



Raeford United Methodist Church

MARCH 2020

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, beginning in our own community.

WINGO'S WORDS

A couple of years ago, when Diane and I visited China (before the Corona Virus outbreak!). We found ourselves visiting the historic Emperor's Palace in Beijing. The grounds had been converted into a public park. Since it was winter, the lake was frozen over. People were ice skating, laughing and playing. As we walked through the gardens, admiring the statuary, we heard sounds coming from over the hill. Curiosity overcame us and we wandered up the path to investigate. As we crested the hill, we saw a group (maybe two-hundred) of elderly Chinese folk gathered by a pavilion. They were singing at the top of their lungs. Some were even dancing! I had no idea what they were singing, it could have been a Chinese version of "Achy Breaky Heart" for all I know! Diane and I stood mesmerized, transfixed, caught up in the joy and beauty of the moment. Their voices joined in a harmonious unity. I was reminded of how music draws us together... even across cultural divides. This singular experience was, and still is, one of the most memorable parts of our visit.

Public singing is something that is rarely done any more...especially in our part of the world. Oh, we sing with the radio in our cars as we commute or run to the store. We may sing the National Anthem at ball games, but usually it is a soloist offering his/her rendition. Organized group singing somehow seems old fashioned and out dated.

Call it a "preacher quirk". But I have always been fascinated by our hymnody. Those little ditties we sing on Wednesday evenings after our dinner and on Sunday mornings before Sunday School and during Worship have tremendous value to us! Maybe you haven't given much thought to the hymns we sing, that is except when the preacher picks some "new hymn with that weird tune". (Like #264...look it up!) Maybe you have never noticed how our hymnal is thematically or seasonally laid out. Or maybe you've never considered how singing brings the community of faith together.

The hymns we sing take us to a place of familiarity. They put us in touch with our emotions. They challenge us. They make us feel safe. They remind us of who we are in Christ Jesus.

Just like in the season of Advent, when we don't sing Christmas Hymns, we don't sing Easter hymns during Lent! Lent is a time of introspection, a season of reflecting upon our short comings and our need for the grace of Jesus in our lives. Hallelujahs and Alleluias are reserved for the Day of Resurrection! The Day when we can finally sing in full chorus the celebration of His Rising and of our full salvation. Hymns do this for us!

Have you ever thought of your hymnal as a prayer book? William D. Longstaff penned these words in 1882:

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Worship 11:00 AM

Wednesdays

Supper/Fellowship 5:30 PM

Study 6:00 PM

(Childcare available)

Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord.

Abide in him always and feed on his word.

Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

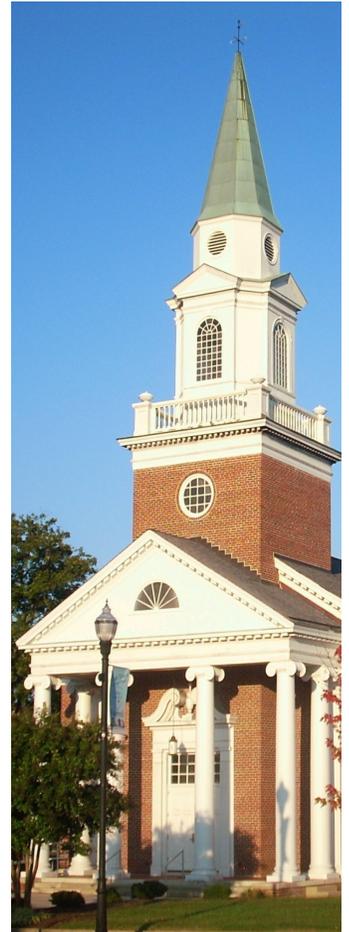
Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul.

Each thought and each motive beneath his control.

Thus led by his Spirit to fountains of love,

Thou soon shall be fitted for service above.

Be a hymnologist this Lenten season. Pray the hymns this Lent. Be a living hymnal.





Raeford United Methodist Church

308 N. Main St. Raeford, NC 28376

(910) 875-2111

Tax ID: 56-0611543

February 26, 2020

To the Congregation of Raeford United Methodist Church,

For the past five years, the Open Access Committee has worked toward making our church building accessible for individuals with mobility issues. The front porch has been modified to allow permanent access for wheelchairs. The side rear doors to the hallway of the sanctuary have been widened and leveled. A handicapped restroom was constructed on the second floor. The committee, with the generous and unfailing assistance of all the congregation, has conducted numerous fundraisers including Christmas and Easter flowers and the annual barbeque. These activities have brought us together in a common purpose.

We are now ready for the last stage of our plan - the construction of an elevator which will allow access to all floors of the building. After much discussion and consultation, we have selected a location. We propose to attach an elevator shaft to the rear of the building at what is now the rear entry. The window beside the current door will be made into a rear entrance. The elevator would enter the second floor in the current nursery, allowing direct access to the sanctuary. The elevator would open onto the third floor in the large room above the nursery.

While there is no perfect solution to adding an elevator to an old building, we consider this to be the best option within our budget. We would like to break ground this summer to limit disruption of church and other user activities. We welcome your comments on our proposal. You are part of this process, too. We will be available after Sunday services for your input.

Thank You,

Open Access Committee

Pastor Wingo
Carol Bunce
Merri Manning
Kathy Brigman
James and Sandy Potter
Ann Ross



Missions in our Own Back Yard—McLauchlin Elementary School!

We continue to enjoy our partnership with McLauchlin Elementary faculty and staff and try to support them in any way we can. In January, Mrs. Garner, social worker, made us aware that she was in need of some boys items—belts, etc. Deanna purchased the needed items and took to Mrs. Garner, who was most appreciative.

For February 14th Jane Britt purchased items and prepared a *Happy Valentine's Day Treat Bag* for all faculty members. Check out the ***This and That*** bulletin board for a picture.

On March 20th we will be “hosting” a Baked Potato/Salad Bar for the faculty. Anyone want to help???

Also in March, we hope that some of our church members would be willing to volunteer to read one of their favorite books to a class, a grade level, or small group—for McLauchlin's involvement in ***Read Across America*** project. Please contact any of the committee members if you would be willing to be involved.

We thank our congregation for always being supportive of our school ministry. We also appreciate any money donated to this School Fund. Please pray for our committee, that others may see the love of Jesus in **all** that we do. We want to be good witnesses for Jesus and we also want to be good stewards of any money that you donate for our use.

(Committee Members: Verna Barnhill, Kathy Brigman, Jane Britt, Maxine Colston, Deanna Ray, Kathy Warner)



This month we will be learning about Lent.

Our Memory verse will be; "If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet." John 12:14

March 1st: Jesus Teaches. Matthew 5:1-9

March 8th: Mary Anoints Jesus. John 12:1-17

March 15th: Jesus Washes Feet: John 14:12-26

March 22nd: Jesus Breaks the Bread: Mark 14:12-26

March 29th: Jesus Prays: Matthew 26:36-46

Easter Sunday we will have an Egg hunt during Sunday school at 9:45 and some more Easter fun in children's church during the main service at 11:00.

VBS date had been set!!! July 6th-10th, save the date.

Thank you again for praying for and supporting our children.

joanna.beeson@yahoo.com

PRESCHOOL

One of our most recent Bible lessons was about the woman who had been sick for a long, long time and had spent what little money she had going to doctors. None of them could make her better. She had heard that Jesus was going to be close by and that he could heal people. She thought that if she could just get close enough to touch Jesus' clothes that she would become well. As she touched his garment she did become well. Jesus asked who had touched him and the woman said she did. He told her that because she believed she was healed.

We are still working on the Alphabet and tracing their names on a worksheet. We are still practicing counting to 100.

I try to create a fun and loving atmosphere to learn in. If you or someone you know are interested in Preschool for your 3 or 4 year old, I do have a few openings. Feel free to contact me, Karen Tapp 910-818-7434.

TRUSTEES

Spring is in the air, and things are slowly moving

A big thank you to Hank Richards for refinishing the library table and cutting the plexiglass cover; the table had several scrapes and scratches and needed an uplift

Several spots around the interior of the church where the plaster walls have been deteriorating have been repaired and painted

The annual boiler inspection, thanks to Mike, went off without a hitch

Thanks to our trustees and the volunteers that help to get these items done

As always, you see something needing done.....grab a trustee

PRIME TIMERS

On February 11, 24 Prime Timers went to the Olive Garden in Southern Pines. They will meet at the church at 11am and go to the Pizza Inn in Laurinburg on March 10. Please let Ronnie Floyd or Nora Meismer know if you would like to go.

PROJECT AGAPE UPDATE

For 2020, our congregation will once again participate in our conference Christmas Box project for the children of Armenia. This project packs boxes full of gifts for children in need within Armenia, the world's oldest Christian nation. Throughout the year, we will collect small items every month, and we will come together to pack the boxes in September. For the month of March, we will focus on collecting hair bands, hair bows, toothbrushes (singles), mirrors, combs and brushes. If you would like to donate any items, please place them in the crate in the first floor hallway. These items are our focus for March, but feel free to donate any items, at any time. If you have any questions, please see Marian.

OPEN ACCESS

The Food Pantry, El Salvador and Open Access teams will be having a Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction on Friday, March 20th from 4:30 to 7 pm. Feel free to dine in or carry out. Tickets are \$8 per ticket. Please see Mike at the office or any of the committees members.

Auction items include: Mountain Home Vacation, R. Riveter purses, pottery, quilt, jewelry, gift baskets, gift cards and much, much more.

It's Lily Time. Open Access will be selling lilies to have on Easter Sunday, April 12. Prices are the same as last year, 1 for \$12.50 and 2 for \$22.00

Please see Mike at office or any committee member.

RAEFORD CHRISTIAN FOOD BANK

Our February Food Distribution was cancelled because of the inclement weather. Our next distribution will be on March 19 between 4 and 5pm. If you have a couple of hours of spare time and would like to volunteer and help out, please contact Joy Stansberry or Ronnie Floyd.





Raeford has been awarded a \$750,000 grant for the revitalization of the Robbins Heights neighborhood. Habitat along with the city are planning to carry out 26 residential repairs.

Habitat is looking to begin its first build this fall, maybe as early as September. Volunteers are being recruited from Hoke County schools to build on Thursdays and Fridays and churches are being asked to volunteer on Saturdays. If you are interested in helping with these Habitat projects, please contact the church office. Also if you would be interested in being our church coordinator (Build Champion), please let Mike or Brian know.

The next Hoke County Faith Relation meeting will be on April 16 in our Fellowship Hall. The meeting will start at noon and includes a simple and delicious lunch. The meeting will finish at 1pm.

To keep the ReStore stocked and help raise funds they have started pick-ups in Hoke County. The plan is to pick in Hoke County once a month on Tuesday. The next Hoke County pick-up is scheduled for Tuesday, Mar 10. Give them a call at (910) 295-1934 to schedule a pick-up.

You can go to www.sandhillshabitat.org to read more about their wonderful work. You may also call Dan Joslin, the Faith Relations Ambassador at (910) 295-1799 for any questions you may have.

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are 25 Sundays still available to reserve flowers in honor/memory of that special someone or occasion. Contact Mike in the church office to reserve the date. The price is \$50 and you can take the flowers with you after the service.



Tithing through PayPal

Did you know you can send a tithe or offering to Raeford UMC using your PayPal account? Its quick and easy! Simply go to your PayPal account homepage and click on the "send" tab. Once there, enter the church's email address (raefordumc@embarqmail.com). Then, when asked, click "**send money to a friend**". There is no service fee for selecting that option. Enter your donation and select the account from which you'll draw the funds. You can also use MC/Visa. It's that simple!



Cooks are needed for our Wednesday Fellowship Dinners in April, May and June. We're looking for an individual, a couple or maybe a Sunday School class to cook. You can cook once or as many times as you would like. Our average attendance is 25—30 people. Pick a Wednesday and sign up on the sheet downstairs or give Mike a call in the church office if you would like prepare a meal or have a question.

JANUARY FINANCES

Budget Offerings: \$11,440.00
 Designated Offerings \$1,176.00
 Expenses: \$16,437.17

MARCH USHERS

Hank Richards, Billy Colston
 Gary & Kathy Brigman
We need more ushers (male and female)! Call Don Steed at (910) 875-4610 or the church office if you can help!

SOUND SYSTEM

3/1 Jerry Jeffries
 3/8 & 3/15 Billy Colston
 3/22 & 3/29 Ann Ross

MARCH ALTAR FLOWERS

3/1 Linda Richards
 3/8 Merri Manning
 3/15 Brian Wingo
 3/22 Wendy Edel
 3/29 **Available**

Reserve your 2020 Altar Flowers now in honor or in memory of a loved one or special date! The cost is \$50 and you can take them with you after worship!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Doris Wilking	March 1
Trudie Wilburn	March 1
Mark Gentry	March 4
Jeannette Wood	March 5
Jane Britt	March 8
Connie Ellis-Hendrix	March 16
Diane Wingo	March 16
Kellen Fuller	March 18
Eddie Allen, Jr	March 20
Barbara Randall	March 23
Alexandria DuBois	March 24
Gene Hasty	March 26
Robert Ellis	March 27

Everyone's birthday is important to us! If you are new to RUMC and your name is not on the birthday list, please let the office know so we can update the list!

MARCH MEAL ASSISTANTS

	Cooks	Servers	Delivery
3/4	Diane Wingo	Staff	Harley Adams
3/11	Bob Lewis SS	Open Access	Richard Phillips
3/18	Carol Bunce	Bob Lewis SS	Kathy Brigman
3/25	Verna Barnhill	Reading Missions	Ronnie Floyd

LAST MONTH'S CHURCH SIGNS



2/1/20



2/10/20



2/17/20



2/25/20

Which is your favorite?! Got an idea for one? Send it to raefordumc@embarqmail.com!

March 2020

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45a – 10:45a Sunday School 11a – 12p Worship	2 6p – Girl Scouts 7p – AA meeting	3 8p – NA meeting	4 5:30p – 7p Fellowship / Supper/Study 7p-8p Choir	5 5:30p – Open Access 6:30p – Cub Scouts 8p – NA meeting	6 9a – Community Prayer Hour	7 10a – Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby
8 9:45a – 10:45a Sunday School 11a – 12p Worship 4p – UMW Mission Team	9 4p – Reading Missions Circle 6p – Girl Scouts 7p – AA meeting	10 11a – Prime Timers 7p – MAD Circle 8p – NA meeting	11 5:30p – 7p Fellowship / Supper/Study 7p-8p Choir	12 6:30p – Cub Scouts 8p – NA meeting	13 9a – Community Prayer Hour 6p – Girl Scouts	14
15 9:45a – 10:45a Sunday School 11a – 12p Worship	16 6p – Girl Scouts 7p – AA meeting	17 8p – NA meeting	18 5:30p – 7p Fellowship / Supper/Study 7p-8p Choir	19 4p – Food Pantry 6:30p – Cub Scouts 8p – NA meeting	20 9a – Community Prayer Hour 4:30p – Spaghetti Supper / Silent Auction	21
22 9:45a – 10:45a Sunday School 11a – 12p Worship UMCOR Sunday <i>(Special Offering)</i>	23 6p – Girl Scouts 7p – AA meeting	24 8p – NA meeting	25 5:30p – 7p Fellowship / Supper/Study 7p-8p Choir	26 6:30p – Cub Scouts 8p – NA meeting	27 9a – Community Prayer Hour	28
29 9:45a – 10:45a Sunday School 11a – 12p Worship 12p – 5 th Sunday Fellowship Lunch	30 6p – Girl Scouts 7p – AA meeting	31 8p – NA meeting				



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