

2026

April Script Shores

Hampstead United Methodist Church



From the Pastor's Desk

As I write, today is Tuesday of Holy Week.

By the time you read this, we will have walked together through the final days of Jesus' earthly life — from the waving of palms, to the shadow of the cross, to the stillness of the tomb.

And then... Easter morning.

We will gather at sunrise,
share breakfast together,
hunt for eggs with laughter and joy,
and then fill the sanctuary with the great proclamation:

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

After all the heaviness of these past weeks, Easter will feel especially meaningful this year.

But Easter is not just a day.

It is a season.

In fact, the Church gives us fifty days — longer than Lent — to live into the truth that resurrection is not a moment to celebrate and move past, but a reality to grow into.

Because resurrection is not only something that happened to Jesus.

Resurrection is something God continues to do.

In lives.

In communities.

In churches.

We have already begun to see signs of that new life among us.

In the joy of welcoming new members into the life of the church.

In the laughter and relationships forming each week at Connect Club.

In the work beginning on long-awaited building improvements.

In worship moments that remind us God is still very much at work here.

And now, we are taking another important step.

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From the Pastor's Desk Continued...

At our Church Council meeting this week, a Visioning Team was affirmed — a group of faithful, prayerful members who will begin meeting with Rev. Carol Goehring to help us listen for God's leading and discern who we are called to be in this next season of ministry.

This is not about quick decisions or predetermined outcomes.

It is about listening.

Listening to God.

Listening to one another.

Listening for where the Holy Spirit is already at work among us.

Over the coming months, this team will help us reflect on our past, understand our present, and prayerfully imagine our future. Their work will eventually lead to recommendations that will be shared with the whole church.

For now, I ask one simple thing:

Please pray for them.

Pray for openness.

Pray for wisdom.

Pray for courage.

Pray for clarity in the midst of discernment.

And as you pray for them, also remain open yourself — because the work of the Holy Spirit is never limited to a single group. God speaks through the whole body of Christ.

Beginning April 19, we will enter into a new sermon series focused on resurrection — not just the empty tomb, but what it means to live as resurrection people in the world today.

What does new life look like?

Where is God bringing renewal?

How do we recognize it... and join in?

These are the questions we will explore together.

Because resurrection is not behind us.

It is unfolding all around us.

And perhaps, even now,
something new is beginning to rise.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Debbie

United Methodist Men



Upcoming News: Breakfast continues on the 1st Saturday of the month at 8AM in the FLC. The April 4th Breakfast has been pushed back to the 5th in order to share with those attending the Sunrise Service!

At about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

There was a moment on the cross when Jesus was alone. Absolutely, alone. Abandoned by everyone: his admirers, his followers, even his Father. Yet He followed through with the plan laid out before him. Prophecy wrote of all that would occur prior to his coming, yet many denied him. Even self-preservation brought three denials from Simon Peter.

There are times we all may feel that same way: forgotten, ignored, overlooked. Denying that anyone notices, or cares. But, if we stay in The Word, we as Christ-followers know the rest of that story. The Father returned to Christ, Christ returned to his followers and his followers returned to him! A perpetual circle of life was born, a resurrection! Though Christ left them physically, He never left them totally. He was always with them; His sacrifice was such that they would have the opportunity to be with him, always. And thanks to his followers, we have that same opportunity. Regardless of our choice, He is with us. In the highs and lows of life, He is with us – always. As we move through Easter and on toward Pentecost, may we all find time to be in The Word. Such that we are reminded of Christ's presence always being with us, and through us, the lives of others.

'A Bible in the hand is worth so much more than all the others on the shelf.'

Shalom,
Al Smith

Coastal Carolina Emmaus

Coastal Carolina Emmaus provides powerful spiritual retreats that foster growth in faith, renewal, and deeper community engagement among Christians. To learn more, search "Coastal Carolina Emmaus" or contact Rev. Dr. Debbie Matthis, or John Harris (910-520-4042).

The Women's Walk is April 16-19

Saturday, April 25th HUMC Emmaus will host a "Follow-up Gathering" for the Men's and Women's Spring Walks. Volunteers for setup please arrive by 4:00 PM for the 5:00 PM covered dish meal and the worship service after the meal.



Children's Church News

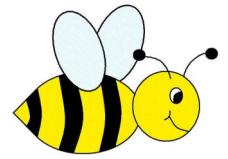
Most Sundays you will find us having a short lesson in Room 17. These lessons help the little ones to understand the lessons or the old Testament as well as the lessons Jesus taught to help us grow into the people Jesus wants us to be. If your children are from 4 yrs. to 5th grade please encourage them to come and learn more about God's love. We are always looking for more teachers to help us and if you are interested please contact Cheryle Shaffer, at 910-620-5904 or Brooks Anderson or Pastor Debbie.



—Cheryle Shaffer

HUMC & YMCA Connect Club

What's all the buzz about? On Wednesday April 29th and May 6th, the Hampstead Bee Keepers will be bringing an enclosed demonstration Bee Hive for students to learn more about why bees are a vital part of the food chain. Children will play games collecting pollen on their legs with the assistance of Velcro. We are very blessed by the 12 adults who help enhance the YMCA after-school program each Wednesday for one hour.



For those of you who have not heard, **Connect Club** is a wonderful program that brings together children from the YMCA Afterschool Program with caring adults from HUMC!

Every Wednesday starting at 3:45 PM in the Family Life Center (FLC), **adult volunteers of all ages (and we especially invite our senior members!)** spend time with these great kids through:

- ◆ Arts and crafts
- ◆ Fun hands-on projects
- ◆ Learning new skills or sharing talents

Building friendships and making a positive difference.

Contact Shirleen Spencer at 910-508-4777 or Peggy Harris at littlerr1952@gmail.com.



Snuggle Crafts!





United Methodist Women In Faith

Thank you to all those involved in our biggest Fund Raiser, Game a Rama. Actually, thank you doesn't seem big enough, but we are so grateful for everyone who helped with this event, from the advertisement to the ones who participated in the games. So wonderful to see everyone come together to help and to enjoy just being together. Bless you all!!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th, at 10 a.m. in Room 5/6. Nancy Davis will give us the Devotion and Prayer and Dianne McKagan will provide the program. We will be collecting canned meats, canned vegetables, detergent, paper towels, cleaning supplies, etc for 4 Cs during the month. We encourage the whole church to help with this campaign. You will find a storage bin in the narthex. Please contact Cheryle Shaffer by text or call 910-620-5904 for any questions.

—Cheryle Shaffer

Become a Part of Our Sunday Worship Team!

We're looking for dedicated volunteers to serve as **greeters**, **ushers**, **lay readers**, or **communion servers** during Sunday's service. These roles are a meaningful way to connect with our congregation.

What We Need:

- ◆ **1 Greeter:** Welcome everyone with a smile and help set a joyful tone.
- ◆ **1-2 Ushers:** Provide attendees with bulletins, assist with seating, and ensure a smooth service flow.
- ◆ **1 Lay Reader:** Read scriptures during worship services each week.
- ◆ **4 Communion Servers:** Help serve communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Why Volunteer?

- ◆ Make a difference in our worship services.
- ◆ Build connections with fellow church members.
- ◆ Flexible commitment with a rotating schedule—serve just once a month!

No Experience Needed: Full training is provided to ensure you feel confident in your role. **Ready to Serve?** Contact the church office (office@hampsteadumc.org) speak with Pastor Debbie to sign up or learn more.

Your participation helps our worship services thrive!





 **hampstead**
un ted methodist church

P R E S E N T S

**COASTAL
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 2, 2026

The Living Stones | God's Chosen | 33Blurr
featuring **The Edge Church Praise Team,**
and **Faith Harbor UMC Praise Band**

For more information,
(910) 270-4648
15395 US-17 N,
Hampstead, NC, 28443
A Variety of Food Truck
Vendors from NC Will Be
Available to the Public
© 2026 Hampstead United Methodist Church



Gifts & Proceeds to benefit:
Share the Table

Coastal Music Festival - May 2, 12pm-8pm

Join us at Hampstead UMC for a music festival to benefit Share the Table and enjoy music, live praise bands and food trucks. Share with others who might enjoy a music festival!



DR. ELAINE HEATH - SPIRITUAL RETREAT:

MAY

30

2026

THE MYSTIC WAY OF EVANGELISM

A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING ABOUT EVANGELISM

9.30AM - 2PM

Join us for a day of worship, teaching, lunch, and a book signing at Faith Harbor UMC (14201 US 50, Surf City NC). Please consider purchasing Dr. Heath's book *The Mystic Way of Evangelism* in advance of her teaching. Free event. Register with: faithharborumc.secretary@gmail.com

Notes & Letters...



March 5, 2026

Dear Hampstead UMC Family,

Grace and peace to you all! Thank you for the ways you showed up and God showed off in 2025! Congregations are caring for one another and their communities, clergy and laity are working together for God in the world. I am grateful for your attention to mission and ministry, that which radiates Christ's love to all people! Our combined prayers, presence, gifts and service makes a difference, friends.

One way that our mission and ministry reach is extended is through our United Methodist Apportionment giving. Thanks to your 100.01% apportionment fulfillment, the Harbor District increased its overall giving from 86% in 2024 to 93.45% in 2025! We all give and together we reach into our communities, into the state, and into the world. These funds support Congregations for Children (C4C), grants for mission teams, New Faith Communities across our Conference and UMC ministries around the world.

For the ways you budgeted, for making plans to offer your giving as first fruits, and for faithfully and steadily giving your tithes and offerings as a church family, I give thanks! To God be the glory for all the ways Christ is working in the world. May our work together be a light for all in this world!

And may the peace of Christ be with you all.

Blessings,

Tara C. Lain

Dear HUMC,

Thank you all for the lovely reception; the food, and decorations, and your sweet hospitality during Mom's Celebration of Life. She loved you all so much!

Thank you also, for the fig preserves and fig butter!

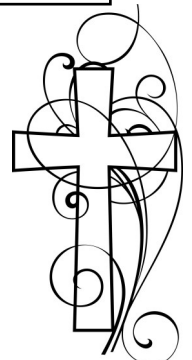
Blessings in Christ,

The family of Judy Carter

To our Church Family,

Thank you so much for all of you who helped with the meal after the service for Judy Carter. It was wonderful! Your thoughtfulness means a lot to our family.

—Steve and the Flowers family



Anniversaries...

Name	Date
Jim & Betty Godwin	April 01
Greg & Amy Mowrey	April 04
Dennis & Patti Rouse	April 07
Scott & Nancy Zsadanyi	April 07
Frank & Brenda Gibson	April 09
Walter & Whitney Graves	April 19
John & Kerry Doerrmann	April 24



Birthdays...

Name	Date
Linda Thomas	April 01
Beverly Batton	April 04
Deb Taylor	April 07
James Williams	April 07
Kiersten Shirley	April 09
Charlie Lane	April 10
Conne Schwarz	April 10
Rose Parker	April 11
Grace Bibby	April 12
Victoria Yates	April 12
Aksel Davis	April 13
Josh Martin	April 13
Alex Fennell	April 14
Chris Fennell	April 14
Judy Haverkamp	April 15
Megan Miller	April 16
Brad Thomas	April 17
Diane Tomlinson	April 19
Melissa Capozio	April 20
Michael Sutton	April 21
Elaine Myers	April 23
Charles Rooks	April 24
Rose Fisher	April 25
William Mueller	April 25
Jody Pooch	April 25
Steve Zerby	April 25
John Haverkamp	April 28
Bob Parker	April 28
Karla Quinn	April 28
Alice Wren Johnson	April 30

Altar Flowers...



Date	Dedication
April 5	Larry & Darlene David... <i>"To the glory of God and in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ."</i>
April 12	Andrew & Laura Bibby... <i>"In celebration of our daughter Grace for her first birthday."</i>
April 19	Cheryle Shaffer... <i>"Dedicated to my grandchildren and great-grandchildren for the months of March and April ."</i>
April 26	Joanne Pearson... <i>"In loving memory of Timothy and our wedding anniversary."</i>

