



Raeford United Methodist Church

April 2020

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

WINGO'S WORDS

Mercy, we live in a strange time. Never in a million years would I have anticipated NOT going to church on Easter Sunday! But this is the time in which we find ourselves. As I've said before, this is the "new normal" in the world of COVID-19. And we do the very best we can for public health and safety for all.

You know by now that our Bishop, Hope Morgan-Ward, has urged our congregations to not gather until late May. This is in keeping with Governor Roy Cooper's request, as well (by his order, schools have been closed until May 15 and many communities have shelter at home orders).

Some colleagues have targeted the date of May 24 for re-opening, which happens to be Aldersgate Sunday. May 24 is an important date in the history of Methodism. In 1738, John Wesley was struggling with his vision for the Methodist Movement as he found that his enthusiastic gospel message had been rejected by his Anglican brothers. Heavy-hearted, he reluctantly attended a group meeting that evening in a Moravian chapel on Aldersgate Street in London. It was there, while someone was reading from Martin Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, that he felt that his heart was "strangely warmed".

On May 24, John Wesley (a prolific journal writer) wrote in his journal: "[In that moment] I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

While I am hesitant, at the present moment, to say that we will definitely gather for worship on May 24, I am hopeful that we may do so. Let's hope that our hearts are strangely warmed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and not by a fever caused by the coronavirus! Of course, I will keep you updated on the status of whether or not we will gather on that date. Until then, I will continue to post Worshipful Moments on both our church's Facebook Page and Group page, with a link to the video on the church's website, www.raefordumc.org. For those without internet access, I hope you may consider partnering with a neighbor to view the videos. Of course, doing so only if you feel safe and carefully practice social distancing and hand washing!

During Holy Week, I am planning to post a reading of the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as we continue our Lenten preparations for Easter. On Easter morning, in addition to posting Worshipful Moments, I am planning to celebrate Communion with you via video.

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Worship 11:00 AM

Wednesdays

Supper/Fellowship 5:30 PM

Study 6:00 PM

(Childcare available)

At home you will need to have several things at the ready. In addition to a piece of bread (which can be most any kind of bread... sandwich bread, biscuit, etc. I wouldn't use raisin or banana bread!) and some juice...grape juice, water or even wine, you'll need a plate...not necessarily something you would use everyday...but one that may have special meaning to you. And you'll need a vessel for the juice...again not necessarily an everyday piece. We will share the Great Thanksgiving and then partake of the sacramental elements together.



WINGO'S WORDS, CONTINUED

• In light of the recent "stay at home" order (even though the Church is deemed "essential") we will reduce church office hours to Monday and Wednesdays. Mike will be in the office Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 until 1:00pm. I will be in and out of the office. As always, you may reach me directly by contacting me on my cell phone (919-949-4388). Please let us know if you have any need. We will do our best to try and meet it!

Many have asked when we will know who our new pastor will be. The Bishop and Cabinet will be meeting (via tele-conferencing) beginning the first week in April. Calls to pastors who are to be newly appointed and to Churches who will be receiving new pastors, will be made by the District Superintendents on April 17. Of course, this may be subject to change. (Truthfully, had I known that my retirement would have unleashed this chaos, I would have made other plans!!)

I want to thank you for your gracious generosity. I know you understand that the work of the church continues, even if in unconventional ways, and we remain dependent on your continued tithes and offerings.

Finally, please know that you are greatly loved! I miss seeing your faces and being with you in body, even though we remain connected in spirit. I truly believe that we will emerge from this as a stronger community of faith!

God bless you. Be safe. Be smart. Be well.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees have been working on smaller projectsbut may have to approach a larger project very soon

Little projects like a commercial vacuum cleaner, water usage that was almost doubled from one month to the next, etc.

The water leak was resolved as it was due to the boiler system

A part had to be ordered; while the part was on order the boiler was still going to be active (just use more water). However, the first event to do this was a Sunday morning and when Ron came in to unlock the church he found major issues (leaks in at least two area)

While the repairman was looking into these leaks another one was discovered in the boiler room on the boiler itself

So, the initial part ordered has been installed

One of the leaks required another part and the reworking of duct work (this part has to be located before this work can start)

We have not gotten into the leak on the boiler itself because it will be a major undertaking just to find out how bad the leak is. It is very labor intensive, as the boiler has to be taken apart to find the issue. We have put this on hold to make sure the boiler is not needed again

Since we have shut down, because of the virus, this would be the perfect time to start on the boiler..... however, everyone else has shut down also

If the boiler has to be replaced, we are talking major bucks

Do a lot of praying folks; for our world, our country, this virus situation, your family and friendsand yes, even our boiler

Wishing you and yours health and safety during these times

From the Bishop: These Challenging Times



Dear United Methodist friends,

Grace and peace to you in this challenging time for the entire human family.

This morning, I was in Zoom conferences with faith leaders, public health professionals and several episcopal colleagues. In addition, with you, I received the directive of Governor Cooper for schools to remain closed through mid-May.

I urge you to continue the compassionate practice of not gathering for worship, funerals, weddings, studies, and other groups for the next two months.

Resources abound on our conference website and beyond to help us and to engender our own creativity in leading groups, classes and churches.

Public health leaders are working tirelessly for us, for our families and our neighbors, for our communities and our state and our nation and our world. We give thanks for them and their selfless service. I urge you to help lower the number of people exposed to COVID-19 and to protect your family and also those you may never meet or know. Social distancing, or as a friend re-phrases, *distant socializing*, is the best way to slow the advance of COVID-19.

I continue to work with the Cabinet, the Conference Staff, and elected Conference Leadership to garner resources for all our life together. I am inspired by your leadership, your creativity, your compassion and your perseverance.

Today, I connected with our heritage anew, remembering John Wesley's concern for public health. The *double blessing* of physical and spiritual health was – and is – a central dimension of Methodist ministry. Like our spiritual forebears, we are convinced that God wants to give us *both inward and outward health*. Realizing that the least resourced people of his time were without medical care, he recorded his reflection: *At length I thought of a kind of desperate expedient. I will prepare, and give them physick myself.* The urgency of our founder resonates in the creative and life-giving responses you are offering.

Let us make holy use of this unwelcome time, going deep in our reflection, going wide in our concern, going carefully in our ministry.

Thank you for the work of healing grace that you offer in this time, in your community, leading your church.

With gratitude to God for all our life together,

Hope Morgan Ward



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. The “school lives of the faculty, staff, and students” have totally changed with the intrusion of the corona virus into our society.

You may have read about the school’s response to the governor’s mandate that students may not be at school until May 15th. Hoke County responded to this by implementing remote learning situations for our students. Several years ago, Hoke County became a one-to-one school district, with ipads/chromebooks purchased for all students. Previously only high schoolers could take these devices home. However, with students now using digital resources for learning at home, faculties quickly prepared the devices for parents to pick up for student use. Teachers, now working from home and also holding virtual office hours, have prepared lessons for online learning for their students.

You may also have seen buses still running every morning. Well, now they are delivering food—breakfasts and lunches—to students every day except during spring break. With so many of our students on free and reduced lunches, administrators quickly realized they had to find a way to feed students at home. So, every weekday, Hoke County Schools Child Nutrition Staff prepared deliveries of this much needed food.

Hoke County Schools has worked hard to educate and feed our students during this most trying situation. We pray for the teachers as they prepare learning experiences, for the Child Nutrition Staff as they continue to feed the children, and for the school system in general as they respond to a situation that none of us could have envisioned.

As always, we thank our congregation for being supportive of our school ministry. Most importantly, now is the time that we pray for our school system that God will use everyone to let the students and parents feel loved, supported, and not alone at this time. We will continue to look for ways that our church can support all involved in Hoke County Schools. We want everyone to see the love of Jesus in **all** that we do.

Notes:

We will no longer be collecting materials for McLauchlin’s art teacher, as previously requested. Hoke County Schools is on Spring Break March 30th through April 3rd.

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



During April, we will be Celebrating the Resurrection in our Community. While we are unable to meet in person, I am posting our children's church lessons in the RUMC Children's Ministry Facebook group page. If you have not yet joined, please do so, so your children can continue to worship with us. I will also be posting activities they can join in at home throughout the week to help keep us busy and entertained.

April's Bible verse is; Those in front of him and those following were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:9.

Joanna
Joanna.beeson@yahoo.com



OPEN ACCESS

Hello!

Due to the pandemic, the spaghetti dinner has been postponed. A new date is unknown at this time. If you purchased a ticket it will still be honored or you are welcome to a refund.

Thank you to Campbell Soup for the Prego spaghetti sauce and to Barilla for the pasta donations for the spaghetti dinner. Once the pandemic is lifted we will reschedule the dinner and we will have plenty of reason to fellowship!

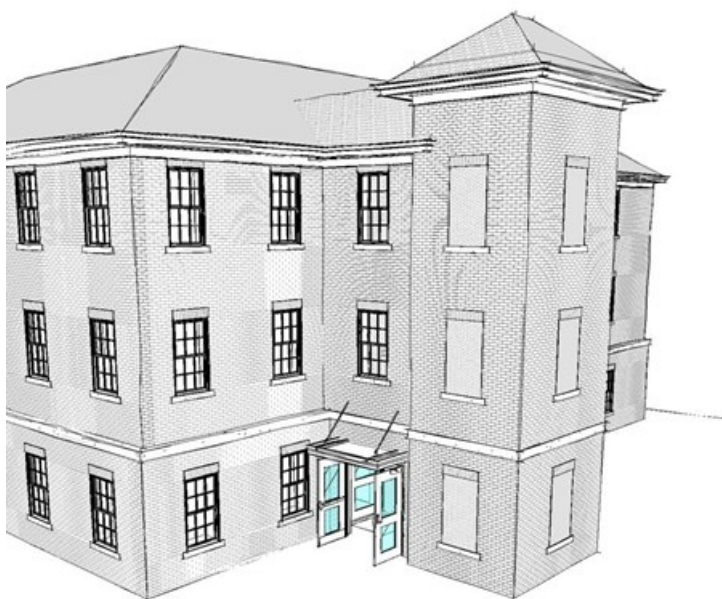
The Easter Lily sale is being cancelled due to the pandemic. You are welcome to a refund.

While staying safe inside be sure to save your aluminum cans! There is a drop box at the church and a can trailer located at Manning Mini Storage to dump them once you can safely get out and about.

THANK YOU for your support and understanding!

ELEVATOR UPDATE

We need some good news and here it is. The Open Access Committee continues to work remotely on its goal of making our church building accessible to everyone. We have received from the architect a concept drawing (see below) of an elevator sited on the rear of the building. When once again we can gather to worship, we will continue to work on our goal. Our spaghetti dinner and silent auction will be rescheduled. Stay safe. We look forward to more of the camaraderie and enthusiasm this project has created in our congregation.





Not a whole lot to report from March. March Circle meetings were cancelled when churches were asked to not meet for 2 weeks. Now that 2 weeks has been extended to 2 months so all April and May activities are cancelled. The April Joint Women of the church dinner is cancelled also. Stay home, stay safe and Wash Your Hands!

PRESCHOOL

We had started our Easter lessons on how Jesus was in the garden praying to God his heavenly father. He prayed for this burden to pass from him, but for God's will to be done. But Jesus knew that it had to be done even though he had done nothing wrong. That it was God's plan when Jesus was born that he would die and shed his blood for our sins. So that if we pray and asked Jesus into our hearts and we trust, believe and live for him that we too will go to heaven to be with him when it is our time to die.

Unfortunately, that is as far as we got in our Easter lesson. We closed Preschool on March 18, when the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in Hoke County. Hopefully, we will be able to return in May when or if public school returns. I sure am missing the Preschoolers.

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

If you or someone you know is interested in Preschool for your 3 or 4 year old for the 2020 - 2021 school year. I am starting my enrollment list for September 2020. Feel free to contact me, Karen Tapp 910-818-7434.

RAEFORD CHRISTIAN FOOD BANK



Our February Food Distribution was held on March 19. The Food Bank truck was cancelled, because of the Corona Virus but we passed out bags from our food closet to anyone that came by. Food was passed out to 41 families totaling 113 people.

UMCMARKET...SAVINGS. SUPPORT.

Governor Cooper has issued a Stay At Home Order for 30 days effective March 30, 2020. While you're at home why not shop online? Online shopping is simple. That's why we do it. Add a benefit by shopping UMCmarket.org. Following a few simple steps, you can register, designate Raeford UMC as your church you want to support and shop. It's that simple. We all know how simple online shopping is. Now donating to your favorite United Methodist ministry can be as simple. Checks are remitted to our church quarterly. How much can we earn this quarter if we all shopped through UMC Market?

School supplies. Holiday shopping. Weddings. Birthday gifts. Home decorating.

Hundreds of stores to choose from so that you get to shop where you like.

FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Graduating seniors who are involved in the Raeford United Methodist Church and have been accepted by a post-secondary degree college may apply for the RUMC Scholarship. Applications may be picked up from the church office. The application must be returned by the third Sunday in May (May 17, 2020)



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!

MARCH FINANCES

Budget Offerings:	\$20,790.00
Designated Offerings	\$3,978.50
Expenses:	\$19,402.75



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Nikki Wedmore	April 1
Sandy Potter	April 3
Jerry Lytle	April 7
Erin Tuttle	April 16
Dennis Floyd	April 19
Mike Ray	April 20
Mildred Maxwell	April 21
Jimmie Warner	April 23
Catherine Monroe	April 26
Kathy Leandro	April 26
Howard Stansberry	April 26

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!

DVD Announcement

Since it appears we will be in the "stay at home" mode for some time to come (at least through May). It occurs to us that some of our congregation may not be internet connected. We have been posting Worshipful Moments on both Facebook accounts associated with the church (Raeford United Methodist Church page and the Raeford United Methodist Church Group page). We have also linked the Facebook page to our church's website www.raefordumc.org.

In an effort to be as inclusive as possible, we are planning to offer recordings of each week's Worshipful Moments. If you are not connected to the internet and would like an audio CD copy of the sermon and music, please contact the church office at 910-875-2111 (or Brian directly at 919-949-4388) and we will put you on the list for delivery. We will call you in advance prior to delivery and leave it at your door.

Non-Profit Organization
Bulk Rate
Permit #11
Raeford, NC 28376

Raeford UMC
308 N. Main St.
Raeford, NC 28376
Return address Req.



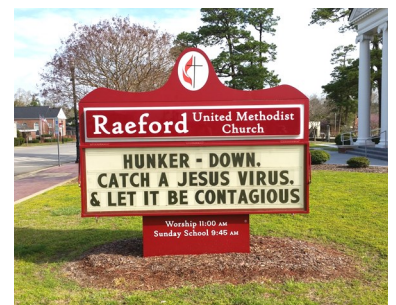
LAST MONTH'S CHURCH SIGNS



2/29/20



3/8/20



3/20/20

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