

Sermon

*The Power of a Life-Changing Invitation:
The Unexpected Party Guest*
Laurin Allred

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE

^Sending Hymn
Come Thou Fount

^Next Steps & Benediction

Postlude

^ = Please stand as you are able.

Our worship services may be recorded and/or live streamed to YouTube, Facebook, and the church's website. Should you need a hearing device, please ask an usher for assistance.

*The altar flowers are given by Bill and Daryl Watkins to the glory of God and in celebration of their 27th anniversary.

**The rosebud on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Joshua M'lo to Josue and Carolina M'lo.

FOR NEW FOLKS:

WELCOME TO GUILFORD COLLEGE UMC!

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us this morning. GCUMC is a place for all who long to grow closer to God and others. You are loved and accepted here. **Please take a moment to fill out our attendance pad with your name and contact information and leave it in the pew.**

WE LOVE CHILDREN

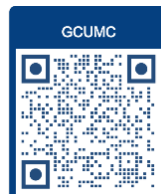
If you brought the kids with you, please know that the noises children make are music in our, and God's, ears. You are welcome to keep your children with you in worship. We also have child care available for infants through age 4 in Room C8 on the first floor of the children's building during the 11:00am worship service, and a separate children's worship experience at 11am that begins after the children's message for children in grades K-6.

JOIN US FOR "COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS"

Join us in the parlor, just down the hall from the sanctuary, after the worship service on **May 3rd** for "Coffee with the Pastors." This informal gathering with Pastors Jeremy and Susan will help you get to know them, meet other newcomers, learn more about our church, ask questions, and talk about how you might become more involved.

PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE

To learn more about us, please visit us either at our website, guilfordcollegeumc.org, through our YouTube Channel, or on our Facebook Page (just search "Guilford College UMC" for each). You may also use your phone's camera or QR app to scan the QR code to the right:



CONNECT & GROW

COLLEGE GRADUATES

If your family has a Dec. 2025 or Spring 2026 college graduate at any degree level, we would like to celebrate with you. Please send Randy Wall their name, school, major, and a photo of the graduate to rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org by **Monday, April 27**. They will be recognized in worship on Sunday, May 3.

FAMILY CAMP

Come join us for a meaningful, low-stress weekend to connect as families and grow in faith together! Family Camp at Camp Guilrock (May 1-2) will be filled with campfires, canoeing, crafts, worship, and time to simply rest and play. Tent and cabin options are available, and all ages are welcome. We'd love for you to come with us! Visit <https://campguilrock.org/retreats/family-camp> for more information. Contact Laurin Allred with questions or to register, lallred@guilfordcollegeumc.org.

THE WEDNESDAY WELCOME TABLE

Join us for the **Wednesday Welcome Table**, a meal for the **low price of \$7**, and a ministry not only for members of our church but also for folks from our community – anyone who is hungry for good food and holy friendship. Join us in the Fellowship Hall from 5:45 – 6:40pm. Come eat together and welcome one another in Jesus' name.

April 29: Menu – Spaghetti, Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Salad Bar (w/ sliced chicken), Dessert

Kids Meal Option: Chicken Nuggets, Apple Sauce, chips

Special Music at the Wednesday Welcome Table

- The **GCUMC HANDBELL TEAM** will be providing music on May 6th.
- The **NORTHWEST GUILFORD HS JAZZ ENSEMBLE** will be providing special music during our last Wednesday Welcome Table of the Spring on May 13th.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP LINE DANCING AT GCUMC

Let them praise his name with dancing, Psalm 149:3

If line dancing is something that you've been wanting to try, now is the time! It's a great way to get exercise, push away the blues, and meet some new friends. It's good **for all ages** and you don't need a partner. We will start off with a 15-20 minute devotion and then learn some fun and easy line dances that will be done to Christian music, like Mercy Me and Zach Williams. We will be meeting in C-1 on the first floor of the Children's Building on **May 3 and May 17 from 3:30-5**. Contact Sara Hardin at hardinx4@bellsouth.net with any questions or for more information. Hope to see you on the dance floor!

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 12, 2026! Max Carter, a local historian, author, and expert on everything Quaker will be sharing an engaging and meaningful presentation in our Fellowship Hall. The presentation will include a discussion about the Underground Railroad and the Witness Tree located on the campus of Guilford College, the Battle of New Garden/Guilford Courthouse and its effect on the surrounding community that we now call home, as well as other topics of interest. Everyone is invited to attend. Feel free to bring a guest. Come and enjoy a time of learning, reflection, and fellowship together. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude around 11:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

GIVE

MAKE AN OFFERING TO THE WORK OF GOD'S CHURCH

- 1 - Text GiveGCUMC to 73256. Then click on the link provided to give.
- 2 – Visit our website www.guilfordcollegeumc.org to use your credit card or to set up an automatic draft. Immediate receipts are available. You can even use the GCUMC QR code in this bulletin.
- 3 – Log into your REALM account to give through your profile's giving page.
- 4 - Checks can be made out to "Guilford College UMC" and placed in the offering plate and cash is always a good form of giving.

GCUMC FINANCIAL REPORT

Through March 31, 2026

YEAR ACTUAL:

Amount received for budget as of 3/31/26:	\$ 278,481.75
Expenses as of 3/31/26:	311,732.38
Difference:	(\$ 33,250.63)

PRAY AND WORSHIP

AMONG THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR TODAY:

Within Our Church Family: **Those who are Grieving:** The Family and Friends of Harold Eagle; all those who have lost a loved one; **Healing:** Tom Patterson; Marjorie Liles; Brooke Follo; Dorothy Zur; Allen Cheek; Barbara McLeod; Ellen Lancaster; Lynette Whittaker; **Surgery and Awaiting Tests:** Greg Fischer (surgery 4/29); Maria Maynard; Kelly Alston; **Strength & Faith:** Ben Brothers; Helen Phillips; **Those With Cancer:** Mike Ballard (surgery 5/22); Tom Jenkins; Greg Matthews; Lisa Hodges; **Sustaining and Guidance:** Doris Linker; Patsy Wyatt; Nancy and Jim Baity; Katherine and Charles Forbes; Bill Blyshak; Tina Bell Midgett; Terri Hastings; Y'Josue and Carolina M'lo and newborn, Joshua

Extended Church Family: **Grieving:** The Family and Friends of Leonard Shelton; All those who have lost a loved one; **Cancer:** Sean Sullivan; Wyatt Daufeldt; Ike Santiago; Rachel Gault; Darla Freeman; David Castro; Sarah Lemon; Fay Holliday; Janelle Reich; Sutton Phillips; Linda Payne; Carla Morgan; Tim Vail; Sharon Guarino; Tammy Smith; Emily; Harrison Henry Brooks; Billy Carey; Jim Cashman; Ron Moser; Debra Rutt; Shilah George; Shannon Wilson; Sammy Williams; Azalea Marbury; Judy Journey; Tammy Strickland; **Surgery and Awaiting Test Results:** B.J. Sullivan; Michael Patterson (awaiting a heart transplant); Landon Cottrell (tumor); Maureen Parker; **Healing:** Eric Elliott; Stan Dixon; Nannette Price; Ronnie and Mildred Caldwell; John Stauffer; Heather Taylor; Peggy Conaway; **Strength and Guidance:** Joy Collier (Laurin's grandmother in hospital); Rose Mallard (hospice); Jim Eldrett; Kim Lambeth; Christy Lloyd; Kathy Williams; Kenneth Briggs (hospice); Christopher Blyshak; Y'Suan M'lo and H'Lai, H'Jina, H'Sally, Bunlim and Darwin Leng; **Missionaries:** Liz and David Gamble; **World:** our ministry partners in Kenya; all who suffer from war, famine, drought and natural disasters

SERVICE NOTES

Today is the 4th Sunday of the season of Easter. Within the Church, the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is far too big to be celebrated on one day only – so Easter is not just a Sunday, but a season of 50 days in which we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

In a way, every Sunday, all throughout the year, is a little Easter in which we celebrate Christ's victory over death. Today in worship we continue in a post-Easter sermon series in which we are talking about "The Power of a Life-Changing Invitation." Last week we focused on the life-changing invitation which Jesus asks us to offer to others: "Come and See." Today, while Pastor Jeremy is away on our Western NC Mission trip, we are grateful to have our Director of Young Adult and Connectional Ministries, Laurin Allred, to serve as our preacher – and to turn our focus to Jesus' encounter with a particular uninvited guest.



Today's Scriptures:

Luke 7:36-50 (CEB)

KEY VERSES:

³⁶ One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After he entered the Pharisee's home, he took his place at the table. ³⁷ Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner, discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee's house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. ³⁸ Standing behind him at his feet and crying, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. . . . ⁴⁴ Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you didn't give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You didn't greet me with a kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I came in. ⁴⁶ You didn't anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. ⁴⁷ This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little." ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ The other table guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this person that even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

NOTES:

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 26

Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:30am
Various Learning Groups at 9:45am
Worship in the Sanctuary and Livestream Broadcast at 11:00am
Western NC Mission Team Returns
Brazos Abiertos: Pan in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00pm
UMYF (Grades 7-12) in Rooms C10 & C11 from 5:00 -7:00pm

Monday, April 27

Scouts in the Children's Building in the evening
NA in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm

Tuesday, April 28

Women's Bible Study: Revelation via Zoom at 6:00pm
Handbells Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room at 6:30pm
Church Council in Room A4 and via Zoom at 6:30pm

Wednesday, April 29

Women's Bible Study: Revelation in Room A4 and via Zoom at 9:30am
New Direction Nar-Anon Family Group in Room A2 at Noon
Mid-week Prayer Time in the Parlor at Noon
Wednesday Welcome Table in the Fellowship Hall from 5:45 – 6:40pm
Kids' Music Club in the Choir Room from 6:10 – 6:40pm
ESOL in Room B6 from 6:30 – 7:45pm
Faith Files/Faith Friends Rooms C13, C14 & C15 from 6:45 - 7:45pm
SnYP in Hilltop Room from 6:45 – 7:45pm
Youth Fun Night meet on the back field from 6:45-7:45pm
Moms' Group in Room A5 from 6:45 – 7:45pm
Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room at 7:00pm

Thursday, April 30

Preschool Spring Sing in the Sanctuary at 11:45am
Nar-Anon in Room A2 at 7:00pm

Friday, May 1

Family Camp at Camp Guilrock

Saturday, May 2

Family Camp at Camp Guilrock
Faith Action Health Clinic at GCUMC

Sunday, May 3

Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:30am
Coffee with the Pastors in the Parlor after Worship
Various Learning Groups at 9:45am
Worship in the Sanctuary and Livestream Broadcast at 11:00am
Coffee with the Pastors in the Parlor after Worship
Soccer on the Back Field at 2:30pm
Girl Scouts in the Children's Building in the afternoon
Christian Line Dancing in Room C1 at 3:30pm
Strong Roots in Rooms A1 and A2 at 5:00pm
UMYF (Grades 7-12) in Rooms C10 & C11 from 5:00 -7:00pm

CONTACT US

Guilford College United Methodist Church
1205 Fleming Road, Greensboro, NC 27410
Phone: 336-292-5833 / Website: www.guilfordcollegeumc.org
Email: welcome@guilfordcollegeumc.org

Guilford College United Methodist Church April 26, 2026 – 11:00am

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome, Praises & Opening Prayer
Rev. Susan Suárez Webster

^Fellowship Greeting
Melanie Crump

WE PRAISE GOD AND SING

^Opening Hymn
House of the Lord

Children's Moment
Donna Ford

*At the 11am worship celebration, Children in Grades K-6 may exit for Children's Worship on the 2nd floor of the Children's building. They can be picked up from the church Parlor after 11am worship.

Offering
Student Associate Minister, Andrés Pérez

Offertory
Your Labor is Not in Vain

Prayers of the People
& The Lord's Prayer
Rev. Susan Suárez Webster

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD

Introduction to the Scripture Reading
Laurin Allred

^Scripture Reading
Luke 7:36-50 (CEB)