

the Messenger

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

THE BIBLE YEAR AT MYERS

It's time to begin the Bible Year! The date has finally arrived! Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2, you are invited on a year long journey through the scriptures. We will begin with Genesis 1 and then journey daily through the Scriptures. Sunday sermons will incorporate a portion of the week's scripture reading, small groups will discuss their thoughts and reflections, while videos and journals will provide a more in-depth study. There are many ways to engage the Scripture texts at a variety of levels.

The Bible Year encourages us to read the Bible *together*, in its *entirety*, to take it *seriously*, without having to take all of it literally as we read it *hopefully* and *regularly*.

The Bible year is built on the premise that there is no better way for you to learn to live your story as God intends it than for you to

find yourself in the Bible's stories. Did you know there are more than six hundred stories in this book? And each one is an invitation for you to learn how to live your own story.

The Bible is central to our faith, drawing us together into a story that connects us to our earliest spiritual ancestors. As people of faith, we become characters in the Bible, walking along side them as they discovered truths about God and the human experience. No other book, from a faith perspective, has that power.

You are encouraged to make a commitment to this year long activity of daily scripture reading, to attend worship regularly and participate in a small group. Small group details can be found inside the newsletter and on the church website MyersMemorialUMC.org/the-bible-year.

THE MISSION OF MMUMC

The Mission of Myers Memorial United Methodist Church is to cultivate a Christ-centered community that welcomes, loves and serves one another and the world.

Upcoming CHURCH EVENTS

Worship on Sundays
9a and 11a

Onsite and Live-streamed via
Facebook, YouTube & Church Website

- Mar 2: The Bible Year Begins
- Mar 2: Ash Wednesday, Service at 6:30p, Sanctuary
- Mar 6: UM Men, 7:45a, offsite
- Mar 6: Communion, 9a & 11a
- Mar 6: Children's Lenten Fair, 10a, CFC
- Mar 6: SNL, 5:30p
- Mar 13: Time Change, *spring forward*
- Mar 13: Deadline to order caterpillars
- Mar 13: Mitey Ladies, 12p
- Mar 17: 60+ Fellowship, 11:30a
- Mar 23: Staff Day Apart
- Mar 26: Created by God, 1-5p

ONGOING

- Sundays: Worship at 9a & 11a, Sunday School Classes, The Bible Year (10a, 5:30p), Bible Studies, Youth & InXbetween, Children's Music & Arts
- Mondays: Boy Scouts, NA, NarAnon, The Bible Year (6p, 8p)
- Tuesdays: Grief Share & Divorce Care; The Bible Year (12:30p), AIAnon, Girl Scouts
- Wednesdays: Morning Bible Study, The Bible Year (10a, 12:15p), Hand Bells & Choir
- Thursdays: The Bible Year (11a, 6:30p)
- Fridays: Morning Prayer

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent, in the Christian Church, is a period of preparation for Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2) and lasts 40 days (not including Sundays). Ash Wednesday includes a service where we mark **our foreheads with the ashes of last year's palm branches**. Lent includes a time of self-examination and reflection as we remember the life of Christ and his death on the cross. Join us this season as we take on the practice of daily scripture reading and begin The Bible Year, counting our blessings with the Lenten Calendar and commit to being a part of Christ-centered community that welcomes, loves and serves one another and the world.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 6:30p, Sanctuary

Palm Sunday, April 10, 9a & 11a, Sanctuary

Guest preacher, Bishop Ken Carter

Maundy Thursday Service, April 14, 6:30p, Sanctuary

Good Friday Tenebrae, April 15, 6:30p

Easter Sunday, April 17, 7a Sunrise Service,

Gathering Garden, 9a and 11a, Sanctuary

EGGS & CANDY & TREATS

We're looking forward to an egg-citing time celebrating the surprises of Easter at the annual Easter egg hunt for children on April 10. We need your help in providing the hundreds of eggs that will be filled with individually wrapped candy or small treats. All donations will be greatly appreciated and can be left in the Narthex or the Church Office area.

SUPPORT GROUPS

GriefShare meets in the Narthex on Tuesdays at 10a.

DivorceCare meets via zoom on Tuesdays at 6:30p.

New sessions of each group will begin on Tuesday, March 1. If you or someone you know would like to know more about these support groups please contact Connie Elzey at 704-864-3222 ext. 105 or dce@myersmemorialumc.com

MARCH MISSION HIGHLIGHT

At the 2022 Leadership Summit, the Witness/Outreach Committee cast a vision to “involve and engage every member of our community and church in the service of the least, the last and the lost”. One of the ways we seek to do this is to educate one another on the mission connections at Myers Memorial UMC. This month, we highlight two ministries connected with our church: **The Sandwich Club and The Loray Girls Home**. You'll be seeing more information about each of these ministries through out March and ways you can engage with these ministries ~ notably the **Lenten Calendar and the Children's Egg Hunt** will benefit these programs. This month, please pray for these ministries and contemplate how you can be connected with them.

The Sandwich Club On the first Monday of each month, a group of dedicated individuals gather in the Myers kitchen to make 150+ sandwiches for the West Gastonia Boys & Girls Club (310 S. Boyd Street). Sandwiches are lovingly prepared and then delivered to The Club along with other side items and drinks. It costs approximately \$200 per month to provide this one meal. The meals provided by volunteers and the Boys & Girls Club is often the only evening food these children receive.

The Loray Girls Home was established in 1986 to serve youth in need of a stable, caring environment, specifically girls ages 12-18 who are in foster care due to neglect, abuse or delinquency. The mission of the **Loray Girls' Home** is *to equip foster care youth with the means of being self-sufficient as they transition through the stages of adolescent and into adulthood, recognizing their unique needs and circumstances while enhancing their strengths and abilities*. Our own Angie Flake serves as the director of the Loray Girls Home and Susan Robinson serves on the board of directors. In December, your generosity provided Christmas gifts as well as assist in the back yard upgrades which will provide the young women with a safe place to relax.

The Bible Year

SMALL GROUPS



Sunday's Groups start meeting March 6

- 10am New Life Class (Wendy Wade, facilitator) In Person, New Life Classroom
- 5:30pm Sunday Night Live (Allison Evanoff, facilitator) In Person, E-104

Monday's Groups start meeting March 7

- 6pm (Tonda Coonce & Susan Robinson, facilitators) In Person, E-104
- 8pm via Zoom (Marty Brown, Thomas & Brinkley Rhodes, facilitators)

Tuesday's Group starts meeting March 8

- 12:30pm via Zoom (Rev. Sarah Davis, facilitator)

Wednesday's Groups start meeting March 2

- 10am Women's Bible Study, (Debbie Brown, facilitator) In Person, Asbury Room
- 12:15pm (Staff facilitators), During Lent Only, In Person, E-104

Thursday's Groups start meeting March 3

- 11am (Ann Peninger & Laurie Knight, facilitators) In Person, E-104
- 6:30pm Soul Purpose (Rev. Everett Stoddard, facilitator) In Person and Zoom, Asbury Room

Daily Readings MARCH 2022

- ⇒ March 2, 2022 Genesis 1:1-3:24
- ⇒ March 3, 2022 Genesis 34:1-5:32
- ⇒ March 4, 2022 Genesis 6:1-9:17
- ⇒ March 5, 2022 Genesis 9:18-11:32
- ⇒ March 6, 2022 Genesis 12:1-14:24
- ⇒ March 7, 2022 Genesis 15:1-17:27
- ⇒ March 8, 2022 Genesis 18:1-20:18
- ⇒ March 9, 2022 Genesis 21:1-23:20
- ⇒ March 10, 2022 Genesis 24:1-25:18
- ⇒ March 11, 2022 Genesis 25:19-28:9
- ⇒ March 12, 2022 Genesis 28:10-30:43
- ⇒ March 13, 2022 Genesis 31:1-36:43
- ⇒ March 14, 2022 Genesis 37:1-41:57
- ⇒ March 15, 2022 Genesis 42:1-45:28
- ⇒ March 16, 2022 Genesis 46:1-50:26
- ⇒ March 17, 2022 Exodus 1:-4:31
- ⇒ March 18, 2022 Exodus 5:1-7:13
- ⇒ March 19, 2022 Exodus 7:14-12:30
- ⇒ March 20, 2022 Exodus 12:31-15:21
- ⇒ March 21, 2022 Exodus 15:22-18:27
- ⇒ March 22, 2022 Exodus 19:1-21:36
- ⇒ March 23, 2022 Exodus 22:1-24:18
- ⇒ March 24, 2022 Exodus 25:1-30:38
- ⇒ March 25, 2022 Exodus 28:1-30:38
- ⇒ March 26, 2022 Exodus 31:1-34:35
- ⇒ March 27, 2022 Exodus 35:1-40:38
- ⇒ March 28, 2022 Leviticus 1:1-4:35
- ⇒ March 29, 2022 Leviticus 5:1-7:38
- ⇒ March 30, 2022 Leviticus 8:1-10:20
- ⇒ March 31, 2022 Leviticus 11:1-14:57

A NOTE OF SAFETY

We are excited to be hosting small groups in various locations throughout our buildings. And with the start of The Bible Year we will add additional small groups in March! The Trustees and Finance Committee Chairpersons, Allen Proctor & Wendy Wade, are asking all small groups meeting at the church refrain from propping open any and all outside doors-even if just a little bit. This will alleviate a variety of issues we have recently encountered such as increased utilities and security concerns. In the interest of hospitality - the small group leader (or a designated person) is encouraged to stand at the door prior to gathering to welcome participants. Small group leaders will have a shareable door key code that will allow access the back door and the CFC portico door while maintaining a secure entryway.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Will meet off site this month! Gather at 7:45a on **March 6th at Gastonia's newest breakfast spot, Eggs Up Grill** (2609 S. New Hope Rd) for a Dutch-treat breakfast and guest speaker Rev. Dwayne Burks. Please let Mike Rhodes know if you are planning to attend so adequate space can be arranged. Mike Rhodes, call/text: 980-329-2484 or email rhodesmike82@gmail.com.

GOING HOME: A JOURNEY WITH RUTH

*Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay,
I will stay. Ruth 1:16b (CEB)*

It's been two years since our last retreat! Join the "Homecoming" at the 2022 Camp Tekoa Church Wide Retreat in Hendersonville, NC, Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1. This is a great time for the entire church to retreat to the beautiful Camp Tekoa! **More details are coming soon but you'll want to contact Connie now to start reserving space** - need a bunk? A whole cabin? Tell Connie today at dce@myersmemorialumc.com or 704-864-3222.

60+ FELLOWSHIP

This monthly fellowship group is open to all who wish to participate and find them in this age range! **If you've ever met the folks that gather** - they're super young at heart! Each month they gather for fellowship at a location around town. This March **you're invited to gather at Eggs Up Grill** (2609 S. New Hope Rd) at 11:30 am on Thursday, March 17. Invite a friend!

PERCOLATE

Are you looking for a place to land on Sundays at 10am? **You're invited to a gathering in Room 105** for conversation and coffee or tea. Not sure what the topic will be but something will be percolating **and we'd love to have you join us!**

COMMUNION ON MARCH 6

The Sacrament of Communion will be offered on March 6 during the 9a and 11a worship services. As you enter the sanctuary, please pick up a small bag of prepared elements. We will partake in the pews during the service. We continue to maintain safe health protocols for partaking in the bread and juice, yet we celebrate having communion together in the Sanctuary. Communion is open to all **persons, regardless of age, for this is the Lord's table, not ours.** If you are unable to participate and would like to receive the consecrated (blessed) elements, please contact the church office and we will make arrangements for you to share in the body of Christ.

TECHNOLOGY HELP

Can you work the remote for your TV? Then you **can do this! Your help is needed in "The Box"** on Sunday mornings. Each worship service requires 3 volunteers to make the service happen! Stop by the box next Sunday and tell them you want to know more - someone will show you around and you can decide where you feel the most comfortable serving.

BUTTERFLIES FOR EASTER

The butterfly is a mesmerizing creation that captures the beauty of God's creative power to transform even the tiniest creatures. You are invited to see for your own eyes this transformative power through purchasing caterpillars and raising them to butterflies for an Easter morning release! Don't worry! It's simple and plenty of instructions will be provided! Deadline to order is Sunday, March 13.



*Starter Bundle: \$14 each
includes 1 Small Cage and 2 Caterpillars
Additional Caterpillars: \$2 each
Additional Small Cage: \$12 each (8" tall,
collapsible for storage and holds up to 4 butterflies*

You may place your order at www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/children or you may send in your order with payment via mail or dropping it by the church by March 13th. Please remember to include a phone or email address where we can contact you when the caterpillars arrive. These are live animals and we cannot guarantee that each one will become a butterfly. It is advised to purchase more than you may need. Caterpillars will arrive to the church around late March. You will be notified when they are ready for pick up and your prompt response to pick up is necessary so that they are in the proper stage for an Easter release (April 17) no matter where you are to celebrate the Risen Savior in 2022. Orders must be received at the church by March 13th.

CHILDREN'S LENTEN FAIR

Children (preschool - 4th grades) are invited to gather in the CFC for a fun exploration of the season of Lent. From pretzels and ashes to palm branches and donkeys, we'll learn how this all helps us understand God's great love for us in Jesus!



CREATED BY GOD

Saturday, March 26, from 1pm to 5 pm

Conversations with children can be difficult at times, especially on the topic of human sexuality. Created by God offers a healthy Biblical and Christian perspective on human sexuality, values and relationships. This event is open to all 4th, 5th & 6th graders and parents. This event is not exclusive to Myers members, invite others to join in the conversation. Please visit myersmemorialumc.org/youth for more details or contact Tresca McSwain or Connie Elzey.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS

*Tony Sane, Director of Music,
tony@myersmemorialumc.com*

Preschool through 4th graders are invited for an hour of music, crafts and other fun worship arts activities each Sunday evening. We'll move, make music and praise God with our whole selves! We will meet 5:30-6:30p on the 3rd floor of the education building each Sunday in March. The children will participate in the 9a worship service on Sunday, March 13.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

We're digging into the Bible in One Year too! We're on a whirlwind journey from Genesis to Revelation beginning March 13th! Children will discover that they're a lot like people God has always loved and worked through while building a relationship with God and friends.

Children (preschool to 4th grades) gather each Sunday in the CFC at 10 for a brief time of music and movement before heading to their age level classes with some of the most amazing teachers! Children return to the CFC for pick up at 10:40a.

Church Office Hours
Mondays - Thursdays 8:30a to 4p
Closed on Fridays,

MYERS YOUTH & INXBETWEEN SUNDAY MORNINGS

Meet Downstairs each Sunday morning at 10am for Sunday School! InXbetweens (5th & 6th graders) meet in the classroom while the Youth (7th-12th graders, meet in the Lounge. If you have questions about any of the ministries with the 5th-12th graders at Myers Memorial UMC, please contact Tresca McSwain, director of Youth & Young Adults (thmcswain@gmail.com, 704-477-7447)

TEKOA TAKES OVER

We're trying this again! Tekoa Foothills will be here to take over the InXbetween meeting on March 6 from 5:30p to 6:30p. Gather in the Youth Lounge then enjoy leadership from Tekoa Foothills as we explore what it means to serve God at Camp! IXB parents are invited to come back at the end of the meeting to ask any questions about the Summer Mission Adventure.

MYERS YOUTH & INXBETWEEN MIND MATTERS & ME

How can we recognize when life gets too much? Where can we go when we need to talk? What do you do if a friend needs to listen? Youth & InXbetweens are invited to gather on Sunday evenings from 5:30p to 6:30p with experts in the field as well as your friends and church family to explore this wonderful mind of yours! There will be separate programming for the Youth and InXbetweens.

SUMMER ADVENTURES IN MISSION

Check out www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth, for all the details related to this summer's mission adventures for some of the younger servants at Myers, including the opportunities for adults to attend as chaperones (and doing all the fun stuff too) or to sponsor a youth on one of these formative adventures!

CHANGE THE WORLD

Are you ready to change the world? What difference can a few coins make? A world of difference when we put our coins together. This lent, you are invited to make a sacrificial gift motivated by the Lenten calendar (on the next page). You are encouraged to spend six days of the week counting your blessings then counting your coins, adding them together for a Palm Sunday special collection. On Sundays, you're to offer your prayers for others who may not share in the same blessings. On Palm Sunday, April 10, stop by the children's Egg Hunt around 10am to add your coins to theirs. The Outreach/Witness committee will be hiding Myers Mission Money in the eggs too! When the money is found, the children will then 'spend' it in the basket of their choice - in essence telling the committee how to spend money in our community! The collections will support the **Loray Girls Home, Myers' Sandwich Brigade** (Myers Members who prepare a monthly sandwich meal for children at the West Gastonia Boys & Girls Club) and the **Children's Choice: Holy Angels**. Count your blessings and let's change the world together!

Myers by the Numbers

WWW.MYERSMEMORIALUMC.ORG/GIVE

as of 2/22/22	Jan. 23		Feb. 6		Feb. 13		Feb. 20	
Offering	\$9,496		\$11,472		\$6,892		\$7,865	
In-Person Attendance	9am 26	11am 78	9am 45	11am 90	9am 43	11am 95	9am 25	11am 110
Facebook Engagements (comments, likes, shares)	88	130	83	116	96	130	102	109
Estimated People Reached via Facebook	507	393	412	559	770	372	409	371
YouTube Views	29	37	12	38	19	33	17	31

2022 LENTEN CALENDAR

a challenge to change the world one coin at a time

<p>6 Pray today, thanking God for the gift of light. Pray for those who live in darkness.</p>	<p>7 A coin for every box of band aids.</p>	<p>8 A coin for every bottle of vitamins.</p>	<p>9 A coin for every box of tissues.</p>	<p>10 A coin for every bottle of hand sanitizer.</p>	<p>11 A coin for every toothbrush and tube of toothpaste.</p>	<p>12 A coin for every covid-19 mask in your house.</p>
<p>13 Pray today, thanking God for your health. Pray for those who are sick.</p>	<p>14 A coin for every ball cap or hat.</p>	<p>15 A coin for day you have read the Bible Year Scriptures.</p>	<p>16 A coin for every pair of jeans or pants.</p>	<p>17 A coin for every coat.</p>	<p>18 A coin for every t-shirt.</p>	<p>19 A coin for every sweatshirt.</p>
<p>20 Pray today, thanking God for clothing that protects you from the elements. Pray for those who lack clothing to keep them warm and dry.</p>	<p>21 A coin for every piece of athletic, dance, or exercise equipment.</p>	<p>22 A coin for every electronic video game.</p>	<p>23 A coin for every smart device (phone, tablet, watch, etc.)</p>	<p>24 A coin for every television.</p>	<p>25 A coin for every doll, stuffed animal, figurine, or trinket.</p>	<p>26 A coin for every board or card game.</p>
<p>27 Pray today, thanking God for how you can enjoy entertainment. Pray for those who would be grateful for just one of these.</p>	<p>28 A coin for every box of cereal.</p>	<p>29 A coin for every can of soup.</p>	<p>30 A coin for every type of bread.</p>	<p>31 A coin for every day you have not read the Scriptures for the Bible Year.</p>	<p>April 1 A coin for every bag of chips or box of snack food.</p>	<p>2 A coin for every jar of peanut butter.</p>
<p>3 Pray today, thanking God for the food you enjoy. Pray for those who have no food this day.</p>	<p>4 A coin for every room in your home.</p>	<p>5 A coin for every electrical outlet in your home.</p>	<p>6 A coin for every chair in your home.</p>	<p>7 A coin for every desk/workspace in your home.</p>	<p>8 A coin for every chair.</p>	<p>9 A coin for every bed.</p>

Myers Memorial

United Methodist Church

10 Palm Sunday

Time to spend your coins to change the world! Stop by the Egg Hunt Table between services to 'spend' your coins! Select a jar to add your coins and let them multiply to change the world!

This Lent you are challenged to change the world with your coins. At the Easter Egg Hunt (April 10), the children will find Myers Mission Money hidden in their eggs to spend on three different helping agencies. You are invited to add your coins to the baskets and together, we can change the world for others.

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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THE BIBLE YEAR

A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/the-bible-year

Sundays at 9a and 11a

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org

On-Site and On-Line

301 S. New Hope Rd, Gastonia, NC

The Story Begins

Lent 2022 : Myers Memorial UMC
A Journey through the Bible

WWW.MYERSMEMORIALUMC.ORG