

JORDAN
MEMORIAL UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



The Link

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MARCH 2026



On the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where the light dances across the water and the wind carries the scent of stone and shoreline, stands a chapel that quietly proclaims a truth the Church sometimes forgets. The chapel at Magdala is both simple and breathtaking. Soft light filters through the windows

and reflects off the water just beyond the glass. The space feels circular and embracing, as though you are being gathered into something ancient and sacred. Inside, pillars rise around the room like sentinels. Each one bears the name of a woman from Scripture, names that echo through history. The artwork surrounding them is vibrant and textured, depicting moments of courage, prophecy, leadership, grief, wisdom, and resurrection hope. The colors are bold, the faces are strong. The stories are unmistakably central to our theological identity.

As your eyes move from pillar to pillar, you find yourself reading the names, remembering and recognizing. But then your gaze catches on one that feels different. You look for the inscription, but there isn’t one. No etched letters., no carved dedication, just smooth stone. For a moment, you almost assume something is missing. Surely there should be a name here too. But that absence is intentional. The blank pillar draws attention precisely because it resists completion. It stands for the unnamed women, the ones not recorded in Scripture, the ones not memorialized in history books, the ones whose faithfulness unfolded in kitchens, in fields, in sanctuaries, in hospital rooms, in classrooms, and in quiet acts of courage. It stands for the women who followed and the women who lead today. The women who preach, organize, nurture, teach, advocate, and persist. The pillar without a name might be the most powerful one in the room.

In reflecting on the women of Scripture, Rachel Held Evans once wrote, “The women of the Bible are not cardboard cutouts or moral fables; they are complicated, courageous, and sometimes scandalous participants in God’s story.” They are not supporting characters in someone else’s narrative. They are theologians, prophets, judges, disciples, and apostles in their own right. In a world still shaped by assumptions of male priority and patriarchal dominance, the chapel in Magdala stands as a reminder, women have always been part of the story. Not an appendix or an afterthought, but a vital and indispensable

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**Please send mail and
pray for our Homebound**

Genie Cross

Clapp's Room 206
500 Mountain Top Dr.
Asheboro, NC

Sharon Jones

2988 Tuttle Road
Archdale, NC 27263

Malvin & Ann Robinson

2800 Spoons Chapel Rd
Asheboro, NC 27205

Jordan Memorial Military

Quinton Smith

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of Dale Byrnes

By the family

Jim & Pat Byrnes
Noreen & Vince Koch
Connie & Mitch Harmsen

In Memory of Ray Albright

Charles M. Whitehead
Debbie & Jerry Cox
John & Priscilla Allen
David & Celia Harris
Emily Johnson
Bob & Betty Jo Armfield
Martha Thomas

College Students

Maria Almanza (NCSU)

PO Box 361
Ramseur, NC 27316

Logan Armfield

5017 Liberty Grove Rd
Liberty, NC 27298

Samantha Hicks

Jagiellonian University
ul. Gołębia 24, 31-007 Kraków
Krakow, Poland

Hunter Shackelford

Lynch Hall Room 333
9201 University City Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28223.

Jaidy Smith

307 Elam St
Ramseur, NC 27316

Melissa Strickland

2868 Spoons Chapel Road
Asheboro, NC 27205



Ray Albright

James Ray "Ray" Albright, 88, of Ramseur, North Carolina, passed away on Monday, February 9, 2026 at Alpine Health and Rehabilitation Center in Asheboro surrounded by his family. Born on February 28, 1937, in Coleridge, North Carolina, to Joe Fulton Albright and Bertha Murray Albright, Ray grew up in Coleridge and graduated from Coleridge High School in 1955.

A man of deep faith, Ray was a member of Concord United Methodist Church in Coleridge before joining Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church in Ramseur, where he served on numerous committees and taught Sunday School for over 50 years. He was a mainstay in the choir at Jordan Memorial, well known for his rich bass vocals and moving solos, sharing his love of music alongside his wife Carolyn.

More than anything, those who knew Ray will remember his extraordinary sense of humor and gift for storytelling. Friends, family, and former students alike marveled at his ability to captivate a room with a well-told tale. His laughter, pranks, and stories will be deeply missed.

Ray was married to the love of his life, Carolyn Jones Albright, for 64 years. He is survived by his wife Carolyn; sons Mark Fulton Albright and Jeffrey Ray Albright (Louise); three grandchildren, Mary Jane, Michael, and Emily Albright; sisters Mary Faye Craven (Floyd), Betty Jo Cox (Maurice), and Elaine Kearns (Neale); sister-in-law Jackie Jones Cox; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. He will be missed by not only his family, but also his many friends and former students. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe Fulton and Bertha Murray Albright; brother Jesse Albright; and sisters Geraldine Callicutt and Pauline Jarrell.

General Information

Meetings

March 1st

3:00 PM **SPRC Team** Meeting

4:00 PM **Leadership Team** Meeting

United Women In Faith (UWF)

United Women In Faith will meet Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be "Call to Prayer and Self Denial". Please plan to attend.

THANK YOU!!!

United Women in Faith (UWF) send a big "Thank You" for supporting our soup, salad and dessert fundraiser. Your help is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue our mission with serving and caring for others.

Line Dancing

Line Dancing class is on Wednesdays at 10:00am, Thursdays at 7-8pm and Fridays at 1pm.. Cost is \$3.00

Lion's Club

The Lion's Club is collecting old eyeglasses, hearing aids, and cell phones. There is a collection box outside the church office. The Lion's Club also meets in the conference room on the second Tuesday each month from 6-7pm.

Jordan's Closet

Jordan's Closet is open on the first Saturday and third Tuesday each month. Saturday hours are 10am-12pm and Tuesday 5pm-7pm. We always need help sorting and putting out new donations as well as folks who want to come and sit and talk with our friends who come. It is more than clothes, it is connection!



Holy Services Week

Join us for our special Holy Week Services.

Stay tuned for specific details for these services!

Being the Hands of Ministry

Thank you for being willing to serve by adding your gifts to our worship services!

March Ushers

Celia Harris

Doug Collins

March Readings

March 1st Esther 4:9-17

March 8th Ruth 1:11-18

March 15th John 4:4-26

March 22nd John 12:1-8

March 29th John 12:12-19

AA Group

Jordan Memorial hosts Alcoholic Anonymous meetings on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in the conference room.

Faith & Fitness

Exercise class meets on Tuesday's & Thursday's at 9am in the fellowship hall. Equipment is provided and there is no fee. It is more than just exercise, it is a time to connect with other ladies and share in stories, prayer, and scripture. There is a physical need that is met but even more so there is an emotional and spiritual need that is met when we come together. Hope you can join us.

Stewardship

Everyone has heard the question “What are you giving up for Lent?”

What if, this Lent, you give something toward? Imagine identifying one small daily or weekly expense you could release and intentionally direct that money toward mission? Imagine sacrificing time spent on a favorite activity toward performing needed project at church or visiting someone who is isolated, aging or often overlooked.

Everyday choices can become acts of discipleship. Small sacrifices, gathered together, can become powerful expressions of love.

This Lent, let your question be not what you can give up but where you can give toward—and how God might use your offering to bring light into the world

Camp Cards

Boy Scout Troop 508 is selling Camp Cards, Each card is filled with valuable local discounts and coupons and is available for \$10. Sales from the Camp Cards help fund troop activities and provide financial support for Scouts attending summer camp. Those interested in purchasing Camp Cards may buy from the Scouts during their Monday meetings at 7:00 PM. Camp Cards will be sold through the end of April.

Thank you for your support,
Jessica Bryant



Name: _____ Date: _____

Lenten Word Search

O U G S Q N R R N O I T A T I D E M G B I T J T
 K R Q N R X X S O N N J S V E G T Y I L S Z X J
 N E M O W E V D H W Y T H F N O M O V R I Z Y A
 Y F O I X A H U P L S N K J T T K A E E N Y X S
 A L H T G P G T G I R E N R R M A G U T S E F J
 D E X C Z O X D O R Z L N G Y Q F O P S R N O R
 S C Q E C P F K Q G J H U L I H A O S A E O K E
 R T O R X R O E T K N D W N N Y S D O E P M E P
 U I M R X A R G L S F I K O T A T F M R P E E E
 H O C U P Y T N H X S R V V O D I R E E U T W N
 T N M S P E Y I Y R G F I R J N N I T V S A Y T
 Y H K E M R D R Y I A C E S E U G D H E T N L E
 D E J R R S A E A I Y G L B R S A A I R S O O N
 N V R V I W Y E D I L X Q O U M N Y N E A D H C
 U H O R K K S T S U K K X F S L N U G N L E N E
 A A S H W E D N E S D A Y Y A A U T Z C Q S J N
 M E O Y Q S M U U W P I A Q L P F P A E H E G M
 T Q O N F S Y L T B R K D J E G K Z K Y V C E R
 E Y J R U O N O T N Q B N N M H X J M C V S Y S
 P U C M N R D V A F J T U S C R I P T U R E N W
 D G S Y X C K W F H V O V E E C N E N I T S B A
 M A R D I G R A S T E H O L Y S E A S O N C A D
 T V G W L H K A N O I X I F I C U R C Q F U Y P
 I Y W W F O U R T H C E N T U R Y R D P T M F R

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Entry Into Jerusalem | Give Up Something | Maundy Thursday | Serving Others |
| Fourth Century | Ash Wednesday | Donate Money | Resurrection |
| Volunteering | Crucifixion | Fat Tuesday | Good Friday |
| Holy Season | Last Supper | Palm Sunday | Abstinence |
| Forty Days | Mardi Gras | Meditation | Reflection |
| Repentance | Holy Week | Reverence | Scripture |
| Fasting | Easter | Prayer | Cross |
| Lent | Sins | | |

(Continued from page 1)

part of God's story.

This Lenten season, our congregation is reflecting on what it means to “give up” misogyny and patriarchal dominance, not as a slogan, but as a spiritual practice. Lent calls us to examine our hearts, our habits, and the systems we participate in. It invites repentance where we have been silent, awareness where we have been unaware, and courage where change is needed. As we journey toward Easter, we will be preaching through the lives of important women in Scripture. We will listen again to their voices and we will notice their leadership. We will remember that our theological lineage is not carried by men alone. From prophets to judges, from mothers of the faith to the first witnesses of the resurrection, women have proclaimed, led, and embodied the good news.

Our own tradition is witness to this truth. United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) remains one of the strongest and most faithful organizations in our denomination. Women continue to lead churches, ministries, mission initiatives, and community outreach efforts across our connection. Their work is not peripheral, it is foundational.

Yet we also know that we live in a culture where women's voices are often dismissed, minimized, or silenced. In some Christian communities, women are told they cannot preach or teach. In many spaces, those who speak about harm or abuse are doubted or ignored because listening feels uncomfortable or disruptive. Too often, maintaining the status quo takes precedence over seeking truth and healing. Giving up misogyny for Lent means we commit to something better. It means we become a church that listens. A church that believes. A church that makes room at the table. A church that says clearly: your voice matters here. It means standing in accompaniment with women, not only in theory, but in practice. It means examining how we share leadership, how we respond to stories of pain, how we cultivate safety, and how we reflect the expansive welcome of Christ.

The unnamed pillar in Magdala is more than architecture. It is a quiet invitation. It reminds us that the story is still being written and that the Church is strongest when every voice is honored. It stands unfinished on purpose, leaving space for those whose names history forgot, for those whose gifts were overlooked, and for those who are even now stepping forward in faith. As we walk through this season of repentance and renewal, may we become a community that makes room in our pulpits, room at our tables, room in our leadership, and room in our listening. May we be a church that does not carve some names into stone while leaving others out but instead recognizes that the Spirit has always called and equipped women to proclaim good news. The Gospel was first announced at the empty tomb by a woman whose testimony changed the world. A story that is still changing the world and being proclaimed through powerful voices. May we have the courage this Lent to help write the next chapter together.

Pastor Chris Smith

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	3 Faith & Fitness 9am Senior Bingo 10am Civitian Mtg 6pm	4 Line Dancing 10am	5 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	6 Line Dancing 1pm	7 Jordan Closet 10am. Civitian Soup Saturday
8 Daylight Saving Time	9 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	10 Faith & Fitness 9am Senior Bingo 10am Lions Club 6pm	11 Line Dancing 10am	12 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	13 Line Dancing 1pm	14
15	16 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	17 Faith & Fitness 9am Senior Bingo 10am Jordan Closet 5pm Community Meal 5:30pm Civitian Mtg 6pm	18 Line Dancing 10am	19 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	20 Line Dancing 1pm	21
22 UWF 2:30pm	23 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	24 Faith & Fitness 9am	25 Line Dancing 10am	26 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	27 Line Dancing 1pm	28
29	30 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	31 Faith & Fitness 9am				

Ramseur Food Pantry: Peanut Butter and Jelly

March Birthdays

02-Rosemary G. Odom
02-Dan Bressler
03-Denise Lowe
04-Susan Stevenson
05-Colton Embree
05-John Williams
07-Logan Armfield
07-Christy Embree
08-Jonathan Burton
09-Beth Embree
09-Priscilla Allen
09-David Harris
10-Mary Cole Pike
10-Kimberly Ragsdale
13-Shirley Mitchell
14-Betty Mace
15-John Allen
15-Jason Gager

16-Tim Benbow
17-Benjamin Lankford
19-Micah Kurtz
24-David Posey
24-Lindsay Armfield
24-Bradley McPherson
24-Fletcher Rains
27-Keith Mace



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E-mail:

JordanMemorial@JordanMemorial.org

www.JordanMemorial.org

Community Meal March 17th, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Join us for our Community Meal, it's a great time of food, fellowship, and faith!

Worship times

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship Service 10:30am

