



# The Circuit Rider



March 2021



During this season of Lent we are paying close attention to Christ, who by the power of the Holy Spirit is inviting us all to Great Change. In response to God's love revealed in Christ as we head toward the promise and hope of resurrection, we can lean into the healing and transformation that repentance brings.

I am currently reading the book, "The Emotionally Healthy Church", by Peter Scazzero. He tells of his own journey of maturing emotionally as well as exploring this place of growth within the context of his church. As I read, I am finding myself experiencing a change in the way I think. He names that emotional health and spiritual health are inseparable. I have often wanted to separate all the different aspects of myself: physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual. However, I am learning in a new way that it is all interconnected. I am starting to think of the life of Jesus Christ in a new way. Did Jesus ever show emotions? Was Jesus emotionally healthy? If Jesus is fully God and fully human then we might have something to learn about ourselves and our emotional life. This is beginning to be a place of change, of healing, of transformation in my life.

If repentance means to change one's mind for the better, then maybe this season of exploring the interconnection of spiritual and emotional health is a place of repentance in my life. I wonder if this will be something that might benefit us all as a church. During this Lenten focus on repentance, I am sensing Christ is also inviting me to hold onto myself and others with more grace. Because if we are a people who are always repenting, learning and growing that means none of us have all the answers - we are held by the One who is the answer. We don't possess the truth like we own it, we let the truth possess us and change us.

May we all experience great change this season of Lent.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Steve

## Camp United Methodist Church

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### Sunday Services

8:30 AM Praise & Worship  
9:45 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

***Camp United Methodist Church is a community of faith whose mission is to seek and to serve God by praying, preaching and teaching the Gospel, making disciples and serving others.***

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## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The staff and volunteers did an excellent job setting up and delivering the service in Domino's parking lot with rain and cold temperatures. After a moving sermon in which Pastor Steve likened the burning of our sins to that of forest management - burning away the deadwood to enable regrowth. We were then invited to burn the sins (deadwood) we'd written down for us to grow spiritually.



## Holy Week

Sunday March 28 – Sunday, April 4, 2021

### What is Holy Week?

It is the annual Christian observance celebrating Jesus's time on earth and all of the events that lead up to His resurrection on Easter Sunday. It begins on Palm Sunday, the Sunday preceding Easter. It is also the last week of Lent: the 40 days of fasting prior to crucifixion remembering the 40 days of sacrifice of Jesus in the desert.

### The 7 days of Holy Week are:

**Palm Sunday** (Passion Sunday) Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and palm branches were laid down for him.

### Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday

**Maundy Thursday** (associated with the Last Supper. The day before the crucifixion. On this day preparation was made for the final meal Jesus would share with his disciples (the Last Supper).

*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat: this is my body". Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink anew with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26: 26-29*

**Good Friday** (Jesus's suffering and crucifixion)

**Holy Saturday** (His burial)

**Easter Sunday** (His Resurrection) Thanks be to God!



## Why go to Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this - They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

**IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL,  
YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !**

**B. I. B L. E. simply means:  
Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!**



## LONGING FOR SPRING

*Nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives*  
Eccl. 3:12

It's been a long, cold winter, and I am eager for warm weather. I'm tired of seeing bare trees and lifeless brown leaves covering the ground. I long to see wildflowers poke through the dead leaves and to watch the woods turn green once more.

Yet even as I anticipate my favorite season, I hear my mother's voice saying, "Don't wish your life away."

If you're like me, you sometimes hear yourself saying, "When such and such happens, then I will \_\_\_\_ or, if only so and so would do this, then I would do that \_\_\_\_ or, I would be happy if \_\_\_\_ or I will be satisfied when \_\_\_\_."

In longing for some future good, we forget that every day, regardless of the weather or our circumstances, is a gift from God to be used for His glory.

According to author Ron Ash, "We are where we need to be and learning what we need to learn. Stay the course because the things we experience today will lead us to where He needs us to be tomorrow."

In every season, there is a reason to rejoice and an opportunity to do good (Eccl. 3:12). The challenge for each of us every day is to find something to rejoice about and some good to do - and then to do both.

*By: Julie Ackerman Link  
Our Daily Bread*





## Surprising Facts About St. Patrick's Day

### St Patrick was Born in Britain

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Britain near the end of the 4th century. At age 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and sold as a slave to a Celtic priest in Northern Ireland. After toiling for six years as a shepherd, he escaped back to Britain. He eventually returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary.

### Leprechauns Are Based on Celtic Fairies

The original Irish name for the red-haired, green-clothed Leprechaun is 'lobaircin,' meaning "small-bodied fellow." Belief in leprechauns likely stems from Celtic belief in fairies—tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil. In Celtic folk tales, leprechauns were cranky souls, responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies.

### The Shamrock Was Considered a Sacred Plant



The shamrock, a three-leaf clover, was called the "seamroy" by the Celts and was considered a sacred plant that symbolized the arrival of spring. *(A longstanding Irish tradition, "The Wearing of the Green" originally referred to wearing a shamrock in one's hat or on jacket lapel and has roots in the seventeenth century, when wearing symbols of Catholicism or support for the Irish Republic was forbidden in Ireland. The Irish defiantly wore shamrocks, and later green clothing, to symbolize their faith and support for an independent Ireland. - Library Company of Philadelphia)*

### The First St. Patrick's Parade Day Was Held in America

While people in Ireland had celebrated St. Patrick since the 1600's, the tradition of a St. Patrick's Day parade began in America and actually predates the founding of the United States. Records show that a St. Patrick's Day parade was held on March 17, 1601 in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. Source for all but "Wearing of the Green" - History Channel On-Line

## CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE

Early Irish immigrants brought their own food traditions to America, including soda bread and Irish stew. Pork was the preferred meat in Ireland since it was cheap. The favored cut was Irish bacon, a lean, smoked pork loin similar to Canadian bacon. But in the United States, pork was prohibitively expensive for most newly arrived Irish families, so they began cooking beef, the staple meat in the American diet, instead.

So how did pork and potatoes become corned beef and cabbage? Irish immigrants to America lived alongside other "undesirable" European ethnic groups that often faced discrimination in their new home, including Jews and Italians. Members of the Irish working class in New York City frequented Jewish delis and lunch carts, and it was there that they first tasted corned beef. Cured and cooked much like Irish bacon, it was seen as a tasty and cheaper alternative to pork. And while potatoes were certainly available in the United States, cabbage offered a more cost-effective alternative to cash-strapped Irish families. Cooked in the same pot, the spiced, salty beef flavored the plain cabbage, creating a simple, hearty dish that couldn't be easier to prepare. *history.com*







I was at a Dollar Tree last night and there was a lady and two kids behind me in the LONG line. One was a big kid, one was a toddler. The bigger one had a pack of glow sticks and the baby was screaming for them so the Mom opened the pack and gave him one; which stopped his tears. He walked around with it smiling, but then the bigger boy took it and the baby started screaming again. Just as the Mom was about to fuss at the older child, he bent the glow sticks and handed it back to the baby. As we walked outside at the same time, the baby noticed that the stick was now glowing and his brother said "I had to break it so you could get the full effect from it." I almost ran because I could hear God saying to me, "I had to break you to show you why I created you. You had to go through it so you could fulfill your purpose."

That little baby was happy just swinging that "unbroken" glow stick around in the air because he did not understand what it was created to do which was "glow". There are some people who will be content just "being", but some of us have been chosen by God to be "broken". We have to get sick. We have to lose a job. We go through divorce. We have to suffer with the disease of addiction. We have to bury our spouse, parents, best friend or our child because, in those moments of desperation, God is breaking us, but when the breaking is done, then we will be able to see the reason for which we were created . . . so when you see us glowing, just know that we have been broken but healed by His Grace and Mercy!!!

*Posted on Facebook by a friend of Robin's*

## MOTHER'S MORNING OUT MINISTRY

God is continually blessing our program, families and teachers and I'd like to take a moment to count those blessings.

**Camp staff and volunteers** worked many hours this past summer to create a safety protocols to function within the guidelines of the CDC and local health department requirements.

**Parents and caregivers** have enthusiastically followed safety rules to make sure our teachers and children are safe. Parents have also donated cleaning supplies and volunteered to clean playground equipment.

**Staff members** have accepted reduced hours and the teachers have shifted seamlessly into our new cleaning rituals. Every day they take temperatures and constantly clean surfaces.

**The local health department** has been an extremely valuable resource.

I am most thankful for **the positive attitude of all involved.**

The sacrifices of all involved have helped me to see again and again that our community places value on the Christian education of children. Thanks so much Camp United Methodist Church your continued support.

Kim Isenhour, Director



Yeah! Space Camp is fun.

## NEW STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

### WAKING UP WHITE

Join Laura Winship and Rae Matthews to read and discuss *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. Over the past 7 months we have been a part of a group with Pastor Alex who have read books, watched movies, videos and interviews and had weekly conversations in our safe, confidential covenant group. We feel God alive in our work!

Our eyes have been opened to history we never knew before. We believe the Holy Spirit is leading us to share with others and we invite you to join us!

Some editorial reviews of the book:

*"I read Waking Up White in one sitting! To say I loved it is an understatement. It is a raw, honest portrait... Irving's experience on display – warts and all – will help white people who haven't noticed the role systemic privilege has played in their lives, start to see the world in a new way."* **Jodi Picoult**, author

*"Irving's personal and moving tale takes us on an adventure to a world utterly new to her as she wakes up to the reality of how, without her knowledge or active pursuit, she lives in a society which is set up to reward her at the expense of people of color. I cannot imagine a more understandable and compelling invitation to learn about how racism lives in our homes, communities and nation."*  
**Bishop Gene Robinson**, Retired Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire and Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, Washington, D.C.

Information on class time and start date will be announced soon. If you want to join us or have questions contact  
Laura at [lswinship@atmc.net](mailto:lswinship@atmc.net) or  
Rae at [ramatthews79@gmail.com](mailto:ramatthews79@gmail.com) or  
Pastor Alex at [alex.parker@nccumc.org](mailto:alex.parker@nccumc.org).

### THE EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY CHURCH

Camp is offering an opportunity to study and discuss the groundbreaking bestseller that explores the link between spiritual growth, a vibrant church and emotional health. This book offers insights into looking beneath the surface of problems by giving more attention to emotional maturity. We are offering three options for participating in this study, (see below). The study will begin on March 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a total of 4 sessions.

#### Study facilitators will be:

Pastor Steve: Tuesdays @ 2:00PM

Tom Evans: Tuesdays @6:30PM

Derrice Combs: Thursdays @6:30PM

So, sign up soon before the classes fill. by calling the church office. (910-754-4840). You will need to purchase the book, *The Emotionally Healthy Church, Updated and Expanded Edition*, by Peter Scazzero. We are limiting participation to 3 groups of 12 to encourage discussion and maintain social distancing,

#### BENEFITS OF SMALL GROUP STUDIES

They **build community** in our church.

They **provide a structured, scheduled time** to refocus our lives on the Lord.

They **show how God reacts** to our human ways and **fosters personal self-reflection**.

The example of others in the group **inspires us to do better**.

[media.ascensionpress.com](http://media.ascensionpress.com)

## CHILDREN

In February, Tamy and I (and sometimes Pastor Alex) finished our 3-week Valentine outreach program. We enjoyed these visits so much and so did the children. I cannot thank you all enough for your continued encouragement!



A job well done

I am excited to report that Zac Black served as an acolyte at the 8:30 service on February 21. He did a great job and the congregation was pleased to see an acolyte again.

**NOTE:** If you know a child who is in grades 2-8 and is interested in becoming an acolyte, please reach out to me for additional information.

Allison Hunter, Director  
Children's Ministries



A happy child



## YOUTH



We are excited to be back and meeting in person. We have started our new series, "Big Questions". The first week we had fun with a crazy question game, but I had my eyes opened to how rarely our youth actually ask questions, especially at school, through their honest and open sharing! The truth is that questions leave a mark on our lives. The questions we ask and answer help to determine who we are and who we become. Our questions, answered or unanswered, lay the foundation for the life we live. Over the coming weeks we will learn how to courageously ask hard questions and how to wrestle with the answers that Jesus gives. Come join us from 6-7:30pm, our new time since no meal is served at this time. We hope to see you with masks on and hearts opened!

Kelly Littlejohn,  
Director of Youth Ministry

## TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

This first quarter of 2021 has been one of transition for the Trustees. We are sorry to say goodbye to Jim Wallace, Liz Boyer, Bonnie Tibbals, and Thom Arnold. Their countless hours of hard work have been above and beyond, and helped keep Camp UMC (*campus and parsonage*) up and running all these many months. Also, Alan Lewis has stepped down as Chair of our group, but thankfully he still remains a Trustee. His leadership and hands-on contributions of time and work are immeasurable for our group.

But as with all transitions, we would also like to welcome new Trustees. They are Ronnie Markum and Jim Hendricks at our January meeting, and we will add Kristin Dowdy, Fran Hecht, and Brad Crowell at our upcoming March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. All are anxious to continue where the others have left off as Camp begins the process of reopening and reenergizing itself from these past months of many challenges. Each has unique talents to add to our current crew (Michael Nelson and Bob Winship) and I have no doubt will make the Trustee Committee even better into the coming year.

**Good news from Alan Lewis:** The new replacement doors have now been built and are supposed to be shipped from Michigan on February 22nd to our vendor in Wilmington. Our vendor has advised that their installer is on standby. Hopefully, all of the new exterior doors will be installed over the next 2 to 3 weeks! All of the exterior doors in the new building are being replaced as well as the exterior double front doors at the end of the wood handicap ramp serving the old building.

Larry May, Trustee

## SPRC

We have welcomed Monnie Johnson to our staff. Monnie will be working in the nursery on Sundays and Wednesdays. Monnie also works in the Mothers Morning Out program. Monnie began work on Sunday February 21.

Jill Bryant, Chair

## LOCAL MISSIONS

For Valentine's Day, the team gave Union School staff a cookie and bookmark, with a Bible verse on it to let them know we love and appreciate them. This last year has been so hard for everyone, especially educators. They are working so hard for all our children.

The team has also given monetary donations to:  
**Streetreach** - to aid with food and shelter during the cold weather this winter.

**A local Bible ministry** - to give Bibles to our local jail

**Powerwalking ministry** - to give needy children shoes

**Hope Harbor** - for women affected by abuse.

If you would like to donate to any of these groups please contact Barbara Varnam, at 910-619-5504.



Treats for Union Staff



## PASTOR ALEX REFLECTS ON CAMP'S OUTREACH

I have been blessed to serve at Camp UMC for a little over a year now and each time, without fail, that I tell someone I am one of the pastors at Camp, I am always met with a similar response that goes like this... *"Oh Camp, that is the church that [fill in the blank]"* and the fill in the blank is usually about something Camp does in the community.

I am grateful and overwhelmed at the outpouring of immediate support for tornado victims in Ocean Ridge Plantation. Or it may be someone who is commenting on the food ministries of Friday night or Saturday morning. At other times during the year the commentary has been about other outreach.

Just this past weekend we had multiple outreach groups in the community being the hands and feet of Christ. Some of our folks were engaged in storm relief work, some men of the church were constructing a wheelchair ramp, and others were picking up trash as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program on Hale Swamp Road. All of this is about loving God and loving neighbor, so I give thanks for the opportunity to both serve you and serve alongside you.

*"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."*  
-Philippians 2:4 (NKJV)

## PUNS FOR YOU

How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

Broken pencils are pointless.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

Velcro - what a rip off!



## "Not Everything is Cancelled"

Not everything is cancelled...

Sun is not cancelled

Spring is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled

Love is not cancelled

Reading is not cancelled

Devotion is not cancelled

Music is not cancelled

Imagination is not cancelled

Kindness is not cancelled

Conversations are not cancelled

Hope is not cancelled

And God's love for HIS people is never cancelled.

<https://blog.mercy.com/coronavirus-covid-19-message>

# MARCH



1	John Truesdale	10	Pat Wolff	25	Connie Richardson
1	Howard Varnam	10	James Russ	26	Mike Michelakis
2	Pam Batchelor	14	Kate Dycus	26	Marlene Mellis
4	Carl Votik	18	Ted Hall	27	Meleta Humbert
6	Margaret Greene	21	Susan Ballard	29	Burt Weiner
7	Penny West	22	Hank Hecht	29	Karen Barr
7	Elaine Weiner	22	Casey Savage	30	Alan Lewis
7	Marcia Childers	22	Sally Makay	30	Hilda Hall
8	Amy Moore	25	Melody Stephens	31	Kitty Reedy
9	David Inman				



John & Penny Radziewski	4 (42)	Keith & Penny West	19 (28)
Hal & Cheryl Mills	2 (36)	Frank & Teresa Williamson	20 (28)
Jill & Franz Bryant	6 (39)	D.B. & Carol Grantham	21 (46)
Beverly Carlisle & Doug Burrows	12 (14)	Kurt & Kathy Meissner	27 (50)
Mac & Ava Harris	15 (51)	Nolan & Rose Formalarie	30 (8)
Spike & Lisa May	18 (44)		



## DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH

March 9th	Emotionally Healthy Church Study
March 14th	Daylight Savings Starts
March 17th	St. Patrick's Day

March 28th	Palm Sunday
March 29th	Holy Monday
March 30th	Holy Tuesday
March 31st	Holy Wednesday
April 1st	Maundy Thursday
April 2nd	Good Friday
April 3rd	Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil
April 4th	Easter Sunday





# MARCH



## REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Bulletin Deadline		2:30 Jeremiah Zoom Study  6:00 Luke Zoom Study	4:30-6:30 Soup Kitchen/FH	10:00 Food Pantry/FH/BA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 2:00 Healthy Church Study  6:30 Healthy Church	10	11   6:30 Healthy Church Study	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Starts	15	16 2:00 Healthy Church Study  6:30 Healthy Church Study	17 	18   6:30 Healthy Church Study	19	20
21	22	23 2:00 Healthy Church Study  6:30 Healthy Church Study	24	25   6:30 Healthy Church Study	26	27
28 Palm Sunday  HOLY WEEK	29	30 2:00 Healthy Church Study  6:30 Healthy Church Study	31			