

# Winstead Connection



*Pastor Rachel Kwashe*  
(phone) (252) 408-3894

This month, we will progress from Lent into Holy Week and Easter. During this time, we will remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, Crucifixion, and resurrection. There are several ways that you are invited to participate in the closing of the Lenten season and entrance into Holy Week. The first is through our community Lenten services. We will continue with the Lenten services on April 2 at St. John A.M.E. Zion and April 9 at First UMC. Then, join us at Winstead for the Maundy Thursday cantata on Thursday, April 17 at 6:30. We will have the community Good Friday service at St. James Christian Church on Friday, April 18 at 2:00. We will celebrate Christ's resurrection on Sunday, April 20. We will have the Sunrise Service at 7:00 and our regular service at 10:30. Both services will have communion. Because communion is a means of grace, there is no limit to how many times we can receive it. You are welcome to take it at both services, if you are attending both.

As we move towards Easter I encourage you to think about this question: what difference does

Christ's life, death, and resurrection make in my life? One of the gifts of this progression from Lent into Easter is that it reminds us of what is really important. Our lives are constantly changing. No two years are the same. You may have heard the saying "the only constant is change." But I would argue that as Christians we should have a different perspective. Our constant is God. In Lent we put a lot of emphasis on spiritual disciplines, practices that help us to draw closer to God. But it's never too late to recommit yourself to a practice or to start something new. I will be continuing to lead the Grand Sweep bible study on Sunday mornings and on Tuesdays at 11:10. This month we will be studying the major and minor prophets. Even if you haven't attended before, you are welcome to join in at any point. The weekly readings are printed in the bulletin and can also be viewed through the bulletin PDF that I send out every Monday.

The mission of our church is to be a place where all people can come to grow closer to God together. How might you grow closer to God in this season of new life? And how might you invite someone to join in and grow closer to God with us? Easter is the perfect time to extend that invitation.

Pastor Rachel is in the office Tuesday - Thursday 9:30-12:00.  
She works remotely on Mondays but can be contacted if needed.  
Fridays are her Sabbath.  
Email: [rkwashe@nccumc.org](mailto:rkwashe@nccumc.org) or cell phone: 252-408-3894

# CHILDREN & YOUTH



*Marty Johnson,  
Minister of Children & Youth  
336-402-5000*

## **Winstead & West Nash Youth (looking to do more together!)**

Winstead UMC youth group, along with West Nash UMC youth group, enjoyed a great time of fellowship and fun as we had bible studies and devotions. Along with this, the youth groups have enjoyed several joint events. With this in mind, we have been thinking about doing more regularly scheduled events together.

Here is our schedule for April and May. We will meet together the first and fourth Sundays of each month.

6 April @ West Nash

27 April @ West Nash

4 May @ Winstead

25 May @ Winstead

If you have any other question, feel free to contact me, by texting or calling at 336-402-5000.

Blessings, Mr. Marty

## **Easter Egg Hunt and Eggstravaganza**

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Hey, church family, on Saturday, April 12. we will have our annual Eggstravaganza. The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10:30 sharp! Please make sure you have your little one there on time. After the hunt, there will be fire trucks, a police depart-

ment K-9 show, face painting, tattoos, bounce house and Lighthouse Friends crafts.

There will be free food and live music! There is something for the whole family - kids, teenagers, mom and dad.

Everything is FREE, so please come. Invite your family and friends and have a wonderful time celebrating the Risen Christ!

## **Children & Youth Easter Play**

The youth and children began working on an Easter play March 24 during Sunday School. We would like to encourage all children and youth to be a part of this. Even if you cannot make every practice, we still want you to be apart of the play. We will be practicing the following four Sundays during the Sunday School time: March 23, March 30. April 6, and April 13. The actual play will be on Sunday, April 27 during the Sunday School hour, starting at 9:30. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Please make sure your children are available on those Sunday so that our practice will be the most efficient by everyone being there.

Thank you very much in advance for your cooperation in this matter. And please pray for us as we try to share the good news of Jesus Christ's resurrection as we proclaim that Jesus Christ is risen and is Lord of All!

If you have any other questions or concern, please feel free to reach out to me.

Blessings, Mr. Marty

## ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

April 6

6:00 - 7:30 pm Winstead & West Nash

April 13

6:00 - 7:30 The Power of Words

April 20

6:00 - 7:30 5 Things Jesus never said

April 27

6:00 - 7:30 Winstead & West Nash

Marty Johnson, Minister of Children & Youth

Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Email: [martykeithjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:martykeithjohnson@gmail.com) or

Cell phone: 336-402-5000

## PEANUTS BY THE NUMBERS

### Each Month

Lbs. of raw peanuts	3000
Cases of jars	720
Jar lids	7,800
Cases shipped nationwide	50
People needed to cook, jar and clean	21
People who deliver	7
People who ship	2
Number of stores/other churches we sell to	28
Out of state stores we sell to	3
People who keep track of all this and the money	2

*The new peanut ministry trailer holds 8,568 jars  
= 714 cases = 2 1/2 cookings.*



## Women of Winstead

by Sanda Hight

This year's chicken salad sale sponsored by Women of Winstead (WOW) is a few days away. WOW members have been busy planning, gathering ingredients and equipment, publicizing the sale, and, of course, collecting orders. The deadline has passed for placing orders, but if you have gotten your orders in, you may pick up the chicken salad from the church kitchen at the following times: Thursday, April 3 from 5:00 pm -7:00 pm or Friday, April 4 from 9:00 am -1:00 pm. Any orders not picked up by Sunday, April 6 may be sold to others unless other arrangements have been made. The cost is \$8 per pound container and is payable at pickup. You may pay by cash or checks payable to Winstead United Methodist Women. Thanks to all church members who donated cooked, diced chicken and other ingredients, to those who made monetary donations, to those who placed orders, and to those who will prepare the chicken salad and distribute it to the church and community. This sale goes back for decades in our church's history, and we look forward to continuing this event to raise funds for needs in our church and community. Decisions about how the profits for this year's sale will be distributed will be made later this spring.

All women of our congregation are invited to become a part of Women of Winstead. Although there will not be a meeting in April, the next meeting will be on May 17. Look for more information in the May newsletter about the time and place of the May meeting.

## Recycling Plastic Bags

by Peggie Shultz

Most grocery stores in Wilson have a bin near the entrance that takes plastic grocery bags. But that's not all they will take. Some even have icons on the bin suggesting what else is acceptable.



Here's a list!

- Plastic stretch wrap – any plastic film used to contain items to a tray. Think case of soda.
- Bags with a 4 logo on them. These are often used to package electronics, but really, if it has a 4 in the recycle logo, it can go in.
- Bubble wrap and bubble packaging – plastic mailing envelopes that are lined with bubble wrap. Remove any labels.
- Air pillows - Retailers use these in their shipping. Punch to release the air.
- Grocery bags, produce bags, bread bags, newspaper bags, and cereal bags
- Wraps around paper products (paper towels, diapers, etc.)

If you don't have anywhere to recycle your plastics, bring them to church and tie to the handle of the recycling bin in the kitchen. I will get them and see they get recycled.

Do you have empty peanut jars? Return them to the church kitchen (box on top of the fridge) and they will be reused for the peanuts given to the volunteers. Or they may great storage jars (I have many in my freezer with freezer jam in them).



## Hand in Hand Ministry

By Sanda Hight

Our Prayer Partners at Vick Elementary School have enjoyed our messages and love each month of this school year. We will have Prayer Partner cards ready for our church family to sign on the first and second Sundays in April (April 6 and 13). Please write a message and sign your name to spread love to our hardworking school staff.

The Hand in Hand Committee served the Vick staff a potato bar meal on Thursday March 20. Baked potatoes were donated again this year by Something Different. Thanks to the staff at Something Different for this generous donation. Following is a note from a Vick teacher expressing her thanks.

"Thank you to Hand in Hand for the delicious Potato Bar today! I appreciate everything Hand in Hand does to uplift our staff at Vick Elementary. Thanks again and have a great day!" - Carol Price

Let us keep our partner school, the students, staff, and families in prayer as they prepare for important end-of-year testing and other activities. The last two months of the school are often stressful and difficult for some students. We pray for their safety and academic success as they finish this school year. Thanks to our church family for caring for our partner school and keeping them in prayer.



## April Birthdays

Sonya Griffin .....	4
Dilyn Jenkins .....	22
Jeff Creech .....	23
Gabriel Ruotolo.....	26
Sandy Lamm.....	28
Mike Morello.....	28
Karen Rowley .....	30

## April Anniversaries

Randy & Pam Marshburn.....	21
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## Easter Eggstravaganza



**FREE**

**Saturday**  
**April 12, 2025**  
**10:30 - 1:00**

**Egg Hunt~10:30    Lunch~12:00**

**Winstead Church**  
**1851 Airport Blvd.**

**FREE**

**Food!**  
**Fun!**  
**Crafts!**  
**Bounce House**  
**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**& more**

The office is in need of copy paper and postage stamps. Donations would be appreciated.

# OUTREACH

## by Priscilla Morello Good News About The 2025 Grant!



Winstead United Methodist Church is a 2025 Mission Seed Funds grant recipient! We are excited to announce that we have received a grant totaling \$7,965. Thank you for keeping this ministry in your prayers.

### Some of what the grant will cover:

We have already held a Lighthouse Friends event as well as the Live Well, Age Well luncheon for senior adults which was held on March 12 and was attended by 27 adults from the church and from the community.



The grant will also help *Live Well Luncheon* with the Easter Eggstravaganza, Vick Elementary Parent Incentive Program and various Saturday of Service events including the Christmas in July event. We are so grateful to the conference for their belief in and support of Winstead as we seek to impact lives for Christ.

## Outreach News

The Outreach Committee will meet next on Thursday, April 24 at 3:00 pm at the church. Items to be covered are decisions about how to disburse the generous Food Drive funds that have been

collected so far this year. We have over \$2,000 that will go to help our neighbors through local food closets and feeding programs.

The Peanut ministry has graciously made available a percentage of their profits to help local ministries and nonprofits. \$1500 was donated and the Outreach Committee will decide where these funds will go. Suggestions are welcomed.

## Hurricane Helene

Please know that we received a gracious thank you note from our friends in Western North Carolina. Our church sent ten \$50 gift cards to help folks still coping with the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

## The Rise against Hunger Event Is Almost Here!

We will have a sign-up sheet starting on Sunday, April 6 for volunteers to commit to helping with this worthwhile outreach project. Mark your calendars and plan to help on Saturday, May 3!



# MUSICAL INTERLUDE



Sandy Pittman, Minister of Music  
[music@winsteadumc.org](mailto:music@winsteadumc.org)

## Once Upon a Tree – A Powerful Musical Presentation

The Chancel Choir invites you to join us for a special presentation of Pepper Choplin's *Once Upon a Tree* on Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 6:30 PM. This beloved cantata, now celebrating its 25th anniversary, takes us on a moving journey through the Passion of Christ, with music that beautifully expresses the depth of the story.

In addition, several of our choir members will be participating in a grand performance of this same cantata under Pepper Choplin's direction on Sunday, April 6, at 7:00 PM in Meymandi Auditorium, Raleigh, NC. This promises to be a powerful and inspiring event, gathering singers from various choirs to mark this special milestone.

Tickets for the Meymandi performance are available now. For more information or to purchase tickets, please see Linda Lane or Sandy Pittman.

We hope you will join us for both of these meaningful musical experiences as we prepare our hearts for Holy Week.

## Hymns of the Faith

### "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" is one of the most beloved Easter hymns, written by Charles Wesley and first published in 1739, a year after his powerful conversion. Wesley, a key figure in the Methodist revival, wrote over 6,000 hymns during his lifetime, but this triumphant Easter hymn remains one of his most enduring.

The hymn's powerful words celebrate the victory of Christ's resurrection, with phrases like "*Love's redeeming work is done*" and "*Death in vain forbids him rise.*" The tune "Easter Hymn," which appeared in *Lyra Davidica* (1708), perfectly matches the joyful nature of the text. The added "Alleluia" refrain enhances the hymn's celebratory feel, though it wasn't part of Wesley's original writing.

This hymn remains a cornerstone of Easter worship, cherished by Christians worldwide as a proclamation of faith and victory over death.



# APRIL AT WINSTEAD

*See the online calendar for the most current information - [winsteadumc.org/calendar](http://winsteadumc.org/calendar)*

## **Tuesday, April 1**

10:00 am Wellness Class  
2:00 pm Bible Study (Winstead UMC)

## **Wednesday, April 2**

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, April 3**

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)  
5:00 pm Chicken Salad Pickup

## **Friday, April 4**

9:00 am Chicken Salad Pickup

## **Sunday, April 6**

9:30 am Sunday School for All  
10:15 am Fellowship Time  
10:30 am Worship  
6:00 pm ECHO Youth  
6:00 pm WAM

## **Tuesday, April 8**

10:00 am Wellness Class  
11:10 am The Grand Sweep Bible Study  
2:00 pm Bible Study (Winstead UMC)

## **Wednesday, April 9**

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, April 10**

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)  
6:00 pm Education Committee

## **Saturday, April 12**

10:30 am Easter Eggstravaganza (pg. 2)

## **Sunday, April 13**

9:30 am Sunday School for All  
10:15 am Fellowship Time  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Drive-In Food Drive  
6:00 pm ECHO Youth  
6:00 pm WAM

## **Tuesday, April 15**

10:00 am Wellness Class  
11:10 am The Grand Sweep Bible Study  
2:00 pm Bible Study (Winstead UMC)

## **Wednesday, April 16**

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, April 17**

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)  
6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Cantata

## **Friday, April 18**

2:00 pm Good Friday Service  
(St. James Christian Church)

## **Sunday, April 20**

7:00 am Sunrise Service  
9:30 am Sunday School for All  
10:15 am Fellowship Time  
10:30 am Worship  
6:00 pm ECHO Youth

## **Tuesday, April 22**

10:00 am Wellness Class  
11:10 am The Grand Sweep Bible Study  
2:00 pm Bible Study (Winstead UMC)

## **Wednesday, April 23**

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, April 24**

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)  
3:00 pm Outreach Committee

## **Friday, April 25- Newsletter Deadline**

## **Sunday, April 27**

9:30 am Sunday School for All  
10:15 am Fellowship Time  
10:30 am Worship  
6:00 pm ECHO Youth  
6:00 pm WAM

## **Tuesday, April 29**

10:00 am Wellness Class  
11:10 am The Grand Sweep Bible Study  
2:00 pm Bible Study (Winstead UMC)

## **Wednesday, April 30**

4:00 pm SPRC Meeting  
5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal





1851 Airport Blvd. W  
Wilson, NC 27893

Pastor Rev. Rachel Kwashe  
Minister of Children & Youth  
Marty Johnson  
Minister of Music  
Sandy Pittman  
Handbell Choir Director  
Joyce Wolfe  
Church Musician  
Faye Jones  
Office Administrator  
Gretchen Hunt  
Lay Leader  
Sandy Lamm

## The Winstead Connection

Published monthly by:  
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Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Sunday School for all  
10:15 am Fellowship Time  
10:30 am Worship  
6:00 pm ECHO Youth  
6:00 pm WAM (Children's Choir)

Pastor : Rev. Rachel Kwashe  
Email: rkwashe@nccumc.org



Find us on:  
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*Come, grow closer to God with us!*

## ***LENTEN SCHEDULE***

### **Wednesday, April 2**

12:10 pm Lenten Service at St. John A.M.E. Zion Church,  
119 Pender St.

### **Wednesday, April 9**

12:10 pm Lenten Service at First UMC, 100 Green St.

### **Thursday, April 17**

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Cantata

### **Friday, April 18**

2:00 pm Good Friday Service at St. James Christian  
Church, 1739 Martin Luther King Pkwy.

### **Sunday, April 20**

7:00 am Sunrise Service with Communion  
10:30 am Easter Service with Communion