

Ecclesia

APRIL 2023



In This Issue...



THE HIGHLIGHTS

On the Covers

Women's Beach Retreat

Page 6

Holy Friendships: A new initiative pairing participants, with guided conversations

Page 8

Fundraising for Camp Discovery: Sponsor a Camper!

Page 12-13

FUMC & our neighbors at First Presbyterian are combining for a Spring Concert in May

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FUMC Counseling Center (Sanctuary Counseling Group)
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Website

www.fumcsalisbury.org



YouTube Channel
FUMC Salisbury



Sermon Podcast
Salisbury Sermons
on Anchor; Apple Podcasts;
Google Podcasts;
Pocket Casts;
RadioPublic; and Spotify



Facebook
@fumcsalisbury
Instagram
@fumcsalisbury

Re:Marks

You have a story to tell, and people are curious to hear it. But do we know how to tell our story?

Storytelling is at the heart of Easter. After Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene outside the empty tomb, Mary went and announced the disciples “I have seen the Lord,” giving details about what Jesus said (John 20:11-18). In another version of the story, Mary Magdalene was joined by Mary the mother of James, and Salome on that morning (Mark 16:1-8). And instead of seeing Jesus, they saw a young man, presumably an angel of the Lord. The women were instructed to tell the disciples about Jesus’ resurrection, but “terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid” (verse 8). Obviously, the word got out eventually. But for a time, fear overwhelmed them from telling their story.

I’m wondering if fear prevents you from telling your story. Fear of ridicule, fear of being misunderstood, fear of being rejected, or even fear of being heard with indifference – these are some of the common fears preventing Christians today from sharing their story of God’s goodness. If this is the case for you, know that you are not the only one. An uncountable number of Christians have kept their story to themselves. Someone may hide behind claiming, “my faith is personal.” True, your faith is personal; but it is never private. The impact of God’s love on your life ought to spill out and impact others. No matter whether you are an introvert or an extrovert, or what your Myers-Briggs type may be, or any other way that you’ve come to know your own personality, you have a story to tell!

I challenge you to wrestle with the following three questions:

1. Why does God matter to you? *Write down 1 or 2 sentences to summarize it.*
2. How is God working through First United Methodist Church? *Again, write down a few ideas.*
3. Who are people with whom you come into contact regularly, especially people outside of church who find you to be a trustworthy person? *Write down their names.*

If you have a response to all three questions, then you are on your way toward knowing your story. Imagine sharing that story, not in a pushy, obtrusive, knocking-on-doors sort of way. Instead, share that story in the context of genuine relationships when questions about life naturally pop up. Just about every person goes about his/her day wondering about life’s meaning, the nature of suffering, how their relationships could improve, or how they can navigate decision-making. Listen to your friends tell their story first. Perhaps your story, by God’s grace, is exactly what your friend needs to hear.

In 1896, hymn writer H. Ernest Nichol wrote:

“We’ve a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light...”

In 2023, we’ve a story to tell our friends here in Salisbury and Rowan County. May your story of truth and mercy, of peace and light, find its way from your heart to your neighbor’s.

Easter blessings,

Mark Conforti



Holy Week

at FUMC



APRIL 02, 2023

SERVICE BEGINS IN
THE COLUMBARIUM



Palm
SUNDAY
HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID!

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. The procession with palms (already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century) calls to mind the triumphal entry of Jesus, our Lord and King, into Jerusalem.

Palm Sunday is unique in having two Gospel readings. Originally there were two distinct liturgies. The palms were blessed and the Triumphal Entry Gospel was read outside of the church building. The door of the church represented the gate through which Jesus entered the city. We will gather in the Columbarium to begin worship on Palm Sunday – this is particularly important for two reasons:

- 1) the columbarium, being associated with death, offers us a foreshadowing of the events that will come later in Holy Week
- 2) we will collectively process into the Sanctuary singing “Hosanna!” (Which translates “Lord, save us!”) and waving our palm fronds. The procession is fundamentally an act of worship, witness, and devotion to our Lord.

The purpose of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem was to fulfill His Father’s will;

thus it is fitting that this service continues with the reading of the Passion Gospel in which the whole story of the week is anticipated. The emphasis of the liturgy turns to the days that lie ahead in Holy Week. We who hail Jesus as King one moment, may in the next deny Him, even joining with the crowd in shouting, “Crucify Him!”

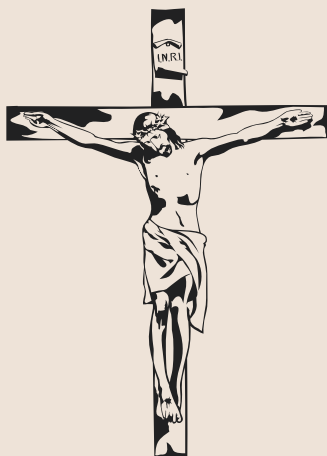
LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS

April 5 Following Community
Meal at 6:00pm
Porte-Cochère & Lobby



Maundy
Thursday

April 06
6:00 PM, Sanctuary



Good Friday marks the second part of the Holy *Triduum* (the sacred Three Days) of the Paschal (Passover) mystery, which culminates on Easter. This most somber of all days is appropriately marked by fasting, abstinence, and penitence, leading us to focus on Jesus and His sacrificial death upon the Cross. Some churches do not use musical instruments or bells on this day; however, this year's Good Friday liturgy will feature a **Service of Passion Readings and Music**, similar to a Lenten "Lessons and Carols" service. This service will be held at noon, in remembrance that Jesus suffered on the cross for 6 hours, from approximately 9 am until 3 pm.

The bare, stark appearance of the darkened Sanctuary will serve as a reminder of the solemnity and sorrow of the day. The Lord of Life was rejected, mocked, scourged, and then put to death on the Cross. We are reminded of the role which our own sin played in His suffering and agony, as Christ took all sin upon Himself in obedience to the Father's will. By the Cross of Christ we are redeemed, set free from bondage to sin and death. The Cross is a sign of God's never-ending love for us. It is a sign of life, in the midst of death.

Good Friday

SERVICE OF PASSION
READINGS & MUSIC

April 07
12:00 NOON
Sanctuary





EASTER DAY

APRIL 9, 2023



Community Easter Sunrise Service

April 9, 2023

6:30 AM

Bell Tower Green

(Please bring a chair or blanket)



Festival Worship

08:30 &
11:00am in
the Sanctuary

Holy Friendships



HOLY FRIENDSHIPS

We invite you to participate in honoring and fulfilling membership vows together through a holy friendship with a fellow church member.

This ministry is anticipated to run from Easter until Thanksgiving.

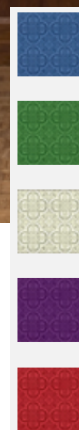
Visit

www.fumcsalisbury.org/holy-friendships for more information!

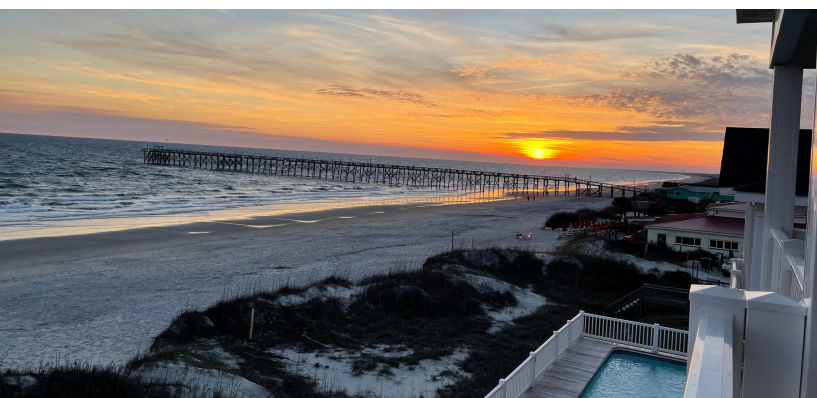
Sign-ups will open on Palm Sunday (April 02)!

New Choir Robes

Some of us may recall childhood memories of being dragged to the department store with our mother to be fitted for a new Easter dress or suit. This Easter will be no different! While the Sanctuary will be dressed to celebrate the festival of Christ's resurrection – so will our choir and handbell ringers. We are excited to premiere our new choir gowns, with coordinating reversible stoles that match the colors of each liturgical season! These classic style robes are lightweight, wrinkle-resistant, and machine washable and feature a convenient zipper closure, pocket, and side opening. They will replace our dry clean only, button-down, black choir cassocks and white cottas. We are so grateful to God and to the generous donors whose designated gifts made the purchase of these 27 new robes possible. This precious gift will further enhance our musical offerings in worship and sustainable stewardship for years to come!



Women's Beach Retreat



In the month of March 23 ladies from FUMC went to the beach, enjoying time on Oak Island, and with one another. As we were traveling over St. Patrick's Day our study focused on the words of St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer. We had such a great time, we immediately wanted to start planning the next trip!





DATES:
JULY 2ND - 7TH

THEME:
YOU ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Fundraising for Camp Discovery

Did you know our fundraising for Camp Discovery each year means that all of our campers attend free of charge? Campers are recommended to us by their guidance counselors as a child who would greatly benefit from a week at camp, making new friends, and spending time with a one-on-one mentor. Many of the children who attend Camp Discovery have faced significant challenges or trauma in their lives. Camp is a chance for us to show them God's love and care! It costs \$300 to send each camper and mentor to camp.

Your sponsorship gift toward Camp Discovery will provide campers with experiences like...

- Swimming in a lake for the first time
- Working as a team through the ropes course
- Overcoming challenges at the climbing wall
- Listening to stories of faith during morning and evening devotions
- Singing camp songs
- Meals around the table with new friends
- Building relationships with mentors

Consider making a gift to Camp Discovery today!

Use the sponsorship form on the church website, or submit a check to the church office with "Camp Discovery" in the memo line by June 21st. Visit fumcsalisbury.org/camp-discovery for more information.



Children's Ministry

APRIL

2- Palm Sunday (Children singing at 11AM service)

9 - Easter Sunday
(Pick up an Easter treat bag from the ushers)

15 - Playdate at 11AM

30 - Club 45/ Youth



Hey parents! All Pre-K (3&4 year olds), K-3rd, and Club45-ers will be singing on Palm Sunday (April 2) during the 11:00 service!



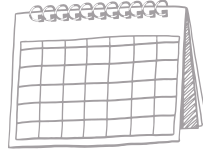
THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to every one who donated candy for "Egg My Yard" Easter Eggs or donated to have their yards egged! This fundraiser supports Camp Discovery. Camp would not be possible without generous donors contributing their time, gifts and talents!

With a grateful heart,
Bailee Weisensel

Youth Ministry

Salisbury Youth
6-12 GRADE MINISTRY



YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR
SPRING 2023

Newsletter



APRIL

2 - YOUTH GROUP

9- no youth group
(Easter Day)

16 - YOUTH GROUP

23 - YOUTH GROUP

30 - YOUTH GROUP

MAY

7 - YOUTH GROUP

14 - no youth group
(Mothers' Day)

21 - SUMMER

KICKOFF

28 -no youth group
(summer)

Celebrating Baptism

In March we celebrated the baptism of Emma Gray, daughter of Alan & Liz Gray and granddaughter of Joy Clement!



Scouting at FUMC

The Scouts have been very active over the winter months with Survival, Orienteering, and Geocaching trips locally and in the Uwharrie National Forest. Scouts built shelters to spend the night in and then ran an orienteering course over three miles. In the Uwharrie Forest we searched for geocaches over an eight mile area. In March we welcomed our rising Cub Scouts to the Troop during our annual Investiture ceremony. In March we will canoe down the Roanoke River to platforms deep in the swamps to spend the night amongst the owls.



Preschool



Like the flowers of spring, we enjoy watching our preschoolers blossom! Our 4's are sounding out consonant-vowel-consonant words, learning sight words, working our way through the last few letters in the alphabet, and working on special spring crafts. The 3's class is also finishing working their way through the alphabet and are having loads of fun doing it! The 2's classes enjoy story time, snack time, dancing, and playing on the playground- absolutely everything about their day! All of our classes are looking forward to celebrating Easter with class parties and Easter egg hunts! We are currently enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year. If you would like to learn more about our preschool program, or schedule a tour, please call Kelly Austin at 336-722-9260.

Community Meal

COMMUNITY MEALS RETURN!

Our free fellowship meal for church members and the wider community to gather will be back on the first Wednesday of April. We hope you'll join us, and invite a friend!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 5, 6:00PM

NEXT: WEDNESDAY MAY 3



Spring Concert with First Presbyterian



We invite you to join us Sunday, May 07 at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary, as we will combine with the choir of First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury to host a FREE concert, featuring Antonio Vivaldi's timeless "*Gloria in D Major (RV 589)*" from 1715, and John Leavitt's 2013 "*Missa Festiva*." Considered to be one of the most important choral works of our time, each of five individual movements is beautifully set with strength and dignity. The Latin texts from the Mass Ordinary provide a vehicle for excellent choral singing. The combined choirs will feature soloists Mary Endsley Foil and Theresa Moore-Mitchell, and will be accompanied by guest musicians of the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of John Stafford and Joshua Starnes. A freewill offering will be received during the intermission to benefit Rowan Helping Ministries and a light reception with refreshments will follow the concert in the Carter Lobby.



Vivaldi's Gloria & Missa Festiva by John Leavitt

featuring soloists

Mary Endsley Foil & Theresa Moore-Mitchell
with guest musicians from the Salisbury Symphony
and the choirs of the First Presbyterian Church &
First United Methodist Church of Salisbury

Sunday, May 07, 3:00pm | First United Methodist Church
FREE CONCERT | 217 South Church Street

light reception to follow

freewill offering collected will benefit Rowan Helping Ministries

Lenten Faith Talks

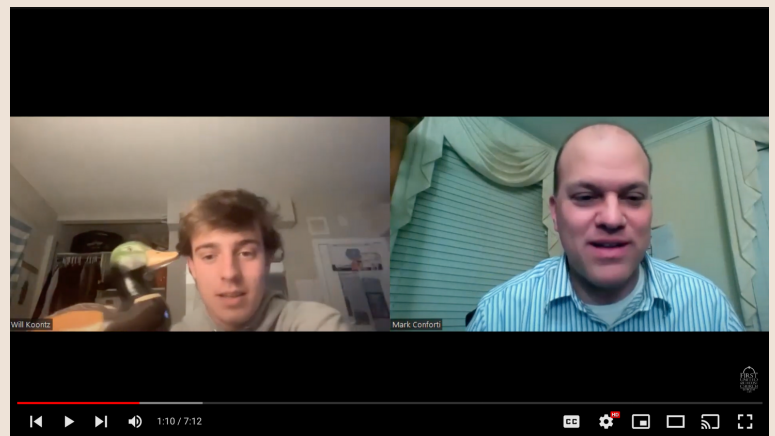
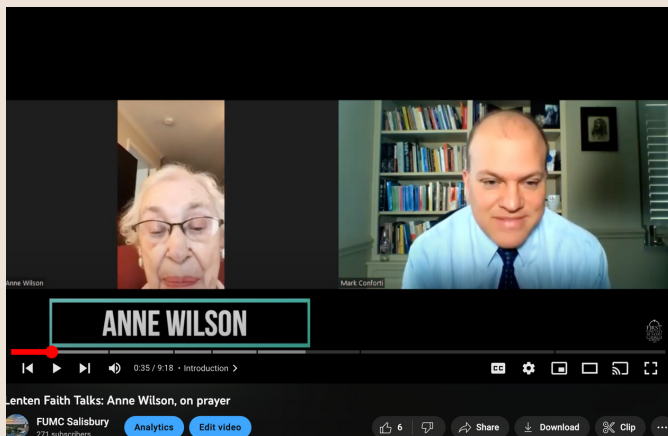


United Methodists vow to faithfully participate in the church's ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness.



During Lent this year the church has participated in a sermon series following five of the membership vows of the United Methodist Church. Pastor Mark has interviewed several FUMC church members to talk about how they are living out these commitments. Find all five videos on our YouTube Channel (FUMC Salisbury) under the playlist Lenten Faith Talks, or use the QR code below.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiF-AuUG_L6vwi7DviSUie2brMRQf5XIU

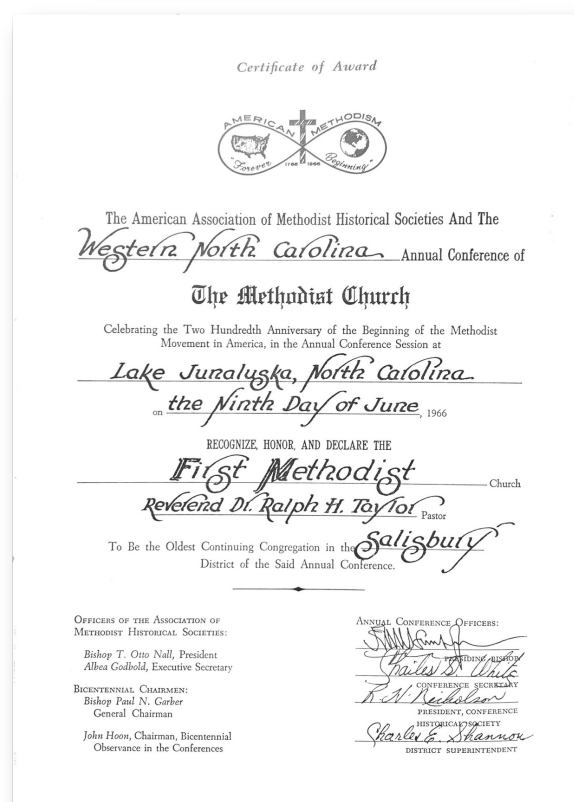


Coming Soon: First Methodist Day!



First Methodist Day: A day to make a bonus gift toward upkeep of the building and grounds of the church.

June 9 was chosen as First Methodist Day because it's the day in 1966 when FUMC was recognized as the oldest Methodist congregation in Rowan County!



Worship
Worship
Worship

Grow
Grow
Grow

Serve
Serve
Serve

FUMC SALISBURY

Do you have an article
for the Ecclesia?

Send them to Jenni@fumcsalisbury.org
with "(Month to be printed) Ecclesia" in
the subject line.

Articles can be submitted by the first
Friday of the month prior to when you
would like it printed.

Access the Church
Calendar Any Time

Access the church calendar
any time! Just go to
fumcsalisbury.org and look
under the Connect tab. There
you can also find a digital
version of the Ecclesia.



Church History

"looking back... moving forward"

Methodism began in Britain and in the American Colonies as an 18th-century spiritual renewal movement within the Church of England. The Revolutionary War changed that. Most Episcopal priests either returned to England or moved to Canada after the war. In their absence, Methodist lay preachers could not baptize or celebrate Holy Communion. John Wesley, the father of Methodism, strongly believed in sacramental ministry. He reluctantly approved establishing a Methodist church in America. At Christmas in 1784, Methodist lay preachers met in Baltimore, Maryland, and created the Methodist Episcopal Church.

That Christmas conference identified several joint mission projects. First, there were few educational opportunities on the American frontier. The conference approved establishing a college for young men. They named it Cokesbury in honor of their first bishops: Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury. A second mission involved the newly ordained clergy. Some superannuated (retired) at that conference. These "worn-out" preachers had no pension and needed financial support. Thomas Coke soon left America and the burden for raising money fell on Asbury. He referred to himself as a bishop and a beggar.

Over the next two centuries, laity joined the clergy in equal numbers as voting members at all conferences. Circuit riders and camp meetings swelled church membership rolls. Methodists became the dominant American Protestant denomination by mid-1850. Yet in spite of numerical growth, the need for financial support of conference approved ministries remained constant.

The Methodist Episcopal Church and its successor denominations attempted to develop fair and equitable ways for local congregations to support the general church budget. They tried multiple formulas. Some annual conferences based apportionment giving on local church membership. That had a negative impact on evangelism. Another formula was based on each local church's total budget. That placed an unfair burden on churches engaged in major building projects or significant mission outreach programs.

Fortunately, Methodists excelled at record keeping. Francis Asbury established a nationwide network of class leaders, circuit stewards, book stewards, exhorters, local preachers, circuit riders, and presiding elders. They conducted quarterly meetings, annual conferences, and a quadrennial general conference. Each entity produced detailed statistical reports. The general church kept and published them all. It is these reports that still provide the data for our modern apportionment system.

Each pastor annually submits to the annual conference an account of all local disbursements. These reports are published in the Conference Journal. The amounts are divided into categories such as salaries, operating expense, programs, debt retirement, mission outreach, and apportionments paid. The current

apportionment formula for the conference budget is based only on the expenses all churches share in common. These include salaries and benefits, church programs, and basic overhead expenses like utilities. Outreach missions and major building projects are excluded from this formula.

Our conference budget is approved by the elected lay delegates from every pastoral charge and the clergy conference members. For 2023, the Western North Carolina Conference budget is \$15.5 million or 10% less than the 2022 budget. Every church, big or small, pays the same decimal formula or percentage of that amount based on its three-year rolling average of core line-item expenses. Every congregation has voice and vote in approving the ministries we do together. Each congregation pays its fair share of the expense. Through the apportionment, we are united both in name and in our common mission to the world.

Fred Jordan, *Church Historian*

WHERE U.S. LOCAL CHURCH EXPENSE DOLLARS GO





WELCOMING PEOPLE OF GOD

#BeUMC

UMC.org/BeUMC

Core Value: Welcoming

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place.

Hebrews 13:1-3

Being a welcoming person of God entails more than inviting people into spaces where we feel most comfortable. Christ also compels us out into the world, to meet people wherever they are, and to serve as a welcoming presence to others.

We open our hearts, minds and doors to all people.



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Prayer of St. Francis (UM Hymnal 481)

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The #BeUMC campaign reminds us of who we are at our best. As people of God called The United Methodist Church, we're faithful followers of Jesus seeking to make the world a better place.

#BeUMC

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Deneen Jones
Jean Watts

2 Mary Roakes

3 Bruce Kolkebeck

4 Marlene Spencer

5

6 Terri Carnes
Parks Watson
Leah Wyrick

7 Mike Faggart

8 Larry Cordts
Matthew Gouge
Katie Howard
Chloe McGee

9 Alex Basinger
Peggy Feezor
Bill Noell

10 Mark Conforti

11 Ben Mastro

12

13

14 Tim Howard

15 Coleman Emerson
Chris Foote

16

17 Sara Banish

18 Stella Smeltzer

19 Melissa Conrad

20 Mason Potts

21 Tonda Coutu
Jay Duke

22 Spencer Basinger
Evelyn Dymond
Anne Ellis
Emily Hutton

23 Missy Brown
Ryan Disseler

24 Jenny Kribbs
Michael Leonard

25 Sherry Dillard
Riley Peltz

26 Rick Eldridge

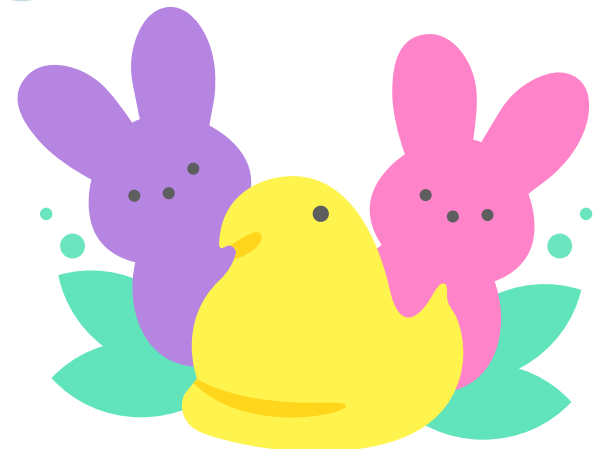
27 Henry Buck
Ron Gobble
Susan Shumaker

28 Corydon Johnson

29 Marie Leonard-Hampton
Barry Stokes
Anne Wilson

30 Sam Nash

APRIL



ECCLÉSIA

NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Palm
SUNDAY
HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID!

APRIL 02
08:30 & 11:00 AM

SERVICES BEGINS IN
THE COLUMBARIUM

An illustration of Jesus riding a donkey, surrounded by palm branches, set against a light blue background.

**FREE COMMUNITY
MEAL***

April 05
6:00 PM
Porte-Cochère

**Lenten Prayer
Stations to follow*

A simple line drawing of a flower with five petals.

Maundy
Thursday

April 06
6:00 PM
Sanctuary

An illustration of a wooden bowl and several pieces of bread, set against a dark background.

Good Friday

SERVICE OF PASSION
READINGS & MUSIC

April 07
12:00 NOON
Sanctuary

A white silhouette of a cross on a dark background.

Alleluia!

An illustration of a rising sun over mountains, with the text "Alleluia!" written above it.

Christ is Risen!

Easter Day, April 09
**Community Easter
Sunrise Service**
06:30am
Bell Tower Green
Festival Worship
08:30 & 11:00am in
the Sanctuary

*making and nurturing Christian disciples
through the presence and power of God*

