



The Circuit Rider



March 2023



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I thought, as Lent approached, I was ready for it. Did I ever get fooled, but then, every year is different.

I knew very little about Lent other than one of my classmates, Jay, arrived at school every year with a charcoal smudge on his face.

When I became a United Methodist and started to learn more about seasonal worship and lectionary calendars, I started to get the idea that Lent was for giving up things we loved, like chocolate or a favorite TV show. We would hear friends or family members discussing the things they had “given up”
(Today you can read it on Facebook.)

In theory, confessing to others the things we’d given up kept us accountable, but in reality, we would sometimes use the knowledge of another’s fast to torment them, like when I would open a Pepsi in front of someone that was sacrificing sodas. Looking back, I suppose that wasn’t very Christian of me, even as I was holding to my own fast of not swearing or refraining from golf for 40 days.

In recent years I’ve been more inclined to take something on opposed to giving something up. For example, being kind or patient with people who might drive me crazy. *(If I happen to change my behavior around Hart Merriman or Shay Godwin in these 40 days, you’ll know why.)* My cousin said she was giving up social media; I know my cousin. Isn’t no way she makes 40 days. A fast from watching Duke basketball? Nope. I wouldn’t make that.

So, what’s the point?

If we hope to engage this holy time as an opportunity to reflect, renew, and recommit to our faith, our fast should have some sort of spiritual connection surrounding it. Even what may seem to be the most trivial intentionality, like not eating a banana before bedtime, can have far reaching consequences, such as more time spent in prayer, more time spent with a family member, visiting someone in assisted living, or calling different people over a forty-day time that’s been an influence in your life as a Christian.

This is all a lengthy way of saying, Lent began this year without my having made my Lenten intention. As I mentioned, I thought I was all ready for Lent, but I got fooled.

Camp United Methodist Church

4807 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28459
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Sunday Services

8:30 AM Praise & Worship
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

Irish Blessing.....2	Youth.....6
Finance/Thank You....3	This & That.....7
Study Classes.....4	SALT/Anniv.....8
Children.....5	Milestones.....9
Calendar.....10	

SO, here I am, typing away, wondering what should I do, what sacrifice should I make as to my Lenten practice?

Starbucks? Too easy. Chocolate? Nope, not much of a sweet eater. Poker? Haven't played in years? Oh, the agony...still, one word keeps ringing in my ears.

Grace. God's amazing grace. But, not as a practice to give it up, but to have grace become more instinctive in the everyday.

Life is so full of decay. I turn on the TV and I'm witness to violence and anger. I read social media, and people are filled with negativity. Glance at the newspaper, and it's loaded with stories about cruelty and sadness.

And so, grace it is! I'll try and be positive when I interact with others, even those that are making an attempt to derail the good things that are happening. I'll use my butter knife voice, when I'd prefer to use my steak knife one. I'll focus on grace in my ministry, in loving my family, in moving about the community, and in facing the challenges that present themselves to me.

I believe in the power of redemption, in the awesome continuing work of our Creator God, in and through us, and yes, even in the messiness, when grace is harder to find.

My Lenten intention, given to me as I write this column, is grace. Not the grace (or lack of) I receive, but to trust that I can hold to my fast of offering grace to each person I see. Where will this Lenten journey lead me? I have no idea, but I am excited to find out.

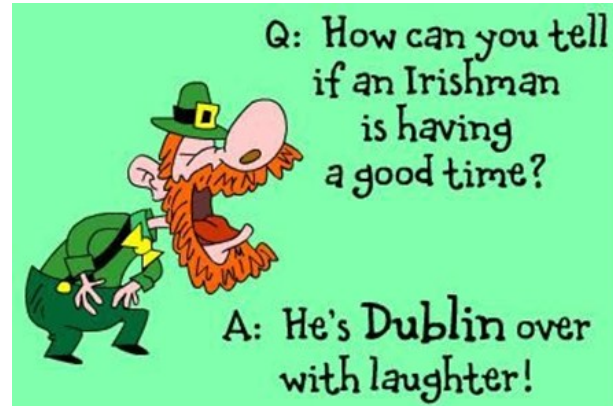
In HIS grace,

Pastor Terry



May there always be work
for your hands to do.
May your purse always hold
a coin or two.
May the sun always shine
on your windowpane.
May a rainbow be certain
to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend
always be near you.
May God fill your heart with
gladness to cheer you.

- An Irish Blessing



GRIN & GROAN IRISH JOKES

Q. What do you call a fake Irish stone?

A. A shamrock.

Q. Why shouldn't you iron a four-
leaf clover?

A. You don't want to press your luck.

Summary of Financial Results

Year to Date – through JANUARY 2023

Revenue & Expenses (1 month)

Offerings =	\$ 39,705
+ Other Revenue* =	\$ 45
- Expenses =	(\$ 35,715)
= Net =	\$ 4,035

*Includes sale of property, interest, capital credits, other miscellaneous revenue

Thank you for commitment and faithfulness to CAMP church.



Camp's treasurer, Theresa Tese, has resigned, effective on March 12, 2023. Please reach out to Theresa and thank her for her ten years of service to Camp UMC.

Beth Hunter has graciously accepted the role of Camp treasurer for the next few months while we find a permanent replacement for Theresa. Please welcome Beth when you see her.

Hart Merriam, Chair
SPPR



EMERGENCY FUND NEWS

We now have 4 Angels to "vet" people requesting assistance. If you are interested in becoming an angel or would like more information about this ministry, please contact the church office.



Thank you, Camp Family, for the incredibly generous "love offering". I will be forever grateful.

At the time when my own light was greatly dimmed, you gave me the spark to keep going forward.

Thank you so much for your prayers, love, kindness, compassion, cards, well wishes and hugs during these past months.

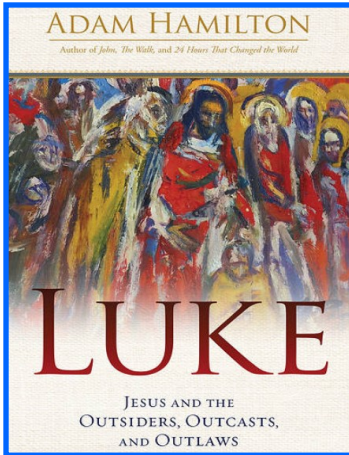
Again, I say thank you! God Bless you!!

Marlene Hall

The Lord your God wins victory after victory and is always with you. He celebrates and sings because of you, and He will refresh your life with His Love. Zephaniah 3:17

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

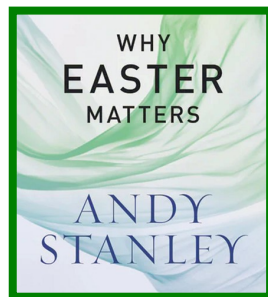


Join a small group for 6 weeks in Lent to study Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws. There will be two group meetings available - one on Mondays @ 10:00AM (Feb. 27th-April 3rd) and one on Tuesdays @ 6:30PM (Feb, 28th-April 4th).

In his book, Adam Hamilton explores the life of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study, we will see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant and, we will hopeful and inspiring words for our lives today.

Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex. The hardback book is \$13.00)

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS LENTEN STUDY



The Seekers Class will begin a 4-week Lenten study on March 12th. The book for the class will be Andy Stanley's "Why Easter Matters". You may buy-chase the book or wait for handouts class. For more information, contact Hart Merriman @ (540) 797-4388 or chartmerriam@gmail.com

Lent is an opportune time to reflect on what it means to be a follower of Christ. It's an opportunity to repent for our misdeeds and misgivings and to increase the intensity of our prayer, fasting, almsgiving, practice of our faith and welcoming others as our brothers and sisters in our faith community.

www.suffolknewsherald.com



LAY SERVANT MINISTRY COURSE

This basic lay servant Zoom class offered by the Heritage District is now open for registration

The class will be on April 22nd from 9:00AM-5:00PM

It is essential that the provided material be read prior to receiving certification

The registration fee is \$15 per person



Wow! It's hard to believe that it is already March! Time is flying by and before we know it the children will be out for summer! Our children continue to gather each **Wednesday night** from 5:30-7 pm for a time of food, fellowship, and devotion. Any child from the ages of 6 months-5th grade is welcome to participate!



The children loved staying overnight at the church, so we have decided to do it again! We will host a **church lock in** for our 2nd-5th graders on March 3rd beginning at 6:00PM. The theme is "glowing for God" so wear your best glow gear.

We will host a **Parents Night Out** on March 18th from 4:00-8:00PM in the Nursery/ Toddler Wing. This is open to the community for anyone who is birth- 12 years old. The cost is \$20 per child and serves as an ongoing fundraiser for the children's ministry.

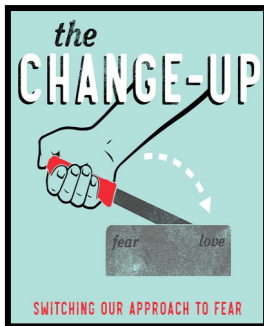
Our Community **Easter Bash** is set for **April 2nd from 3:30-5:00PM** in the grassy knoll! We are seeking candy and large egg donations! There will be a bin set up in the Narthex for all donations! Thommi Hendricks has graciously offered to stuff eggs as we receive materials, so it is not too soon to bring in your candy or eggs! We are also in need of volunteers to work a station on April 2nd. Reach out to Allison for more information.

I am thankful to serve alongside all of you in raising disciples of Christ. Let us continue to remember to love as God loves us!

Allison Hunter,
Director of Children's Ministry



The youth have barely skipped a beat since returning from our Winter Retreat. We just wrapped up a 4-week series called “Difference Makers” where we looked at the examples of David, Moses, Jesus, and Timothy. We all learned that we are called to lead others to Christ and our mission field is wherever we are! The last night our game was Simon Says as you can see in the picture, reminding the youth you have to follow God’s leading and instruction (or in this case follow instructions to win! Congratulations to Lexi Anderson and Margie Steve our big winners!)



Our next 4-Week Series is titled “Change Up”. We all can feel afraid of failure or rejection, or not fitting in, or feeling unlovable or unworthy. But God’s love drives out fear and His love is powerful.

Our youth group continues to grow as members invite their friends to be a part of our Sunday Night Meetings. It is wonderful to be a part of a such a fun and loving “family”!

Kelly Littlejohn,
Youth Director

Susanna Wesley Circle

The Susanna Wesley Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 14, at 10:00AM in the Fellowship Hall.

We invite all women who may be interested in a morning circle to join us. At this meeting we will prepare cards to take to Coastal Pointe. Each attendee is asked to bring easy-to-open food items for the Children's Easter Vacation Backpacks.

We were happy to welcome three new members at our last meeting. Please call Lynda Eagle at 910-620-4589 if you have any questions.



Many thanks to all who participated in the Valentine's Day Flower Sale. It was a huge success and we hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful flowers!

At this point, we are going to cancel the 4/29 Yard Sale. We would ask that you consider donating any of your saved items to the Hope Chest thrift stores that serve Hope Harbor or to the charity of your choice.

Stay tuned for our annual Mother's Day Flower Sale in May.

If you have any questions, contact Laura Beaty (Laurazbeaty@gmail.com).



The Lord's Food Pantry is having an open house on February 26th from 2:00-4:00PM. The address is 3610 Express Dr. in Shallotte.

You will be able to tour the new facilities and enjoy refreshments.

Local artists and authors will be on hand as well as special guests.

Come see how we are feeding our brothers and sisters in Brunswick County.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, March 26, 2023
10:00AM



Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton, newly appointed Episcopal leader for the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, will share highlights of her life and how she discerned her call to ministry.

At this time, Bishop Shelton will outline the building blocks that she believes will empower Camp UMC in our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

PLEASE NOTE

There will be one service only on this Sunday.

AGAPE GROUP

The Agape Group will meet on March 19th at noon in the Salmon room for our monthly meeting.



The SALT ministry had its monthly meeting on Monday February 20th. We had white bean chili and regular chili along with a variety of delicious desserts including were red velvet cake, pecan bars and oatmeal cake , brownies and pineapple upside down cake. Our program was provided by Cheryl and centered around romance and trivia.



The SALT ministry had there monthly meeting on Monday February 20th. We had white bean chili and regular chili along with a variety of delicious desserts. Among the desserts were red velvet cake , pecan bars, oatmeal cake , brownies and pineapple upside down cake. Our program was provided by Cheryl and centered around romance and trivia.

Delicious desserts.



Pastor Terry and Jane will have been married 50 years on March 28th. There will be a reception to celebrate this milestone in their lives on Sunday, March 26th from 3:00-5:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please drop by to wish them well.

MARCH

John & Penny Radziewski 2 (44)
 Hal & Cheryl Mills 2 (38)
 Jill & Franz Bryant 6 (41)
 Doug & Beverly Carlisle 15 (16)
 Frank & Teresa Williamson 20 (30)
 D.B. & Carol Grantham 21 (48)
 Terry & Jane Williams 28 (50)



2	Cheryl Mills	20	Frank Williamson
2	Hal Mills	20	Teresa Williamson
2	John Radziewski	21	Carol Grantham
2	Penny Radziewski	21	D.B. Grantham
6	Franz Bryant	27	Kathy Meissner
6	Jill Bryant	28	Jane Williams
15	Beverly Carlisle	28	Terry Williams
15	Doug Burrows		



DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH

March 3rd	Children's Lock In	6:00 PM	
March 7th	Church Council	6:30 PM	
March 12th	Daylight Savings Starts		
March 17th	Happy St. Patrick's Day		
March 18th	Parent's Night Out	4:00 PM	
March 20th	SALT Activity	5:00 PM	
March 26th	50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Pastor Terry and Jane	3:00-5:00 PM	FH
April 2nd	Easter Bash	3:30 PM	



MARCH



REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Youth Group 5:30	10:00 Lenten Study	Bulletin Deadline 9:30-11:30 Prayer Shawl 2:00 Baskets & Bible Study 6:30 Lenten Study	5:30 Camp Kids 5:30 Kids Singers 5:45 Adult Choir	1	4:30 Friday Night Meals	

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:00 Lenten Luncheon-Seaside UMC	2	3 6:00 Children's Lock In	4 Hollen Groff Celebration of Life Service 11:00 Visitation 10:30
5 Communion	6 4:00 SALT Planning	7 6:30 Church Council	8 12:00 Lenten Luncheon-St. Luke	9	10 MMOM Parents Night Out 5:00
12 	13 4:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Joy Circle 6:00 Trustees	14 10:00 Susanna Wesley Circle	15 12:00 Lenten Luncheon-Camp	16 6:30 Finance	17 
19 12:00 Agape Meeting	20 5:00 SALT Activity	21 SPRC 6:30	22 12:00 Lenten Luncheon-Calvary Baptist	23	24
26 10:00 Service Only 3:00 Williams 50th Anniversary Celebration FH	27 4:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 UMM	28	29 12:00 Lenten Luncheon-Shallotte Presbyterian	30	31