



Hebron Community Church

April 2024 Newsletter

This is a wonderful time of year. The weather is starting to warm up, although we of course have to have a few final touches of winter. With the improvement in the weather the flowers are beginning to bloom, the trees and grass are turning green again and the birds are singing. I love seeing all the beautiful birds that have been flitting around in the bushes and the trees around the church and parsonage. We are seeing the beginnings of spring, and with spring we celebrate Easter, which will be the day before April starts this year. There is a lot going on this time of year. Spring reminds us that even though the earth seemed to have been dead, there can be new life, which is something that is always comforting to me. That is also what we celebrate during this Easter season. Although Christ died on the tree and was placed in a grave with the stone sealing Him in, and all hope seemed lost, three days later Christ conquered death once and for all.

I've heard many Easter sermons over the years, and have now preached my share. Many of those used images of the earth being reborn in the spring or even of a caterpillar that emerges from the cocoon as a butterfly, as an example of the way in which Christ conquered death. But as I was reminded of, from another sermon I read one time, which I believe was written by Karl Barth, none of these images are sufficient, because the earth and the caterpillar are merely sleeping. The trees go into hibernation, much like bears, to awaken with the warmer weather and longer days. The caterpillars may go into the cocoon, but although it may be a painful process of breaking down and rebuilding, they are being transformed into something beautiful.

Jesus, on the other hand, was fully dead. Not sleeping, but dead and gone. All hope seemed lost—His disciples were disillusioned and locked into the house where they were staying because of fear; the religious authorities thought that they had won, that they had silenced Him for good. But come Sunday morning, the impossible happened—Jesus walked out of that tomb and is alive and well, as was attested to by many faithful witnesses. This is the heart of the gospel message. Jesus took our sins upon Himself and died a sinner's death—all for us, because he loves us. And then He conquered death and extends that victory to all who would follow after Him.

I know in the world in which we live, there are many who have begun to question whether Jesus really rose from the dead. I have even heard churches and even preachers profess that you don't need to believe in the actual bodily resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus is something that doesn't make sense to our science-enlightened minds, but there are many things in this world that science cannot explain. All science can do is try to explain how things work, as they observe the workings of creation, but it can never answer the why, which is really the question of who—who created everything and set things in motion. Although the resurrection can be hard to

understand, the biggest proof for me is that His disciples testified to Jesus' resurrection until the end. And their ends were often brutal and painful, because of their commitment to the Risen Lord. I know I would never die for something I know to be a lie. I don't know of any who would. All of the disciples went to their graves preaching about the risen Jesus. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we now have the promise that we will also share in the resurrection, when Christ returns in glory. In 1 Corinthians, chapter 15, Paul says that Jesus was the first fruits of the resurrection, so His resurrection is the guarantee that ours is coming. "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ" (1 Corinthians 15: 20-23). We can live in the confidence that we serve a Risen Lord, who is coming back again in glory. Just as we celebrate creation awakening with the spring, let us celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, knowing that He now offers us victory over death, hell, and the grave. We might never truly understand it all this side of heaven, but we don't have to, we just need to accept it. May you experience the joy of the resurrection during this Easter-tide, and every day of the year! The blessings of the Risen Christ be with you!

Your servant brother in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dustin D. James". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Pastor Dustin James

Friendship Circle newsletter item for April:

The Friendship Circle is making plans for the Spring Luncheon. Remember, this is for all you ladies in the congregation, not just those who attend the Circle meetings! It is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, with guests to arrive at 11:30 a.m. Our speaker will be Emily Mullis Vermeer. She is the daughter of Joannie Wilson. We hope to hear about “Fueled By Faith” which she is involved with and also her personal testimony. Please save that date!

We will be working on the Candle Burning for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, so look for more information as those special days get closer.

Birthdays in April

- 2nd Cindy Gregory
- 6th Laney Culberson Lee
- 13th John Hall, Jean Mullis
- 14th Cliff Cates
- 15th Frank Burgess
- 16th Jonathan Sykes
- 17th Rachel Lankford
- 26th Buster Albright
- 27th Faye Atkins, Frank Gibson,
Dale Dixon
- 28th Betty Boney

Up Coming Events in May

- Wednesdays at 6:00 pm Bible Study
- May 4th Friendship Circle Ladies Spring Luncheon
- May 5th Scout Sunday
- May 12th Mother’s Day Candle Burning
- May 19th Food Drive for S.A.F.E.
- May 20th Friendship Circle at 7:00 pm
- May 21st Newsletter Deadline
- May 23rd Methodist Men at 6:00 pm
- May 31st Crafting

Missions and Outreach Committee

Serving Hebron members and friends as well as serving others in our community and beyond is our passion. Moreover, it is our desire to honor God. His words remind us of this in two scriptures.

Ephesians 6: 7-8 NIV “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...”

I Peter 4:10-11 NIV “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. ...If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ....”

As you review the following lists of Missions, Outreach and Worship, keep in mind that you do not have to be a member of any of these committees to participate. Also, Friendship Circle and Methodist Men always welcome new members.

Outreach, Missions and Worship Projects and Programs of Hebron Community Church

Children's Ministry and Events (currently, in the past, hopeful for the future)

**Nursery during Church service

**Sunday School

Easter Egg Hunt

Family Fun Days

Vacation Bible School

Reading Camp

Backpack Giveaway

**Trunk or Treat

**Christmas Program/Play

**Drive Thru Nativity

Friendship Circle (currently, in the past, hopeful for the future)

**Meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month for prayer, devotions, and planning purposes

**Gift Bags for Visitors (need Church and Pastor information cards and other supplies)

**Gift Bags for New Members (need new directories, Church information and other supplies)

**Decorate and remove decorations for Advent/Christmas season

Bake Sale and Flavoring Sale Fundraisers

Administer Annie Mae Wilkinson Scholarship for Women

Abundant Life seasonal treats and "welcome back" gifts in January

Springview Adult Home in Elon seasonal gift bags and birthday gift cards

**Wedding and Baby Showers for members

**Senior Citizen Recognition Day and luncheon

**Mother's Day and Father's Day Candle Burning

Spaghetti Luncheon to benefit Methodist Home for Children

Various donations from fundraisers include, have included, and are not limited to the following:

Scholarships for Church camps and Scout camps

Funds to local elementary schools to pay lunch money debt.

Funds to UMC Retirement Home

Previous UMC supported missions.

Contributions to A Heart's Cry in Burlington

Volunteering at Allied Kitchens in Burlington once a month

Methodist Men (currently, in the past, hopeful for the future)

**Kitchen China plates and recyclable food/drink inventory and procurement

**Hut patio wood tables maintenance (staining and sealing)

**Hebron recycling program

**Parking lot curb painting

**Parking lots handicap signs maintenance

**Monthly meetings every 4th Thursday in the Hut including hot meals, Christian videos, and occasional guest speakers

**Assist Trustees with Church maintenance projects

**Easter sunrise pancake breakfast

Brunswick Stew sales (4 times/year)

BBQ Sales

Sponsor the Charter for Scout Groups

Contribution to Methodist Home for Children

Contributions to Piedmont Rescue Mission

Outreach, Missions and Worship Committees (currently, in the past, hopeful for the future). Many of these programs are sponsored and partially funded by the Women's and Men's Ministries

Abundant Life - As an extension of our Hebron family, the Church provides the Hut Monday through Thursdays at no cost to ALM.

Scout Troops – Provide space in the church and Hut for Troops to meet on Mondays

**Helping Hands Ministry – provides meals for individuals and families during times of illness and bereavement.

**Singles Banquet

Methodist Home for Children

Souper Bowl Luncheon in February to benefit VBS.

Food Drives in the Spring and Fall to benefit Alamance County S.A.F.E

**Crafting, Painting, and Stenciling days, usually on certain Fridays and Saturdays

Minor Home repairs in the Community (handicap ramps, minor electrical and plumbing issues, etc.)

Summer Reading Program

Vacation Bible School

Backpack Giveaway

FALL FESTIVAL

**Trunk or Treat

**Senior Citizens Recognition and Luncheon

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drive

White Christmas or Angel Tree Mission for children

**Christmas Dinner

**Drive Thru Nativity

**Christmas Play

**Christmas Cantata

**Denotes In Church and For Member Programs

April 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts	2 9-4 ALM	3 9-4 ALM 6:00 Faith Sharing	4 9-4 ALM	5	6
7 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Communion 11:30 Safe Sanctuary	8 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts	9 9-4 ALM	10 9-4 ALM 6:00 Bible Study	11 9-4 ALM	12	13 Family Fun Day w/ Kite Flying Postponed
14 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Lunch / Love offering ALM 3:00 Council	15 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts 7 pm Friendship Circle	16 9-4 ALM	17 9-4 ALM 6:00 Bible Study	18 9-4 ALM	19 12-8 Stencil Painting	20 9-1 Stencil Painting
21 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	22 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts	23 9-4 ALM Newsletter Deadline	24 9-4 ALM 6:00 Bible Study	25 9-4 ALM 6 pm Methodist Men	26 12-10 Crafting	27 9-4 Crafting
28 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	29 9-4 ALM 6:30 Scouts	30 9-4 ALM	1 9-4 ALM	2 9-4 ALM	3	4 Friendship Circle Spring Luncheon

Nursery Schedule

April 7th Joannie Wilson & Robin Sykes
 April 14th Brenda Moss & Joannie Wilson
 April 21st Betty Boney & Marti Graham
 April 28th Cicero Sykes & Betty Albright

Greeters

Mike & Debbie Blalock
 Lois Dixon
 TBA
 TBA