

# THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem United Methodist Church  
PO BOX 56/6103 Appomattox Rd.  
Climax, NC 27233  
Church Office: 336-674-0155 Fax: 336-674-0157

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Penny Ford begins an article for the Upper Room Ministries entitled "Lent 101" this way. "Lent is a season of the Christian year when people are invited to simplify their lives to focus on their relationship with God in Christ." And boy, don't we need to simplify.

Lent begins every year on Ash Wednesday (this year it began on February 14<sup>th</sup>). The Season of Lent is 40 days long. Those days do not include the Sundays that immediately follow Ash Wednesday; hence, those Sundays are called "The Sundays IN Lent" rather than "the Sundays OF Lent". Lent continues straight through to the end of what is called Holy Saturday which we generally consider midnight before Easter Sunday although some traditions recognize sundown on that Saturday.

In ancient times, candidates for baptism/confirmation were received into the membership of the Church sometime between Saturday evening and the main celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday morning. In fact, the origin of Lent as a special season of the church comes, in part, from this practice. Lent evolved as a time of prayer and study and preparation for those being initiated into the church on Easter Sunday. The candidates not only prepared themselves to become a part of the Body of Christ - but the Body of Christ also prepared itself to receive the candidates. Repentance, self-giving, and turning and walking with Jesus in the way of the cross are major areas upon which to focus in the Lenten Season.

I think back to the time of Jesus' wilderness experience. He was baptized and experienced the Holy Spirit coming upon him and heard the voice of God speaking, "This is my son, my beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus hiked into the wilderness. Maybe he needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe he was searching for direction and answers. Maybe he needed to get away from family, friends and the familiar routine in order to see God, and himself, more clearly. For whatever reason, Jesus retreated into the wilderness for forty days to fast and pray. While there, he was tempted by Satan and found the strength to make some tough decisions. He also found clarity about God and what kind of person God wanted him to be.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



*Our Mission at Bethlehem UMC is to share the love and spirit of Christ, be a welcoming fellowship for all, nurture followers of Jesus and send them, as servants, into the world in need of God's grace.*

### Pastor

Rev. Michael Swofford  
704-516-6272

[MSwofford2@wnccumc.net](mailto:MSwofford2@wnccumc.net)

### Deacon

Rev. Melissa Swofford  
704-619-0875

[MSwofford3@wnccumc.net](mailto:MSwofford3@wnccumc.net)

### Administrative Assistant

Robin Bunton  
336-674-0155

[bethumcclimax@gmail.com](mailto:bethumcclimax@gmail.com)

### Director of Youth

Andrew Coward

### Music Director

Vickie Flinchum

### Choir Director

Dr. Cesar Marimon  
336-457-5649

[cesar\\_marimon@hotmail.com](mailto:cesar_marimon@hotmail.com)

### Organist

Jane Reddick

### Pianist

Laura Cranfill

### Child Care Director

Jackie Smith  
336-674-9879

### Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

### Webmaster

Debbie Marlowe

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[www.facebook.com/BUMC.nc](http://www.facebook.com/BUMC.nc)

Visit our Website at

[bethlehemumc.org](http://bethlehemumc.org)

# OUR PRAYER LIST

## Ongoing Prayer Needs:

Lucy Albright (Clapps Assist. Liv.)  
 Dale Austin  
 Jack Bowman  
 Suzie Branch  
 Edna Coble (NH)  
 Betty Fields (Surgery)  
 Cletis Fields (NH)  
 Kelsey Garrett  
 Martha Hinshaw (NH)  
 Ruby Hockett (Assist. Living)  
 Carolyn Johnson (Home)  
 Marjorie Mabe  
 Bobbie McClintock (Home)

## Ongoing Continued

Deanna McCombs (chemo)  
 Ashley McCollum @ Baptist  
 (Linda Duncan's niece)  
 Mildred Moser (Clapps Assist. Liv.)  
 Jamie O'Daniel (Home)  
 Dickie Parks  
 David Robb  
 Wanda Sheets  
 Lisa Shown (Broken wrist)  
 Bobby Tew (Home)  
 Mike Underwood (Home)  
 Jeffrey Welker (Back in U.S.)  
 Kay Wilkinson  
 All of our homebound.

## Immediate Prayer Needs:

Charles Alexander  
 Barbara Badeau (Home)  
 Peggy Bowman  
 Tony Bowman  
 Angelia Burke (Home)  
 Cory Fields  
 Jeanette Fields (Home)  
 Troy Anthony Finch (Deena's premie  
 great nephew)  
 Nancy Golden (chemo)  
 Sandy Greeson (Strawberry Lady) BKA  
 Doris Hockett  
 Betty Hull  
 Linda Land (Clapps)  
 Lorene Wells (Clapps)  
 Brody Watson (Bone marrow transplant)

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### Budget Results for January 2018

\$262,397.00 Total Budget Money Available January 1, 2018  
 + 24,312.39 Money Received in January  
 - 27,121.02 Money Spent in January  
 \$259,588.37 Total Budget Money Available January 31, 2018

For the month of January, 2018, the Church Budget spent \$2,808.63 more than it received.  
 For the year, the Church Budget spent \$2,808.63 more than it received.

**Major Maintenance & Repair Fund** – this designated money will be used to pay for major maintenance or repair projects to the Church building, parsonage or parking lot. The Board of Trustees must recommend all expenditures from this fund to the Church Council, and the Church Council must approve all expenditures from this fund. This is a perpetual fund and a minimum balance of \$2,500.00 shall be maintained at all times.

\$18,114.24 Total MM&RF Money Available January 31, 2018

**Other Designated Gifts** – occurs when the Church receives money for a designated purpose and the Church shall only spend this money for the purpose that it was given.

Insurance Money (mold)	\$ 6,053.70	Camp Tekoa	\$ 781.88
Food Pantry	\$ 612.82	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 8,305.08	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Little Chefs	\$ 195.03	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 23,001.09
Records & History	\$ 521.56	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 158.20
UMYF	\$18,606.56	Cemetery Fund	\$ 9,705.29
Family Ministries	\$ 1,817.87	Cemetery/Columbarium	\$ 19,284.94
Helen Grady Endowment	\$ 274.55	Columbarium Donations	\$ 10,697.00
Flowers	\$ 14.50	Columbarium Niche	\$ 1,000.00
Camp Meeting Fund	\$ 25.00	Veteran's Memorial Pavers	\$ 700.00

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available January 31, 2018 \$103,898.81

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair

# MARCH EVENTS

## UMYF SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

- 3/04/18 5:30-7:00 pm UMY
- 3/07/18 6:00-7:00 pm Youth Bible Study
- 3/11/18 5:30-7:00 pm UMY
- 3/14/18 6:00-7:00 pm Youth Bible Study
- 3/18/18 5:30-7:00 pm UMY
- 3/21/18 6:00-7:00 pm Youth Bible Study
- 3/25/18 5:30-7:00 pm UMY
- 3/28/18 6:00-7:00 pm Youth Bible Study
- 3/31/18 1:00-4:30 pm Help with Church Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/01/18 NO UMY due to Easter

### ARLENE STOKES UMW CIRCLE CHICKEN STEW & BAKE SALE Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>



(Snow Date is March 17<sup>th</sup>)



Pick up orders 12noon - 1PM

### "Be Our Guest"

Saturday, March 10, 6PM

Bethlehem UMC

Festival of Tables "Disney Style"

Catered Dinner @ 6PM

(Chick Fil A strips/nuggets, salad, roll, chips, fruit, and dessert with tea/water.)

Photo Booth & Show @ 7PM

Special Guests: Belle & Cinderella

"Be Our Guest is a fundraiser for Taylor Martin who will be going to help with the "Give Kids the World Village." All tickets must be purchased in advance. Ticket prices - \$10 Adults; \$5 Kids

Call Wendi @ (336)912-2074 to purchase tickets.

### MEMORIALS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

In Memory of Jimmy Badeau  
By Jerry & Karon Monnett  
By Bette Weatherly

In Memory of Mike Fields  
By Sid & Libby Fields

In Memory of Keith Moretz  
By Joyce King

In Memory of Jim King  
By Joyce King

### HONORARIUMS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

In Honor of Kelly & Betty Fields  
By Dickie & Evonne

In Honor of Jerry & Karon Monnett  
By Bette Weatherly

In Honor of Cody Routh's birthday  
By Angie Routh

In Honor of David & Laura Cranfill's Birthdays  
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

**In order to print newsletter by its deadline, some memorials & honorariums received this month will be listed in next month's newsletter.**



### Easter Egg Hunt

The EASTER EGG HUNT will be held on Saturday, March 31, from 2-4pm (rain or shine). Join us for refreshments, crafts, and story time in the fellowship hall before moving outside to hunt for eggs.

Donations of individually wrapped candy (no chocolate) and small prizes (bouncy balls, tattoos, plastic rings, etc.) can be left in the boxes outside the church office and in the Narthex beginning Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

### March Birthdays

3/5 Amanda Cook  
Alan Kirkman

3/6 Brooke Townsend  
Erika Braddock

3/7 Pam Jones

3/8 Buddy Fields

3/9 Darlene Coble  
David Robb II  
Mike Rivers

3/10 Beverly Fields  
Bob Norris  
Lucy McClintock  
Carlie Suggs

3/11 Suzie Branch  
Kimberly Duncan  
Teresa Stevens

3/12 James Bowman  
Dale Young II

3/13 Heather Robb

3/23 Barry Lineberry

3/24 Leo Kirkman  
Johnny Riddle

3/25 Jonathan Franklin  
Henry Wilkinson

3/26 Caleb Hinshaw  
Lindsey Wray

3/27 Wanda Woodford

3/28 Joey Bowman  
Lorene Wells

3/29 Susan Coward

3/31 Carlton Johnson  
John David (J.D.) Peele

### April Birthdays

4/1 Phyllis Alley  
Jeff Neelley

4/3 Beth Walsh  
Casey Welborn

4/4 Craig Massarelli

4/5 Ashley Neelley

4/7 Eddie Wilkinson

4/8 David Coble  
Doyle Ingold

4/9 Phyllis Garrett

4/10 Wayne Dunham  
Jim Jones (Alice's son)  
Susan Hutchens

4/11 Louise Bowman

4/12 Frances Jean Fields

4/13 Christopher Bass  
Danny Dunham  
Glenna Staley

4/17 April Wreath

4/18 Anna Parrish

4/19 Shirley Hackett  
Matthew Young

4/20 Daniel Moser  
Craig Smith

4/24 Erica Reed Sypole

4/25 Haley Parrish  
Lexie Terry  
Jane Reddick  
Tommy Oliver

4/26 Bill Regan

4/27 Julie Spencer  
Rachel Grace Hill

4/29 Sandra Southard

4/30 Ruby Kirkman  
Parker Robb

### Heifer International Lenten Offering Banks

These banks are available on the table outside of the church office and in the narthex. This special offering will be collected on Sunday, April 8.



**CAMP TEKOA** - We need to determine if there is sufficient interest for planning Camp Tekoa for summer 2018. Due to past low involvement, no budget request was submitted for 2018. There is approximately \$700+ in the designated camp fund currently. This amount will likely pay for one full tuition or part of several tuitions. If there is interest, please contact me so that necessary activities can be planned. Thanks, Lorrie Roth (919)818-6536



From time to time you will see altar flowers that are a little bit different. The altar arrangement pictured was given to the Glory of God on Sunday, January 28, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany. *The arrangement represents Jesus' presentation in the temple. The menorah, or seven-branched candelabrum, brings to mind the early life of Jesus while the torch design of flowers stands for the teachings he later gave to the world.*

**Floral Art in the Church.** Inman, 1968. Pg. 47

(Special thanks to Ruth Rowland for researching & providing this display.)

## MARCH - APRIL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Date	8:50 Greeters	10:55 Greeters	Altar Flowers	Communion Stewards (Early)	Communion Stewards (Late)	Opener/ Closer For Month
3/4 Communion	Courtney Ingold	Karen Barbone	Bob Norris	Michelle & Clark Hinshaw	Desi & Gail Williams	Sandie Harris (O)/Karen Barbone (C)
3/11	Jennifer & Dale Young	Michael Brady & Deb Marlowe	Jim & Bev. Culbertson			
3/18	Sandie Harris	Phyllis Wicker	Ruth Rowland			
3/25 Palm Sunday	Wayne & Phyllis Alley	Buddy & Judy Fields	Judy Fields			
3/29 Maundy Thursday			Altar Arrangement - Ruth Rowland			
4/1 Easter Cantata (Combined Service)		Karen Barbone	Easter Lilies	NO COMMUNION	NO COMMUNION	NEED OPENER/Jerry Berry (C)
4/8	Sandie Harris	Debbie Waugh	Desi & Gail Williams			
4/15	Lois Snow	Joyce King	NEED FLOWERS			
4/22	NEED GREETERS	The Dahls	Ruth Rowland			
4/29	NEED GREETERS	Ronda Robb	Ruth & Robin (Recog. of World Day of Prayer)			

### March Ushers:

David Fields, Glenn Getner, Bud Lauder, Mario Massarelli, Barry Norris

### April Ushers:

David Allen, Jerry Berry, Byron Dahl, Terry Franklin, Kevin Gunter

Thank you in advance for serving!

**Bethlehem UMC  
Maundy Thursday Service  
and  
Holy Communion  
Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 7PM**



**Maundy Thursday** is an alternate name for **Holy Thursday**, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). This is why services on this night generally include the washing of feet or other acts of physical care as an integral part of the celebration. While John's gospel does not record the institution of the Lord's Supper among the events of this night, the other gospels do. Christians therefore keep this night with celebrations both at the basin (foot washing) and at the Lord's Table (Holy Communion).

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-is-maundy-thursday>



## **A MISSION MOMENT**

### United Methodist Women

In 1972, Louise Bowman invited me to the Arlene Stokes UMW Circle Christmas party. I wasn't even a Bethlehem member at the time. That was the beginning of my UMW journey as Greensboro District Vice President & Treasurer and conference treasurer and vice president. In January I began my tenure as WNCC UMW President. It's an awesome opportunity I've been given that I'm just beginning to get my head wrapped around.

Forty-six years is a long time, but I still recall that first UMW meeting and have the crystal bowl I received as a gift from Louise's mother. It serves as a reminder of where inviting someone to a UMW meeting can lead.

UMW began with six ladies & two missionary wives meeting on a stormy night in Boston. They started with two cents a week and a prayer, and within a year they sent two women, a doctor & a school teacher to India to treat & teach women & girls who were receiving none of these services. Now 149 years later, we are an organization of 800,000 providing \$18M in funds to provide aid, establish schools, clinics and self-help resources for women, children & youth around the world.

UMW offers materials and events for spiritual growth and education on the world around us. Whether you are a busy young mother or a retiree, UMW offers you a place to fellowship with other women who understand and share your concerns. It's an opportunity to be a part of making mission happen...around the world...one person at a time. Individually, we women can't save the world, but united, we are a powerful force to address health and justice issues.

If you care about maternal & child health, economic inequality such as fair wages or women-owned business, clean drinking water, UMCOR kits for disasters, school kits & hygiene kits, United Methodist Women is for YOU!

The Arlene Stokes ladies have been supportive over the years. As I begin this new journey, I ask for your prayers and support as United Methodist Women continue to be in mission to women, children and youth around the world. COME JOIN US IN THE JOURNEY!

*Julia Willis*

#### **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

We live in a world filled with distractions. These distractions take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, and other things. We run from silence because we're afraid of being alone with God. So, like Jesus, we need to take some serious time to pray and figure out where God is in our lives, and where God is calling us to serve. We need to re-focus our lives to be more in line with God.

The observance of Lent is different in different traditions. But generally, it's a time to return to Christ by cutting out all that distracts us. For some people that means giving up something like candy, TV, soft drinks, beer, cigarettes or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. Others take something on and collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to help children, or decide to be kind to someone they don't like. Whatever "stuff" is given up or taken on, the intent must be to re-focus our lives on God enabling us to draw closer to Christ. Lent is a resolution to simplify our lives and to return to the One who loves us -- Jesus.



# March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</b></p> <p><b>4 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>  <b>Communion</b>            8:30AM Prayer Time @ Altar            8:50AM Blended, Casual Worship            10AM Sunday School            10:55AM Traditional Worship            4:30PM Hand Bells            4:30PM Confirmation            5:30PM UMYF            5:45PM Bible Study</p>	<p><b>5</b>            6:30PM Child Care Board            7PM Exercise</p>	<p><b>6</b>            8AM Breakfast Club (Backyard Grill)            10AM StoryTime in Library            7PM Women in Christ            7PM Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>FOOD PANTRY</b>            3-4PM            6PM Youth Bible Study            7PM Cantata/Choir            7PM Exercise</p>	<p><b>1</b>            3:15PM Children's Chapel            7:30PM Trustees</p>	<p><b>2</b> FH, Kitchen in use            6:30AM-3PM  <b>World Day of Prayer</b>            CHICKEN STEW PREP</p>	<p><b>3</b> FH, Kitchen in use            5AM-3PM            CHICKEN STEW PREP            12-1PM Chicken Stew            Pick Up Orders</p>
<p><b>11 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>  <b>UMCOR Sunday</b>            8:30AM Prayer Time @ Altar            8:50AM Blended, Casual Worship            10AM Sunday School            10:55AM Traditional Worship            4:30PM Hand Bells            4:30PM Confirmation            5:30PM UMYF            5:45PM Bible Study</p>	<p><b>12</b>            7PM Exercise</p>	<p><b>13</b>            10AM StoryTime in Library            10:30AM Friendly Club            7PM Women in Christ            7PM Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>FOOD PANTRY</b>            3-4PM            6PM Youth Bible Study            7PM Exercise            7PM Cantata/Choir</p>	<p><b>15</b>            3:15PM Children's Chapel            6:30PM PG Lion's Club            7PM Children &amp; Family Ministries            7PM Finance</p>	<p><b>16</b>            CHICKEN STEW            SNOW DATE</p>	<p><b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b>            CHICKEN STEW            SNOW DATE            (9AM Registration)            10-2PM UMW District Mission            Study @ Hickory Grove            UMC</p>
<p><b>18 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>            8:30AM Prayer Time @ Altar            8:50AM Blended, Casual Worship            10AM Sunday School            10:55AM Traditional Worship            4:30PM Hand Bells            4:30 Confirmation            5:30PM UMYF            5:45 Bible Study            7PM Church Council</p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE (INCLUDING INFO FOR CALENDAR)</b>            7PM Exercise</p>	<p><b>20 Spring Begins</b>            10AM StoryTime in Library            7PM Women in Christ            7PM Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>FOOD PANTRY</b>            3-4PM            6PM Youth Bible Study            7PM Cantata/Choir            7PM Exercise</p>	<p><b>22</b>            3:15PM Children's Chapel</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
<p><b>25 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>  <b>Palm Sunday</b>            Hand Bells Perform (both worship)            8:30AM Prayer Time @ Altar            8:50AM Blended, Casual Worship            10AM Sunday School            4:30-5:30PM Confirmation            5:30PM UMYF            5:45PM Bible Study</p>	<p><b>26</b>            7PM Arlene Stokes            7PM Exercise</p>	<p><b>27</b>            10AM StoryTime in Library            EASTER LILY ORDER DEADLINE            7PM Women in Christ            7PM Boy/Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>FOOD PANTRY</b>            3-4PM            6PM Youth BS            7PM Cantata/Choir            7PM Exercise</p>	<p><b>29 Maundy Thursday</b>            3:15PM Children's Chapel            7PM Maundy Thursday Service            With Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>30 Good Friday</b></p>	<p><b>31</b>            Cantata Rehearsal            Time TBA            2-4PM Egg Hunt</p>

Notes:

Bethlehem United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 56/6103 Appomattox Road  
Climax, NC 27233

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Climax, NC  
PERMIT NO. 1

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*If you are not a member of Bethlehem UMC and feel God leading you to it, I welcome you to speak to me about adding your name as a member of the church. You can reach me at - (704)516-6272 or email me at [msofford2@wnccumc.net](mailto:msofford2@wnccumc.net)  
Blessings, Pastor Michael*

*In an effort to move forward with security measures for our church, all entrance doors will be locked at 10:55am for the service. To gain entry after 10:55am, enter via the front main doors to the sanctuary where they will be monitored by a member. Thank you, BUMC Trustees Committee*

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER IS  
MONDAY, MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>.**

**Worship and Event Schedule**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. in Lent – Sun. March 4, Worship @ 8:50AM & 10:55AM (Holy Communion); SS @ 10AM
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Lent – March 11, Worship @ 8:50AM & 10:55AM; SS @ 10AM
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Lent – March 18, Worship @ 8:50AM & 10:55AM; SS @ 10AM
- Palm/Passion Sun. – March 25, Worship @ 8:50AM & 10:55AM (Hand Bell Choir performs); SS @ 10AM
- Maundy Thurs. – March 29 @ 7PM Worship/Tenebrae Service (Holy Communion)
- Egg Hunt – Sat., March 31 @ 2-4PM
- Easter Sunrise Service – Sun., April 1 @ 6:45AM (Breakfast follows in FH); SS @ 10AM
- Easter Cantata – Sun., April 1, Combined 10:55AM Worship (NO COMMUNION)