

April Calendar of Events

April 1	office closed
April 2	10:30 am, Prayer Shawl Ministry
April 7	5 pm, UMYF & BYC
April 7	6 pm, choir practice
April 9	6:30 pm, UMW
April 14	5 pm, UMYF & BYC
April 14	6 pm, choir practice
April 17	8:30 am, JOY Club
April 17	11:30 am, Happy Hearts
April 21	5 pm, UMYF & BYC
April 21	6 pm, choir practice
April 23	6:30 pm, Mildred Hall Lowder Circle
April 24	6:30 pm, Lucille Cranford Circle
April 28	5 pm, UMYF & BYC
April 28	6 pm, choir practice
April 30	10:30 am, Davie Lee Circle

ANNIVERSARIES

April 2	Dale & Jan Hobbs
April 15	Randy & Susan Gibson
April 18	Roger & Kathy Lentz
April 28	Darrell & Jackie Jernigan

BIRTHDAYS

April 3	Allison Greene
April 7	Richard Walker
April 8	Rick Clough
April 8	Nicholas Kolk
April 11	Mike Crisco
April 12	Tate Crisco
April 12	Alex Poplin
April 12	Reginald Adams
April 14	Megan Huneycutt
April 18	Caroline Cochran
April 20	April Hinson
April 20	Bryce Raybon
April 23	Tyler Brummitt
April 23	Jennifer Hobbs
April 24	Dane Hatley
April 26	Bran Cranford
April 26	Karen Russell
April 27	Teresa Lowder
April 28	Bryan Lowder
April 29	Pearl Barbee
April 29	Zac Brown
April 29	Donnie Poplin
April 30	Robin Hinson



April 2024
Newsletter

Easter Living 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you."

Easter Sundays bring cherished memories for all of us — the colorful outfits, uplifting church services, joyful family gatherings, and a sense of happiness. Despite the challenges we may face today, Easter transports us back to the simplicity and wonder of childhood. It's a time to enjoy dyeing eggs, eagerly searching for Easter eggs, wearing our best for church, and capturing those precious family moments in a quick picture. However, Easter is much more than these cherished traditions.

It's about singing timeless Easter hymns, reflecting on the story of the empty tomb, and embracing the reality of a risen Jesus — this is what Easter Living truly embodies. Unlike Christmas, which is a season of anticipation and hope, Easter invites us to live fully in the present moment, secure in the knowledge that God has performed the ultimate act of love for us.

Easter Living means relying on the assurance of our salvation, understanding our ultimate destiny, and making the most of each day with gratitude and purpose. Through Jesus Christ, we are empowered to face tomorrow with confidence, leaving behind our fears, failures, and insecurities. Easter Living isn't just a celebration; it's an invitation to embrace a new way of life, anchored in the hope and promise of resurrection.

Let us rejoice in Easter Living — a life transformed by the love and grace of our Lord, where every moment is full of meaning and significance.

In Christian Love,
Rev. David Cochran

Ministry Opportunities

- **Back Pack Buddies**—Bethany UMC provides food items for North Stanly Middle and Richfield Elementary Schools throughout the school year. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kellie Crump at 980.439.636 or ext-kkcrump@ncdot.gov.
- **Community Table**—Please contact Kellie Crump at 980.439.6363 if you are willing to serve.
- **Soul Food**—If anyone is interested in helping with providing a meal, please contact Kellie Crump at 980.439.6363.
- **Food Pantry**—Bethany's outdoor pantry gets filled four times per week. If anyone would like to sponsor an item for our outdoor food pantry, please contact Kellie Crump at 980.439.6363 or ext-kkcrump@ncdot.gov.
- **Drink/Can Food Tabs**—Central Elementary is continuing to collect tabs this year for the Ronald McDonald House. You may leave them in the Educational Building kitchen and Linda Rogers will get them.
- **Plastic Grocery Bags**—The Anson County Women's Prison Ministry has resumed its collection of plastic grocery bags. Please drop yours off in the barrel beside the practice piano in the fellowship hall. For those new to this program, the women's prison uses these bags to make sleeping mats and pillows for the homeless. It takes approximately 1,000 bags to make one set of bedding.

Loving Stitches

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Loving Stitches Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:30 am on Tuesday, April 2.

Happy Hearts

The Happy Hearts meeting is at 11:30 am on Thursday, April 18.

JOY Club

The JOY Club will enjoy shopping 2.0 in Greensboro on Wednesday, April 17. We ran out of time, so we want a do-over. We will leave the church at 8:30 am and probably have lunch again at Cracker Barrel.

UMYF

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship (grades 6th through 12th) meet each Sunday at 5 pm in the last room on the left in the Educational Building.

BYC

The Bethany Youth Club (kindergarten through 5th grades) meet each Sunday at 5 pm in first room on the left in the Educational Building.

Save The Dates

June 1, Community VBS @ New London Community Park

June 2 - June 4, Bethany VBS (times tbd)



United Women in Faith News



The United Women in Faith will meet in the Parish House on April 9 at 6:30 pm. All ladies are invited to attend. Lucille Cranford Circle is hosting, and the program will be presented by Stanly County Christian Ministries - Ashlyn.



The Partnership for Children's Diaper Bank is still in need of diapers. If you had rather give money instead of picking the diapers up, Susan Crisco will be glad to purchase the diapers and deliver them. Just get your money to Susan! Thank you, Susan Crisco!

Don't forget...MARK your calendars for the following events. Kathy Odell will guide us through each event and answer questions. If you have helped in any of these events in the past, you know how rewarding it is. I am EXCITED!!



Circle meetings

- The Davie Lee Circle meets at 10:30 am on Tuesday, April 30, for visitation and lunch at a local restaurant. Please note date change.
- The Mildred Hall Lowder Circle (4th Tuesday), 6:30 pm.
- The Lucille Cranford Circle (4th Wednesday), 6:30 pm.

General Meeting program and hostess (2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Parish House)

- April 9 - Lucille Cranford Circle, Stanly County Christian Ministries, Ashlyn
- May 14 - Davie Lee Circle hosts, Rev. David Cochran, social principles
- June 11 - Mildred Hall Lowder
- July 9 - Lucille Cranford
- August 13 - Davie Lee Circle
- September 10 - Mildred Hall Lowder
- October 8 - Lucille Cranford
- November 12 - Davie Lee Circle hosts, World Thank service
- December 10 - Mildred Hall Lowder hosts, Christmas gathering (hors d'oeuvres)

We have several months we need programs for. If you have any community groups you would like to learn more about, please let me know.

In Faith, Action, and Sisterhood, Debbie Hinson, Pres. (980-581-0167).