

2026

March Script Shores

Hampstead United Methodist Church

From the Pastor's Desk

Little Resurrections Along the Way



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February began with snow — the kind we rarely see in eastern North Carolina — blanketing our community and forcing us to pause. Worship and church activities were canceled on February 1 as icy roads made gathering unsafe, and Consecration Sunday had to be postponed until February 15.

When we finally gathered, it was with celebration and a feast as we pledged to support the ministry of Hampstead United Methodist Church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in 2026.

And then, almost immediately, the season grew heavy.

Between February 7 and February 14, we gathered three times for Services of Death and Resurrection, commending beloved members of our church family into God's eternal care. By Ash Wednesday, February 18, we were marked with ashes and reminded of our mortality while another long-time member remained hospitalized. By the Second Sunday of Lent, we were already preparing for the service of death and resurrection for Judy Carter.

Lent has felt especially weighty this year.

At times it truly feels as though we are walking toward the cross alongside Jesus — not knowing exactly where the road is leading or what waits around the next turn. Yet even in such seasons, we hold fast to hope. Thank God Easter is coming. And every Sunday, as the Church has long proclaimed, is a *little resurrection*.

Lent invites us to notice those small resurrections — the quiet moments when God's presence breaks through grief, uncertainty, or weariness.

We see them on Wednesday afternoons at **Connect Club**, when laughter fills the Family Life Center as we spend time with children in the YMCA after-school program.

We see them in the faithful work of our Trustees, as long-anticipated renovations to the Youth Building and Preschool Wing prepare to begin. Plans are also underway for a spring workday to care for our buildings and grounds — signs of stewardship and hope for the future.



From the Pastor's Desk Continued...

And last Sunday many of us experienced a true God-moment when our new Music Director, **Johnathan Miller**, offered a moving rendition of *"The Goodness of God."* It brought more people to their feet, giving glory to God, than we have seen in quite some time. If you missed it, I encourage you to visit our website or Facebook page and experience that moment of worship.

There is much ahead.

On **March 8**, we will welcome several new families into church membership — a joyful reminder that even in seasons of loss, God continues to bring new life and new relationships into our community of faith.

Holy Week arrives early this year, falling at the end of March, which means March will be a time of preparation as we look toward:

Palm Sunday worship

Good Friday service

Easter Sunrise worship followed by breakfast

And the celebration of Resurrection Sunday

As we move through these remaining weeks of Lent, I invite you to slow down enough to listen for God — and to watch carefully for those little resurrections happening all around us.

You may notice this theme reflected visually in our Lenten altar arrangement. Two simple vases of bare branches stand beside a rough wooden cross set on burlap. Week by week, touches of greenery and signs of new life will gradually appear, allowing the arrangement to grow and unfold throughout the season until Easter morning, when it blossoms into a joyful proclamation that resurrection often begins quietly before it arrives in glory.

May this season help us notice where new life is already taking root among us.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Debbie

Palm Sunday & Easter Egg Hunt

March is shaping up to be an exciting month in the life of our church. As we approach the culmination of our Christian faith in the coming of Easter, we ask that anyone with Easter eggs to spare please bring them on March 22 to Pastor Brooks.

March 29 is Palm Sunday, and any and all youth, Powerkids, and anyone willing to is invited to attend service and wave palms to symbolize the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem.

Finally, the long awaited youth Easter egg hunt will be happening between the men's Easter breakfast and the Easter service. If anyone wishes to volunteer to hide or pack eggs, please see Pastor Brooks.



United Methodist Men



Upcoming news: No April 4th Breakfast!

More news: Sunrise Service April 5th with breakfast provided by UMM!

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

I read this as my 'Verse of the Day' shortly after hearing from my daughter of her husband's nephew, Steven Perry being killed by a supposed drunk driver earlier that morning while on patrol in Durham. Initially this verse angered me. I mean, He doesn't want any to perish, but come to repentance, even at the cost of someone else's life? I eventually heard of the passing of the other driver, which helped me some. Not that I felt justified in his passing, but that I felt sadness for his family as well. Then the light came on, unfortunately, it took the better part of a day.

All of us are fighting 'demons' of some sort. Things that pull us down the wrong path. They have us spouting words that are hurtful, overlooking others in need, or making us just too lazy to care; But didn't Jesus, while hanging on a Roman cross, offer hope by asking for forgiveness for what they were doing? He knew exactly what was in store for him long before the cross ever came, but he came anyway. He was patient with those around him. He worked on showing them (and us too) the way to live. To be forgiving (Eph. 4:32), generous (Pvbs. 11:25), and kind (Pvbs. 19:19)... in ALL circumstances. As we continue through the Season of Lent, may we be ever mindful of His many gifts. May we be so steadfast in our faith that we willingly share those gifts with others and, in turn, bring hope to us all.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, say the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Shalom,
Al Smith

Martha's Kitchen & Bereavement Committee News

Happy Spring, everyone, this is just a note to let you know that Martha's Kitchen and the bereavement committee are joining together to serve our congregation better. We will still prepare food when needed, and deliver them. We also will continue to provide assistance to Memorial Services for family members. The Bereavement committee and Martha's Kitchen are in need of more members. Currently there are only 3-4 members but others help when needed, We would like to have a list of others to let us know how they can help out if asked. It is usually only a short commitment of time and energy. Please let Kathy McKinnon, Loretta Greenough, Dixie Hampel know if you would like to be part of this. " Many hands make work light." Thank you and God bless.



HUMC Connect Club

What is Connect Club??

For those of you who have not heard, we are excited to launch **Connect Club**, a wonderful new 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

This is a simple, rewarding way to **live out our church's mission by partnering with the YMCA to support and guide young people in our community.** Your presence and encouragement mean so much—the kids love the attention, stories, and guidance from caring adults like you!

Do you have a passion or hobby you'd enjoy sharing? Whether it's painting, storytelling, simple games, gardening tips, music, crafts, or anything fun and kid-friendly, we'd love for you to lead or help with an activity! No experience necessary—just a willing heart.

What Does It Take to Volunteer?

- ◆ A loving heart for children ages 5 to 10 years old.
- ◆ A willingness to stay “young at heart”.
- ◆ An up to date background check and Safe Sanctuary training.

Contact Shirleen Spencer at 910-508-4777 or little1952@gmail.com





Helping Kids
During Craft Time



Art Therapy
Program



Learning New
Sports Skills





United Methodist Women In Faith

We will have our regular meeting on March 10th at 10:00 AM in room 5/6. Debbie Musolino will present the program and Janis Warwick will provide the devotion and prayer. We will be finalizing our plans for Game a-Rama. Please call or text Cheryle Shaffer at 910-620-5904 for any questions. All women of the church are invited.

Jar Request!

Clean, empty jars that pasta sauce or other foods come in no larger than one quart and no smaller than one pint. You may leave the label on and we'll remove it. The lid is not needed. Place jars on the table in the Library or the table in room 4. Thank you!

—HUMC Connect Club



Upcoming Emmaus Walks

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.

Men's Walk March 19-22 **Women's Walk** April 16-19

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!



Anniversaries...

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



Birthdays...

Name	Date
Amanda TerBeek	March 01
Jaime Alberti	March 02
Amy Mowrey	March 02
Brandon Moore	March 05
Kathy Barnes	March 06
Charlie Jones	March 06
Ann Todd	March 07
Lilly Graves	March 08
Kelsey Davis	March 09
Glen Pettygrove	March 10
Jewels Swain	March 11
Melody Doyle	March 12
Steve Dunthorn	March 12
Connor McDermott	March 12
Caroline Bolin	March 16
Dalton Dunthorn	March 17
Robert Patrick	March 18
John Phelps	March 20
Scott Zsadanyi	March 20
Joshua Finch	March 22
Jane Smals	March 22
Donna Patrick	March 23
Marty Long	March 26
Ashley Shukla	March 26
Ken Sheaffer	March 27
Cameron Fennell	March 29
Ben Sanchez	March 31



Altar Flowers...

The March 1st Altar flowers are given by
Bill Abbott...

"In loving memory of Tammie Abbott."



Available Altar Flower Sponsorships

April: 19
May: 10, 17, 24
June: 7, 21, 28
July: 12, 19, 26
August: 2, 30
September: 6, 20, 27
October: 11, 18, 25
November: 8, 15, 29

*Flowers are on a first come-first served basis.
 Each arrangement is \$50. Contact the church
 office to sponsor an arrangement.
 (910-270-4648, office@hampsteadumc.org)*

