

Covenant Connection

Covenant United Methodist Church

April 2023



April 7 - 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service in the chapel

April 9th - Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service at 7 am
Family Breakfast following
Worship at 10:30 am
Worship with us this Easter!



April 22 - Saturday

5:00 - 7:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner
Fundraiser and Basket Raffle!
(more details inside)

April 27 - 5:00 pm

Meet the 2023 Honey Hunters team
as we host a BBQ dinner
for the team & staff!

GASTONIA
Honey Hunters





Hi everyone! We have finished drawing on our loan and will begin making our monthly payments in April. You will be happy to know that we have paid the balance down to about \$45,000. That means our payments will be approximately \$350/month. I can't thank Brenda and Buddy Johnson, the trustees, and the Pastor enough for all they have done to get our steeple repaired and looking like new! The next project will be landscaping in the front of the building. Be watching for more details coming soon. Pat Culver, Finance Chair

Upcoming Events!



As you can see from the enclosed flyer, our next fundraiser is the Spaghetti dinner and basket raffle planned for Saturday, April 22. I am really getting excited about this one! I think it will be awesome to work together to make it a success. But, of course, we need your help to do so. Here are a few ways you can help:

Raffle Baskets: Just a few ideas on a theme... Picnic, Beach, Camping, Cook Out, Car Wash, Fun for Kids!, Garage/Tools, Garden, Meal or Snack, and maybe a gift card tree. Also, the Honey Hunters have offered to donate items for a basket! You can make a basket yourself or contribute items. Linda Raxter and Brenda Johnson have agreed to make them up for us, YAY!, so if you would like to contribute items, see Linda or Brenda.

Getting the word out – more flyers are available (see me or Tammy). Please pass them out to your neighbors, friends, and family. Tony Wilson has arranged for announcements to be made on the Gaston College radio station WSGE 91.7 FM. How awesome is that??!! And last, but not least, we will **need help serving**, salad prep, the dessert table, etc. Food Lion has agreed to donate some of the food! A BIG THANK YOU TO THEM!! Chef Deidre with the Kids at Work are cooking the sauce, THANK YOU DEIDRE AND KIDS!! Things are coming together and I'm so grateful. GOD IS GOOD!!

Pat Culver, Finance Chair

Women in Faith Circle Meetings

Monday, April 3

10:00 am Mission Keepers Circle

Hostess: Linda Raxter

Program: Johnnie Flanagan

6:00 pm Hope Givers Circle

Hostess: Teresa Wilson

Program: Pat Culver

Making special treats for your Easter dinner? The Women in Faith still have pecan halves available.

See Andrea Bell - 1 lb. bags for \$10

40 day Lent

GIVING CHALLENGE

In the Narthex we have three boards. On those boards are envelopes numbered from 1 to 100. Pick an envelope, or two, any number you would like. The number that is on the envelope, put that dollar amount inside and bring it back the next week and put in the offering plate. All that is collected will go directly to our general fund. We thought this would be a fun way to raise a little extra money during the Lenten season. When all the envelopes are returned we will have collected \$5,050! We have received to date, \$1,407! 40 days is almost up! Let's do this!



2 Charlie Anne Merritt

3 Caitlin Ramsey

7 Claire Merritt

11 Emma Kayler

12 Sarah Bentley

12 Trish Bridges

15 Larry Taylor

19 Holden Raxter

24 Declan Meek

25 Pat Culver

30 Charlie Lowe

30 Suzanne Kayler

30 Stephanie Lowe

March Giving & Worship Attendance

March 5 50+ \$1,016

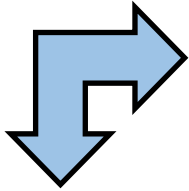
March 12 19 \$1,086

March 19 27 \$2,730

March 26 27 \$2,797

Lenten Challenge - \$779

*\$2,535 is needed weekly
to meet our 2023 budget.*



Covenant Prayer Corner

New/Updated Prayer Concerns

Sarah Bentley - fell and broke her hip, had surgery, is back at Peak Resources, fell again and broke her nose and hit her head, struggling physically and mentally

Family of Nan Brooks (Rebecca Brook's mother-in-law) be in prayer for Rebecca, Philip & family

Jeff & Lisa Casey (Culvers daughter/husband) health concerns, Jeff is very depressed

Scott Ramsey - surgery scheduled for March 30th

Continued Prayer Concerns

Libby Grose

Dean Atkinson

Dennis Dees

Laura McDonald

Beverly Cole

Don Oglesby

Jerry Smith

Family of Ina Jones

Wayne Houser

Jay Raxter

Amy Aldridge

Mildred McElveen

From the Desk of the Pastor . . .

It sure feels like time flies, hard to believe it's already April and we are a quarter of the way through 2023. I am sure everyone has been busy, but it looks like April will be extremely busy for all of us here at Covenant.

We will celebrate the last week of Easter season, the joyful conclusion to the Lenten season of devoted prayer, fasting and penitence, beginning with our Palm Sunday service on April 2. We will have a service on Good Friday, April 7, in the chapel at 7:00 pm. Join us April 9, Easter Sunday, beginning with a sunrise service at 7:00 am, out in front of the cross, and breakfast will be served following. Our Easter worship service will be at our regular time of 10:30 am.

In April we will have our community lunch, a spaghetti fundraiser dinner and raffle, and finally we'll be hosting a BBQ dinner for the entire Honey Hunters' baseball team, coaches, and staff. I think I'm honestly getting tired just talking about it. I'm not going to worry about it though because I know God is here in this church with all of us and He will take care of us.


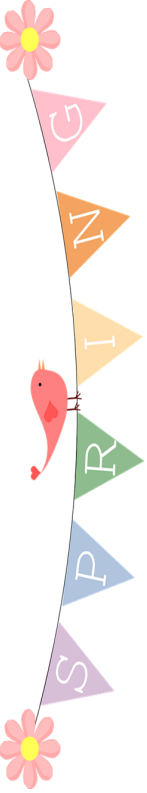




Sometimes, with all the uncertainties of the world today, people wonder where God is and start to lose faith. They argue that faith is uncertain, and they never fully know what is true. But God promises us that he will be with you always, to the end of the age. That promise gives us the certainty that we can truly trust him to help us deal with the uncertain world. That's why I know whatever happens in this church God will be with us.

Love you and May God bless you today and always,

Pastor Larry

*"Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you and behold,
I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20*

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Easter Sunday Schedule: 7:00 am Sunrise Service Breakfast following 10:30 am Easter Worship</p>						1
<p>2 Palm Sunday 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>3 UWF Circles 10:00 Mission Kprs 6:00 Hope Givers</p>	<p>4 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Maundy Thurs. 4:00 Kids at Work 6:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>7 7:00 pm <i>Food Friday Service</i></p> 	8
<p>9 He is Risen! 7:00 Sunrise Svc 7:30 Breakfast 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>10  April 7-16 Gaston County Schools</p>	<p>11 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 4:00 Kids at Work No Girl Scouts</p>		15
<p>16 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 4:00 Kids at Work 6:00 Girl Scouts</p>		22
<p>23 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 5:00 Honey Hunters BBQ Dinner 6:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>28 Honey Hunters Opening Night!</p> 	29
<p>30 5th Sunday Hymn Sing 10:30 Worship</p>						



**Covenant United
Methodist Church**

**801 W. Franklin Blvd
Gastonia, NC 28052**

**Larry Taylor
Pastor**

**LTaylor1@wnccumc.net
828.413.4067**

Church Office

**704.865.5055
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Monday - Thursday**

Administrative Assistant

**Tammy Bassett
covenantgastonia@gmail.com**

Music Director

Rebecca Brooks

Church Website

covenantumcgastonia.com

April 2023



Regular Scheduled Activities

Sunday

10:30 am Join us for worship!

Tuesday

10:00 am Covenant Praise
6:00 pm Joyful Noise Ringers

Thursday

4:00 - 7:00 pm Kids at Work
6:00 - 8:00 pm Girl Scouts

**COME
WORSHIP
with us!**

Monthly Activities

First Monday

10:00 am Mission Keepers Women's Circle
6:00 pm Hope Givers Women's Circle

Fourth Saturday of each month

11:00 am - 12:30 pm Community Lunch