's items are applesauce and canned fruit.
- **GOT SNEAKERS** – donate used sneakers to be repurposed.

A collection box for **RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG** plastic film recycling is located at the Member Pickup Station in the Commons, Fellowship Hall, and Preschool.



Church members who are 2026 college graduates (*Associates, Bachelors, and post-graduate degrees*) are invited to submit their name, college, major, and degree earned to Kathryn in the church office (kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org) by **May 31** to be included in the June newsletter.

GLORY

National Day of Prayer Breakfast

You are warmly invited to join us for our National Day of Prayer Breakfast as we come together in prayer, fellowship, and worship.

THURSDAY, MAY 7
Breakfast opens at 7:00am
Program 7:15-8:00am
KERNERSVILLE FAMILY YMCA
Group Exercise Studio

FREE for all

<h2>THE UPPER ROOM</h2>	<p>The May/June issues of The Upper Room Daily Devotional book have arrived! Pick up your copy at the Member Pickup Station at the Main Entrance to the Commons, in the Narthex, and in the Chapel Narthex.</p>
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- May 17--High School Grad Sunday at 10:55 service
- May 25--Church Office Closed for Memorial Day
- May 27--Last Oasis service until after Labor Day
- May 28--Church Council meeting at 7pm in Fellowship Hall
- June 7-13--Appalachia Service Project/High School
- June 18-21--Western NC Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska
- June 19--Church Office Closed for Juneteenth
- June 28-July 4--Appalachia Service Project/Middle & High School
- July 3--Church Office Closed for Independence Day
- July 20-23--Vacation Bible School
- August 2--Churchwide picnic at Triad Park
- August 29--Hands Together Churchwide Day of Service

KIDS CONNECT

May 2026



ELEMENTARY

God View

The connection between truth and God's image, as shown through God's Big Story

Insight: Faith in God's Son

I believe in Jesus and will continue to trust Him even when life doesn't make sense.

Application

Perseverance: Refusing to give up when life gets hard because God is always with you

WHAT'S NEW?

Mark your calendars for VBS!
July 20th-23rd



Kids Connect



PRESCHOOL

Key Question

Who does Jesus care about?

Bottom Line

Jesus cares about everyone!

Basic Truth

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

A Record of our Faithfulness

OUR PRESENCE:	3-22-2026	3-29-2026	4-5-2026	4-12-2026	4-19-2026
Sunday School	97	--	55	81	86
8:30am In-Person Worship	86	--	144	52	88
8:45 Jubilee In-Person Worship	82	--	62	59	79
10:55am In-Person Worship	144	334 one combined service	282	91	109
In-Person Worship Totals	312	334	488	202	276
8:45am Jubilee Live Stream Worship <i>(unique views)</i>	49	--	60	15	33
10:55am LiveStream Worship <i>(unique views)</i>	80	106	110	84	56
Total Live Stream Unique Views	129	106	1170	99	89
Live Streaming Totals <i>(unique views x 1.8)</i>	232	191	306	178	160
Attendance Totals	544	525	794	380	436
OUR GIFTS as of:	3-22-2026	3-29-2026	4-5-2026	4-12-2026	4-19-2026
Building Fund Weekly Contributions	1025	4060	1530	1275	1334
Weekly Contributions to Budget	17,345	37,512	20,896	17,582	10,461
Budget Contributions YTD	215,417	252,929	273,825	291,408	301,869

Main Street Ministries as of March 31

Regular Giving \$ 252,126
 Expenses \$ 263,591
 Over/(Under) \$ (11,465)
 Budget \$ 272,773

Building Fund as of March 31

Building Fund Giving \$ 37,146
 Building Loan Payments \$ 36,000
 Over/(Under) \$ 1,146
 Loan Balance \$ 1,160,434

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 of 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)

** childcare is provided at these services*

Main Street UMC Staff

Lanny Lancaster, Senior Pastor
Sarah McIntosh, Associate Pastor
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth Ministries
Victoria Smathers, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Jill Gardner, Director of Music Ministries
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director

Tina Crew, Business Manager
Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant
Kathryn Jenkins, Administrative Assistant
Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Dir.
Cynthia Barron, Kitchen Hostess
Anthony Simmonds, Custodian