

The Centenarian



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Centenary UMC,

John 11:25-26: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"

1 Peter 1:3: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Acts 4:33: "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all."

Our March Centenarian published dates of missions and ministries, meetings and studies, worship and praise opportunities which we were going to offer and share. It is shocking how quickly all those plans were changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic which is sweeping the globe. No one expected that we would be asked to stay home, limit our comings and goings, not gather in groups of more than 10, continually clean with disinfectant, wear masks when out in public, pray for needed medical supplies, and exhaust the work of our medical professionals, truck drivers, grocery store personnel, pharmacists, first responders, and everyday heroes in order that we might function on a daily basis.

As the church family we have made many adjustments with the hardest being not being able to gather as the faith community for our various missions and ministries. If anyone had ever asked me if I would be teaching Bible Study over the computer through Zoom, recording our worship services to be viewed on YouTube, allowing the Phone tree to be our primary form of weekly announcements, being able to communicate with you personally via phone, I would never have believed it.

However, this is our truth for a time such as this.

I pray that you have been receiving our Phone tree messages either through a call, text, or e-mail. If you are not, please call me at 336-285-5081 or e-mail me a kgroce@wnccumc.net to make sure that I place you on the list.

For those with a computer, I pray that you are visiting our webpage at www.centenaryumcgreensboro.org to find under the heading, News and Events, the links to our recorded worship services.

We have worship services which are past but are still available to watch – the 4th Sunday of Lent, the 5th Sunday of Lent, and Palm Sunday. By Wednesday, April 8th, we will have a Service for Maundy Thursday (you will need to have bread/crackers and juice for Communion), Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. There are also places to view the bulletin for each Sunday for you to print off in order that you may participate as well.

This will continue as long as we must in order to remain safe.

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It is difficult in many ways, but each day there is something for which to be thankful.

I began this letter with three Scriptures. The first Scripture is from the Gospel of John. This is typically read at every funeral which I conduct. The core belief of Christians is that God is love. Jesus' life, teaching, ministry, death, and resurrection is a sign of the great sacrificial love of the Trinity for all people. A love which reconciles us – those who distance themselves from God through sin – back to God through His grace and love. Christians accept Jesus as their Savior, who through His death, won victory over sin and death for all. When Christ asked if this belief was shared by all, the question is asked to each of us.

“Do you believe that whoever believes in me (Jesus) will never die?”

The second scripture from 1 Peter 1:3 is one of my very favorites, for it states my core truth – “In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” What a gift. God’s unconditional, undeserved mercy and grace is gifted to all. On our faith journey, we are given many new births into living hope because of Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. This is my faith statement, belief, and assurance daily.

The third Scripture from Acts 4:33 reminds us that since we claim the assurance and promises of Christ, we also are to share our faith with others. We must build relationships with others and share how our faith in Christ offers us strength, hope, forgiveness, love, and a community of brothers and sisters in Christ.

During our time of being apart, we still must encourage and support each other. Pray unceasing for each other. Call to check on each other. Send cards and letters. E-mail and use social media to stay connected. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism lived by three simple rules: Do no harm, do good, stay in love with God.

As Easter people, the conditions of the pandemic do not keep us from following these rules of living, nor of faith. We must rely upon our faith and one another as never before.

This pandemic will end. I am asking myself daily – what am I learning from this which I will take to my future? Our world will never be quite the same, and that can be a positive thing. What is the change which we will be as disciples of Christ, and as the Faith community of Centenary UMC?

I pray that we will see one another soon. Easter worship will occur – for where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus worship occurs.

May we pray for one another, encourage one another, worship as we can, and testify to our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Shalom,

Kelley

Cancellations

Due to the uncertainty of our times, Celebrate Women which was scheduled for April 25, 2020 has been postponed until further notice. The Lenten Concerts by James Esterline are also postponed until further notice.

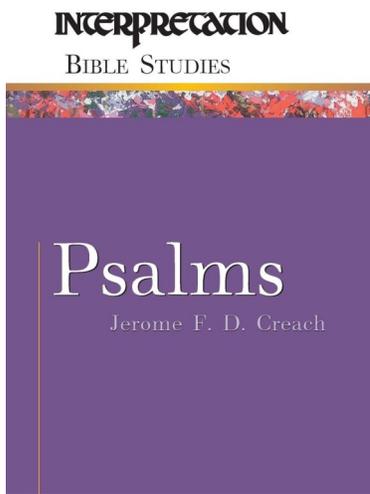
All events and group gatherings, such as AA, Al-Anon, and other support groups, at the church are postponed or canceled until further notice. Stay home, stay safe!

Church Office

The Conference is asking that church staff work from home, until it is safe to gather again, but our staff is physically in the building a couple of times a week to clean, check the mail, and work on worship videos. The general voicemail box for the church can be checked remotely, so please feel free to call and leave a message at 336-299-9643. If you have a need or emergency and need to speak to Rev. Kelley Groce, you may reach her at the parsonage number 336-285-5081.



Psalms: Interpretation Bible Study



We will begin a new Bible study on Tuesday, April 28. It will be offered at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM, via Zoom until we are able to meet as a group. We will be studying the Psalms. You may purchase a book on your own by going to www.christianbooks.com, or simply join without the book, just your Bible. We hope that many of you will

join us to gain courage, strength, and inspiration from the Psalms.

The Psalms are a collection of hymns, prayers, and poems that probe the depths of human emotions. Intended for both public worship and private reflection, the Psalter combines vivid images with honest expressions of sorrow, anger, thanksgiving, and hope. They are as relevant today as they were to the ancient peoples who first composed them. Complete with maps, illustrations, definitions of key terms, interesting biblical facts and features, and questions for reflection or discussion.

Brunswick Stew, Chicken Pot Pie & Shepherd's Pie



Alex and Julie Hurin have been busy in the church kitchen! They have been making and delivering Brunswick Stew, Chicken Pot Pie, and Shepherd's Pie to members

of the congregation and the community, including some of The Covenant School teachers. Each delicious meal is \$6. If you would like to have one delivered to your door, contact Alex at 336-457-0130 or email him at a2lman@aol.com

Pledges, Tithes, and Offerings ~ Online Giving Now Available

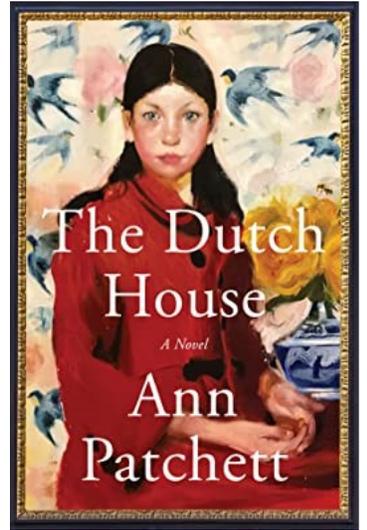
Thank you for continuing to support the church with your pledges, tithes, and offerings! You may mail your donation to the church, CUMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403; use your bank's bill pay feature and set-up payments through your account; or you can use our new online giving platform, SubSplash. Directions for online giving can be found on our website www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org. Use your debit or credit card to make a donation.

Centenary Starlight Book Club

The Centenary UMC will meet on April 16 via Zoom. You can participate via phone, computer, iPad. I just need to be able to send you an e-mail invitation. We will discuss a wonderful book, The Dutch House, by Ann Patchett.

Here is a description as found from the Goodreads Webpage: "At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.

The story is told by Cyril's son, Danny, as he and his older sister, the brilliantly acerbic and self-assured Maeve, are exiled from the house where they grew up by their step-mother. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped from and find that all they have to count on is one another. It is this unshakable bond between them that both saves their lives and thwarts their futures.



Set over the course of five decades, *The Dutch House* is a dark fairy tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past. Despite every outward sign of success, Danny and Maeve are only truly comfortable when they're together. Throughout their lives, they return to the well-worn story of what they've lost with humor and rage. But when at last they're forced to confront the people who left them behind, the relationship between an indulged brother and his ever-protective sister is finally tested."

Our book discussion for May will be Blind Your Ponies by Stanley Gordan West.

Mission & Outreach Opportunities

- ◆ **Greensboro Urban Ministry** Please continue to support Greensboro Urban Ministry with your donations of non-perishable food items, because they have increased the number of times a year a family can receive assistance. You will need to take donations to their Food Pantry Loading dock (drop off location) is 1002 S. Eugene Street, Greensboro, NC, 27406. Donations may be dropped off Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM—5:00 PM (check the website for special hours during Holy Week) They are especially low on Peanut butter, canned meats & canned fruits.
- ◆ **UMAR** is in need of financial assistance during the pandemic. Their Friends of UMAR luncheons, a major source of funding, have had to be cancelled. Mail a check to UMAR Services, Inc., 5350 77 Center Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217, so that they may continue their mission of quality programming for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- ◆ **Rise Against Hunger, in partnership with MAP International**, has a shipment ready to go of nearly \$20 million in nutritious meals and medical aid to in-country partners in Liberia and Sierra Leone to combat the COVID-19 crisis. They need our help to reach their goal of \$20,000 this week to continue their outreach efforts worldwide. Rise Against Hunger, 3733 National Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27612.
- ◆ **Adult & Teen Challenge** are raising funds to purchase a new reach-in double door freezer. They have many mouths to feed! The cost of the new freezer is \$2,800. If you would like to donate to this project, mail your check to Greater Piedmont Adult & Teen Challenge, Inc., P.O. Box 77914, Greensboro, NC 27417.
- ◆ **Samaritan's Purse** is on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic! They have set up emergency field hospitals in Italy and in New York City's Central Park. Send donations to Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607.

The Night Before Quarantine

A poem shared by Rev. Kelley Groce's friend Rhita Newcomb. It was shared to her by someone in her church.

'Twas the night before quarantine and all through the town, not a restaurant was open, not a school-bus was found.
Hand sanitizers were placed by all doorposts with care, in hopes that Corona would never come there.
The children were swinging from the crystal chandeliers, and the stir-crazy babies were almost in tears.
With everyone in health masks and live updates on their screens, we hunkered down and waited for COVID-19.
For into our lives with a sneeze and a cough, came a global pandemic and a crash of the stocks.
Away to the grocery we all flew like a flash, and bought all the toilet paper for our personal stash.
As the moon slowly rose on our fates and our fears, what to my wandering mind should appear?
In the absence of busyness a new life taking form: in the stillness of solitude, in the silence of the storm.
In the magic of together and home-bound company, rediscovering connection in our family.
So with the pup in her kennel and the children in their beds, new visions of adventures now danced in my head!
The checklists could wait and the bank accounts would be fine, for we had been given the most sacred gift of time.
So I gathered the markers and crayons and paints, I collected the nerf guns and assembled board games.
With a wink and a smile I moved on to schoolwork: math facts and science and vocabulary words.
I laughed as I thought it, in spite of myself, "What if quarantine can heal our emotional health?"
If the birds are still singing and if the flowers still bloom, surely the sunshine can overcome our gloom.
If we set aside fear and choose kindness instead, maybe we'll all begin to realize we have nothing to dread.
I tucked back into bed and smiled up at the moon, for a peace had replaced the impending doom.
So take heart and take hope through this curious plight, and "happy quarantine to all"
until we're allowed to reunite.

This Easter Celebration

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation")

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.

We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.

We're distant from our neighbors — from worship leaders, too.

No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.

O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day?

With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place
we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.

Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see —
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:

Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.

Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!

Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.

In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 ("The Church's One Foundation") (MIDI)

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com

New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

Bishop Paul Leeland and the Western North Carolina Cabinet are preparing an Easter worship video for our conference. Bishop Leeland will share an Easter message and our District Superintendents will lead us in worship. The link will be sent to clergy on Saturday, April 11 and posted on the Conference website and Facebook page on Easter morning.

Centenary UMC will have its own Easter Worship Service available on the website and YouTube. See the next page for details.



April Birthdays

If you, or a loved one, have been left off the birthday list, please contact Lisa Bunch at 336-299-9643.

3rd	Patrick Miller	26th	Linda Billings & Nathan John
4th	Chuck Carrick	27th	Linda Miller
7th	Benita McFarland	30th	Debra Schlueter
8th	Marvin Baugh and Josh Kinard		
10th	Alex Hurin		
16th	Howard Fulcher		
17th	Anne Murr		
23rd	Barbara Blackman & Keith Eller		
24th	George Cranford & John Liles		





Easter Sunday—Decorating the Flower Cross

This year we WILL be decorating our Easter Cross. We are not allowed to gather in groups. However, we can gift a unifying picture of Resurrection hope to the Community through our Flower Cross. We will receive your gifts of flowers and greenery from your yard to adorn our Flower Cross outside our church. Betty Durham, David and Kelley will be at the front of the Church on Easter Sunday from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. We will be social distancing, wearing masks and gloves to receive your gifts of flowers on a table. You do not need to get out of the car! We will take the flowers and adorn our cross. Before you leave, please pray the following prayer: This prayer was found under Easter Prayers on a website called Faith and Worship, no author listed.

From the darkness of the grave
Blood poured out, a crown of thorns
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
ALL: Alleluia!

From the triumph that is won
Over the power and fear of death
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
ALL: Alleluia!

Walking from the empty tomb
Opening wide the gates of life
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
ALL: Alleluia!

Lord of life
You defeated death
To show that we can rise
From all that binds us to the world
Pride, envy, anger, fear
The debt of sin that holds us here
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
ALL: Alleluia!

Lord of life
You defeated death
To demonstrate a love that is
Beyond our understanding
That reaches out even to me
Saving Grace to all who hear
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
ALL: Alleluia!

Lord of life
We pray for all who bring your word of life
As a light to those in darkness
For those who bring your word of peace
To those enslaved by fear
For those who bring your word of love
To those in need of comfort
Lord of love and Lord of peace
Lord of resurrection life
Be known
Through our lives
and through your power
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
ALL: Alleluia!

Worship Services

Rev. Kelley Groce, Director of Music—Anita Trumpler-Rich, Faye Elliott, Lori Johnson, Betty Durham, Lisa Bunch, other members of the congregation, have been coming together (yet observing social distancing) to film worship services in the Fellowship Hall. You may watch the services by following the links on the website www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org, under News & Events (the home page), and you can also download the worship bulletin. The videos are on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com). By filming the worship services and posting them this way, you may watch anytime.

Maudy Thursday Virtual Communion—Join us for communion! Before you watch the service, have a piece of bread or cracker and a small glass of juice next to you.

Good Friday—Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday—“Nothing is Impossible with God”



Easter Story

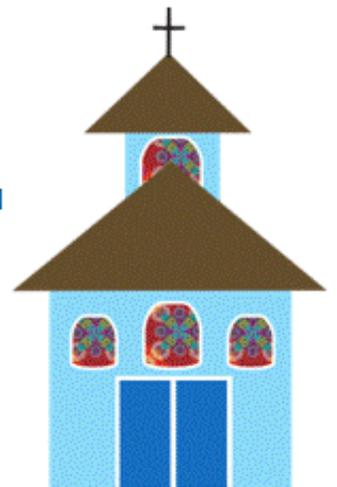
Word Search

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APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
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CROWN
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DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSEVER
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TOMB



USPS 934-960

Published monthly by

Centenary United Methodist Church

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Visit us online!

<https://www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org/>



Our Mission:

To experience God's life changing love and take God's love into the world.

Our Vision:

To be a church where everyone is involved in ministry.

Gifts for the Budget: February 29– March 31, 2020

In Memory of Bob White

Gary Burke & Stephan Rantz
NC Living Historical Farm Committee
Beth Day
Dave & Caryn Hull
Paul & Dawn Long
Mark & Debra Schlueter
Jimmy & Diane Stanley
Suzy Swindell
Jim & Brenda Wilson

In Memory of Betty Causey

Jean Brincefield
Jim & Jerry Cochrane
Charlotte Decker
Guilford County Finance Department
Harvey Veach
Jim & Brenda Wilson
Barbara Wolfe

In Memory of Larry Swindell

The Medlin Class
Dave & Caryn Hull
Mark & Debra Schlueter
Jimmy & Diane Stanley
Reid & Carolyn Townsend
Anita Whitehurst
Jim & Brenda Wilson
Peggy Winslow

In Memory of Mildred Rives

Frank & Jean York

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Giving/Expenses—Ending 3/31/2020

Revenues \$ 114,592

Expenses \$ 92,481

Profit or (Loss) for 3 months \$ 22,110

Unrestricted cash available for operations: \$110,589