

Entrance

Gathering

*Call to Worship

What great joy we have!

Our Lord is risen!

Believe with your whole heart in the miracle of resurrection.

We open our hearts to the good news of God's faithfulness to us.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

*Opening Prayer

Lord of Resurrection surprises, open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus Christ. Erase our excuses for unbelief, and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. Give us courage and challenge us to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus goes before us, leading and guiding our steps. In his name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn *My Lord, What a Morning – Hymn 719*

Proclamation and Response

Prayer of Illumination

From the cowardice that dares not face new truth, from the laziness that is contented with half-truth, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, Good Lord, deliver us. Amen.

Scripture Reading – *John 20:19-31* Mindy Wilder

Sermon *Why?* Mark Gustafson

*Apostles' Creed *Page 881*

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Confession and Pardon *Page 12*

*Gloria Patri *Page 70*

*Passing the Peace

Offering / *Be Still, My Soul* UMCers

*Doxology *Page 95*

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Great Thanksgiving *Pages 13-15*

*Hymn *Freely, Freely – Hymn 389*

Sending Forth

*Benediction / Going Forth

Happy Birthday to Ginny Edge (4/7), Danny Melvin (4/9) and Susan Price-Richardson (4/12)!

Happy Anniversary to Tony & Danielle Hester (4/13)!

We pray today for Alice Corbett, Angela Davis, and Citlalli Estrada at Elizabethtown Primary School.

The cover art is given to the glory of God by Tori Allen.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Ryan's birthday by Alan and Beth Sasser.

Rev. Mark Gustafson, Pastor
919-931-9783

Randy Page, Accompanist
910-876-1075

Announcements

1st Food Sundays: Thank you for your giving heart!

Mark will guest preach at St. Thomas AME-Z for their Usher's Day celebration. The service will be at 4 p.m. this afternoon.

Church Conference: April 10, 7 p.m. at St. Christopher's. The purpose of the conference is to approve a merger between Grace and Clarkton UMC's. Mark has hard copies of a full explanation of the merger available upon request. Also, the conference will consider land available for purchase. There will be an informative meeting regarding this after worship next Sunday!

Bladen Blessed Lunch and Learn: Thursday, 11:30 at Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church. Sgt. Gary Turlington will present "Scams and Elder Abuse." Call 910-874-5110 to RSVP.

By popular demand, we will begin a new study on the life and message of the Apostle Paul. We will be reading Adam Hamilton's book *The Call*, which is presented in a similar fashion to the *Simon-Peter* book that we just finished, with a DVD exploring the places that Paul journeyed. We will meet on Thursday nights for 6 weeks, beginning April 18. All sessions will be at 7 p.m. at Bethlehem and on Zoom.

Joint worship service at Jones Lake to celebrate Grace UMC's 1 year anniversary: June 2.

VBS at Bethlehem: June 9-12.

The BLOG (Bethlehem /Live Oak/ Grace) Prayer List:

Mentioned 3/10/2024: Darlene Bright; Faye Richardson; Sylvia Wilson and family; Ashley Valenzuela (travel mercies); the family and friends of Harry and Dusty Tatum.

Mentioned 3/17/2024: those affected by the storms near Lakeview, OH; Tori Allen; Renee Horton; Cindy Coble (travel mercies); Lanna Montgomery (friend of Cindy's); Parker Hales; the security of our communities; Jeremy McLean; the family and friends of Lib Sessoms.

Mentioned 3/24/2024: Liam Ferrell; Matthew Krause; Chris Johnson; those affected by forest fires in Virginia; Chris Hill; Betty Tatum's uncle Denny; Pastor Terry Williams; Bob Cermak; Dave Valenzuela; the family and friends of Daphne Carroll.

Mentioned 3/31/2024: those affected by the bridge collapse in Baltimore; Horschel Edge; Anna Nunez; Starcy and Tamara McGougan.

Prayers this week: Patty Scotten; Janice Robbins; Joy Grady and family; Linda Schaeffer; Harold Sasser; J.D. Swinney (Sharon Moore's father); Jacob Chavis; Steve and Debbie Dunham; Beth Nance; Billy & Stella Cain; the family and friends of Connie Melvin Lowery.

Grace United Methodist Church

April 7, 2024

**2nd Sunday of Easter
Worship Service 8:30 am**

Our Mission

*To become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

Our Vision

*We welcome everyone into the experience
of a different story!*

