

Keeping Up with Covenant Presbyterian Church News

Wendell, North Carolina

April 2019

Lent and Holy Week, 2019

Lenten Lunches – every Wednesday, 12:15pm at Wendell Methodist Church (until Holy Week)

Daily Lunches during Holy Week, 12:15pm at Wendell Christian Church.

One Great Hour of Sharing – one of the Presbyterian Church's denomination wide offerings which is aimed at alleviating global hunger and supporting the self-development of people. Children are given a box to place on your dinner table during Lent, collecting coins to be presented during worship on Easter Sunday. Checks may also be made to Covenant Presbyterian Church, designated to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering.

Sunday, April 14 11:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship

"Stations of the Cross" (A Cantata for Holy Week) by Lani Smith, will be presented by our chancel choir as the message for the day.

Thursday, April 18 7:00 PM Worship

A celebration of the Passover Seder and the Lord's Supper

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study has been studying the Old Testament Book of Exodus. God heard the cries of the Hebrew people as they suffered as slaves in Egypt and through Moses, God led the people out of slavery through the event of the Passover. On the night when Jesus was arrested, he was gathered with the disciples in an upper room to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover. This year, for Maundy Thursday worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the Seder, before moving into a Celebration of the Lord's Supper. Come join us for this educational and worship event, prepared and led by members of the Tuesday Bible Study.

Sunday, April 21 11:00AM Easter Sunday Worship



Dear Friends,

“This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

About four weeks ago, on a Wednesday night, my daughter invited me to have dinner with them at their home in Knightdale. She’s an excellent cook and I would get to hold my newborn grandson, so of course I readily agreed. It was a lovely evening.

Driving home, I began to feel sick. By the time I arrived home, I had decided that I had food poisoning from the pot roast Stephanie served for dinner. By the next day, I was being admitted to Wake Medical Center and scheduled for emergency surgery for an “incarcerated hernia which had punctured my abdominal wall.” In 24 hours I went from having a lovely dinner and holding my newest grandchild, to having a 2 ½ hour emergency surgery. Sometimes God has a way of waking us up to how precious each moment of life really is. “This is the day that the Lord has made.” Let us be glad, rejoice and give thanks to God for the gift of life.

While I was in the hospital (about 4 days) recovering, I was particularly miserable one morning when in bounced a perky nurse, about my age. “How are you feeling? What is your pain level?” “Terrible. And it is about a 12!” After a few moments of listening to my grumbling, she started quoting scripture to me. Finally, I replied, “You do know that I am a Presbyterian minister.” Within a heartbeat she replied, “Then you should know all about God’s blessings to you! And I am a member of the Pentecostal Holiness Church, by the way.” She was my nurse for the next 3 days and I do believe that God put her in my path for a reason. To remind me that each day is a gift from God. And we have a choice – either we can grumble and complain about all that is wrong in our world and the world, or we can discern God’s blessings in all our days.

I am well on my way to a complete recovery and I am grateful to each and every one of you. For the prayers, cards, visits (and particularly the visit of one member who sat with my son while I was in surgery until midnight), and phone calls, I thank you!! God puts us in each other’s lives for a reason.

One of my favorite quotes: “At the dawn of each new day stands the good Lord who made it.” We can embrace it with gratitude or we can choose to grumble, complain and judge. I, for one, am grateful for new days and for traveling companions!

Peace and blessings!

Pastor Debbie

Upcoming Events

Ministry Fair—April 7

Immediately following worship, come experience what our various ministry teams are doing and how you might join us!

Covenant Book Group

We will meet Thursday, April 25, 7:00pm at 41 North Coffee, 41 N Main St, Wendell. We will be discussing *The Code Girls* by Liz Mundy. Come join us!

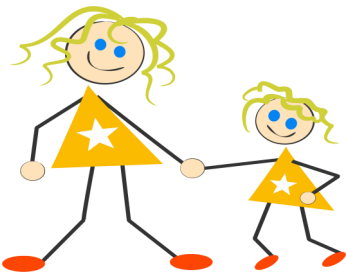


Covenant Dinner Group

Leave the cooking to someone else and join us for dinner Saturday, April 27, 7:00pm, location to be announced soon. Each month try a different restaurant, the last Saturday of the month. Questions? Contact Lisa Cauley or the church office.

Women's Brunch

Presbyterian Women and girls are invited to a Women's Brunch on **May 4** at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. It is a special time to celebrate women and the roles they play in life as mothers, sisters, nieces, cousins, friends, spouses, teachers, etc. the list goes on.



This event is hosted by Covenant's Presbyterian Women's Group. Come enjoy good food, fellowship, a special program and a time to just "celebrate" you. Contact Judy Shotts if you are able to attend, 919-366-0849 or jshotts65@att.net.

Worship

Elders Tim VanGelder & Barbara Sneade

Your choir is preparing *Stations of the Cross* to be used to lead worship on Palm Sunday, **April 14**. The text is poignant and takes us into Holy Week in a thought provoking manner. Please be sure to be here and to invite others to come as well.

The concert series continues on **April 28** with East Wake High School Chorus. You will probably know quite a few of the singers. Don't miss it. When we had them last time, they were wonderful!

The last concert of the season is the next Sunday, **May 5**. It is presented by the Durham Children's Choir. Organized in 2004, the choir studies and performs a wide variety of choral music including sacred and secular music, world music, gospel, Broadway and American popular songs. You can find the choir information about the choir at <http://www.durhamchildrenschoir.org/index.php>. Don't miss this event. It will be amazing!

Wanda

Christian Education

Elder Heather Wolfgang

VBS and CE will meet at 6:30 on Tuesday, April 16 in the Education Building. If you want to share your creativity and Christian experience with our children and youth, please join us for pizza and VBS planning!

Sunday School

All Sunday School classes for adults, children, and youth begin at 9:45 on Sunday mornings. Both elementary and youth classes will be studying the same scripture and stories but with a different emphasis.

April 7 Peter Pretends Matthew 26:69-75

April 14 Jesus Enters Jerusalem Matthew 21:1-11

April 21 Jesus Lives John 20:1-18

April 28 Feed My Sheep John 21:1-19

The Hood-Underhill class is taught by Bob Fleming and Todd Turner in the Education Building.

The Stomp'n'Holler is a men's class led by Bill Alden, located in the Education Building.

Coffee and Conversations is led by Lisa Cauley every Sunday at 9:45. Will begin a new study: The Last Words of Jesus from The Cross. We meet in The Session Room, across from Debbie's office.

Tuesday Bible Study with Pastor Debbie meets at 10:00 am for a 14 week study that began on January 15th and will conclude at the end of April.

Bible Adventurers

Ages 4-10. This group is taught by Miss Leann and Miss Megan and leaves the church service after the Conversation with the Children. The children will learn about the Bible through a variety of "adventures" with songs, stories, games, and crafts.

Miss Robin and Miss Kristen teach bells songs with the Music Makers every 1st and 3rd Sundays during Bible Adventurers.

Miss Carolyn uses crafts to teach a Bible Story on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Covenant Youth Group: Leaders Mary Selke and Jennifer Cuthrell/Youth meets from 5:30-7:00 each Sunday.

Covenant's Youth Group has been busy planning for spring service projects and a mission trip, enjoying a game night, and reflecting on the many kinds of prayer as we set our Lenten prayer goals. Did you know that an example of almost every kind of prayer is present in The Lord's Prayer? Go slowly phrase by phrase through this very familiar prayer and you'll see what we mean.

We would like to thank everyone who has made us dinner or given us gift cards to let us enjoy pizza or subs! There are new sign-up sheets - bright green and pink, they stand out! - by both doors into church, so nobody will accidentally sign up on the same night.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Mission / Outreach

Elders Bud Lawler & Rusty Wagstaff

Carver Elementary Backpack Buddy Program

Don't forget our weekend meals for Carver kids. We need canned vegetables, snack items, breakfast bars, small packages of cereal/oatmeal. Immediate need for protein items—peanut butter, tuna, meatballs, viennas, soups; fruit, popcorn, sweet snacks. There is a designated bin in the Narthex and lists with suggested items on the bulletin boards. We are up to 40 children needing assistance and donations dropped during December. Please help with this important service for the children in our community.

The Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is an on-going project supplying bags of groceries to needy families in our area. Non-perishable foods are welcome.

Bring your food for the Back Pack Buddies and Food Pantry on Communion Sundays.

When we gather to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the second Sunday of each month, we recognize God's amazing gift of Jesus Christ to the world and the incredible sacrificial gift Jesus made for us. The table of the Lord's Supper is a table of incredible love and grace shared for us all. But we are called to be not only receivers of the gift, but givers of the gift. What better way to share than to bring our food to the table for the local food pantry and Back Pack Buddies. Did you know that we provide bags of food to some 30 plus families with children from Carver Elementary School which will enable them to put food on their tables for the weekend? We are inviting you to bring your food - canned vegetables, fruit cups, soups, etc., on Communion Sundays. The children will collect your food during the Conversation with the Children and then place the food in the baskets at the communion table, reminding us that we are called to be not only receivers of God's grace, but givers. We will continue to gladly receive your food any time, in the boxes in the narthex. Just remember to bring a can or two on communion Sundays as well! Many thanks!

Lenten Lunches

Lenten lunches will be held at the Wendell Methodist Church every Wednesday until Holy Week. During Holy Week, lunch will be provided Monday - Friday at the Wendell Christian Church and our church will be providing lunch on Thursday, April 18th. Our plans are to serve baked spaghetti (meat & meatless), garlic bread, salad and tea. We will have a signup sheet in the Narthex and outside the church office or you can phone Bonnie Wagstaff at 919-630-7126.

Fellowship and Hospitality

Elders Paula Daniels & Jeannie Driver



Clean out those closets, unclutter those drawers, box up the unwanted and bring it to church.

Spring Yard Sale **May 11**, @ 8:00am. Items may be brought to the Fellowship Hall, please place at the front or along the walls. Contact Jeannie with any questions 919-365-5521.

Mother / Daughter day Brunch- **May 4th**, "Save the Date."

No April "First Sunday" Lunch - attend the Ministry Team Fair on **April 7** in the Fellowship Hall.

Presbyterian Women of the church meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all women to come join us for a great night of fellowship when we resume in January. We enjoy lively discussions about what the Bible is saying to us and how we can put the message into action in our daily lives. Come and join us as we all journey together to strengthen our faith.

Breakfast Fellowship: Come join us for breakfast. Everyone is welcome! The second Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Zebulon at McLean's Restaurant.

Handy Hands helps with home repairs and chores for those who find it difficult to manage by themselves. They have installed several ramps for those with problems with mobility. Need is more important than ability to pay, so donations are appreciated.

Join a special care ministry: Contact Paula Daniels at 919-675-0363 or Jeannie Driver at 919-365-5521 for more information.

Prayer Shawl: Both knitters and crocheters are welcome! We meet at 5:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month and create shawls & throws for comfort in time of need. Want to join the group? Experienced knitters are happy to help & share patterns. Some supplies are available. Call Christine Mailiard at 919-366-0883 for more information or if you know of someone who could use a shawl.

Martha's Ministry provides meals in time of need. If you are experiencing difficulties, illness, stress or any other reason, and having a meal delivered would give you a lift, please let the church office know (919-365-7979). If you are able to help prepare and/or deliver meals, please call Paula, Jeannie or the church office.

Men's Breakfast: The third Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Church's Education Building. The breakfast is held in the kitchen in the Education Building.

Your Session In Action



Report from March 10 Session Meeting

Elders in attendance for the regular monthly meeting were Jeannie Driver, Lisa Bailey, Steve Buss, Steve Hicks, Bud Lawler, Karen Marsh, Doug Petrey, Barbara Sneade, Tim VanGelder, and Heather Wolfgang. Excused was Elder Paula Daniels. Guest: Christine Mailliard.

The Session continued updating our Mission and Vision Statements. When the final drafts of these two documents are completed, they will be presented to the congregation for comment and approved by Session. The Mission and Vision Statements are the first two items listed in a Church Information Form that the Pulpit Nominating Committee will complete and use in their search for a new pastor. The CIF will be posted on line and it will be available for viewing by pastors seeking new calls through the General Assembly office website.

The Nominating Committee comprised of Elders Barbara Sneade and Rusty Wagstaff and members Walker Driver, Angelia Page and Todd Turner has begun meeting to select a slate of members to serve on the new PNC. This slate will be presented to the Congregation for approval.

Last month, the Session approved two requests by Strickland's Funeral Home to make our facilities available for funerals and visitations for non-member families in the area. The expected numbers in attendance for the visitations and funerals were far larger than the capacity of the funeral home and chapel. Our location, available parking, our facilities and our relationship with Strickland's were the key factors in Covenant being asked to make our facilities available for these special services.

There will be a Ministry Team Fair in the Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday April 7. Each team will have a booth set up with information and handouts of their duties and responsibilities. This is an excellent time for you to select your areas of interest and use your time and talents to further the life of the church.

Regular monthly Stated Session meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second Sunday. Meetings are open to members of the congregation, conducted using Robert's Rules of Order, and minutes are public. If you would like to speak to the Session on a topic, please notify Rev. Debbie or Clerk Fred to be placed on the next Stated meeting Agenda. Our next meeting is Sunday, April 28 (due to Pastor Debbie being on vacation).

Fred Lanzi, Clerk of Session

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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“Celebrating the Past—Building the Future”