



The Circuit Rider



April 2021



With all the flowers blooming, the bright pastel dresses, fancy suits, and glorious music filling the air as resurrection is celebrated on Easter Sunday, I sometimes forget the shock of what we are celebrating. It was shocking that the first stories of resurrection don't happen in a sanctuary or a temple. Instead the story invites us to follow the women who are heading to a tomb looking for Jesus. Despite all the times that Jesus spoke of resurrection and life, no one fully understood the mystery. There at the tomb a heavenly messenger says to us and the women, "Don't be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here." We are invited to pay attention to the places and the people we look to for grace, forgiveness, love, and salvation. We are reminded that Christ is going ahead of us, the women, the disciples and all of us are to look for Christ there.

Christ is going out ahead of us, and I am grateful for all the places I have seen Christ in unexpected places. In the conversation with a parishioner describing their prayerful time wrestling with God hearing clear direction to help the church out of debt. On the phone call where deep pain and frustration was named, and then weeks later seeing them in church with a heart that was being mended. In the new members of the church that God has mysteriously gifted to meet needs and create new opportunities. In the growing sense of hope and trust that God does have a plan and a good future for us together.

Together as we all look for Christ, let's stop looking into tomb-like places, he is not there. The resurrected Christ is going out ahead of us, and in the mystery of resurrection we are to invite those around us to join us as we go where Christ is leading. May we be willing to go to the surprising places Christ is leading us, and be shocked again this Easter by the radical notion of resurrection.

Mark 16:6-7 "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Steve

Camp United Methodist Church

4807 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28459
(910) 754-4840
cumc.office@atmc.net

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.

Honoring Christ.....	2	Children/Youth.....	7
Easter Traditions.....	3	Small Groups/SS.....	8
Easter Services/Misc.....	4	Studies/Cards.....	9
Outreach/SALT.....	5	Bobby's Ospreys.....	10
Debt Reduction/Staff.....	6	Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	11
Calendar.....	12		

Easter Reflections: How to Honor Christ Throughout the Year

There's plenty to love about eggs, bunnies and chocolates, but Easter Sunday holds a much deeper meaning. On Easter, we remember the love Christ showed mankind when he gave the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. He is risen from the dead, so we truly have reason to celebrate! While this special day offers a valuable reminder and reason to celebrate, it should by no means be the only day on which we show our gratitude. After all, this holiday regularly changes dates in our modern calendar, reminding us that the essence of Easter is not exclusive to one single day. Below, are tips for incorporating the holiday's message into your daily life.

Show compassion and grace for others, just as Jesus has done for us.

He loves us even though we continue to sin — and through His love, we are transformed. While it's impossible for any mere human to achieve this level of unconditional love, we can do our best to emulate His example, even when this proves challenging.

Commit to regular prayer.

Think of Easter as your faith-based New Year's resolution. Fully embrace the power of prayer. Strive to incorporate prayer into your daily life. Short prayers throughout the day will keep you grounded in your faith as you establish a closer connection with God.

Read relevant Bible passages.

The story of Christ's triumph should play a central role in your biblical study and reflections throughout the year. Not sure where to start? Check out Luke 24:1-8, John 21: 13-17 and Mark 16:1-8. If you feel inspired, take notes in the margins of your Bible or record your reflections in a dedicated journal.

Attend church or participate in a Bible study group.

How much time do you set aside for fellowship? Unfortunately, some people who think of themselves as Christian only bother to show up at church for Easter Sunday and Christmas. Easter should not serve as a minimum threshold. You will find far greater benefit in gathering with fellow Christians on a regular basis. Traditions such as communion provide a powerful reminder of Easter's message, long after we've forgotten. Participation in an organized Bible study group can also prove beneficial, particularly if you read passages related to Christ's rising.

Remember the hope and renewal of Christ's promise after spring turns to summer.

Spring lends itself to a greater consciousness of the idea of Easter. During this season, we are surrounded by new beginnings and a fresh sense of optimism. As time goes by, however, that begins to give way to a less conscious way of life, and eventually, cynicism. Celebrating Easter year-round is to keep the hope of that special day alive, even as the seasons change. This Easter, go beyond the eggs and candy to find a deeper, more meaningful experience.

<https://www.geneva.edu>

SCIENCE SAYS WE NEED 4 BASIC ELEMENTS TO SURVIVE

1. Water

2. Air

3. Food

4. Light

LOOK WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS US ABOUT JESUS

1. I am the Living Water

2. I am the Breath of Life

3. I am the Bread of Life

4. I am the Light of the World

EASTER EGGS, EASTER TRADITIONS AND MORE . . .



Did you know the **largest Easter egg** ever made was over 25 feet high and weighed more than 8000 pounds? It was made with chocolate and marshmallows and supported by an internal steel frame.

Easter candy and jelly beans are the second- best selling candy. In the U.S. 16 billion jelly beans are made each year.

The White House Easter Roll began in 1878, when Rutherford B Hayes was president and is held every year on the Monday after Easter. Even though it is not considered a religious event, some people believe the rolling of the eggs is symbolic of the stone blocking the tomb of Jesus and it being rolled away leading to His resurrection.

There are many stories about why we **color Easter eggs**. One explanation (*History.com*) relates to the custom of eggs being a forbidden food during Lent, so people would paint them at the end of penance and then eat them on Easter. Another story (*Good Housekeeping*) is that missionaries dyed the eggs different colors to represent the aspects of the Easter story. Yellow used to represent the resurrection, blue to represent love, and red to represent the blood of Christ. Oftentimes, the missionaries would paint biblical scenes on them and then hide them which is one of the earliest forms of the Easter egg hunt.



Lamb is a traditional Easter food. Jesus is referred to, in Christianity, as the "Lamb of God", and the serving of lamb has its roots in early Passover celebrations. Jewish members used sacrificed lamb's blood painted on their doors so God would "pass over their homes". Christianity has continued this tradition of eating lamb at Easter.



Easter Lilies are native to Japan and were brought to England in 1777. After World War I, they made their way to the United States and became the unofficial flower for Easter celebrations across the U.S. The White Easter Lilies used as common decorations for churches on Easter Sunday symbolizes the purity of Christ. Their growth from dormant bulbs in the ground to beautiful white flowers symbolizes the rebirth and hope of Christ's resurrection.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection,
and the life: he that believeth in me,
though he were dead, yet shall he live:
And whosoever liveth
and believeth in me shall never die.
Believest thou this?

John 11:25-26

Holy Week at Camp Worship Schedule

April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service

7:00PM - In Person (no registration required) & Online
Come share in Holy Communion remembering the Last Supper.

April 2 - Good Friday Service

7:00PM in Person (no registration required) & Online
Let us wonder together what God does with broken bodies as we look to the cross.

April 4 - Easter Sunday Services

7:00AM -Sunrise Service - In Person (no registration required)
Behind the church by the cross as we awaken to resurrection with the rising sun.

8:30AM Praise & Worship - In Person & Online (registration required)

11:00AM Traditional Worship - In Person & Online (registration required)



It's April, which brings with it April showers hopefully to be followed by May flowers. Did you know the origin of this sentence was in a poem? It is first mentioned by Thomas Tusser in his book "*A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry*" which was published in 1557. His version is this: "Sweet April showers Do spring May flowers." Succinct advice for the farmer.

<https://www.trumanparkapts.com/>

METEOR SHOWERS IN APRIL

There will be two (2) meteor showers in April. The first one, the Lyrids meteor, appears from April 16th to April 26th each year. Named after constellation Lyra, the Lyrids are one of the oldest recorded meteor showers—according to some historical Chinese texts, the shower was seen over 2,500 years ago. The fireballs in the meteor shower are created by debris from the comet Thatcher, which takes about 415 years to orbit around the Sun. The comet is expected to be visible from Earth again in 2276.

The second meteor, the Eta Aquariids shower, the meteor shower is usually active each year between April 19 and May 28 every year. The shower is named after the brightest star of the constellation, Eta Aquarii. It is one of two meteor showers created by debris from the Comet Halley.



OUTREACH



In February the UMM, along with help from members of the American Legion (*local post headed by Ronnie Marcum*), built a handicap ramp for a disabled veteran. Thom Arnold located this veteran with the need. Lumber was provided by Guy C Lee at a reduced cost which was paid for with funds from UMM, American Legion and private donations. Nine men worked on Saturday and eleven men worked on Tuesday. Some of the men worked both days. As always the fellowship was great and the customer satisfied.



LOCAL MISSIONS is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood drive Thursday, April 15th from 2:30-7:00 PM, in the Youth and Family Center. Blood shortage is at a critical low at this time because of COVID. Please consider donating. You can register on line at redcrossblood.org or call Barbara Varnam at 910-619-5504



A new ERT training class is being offered at Seaside UMC on Monday April 19th from 8:30 to 4:30 PM. For information or to register, contact Glenn Humbert at 910-393-7045. Sign up at the conference website.



We want to give a shout out to Glenn Humbert and the employees at First Bank in Shallotte. The employees gave their money (from this Good Deeds program) to the individuals who come to the Community Meal. Glenn brought the envelopes to Gary Poulos to hand out last Friday. One woman was telling us she was not sure how she would make it to the end of the month and then Gary and Trisha showed up with several meals and gave her two envelopes. She said she knew God was behind this blessing and that He had heard her prayers.

Brenda Register and Chickie Wallace

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

Three years ago at Camp UMC we started the *Journey To Freedom* effort to get rid of the debt on the new sanctuary. Because of the faithfulness and generosity of so many, we are now close to that goal. We began with a debt of \$1.16 million and now, as of March 20, 2021, we only have \$107,000 remaining. It is our hope that by the end of April we will complete this journey so that we will be free to follow Christ wherever God is leading us. It is time to Defeat The Debt.

An anonymous donor in our church literally had a message from God that they could, and they should, do their part in tearing up that promissory note. After wrestling with God at 4:00AM in the morning they worked out a plan for getting rid of all our church debt: a matching fund program. This means if we, as a church family, raise \$53,500 the donor will match the funds, and we will be able to completely pay off the debt.

Thank you to all who have pledged to participate in the *Journey To Freedom* campaign. Many of you have completed or soon will complete your pledge. We encourage everyone in the Camp family to pray about what they can do, and if you are able, make every effort to help us take these last steps toward freedom. Some of our members who are receiving a Covid stimulus check are considering using some of that money for the journey, while others are praying about other ways they can gather funds to help. You can give online as well as bringing a check to the church. We are confident that together we can finish our Journey To Freedom and *Defeat The Debt*.

We are excited to see where God is leading us as a church family and thankful that we can rally together to help each other towards freedom. As we step toward this freedom as the Body of Christ at Camp UMC, we can pray in a new way asking God: what and for who is our new found freedom for?

God bless you and the future of our church.

Thomas W. Adams, Chairman
Budget and Finance

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

In March, Allison Hunter (*Director of Children's Ministry*) and Kelly Littlejohn (*Director of Youth Ministry*) celebrated their one year anniversary at Camp. Thank you for the great work you both have done in these important ministries. We are fortunate to have both of you serving our children and youth at Camp.

Jill Bryant:, Chair SPPR Committee

On April 2nd, Tamy Munns will celebrate her **20th** year at Camp. Tamy has served in many roles at Camp including Children, Youth, Wednesday Night Suppers, Photographer, Congregational Care and SALT Ministry. Tamy continues to serve Camp with love. Thank you Tamy for your 20 years of service at Camp. We are blessed to have you on our staff.

Happy Anniversary Tamy!!



SAVE THE DATE

SALT Cookout
Monday, April 19th
5:00PM



WHAT CHILDREN NEED

There are 9 minutes during the day that have the greatest impact on a child:

The first 3 minutes after they wake up

The 3 minutes after they come home from school

The last 3 minutes of the day before they go to bed.

Make those minutes special and help your children feel special, loved and accepted.

Each day children need meaningful eye-to-eye conversations with a parent. It is especially important to slow down and look them in the eye. Listen and respond with love.

Hug your child, straighten her hair, pat him on the back and say how proud you are of him/her. A simple touch makes them feel connected in ways that words never will. Remember: Actions speak louder than words.

YOUTH

The youth are ecstatic to be meeting in person again and to have added our snack supper back to our meeting time! We are studying “God Is” right now and have learned about how “God is Extraordinary” and how “God is Ordinary”. He is bigger than what we can possibly imagine, yet God sent Jesus into this world in a way that was unexpected to walk beside us. God cares about every one of us no matter who we are, and He is more concerned with our lives than we could ever imagine. We will wrap up this series with “God Is Involved” and “God is Set Apart”.

We will not meet on April 7th (*Spring Break*). Meetings will resume on April 14th.

Kelly Littlejohn, Director of Youth Ministry



Camp Youth help prepare treats for Easter Car-Hop on March 27.



Have you ever thought about becoming part of a small group? It is a way to connect with brothers and sisters in Christ and to study, learn and grow in faith. Check out this list of small groups and See if one would be right for you!

Pastor Alex/Young Adults (35 or under) alex.parker@nccumc.org

Joyce Baughman/Soul Sisters (single ladies) jonbsmom@gmail.com

Aaron Black/Adult Group a.t.black@icloud.com

Steve Dare/Wednesday Morning Men's Group sdare@dare-insurance.com

Joan Henderson/Thursday Prayer Group jhenderson@atmc.net

Hart Merriam/Tuesday Morning Men's Group hartandsusan@gmail.com

If you don't see a group here that appeals to you, then let's talk about the process of starting one. God does not call the equipped, God equips the called

****If you have trouble contacting any of these folks, please contact Pastor Alex****



Camp UMC has a rich history of wonderful Sunday School participation for all ages. Check out the list below and decide for yourself which class would be best for you and your family. Class starts at 9:45 and end at 10:45 each Sunday. We hope to see you there!

CLASSES, LOCATION, TEACHERS

Preschool – Toddler Classroom Behind Sanctuary

W.A. & Callie Myatt	Dean & Anna Anderson	Julie Chandler
Jill Green	Ashley Smithson (Substitute)	

Grades K-3 – Education Building, First Classroom on the Left

Ramona Parker	A.J. McCullough	Becky Hewett/Sue Wells
Thommi & Jim Hendricks	Martha Pope (Substitute)	

Grades 4-5 – Behind the Sanctuary, 2nd Floor, First Classroom on the Left

Kelly Barefoot	Kim Galloway
----------------	--------------

Junior High/Senior High – Behind the Sanctuary, 2nd Floor, Jr/Sr High Classroom

Anthony Carr

College/Young Singles – Education Building- Last Classroom on the Left

Debbie Donoghue

Young Adult (Roger Cox Classroom) – Behind Sanctuary - 2nd Floor, Last Classroom on Right

Zack McGougan, Facilitator

Adult (Cornerstone Classroom) – Behind Sanctuary - Second Floor, First Classroom on Right

Calvin Chandler, Facilitator

Adult Seekers Class – Youth & Family Center

Keith Compton, Teacher

Adult (Salmon Classroom) –Behind Sanctuary - First Floor, First Classroom on Right

Teachers: : Jill Bryant Lynda Eagle Jack Scarborough

Adult Discussion Class Solid Rock – Fellowship Hall

Ted Troutman, Teacher

Sunday School Superintendent: Helen Bunch

WAKING UP WHITE BOOK STUDY

Starts Tuesday, April 13
6:00PM-7:00PM



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, as we continue to grow. We believe the Holy Spirit is leading us to share with others and, we invite you to join us!

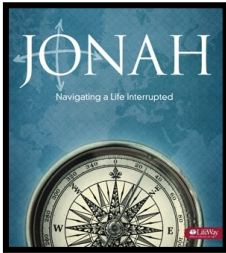
If you want to join us or have questions contact:

Laura at lswinship@atmc.net or

Rae at ramatthews79@gmail.com or

Pastor Alex at alex.parker@nccumc.org.

WOMEN' BIBLE STUDY



Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted by Priscilla Shirer will begin on Monday, April 5th in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30AM. This 7-week study will explore how God uses our interruptions sometimes as an invitation to do something we would never have imagined. We, like Jonah, sometimes run when our lives are interrupted. If interested please call Lynda Troutman (336-944-7629).

NEW CAMP UMC CARDS AVAILABLE!



Shay Godwin has made some wallet size cards that can be used to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in our community. Even in this digital age, I believe the power of personal invitation cannot be replicated. I am thankful for Shay's initiative in this ministry area. Please contact Shay, our pastors, or the church office if you'd like some cards to carry around for witness opportunities.

Pastor Alex



Welcome to the Zoom Church Council Meeting. Steve you need to move back. All we can see is your nose.

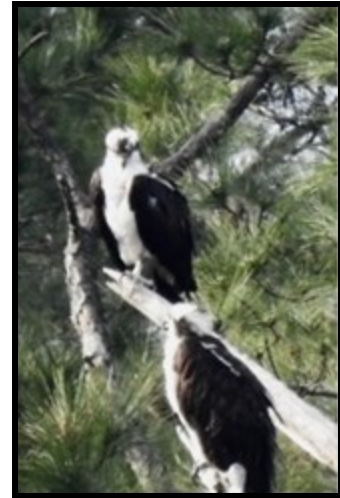
OSPREY UPDATES FROM BOBBY WILLIAMSON

From March 14th

Hello Everyone,

Interested in the status of the Ospreys this year? Here's a photo you can see of a great looking pair! It's not from my platform, but it is from a neighborhood veteran-nest that I've monitored since 2019. The male has been on site sprucing up the nest since late February. Yesterday, 3/13, was the first that I've seen the female, too! She was impressed with the male's nest buffing skills! Such behavior is very normal, and totally predictable. This is an experienced couple, raising three chicks in each of the past two seasons.

The season has officially began! I'm stoked and ready with my camera!



From March 27th

Hello Friends,

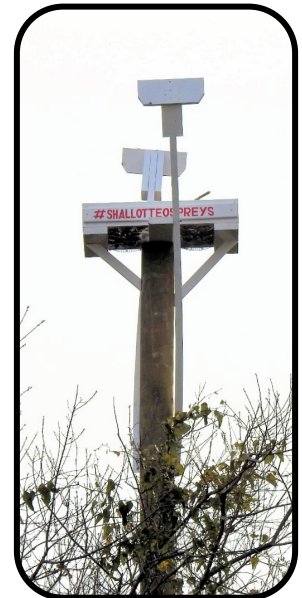
Hope you enjoy this information and photos, also.

First of all, my third platform was erected yesterday, 3/25, adjacent to the ICW in Shallotte Point. Specifically, it's at Tripp's Fishing Center, near marker 77, and Shallotte Inlet! Absolutely prime location! It's almost unbelievable, with the value of waterfront property, that I could have a platform in such "rare air"! But thanks to BJ Gaither, it happened. Also, the timing is perfect, we're at the top of the curve for a potential couple. I'm super excited, and hope to add a camera.

Also, in that same vein, the folks at Inlet View Restaurant are considering a similar platform (get this) it will feature a support-pole, in the water, near their docks, that's in view of the restaurant's patrons. I began discussing the possibilities with them last year, but covid-19 came along.. So, this may happen.

Finally, a male that I've been following since last year, has returned to his favorite place, a dead, scraggly pine tree in the backyard of Village Point UMC. I've named him "Salty" and should he have a mate, her name will be "Pepper".

Bobby



APRIL MILESTONES



7 Brody Edwards	12 Chris Bryan	22 Parker Garner
8 Iris Dull	13 Thommi Hendricks	22 John Steve
8 Tracy Hibbard	14 Susie Green	24 Joan Henderson
8 Luke Steve	16 Mary Grace Chandler	24 Henry Owens
9 Kollin Fillman	16 Debbie Kirby	25 Gretchen Lutzy
10 Cyndi Engle	18 Andrew Burachynski	26 Steve Murphy
10 Maggie Gray Garner	18 Martha Worsley	28 Currie Batchelor
10 Barbara Votik	20 Kim Holmes	28 Jay Hamer
11 Kim Isenhour	21 Peggy Russ	29 Linda Schueller
11 Sharon Sloane	22 Kim Fillman	30 Rod Femrite
11 Sue Wells	22 Brandon Garner	

Kevin & Rebecca Smith	1 (42)	Alan & Deanna Inions	20 (33)
Larry & Peggy Frazier	4 (51)	Doug & Karen Barr	20 (47)
Kelly & Matt Pettit	4 (6)	Jerry & Debbie Campbell	22 (3)
Jon & Kelly McBryde	5 (22)	Michael & Adrianna Sidelinger	23 (33)
Howie & Cherie Snyder	6 (41)	Andy & Bonnie Verzella	23 (16)
Jim & Dawn Miller	6 (25)	Randy & Patricia Pate	25 (45)
Dean & Iris Dull	10 (67)	Wiley & Susan Ballard	25 (24)
Eddy & Karen Jones	12 (24)	Kyle & Lora White	26 (25)
Kristen & Phillip Hooks	13 (19)	Currie & Pam Batchelor	26 (13)
Andrew & Terry Bland	19 (32)	Karen & Ronald Austin	29 (29)
John & Peggy Truesdale	19 (46)		



DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL

April 1st	Maundy Thursday	
April 2nd	Good Friday	
April 4th	Easter Sunday	
April 5th	Women's Bible Study Begins	9:30AM
April 13th	Waking Up White Study	6:00PM
April 15th	Blood Drive	2:30PM-7:00PM
April 19th	ERT Training	8:30AM-4:30PM
April 19th	SALT Cookout	5:00PM





REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30 am Contemporary Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	9:30 Women's Bible Study	9:30 Prayer Shawl 6:00 Waking Up White Study 7:30 Gospel of Mark	6:00 am Men's Study Group 5:30 Choir 5:30 Youth 5:30 Camp Kids 5:30 Kid Singers	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 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm	2 Good Friday Service 7:00 pm	3
4 Sunrise Service 7am  Communion	5 Office Closed	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:45 Safe Sanctuary Training	12 3:30 Soul Sisters 4:00 Staff 6:00 Trustees	13 6:30 Safety Team	14 6:00 Safe Sanctuary Training	15 2:30 Red Cross Blood Drive 4 Congregational Care Meeting	16	17 Mallory & Alex Baby Shower
18	19 8:30AM ERT Training 5:00 SALT Cookout 5:45 B&F Meeting	20 6:30 SPRC	21	22	23	24
25	26 3:30 Soul Sisters 4:00 Staff	27	28	29 5:30 Safe Sanctuary Training 6:30 Church Council	30	