



THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor, Steve Autrey

The first church I served as Pastor-in-Charge was North Kannapolis, a congregation with a very active senior adult ministry. One of the unexpected roles I took on as their new, 27-year-old pastor was bus driver for their excursions. The first time I drove the bus, I showed up with what I thought was plenty of time to spare. We were scheduled to leave at 8:00 a.m., so I stepped onto the bus at 7:50, feeling responsible, even a little proud of my punctuality.

Instead, I was met by a full bus of anxious passengers. “We weren’t sure you were going to show up,” Annie Mae, the group leader, said to me. I was early... and somehow, I was still late. It made me wonder, what would they have done if I had actually been late?

This Sunday, we turn to a story about someone who *is* late—and that someone is Jesus. In [John 11:1-6](#), word comes to Jesus that his beloved friend Lazarus is ill. The message is simple and urgent: come quickly. Come now. Come before it’s too late. But Jesus doesn’t rush. Instead, we’re told something that feels both confusing and unsettling: “Though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus... he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.”

Jesus loves them—and still, he delays. What are we supposed to make of that? What does it mean that Jesus is not just delayed, but intentional in his waiting? And what do we do with those moments in our own lives when it feels like God has not shown up on time? This Sunday, we’ll sit with these opening verses and dare to ask the same question Mary and Martha will eventually ask Jesus: “*Lord... where have you been?*”

I hope you’ll join us at 9, 11, or online.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Ongoing Conversations Podcast

Pastors Steve Autrey and Paul Thompson share their thoughts on Lent and how we can use this time to prepare our hearts and incorporate daily spiritual practices on the journey toward Good Friday and Easter. Click on the picture to watch.



WORSHIP

Join us in praising our Lord

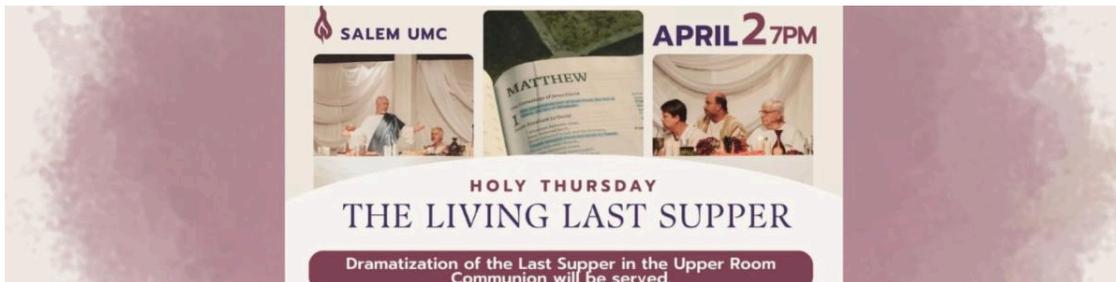
Contemporary Worship Playlist

As we enter into this season of **Lent**, may the songs we sing prepare our hearts for surrender, transformation, and authentic offerings to the One who paid it all for each of us.

Check out the Contemporary setlist for **this Sunday** and for the **entire Lenten season** below. Feel free to add these playlists to your daily routine, inspiring a closer connection with God during these 40 days.



March 15, 2026 Worship Attendance	
9:00	140
11:00	161
Children	24
Total	325
Average Online Views	81



Maundy Thursday Service at Salem UMC

Denver UMC is partnering with Salem UMC throughout this season of Lent, and as our Lenten journey continues, Maundy Thursday is quickly approaching. Since Ash Wednesday was hosted at Denver's campus, this year's Maundy Thursday service will take place at Salem UMC and will feature their presentation of *The Living Last Supper*. This dramatization offers a meaningful glimpse into the lives of the disciples—how Jesus called them, how they followed, and how that final night unfolded. Congregants will also be invited to share in the experience of the Last Supper alongside them.

Salem is still seeking several male actors to portray the disciples. Monologues will be read rather than memorized, and costumes will be provided. Women are also welcome to serve as communion assistants as needed. Participation requires only two read-through rehearsals along with basic stage-presence guidance. If you feel called to take part, please contact Cheryl Barker at cheryl@saalemunitedmethodist.com.

Whether you plan to participate or simply attend, we invite you to join this interactive time of worship at [Salem United Methodist Church](#) on Thursday, April 2 at 7:00pm. Come and remember the night before our Savior offered the ultimate sacrifice for us all.



Holy Week - March 29 - April 5

Holy Week is only a few weeks away. In order to prepare our hearts for the miracle this season brings, below is our upcoming Holy Week Worship Schedule:

Sunday, March 29th: Palm Sunday

- 10:00am Combined Worship in Sanctuary

Thursday, April 2nd: Maundy Thursday

- Salem UMC: 7pm (*no service @ DUMC!*)

Sunday, April 5th: Easter Sunday

- Sunrise Service: 7am at Graveyard Cross
- PRAISEntation: 9am in FLC
- Choir Cantata: 11am in Sanctuary

Please make note of this upcoming schedule plan to come and join together in celebrating the greatest story in history: Jesus defeating death!



GIVING REPORT

updated financial news

Ministry Operations

DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR THIS FUND GO TOWARDS MINISTRY AND OUTREACH, IN ADDITION TO ALL NECESSARY STAFFING AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR HOSTING WORSHIP SERVICES AND MAINTAINING OUR CHURCH GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS.

BUDGET INCOME EXPECTED TO DATE: \$247,961

ACTUAL INCOME RECEIVED TO DATE: \$251,444

2026

MINISTRY OPERATIONS ANNUAL BUDGET: \$1,382,987

For questions about giving, please reach out to Cameron Wilson at finance@denverumc.org. We appreciate your generosity and support!

Give Now



CALENDAR

we'll see you there!

For information about upcoming events, go to <https://www.denverumc.org/events>

Upcoming Events

3/23 6pm | **Church Council Meeting** | council@denverumc.org

3/25 5:30pm | **Last Table Talk** | discipleship@denverumc.org

3/29 10am | **Palm Sunday Combined Worship** | worship@denverumc.org

3/30 2:30pm | **American Red Cross Blood Drive** | carol.brown@denverumc.org

4/1 9:30am | **Chicken Pickin'** | denzilbell@gmail.com

4/2 10am | **Prayer Team** | prayers@denverumc.org

4/2 11am | **First Thursday Lunch** | denzilbell@gmail.com

4/2 7pm | **Maundy Thursday Service at Salem UMC** | salemunitedmethodist.com

4/4 1-3pm | **Easter Eggstravaganza** | kids@denverumc.org

4/5 7am/9am/11am | **Easter Services** | worship@denverumc.org

4/6 **Easter Monday - Church Office Closed** | news@denverumc.org

4/6 10:30am | **Helping Hands Meeting** | helpinghandsdenvernc@gmail.com

4/9 (through the 12th) | **Men's Walk to Emmaus** | wendi.sweet@denverumc.org

4/9 11am | **J.O.Y. Group** | rosannekocher@gmail.com



Events Calendar

Scan to Give



LIFE AT DUMC

things to know, celebrate, & look forward to!



Thank You!

We are deeply grateful to Denver United Methodist Church for their generous donation to WAMY Community Action, which helped fund critical repairs for Ms. Johnson's home in Burnsville, NC. After enduring many challenges since Hurricane Helene, Ms. Johnson now has a safe and energy-efficient home, bringing her comfort and peace of mind. Thanks to your support, she has saved significantly on energy costs this winter, making a meaningful difference in her life - thank you for your kindness!

In service,

Allison Jennings

Director of Philanthropy, [WAMY Community Action](http://WAMYCommunityAction.org)



Menu:

March 25 - Pancakes

Note: March 25 is our last Table Talk for the Spring

Table Talk and Wednesday Night Classes

Take a midweek break and join us for Wednesday night dinner, Table Talk, in the FLC from 5:30-6:30 pm for 10 weeks! Enjoy a delicious meal, great conversation, and meaningful fellowship with your church family. This is a perfect time to connect, share, and grow together. Bring your appetite and your heart—there's a seat at the table just for you!

Dinner:

- \$5 per person
- \$20 max per family

Following dinner, stay for one of our two classes, [The Leadership Discipleship Experience](#), or a Lenten study using resources from Lectio 365. See below for more information. If you have any questions, please email discipleship@denverumc.org.



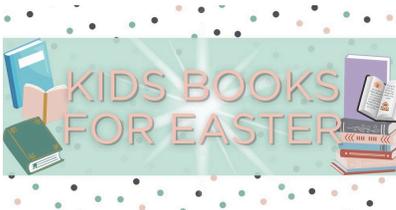
Happy Birthday, Elsie!

Help us wish Elsie Armstrong a happy 95th birthday on March 26! We will have a bag outside the gym and at the Hub **through Sunday, March 22**, where you can drop off your birthday card. If you have any questions, call Sara Lee at 704-230-9004.



OUTREACH

unleashing compassion



Children's Books in Lieu of Easter Lilies

We are excited to once again decorate the Sanctuary with children's books for Easter. Money collected will be used to purchase books that will be given through Lincoln County Schools' social workers to children who are less likely to have access to age-appropriate books to read over the summer break. The books will be displayed on Sundays, March 29th and April 5. For more information, contact Sara

at sara.lee@denverumc.org. Click [here](#) to order online. Order forms are also available on Sunday mornings. Please return the order form **no later than this Sunday, March 22**. Each honorarium or memorial is \$15.



Harbour Health Spring Gala - March 27th, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Support Harbor Health, formerly Heartbeats Women's Center, through this annual event at Crowe Mansion. Click [here](#) for details and to purchase tickets.



Come on Down!

Support the Lincoln County Child Advocacy Center by participating in "The Price is Right - Hee Haw Edition", March 28th at 6:00 pm. Click [here](#) for details.



American Red Cross Blood Drive - Monday, March 30, 2:30-6:30 p.m.

Donate much-needed blood in the CORC and receive free A1C testing. This testing is available to donors only once per calendar year. Click [the link](#) to schedule your appointment.

Helping Hands

building community through service

Helping Hands Local Outreach Opportunities

Serve our neighbors through the many ministries and partnerships of Helping Hands! Click [here](#) for the March HandUp Newsletter for current needs and opportunities. [Contact Helping Hands](#) with questions.

Helping Hands

building community through service



Charlie Blackburn
Memorial Golf Tournament



Helping Hands Golf Tournament - April 27th!

Registration is still open to anyone wanting to sponsor a hole in the annual Charlie Blackburn Memorial Golf Tournament at Verdict Ridge Golf and Country Club! All proceeds benefit the many

ministries and partners of our Helping Hands Community Service Group. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. **All golfing spots are now sold out, but hole sponsorships are still available.**

If you have questions about the Helping Hands Golf Tournament or would like to be added to a wait list, email helpinghandsgolftournament@gmail.com.



DISCIPLESHIP

Small Groups, Bible Studies, & Connection Groups

Discipleship Opportunities

Sunday Small Group/Sunday School hour is 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Visit denverumc.org/ministries/adult-ministries for specific **Sunday school classes, weekday Bible studies, Wednesday night, and small group offerings** with locations, descriptions, and contact information.

Email David Washco with any questions at discipleship@denverumc.org

New Wednesday Night Study During Lent

During the season of Lent, our Wednesday Night Bible Study will pause our journey through Matthew and enter into a focused six-week Lenten study.



Pastor Steve will guide us using resources from [Lectio 365](#), an online prayer movement devoted to daily prayer and spiritual renewal. Together, we will explore the wisdom of the early desert fathers and mothers, Christians who withdrew into the wilderness and helped shape the life, theology, and spiritual practices of the early church through their rigorous devotion to prayer, Scripture, fasting, and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit.

Lent is a season set apart for reflection, repentance, and renewal. If you sense a need to slow down, deepen your prayer life, or invest more intentionally in your spiritual growth, this study is for you.

We will gather each Wednesday at 6:45 pm in the DUMC Chapel, immediately following Wednesday night dinner.

Come and grow in Christ—and in community—as we journey together toward Easter.



Sunday Morning Study Opportunity

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. in the CORC

Have you ever wondered what it means to be a United Methodist? What do we believe? What is our theology, and where did this denomination come from? Everyone is invited to join this time as Pastor Steve leads the conversation. The time starts on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in the CORC (old fellowship hall), with a time of fellowship, followed by teaching from 10:10 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. If you are new to DUMC and looking to get connected with others, this is a great way to meet new people and learn about the church. No need to sign up, simply show up!



Leadership Discipleship Experience #4

Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the CORC

The Leadership Discipleship Experience is a ten-week journey designed to move beyond surface-level faith and into deep, life-changing transformation. Over the course of this experience, you will

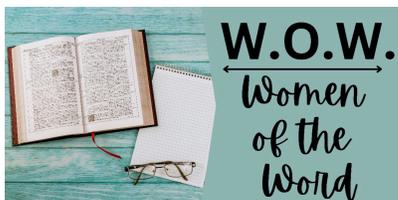
- Discover your God-given purpose
- Learn how to clearly hear and discern God's voice
- Identify and use your spiritual gifts to serve alongside others in community

Click [here](#) for more information and [here](#) to register.



Friday Ladies' Bible Study

Michell Turner will be our guest leader for this study, "The Greatest Story Ever Told, A Bird's Eye View of the New Testament". We meet in the Chapel on Fridays from 10-12. Childcare is available, just contact Sara Lee 704-230-9004.



Wednesday Bible Study

The WOW Bible study is studying the book of Acts, led by Michell Turner. All are welcome, and they meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Any questions, contact Rachelle Roberts at Orachelle@hotmail.com.



Men's Alliance - Sunday Nights!

Sunday nights | 6:00 p.m. | Rain or Shine
Join us for a rugged workout and real devotion.
For more information, [email Caleb Hendren](mailto:Caleb.Hendren).

Women's Alliance - Wednesday Nights!

Wednesday nights | 7:00 p.m. | Rain or shine
For more information, reach out to Shelby Hobbs
at shobbs0623@gmail.com. All women are invited!

Discipleship Video Series

Spiritual Gifts Assessment



HARBOR YOUTH

DUMC's 6-12th grade ministry



Attention Graduating Seniors!

If you are graduating high school or college this year, please contact Cortni at youth@denverumc.org by **May 3** so we can celebrate and include you in Graduation Sunday, May 17. Click [here](#) to submit your graduation information. We look forward to recognizing and honoring our seniors for all they've accomplished!



LAUNCH / Confirmation

All Sunday Evenings in March, 4-5 pm in the Harbor Kids area.

Middle schoolers - but really, *everyone*, even adults - are invited to join us every Sunday night in March from 4-5 pm for Confirmation class (aka LAUNCH)! Together, we will explore the traditional elements of

Methodist Confirmation, ask big questions, and grow in faith in a welcoming and encouraging environment.

Topics we will be discussing:

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- History of the UMC
- Theology
- Sacraments
- Spiritual Gifts

The journey wraps up with a special weekend retreat at the church on May 29–30, bringing everything together just before students have the opportunity to be confirmed on Sunday, May 31. We would love for you to be part of this meaningful step in your faith story! Contact Cortni at youth@denverumc.org for more information!

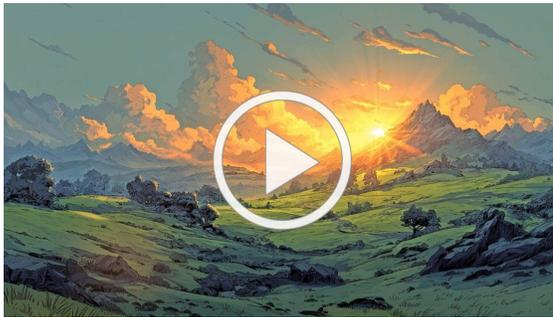
Click [here](#) to register!

March	April	May	July
All Sundays in March Confirmation: 4–5pm	April 4 Easter	May 3 Last Youth PARTY!	July 12-16 VBS!
March 8 Daylight Savings	Eggstravaganza	May 17 Graduation Sunday	July 19-23 NTS Summer Camp
March 22 Girls & Guys Night	April 5 Easter! No Youth	May 24 Rock Springs Campground Sunday	
March 29 Palm Sunday PARTY!	April 12 No Youth	May 29-30 Confirmation Retreat	
		May 31 Confirmation Sunday	

Click to sign up for Harbor Youth updates!

Follow Harbor Youth on Instagram!

Email Harbor Youth



NTS Summer Camp /July 19-23
We're going back to NTS camp at Erskine College, in Due West, SC! This year camp will be looking into the life of David in the Old Testament and the theme is "Pursuit." We hope our students see God's pursuit of them and, in turn, become people chasing after a God who chases after us, redeems us, and prepares us for greatness. As they see themselves in this story of pursuit, we pray they walk away being known as people after God's own heart!

Registration must be completed by a parent or legal guardian over the age of 18 and is complete when all the required information is entered, and either payment is made in full, or the \$150 non-refundable/non-transferrable deposit has been made.

Registration is \$415 from now until April 29. Registration becomes \$435 from April 30 until July 5. Final registration is \$455 for those last 2 weeks before camp. **Registration closes at 6pm July 18!** *You will receive reminder emails of payment due 14 & 7 days before the due date if there is a balance on your account.*

Click here to register for NTS Camp!



Sign Up to Help With Sunday Night Meals!

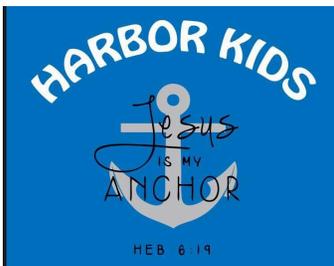
Dinner is getting a fresh spin to become an elevated concession-style. We'd love for friends & parents to be part of the evening by sponsoring a meal and/or helping run the concession stand. While you're absolutely welcome to, **there is NO cooking required**— you can choose to just serve snacks and drinks, and we'd love if you'd bring along a dessert to share! You can scan the QR or click the button below to sign up to sponsor a youth meal!

[Sponsor a Youth Meal](#)



HARBOR KIDS

DUMC's birth - 5th grade ministry



We are committed to helping your child grow in every aspect of their relationship with Jesus Christ and knowledge of His Word. Thank you for your support and prayer!

Harbor Kids is open every Sunday 8:45 a.m. - noon!

We have programs at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. and at 10:00 a.m., join us for hands-on activities to help serve our community!



You're Invited to Our Easter Eggstravaganza!

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon at our **FREE community Easter Eggstravaganza!** Bring the whole family and enjoy free candy, delicious food, bounce houses, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. This year, we're also introducing our first annual Egglympics, where kids (and the young at heart of all ages!) can compete in egg-themed games and challenges.

All ages are welcome, so invite your friends and neighbors and come celebrate with us Saturday, April 4, from 1-3 pm on the DUMC soccer field.

We're also collecting candy donations to help make the event extra sweet! You can drop off donations in the Harbor Kids area anytime between now and the event. Every contribution is greatly appreciated! We can't wait to celebrate with our community

[Click to sign up for updates from Harbor Kids!](#)



IN OUR COMMUNITY

what's happening around town



Last Chance - Knights of Columbus Fish Fry!

The Knights of Columbus are hosting their all-you-can-eat fish fry at Denver UMC. Dinner is dine-in or take-out and includes fried or baked fish, slaw, fries, hush puppies, and a soft drink or coffee for \$15. Kids 8 and under are \$10. Tickets are available at the door.

Friday, March 20, 4:30 - 7:00 pm

Staff & Leadership Connections

Click [here](#) to connect with our staff and Church Council

Visit our website at www.denverumc.org for the latest information

