



The Centenarian

Dear Centenary UMC Family and Friends,

The season of Lent has begun. The forty days leading up to the Holy Day of Easter. Lent is meant to be a time of reflection for the renewal of our souls, to be able to encounter new hope, and the new life which Easter offers.

"Lent is a spiritual season which calls for greater openness to the word of God and conversion in every area of our lives. It is a time to face the darkness within and expose it to the light. Lent is the season to confront our demons and expel them." Michael Ford, *Eternal Seasons*

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led ('driven') by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where for forty days he was tempted by the devil." Matt. 4:1

Ruth Haley Barton in her article, *Lent, and the Human Struggle*, reflects:

"The Lenten journey is patterned after Jesus' forty days in the wilderness where we too, must face the subtle temptations to the false self so that we can be "cleared out" for real ministry. Here we face our own demons and they are rarely what we think! It is not just the temptation to drink pop or eat sweets or enjoy a glass of wine—as real as those temptations become after we have given them up for Lent! In the emptiness created by whatever it is we are fasting from, we become more aware of the compulsions of the false self and it is pretty ghastly stuff.

Here we experience the evil one's proficiency at crafting very subtle and dangerous appeals to the instinctual patterns and false self-programs we rely on for safety and survival, significance and success, power, and control. We see how far we have to go on the journey of learning to trust God and God alone in the wilderness of our most primal impulses and needs. We are appalled to learn that the false self can and will co-opt anything—including God and the things of God—to secure our own survival, to prove ourselves to others, and to appear successful by whatever standards the group we identify with measures such things. If we are on a true spiritual journey, none of us escapes this basic human struggle—not even Jesus."

So what should we do to deepen our relationship with Christ during this Lenten season? I believe that the same word which keeps coming to the forefront should be practiced, and it will be different for each person. Each person must be intentional and consistent in the practice which will be helpful for them to draw closer in their daily walk with Jesus. Hopefully the means of prayer, worship, study, and service are somehow part of the make-up. If it is helpful for one to give up something in order to help them proactively think of Christ, then do it. If it is helpful for one to take on a daily act of kindness to draw them closer to Jesus and reflect upon his words of wisdom and apply it to their lives, then do it.

(over)

Lent is a season for everyone. There is not a certain ways nor means of taking the journey with Christ. Each person must decide how they want to travel, and then most importantly act upon that nudge from God.

Nadia Bolz-Weber, Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner Saint, reminds us, ""The movement in our relationship to God is always from God to us. Always. We can't, through our piety or goodness, move closer to God. God is always coming near to us. Most especially in the Eucharist and in the stranger.""

I love this reminder everyday, but especially during the Lenten Season. It reinforces to me that God is in constant conversation with us to engage in relationship for mission and ministry. If I am intentional in engaging with God in prayer, worship, study, and service, then I will experience the relationship with God and experience grace, love, direction, forgiveness, and hope.

I pray that each of us will participate in an intentional Lenten Journey. You work it out with God.

May our Lenten Journey lead us to enrich our relationship with our Resurrected Savior.

Please know that my door is always open.

Praying for each of you and our congregation,

Kelley



Prayer Concerns

As you engage your 'Prayer Life' this week, please remember these prayer concerns: If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage 336-285-5081. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Susan Carrick. Andreas Daiber, Susan Shuping, Sheridian Wacker. Lori Johnson. Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane, Jim & Scott Stanley. Anne Murr. Trudy Sillmon. Don & Clara Ellis. Aly Saunders. Al Barnes . Sharry Hastings (Caryn Hull's sister) Rachel Dykes, Sue Rosser (Debbie Robinson's friends). Hilda (Debbie Robinson's Aunt). Rob Barnard (Larry & Suzy Swindell's nephew). Sharon (Larry's Swindell's sister).

We extend our sympathy to the family of Howard Fulcher in his passing on February 18th, 2023.

The Worship Committee wishes to thank everyone who supported the Light Up the Drive thru the Ashes project. They were beautiful, and it was all thanks to you.

We had 50 luminaires along the driveway going up to the tent where Rev. Kelley and our volunteers blessed them with prayer and the sign of the cross on their forehead. It was a very moving experience.

We had 85 plus people come through for Blessing and Prayers. Many of these were returning from years passed, the greatest number being new seekers. They were very humbled. This ministry is one of the most important for reaching out to those outside of the church walls.

Thank you for your support of this extremely important ministry. The Worship Committee

Gifts to Memory from Jan.1—Feb. 20, 2023

- Dr. Paul Long*
- Harold & Linda Billings*
- Well Springs Community*
- Crescent Council*
- Marcus Duda*
- Lavinia Gordy*
- Lynda Greene*
- Dr. John Adams*
- Coak & Nancy May*
- Elizabeth Potter*
- Hazel Raper*
- Jim & Margaret Turnage*
- Jim & Brenda Wilson*
- Mark Yates*
- Dr. Noel von Glahn*
- Harold & Linda Billings*
- Jack Cole*
- Well Springs Community*
- Coak & Nancy May*
- Hazel Raper*
- David & Trudy Sillmon*
- Charlie & Patsy Stamey*
- Irmgard Daiber*
- Harold & Linda Billings*
- Nelda King*
- Hazel Harper*
- Jim & Brenda Wilson*
- Mike Powell*
- Harold & Linda Billings*



- 1st Jim Wilson
- 2nd Chrissy Verchick
- 3rd Frazier Robinson
- 7th Estelle Cranford
- 10th Dottie Rayburn
- 11th Rachel Sheppard
- 15th Alan Rayburn, Pat Stevenson
- 19th Harold Billings
- 22nd Charlie Sartore
- 24th Doris Pruitt
- 31st Caryn Hull, Michael Townsend



Thank you to all the people who worked the Blood Drive and those who donated the gift of life. We collected 14 units of blood!

Financial Update	
Year-to-Date Giving/Expenses-Ending 2/28/23	
Revenues	\$ 74,687.00
Expenses	\$ 55,517.00
Profit or (Loss)	\$ 19,170.00

Mission Opportunities

Urban Ministry is in desperate need of food.

Please continue to bring your food items, place them in the baskets marked "Urban Ministry" and we will get it to the Urban Ministries. Please donate – these are desperate times for the food insecure!



The Clothes Closet

In order to be good stewards of our limited space, in the Fellowship Hall, we will only be able to accept "gently used" current season clothes for men and women. Special needs; Jackets for men and women all sizes. Men's pants size 32 and belts. Bedding and hygiene products.

Call Caryn Hull if you have any questions, 336-402-2633.

UNDIE SUNDAY is the first Sunday of each month. Needed black or white socks for men and women. New packaged underwear for men or women, all sizes.



Community Breakfast

March 18 8am to 10am

Please come serve and share the love of Christ at this mission to our community!

March Happenings

Sunday School meets each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am.

Lesson: The Chosen Movies.

March 5, Sunday Day of Service-Blessing Bags .

Thanks to you we collect 191 pounds of food and \$130.00. Once again Centenary came through to support the food insecure of Greensboro.

Friendship Club on March 14. Please come and be apart of the fun and fellowship. There will be a short devotion, games. fun and fellowship. All are welcome!

Rev. Kelley will be at Friends Home-Guilford on March 15 at 3pm . She will have a Devotion and Communion.

Worship/Nurture/Mission March 22 at 5:15pm in Conference Room.

March 19 - St. Patrick's Chili Lunch. The entertainment for the day

will be Barbara Albright and her friend There will be music from all ages, games and lots of fun.

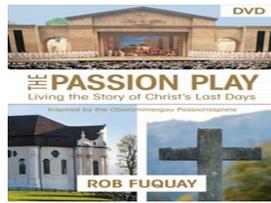
Everyone is welcome to join in the fun!



Centenary Starlight Book Club

March 16, 2023 @6:30pm
Lucky 32

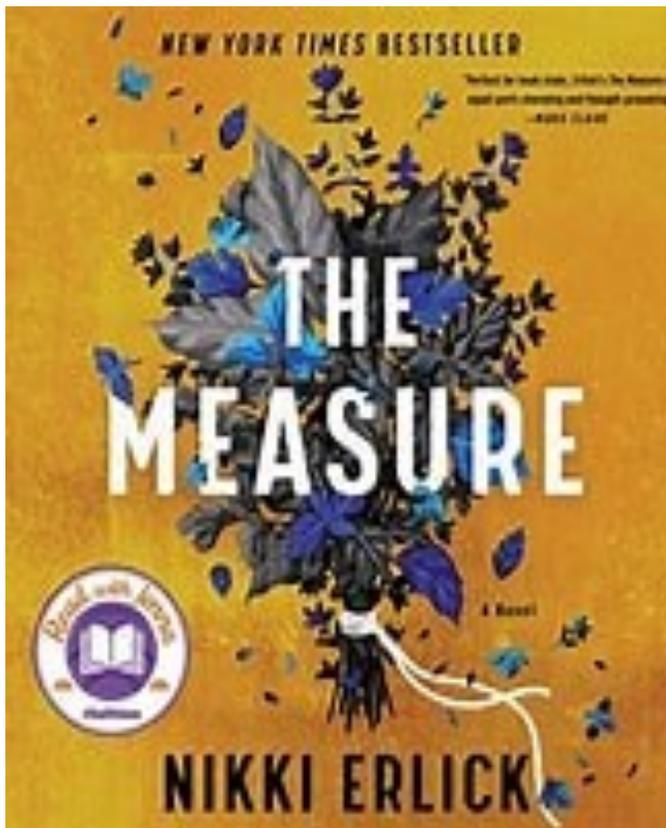
Our Lenten Study for 2023 "The Passion Play" by Rob Fuquay will begin Tuesday, February 28-April 4, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Conference Room.



*Pastor, Passages and Picnic
Tuesday, March 9th at 6pm in
the Conference Room... Continu-
ing our talks on the future of
UMC. Video from Bishop Will
Willamon. All are
welcome!*



It seems like any other day. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and head out. But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. The box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live. From suburban doorsteps to desert tents, every person on every continent receives the same box. In a instant, the world is thrust into a collective frenzy. Where did these boxes come from? What do they mean? Is there truth to what they promise? As a society comes together and pulls apart, everyone faces the same shocking choice: Do they wish to know how long they'll live? And, if so, what will they do with that knowledge? The Measure charts the dawn of this new world through an unforgettable cast of characters whose decisions and fates interweave with one another: best friends whose dreams are forever entwined, pen pals finding refuge in the unknown, a couple who thought they didn't have to rush, a doctor who cannot save himself, and a politician whose box becomes the power keg that ultimately changes everything. Enchanting and deeply uplifting, "The Measure" is a sweeping, ambitious, and invigoration story about a family, friendship, hope and destiny that encourages us to live life to the fullest.



Christmas Eve Flood and Updates!

Howdy all, I wanted to give an update on the Christmas Eve flood and how we have progressed since. First, thank you to all those that were here Christmas Eve and aided in the mitigation and clean up. Your efforts were and are greatly appreciated. Also, a thank you to The Covenant School Headmaster, Drew Hill and two TCS board members, Kevin Sasser and William Duke, they came here Christmas day afternoon and set up blowers and dehumidifiers to help. As we stand right now repairs to the pipe in Pastor Kelley's Office have been completed and I have installed a new drop ceiling, already. I am currently waiting on carpet and hoped to have it installed and both offices back to full strength here by second week of March.

Adam Sensel



The United Methodist Foundation graciously gave us \$2,500.00 to use as needed with no string attached and as we see fit to help repair the loss to our physical property. This "Gift of Hope" and the prayers from the Foundation Team was a much needed gift at this time.

Thanks to all the church members that were here on Christmas Eve and jumped in to help clean up.



March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 10am—WCDC Zoom Meeting With Lawyer	3	4 10am to 4pm UM Foundation Treasurer Training in Fellowship Hall 10am
5 9:45 am Sunday School—Blessing Bags 11am Worship Service	6	7 6:30pm -Lenten Bible Study— Conference Room	8	9	10	11
12 9:45 am Sunday School 11am Worship Service 2pm Ad Council	13	14 12pm Friendship Club 6:30pm -Lenten Bible Study— Conference Room	15 3pm Rev. Kelley— Worship and Com- munion at Friends Home Guilford	16 6:30pm—The Star- light Book Club at Lucky 32	17	18 8am to 10am Community Break- fast
19 9:45 am Sunday School 11am Worship Service Chili Luncheon after Worship	20	21 6:30pm -Lenten Bible Study— Conference Room	22 5:15pm Worship/ Mission Commit- tee Meeting- Conference Room	23	24	25
26 9:45 am Sunday School 11am Worship Service	27	28 6:30pm -Lenten Bible Study— Conference Room	29	30	31	N/A Sundays @ 1pm Fellowship Hall Wednesdays @ 7:30 Fellowship Hall

THE CENTENARIAN

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**WORSHIP with us online! Like us on
FaceBook Live , on YouTube or on our
website at**



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.

Offering Support

Thank you for your continued support of the church with your pledges, tithes, and offerings! **Ways you can give.**

Put you offering in the offering plate.

•Mail your donation to:

Centenary UMC
2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403

•Use your bank's bill pay feature and set-up payments through your account.

•Or, you may use our online giving platform, SubSplash. Directions for online giving can be found on our website

www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org.

Use your credit card to make a one time donation, or set-up weekly or monthly giving.

Periodical Postage

Paid at

Greensboro, NC

Sunday Morning Worship

9:45 am Sunday School - Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Worship Service—Sanctuary

Meetings-

NA-Narcotic Anonymous every Wednesday at 8:00pm
and every Sunday at 1:00pm Fellowship Hall

Al-Anon-every Friday at 8:00pm in the Conference Room

Compassionate Friends First Monday of each month at
7:00pm room 110

Can't make it to church?

Watch us on FaceBook Live, YouTube or on our website at:

www.centenaryumcgreensboro.org. On our website you will find our Worship Bulletin, Announcements , Prayer Requests, Joys , Concerns and updates on the life of the church. Like and subscribe.

Join us anytime!

