

Covenant Connections



COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GASTONIA, NC

April 2025



April 6th, 10:30 am
Combined Worship Service
Covenant UMC,
The Promised Land, &
Haitian Methodist Church

Each group will share a brief message and music. Following the service everyone is invited to join us for lunch in the fellowship hall.

He is Risen!

April 17th, 12:00 pm
Maundy Thursday
Communion Service
followed by lunch for all



April 20th - Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service at 7:00 am
Family Breakfast following
Worship at 10:30

April 26th, 11:00 am
Monthly Community Lunch



April 24th, 5:30 pm
Meet the 2025 Ghost Peppers
as we host a pasta dinner
for the team & staff!
Opening day is April 25th!
(Details inside)



We have a busy month! Help where you can and hope to see you for all our worship services! Have a blessed month!

April

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Charlie Anne Merritt
- 3 Caitlin Ramsey
- 7 Claire Merritt
- 11 Emma Kayler
- 12 Trish Bridges
- 15 Larry Taylor
- 19 Holden Raxter
- 24 Declan Meek
- 25 Pat Culver
- 26 Noah Smithers
- 30 Charlie Lowe
- 30 Suzanne Kayler
- 30 Stephanie Lowe

Meet the Team!

April 24, 5:30 pm



Along with the Kids at Work, we will be hosting a 'Pasta Bar' dinner for the team and staff.

We would like some volunteers to come and help serve and some home-made desserts. See Tony for more info. **Bring desserts by 5 pm. Thank you!**

(reserve tickets for a ball game, sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, get tickets from the church office.)

**March Worship
Attendance & Giving**

March 2	22	\$1,935
March 9	19	\$1,715
March 16	18	\$1,670
March 23	28	\$8,458
March 30	20	\$3,880

In the month of March we have received \$9,470 to apply towards our loan debt. God Bless You all!



**Tee Ball Field Dedication
for Anne Martin**

Field dedication will be on opening day,
April 12th at 9 am

on soon-to-be Anne Martin Field.

Anne is a former Parks & Recreation Director and is the daughter-in-law of Margie Martin.

Carr Elementary School
307 S. Pine St, Dallas

A Message from Pastor Larry...

As I was sitting in my office thinking about what to write for this month's newsletter, what kept coming to mind was how we have quit holding people responsible for what they do or say that ends up hurting people who have no way to defend themselves.

We all talk about character and personality but in reality, it's our virtues that make up who we are. Christians will say that these virtues are found in the entire human person who's in the right relationship with God. We cite a solid home life and a proper church involvement accompanied by good education as the way to instill these Christian virtues in the young and for them to carry on these virtues over the generations. So, have we lost our virtues?

What are our virtues? They are kindness, truthfulness, patience, hope, justice, courage, joy, simplicity, humility, generosity, and faith. Sounds like a description of Jesus Christ, doesn't it? Virtue addresses the inner self, and how we can relate to others and the world around us. If we don't work on our own virtues, is that one of the reasons we don't hold people accountable for their actions?

So, to be of good character, one must not only know and desire the good, one must also pursue it in both private and public actions. Former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, said it this way, "The true test of a man's character is what he does when no one is watching."

When we go above and beyond what we should do or expected to do not out of habit or obligation it is because of our virtues. We all have virtues that we need to work on, and we have some that are strengths. Virtues are essential to living a good and more desirable life. I do say we need to hold ourselves accountable for our virtues and then hopefully we can hold those around us accountable for theirs.

So, again, how essential are virtues in our lives? It is so central to our experience that it drives our decision making about our actions, our opinions of others, and our loyalty to those in position of authority. That's why Christian virtues, which I feel is a higher standard, are defined as the unique biblical characteristics given as commands by Jesus to love God and to love one another.

May God Bless You Today And Every Day, Love You All,

Pastor Larry

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:12-13

Covenant Prayer Corner

New/Updated Prayer Concerns

Beverly Cole - gaining some strength and eating better since she has come back home, pray for comfort and peace for Beverly as she recently lost her long time pet and friend, Jacob, her dachshund.

Buddy Johnson - recovering from surgery on March 28th, he is home resting, in a lot of pain, has to take it easy for six weeks

Carolyn Loudenslager* (friend of Sharon Taylor) lung cancer, was unable to tolerate the chemo, now on medication and it is preventing the tumor from growing, praise God!

Laura McDonald - has been having some health issues, spent a few days in the hospital, pray for healing

Mandi Merritt - pray for her to be strong and lean on the Lord during this time of struggles and pray for Drew to be a strong support as well

Ongoing Prayer for Health

Mildred McElveen

Jeff & Lisa Casey*

Addie McElveen*

Linda Raxter

Dean Atkinson

**Friends/family of members*

Psalm 53:1 *“Only a fool would say to himself, ‘there is no God.’”* And why does he say it? Because of his wicked heart, his dark and evil deeds. His life is corroded with sin.

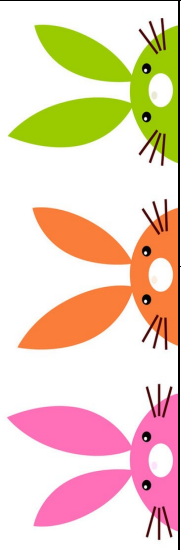



We live like a little ant on this little speck of dust out in space. We get a Ph.D. degree and we strut across the stage and say, “Well I don’t know whether or not there is a God.” And we can’t even control ourselves. We can’t even keep from blowing ourselves apart. We can’t even keep from manufacturing nuclear weapons that could destroy the world. We can’t even keep from hating each other and fighting with each other and killing each other. We can’t even keep from dying, because all of us are going to die. No wonder the Bible says, “The fool hath said in his heart, ‘There is no God,’” because a man that would deny the existence of God is a fool. ~ Day By Day with Billy Graham

April 1st is a day some people like to play jokes on others and then say, “April Fool!” But don’t ever be fooled if someone tells you that God doesn’t exist! The Bible tells us that “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1 He always existed and always will! A wise person will indeed seek GOD! ~ Rebecca Brooks





April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 5th Sunday in Lent 10:30 Worship Combined Worship	 7 10:30 Women in Faith General Mtg	1 April Fools Day! No Praise Team or Hand Bells	2	3 4:00 Kids at Work	4	5
13 10:30 Worship 	14	15 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	16	17 12:00 Maundy Thursday Svc & Lunch 4:00 Kids at Work	18	19
20 Easter Sunday 7:00 Sunrise Service 7:30 Family Breakfast 10:30 Worship	21	22 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	23	24 5:30 Dinner for Ghost Peppers Team	25	26 11:00 - 12:30 Community Lunch 
27 10:30 Worship	28	29 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	30	 <i>He is Risen!</i>		



**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



Weekly Scheduled Activities

Sunday

10:30 am Join us for worship!

9:30 am Promised Land Worship, held in the fellowship hall
10:00 am Haitian Worship, held in the chapel

Tuesday

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

Thursday

4:00 - 7:00 pm Kids at Work

**COME
WORSHIP
with us!**

Monthly Activities

First Monday

10:30 am Covenant Women in Faith Circle Meeting

Fourth Saturday of each month

11:00 am - 12:30 pm Community Lunch