

# The Main Stream

March 19, 2024 - Volume 2024, Issue 3



## Main Street UMC's Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday

March 24 at 8:30, 8:45, and 10:55am  
*Celebrate Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem* and hear the Passion Narrative during our Palm Sunday Worship Services with a message by Rev. Mike Gehring and special music at 8:30 and 10:55 from the Carol Children's Choir singing with the Adult Choirs.

### Maundy Thursday

March 28 at 7:00pm  
*Remember the Last Supper* at our Maundy Thursday Worship Service with a message by Rev. Al Ward.

### Good Friday

March 29 at 7:00pm  
*Remember the Cross* at our Good Friday Worship Service with a message by Rev. Phil Kuntz.

### Easter Sunday

March 31 at 6:30am  
*Celebrate the Resurrection* with Holy Communion at our Sunrise Service with a message by Rev. Wayne Purdy followed by a light breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

March 31 at 8:30, 8:45, and 10:55am  
*Celebrate the Resurrection* at our Easter Worship Services with a message by Rev. Mike Gehring. There will be triumphant praise music at the 8:45am Jubilee service and joyous music at 8:30 and 10:55 services from the Combined Choirs with a string quartet, organ, timpani, and trumpet.



Nursery is provided for the 8:30/8:45/10:55 services on March 24 & 31.

8:45 and 10:55 services will be livestreamed on March 24 & 31.

## Annual Kernersville Good Friday Cross Walk

*Sponsored by the Kernersville Christian Ministers Fellowship*

The Kernersville Cross Walk will be on Good Friday, **March 29**. At 11:30am, we will gather in what is now the old Food Lion parking lot at 617 North Main Street. By Noon, we will have issued instructions, shared scripture, joined in prayer and started the walk escorted by our local police. Along with the large cross which we will share carrying, there will be a limited supply (100) of smaller, handheld wooden crosses for participants to carry. As we proceed, we will walk in silence through the downtown area and finish at Mt. Gur Cemetery with a few minutes of reflection. The 1.5 mile walk usually takes about 45 minutes to complete. The walk will occur rain or shine, so please dress accordingly. To avoid liability issues, please refrain from bringing your animals to the walk. This will be a powerful experience as we remember the crucifixion of Christ and we hope you will choose to participate!

## Presentation at Main Street UMC on the United Methodist Church's General Conference

April 14 at 4:00pm

In anticipation of General Conference scheduled for the end of April, we will have a presentation by Kim Ingram, who serves as the Director of Ministerial Services and the Conference Secretary for the Western NC Conference. Kim was elected as the lead clergy delegate for General Conference. She brings a wealth of information about the challenges our denomination faces and the upcoming legislative proposals.



Mark your calendars now and plan to join us in the Sanctuary on April 14 at 4 pm.



### General Conference for the United Methodist Church

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The UMC. The conference meets to consider revisions to church law and to adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. General Conference also approves plans and budgets for churchwide agencies and programs. The 2024 General Conference is just weeks away. The last time General Conference met in regular session was nearly eight years ago. The upcoming legislative assembly is scheduled for April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, NC.

General Conference is the only body that can speak for the whole United Methodist Church. It has the authority to make revisions to our denomination's Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions. General Conference brings together lay and clergy delegates from four continents whose decisions will affect how millions of United Methodists do church for years to come.

Our Western NC Conference has the unique opportunity to host this session of General Conference and volunteers are needed in many areas. Main Street's church website has information about the events and volunteer opportunities—go to [www.mainstreetumc.org](http://www.mainstreetumc.org) and scroll all the way to the bottom left side of the home page.

### *Crisis Control Ministry Collection* *One Item More, Each Time at the Store!*

**April — pancake mix & syrup**

*Donation boxes can be found in the Narthex and at the Main Entrance to the Connections building.*

New 6-week Study

## Wesley's Three Rules

Miriam Ward will facilitate a small-group study based on Rueben P. Job's book  
Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living.

Six sessions provide extended reflection on three principles of Christian life: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. Each rule has a session to help you understand the rule and a session to help you explore ways to practice the rule.

**When:** April 8-May 13 at 10:00am

**Where:** room 320

**Signup:** [mainstreetumc.org](http://mainstreetumc.org) (click on the "sign-ups" tab on the red stripe)

Participants will need to pay for the book (\$10.00) and the church will order the books. Class size is limited to 12 participants.



*Help and encouragement  
after the death of a loved one*

### Grief Support Group

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. In this 13-week group, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

**We are pleased to offer a GriefShare group at Main Street,** facilitated by Main Street member, Vickie Whitley, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

**When:** Thursdays, 10:00am-11:30am      April 11-July 18

**Contact:** Vickie Whitley at [vwhitley518@gmail.com](mailto:vwhitley518@gmail.com)

**Register:** [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup)

**Cost:** \$20 for workbook (*scholarships available*)

### *We share in joy with:*

- Clay Howard upon the birth of his granddaughter, Cecelia Gabrielle.
- David & Lisa Tolliver upon the birth of their granddaughter, Cameron Olivia Tolliver.
- Riley Robertson and Brett Bucklin upon their marriage on March 9.

## Why do we use different colors for the altar cloths and pastors' stoles during the year?

The table linens and cloth hangings on the altar and pulpit are called paraments. The colors of the paraments and the pastors' stoles reflect the traditional colors of the seasons of the Christian year.

### COLORS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

The Christian year contains two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent–Christmas–Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent–Easter–Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green. Thus there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year.

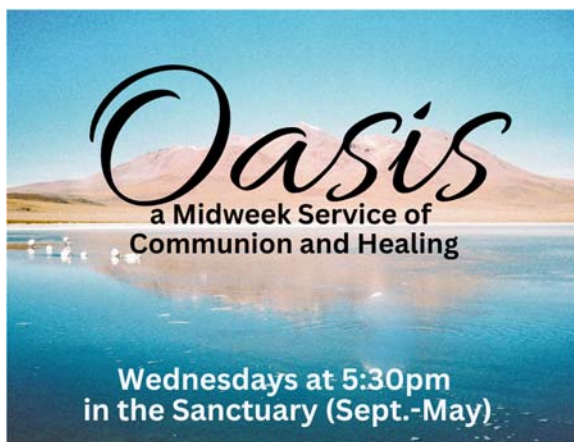
Purple is a color of both penitence and royalty used during the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent. Blue, a color of hope, may also be used during Advent. Main Street UMC uses Blue during Advent and Purple during Lent.

White and gold are joyous and festive colors used during the Christmas and Easter Seasons and in other seasons on festive days such as Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration, Trinity, All Saints, and Christ the King. White may also be used at weddings and at services where the Sacrament of Baptism is central. White is recommended at services of death and resurrection because it symbolizes both death and resurrection. At services of Holy Communion, white linens on top of the Lord's table are customary.

Green is a color of growth, and is used in the Seasons After the Epiphany and After Pentecost, except when special days call for white or red.

Red is a color of fire, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost and at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. Red is also the color of blood—the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs. It is appropriate for evangelistic services, for ordinations and consecrations, for church anniversaries and homecomings, and for civil observances.

Although use of these colors is based on broad ecumenical tradition, other colors have been and are being used in Christian churches. Creativity with colors and other signs for days and seasons is encouraged.



Beginning April 4,  
our NOW service will start at 6:30pm  
on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each  
month in the Chapel.



# Easter Baked Goods


FROM WILKERSON MORAVIAN BAKERY

Circle 4 fundraiser



If you ordered baked goods from Circle 4 as part of their fundraiser, remember to pickup your pre-ordered items on March 28 from 10am until noon in the Commons Area Kitchen.

# Cemetery Clean-up Day



**March 23 at 9:00am**  
**Everyone is invited to come out**  
**and help us prepare our cemetery**  
**for Easter**



Main Street's Heritage Club is a group of active adults who gather for fun activities.

**Contact Debbie Smith for more information and to make reservations.**

The Heritage Club would love to have new friends join them at these upcoming events:

- **March 19 Breakfast** at Country Barbeque on Wendover Ave in Greensboro and shopping at Hamrick's. Meet at the church at 8:40 to carpool or be at the restaurant by 9:00. Pay for your meal at the restaurant.
- **April 2 River Landing Music** Cover dish luncheon at Main Street UMC Fellowship Hall at 12:00. We will be feeding the band before they perform. Please make a special effort to attend and bring a dish or two that will feed a crowd.
- **April 12 Willingham Theater** "Southern Fried Funeral" Tickets are \$24. We will eat dinner at 5:30pm at the Willingham Bistro in Yadkinville before the show. Meet at the church at 4:30 to ride bus. Cost to ride the bus will be \$5. Reservations and payment are required by March 24.
- **May 21 Grasshopper Baseball** Game starts at 6:30. Bus will leave the church at 5:30. Cost will be \$12 for the game and to ride the bus will be \$5. "Discount Tuesday" prices on food and drinks. Reservations and payment required by April 21.

## NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

Trustees is a working committee that is entrusted with taking care of our large church campus. This entails many different moving parts (electrical and plumbing issues, heating & air concerns, roof leaks, kitchen equipment failures, painting, carpeting, parsonage, campus usage and landscaping to name a few). It takes more than a Trustee Committee to maintain our facilities. It takes a team of many volunteers providing countless hours of volunteer labor and knowledge to maintain this fantastic facility that we call MSUMC.

One project that has been in the works for over 10 years is the reupholstering of the church pews in our Sanctuary. In many areas of the Sanctuary the fabric is dry rotted; exposing yellow seating foam in the pew seats. The time is now to complete this project to protect the integrity and beauty of our sanctuary. One factor has stopped this project in the past. How do we pay for it?

A few weeks ago, the Trustee Committee started a word-of-mouth campaign to solicit seed money for this project to supplement our 2024 budget. The Trustee Committee is asking for your financial support to restore our sanctuary seating area. The cost of the project breaks down to roughly \$700 a pew or \$65 a seat. One option will be money trees in the Commons area to pull an envelope for a recommended donation amount. There are 100 envelopes per tree with a dollar amount from \$1 to \$100. The minimum donation would be \$1 and the maximum donation would be \$100. Just pull your envelope and drop your matching donation in the offering plate or drop it by the Church Office. Pull as many envelopes as you like. Jan Hampton has appropriately named the campaign "Put your money where you seat is". Please prayerfully consider your gift. If you have already contributed to this cause The Trustee Committee warmly thanks you.

Sincerely,  
James Berry, Trustee Chair

### TROOP 940

### PINE NEEDLE SALE

In Main Street's Garden Lot on the corner of Oakhurst and Cherry St.

**March 29 and 30**

Support Main Street's Boy Scouts trip to Florida Sea Base.

Pickup: \$6 per bale

Delivery: \$7 per bale \*\*within 10 miles of downtown Kernersville, further distance for small fee\*

Circle #2 Fundraiser

### Shred Event

April 13

9:00am until NOON

Main Street UMC parking lot

All proceeds go to benefit local missions in Kernersville.



Suggested Donation is \$5 per box



Our **Take a Hike Small Group** comes together to enjoy the great outdoors and enjoy God's splendid creation on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Mark your calendars and make plans to join them on one or all of their next hikes. Meet at the church parking lot at 8:30am and we will carpool to our Triad hiking location on

**April 2 and 16**

For more information, contact  
Wade Hampton.

**April 1—The Church Office will  
be Closed for Easter Monday**



YOU are invited to be a part of our  
Prayer Shawl Ministry!

Whether you are an experienced knitter or crocheter or you want to learn, you are invited to come and join us! The next Prayer Shawl meetings will be in the Fellowship Hall on  
**March 28, April 11 and 25  
at 9:30am**



**Kairos Prison Ministry  
International**

## **Kairos Thanks You!!!**

The Kairos team would like to thank you for your devoted prayers and generous donations toward the Kairos Prison Ministry earlier this month. We served 41 residents of Central Prison with meals from the outside, and contributed to over 4,000 prayer chain links which were strung out all over the meeting room (gymnasium) walls. We were absolutely caught by surprise by the amount of people who took an interest in this ministry.

One quick story... Kairos has had a presence at Central Prison (CP) since 1995. When COVID hit in 2019, they had to shut down the program for obvious reasons. It was rejuvenated in the summer of 2022, when it was considered safe for volunteers to re-enter. During those COVID years, the residents continued with Bible Studies, that are still going on today. Other residents have been transferred out of CP and on to other prisons, and several of THOSE men have started Bible Studies in their new prison locations!

We praise God for His presence within the prison system and the realization of His presence in the lives of these men. May God richly bless all of you who came to prison with us by your commitment to pray and your financial assistance.

Matt 25:36 "... I was in prison and you visited me..." (NLT)

Thanks again!

Bob Langlais, Mike Tozer, and Steve Reid

The Booksapalooza project of the Outreach committee distributed books on Monday March 11 to the almost 600 students at Kernersville Elementary school. Each student was able to select one reading-level-appropriate book. The book contributions from MSM members made this possible! You can see all these happy kids and their books on our website, <https://mainstreetumc.org/books-a-palooza/>



Please continue to donate all kinds of books. Adult books are redeemed for vouchers at a bookstore and the vouchers are redeemed for children's books.

In the fall, each student at Sedge Garden Elementary chose a book. The plan is to return to both schools next school year. Each student also receives a bookmark from the church.



Main Street Families, beginning March 6, we will begin offering childcare on Wednesday evenings by **request only**.

If you are in need of childcare for your infant-1<sup>st</sup> grader during Wednesday Night Activities, please contact Victoria Smathers in advance so arrangements can be made. As a reminder, if you are utilizing childcare services, you must remain on Main Street's campus (in bible study, small group, campus activity, etc.) in case of emergency. Thank you for your understanding!



**Don't cook on Wednesdays,  
come have dinner with us from  
5:30-6:30pm!**

**Mar. 20—Chicken Corn Chowder** with Cornerstone SS class serving

**Mar. 27—no meal due to Holy Week**

**Apr. 3—no meal due to Spring Break**

**Apr. 10—Chicken Marsala** with Genesis and Crossroads classes serving

*The suggested donation is \$6.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child (10 and under). A gluten-free option is available upon request.*

*Make your dinner reservation by NOON on Monday: use the Wednesday Dinner reservation form on our website or contact Kathryn in the church office at 336-993-3411 or email [kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org](mailto:kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org)*





## Volunteers Needed

Bethany Café provides a free meal to anyone in our community and is hosted each Saturday at local churches. Meals are served in-house and meals are also delivered. Main Street UMC hosts Bethany Cafe on the 3rd Saturday of every month and lots of help is needed! Job descriptions and a sign-up form are available at [mainstreetumc.org](http://mainstreetumc.org) (look for the sign-ups tab on the red stripe).

**SAVE THE DATE  
for  
HANDS TOGETHER  
DAY 2024!**



Our **Hands Together** day of service returns on Saturday September 14.

Please clear that morning to participate in serving community organizations and/or working around the church.

## *We extend our sympathies to:*

- Judy Craddock upon the death of her husband, Arthur.
- Amy Young upon the death of her husband, Jamie.
- The family & friends of Glenn Womack
- Arnie Yow upon the death of his cousin, Jerry Cain.
- Laura Smith and Joe Coltrane upon the death of her brother/his cousin George Solomon Coltrane, Jr.



As a reminder we have changed how we communicate our financial status to better reflect income versus actual expenses rather than income versus budget so I'd like to explain the numbers shown on the bottom of page 11. Numbers are based on January & February combined. As of February, contributions were \$157,555 with actual expenses \$170,551 for a difference of \$-12,996. We spent a portion of our operating reserve just to cover expenses and no budgeted missions or connectional payments were able to be made in February.

On a positive note, our building fund giving through the first two months is in good shape largely due to a very generous contribution. Building fund giving through February was \$36,919 with loan payments of \$24,000, resulting in \$12,919 left over for future payments. We thank everyone that contributed to Main Street's ministries!

—Wes O'Brien, Finance Chairperson



## Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God's heart. Even though people chose to break their relationship with God, God made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. And because we reflect God's image, making peace with others should be a priority for us as well. That's why we're taking the first three weeks of March to highlight

some passages and stories about peace to help kids understand more about how they can be peacemakers in their world.



## Preschool

Waiting to be picked by a team in grade school is agonizing. The truth is, we don't all have the skills to hit home runs or run really fast. And that's okay. What's not okay is being unwanted. Thankfully, for all of us, Jesus wants everyone on His team! Jesus wants everyone everywhere to follow Him and be His friend forever. No matter what we can or can't do, what we have done, what we look like, or where we live,

10  
Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend...forever! And that kind of Good News makes us all want to say, "GO TEAM!"

a Record of our Faithfulness				
OUR PRESENCE:	2-25-2024	3-3-2024	3-10-2024	3-17-2024
Sunday School	115	150	124	118
8:30am In-Person Worship	80	70	78	148
8:45 Jubilee In-Person Worship	92	66	67	52
10:55am In-Person Worship	277	136	115	246
In-Person Worship Totals	449	272	260	446
8:45am Jubilee Live Stream Worship ( <i>Unique Views</i> )	38	35	56	31
10:55am Live Stream Worship ( <i>Unique Views</i> )	89	61	66	78
Total Live Streaming Unique Views	127	96	122	109
Live Streaming Totals ( <i>unique views x 1.8</i> )	229	173	220	196
<b>Attendance Totals</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>642</b>
OUR GIFTS as of:	2-25-2024	3-3-2024	3-10-2024	3-17-2024
<i>Moving Forward</i> Weekly Contributions	\$25,663	\$2145	\$2230	\$3345
Weekly Contributions to Budget	\$28,856	\$14,260	\$16,915	\$16,325
Budget Contributions YTD	\$157,258	\$171,519	\$188,435	\$204,760

**Main Street Ministries as of February 29    Building Fund as of February 29**

Regular Giving \$157,555  
 Expenses \$170,551  
 Over/(Under) (\$12,996)  
 Budget \$183,333

Building Fund Giving \$36,919  
 Building Loan Payments \$24,000  
 Over/(Under) \$12,919  
 Loan Balance \$1,344,124

**Main Street  
United Methodist Church**

336-993-3411

306 South Main Street  
Kernersville, NC 27284

## *Let's Worship Together*

There is no better way to worship our Lord than Worshiping Together. Come and Worship with us at one or all of our services:

- Less-Formal Traditional Worship Service\*: Sundays at 8:30am in the Sanctuary
- Jubilee Contemporary Worship Service\*: Sundays at 8:45am Jubilee Service in the Chapel
- Traditional Worship Service\*: Sundays at 10:55am in the Sanctuary
- Oasis Mid-Week Service of Meditation: Wednesdays at 5:30pm (September-May)
- NOW: Night of Worship\*: 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month at 6:30pm in the Chapel

*\* childcare is provided at these services*

## Church Staff

### Our Ministers: the congregation of Main Street

Mike Gehring, Senior Pastor  
Phil Kuntz, Associate Pastor  
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation  
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth/College Min.  
Victoria Smathers, Dir. of Children's Min.  
Nancy Blakemore, Dir. of Music Min.  
Tina Crew, Business Manager  
Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant  
Kathryn Jenkins, Administrative Assistant  
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director  
Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director  
Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Dir.  
Cynthia Barron, Kitchen Hostess  
Anthony Simmonds, Theo Dunlap, and  
Willie Craven, Custodians