

the Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Myers Memorial United Methodist Church in Gastonia, NC

Holy Week 2021 . Holy Week 2021 . Holy Week 2021 . Holy Week 2021 . Holy Week 2021

Palm Sunday ~ March 28

*The CFC Parking Lot will be blocked off for the Egg Hunts.
Please utilize Bank of America Parking Lot!*

Sunday Worship ~ 9am ~ Sanctuary
in the Sanctuary for 100 persons to gather; live streaming via YouTube & Facebook.

Palm Parade ~ 10:45am

Grab a palm branch and let's parade from the Egg Hunts to the Pumpkin Patch. Gather in the Pumpkin Patch to participate in a drum circle that will call everyone to worship!

Sunday Worship ~ 11am ~ Pumpkin Patch

Worship will be held in the Pumpkin Patch and livestream on Facebook (inside if weather prohibits). Bring folding chairs, wear your masks, dress appropriately for the weather and terrain.

Please sign up for worship at www.myersmemorialumc.org/worship

Palm Sunday ~ March 28

Children's Easter Egg Hunt ~ 10:15a

For preschool and elementary children on our two playgrounds ~ Rain or Shine! Bring your own Easter baskets and don't forget your masks! Treat bags will be provided and you can keep all your eggs! Please sign up in advance at www.myersmemorialumc.org/children so we can prepare appropriately. *Special Guest:* Burrita the donkey!



Youth Egg-stravaganza ~ 5:30p to 6:30p

Gather at the Church for the *ultimate* Egg Hunt, an egg-streme egg drop and lots of egg-cellent games! Learn what these silly eggs have to do with Jesus and Easter. Invite a Friend and tell Tresca you're coming!

Tuesday ~ March 30

Holy Week Prayer & Reflections ~ 6p
Gather in the Sanctuary for quiet prayer and reflection as we journey through Holy Week.

Lenten Bible Study ~ 7p
This Tuesday concludes the Lenten Bible Study on the Fruit of the Spirit

Wednesday ~ March 31

Lenten Lunch Series ~ 12:30p
Park in the small CFC parking lot and join us for the final in our Lenten Lunch Series.

Holy Week Prayer & Reflections ~ 2p and 4p
Gather in the Sanctuary for quiet prayer and reflection as we journey through Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday Thursday ~ April 1

Communion ~ 6p
Worship will be held in the Pumpkin Patch and livestream on Facebook (inside if weather prohibits). Bring folding chairs, wear your masks, dress appropriately for the weather and terrain. Communion will be served 'family style'

Good Friday Friday ~ April 2

Carillon Concert ~ 12p
You are invited to park and listen to the music coming from the Bell Tower as Helen Dix and Tony Sane play Lenten Hymns for a midday meditation.
Tenebrae Service ~ 6p
We worship in the Sanctuary as we mark this day in holy week—the day when Christ sacrificed himself for us.

Easter Sunday ~ April 4

Sunrise Communion Service ~ 7am
You are invited to gather at Sunrise on Easter Sunday in the Pumpkin Patch for a sunrise communion service. Bring folding chairs, wear your masks, dress appropriately for the weather and terrain. Communion will be served 'family style'.

Easter Worship ~ 9am
Worship will be in the Sanctuary at 9am and live on Facebook & YouTube. We are able to welcome 100 persons to worship in-person.

Butterfly Release ~ 10:30a, Preschool Playground

Easter Worship ~ 11am
Worship will be in the Sanctuary at 9am and live on Facebook & YouTube. We are able to welcome 100 persons to worship in-person.

Please sign up for worship at www.myersmemorialumc.org/worship the Tuesday before.

Flowering the Cross
On Easter morning, please bring fresh cut flowers to adorn the Easter Cross. The cross will be located on the sidewalk in front of the Narthex. You may add your flowers any time on Easter Morning.

Easter Lilies
Easter lilies may be picked up from the center aisle as you leave worship on Easter Sunday.

We're Gathering Again!

The Reopening Task Force has been hard at work for the last ten months preparing for the time in which we are able to gather for in-person worship. We realize that we have people ready to worship in person and people who are comfortable continuing with online worship. We honor and respect both of these preferences. We also know that as we move into Spring, Holy Week and Easter, we have even more people who desire in person. Beginning Palm Sunday, March 28, the reopening committee has made the decision to allow for 100 worshippers to sign-up to attend worship. Work areas are gearing up to address all the details from preparing to cleaning. Sign-ups for Sunday worship will begin the Tuesday before each Sunday. You can sign-up at the link on our worship page (www.myersmemorialumc.org/worship) or by calling the church office. There are many ways to worship during Holy Week and we are hopeful that everyone will find a way to engage and take part.

Additionally, we are making room for small groups of up to 25 to meet in person indoors. One challenge we continue to face is that we do not have many rooms large enough to socially distance that size of group. Thankfully, the weather is getting warmer, so meeting outside may be possible and safe for your groups. We will continue to work with small groups to try and accommodate their needs.

We want to continue our slow and cautious approach towards reopening, so that everyone feels safe with these decisions. We will continue to wear masks, maintain social distancing, and practice hand washing at all indoor gatherings. We also want to remind you if you feel sick or are awaiting COVID-19 test results, please stay home and care for yourself. We are so pleased with the improvements in our local community and yet we know the pandemic still exists. We want to maintain our good practices, so we do no harm to others and continue to do our church's part in reducing the spread of COVID-19. We recognize all of us are longing for a more normal feeling. Please remember, we are all in this together doing our part and praying that trends continue to improve, so that we can continue moving forward.

Please note the times and locations for Holy Week!! With the lifting of health safety restrictions, we are able to do more in-person events and we have adjusted times to reflect the opportunities.



Talent Show

It's Show Time! Be sure to tune in at 7 pm on March 28 on Facebook and YouTube as we see some of the wonderful talent of Myers Memorial UMC! We share our talents to entertain yet also to raise awareness of a great resource in our community: The Gateway Gaston! Please consider giving generously to this ministry by making an online gift via our website or by writing a **check to the church, earmarked "Gateway"**. The Gateway Gaston is a helping agency in our community that meets the needs of all persons seeking assistance, from Veteran benefits, resume writing, housing or food needs, etc. Gateway Gaston has counselors that answer the needs within 90 minutes of referral.

Holy Week Reflections, March 30 & 31

You are invited into the sanctuary for a time of quiet reflection and meditation on the final events in Jesus' life. Live music will be playing as images, words and questions will be displayed on the screens. Come. Sit. Hear. Reflect. Absorb. Give thanks for what God has done for you because it is for you that Christ died on the cross. We will offer three opportunities for reflection, Tuesday, March 30 at 6p and Wednesday, March 31 at 2p and again at 4p. You may sign up at www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/worship or by calling the church office.

Church Office Hours

Heather Steffey, Administrative Assistant

heather@myersmemorialumc.com

Mondays through Thursdays
8:30a to 4p 704-864-3222

Closed April 5 for Easter Monday

Maundy Thursday Communion, 4/1, 6p

Maundy Thursday is one of the days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word “Maundy” comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means ‘commandment’. John’s Gospel tells us of Christ’s last night before his betrayal and arrest when he washed the feet of his disciples and gave them a new commandment to love one another as he loved them (John13:34). While John does not record the institution of the Lord’s Supper as part of these events, other gospels do and so on this Maundy Thursday, we will remember. We will remember Christ’s life of serving all through handwashing and remember his sacrifice as we partake in communion as individuals or families. We will be gathering in the Pumpkin Patch at 6p, please dress for the weather, wear masks, bring your own seating and prepare for the uneven ground of the Patch (heels not recommended and reserved space for the mobility limited will be available). The service will be live on Facebook as well.

Good Friday Carillon Concert, 4/2, 12p

You are invited to a Carillon Concert for everyone to hear! On Friday, April 2 for 30 minutes, Lenten Hymns will be played and broadcast from the Bell Tower. You may drive up and listen via the parking lot. You may wish to sit in your car, or elsewhere on the church grounds, maybe from the Gathering Garden. A word of warning, it will be the loudest nearest the Bell Tower.

Good Friday Tenebrae, 4/2, 6p

What’s so good about that Friday? It’s a day of darkness when the first century people didn’t know what we know so we remember the darkness, we take pause in the brightness of spring to remember the darkness. *Tenebrae* is the Latin word meaning ‘darkness’. Through musical selections and scripture readings, we will remember the trial, sentencing, execution, death and burial of Jesus. The service will be in person in the Sanctuary for up to 100 worshippers and will be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Easter Sunrise Communion, 4/4, 7a

As the sky lightens on Easter morning, we feel the weight of Good Friday disappearing. You are invited to gather in the Pumpkin Patch to shout Alleluias and He is Risen! This service will also include Communion. Please dress for the weather, wear masks, bring your own seating and prepare for the uneven ground of the Patch (heels not recommended and reserved space for the mobility limited will be available). The service will be live on Facebook as well.

Flowering of the Cross

Adding fresh flowers to a barren, wooden cross on Easter Sunday is a beautiful reminder of the transformation Jesus brings to everyone! On Easter Sunday, April 4, you are invited to bring flowers to decorate the cross! The cross will be located on the sidewalk in front of the Narthex doors. Flowers can be brought any time on Easter Sunday and the cross will remain outside to show the world we are resurrection people!

Easter Butterfly Release

Easter Sunday, April 4 is the day we invite you to release your butterflies! You may release them anywhere you are on Easter morning to celebrate the resurrection or you may join us at the church at 10:30a in the grassy area between the office and the sanctuary building (preschool playground area). Did your butterflies hatch early? They love fresh flowers, cut up fruit or sugar water. Are your butterflies not ready yet? It’s okay! We are always resurrection people! Release them when they are ready!



SHOWING KINDNESS

Congregational Thanks

from Doug and Mary Drum

We would like to thank the church, church staff, especially Pastor Sally, Helen Dix and Tony Sane for **their love and support during Bill's passing and funeral.** Thank you for all the cards, phone calls and comforting words we received. We felt so loved during a difficult time and it meant so much!

from Pat Whitson

I would like to thank all the church family for the love, prayers, get well messages and cards during my recent surgery. It meant so much to me and I truly appreciate it.

Church-Wide Retreat

On Saturday, May 1 from 10 am-3 p you are invited to Thrive in the beautiful outdoors of our local UM Camp! **“Let's Thrive at Tekoa Foothills”** is our theme for the day as we enjoy some time outside with trails, canoes, zip lines, sitting and reconnecting with friends, bring a picnic or enjoy a food truck! **We'll also gather for a time of devotion and reflection.** Tekoa Foothills (formerly our Camp Loy White District Camp) is located in beautiful upper Cleveland County at 258 Hull Road, Casar, NC tekoafoothills.org. Everyone is welcome! Sign up with Connie Elzey, dce@myersmemorialumc.com or 704.864.3222 x105. Prayers for 2022 to see the return of our Camp Tekoa Weekend Retreat, but in the meantime **“Let's Thrive at Tekoa Foothills”** on Saturday, May 1!

Summer Day Camp

Plans are in the works to take a group of Elementary Day Campers to Tekoa Foothills the week of July 12-16. We would love for your young ones to join us! This is for all elementary aged children. The camp is about 45 minutes away from the church. Myers Memorial will be working to create opportunities for carpooling or using the church vehicles (if they are available). There are a limited number of spots, so please sign up soon. *Younger elementary* (rising K-rising 3rd) can register directly on the Tekoa Foothills website: www.tekoafoothills.org/summer-camp/day-camp. For *older elementary* (rising 4th-6th), please contact Tresca McSwain (thmcswain@gmail.com).

Flowers for Worship

Once again we wish to brighten the sanctuary space with fresh flowers for worship. Flowers for worship can be provided in memory or in honor of a loved one, a celebration in your life, or just to adorn the space with beautiful flowers. The cost for a large floral arrangement is \$50 per arrangement. There is space for two to three arrangements each Sunday and will be placed in the front of the church or in the Narthex. The church will take care of placing the order with our florist. You may place your order by visiting www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/worship or by calling Heather in the church office. If you have a special request for your flowers, please reach out to Heather, heather@myersmemorialumc.com.

Myers by the Numbers

As of 3/23/2021	Feb 28	March 7	March 14		March 21	
Offering	\$15,403	\$14,973	\$23,059		\$9,425	
Facebook Engagements (comments, likes, shares)	154	147	9am 130	11am 37	9am 72	11am 20
Estimated People Reached via Facebook	1,000	672	697	450	767	531
Peak Live Facebook Viewers	65	73	57	14	54	15
YouTube Views	85	86	46	62	43	39
In-Person Attendance			38	58	35	69

March Blessings at Myers Memorial UMC

While we continue to worship through a digital platform and move into more in-person opportunities, there are many ways that Myers Memorial UMC continues to be the church in the world. Thank you for sharing your prayers, presence, gifts, talents and witness!

- 60+ Zoom Gathering
- Approved Transformation Journey Recommendations
- Wednesday Lenten Lunch Series
- Continued Outdoor Gatherings
- Ordered Lilies for Easter Sunday
- Ordered Caterpillars
- Collected food for Spring Break Bonus Bags
- Daily restocking of the Food Pantry in the Patch
- Staff Participating in ongoing Continuing Education
- Making 125 Sandwiches for W. Gastonia Boys & Girls Club
- Friday Morning Prayer Group, 7:15a
- Broadcast Weekly Live Worship simultaneously on YouTube and Facebook
- Delivered Communion to Shut Ins
- Praise Band rehearsals
- Committees meeting on Zoom and in person
- Packing meals for Weekend Backpack Ministry
- Continue to collect food and supplies for our neighbors with need
- Sending cards to members, visitors, and community members
- Cultivating Fruit of the Spirit through Lenten Disciplines
- Lenten Lunch Series
- Myers Talent Show
- Eagle Scout Project completed
- Easter Egg Hunts
- Holy Week Reflections
- Resumed In-person Worship
- Volunteered to serve as Worship Guides
- Began offering two Sunday morning worship services, each in-person and livestreamed
- Health Cabinet hosted a Blood Drive
- A Taste of Myers, a gathering of recent visitors and current members.
- **St. Patrick's Day** themed Game Time
- Abundant & Faithful Giving
- Youth gathered at church to create green themed care packages
- Shared the Peace of Christ through cards & phone calls
- Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts continue to meet at the Church
- NarAnon and NA meet weekly at the church
- GriefShare and DivorceCare meet weekly
- Children gathers in a FB room to for connection & stories
- Weekly Lenten Zoom Bible Study
- Gathered Green Things to share with our congregation and community
- Prepared for Holy Week
- CAM food collections
- Packed Communion Packets
- Volunteers prepared Newsletter for Mailing
- Choir Gatherings
- Youth Prayer Walk
- Cared for Caterpillars for Easter Sunday
- **Women's Bible Study**
- Weekly phone calls and cards
- Cared for others through meals and Prayer Shawls
- Parking Lot Communion with FM Transmitter
- Musical Meditations each Monday in Lent
- Gathered for prayer and scripture reading
- Delivered Green Thing care-packages throughout the community
- Youth gathered at Church for fellowship and devotion
- Provided a meal for the Battered **Women's Shelter**
- Sunday School classes gather in-person & online
- Cared for members with Covid
- Serve as Crisis Assistance Ministry Volunteers
- Engaged in Worship together through various opportunities to connect.

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org ~ churchoffice@myersmemorialumc.com

www.facebook.com/myersmemorial www.YouTube.com/MyersMemorialUMCGastonia

Game Time, April 11, 2p

It's Game Time! Gather in the CFC Parking Lot for an afternoon of fun and games! Park your car and be prepared to play! Tresca and Katrina are most likely already studying up for the trivia portion of this Easter themed Game Time! Play from the comfort of your own vehicle and tune into 88.7FM. Thank you to Melinda Brown and Debbie Brown for sharing their creativity and gathering us together for fellowship!

Children's Sunday School

Our Sunday School Faith Word for April is "Share". Each Sunday we'll be focusing on ways the Bible talks about Sharing and how we can share too!

- April 4 *Resurrection* Matthew 28: 1-10
- April 11 *The Great Commission* Matt. 28: 16-20
- April 18 *Peter and John* Acts 3: 1-10
- April 25 *Believers Share* Acts 4: 32-37

Welcome to the Carolina Food Monger

We are happy to announce we are officially partnered with a brand new local food truck known as Carolina Food Monger owned and operated by Chef Jimmy Smith and Kellie Lewis. We have partnered with them to use our kitchen as a commissary - **meaning they'll** store food and do some prep work in our kitchen. This is a great partnership opportunity! They will have a safe, clean space to operate out of and we will have our kitchen loved while we are not able to use it while providing income to our church through a rental fee. The Trustees and the Health Department have given their blessings on this adventure! You may find Chef Jimmy and the Carolina Food Monger food truck in Belmont most days serving a variety of fresh and delicious foods. Follow them on social media to know their exact whereabouts and daily menu offerings. You must check out the Steak & Bean Quesadillas, Falafel Bowl, Nachos or one of their delicious soups! **Central to the Carolina Food Monger's purpose is to waste no food.** When they do have excess food, the church will assist them in making connections (such as the shelter or areas in our community who identified as food insecure) so the food may be donated and not wasted!

#ourmissionistolove



HERE WE ARE TO WORSHIP

Columbarium Conversation

There is a task force exploring the feasibility and costs associated with creating a Columbarium space at Myers Memorial UMC. *Columbarium*, in early Rome meant, simply, a nesting place for doves. When Christians, relegated to Rome's catacombs, began using cliff-side niches to seal away ashes of the faithful who died, the term "Columbarium" took on its present meaning: sacred compartments for storage of cremated remains. In a return to church tradition, it provides members of the Church and their families the opportunity to choose the shadow of the church, which has been central to their lives, as their final resting place. The site is a place of beauty and dignity where friends and family can visit and meditate at any time. If you would be interested in a Columbarium at Myers Memorial UMC, please reach out to John Fletcher, john@carolinabomanite.com or Louisa Suggs, louisa.suggs@gmail.com.

60+ Fellowship

Our April 60+ gathering will be at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens! Let us gather on Thursday, April 15 at 1 pm to enjoy a beautiful spring day wondering the gardens! We are so excited to gather again in person and reconnect! The Gardens are open again to the public without reservations. If you are not a member, admission is \$12.95 for ages 60+.

Transformation Journey Continues

Thank you to all who participated in the vote to accept the recommendations made by the Transformation Journey process. We are excited to share that those recommendations were approved by 96.3%. We had 81 members participate in the vote and 78 voted in favor and 3 were not in favor. Pastor Sally and some leaders will be meeting with Dr. Nancy Rankin in the weeks ahead to learn more about our next steps. We look forward to all that the Transformation Journey will offer to Myers Memorial. If you have a passion about one or more of the recommendations, please let Pastor Sally know (pastor@myersmemorialumc.com or 704-864-3222). We will need lots of members to be involved to make this successful and fruitful for our church. Again, thank you for your participation and your support!

Youth Ministry

Spring Youth Sunday School **Here's to Sunshine**, Spring and Sunday School! Starting April 18, youth will be meeting in the Gathering Garden from 10a to 10:40a for Sunday School. In the event of inclement weather, we will be in the Youth lounge. Make sure Tresca McSwain has your contact information so you get all the details! thmcswain@gmail.com, 704-477-7447

Sunday Night Youth Group Youth in 6th through 12th grades are invited to gather on Sunday Nights from 5:30p to 6:30p. The easiest way to be reminded about an event and to receive the sign up link, be sure you're on the Remind text list by simply texting @myersy to 81010 to receive weekly information.

- April 4 ~ No Youth this Night. Enjoy Spring Break!
- April 11 ~ More Than Just Another Day We are Resurrection People meaning Easter is more than just one day! Easter was last week, so what do we look forward to now? Join us as we talk about how we continue to celebrate Easter year round. We will have games, fun and a devotion.
- April 18 ~ Bonfire Time! Gather around a warm bonfire at the home of Chris and Bob McCullen for an evening of campfire fellowship. We'll be meeting there from 5:30-7:30p.
- **April 25 ~ It's Time for Spring Sprucing!** Come this night ready to weed, plant, clean, etc. as we do some spring sprucing around the church property.

Upcoming Church Events

- March 28: Palm Sunday; Worship, 9a, Sanctuary, 11a Pumpkin Patch
- March 28: Easter Egg Hunts, 10:15a, Children's Playgrounds
- March 28: Palm Parade & Drum Circle, 10:45a
- March 30: Holy Week Reflection, 6p, Sanctuary
- March 31: Lenten Lunch, 12:30p, Parking Lot
- March 31: Holy Week Reflection, 2p & 4p, Sanctuary
- April 1: Maundy Thursday Service, 6p, Pumpkin Patch
- April 2: Carillon Concert, 12p, Bell Tower
- April 2: Good Friday Tenebrae, 6p, Sanctuary
- April 4: Sunrise Service with Communion, 7a, Pumpkin Patch
- April 4: Easter Sunday Worship, 9a & 11a, Sanctuary
- April 5: Office Closed
- April 11: Game Time, 2p, Parking Lot
- April 15: 60+ Fellowship, 1p, Stowe Garden
- April 18: Youth Sunday School Resumes, 10a, Gathering Garden

ONGOING

Sundays & Wednesdays: Children, Youth, Sunday School Classes & Bible Studies

Tuesdays: Grief Share & Divorce Care

Wednesdays: Morning Bible Study, Lenten Lunch, Choir Ensembles, Youth Small Group

Thursdays: Soul Purpose

Fridays: Morning Prayer

Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

301 S. New Hope Road Gastonia, NC 28054
704-864-3222

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org
ChurchOffice@MyersMemorialUMC.com

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Holy Week at Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

Palm Sunday, March 28	Tuesday, March 30	Wednesday, March 31	Maundy Thursday, April 1	Good Friday, April 2	Easter Sunday, April 4
					
<p>9a Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>10:15a Easter Egg Hunts, Playgrounds</p> <p>10:45a Palm Parade, Parking Lot</p> <p>11a Worship, Pumpkin Patch</p> <p>5:30p Youth EGGstravaganza</p>	<p>6p Holy Week Reflections, Sanctuary</p> <p>7p, Lenten Bible Study, Zoom</p>	<p>12:30p Lenten Lunchtime Service, Parking Lot</p> <p>2p Holy Week Reflections, Sanctuary</p> <p>4p Holy Week Reflections, Sanctuary</p>	<p>6p Maundy Thursday Communion Service, Pumpkin Patch</p>	<p>12p Carillon Concert, Bell Tower</p> <p>6p Good Friday Tenebrae, Sanctuary</p>	<p>7a Sunrise Communion Service, Pumpkin Patch</p> <p>9a Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p>10:30a Butterfly Release, Preschool Playground</p> <p>11a Worship, Sanctuary</p>

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org