



Central

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United Methodist Church
THE CENTRAL CHATTER

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³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

(1 Peter 1:3-9, New Revised Standard Version, NRSV)

Loose Lines from Daniel's Den...

After the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Easter Sunday, someone commented that, for preachers, Easter is like the Super Bowl. I thought about it for a second and replied, "It's more like Speedweeks at Daytona before the 500." There is so much more that goes on before the 11 o'clock Easter Service. Just like the NASCAR Teams spend weeks in Daytona preparing for Daytona 500, the Church spends weeks preparing for Easter. The Season of Lent is 40 days of preparation. Then comes, Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunrise Service. That is a lot! I am so grateful for the staff and the Worship Team at CUMC. So much effort goes into all the special events and Worship services.

Each special event and Worship Service holds an important place in my heart. When I was a small boy, I can only remember Palm Sunday and Easter being observed at the church my family attended. Now, we eat pancakes on the eve of the Lent to prepare for the Lenten Fast. Ash Wednesday helps me understand the need to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins. The Season of Lent helps me reflect upon my walk with Christ. Holy Week adds to the drama that led up to Jesus' crucifixion. We wave Palm branches and sing, "Hosanna!" We enjoy a fellowship meal before we watch children hunt for Easter Eggs. We gather around the Lord's Table to remember when Jesus first spoke the words that we use to celebrate Holy Communion. We gather around the cross on Good Friday to remember when Jesus was crucified and buried in a tomb. On Holy Saturday, we prayed in the stripped bare Sanctuary to remember how dark the world would be if God had not sent His Only Son. We gather in the darkness of Sunday morning to witness to the Light of Christ that rose again on that first Easter.

Friends, as far as the Church goes, Easter did not end at sunset on Easter Sunday! The Church celebrates the Season of Easter – fifty days. That's really only a small amount of time to show how much the Resurrection of Jesus means to the Church and to the world. With all the sin and death we witness in the world, we need to proclaim Christ crucified and resurrected all the more!

Peter, who wrote the words above, witnessed with his very own eyes the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Even Peter had a hard time comprehending everything he saw. Thankfully, the resurrected Jesus appeared to him and the other disciples for forty days between Easter and Pentecost. The Book of Acts tells us, *...until the day when he was taken up to heaven... ..he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.* Just before Jesus was taken up to heaven, he told his disciples, *...not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father [the Holy Spirit] (Acts 1:2-40).*

I often wonder why Jesus just doesn't appear to us from time to time to give us instructions and answer our questions! Could it be that Jesus has already said and done everything that was needed for us? We have the witness of Scripture. We have the testimony of the people who were with Jesus during his life and death. We have their eyewitness account of Jesus after his resurrection from the dead. We have the record of the disciples and how they gave their very lives to share the Gospel throughout the world. We have the witness of the Church handed down through the ages, and through the ages, the Holy Spirit – the very presence of God - has been with us. All we really need is to keep our faith in Jesus Christ.

Read again what Peter wrote, and remember this: *Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* Easter may be like the Daytona 500, but the race to the finish is not over!

Grace and Peace,
Danny ><

Deacon's Dialogue | April 2026

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

Happy Easter, Church! Praise God we know He lives... Jesus has triumphed over death, and because of this, so then do we! During this Easter season, we can find hope and unspeakable joy and peace in Jesus, the new creation. As Paul notes above in 2 Corinthians, indeed, "The old has passed away... [and] the new has come." Nothing quite compares to the feeling of having a clean slate before us, whether that clean slate involves a brand-new day before us with nothing on our agenda but whatever we would like to do, a debt that has been paid, a reconciled relationship with a loved one, or the extensive menu of a restaurant we are trying for the first time. Jesus provided and still provides us with the *ultimate* of all clean slates. This week following Easter, it might be understandable we just want to bask in the peace of it all. For clergy and laity alike, Holy Week is extremely meaningful but can prove to be intense and exhausting. So, yes, rest in the knowledge that, because of Him, we have been forgiven. Redeemed. Made new.

But don't forget to consider what that truly means: *we have been made new.*

How we choose to reflect on that knowledge, how we understand that fact, and what we ultimately *do* with *being made new* is now up to us. I read recently that Christ's resurrection was not an ending but was only the beginning. Yes, his resurrection was fulfillment of prophecy and a promise kept by God, but there was so much more to come and much work would be done. We know Christ would meet with his disciples again and would ascend into heaven. We know the Holy Spirit would descend upon the crowd and the early Church would be established. We know the apostles would spread the Good News to the ends of the earth. But I hope we know that we, too, are part of that new creation within the Church and as individuals made new and whole in Christ.

If the old has passed away, that means our old ways should be behind us. Our previous ways of speaking, doing, and moving throughout this world, particularly if not aligned with the heart of Christ, should change. Don't get me wrong: all of us should constantly seek sanctification daily as believers, growing and striving to be more like Jesus. But this season of Easter should be even more of an obvious reminder to us that we should strive to be transformed because of what Christ has done for us instead of blindly following what the world would lead us to believe is true. We should think, speak and act in ways that glorify God and all that God has made, including plants, animals, our water, earth, and, not last or least of all, each other as image bearers.

I cannot tell you exactly what that looks like because we all have different strengths and gifts bestowed to us by God, but I know it doesn't look like violence, hate, indignation, self-righteousness, ignorance, or neglect. I know it doesn't look like exclusion. I know it looks like servant-leadership and respect. I know it looks like doing no harm, just like John Wesley said. How have you been transformed by God's grace through Jesus' triumph over the tomb? What will you do in response? Sit in that peace, but don't sit too long. We've only just gotten started.

Grace and peace,

Kennette



grace note

Definition: *Noun:* an extra note added as an embellishment and not essential to the harmony or melody.

I want to begin with deep gratitude for such a wonderful Holy Week and Easter at CUMC. I would like to extend a special thank you to both the chancel choir and the Bellissima bell choir for their hard work and dedication to making these services meaningful. Thank you also to all those that were involved including the staff, committees, and congregants who participated in these services.

As we begin to feel the warm weather and welcome spring, the season of Pentecost is quickly approaching. This season focuses on the initial gift of the Holy Spirit to the early members of the church and then the extension of that same gift into each of our hearts if we believe and receive. We celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter. The word Pentecost is derived from a Greek word meaning 50th. Whenever I am choosing music for any Sunday, I look at the scripture readings and main themes and pick music that aligns and reinforces those themes to make them more meaningful. Hymns are a great way of reinforcing theology and have a unique way of placing themselves on our hearts for when we need them most. For Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, we will celebrate the themes of the Holy Spirit by singing several hymns such as *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* and *Come Down, O Love Divine* that both ask the Holy Spirit to ignite each of our hearts to do the work of God and asks for comfort and closeness in our many human struggles.

May the Lord bless each of you this Spring season!

SAVE THE DATE

#KidsConnect

JUNE 1ST - JUNE 4TH 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Central United Methodist Church 1909 N. Main Street Mount Airy, NC 336.786.7824

Central Happenings

The Mission Committee would once again like to thank everyone involved with the food box ministry, including those providing financial support and those that volunteer their time. We distributed 50 boxes to Mount Airy City School families in need for Spring break. This included 25 boxes packed by Chestnut Ridge Progressive Baptist Church with groceries they provided. Aubreigh Heisler, MACS social worker, provided support by communicating with the families ahead of time and during distribution. In addition, CUMC provided an additional 15 boxes for families supported by the Children's Center of Northwest NC and a few to member families and 40 meal bags distributed to food pantries throughout our area.



We had another great volunteer turnout to pick up the groceries, sort, pack and distribute the boxes. Many thanks go to the following folks: Corey Martin, April Delacruz, Scott and Donna Bailey, Alan Connolly, Doug and Arlette Porter, Ginny Adams, Debbie Lyon, Tommy and Sandra Hill, Mike Rader, Charlie Golding, Lyn Smith, Jody Morgan, Sandy Smith, Mike and Norma Johnson, and Bucky Holcomb.

What a great opportunity to show God's love to our community. Thank you Central!!!



If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness.. Isaiah 58:10

Calling all SENIORS!

We would like to begin again a once quarterly get together with entertainment and fellowship. All of this will be discussed at our first meeting and everyone will be invited to share input on how our program and activities will develop going forward.

Our programs hope to welcome seniors from our church as well as from the community. You are encouraged to invite friends. There is a sign up sheet in the front hallway. Please stop by to indicate if you will be joining us, and if you are bringing a guest.

Our spring meeting will be **10:15am on Wednesday, May 6th in the Fellowship Hall**. We will meet for deserts and drinks and enjoy a few songs from our Child Center Preschoolers. Afterwards, we will have a time of discussion to plan a path forward for this ministry.

We hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

Your 2026 Senior Adult Team
Donna Adams and Libby Hoke (co-chairs)
Marie Simmons and Pastor Danny



April 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Holy Week		1 10am - Disciple I 6:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	2 Maundy Thursday 7pm	3 Good Friday Tenebrae - 7pm	4 Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil 6am-6pm
5 Easter Sunday He is Risen! 7pm - AA & AI-Anon	6	7 9:30am:Class Meeting	8 10am - Disciple I	9 7pm - GriefShare, AI-Anon	10	11
12 3pm - Disciple 3 7pm - AA & AI-Anon	13	14 9:30am:Class Meeting	15 10am - Disciple I	16 7pm - GriefShare, AI-Anon	17	18
19 3pm - Disciple 3 7pm - AA & AI-Anon	20 Finance 5:30pm	21 7pm - Class Meeting	22 6:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	23 7pm - GriefShare, AI-Anon	24	25
26 3pm - Disciple 3 7pm - AA & AI-Anon	27	28 9:30am:Class Meeting	29 10am - Disciple I Staff 5:00pm 6:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	30 7pm -GriefShare, AI-Anon		