

He is Risen!



Pastor Patrick Murphy

Easter Power

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

—John 20:21-23

Easter is much more than a holiday or a celebration; it is *power*. Jesus's death and resurrection furnishes the Church with a power unlike that of the world. To inherit and employ this power faithfully, we must proceed as Paul suggests in his letter to the Philippians, "with fear and trembling."

When Jesus first appears to the disciples (minus Thomas) on Easter, he breathes the Holy Spirit over them. He tells them that if they forgive, there is new life, and if they don't, then that judgment stands—a tall order.

This passage has always given me pause. Jesus trusts his disciples, trusts the Church, *trusts me!* with the power to forgive and to be an ambassador of divine love and reconciliation in his name. Jesus gives this power and he calls us to take it up in accordance with his own life, in which he shows us what it means to become last and servant of all.

Sit with that for a moment. Jesus entrusts you with this power.

If that gives you pause like me, *good*. It should. Holding power should always give us pause, especially when we are dealing with eternal matters. Like handling a family heirloom or transporting an important artifact, power always must be born with great care so that we don't begin to believe it's ours. Because Easter power belongs to Christ.

Most of the world wields power as if it were all that matters. Social, political, even religious leaders and their movements expend incredible amounts of resources to get power, and once attained, to retain it in perpetuity. The problem is, when power exists only for itself it always ignores sin and shuns the needs of the most vulnerable. Those who use power this way say things like, "Empathy is weakness," or, "There is no good and evil. There is only power, and those too weak to use it." This is antichrist.

The Church of Jesus Christ can never be impressed by depraved statements like these, nor cowed by vulgar displays of individual or institutional power. We serve the risen Christ.

For the Church power looks like Jesus's humble, self-emptying love. It looks like his dying

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Easter Power

words from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing," and his words on Easter evening, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." It looks exactly like empathy, caring for the vulnerable, and sticking our necks out to see that goodness and mercy come to everyone we meet.

Easter power is God's love that is stronger than death.

One of the surprising joys of Easter power is that it may be found in the ordinary and unimpressive and imperfect, that is, not in the halls of conventional power. It can be easy to miss if we're only looking for "empty tomb" moments or head-

line drama. In fact were it not for the women on Easter morning, we may have missed Easter altogether. The disciples, you'll remember, covered behind locked doors. But even there Jesus found them.

Resurrection happens subtly and quietly. It doesn't seek attention; it seeks the dead. Thus we are here today, disciples of the same Lord.

This Easter season may Christ's resurrection be greater than any fear we face, and may we be in awe of the power of Christ that compels us into the world to live the truth of our God whose love brings the dead to life.

-Pastor Patrick

Chancel Choir presents
WHO IS JESUS?
A Holy Week Cantata
Joel Raney, Composer
Thursday, April 2 | 7:00 pm

CHILDREN & YOUTH



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

Schedule Change

There will be no Children's and Youth Sunday School on Sunday, April 5 (Easter Sunday) and on Sunday, April 12. Children's and Youth Sunday School will resume on Sunday, April 19

Thank You, Winstead

On Sunday, March 1, the youth, children and Sunday School provided lunch for the whole church. Five soups and five desserts were prepared.

What followed was a wonderful time of fellowship and good eating. We wish to thank our church family for your great support and your kind words. We will be having another luncheon provided by the Children's and Youth Sunday School on Sunday, May 31.

A very special thank you to Jodi Ruotolo, our Sunday School Superintendent, who graciously organized and pulled this all together!

Eggstravaganza 2026

Our Easter Eggstravaganza was on Saturday, March 29. Thank you to the whole church family who made everything possible. Thank you so much for your support of this community outreach to our children and youth and their families!

Marty Johnson, Minister of Children & Youth
Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Email: martykeithjohnson@gmail.com or
Cell phone: 336-402-5000

Sunday School Lunch



ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE	
April 5	No Youth Group
April 12	No Youth Group
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Youth @ Winstead
April 19	Youth @ Winstead
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Youth @ Winstead
April 26	Youth @ Winstead
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Youth @ Winstead

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA



WOMEN OF WINSTEAD

by Sanda Hight

Women of Winstead



The chicken salad sale sponsored by WOW (Women of Winstead) will take place on THURSDAY, APRIL 23 and FRIDAY, APRIL 24. Following is a list of reminders about the sale and how you can help WOW with this traditional project for community outreach. This WOW activity is a great way to connect with others from our church, as well as to many people in our community.

- The cost will be \$10 per pound container and is payable at pickup.
- Order forms will be available at the church office and from WOW members. You may place order forms in the offering plate, drop them off at the church office, or order online using the QR code on the order form and to the right. You may also call Karen Rowley or Sanda Hight for orders. Please make checks out to Winstead United Methodist Women.

- Orders will be available for pickup at these times:

Thursday, April 23 from 5:00 to 7:00

Friday, April 24 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

After worship service on Sunday, April 26

- Look for reminders on the worship slides on Sundays in April prior to the sale.
- ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY MONDAY, APRIL 20.
- A sign-up list for donations of cooked, diced chicken will be in the narthex until Sunday, April 19. Please help with donated chicken if you can.
- Profits from the sale of chicken salad will be used for church and community projects.

WOW will also sponsor a fall chicken salad sale. Look for information about that project in November.

All women of the church are invited to be a part of WOW. The next WOW meeting will be on Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 at the church.



Scan this QR code to order online.

Recycling Update

By Peggie Shultz



Thanks to everyone who is helping Winstead recycle. Every little bit helps, but there are some guidelines that need to be followed.

Anything contaminated with food cannot be recycled. If it's a bottle or can, rinse it out and you're good to go. If it's a paper product (cups, plates, etc.), it goes in the trash.

Some things can never be recycled: Styrofoam cups or plates, latex gloves, and paper towels.

And if you're taking out the trash from the kitchen, be aware that the closest "can" to the door - the blue one - is for recycling only.

Finance Report

By Linda Lane, Chair

Please take time to review the financial state of our church. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Gretchen Hunt or Linda Lane.

General Budget Totals

February

Expenses	24,086.71,
Income	<u>15,157.62</u>
Budget Shortage	\$ (8,929.09)
YTD Expenses	45,835.17
YTD Income	<u>25,954.72</u>
YTD Budget Shortage	\$(19,880.45)

Use Your RMD to Bless Our Church

By Disciple Ministries of UMC

So what's an RMD? This is the required minimum distribution retirees must take annually from their IRAs. (The age to do this depends on when you were born.) Because you didn't pay tax on this money when it went into your IRA, the government requires you to take a portion out each year and pay tax on that portion.

But, if you take a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), you can make a contribution to the church (or any charity) and deduct that full amount from your taxable income on your next income tax return. This is not a tax deduction, but a reduction in the amount of your RMD that is taxable.

To do this, simply request your IRA to send the money. The money must go directly from your IRA to the charity. The tax benefit can be substantial. Check with your CPA or IRA account holder.

Sunday, April 12
Leave your items on the table
in the foyer.



Hand in Hand

by Sanda Hight, Chair

The Hand in Hand Committee provided a potato bar lunch for the Vick staff on March 20, which resulted in many comments of thanks from the staff. We will help the staff celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week on May 7 with strawberry shortcake and peanuts.

Our church is continuing to focus on "Books for Vick" for the 2026 book donation in December. Communion donations on the third Sunday of each month go to the book fund. Let us all be thankful for the opportunity to continue our partnership with the students, staff, and families of Vick Elementary School.



April Birthdays

Pastor Patrick	7
Jeff Creech.....	23
Gabriel Ruotolo	26
Sandy Lamm.....	28
Mike Morello.....	28
Karen Rowley.....	30

April Anniversaries

Randy & Pam Marshburn.....	21
Patrick & Brittany Murphy	27

Trustees Report

by Fred Hight, Chair

Much of the equipment for the church playground has arrived. The playground project is currently on hold, since the border and mulch have to be put down first. The border and mulch materials have been ordered, and when all materials arrive, we can continue with putting the playground together for our children to enjoy.

Communications

By Peggie Shultz

Winstead has signed up with a company that will send invitation postcards to families/ individuals who have recently moved to our area. The first cards were sent the end of March.

This is all in conjunction with our new welcome center in the Narthex, children’s area in the sanctuary and directional signs in the Narthex.

Be on the look out for unfamiliar faces and make them feel welcome!

Donate Online

If you would like to give your tithes and offerings online, please scan this QR code.



APRIL AT WINSTEAD

See the online calendar for the most current information - winsteadumc.org/events

Wednesday, April 1

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

Thursday, April 2

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3

2:00 pm Good Friday Service
(First Baptist Church, 311 Nash St.)

Sunday, April 5



6:45 am Sunrise Service
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship

Monday, April 6 - Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, April 7

9:00 am Worship Team
10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study
2:00 pm Hand in Hand Committee (pg. 7)

Wednesday, April 8

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

Thursday, April 9

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Sunday, April 12

10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Drive-In Food Drive
5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm ECHO Youth @ West Nash UMC
5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Tuesday, April 14

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, April 15

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

Thursday, April 16

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Saturday, April 18

10:00 am Women of Winstead (pg. 5)

Sunday, April 19

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm ECHO Youth
5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Tuesday, April 21

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, April 22

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

Thursday, April 23

8:00 am WOW Chicken Salad Preparation
9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)
5:00 pm WOW Chicken Salad Sale

Friday, April 24

9:00 am WOW Chicken Salad Sale

Saturday, April 25 - Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, April 26

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm ECHO Youth
5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Tuesday, April 28

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, April 29

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

Thursday, April 30

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)



1851 Airport Blvd. W
Wilson, NC 27893

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



The Winstead Connection

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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
5:30 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm ECHO Youth
5:30 pm WAM (Children's Choir)

Pastor: Rev. Patrick Murphy
Email: pmurphy@nccumc.org

Come, grow closer to God with us!

