

# The Main Stream

April 16, 2024 - Volume 2024, Issue 4



*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it, for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. Psalm 24: 1-2 (NIV)*

"What a wondrous time is Spring," says the old song. It certainly is in our part of the world. As we witness the unfolding of green leaves and the rainbow of blooming flowers, perhaps we might pause to consider our relationship with this planet. Do we see worrisome changes? Is the air pure or polluted? Are our water sources clean and plentiful? Are Earth's creatures thriving? The list goes on, but the final question must be: What does God require of me?

Main Street UMC has responded to this question by forming the Creation Care Committee. Here is a quote from our conference website describing this ministry.

"The Creation Care Ministry of the WNCN is about growing an attitude of caring for God's 'very good' creation, and then translating this attitude of caring into intentional acts of caring and justice. The Lord created the world we live in for ALL – humans and non-humans alike – to have equal access to its bounty and life-giving abundance. Then Our Creator entrusted its care to humanity, giving us the role of loving stewards of this remarkable gift. Through our intentional acts of caring and justice, we are witnessing to others our obedience to, and love of, God – showing our neighbors in a very visible way that we value what God gave us, that we are willing to take care of it, and that we will work to assure that the Lord's bounty is shared with everyone!"



Here are a few suggestions to help us express our gratitude for God's good creation and our desire to care for it.

- Commit to using reusable shopping bags rather than plastic.
- Examine your grocery list and buy foods that will be used not tossed. Eat your leftovers and bring home restaurant uneaten restaurant meals.
- Wash laundry using cold water and wait for a full load.
- Ignore the commercials and wait for a full load in the dishwasher as well. Also, turn off the heated dry then open the door to air dry dishes.
- Remember to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

You will be hearing much more in the coming months and will find many ways to participate at home, at church, and in the community. Please visit our display on April 21 as we celebrate Creation Care Sunday.



**General Conference for the United Methodist Church**  
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.

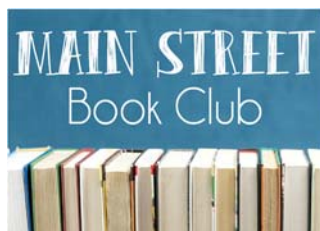
The upcoming legislative assembly is scheduled for April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, NC. Please keep the delegates and their decisions in your prayers. Additional information about General Conference is available at [welcometogc.org](http://welcometogc.org)

### Food Drive during General Conference

United Methodists across North Carolina are joining together to nourish our neighbors during the two weeks of the General Conference (April 23-May 3) as a part of our mission initiative, **One Body: Nourishing North Carolina**. United Methodists from around the world will be in Charlotte for General Conference; and as the world's eyes are focused on disaffiliation and schism, **One Body: Nourishing North Carolina** will combat food insecurity in North Carolina, providing an alternative narrative of hope and healing.

During General Conference, Main Street UMC will focus on collecting non-perishable food donations for both *Crisis Control* and *Project Re3 Hope Center* to distribute in our local community.

From **April 21 through May 5**, bring your non-perishable food donations to the church and deposit them in the bins for Crisis Control and Project Re3 located at the Main Entrance to the Commons. Let's focus on hope, healing, and helping our neighbors!



### THE MAIN STREET BOOK CLUB

will meet at noon in Room 310 on April 25.

Everyone is invited to read Russell Moore's book *Losing Our Religion*, in advance and join us for the discussion. The next Book Club discussion will be on May 23 where we will discuss Walker Percy's book, *The Second Coming*. All are welcome to join us!

## QR Codes and Church Bulletins

Very soon, everyone attending church services will notice a QR (quick response) code near the entrances to the Sanctuary and Chapel. This is to give anyone who wishes the opportunity to view their bulletin on their phone rather than on paper. Why is this being made available? If you have noticed, most people put their used bulletins in the recycling boxes as they leave the service. By being able to have your bulletin on your phone, we are taking steps to take better care of what has been entrusted to us by God.

We are asking you as a church to give this new idea a try. Don't worry, if you don't feel comfortable doing this, bulletins will still be available. Instructions will be near the QR code as you enter.

This idea is one that was brought before the Creation Care Committee. If you have any ideas on how the church can better take care of what God has given us, please let the committee know.



## Spring Children's Musical

The Carol Children's Choir will present their Spring Musical entitled "The Big Fish" on Sunday, May 19 at 10:00 am during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to come hear this charming rendition of the story of Jonah and the Big Fish, told in a "Film-Noir" style--like an old-fashioned detective movie! Kids and adults alike will find both humor and truth in this delightful musical.

From the same creative writing team that brought us last year's 1950's-style version of Noah's Soda Shoppe, you know this musical will be captivating! It is written by long-time Christian artist Ken Medema, whose music has blessed audiences since the 1970's. The songs are written in a variety of different styles including jazz, gospel, blues, and country!

But the heart of our story is not really Jonah or the Big Fish, rather it is about the big heart of God, who desires that we share his love with all people. The God of Jonah is also the God of the New Testament. God's call on Jonah's life to preach to the Ninevites is consistent with the words of Jesus today who calls us to love our enemies and to make disciples of all nations.



Join the United Women in Faith for a  
**Spring Brunch**  
**Sunday, April 28, 2024**  
 9:30am until 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

**Menu: Breakfast Casserole, Fruit, Muffins, Pastries, Coffee, Juice, Milk**

**Donations Accepted**



Church members who have recently graduated from college (*Associates, Bachelors, and post-graduate degrees*) are invited to submit their name, college, major, and degree earned to Kathryn in the church office ([kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org](mailto:kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org)) by May 30 to be included in the June newsletter.

**Oasis**  
 a Midweek Service of  
 Communion and Healing

Wednesdays at 5:30pm  
 in the Sanctuary (Sept.-May)



Join us for Praise and Worship with our awesome NOW Band at 6:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in the Chapel.



Get excited about Vacation Bible School at Main Street UMC coming up on July 22-25 from 6:00pm to 8:15pm. Register online at [mainstreetumc.org](http://mainstreetumc.org) under "signups"



### Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

We will begin our study of *All Things New: A Study on 2 Corinthians* on **April 30**.

This 8-week study will be led by Joy Key and Kimberly Thompson. We begin at 10:30am and finish around noon. The church will order some books, or you can order a copy on your own. Books from the church cost \$ 17.00 (*exact change or check please*) and we will have a limited number available.

Please register by calling the church office at 336-993-3411 or emailing [kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org](mailto:kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org).

We will continue with our study on *The Chosen* (season 3) until then, so please come and join us for study and fellowship.



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:

- **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.
- **June 11 Breakfast at Moose Café** and shopping for fresh vegetables at the Farmer's Market. Meet at the church at 9:00 to ride the bus or meet us there.

### Is Building a Habitat House on Your Bucket List?

The local Habitat for Humanity group is Habitat is doing a five-home Builder's Blitz May 13-17. In addition to the 100+ volunteers they have lined up, they need between 4-7 volunteers who are familiar with construction and can assist with logistics throughout a build day. Tasks include serving as runners and ensuring smooth site operations. To learn more, please email Tracy Mohr, [tracy.mohr@habitatforsyth.org](mailto:tracy.mohr@habitatforsyth.org). If you do end up working on this build, please let Jan Hampton, Outreach chair, know.



### Spring Folly Parking Lot Fundraiser May 4, 2024

Mark your calendars for Kernersville's Spring Folly and help us raise money for Crisis Control by collecting donations from those attending the festival who park in our main lot, garden lot, and Swisher's lot.

This year, Main Street will need to fill volunteer spots from  
**10am to 12 and 12 to 2pm on Saturday, May 4.**


Crisis Control will provide volunteers for the other time slots. Sunday School Classes, Circles, and other groups are welcome to sign up together. Sign up at [www.mainstreetumc.org](http://www.mainstreetumc.org) and click on "signups" on the red stripe. Thank you for helping our community provide for those who are in need!

Collection boxes are in the new main entrance for donations to Crisis Control's Item of the Month. The item for May is SPICES; other non-perishable food items can be donated as well.

## OLDER ADULT LUNCHEON

**May 9 at 11:45am**

All Older Adults are invited to join us  
in the Fellowship Hall on May 9  
for lunch and fellowship.



RSVP to Pat Knox  
at 336-993-5413

The May/June issue of **The Upper Room** devotional booklets are now available for pickup in the Narthex and at the Member Pickup Station at the Main Entrance to the Commons.



## Help Us Celebrate our High School Graduates

We will be collecting Graduation Cards for the High School Graduates that will be given to them during the 10:55am service on Sunday, June 2. The next time you are at the store, pick up cards for the High School Seniors below and place them in the collection box that will be located in the Narthex until Tuesday, **May 28**.

Our High School graduates are Katherine Hanks, Jackson Napier, Michael Pitts, Emma Saporito, Will Sharpe, and Landon Vinay.

### Grose-Kirkman Sunday School Class

In memory of Ann Kirkman's teaching and dedication to the J. C. Grose Sunday School Class, we are changing our class name to the Grose-Kirkman Class. The class began under the guidance of Pastor J. C. Grose and continued under Ann's teaching and leadership from the 1970's to 2001.



The class is also giving \$1200 to the Sanctuary Upholstery Project from Memorial Gifts and class donations after the recent death of Ann Kirkman. Thanks to all who have donated in her memory.



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  
**April 25 and May 9 & 23**  
at 9:30am



Join us in the Commons on **May 19** at 3:00pm for an *Ice Cream Sundae Mixer!*

Vanilla & Chocolate ice cream and toppings will be provided by the Member Care Committee. You are welcome to bring your own store-bought or homemade ice cream to add to the fun! Please let us know that you plan to attend by registering at [mainstreetumc.org](http://mainstreetumc.org) (*click on "signups" on the red stripe*).

Childcare is available. Deadline to signup is **May 15**.

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

**May 7 and 21**

For more information, contact Wade Hampton.

## Needs and Blessings

Sam Martin has a variety of home hospital equipment (including an electric hospital bed) that needs to go to a new home. Contact Sam at 336-293-3351.

*Only MSUMC members and ministries may submit classified ads to Needs & Blessings, subject to approval & editing for content. Ads run for one edition of the newsletter. MSUMC does not guarantee, recommend or endorse any of the jobs, goods or services being offered or those making the offerings.*



Please join us for National Day of Prayer Breakfast at the Kernersville Family YMCA in partnership with the Kernersville Christian Ministry Fellowship on May 2 at 7:00am. This FREE community event is open to all YMCA members, community members, churches, and leaders. This event will include breakfast, prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Mark your calendars and start your day inspired. Please RSVP by April 26 to Adam Cardwell at [a.cardwell@ymcanwnc.org](mailto:a.cardwell@ymcanwnc.org) or 336-996-2231.



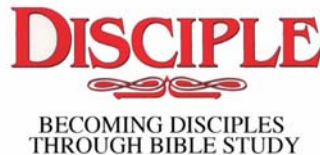
## Recognizing Disciple Bible Study Participants

Disciple Bible Study is a wonderful experience that fosters relationships and helps us to understand God more than ever before. Disciple classes began in September and finished up this Spring—what a commitment from all of the participants! We would like to recognize those listed below who took that “deep-dive” into the Bible and finished their Disciple curriculums with faith-filled experiences that can’t be matched. Let’s also give a big “thank you” to the facilitators of this year’s classes: Wayne Boger and Mark Key! ***Disciple classes start in the Fall. Be on the lookout for signup details later this summer!***

### Sunday Night Class:

Sally Brown  
Robert Furmage  
Susan Furmage  
Vicki Hodge  
Joy Key  
Keith McGinnis  
Christina Pearsall  
Tom Pearsall  
Jeannine Petriski

James Petriski  
Chris Thompson  
Kimberly Thompson  
Dan Turman  
Jackie Turman



### Wednesday Night Class:

Lance Antieau  
Margaret Bell  
Kim Bradfield  
Christopher Comer  
Missy Craven  
Willie Craven  
Kelly Kenion  
Cindy Light

## *We extend our sympathies to:*

- Bill Phipps, Christie Hunter, and Katelyn & Alexis Hunter upon the death of their father-in-law/grandfather/great-grandfather, OC Martin.
- Millie Sharma upon the death of her brother-in-law, Ted.
- The family & friends of Bill Gentry upon his death.
- Jackie Turman upon the death of her husband, Dan Turman.



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

**Apr. 17—Pulled Pork** with Grose-Kirkman serving

**Apr. 24—Brunswick Stew** with New Horizons/Rise/Journey classes serving

**May 1—Meatloaf** with Seafarers class serving

**May 8—Baked Potato Bar** with Christian Fellowship class 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)*



## Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don't have to wait on our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient with us. God is in control and knows what's best for us. Even though God's people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, at just the right time, God sent Jesus.

Because we're created in God's image, we can reflect God's patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done. We can lean on God's Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need to trust God and show patience with the difficult circumstances in our lives.



## Preschool

This month, we're talking about light, but not just any light. We're talking about Jesus—the light of the WORLD—and how when we do what Jesus says, we shine. We shine the light of Jesus! After this month, we hope every time you and your preschoolers see a lamp or a star-filled sky, you remember that people were made to shine, and we have Jesus—the light of the world—to show us how. So let's not hide our light. Let's SHINE and light up the dark so others can see their way to Jesus.

<b>a Record of our Faithfulness</b>				
<b>OUR PRESENCE:</b>	<b>3-24-2024</b>	<b>3-31-2024</b>	<b>4-7-2024</b>	<b>4-14-2024</b>
Sunday School	154	70	105	113
8:30am In-Person Worship	113	145	72	77
8:45 Jubilee In-Person Worship	66	78	70	70
10:55am In-Person Worship	186	280	123	146
<b>In-Person Worship Totals</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>293</b>
8:45am Jubilee Live Stream Worship ( <i>Unique Views</i> )	69	46	24	28
10:55am Live Stream Worship ( <i>Unique Views</i> )	38	107	83	67
<b>Total Live Stream Unique Views</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Live Streaming Totals</b> ( <i>unique views x 1.8</i> )	<b>193</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>Attendance Totals</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>464</b>
<b>OUR GIFTS as of:</b>	<b>3-24-2024</b>	<b>3-31-2024</b>	<b>4-7-2024</b>	<b>4-14-2024</b>
<i>Moving Forward</i> Building Fund Weekly Contributions	\$980	\$4310	\$725	\$1680
Weekly Contributions to Budget	\$19,029	\$43,166	\$12,945	\$16,464
Budget Contributions YTD	\$223,790	\$266,956	\$279,902	\$296,366

**Main Street Ministries as of March 31**

Regular Giving \$270,378  
 Expenses \$269,923  
 Over/(Under) 455  
 Budget \$280,230

**Building Fund as of March 31**

Building Fund Giving \$49,929  
 Building Loan Payments \$36,000  
 Over/(Under) \$13,929  
 Loan Balance \$1,336,873

**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  
Worshipping 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