

the Messenger

Quarterly Newsletter of Myers Memorial United Methodist Church in Gastonia NC

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TOGETHER IN 2023

Every year, Myers Memorial UMC has a ministry theme word that helps to guide us throughout the calendar year. **The 2023 word is "Together" and comes from Acts 3:43-47 (The Message).** In short form, *they committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.* In 2023 there will be lots of opportunities to come together to live out the mission and vision of Myers Memorial United Methodist Church.

One of the first ways we did this was at the Servant Leadership Summit on January 29. Those who were able and willing to be of service to Christ and Myers Memorial UMC came together for a time of learning and action. First, Pastor Sally gave a follow up to the Fall Vision Visits and highlighted common topics that arose from the total group. The group then divided among 4 areas of focus: community, hospitality, ministry with young adults, and ministry with families with young children. The teams identified actions that can be taken and there are amazing opportunities coming our way! Be ready to support and share!

Soon we will celebrate the completion of a year long reading the Bible together! We celebrate the many ways our congregation has delved into the Word of God in new and exciting ways! In late February a group of nearly 40 members and friends of Myers will be taking a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to walk where Jesus walked. We look forward to at time later this Spring where pilgrims on this journey can share with others. *continued on pg. 3*

OUR MISSION

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

Cultivating

A CHRIST CENTERED
COMMUNITY

Worship on Sundays
9a and 11a

On-site and Live-streamed via
Facebook, YouTube & Church Website

Feb. 5: Backpack Lunch, CFC
Feb. 5: Columbarium Info Meeting, CFC, 2p
Feb. 8: Trinity Memories Café, 11a-1p, CFC
Feb. 12: Scout Sunday
Feb. 15: Youth to Dinner, Sake, 6p
Feb. 19: Church Council, 6:30p, CFC
Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday Service, 6p, Sanctuary
Feb 26: First Sunday in Lent
Feb. 26: United Women in Faith Potluck, 12p,
Feb. 26: Children's Lenten Fair, 5:30p
Feb. 27-Mar. 9: Holy Land Pilgrimage
Mar. 1: Youth to Dinner, Chick-fil-a, 6p
Mar. 5: Communion Sunday
Mar. 8: Trinity Memories Café, 11a-1p, CFC
Mar. 12: Time Change ~ Spring Forward
Mar. 15: Youth to Dinner, Sake, 6p
Mar. 19: Baby McGhee Shower, Parlor, 2p
Mar. 25: Rise Against Hunger, Warlick, 9:30a
April 2: Palm Sunday, Communion Sunday
April 5: Youth to Dinner, Chick-fil-a, 6p
April 6: Maundy Thursday Service, Sanct., 6p
April 7: Good Friday Service, Sanctuary, 6p
April 9: Easter Sunday, 7a, 9a, 11a
April 10: Church Office Closed
April 12: Trinity Memories Café, 11a-1p, CFC
April 19: Youth to Dinner, Sake, 6p
April 30: Myers Day Together, Rankin Lake

OUR VISION

Together God's life grows in us, so that we can share that life with others.



SUNDAY WORSHIP & SPECIAL SERVICES

We worship Sundays we worship at 9a and 11a in the Sanctuary and via livestream on Facebook, YouTube and our Church Website. Please make note of the special services as we journey through the Lenten season and into an Easter celebration!

- Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday Service, 6p, Sanctuary. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. During the service we will be marked with the sign of the cross on our foreheads as a sign of mortality and repentance. The ashes come from the **previous year's Palm Sunday celebration.**
- Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday, 9a & 11a, Sanctuary. Palm Sunday is a day to highlight **Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna!" and points us towards the days to come as we move through Holy Week, Jesus' last days, his execution, his burial and as we await the resurrection.**
- Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday Service, Communion and Foot/Handwashing, 6p, Sanctuary. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." During the service we will **remember Jesus' commandment to love God and love one another through the acts of communion and hand/foot washing.**
- Friday, April 7: Good Friday Service of Darkness, 6p, Sanctuary. On Good Friday we **proclaim God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world even in the face of human rejection and cruelty through death on the cross.** Join us as our music ministry leads us in worship.
- Sunday, April 9: Easter Sunday, 7a Sunrise Service in the Gathering Garden, 9a and 11a in the Sanctuary. You are invited to bring cut flowers to decorate the cross outside the Sanctuary.

FINAL WORDS | LENT 2023

Now that we have read the entire book of the Bible, **we're going to take time to look closer at the final words of Jesus spoke as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. This Lent, we'll encounter first-person stories as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross. We'll also explore the meaning Jesus' dying words have for us today before recounting the words Jesus' spoke following his resurrection.** We hope you will make time for worship each Sunday this Lenten season and/or select one of the **small groups using Adam Hamilton's book *Final Words from the Cross*.**

BIBLE STUDY SMALL GROUP UPDATES

As our Bible Year small groups come to an end, we applaud those of you that were committed to this study and reading the Bible during the past year! We applaud our small group leaders that were dedicated to facilitating and preparing for these weekly small groups! Thank you for helping to cultivate a Christ-centered community at Myers Memorial UMC! **But that's not all! Small groups continue to meet and you're encouraged to jump in this Lenten season!** Most Bible Year Small Groups will conclude around the end of February and begin their next study in March!

- Sundays, 5:30-6:30p, study material to be determined
- Wednesdays, 9:30a, *Give Up Something Bad for Lent* by James Moore
- Thursdays, 11a-12p, *Final Words from the Cross* by Adam Hamilton
- Thursdays, 6:30p, a deeper look into the book of Romans.

Contact Connie Elzey, Director of Christian Education, if you have questions, need help finding the right group for you or if you would like to lead a small group study this year! 704-864-3222, dce@myersmemorialumc.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Myers Memorial UMC is home to a number of support groups. If you or if you know of someone that could benefit from these support group, please reach out to the church office (704-864-3222) and we will ensure you are connected with the leadership of the group.

- *Naranon*, Mondays, 6:30, Asbury/Zoom
- *Grief Share*, Tuesdays, 10a, Parlor
- *DivorceCare*, Tuesdays, 6:30p, Zoom
- *Alanon*, Tuesdays, 11a, Asbury Class
- *NA*, Thursdays, 7p, Youth Lounge
- *Mitey Companions*, 2nd Sundays, 12p, Jackson's
- *Alzheimer's Caregiver Support*, 2nd Tuesdays, 4p, Asbury Class

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The Women of our church and community are invited to a potluck lunch on Sunday, February 26th at 12p in the CFC to learn more about United Women in Faith (previously United Methodist Women). **Whether you've been a life long UMW member or you're new to our church**, all women are invited to hear dynamic speakers from our conference share the latest news and encourage us for future mission and ministry as a group of women seeking to cultivate a Christ-centered community! Questions? Contact Tanya Lunsford at 704-678-7122.

EASTER LILIES

You are invited to decorate the sanctuary with beautiful lilies on Easter Sunday. The cost is \$15 per lily. The flower pot base will be wrapped, including a bow, and delivered to the church. Lilies can be given in honor or in memory of a loved one and acknowledgements will be printed as well as shared on the sanctuary screens. Online orders and payments are accepted, checks may be written to Myers. The online order form can be found at www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/worship or you may call the church office, 704-864-3222

TOGETHER IN 2023 *continued from pg. 1*

Another opportunity of togetherness will take place on Sunday, April 30 beginning at 1p for the 2023 Church Family Day Together at **Rankin Lake Park**. **We've rented both lakeside shelters for the day** and there will be opportunities for fishing, boating, games for all ages, and of course, fellowship and food! Be sure to be there at 5p for a potluck picnic! Myers will be providing the chicken and you are invited to bring your favorite picnic sides! We hope this convenient and accessible location will make it possible for everyone to come together as the Myers Church Family!

But wasn't that Camp Tekoa weekend? Yes, and we're going back to Tekoa May 3-5, 2024! This year, instead of using all our resources for one event, we will use them for multiple opportunities to be together in 2023!

There are lots of ways to come together at Myers Memorial UMC this year and we pray that you will take the opportunity to live out our mission statement together as we seek to cultivate a Christ-centered community that welcomes, loves, and serves one another and the world! And be sure to invite a friend or two!

UNDIE SUNDAY!

Not to pry, but what's something you never leave home without? There are many in our community who lack some of the basic undergarments we **often find to be every day necessities**. So we're hosting an Undie Sunday on February 26th. We are collecting NEW, still-in-the-package underwear, socks, undershirts and bras for men, women, and children of all sizes. We will continue to accept these necessities but encourage everyone to bring some undies on Sunday, February 26th. You may also shop online via our Amazon wish list found at www.myersmemorialumc.org/serve.

ONGOING WAYS TO SERVE

First Sundays for CAM The New Life Sunday School class invites you to participate in a collection for Crisis Assistance Ministry. Simply leave your donations at the rear of your vehicle on the first Sunday of each month and a member of the New Life Sunday School class will stop by to pick up your donations.

Thirsty Third Sundays The Choir is spearheading a collection on the Third Sunday of each month for Cancer Services of Gaston County. You are invited to bring donations of **Gatorade and Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soups** Please leave your donations in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary nearest the choir loft.

Weekend Backpack Food Program will be packing backpacks on February 21, March 21, and April 18 at 2:30p in the CFC.

Sandwich Brigade will be making sandwiches for the West Gastonia Boys & Girls Club on First Mondays: February 6, March 6, April 3 in the Church Kitchen at 2p.

Mission Possible meets as needed to construct and assemble ramps at homes in the community. No construction skills necessary!

Want to serve? Call the church office and we'll get you connected! 704-864-3222

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

As our children continue their journey through the Bible, parents & grandparents, please help our children get to Sunday School each week! We have outstanding teachers that are so dedicated to Christian education as they prepare, care for and are committed to your children. Extra thanks to *Annie Oliver, Kathleen Sharp, Judy Seay, Judy Thiele, Jaclyn Tant, Justine Snyder and Gary & Jerri Lynn Boggess!* All children gather in Room 103 at 10a before heading off to their classrooms with their teachers. Children will return to this room by 10:40a for pick up by a parent/grownup.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

A simple invitation last summer to follow Jesus' footsteps has grown into a group of thirty-seven pilgrims heading to the Holy Land. The group will depart Charlotte on the evening of February 27 and return on March 9.

While the itinerary is subject to change, the group will fly from Charlotte to Tel Aviv through Munich and then travel for a five night stay in the Galilee area complete with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee! Then on to Jerusalem for a four night stay visiting the Old City with the Western Wall, Upper Room, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, then the Dead Sea/Masada area where some may float in the Dead Sea while others collect salt as souvenirs! Pilgrims will also journey through newer parts of Jerusalem and conclude with a tour of Bethlehem.

You are invited to check out the board outside Pastor **Sally's office during the trip to see more details and a map of where the group will be!** The group will share updates via social media and weekly eNews as internet allows.

Please be in constant prayer for these pilgrims as this is not just a trip, but a first hand look at where our Lord once lived and where the Bible becomes real in the midst of the modern day realities and turmoils.

Pilgrims Include: *Hope Brown, Tamara Keplinger, Michael Grose, Andrew Ingram, Chris & Bob McCullen, Allison Evanoff, Kelly Zukaitis, Judy Seay, Alice Sweazy, Dan & Louisa Suggs, Angie & Buddy Flake, Steve & Karen Carrick, Renee Justice, Judy Thiele, Christian & Cynthia Grimm, Lynda Sides, David & Connie Elzey, Jerrianne & Ed Pyles, Sarah Davis, Sally Queen, Beverly Hill, Bill Miller, Everett Stoddard, Jerry Williams, Ann Short, Bill Spurrier, Bonnie & John Rudisill, Robert & Sylvia Chilton.*



Facebook.com/myersmemorial
YouTube.com/c/MyersMemorialUMCGastonia
Instagram.com/myersmemorialumc

EASTER PEOPLE RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Thinking about joining the choir but not sure if you can commit every week? Join the Easter choir! If you would like to join the chancel choir in singing for Easter Sunday (April 9), rehearsals are Wednesday, March 29 and April 5 at 7p in the Choir Room (located behind the front of the Sanctuary). **There's room for you in the choir loft!** This is a chance to use your gift of singing with all who worship without a major time commitment. Who knows, you might want to stick around for every week! Contact Laura Beatty, Director of Music, Music@MyersMemorialUMC.com or see her after worship for more information.

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, April 2nd from 5:30p to 6:30p. If you would like to contribute candy and non candy treats for the children, please drop these by the church office or in the Narthex by March 19th.

CHILDREN'S LENTEN FAIR

Lent is not the stuff in your belly button! Come to Wonder on Sunday, February 26 from 5:30-6:30p for a hands on exploration of what Lent is and why we do what we do at church in this season. **What's the deal with Ashes? What was so good about that Good Friday?** There were no eggs at the tomb? Yes, children ask the best questions! So let them wonder and learn about the greatest gift of Jesus in a way that meets their learning!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY NIGHT WONDER

On Sunday nights from 5:30p to 6:30p on the 3rd floor, our children 'wonder' through the Bible through music, crafts and story time! We give thanks to our own super heroes, *Logan McGuire, Melinda Brown, Louisa Suggs, Justine Snyder and Chris McCullen* for making the Bible come to life for our children!

CHILDREN SINGING IN WORSHIP

On Sunday, April 2, (Palm Sunday) the children will be singing in worship. All children are **welcome to join in the singing but if you'd like to learn the songs in advance, come to *Wonder* on Sunday nights!**

MYERS MEMORIAL UMC 60+

This group is designed for all those 60 years and older to meet for fellowship, sometimes food and always an adventure on the third Thursday of each month. Mark your calendars and invite a friend!

- Thursday, February 16, 12:30p Meet & Eat at Don Pedro Mexican Restaurant (3722 Union Rd)
- Thursday, March 16, 1p, Meet at the Church and carpool to the Gaston County History Museum to explore the art and history of Gaston County. Admission is free.
- Thursday, April 20 **We're headed to Waxhaw, NC** where 600 people work to distribute the bible around the world! JAARS is a museum and world-wide non-profit that primarily focuses on Bible translation and global distributions with the support of trainers, pilots, software developers, managers, boat captains and more that serve around the globe working daily to support Bible translation teams. Admission is free and details will be available closer to the date.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

SUNDAY MORNING SUNDAY SCHOOL

Meet Downstairs each Sunday morning at 10am for Sunday School! Middle School Sunday School meets in the Youth Classroom with rotating teachers *Mandi & Mark Kline* and *Kelly & Rusty Melton*. High School Sunday School meets in the Youth Lounge with rotating teachers: *David Elzey* and *Lois Carnes*.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JULY 16-18

Calling all heroes to the Hero Hotline Headquarters where everyone's gifts are valued and every hero has a role to play! Each day at our 2023 VBS, superheroes of all ages and abilities will spring into action and explore the ultimate Hero Handbook, The Bible! Then they'll follow examples set by a cast of supporting Bible Heroes in stories from the Old & New Testaments, who work together to bring peace and build each other up! It's going to take a lot of modern day heroes to make VBS a wonderful place for all



God's Children! Begin praying about how you can use your gifts and mark your calendar for July 16-18 from 6:30p to 8p! Contact Connie Elzey or Andrew Ingram for more information on how you can be a hero this summer!

WE'RE BUSY AROUND HERE!

Myers Memorial UMC is a busy bustling place! We celebrate the blessing of this building and the many ministries that utilize our space. However, with busy-ness comes the need for coordinating calendars! Since we enter into this new calendar year, and we share a feeling of normalcy post covid shut-down, please be **mindful in your group's planning!** The church calendar is available on the church website (/calendar) to aid in your planning but please be sure to check with Pastor Sarah Davis about what else may be going on in the life of Myers before confirming your date/space. Pastor Sarah is available to help you with your ministry needs (churchoffice@myersmemorialumc.com, 704-864-3222, ext. 111) such as adequate and accessible space, access to the building, AV assistance and more! Groups using the CFC are being asked to be mindful of any set up needs and work with your group to gather volunteers for set up and take down. When you communicate with Sarah about your calendar date, she'll be able to assist you in knowing what set up/take down will be necessary based on other usage.

The Bible Year Daily Scripture Readings

DAY	DATE	SCRIPTURE
337	Feb. 1	1 Timothy 4:1-6:21
338	Feb. 2	2 Timothy 1:1-2:26
339	Feb. 3	2 Timothy 3:1-4:22
340	Feb. 4	Titus 1:1-3:15
341	Feb. 5	Philemon 1-25
342	Feb. 6	Hebrews 1:1-3:19
343	Feb. 7	Hebrews 4:1-6:20
344	Feb. 8	Hebrews 7:1-9:28
345	Feb. 9	Hebrews 10:1-11:40
346	Feb. 10	Hebrews 12:1-13:25
347	Feb. 11	James 1:1-2:26
348	Feb. 12	James 3:1-5:20
349	Feb. 13	1 Peter 1:1-2:25
350	Feb. 14	1 Peter 3:1-5:14
351	Feb. 15	2 Peter 1:1-2:22
352	Feb. 16	2 Peter 3:1-18
353	Feb. 17	1 John 1:1-3:24
354	Feb. 18	1 John 4:1-5:21
355	Feb. 19	2 John 1-12
356	Feb. 20	3 John 1-15
357	Feb. 21	Jude 1-25
358	Feb. 22	Revelation 1:1-2:29
359	Feb. 23	Revelation 3:1-5:14
360	Feb. 24	Revelation 6:1-8:5
361	Feb. 25	Revelation 8:6-11:19
362	Feb. 26	Revelation 12:1-14:20
363	Feb. 27	Revelation 15:1-17:18
364	Feb. 28	Revelation 18:1-20:15
365	March 1	Revelation 21:1-22:21

We've reached the end of our Bible Year reading! While our sermon series and small groups will change focus, you are encouraged to stay rooted in The Word each and every day! Our daily scripture texts will continue, simply text @mmdaily to 81010 to receive a scripture focus for your day.

*Myers Memorial
United Methodist Church*

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704-864-3222

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org
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A Lenten Journey Exploring Jesus' Final Words From The Cross

FINAL Words

Sundays in Lent | February 26 ~ April 2 | 9a & 10a

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301 S. New Hope Rd. Gastonia, NC | www.MyersMemorialUMC.org