

2024

March Script Shores

Hampstead United Methodist Church

William's Wanderings



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"For they don't practice what they preach...But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be

exalted."

-Matthew 23:3; 11-12

Whenever one reads the Gospel we learn bit more about Jesus (what He said and did). We also learn something about ourselves, which means that reading this Holy Writ is **risky business**. This is especially true if one takes the time to read chapter **23** of **Matthew's Gospel**.

Recall that each of the Gospels was written decades after Jesus' death. They were written to communities with a particular makeup and unique challenges. Reading Matthew's Gospel, one comes away believing that Matthew was writing to a community made up of both Jews and Gentiles with various backgrounds and viewpoints. All were trying to interpret and apply the teachings of Jesus.

Today's Christian communities are little different from those of Jesus' time. This is where I would suggest that the Gospel becomes **risky business**...if one does not read it with care; for we Christians can, if we are not mindful, begin to look like the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day. The scribes and the Pharisees insisted on a firm application of the Laws of Moses.

Yet, Jesus called them hypocrites. Ouch!!

We Christians are far more diverse than in Matthew's time. However, we still struggle with how to live into a Gospel that is interpreted in multiple ways. Let's recall that Jesus was clearly a strong advocate for the Law, saying: **"Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."** And yet, nothing seems to anger Jesus more than those who apply the Law with a heavy hand for its own sake. He says, **"I tell you the truth tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of Heaven before you."**

We live in a time that seems to be highly judgmental. We grapple with our beliefs...and ourselves. Times are when we may be right in our insistence. But let us be careful in our judging that too often leads to a false narrative in gossip on Facebook and social gatherings. For Jesus also teaches that **"ultimately only the humble are exalted."**

**Still in His Peace,
Pastor William**



Spirit Circle

Spirit Circle will meet at 7:00 PM on March 4th in the library. All interested women are invited to join us.

Hope Circle

The Hope Circle will meet on March 12th at 1:00 PM in the Family Life Center to help set up for the Game-a-Rama.

Friendship Circle

We will meet on March 4th at 2:00 PM in room 5/6 at the church. We hope to see you there!

—Loretta Greenough, 910-270-2060

Sunday School News

"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

We continue with providing the Children's Church at the 8:45 and 11:00 services. We are learning about the life of Jesus and His miracles.

We meet in Room 17 of the Pre-school wing. Please join us if you are 3 yrs. to 5th grade. If you are new, please fill out a registration form.

The Youth Group meets in Room 2 of the Main Building. They are starting a new Bible Study; Stories Jesus Told - Exploring the Heart of the Parables.

Hope to see you there.

We are always in need for help with our teachers to give them a break from time to time. If you are interested in a part time or full-time teaching position for these enthusiastic soul hungry children, please let me or Jaime Alberti or Pastor William know. Cheryle Shaffer, Sunday School Superintendent 910-620-5904.

Blessings to all of you, Cheryle Shaffer

Music Notes

As we navigate the season of Lent, we are preparing to celebrate the Lord's resurrection at the end of March on Easter Sunday. Palm Sunday is March 24th, and we will have children at both services entering with Palm branches! The 8:45 Blended service will follow its usual format, but if you join us at 11am for the Traditional service, we will also have young people from Pre-K, Elementary, Middle, and High School sharing music performances with us. This service will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt. This is a wonderful weekend to invite a neighbor, family member, or friend to church!

We are preparing a special Good Friday Passion performance on Friday March 29th at 7pm. This performance will feature one of our very talented Lay Readers, Chris Dresp, who will narrate the story of Good Friday in a way that stirs your heart and touches your soul. The HUMC Praise Band and Choir will help bring the story to life with musical numbers including "Jesus, Friend of Sinners", "The Lord's Prayer", "Above All", and an "Easter Hallelujah". Please consider joining us to get the full story before we celebrate on Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday is March 31st, and both services will include music by the praise band and the choir. We can't wait to celebrate the story with songs! I can't wait to see how God continues to move in our congregation and community this Easter Season.

The music department would like to keep growing. If you feel called to share your talent in any way, please email me as bthny80@gmail.com.

Thank you, and have a wonderful March!

Bethany



Meals On Wheels

We had a very successful launch of our Table of Grace Meals on Wheels mission this past weekend. We have a good list of volunteers ready to get involved. I think this is a good mission for us to be involved in. The team from Renovation Church even brought us a couple of boxes of Bo Berry biscuits.

I would like to thank everyone that helped. I did not take a picture of our Friday crew. I do not have Arlene's email address; Linda, please forward this message to her.

Some of the folks in this small group were involved in cleaning our front church lawn while we were having our first worship service at the county annex after Florence.

—Linda Dunn



MUNCH—BackPack Meals Program

Not a whole to report this month. Our inventories are good and distribution remains at about 95 backpacks each weekend.



I appreciate all the help get. Makes things pretty easy!

Backpack Meal Items:

- Cheerios, Oatmeal, or other low sugar cereals
- Canned Pasta Sauce and dry Pasta
- Canned Vegetables & Fruits, Individual Fruit Containers (low sugar/no refrigeration)
- Plastic Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Individual Packages of Peanut Butter Crackers and Cheese Crackers
- Tuna and Chicken Helpers or store brand
- Canned Tuna and Canned Chicken (to pair with item above)
- Chunky Soups & Stews, Macaroni & Cheese
- Canned Pastas (Spaghetti-O's, Ravioli-O's, etc.) store brand is fine
- 100% Fruit Juice (small cans or plastic bottles) "Reduced Sugar" and "Lower Sodium" are best! Please, NO glass containers.

Thank you for your continued support!

—Chip Davis, MUNCH Coordinator

Peaceful Pastures; Experiential Soul Care

Peaceful Pastures is a local non-profit that provides experiential soul care. We are here to help bring restoration to those who are hurting, to walk with those desiring a deep connection with Christ, and to offer those in need of rest, a place away from the everyday stressors of life. This is achieved through Biblically-based Equine Assisted Programs, Christ-centered Yoga and a place of retreat in nature.

Ongoing & Upcoming Events at Peaceful Pastures:

- Christ-centered Yoga every Thursday from 9:15am-10:15am

Farm volunteer hours every Friday from 10am-1pm

*please rsvp to Melanie @ 910-228-9188

- Open House: Friday March 8th from 3-6pm & Saturday March 9th from 10am -1pm

There will be Equine-assisted demonstrations, short yoga sessions, and a self-guided prayer journey on our nature trails for all guests to enjoy.

*Sign up for the Open House on the events page of our website.

www.betransformedatpeacefulpastures.com.

Anniversaries...



Name	Date
Bill & Tami Abbott	March 02
Steve & Trudy Wilder	March 02
Scott & Heather Mueller	March 20

Altar Flowers...



Birthdays...

Name	Date
Ted Croom	March 01
Amanda TerBeek	March 01
Bill Wallen	March 01
Jaime Alberti	March 02
Amy Mowrey	March 02
Shannon Pope	March 02
Peggy Rose	March 02
Wayland Batson	March 03
Liv Bellamy	March 03
Summer Strong	March 03
Beth Williamson-Poe	March 03
Jacob Riley	March 04
Brandon Moore	March 05
Walt Makaryk	March 05
Kathy Barnes	March 06
Charlie Jones	March 06
Matt Martin	March 06
Ann Todd	March 07
Lilly Graves	March 08
Gislene Hamberger	March 09
Glen Pettygrove	March 10
Terri Strong	March 10
Lou Kurtz	March 11
Paul Saari	March 11
Melody Doyle	March 12
Steve Dunthorn	March 12
Connor McDermott	March 12
Allen Warwick	March 12
Chase Eckhardt	March 13
Natalie Farmer	March 14
Nancy Hansing	March 15
Caroline Bolin	March 16
Wendy Ellis	March 16
Dalton Dunthorn	March 17
Christy Dennis	March 18
Ricky Brown	March 19
Judy Harrelson	March 19
John Phelps	March 20
Josh Withrow	March 20
Beth Johnson	March 22
Jane Smals	March 22
Jim Hock	March 26
Marty Long	March 26
Jordan Thomas	March 26
Jesse Mintz	March 27
Ken Sheaffer	March 27
Dean Batson	March 28
Craig Wolfenbarger	March 28
Cameron Fennell	March 29
Lilian Winte	March 30
Lisa Gibson	March 31

Date	Dedication
March 3	Darren Poe... <i>"In celebration of Beth's birthday."</i>
March 3	Mollie Wallen... <i>"In celebration of Bill Wallen's birthday."</i>
March 10	Judy Carter... <i>"For Mary Elizabeth Tolar, whose birthday was March 1st."</i>
March 10	Jack Loveless... <i>"In celebration of Ann Todd's birthday."</i>
March 17	Steve, Robbin & Spencer Dunthorn... <i>"In celebration of Dalton's 24th birthday, and Steve's 62nd birthday."</i>
March 17	Patrick McCarthy... <i>"In loving memory of my father on his birthday, and my parents, John and Beverly, on their wedding anniversary."</i>
March 24	Ruth Sheaffer... <i>"In celebration of Ken's 78th birthday."</i>
March 24	Kathy McKinnon... <i>"In celebration of the 8th anniversary of membership to HUMC."</i>
March 31	Sally Piepmeyer... <i>"In celebration of David Piepmeyer's birthday on April 5th."</i>