



INFORMER



A Message from Pastor Ken

This month I, myself, wanted to write for the Informer, as we enter the Season of Lent.

Lent is the forty days, not counting Sundays (Sundays are always little Easters, little feast days), before Easter, and traditionally is a time of re-evaluation, confession, re-commitment, cleansing, and discipline. It is a time to remind ourselves that life is short, and we want to make every minute count. It's a time to look at our lives and ask what is it that we want to change. It's a time to take stock. It is a time of spring-cleaning for the soul ("lent" is actually a Middle English word for spring).

Anyone remember the TV show "The Beverly Hillbillies?" Every spring, Granny would empty out the mansion and scrub the house from top to bottom. I remember my grandmother doing a version of that. Perhaps it was a way of casting out all the germs that had accumulated over the winter.

The image of spring-cleaning also works well for our soul. How often do you really peek behind things to ask questions like ...Why did I say that? Why did I do that? Why do I feel this way? Why can't I let things go? Why don't I feel Christ nearer? Do I really value that over Jesus? How can I have a better attitude? How can I better represent Christ? Do I really want to be healed? Do I believe?

Forty days is enough time to change a habit, to adjust a way of thinking, or to heal a wound. So, to enact this change, what would I need to do for the next forty days? What would I need God to do? What would I do that would help God change me?

For some people, it's giving up something – something that is tempting, but not life giving.

For other people, it's adding something – something that fills a hungry space, which leaves less room for unhealthy things.

How about you? What would a soulful spring-cleaning look like for you?

Imagine the joy of coming to church Easter Sunday, singing the songs and feeling the joy that resurrection really has happened again, because it happened in you.

Ken Owens



United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Retreat

“Behind Every Great Woman: Community, Calling and Creativity in the life of the Women in Moses’ Life”

The South Carolina Conference United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Retreat will be held May 1-3 at Lake Junaluska, NC. Rev. Wendy Hudson-Jacoby is the speaker for this event. Pastor Wendy’s passion is connecting congregations to their community and inviting those disillusioned with, unfamiliar with or estranged from church into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.



At this mountain retreat there is time for singing, worship services, inspiring speaker sessions, strolls around beautiful Lake Junaluska, good food plus other activities. All women are invited. This is important; take the time to renew your spirit with kindred souls! Registration forms are available in the office.

5th Sunday Combined Service and Covered Dish Lunch

Sunday, March 29

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Combined Worship 10:30 a.m.

Covered Dish Lunch, in the gym, following worship with meats and drinks provided. Please bring a side or a dessert to share.

**COVERED
DISH LUNCH**



Festival of Wisdom and Grace

Living Abundantly in the Second Half of Life

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.
John 10:10

A CONFERENCE FOR FINDING PURPOSE AND RENEWAL IN THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

Co-sponsored by The Upper Room
August 3-6, 2020 Lake Junaluska, NC

How do we flourish as we age? How do we navigate transitions, live into our talents and passions, cultivate our relationship with Christ, engage topics that matter with courage and conviction, and care for loved ones struggling with memory loss? In this conference, we'll hear world-class speakers and leaders address these topics and more as we seek to live abundantly in the second half of life.

Conference Leadership

- ◇ **Will Willimon** - Conference Preacher
- ◇ **Dr. Amy Hanson** - Keynote Speaker
- ◇ **Bishop Ken Carder** - Workshop Leader: Ministry with the Forgotten

You will have an opportunity to participate in workshops and enjoy entertainment by the Lake Junaluska Singers and the Coffee Branch Bluegrass Band.

For additional information or to register visit:

https://www.lakejunaluska.com/events/spiritual_enrichment/wisdom_and_grace/

Worship Tip #2

If your communion cup
is stuck in the tray,
jiggle it.
Don't yank it up!



Curiosity Shoppe

Please remember to come and visit the **Curiosity Shoppe**. Easter and Spring days will arrive soon. Shop early while best selections are available. New arrivals will be in the Shoppe every week.



UMW March Meeting

United Methodist Women will meet Wednesday, March 11, in the Fellowship Hall. Jim Abbott, a representative from The Salvation Army will present the program. Please attend the meeting and program, and stay for the meal afterward.

Hotdog Lunch!

Stop by the Fellowship Hall **Sunday, March 8**, and enjoy a delicious hotdog lunch! To-go plates are always available. Donations will be accepted for our local, national and international missions.



Help
Support
our
Missions



ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER MORE EXCITING TO READ WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/01	Ellen Giffin	03/18	Claire Daniel
03/02	Bo Barnes III	03/18	Ron Fisher
03/02	Charlie Byars	03/18	Corey Mitchell
03/02	Dianne Crooks	03/19	Amy Bomar
03/03	Vaughn Mitchell	03/19	Traci Boyles
03/04	Jane Jones	03/19	Mary Caroline Adams
03/05	Harrison Daley	03/20	Theresa WynDham
03/05	Melissa McDow	03/21	Lunita Bagwell
03/07	Shaun Dickson	03/22	Macy Martin
03/08	Troy Respass	03/22	Ben Hidde
03/08	Kevin Dove	03/22	Matt Hidde
03/08	Jordan Dalton	03/22	Curt Brewer
03/08	Ross Newstead	03/22	Hank Salley
03/08	Maddi Brantley	03/23	Susan Foster
03/08	Bradley Bomar	03/24	Bob Dean
03/10	John Armistead	03/25	Dawn Clark
03/10	Robin Lynn	03/25	Daniel Correll
03/11	David Loggins	03/26	Bo Byars III
03/11	Matt Barrington	03/27	Michael Arnold
03/11	Bill Jameson	03/27	Jacob Eppler
03/12	Patrick Lane	03/27	Jessica Hemphill
03/12	Jerry Roth	03/28	April Lane
03/13	David McFadden	03/29	Dan Dailey
03/13	Andrew Meredith	03/29	Lisa Hope
03/14	Tabby Weston	03/29	Kara Boyles
03/16	Lowell Smith	03/30	Kathy Duncan
03/16	Kevin Buchanan	03/30	J. Watt Stewart, Jr.
03/16	Joe Johnson	03/30	Meredith Hope
03/17	Frances Parrish	03/30	Ethan Boyles
03/17	Stephen Bolinger Byas	03/31	Linda Galloway
03/18	Kathie Cannon	03/31	Carolyn Kobel



February 2020 Special Gifts

In memory of **Bill Gasque** given by: Judy Daughtridge.

In memory of **Eleanor Rappold** given by: Buddy & Shirley Dallas and Judy Daughtridge.

In memory of **Patty Sanders Reid** given by: Fern Durham & Family and Karen Garrett & Family.

In memory of **Woodrow "Whit" Whitmire** given by: Ken & Joan Buffington.

In honor of **Townsen Pyritz and Rev. Ken Owens** given by: David & Linda Cantrell.

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Anyone wishing to participate in the **Men's Kairos Prison Ministry at Perry Correctional Institute** on March 12-15 has the following opportunities available.

- \* Home-baked cookies - Cookies can be dropped off at the church office prior to March 11.
- \* Prayer - Sign up for prayer time.
- \* Monetarily - Donate to EFUMC and indicate "Kairos."
- \* Placemats - Placemats can be dropped off at the church office prior to March 6.

For pick up of cookies or placemats, prayer sign up or information call or email Lee McDow.  
Email-[leemmcdow@charter.net](mailto:leemmcdow@charter.net) Cell 828-855-4808

### **Submissions wanted for new Advocate book: "Testify: How I Came to Know Jesus"**

The Advocate is preparing for a new book this year, and your story is wanted. The deadline has been extended to April 3 for submissions for the book, to be published by the Advocate Press. The title is "Testify: How I Came to Know Jesus."

The book will focus on how South Carolina United Methodist individuals came to know the Lord. All people, lay or clergy, are invited to share their story for possible publication in the book. Stories do NOT need to be perfectly edited before submission. Stories should be 500-1,000 words in length and include your name, church name and city.

You should be a South Carolina United Methodist to participate. Email your submission to [jbrodie@umcsc.org](mailto:jbrodie@umcsc.org) with the subject line Testify book.

### **UMCOR SUNDAY - March 22, 2020**

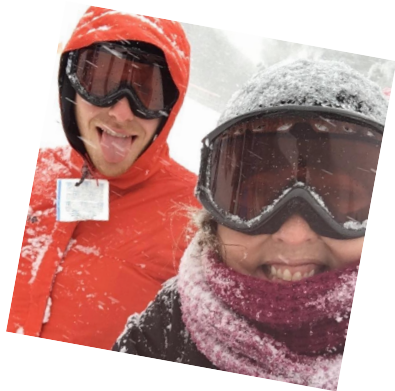
DO YOU KNOW UMCOR? UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief. When watching disaster unfold around the globe, many of us feel the call to help but are at a loss as to what we can actually do to help. UMCOR Sunday is the day for congregations around the globe to help.

UMCOR offers aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer:

- ◇ When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded.
- ◇ When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.
- ◇ When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded.
- ◇ And when the next crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.

On this Special Sunday, March 22, our generosity as a church covers the operating budget of UMCOR. This allows them to funnel 100% of other donations received throughout the year directly to relief efforts. UMCOR Sunday is where we come together to help. If you want to learn more about UMCOR visit:

[www.umcgiving.org/UMCOR](http://www.umcgiving.org/UMCOR)



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**Save the Date**  
 Sunday, April 5— During Sunday School

**Easter Egg Hunt**

Also on Sunday, April 5 -  
**Procession of the Palms**  
 in both worship services

**Easley First Children's Ministries Special Event**

**Children's Kairos Cookie Bake**  
 Sunday, March 22, Noon  
 Youth Room & Gym Kitchen  
 Lunch Served  
 Children 3 years - 5th Grade  
 Parents of preschoolers, please stay  
 and work beside your children.  
 We will bake cookies for the  
 Women's Kairos Prison Ministry.

**Children's Sunday**

Sunday, March 8  
 8:40 & 11:00

Theme:  
 "Everybody's Welcome"

Scripture: Mark 10:13-15

"Let the little children come to me..."  
Matthew 19:14, NIV

**Youth Schedule for March**

|          |                                                           |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| March 1  | Kairos Cookie Bake                                        |
| March 8  | Discussion Night                                          |
| March 15 | No Youth (4 day weekend)                                  |
| March 22 | Trip - Time & Location TBA                                |
| March 29 | Worship—Youth Sunday                                      |
|          | Evening—Journey to Jerusalem<br>at Trinity UMC - Anderson |