

Winstead Connection



Pastor Patrick Murphy

Easter, Actually

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

-1 Corinthians 15:20

Theologian Alister McGrath once argued, "The resurrection of Jesus is a sign of God's purpose and power to restore his creation to its full stature and integrity." Just as death is the culmination of all that's wrong in the world, so is the resurrection a pledge of God's ultimate victory over the world's disorder. That's Easter. Jesus is here and redemption is afoot despite all suggestions to the contrary. A sign of the great unfolding of God's new creation.

A significant struggle for Christians as we have lived further and further from that first Easter is the glaring tension of living on this side of Jesus's resurrection but continuing to experience so much that violently resists its truth and power.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul argues that without the resurrection we might as well give up. "If Christ has not been raised," he says, "your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins." But, he continues, Christ *has* been raised from the dead. Everything has changed. Resurrection, according to Paul, unfolds according to God's order: first in

Christ, then for those who belong to Christ, then the end when all that is disordered and evil is undone and transformed so that the victory of the risen Christ becomes all in all.

Easter's good news signals in advance God's total victory over evil and death. It comes to us from afar, but once it takes hold of us, we see and live in the world with new courage and confidence as we await its completion.

During World War II C. S. Lewis and Anders Nygren, two beloved Christian thinkers and authors, noticed parallels in how the war was shaping up in Nazi-occupied countries and the surprise of Easter. For years populations had been living in the shadow of Germany's sinister power. News from the outside was scarce and never more powerful than the reality of their captivity.

Then the Normandy landings happened in June of 1944, while the Soviets continued their relentless steamrolling of the Wehrmacht on the Eastern Front. As towns were liberated, news began to spread of Germany's impending defeat. Evil's days were numbered, its backbone broken.

But for many living in occupied countries, months would go by in which nothing seemed to change. What did that news matter for they who

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Easter Actually

were still oppressed? Eventually though, that news began to do work. Eyes opened, courage returned, life began to recover. Nothing may have changed on the ground at first, but on a much deeper level *everything had changed.*

Sometimes life feels like a long defeat, one thing after another. Those hard realities feel impenetrable. But then word comes of news so good that it seems too good to be true; news from afar but news for our time and for all time that grabs hold of us and won't let go.

That's Easter. Its power breaks into our lives, and gradually becomes the way we see the world and the way we live in spite of harsh realities that go against what God wants to accomplish. We begin to believe in the action and power of the risen Christ in the same way we trust the Earth will continue to spin into another sunrise or the same way we trust our hearts will continue to supply blood to our organs even if we're unaware of it. All things are being made new.

Resurrection breaks into the world on Easter like the first dawn of creation, only this time the dawn signals the New Creation in Jesus Christ. That means that everything will change. And as Christians we believe further that everything *has* changed. Shadows remain, but the possibility of their triumph has been stolen from right under their noses. Their days are numbered, their backbone broken.

And we are yet alive, witnesses of this resurrection. Thanks be to God! -Pastor Patrick



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

Children & Youth

The children and youth Sunday School will be coming to an end as we come to the end of the school year. Sunday May 31 will be our final Sunday School until the fall.

We will resume Sunday School on Sunday, August 30. The Sunday before, August 23, we will have our traditional Blessing of the Backpacks. Please be in prayer for our teachers and students as they take the summer off while going on vacation and spending quality time with family. Please pray for Children, Youth and Sunday School teachers as they are traveling and spending vacation time with families and friends.

Our prayer is that as our children and youth are enjoying summer, it gives them time to talk about God's gracious love for all while they are enjoying God's gracious and wonderful creation.

(Continued on page 3)

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH, CONT'D

(Continued from page 2)

If you would like to help in teaching or assisting our children and youth in Sunday School, please contact Marty Johnson or Jodi Ruotolo.

Also, pray for us and the disciple education team as we develop our curriculum for the fall of 2026 and beyond!

Sunday School Luncheon

On Sunday, May 31, we will be having a Build Your Own Sandwich Luncheon after the worship service. This luncheon is to celebrate and promote Sunday School.

The youth & children of our church will be preparing sandwich-making ingredients.

We are encouraging all to invite someone to Sunday School and/or church. The cost of the luncheon is free; however, there will be a donation bowl for anyone who wishes to give towards Sunday School materials, mainly for curriculum. Please make sure that your guest does not pay or donate any money. They are our guest and their presence is their donation.

Please go out of your way to invite someone to church that Sunday as we promote Sunday School in our church as a way of growing closer to Christ! Whether you invite someone or not you are welcome to come to our Sunday School Luncheon.

But please start now praying that God will put someone on your heart to invite and welcome to worship with you here at Winstead UMC.

Blessings,

Jodi Ruotolo, S. S. Superintendent

Marty Johnson, Youth & Children Minister

Thank You, Thank You!!

Our EGGSTRAVAGANZA 2026 on Saturday, March 28, was a blessing for all. There's no way I can thank everyone who had a part in blessing, our community with a great time to include an Easter egg hunt, live music, great food and plenty of games and candy for all! We had over 1,200 eggs to be hunted and over 50 golden eggs with go coins hidden in them. Thank you so much to everyone who made that possible!!

A very big thank you to all those who helped set up on Friday afternoon. And a big debt of gratitude to all those who helped clean up and restore the church for worship on Sunday.

Thank you so much WINSTEAD UMC for your support of this outreach to the children, youth and families of our community!!

Winstead Playground Dedication TBA

ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 2

10:00 - 12:00

Rise Against Hunger

Sunday, May 3

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Youth @ Winstead

Sunday, May 10

No Youth Group

Sunday, May 17

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Youth @ Winstead

Sunday, May 24

No Youth Group

Sunday, May 31

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Youth @ Winstead

Trustees Report

by Fred Hight, Chair

Church members have been hard at work installing the playground near the shelter. The border for the playground has been filled with uncontaminated mulch, and a workday was held on Saturday, April 25 to continue with installation. We are confident that the playground will be completed soon.



HAPPY EASTER!



May Birthdays

Caroline Harper	1
Graham Brock	3
Alayna Wilson	29
Ricky Wilson	29
Tessa Kirby	30

May Anniversaries

Chris & Sandy Pittman	9
Don & Ophelia Taylor	10
Joe & Vicky Harper	12
Jake & Joyce Wolfe	31

Called Charge Conference

On May 31 at 1:00 pm, Winstead will have a Called Charge Conference. All are invited to attend, but only Church Council members may vote.

The Charge Conference will be asked to approve compensation changes for the pastor regarding housing allowance and to shift the leadership structure from the traditional model to a one board model. More information will be available before the conference.

Donate Online

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



WOMEN OF WINSTEAD

by **Sanda Hight**

WOW (Women of Winstead) held the annual chicken salad fundraiser on April 23-24. With the help of those who donated cooked chicken and other ingredients, those who worked in the kitchen preparing and distributing the salad, and those who helped promote the sale by sharing order forms with friends and family, the sale was a success. This year, 138 pounds of chicken salad were prepared. By the end of the day of April 24, most of the containers of salad had been distributed to church and community friends who ordered. Some people picked up their orders on Sunday, April 26.

A BIG THANK YOU goes to those who donated, worked, and bought the salad. A special thank you goes to Parkers Barbeque for donating pint containers for the sale.

A full report of profit will be made when all information has been finalized. Profit will go toward church and community outreach opportunities. A decision about how to distribute the profit will be decided at a later time. The WOW fundraiser builds relationships within our community and church and provides joy in working together and sharing with each other through Christian fellowship.

All women of the church are invited to participate in WOW. The next WOW meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16 at the church at 10 am. If the location and time change, an announcement will be made soon. WOW will not meet during June, July, and August. Thanks for supporting WOW.



Preparing the chicken salad. Many hands make light work!



Pastor Patrick helped with cleanup.

Hand in Hand

by Sanda Hight, Chair

Hand in Hand activities are near completion for this school year. April Prayer Partner cards and birthday cards for the staff have been delivered. Cards for May will be available for signing from May 3-10. Please take this opportunity to send prayers and greetings to the staff once more for this school year.



The Hand in Hand Committee will provide a treat for the staff at Vick to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week on Thursday, May 7 with strawberry shortcakes and Winstead peanuts. On the last day of this school year, we will provide a special treat for all the students to take home with them.

We continue to make "Books for Vick" a year-long focus. Please remember that the communion donation on one Sunday each month will be given to purchase books as an example of outreach to the community. The Hand in Hand Committee is already exploring book titles for "Books for Vick" in December.

Thanks to all who continue to support Vick Elementary School students, staff, and families throughout the year. What a great opportunity we have to share our Christian love with the community in this way.

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.

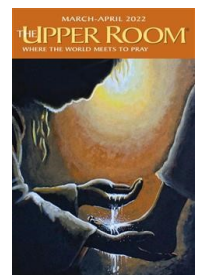
General Budget Totals

	March
Expenses	22,833.51
Income	<u>18,507.64</u>
Budget Shortage	\$ (4,325.87)
YTD Expenses	68,668.68
YTD Income	<u>44,462.36</u>
YTD Budget Shortage	\$(24,206.32)

Upper Room Devotionals

Upper Room Devotionals are available in the narthex.

If you would like one mailed to you, contact Gretchen in the office. Regular and large print editions are available.



Pastor Patrick is in the office
Monday - Wednesday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Email: pmurphy@nccumc.org

MAY AT WINSTEAD

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

Saturday, May 2

10:00 am Rise Against Hunger (Evansdale UMC)

Sunday, May 3

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, May 5

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, May 6

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 7

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Sunday, May 10



9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Drive-In Food Drive

Tuesday, May 12

10:00 am Wellness Class

2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, May 13

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, May 16

10:00 am Women of Winstead (pg. 6)

Sunday, May 17 - Miracle Sunday

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, May 19

10:00 am Wellness Class

2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, May 20

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 24 - Pentecost

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:30 am Worship

5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Monday, May 25 - Newsletter Deadline

Office Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 26

10:00 am Wellness Class

2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, May 27

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 31

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:30 am Worship

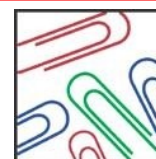
11:30 am Sunday School Luncheon (pg. 3)

1:00 pm Called Charge Conference (pg. 5)

5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

5:30 pm ECHO Youth

5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

The office is in need of tissues.
Donations would be appreciated.



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 MusicianFaye Jones
Office Administrator..... Gretchen Hunt
Lay LeaderSandy Lamm



The Winstead Connection

Published monthly by:
Winstead United Methodist Church
1851 Airport Blvd.
Wilson, NC 27893
252-237-3709

WinsteadUMC@gmail.com
www.WinsteadUMC.org

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!



RISE AGAINST HUNGER®



Help package
20,000 meals
to fight global hunger!

Evansdale UMC
Saturday, May 2nd
10 AM - 12 PM




Register & donate!




events.riseagainsthunger.org/evansdaleumc26