

JORDAN  
MEMORIAL UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



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# The Link

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MARCH 2023



The above picture is from the Judean Wilderness. This is where Jesus spent forty days after his baptism. It was here he was tempted, tested, and prepared for His ministry. As we drove through this harsh environment, it was hard to imagine how anyone could last forty minutes, let alone forty days. It was here Jesus chose to spend time to prepare himself for all that was about to happen. Each year at this time we are invited into our own personal wildernesses to spend forty days in preparation and recentering for our own ministries. This season is called Lent. The word Lent comes from the Latin *lencten* which means spring. Spring is around the corner and if you look, you can begin to see signs of it springing forth! Daffodils are blooming, some trees have begun to bloom, temperatures lately have even been spring like. Creation is reminding us there is hope on the way. I love that when Lent starts the trees are barren, the landscape is barren, much like the Judean wilderness photo above, but by the end of Lent, when we reach Easter, trees are leafing out, color is returning to the world, and we see life and a restoration of the natural world. Lent is a season that reminds us we are returning to what God had intended for the world. It is the difficult journey through the wilderness, across Galilee, and up to Jerusalem that leads Jesus to the cross. It was through His death that we are restored, renewed, and brought into this kingdom that is bigger than we could have ever imagined. For us, Lent is a time that brings our focus back to our mission and identity. It is in these moments we are formed, shaped, and prepared for what comes next.

One thing we learned while in the Judean Wilderness was that even in that harsh environment, God provides. In the southern portion of the desert is a place called En Ghedi. This is where David hid from Saul

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<p><b><u>Please send mail and pray for our Homebound</u></b></p> <p><b>Ray Albright</b> 230 East Presnell Street Asheboro, NC 27203</p> <p><b>Sharon Jones</b> 2988 Tuttle Road Archdale, NC 27263</p> <p><b>Ann Robinson</b> 2800 Spoons Chapel Rd Asheboro, NC 27205</p> <p><b>John and Sue Sinkewicz</b> 814 McDowell Country Trail Lot#41 Asheboro, NC 27203</p>	<p><b><u>Jordan Memorial Military</u></b></p> <p><b>SGT Trexler, Dylan</b> Unit#93199 TF Hammer (553rd CTC) APO AE 09008</p> <p><b>Quinton Smith</b> 144 Mt. Vernon Ave. Portsmouth, VA 23707</p>	<p><b><u>College Students</u></b></p> <p><b>Maria Almanza (NCSU)</b> PO Box 362 Ramseur, NC 27316</p> <p><b>Kara Camp</b> 5546 Nightwood Drive Randleman, NC 27317</p> <p><b>Hannah Harris</b> 2504 NC Hwy 22 South Ramseur, NC 27316</p> <p><b>Ashley Shackelford</b> 2367 Woodridge Drive Asheboro, NC 27205</p> <p><b>Melissa Strickland</b> 2868 Spoons Chapel Road Asheboro, NC 27205</p>
	<p><b><u>Memorials and Honorariums</u></b></p> <p><u>In Memory of Bill Smith</u> Larry &amp; Crandall Ellison Ed &amp; Shirley Mitchell</p> <p><u>In Memory of Joanne Luck</u> Debbie Goldsberry</p>	



The fact is, about 60% of Americans aren't going to church. That means the Sunday service, even with concert-style worship and its trendy coffee bar, will only ever attract less than half of the population. Yet, the vast majority of church resources are poured into these prevailing forms of church. Fresh Expressions makes space for laity and pastors to use both traditional services as well as innovative forms of church to live out Christ's mission. One does not replace the other, but rather creates a mutual benefit for both—a "mixed ecology of church."

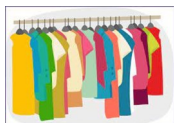
Here at Jordan, we offer several Fresh Expressions that we use to reach members of our community that would not otherwise attend a Sunday morning service. These include our Exercise group, Growing Together, our walking group, and the Well. Through our listening over the past year, we have met many new neighbors through Jordan's Closet and our Community Meal. These connections present us with new opportunities to be the church and to reach a wider portion of our community. If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of I would like to invite you to join a cohort that will be intentionally looking at launching a new Fresh Expression at our church!

This is open to anyone that wants to join. We will meet once a month to dream, discern, and begin implementing a new Fresh Expression. This will include a workshop in May with Dr. Michael Beck, one of the leading pastors in our denomination on Fresh Expressions. Please sign up through the office or with pastor Chris. Our goal is to have a team of at least 12 people.

Dates: First Meeting- Discerning our resources  
 Second Meeting- Dreaming what a Fresh Expression could be  
 Third Meeting – Workshop in Salisbury with Dr. Michael Beck  
 Fourth Meeting- Planning the details and implementation  
 Launch a New Fresh Expression!!!!

March 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM  
 April 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:00 PM  
 May 13<sup>th</sup> 9AM-3:00 PM  
 June 11<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM

# General Information



## Jordan's Closet

We are open first and third Tuesday's, at 5pm.

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** Due to your overwhelming generosity and running out of storage space we WILL NOT be accepting donations during the month of March. Please do not leave bags unattended outside the church when no one is here.

## Craft Circle Group

The Craft Group meets on Wednesday's at 3:00 PM. Bring your favorite craft and come join in an afternoon of fun and fellowship.



## Growing Together

Join us for Growing Together March 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM at the Parsonage. This monthly gathering is a chance to grow in our relationships with one another. Crossing cultural and language barriers, we seek to grow in our faith as we learn from each other and create out of our personal stories. Please RSVP with Jaidy or the church office in order to prepare with adequate supplies. This is open to men and women and is a wonderful opportunity to create, share, and grow!

## AA Group

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

We also host a women's only AA meeting Saturday's at 5pm in the conference room.

## UMW News

Please join us for our United Women in Faith meeting on March 12 at 2:30pm. We will meet in the fellowship hall.

Our March mission project is collecting feminine hygiene items for the food pantry. Please place donations in the container outside the church office.

## Faith & Fitness

Exercise class meets on Tuesday's & Thursday's at 9am in the fellowship hall. Equipment is provided and there is no fee.

## Choir Practice

Choir Practice is Wednesday's at 7pm.

## Handbell Practice

Handbell Practice is Wednesday's at 6pm.

## Walking Group

The Walking group meets at Franklinville at 8am, Monday – Friday.

March 5<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM **Leadership Team**  
(Administrative Council) Meeting

March 12<sup>th</sup> 2:30 PM UMW Meeting

March 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30 Pm Back To School  
Bash Meeting

March 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM Fresh Expression Cohort



## Daylight Savings Time

Try to remember that Daylight Savings Time is Sunday March 12. It is when we *spring forward* our clocks by one hour!

## UMW Silent Auction

United Women in Faith, (UMW) will be having a Silent Auction following the morning worship service on March 26th. We are currently accepting donations of crafts, baked goods, and any other item that you know people can't live without! This is a great fundraiser for our UMW ministries and it is always fun to have competitive bidding wars over some of our world famous cakes! Hope you can join us on the 26th for this great cause!

*(Continued from page 1)*

when he went into the wilderness for his own safety. Pictured below is one of the waterfalls that is coming out of the rocks in that place. It is amazing because all around is barren, dry rock, but right where the water is there is green and life. Even in the wildernesses of our lives if we trust in the living water of Jesus, we can find life and hope. I pray that wherever you are in your journey that you can find that water that flows even in the barren landscape that gives life.

This Lenten season I want to challenge you all to a season of self-reflection, discipline, and growth. I do not mean to simply give up chocolate or caffeine. What can you do to really grow in your discipleship journey? Don't treat these forty days as something to endure but rather a time to grow. Seek ways this Lenten season to grow closer to Christ and others. Starting in March you will have two different opportunities to come to the Well on Thursdays. We will be starting a study on Genesis; this will be a great chance to go deeper into scripture and grow in your journey. It will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, just two days, for one hour each. Our worship services and special services are great opportunities; perhaps you have fallen in the habit of missing every once in a while. Perhaps this Lenten season you can commit to being present more often. There is also the Community Meal, one night a month to come and meet your neighbors, to make new friends and to invite them to church. There is Jordan's Closet. Come and make friends and sort clothes and enjoy the fun on first and third Tuesdays, again just two nights a month. There is choir, handbells, Food Pantry, craft group, Ladies Exercise, the walking group, and Growing Together. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved more throughout this Lenten season. And if none of these excite you, let's talk about what would, what can we start that would get you connected! There are plenty of opportunities to get involved or to become more involved in the ministries of the church. What would it look like to give up two days this Lenten season and branch out to try something new? What would our church and ministries look like if we each could give two more hours a month to what God is doing? I know we all live busy lives and many of us are already involved in doing many things. This is not a challenge to do more but rather to find the spaces that truly give life. If you are stuck in the wilderness, it might be time to change things up in order to find the living water Jesus promises in the scripture, he said that he came that we may have life, and have it to the fullest, and that life is not just a distant promise, it is a promise of life here and now! This Lent may we journey towards the fullness of life that Christ offers, to find and experience all the hope, faith, grace, and love that a life in Jesus has to offer.

Chris Smith





## Youth

The youth will be meeting March 4<sup>th</sup> to go to the movies to see Antman and the Wasp Quantumania. If you would be interested in helping with youth or providing a meal, please contact Pastor Chris or Beth Burton.

We had a great workday at Mt Shepherd on February 19<sup>th</sup>. We changed out 7 PTAC air conditioning and heating units in the lodge, salvaged an entire trailer load of lumber that will be used for trail repair and the future disc golf course that is coming, the Cottage got cleaned from top to bottom, and our youth did a great job cleaning the lodge! Thank you to all that came out and helped!



## Scout Sunday



We were grateful to celebrate Scout Sunday with Troop 508 on February 12th. We had 15 scouts come with 10 different scouts that participated in the service as ushers, readers, and offering prayers. We got to hear from their leaders about all that they have been doing and celebrated that they brought in over 1000 items for the food pantry. We got to hear from two scouts on what scouting means to them and then had a chance to pray over all the scouts and leaders. We also celebrated Alex Huntington's accomplishment of earning his Eagle Award, congratulations Alex! After the service the Scouts enjoyed pizza and a bunch of desserts as a token of our appreciation for all they do to make our community better and for the difference they make in the lives of our scouts. Special thanks to Celia Harris and Jim and Melanie Rains for helping with the lunch, and for all graciously donated desserts.

## The Well

Join us for The Well on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays!

The Well is a Fresh Expression where we seek to create a communal place where people can gather to talk about faith, life, and everything in between. This is open to anyone regardless of your religious background. We believe that the Well in the time of Jesus was a place of life-giving water, community engagement, and needed fellowship. We hope you can join us!

We will be starting with a brand-new study on the book of Genesis, what better place to begin than In the Beginning!

**March 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM in the Conference Room 1511 Main St. Ramseur**

**7:00 PM at the parsonage 307 Elam Ave. Ramseur**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 AM in the Conference Room 1511 Main St Ramseur**

**7:00 PM at the parsonage 307 Elam Ave. Ramseur**





### Looking ahead to April and Holy Week

April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Palm Sunday, combined service with la Luz, we will have special music from the choir, handbells, and La Luz. Following the service will be a covered-dish lunch with an Easter Egg hunt to follow.

April 6<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 PM Join us as we celebrate Holy Communion together and remember the events from that evening.

April 7<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday Service 6:30 PM Join us as we reflect and meditate on the cross and all that it means for us still today.

April 9<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM Easter Celebration Service.

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### Easter Egg Hunt

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, following our covered dish lunch. Fun and games for kids and adults!

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### Lent

Our Lenten theme this year is Between the Trees. Genesis tells us that in the beginning there was a garden, and in that a garden a tree of life. Revelation 22 tells us about a river and again the tree of life. Scripture starts and ends with a tree. Therefore, we are living in a time we can call between the trees. We are going to follow this theme throughout Lent and see what it means to live between the trees. We will travel to Capernaum and see how Jesus lived between two cultures. We will then go to Magdala where we see women finding their role in between the trees of a male dominated society; we will look at the Beatitudes and Jesus' sermon for those caught in between political and religious oppression. Week four we will be going to Bethany and seeing Jesus restore life to Lazarus finding hope and life in the middle of our trials. Palm Sunday we will find Jesus between the trees of what was expected of a Messiah versus what he came to do, Maundy Thursday we will find Jesus between the trees in the garden of Gethsemane, Good Friday between the trees of two crosses, and finally on Easter between the trees in the Garden tomb. As you can see, scripture is full of these in between the tree moments, and that is where we are. We hope you can join us for this Lenten journey as we journey between the trees and learn what that means for us in our own stories as we find ourselves living between the trees.



# March 2023



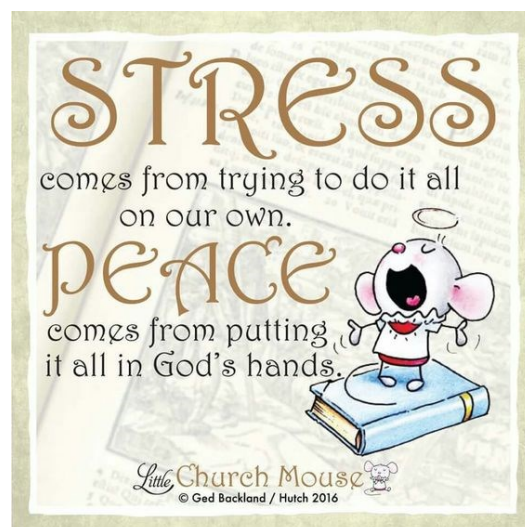
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Craft Grp 3pm Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	2 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm	3	4 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm Youth Group
5	6 AA Mtg 6:30pm	7 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan Closet 5pm	8 Craft Grp 3pm Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	9 <b>Office Closed</b> 9am Faith & Fitness The Well 10am & 7pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	10	11 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
12 UMW mtg 2:30pm Daylight Savings time	13 AA Mtg 6:30pm	14 9am Faith & Fitness Back to School Bash mtg 6:30pm	15 Craft Grp 3pm Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	16 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm	17 <b>St Patrick Day</b>	18 Growing Together 10am Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
19	20 AA Mtg 6:30pm	21 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan Closet 5pm Community Meal 5pm	22 Craft Grp 3pm Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	23 9am Faith & Fitness The Well 10am & 7pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	24	25 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
26 Silent Auction 11:30am	27 AA Mtg 6:30pm	28 9am Faith & Fitness	29 Craft Grp 3pm Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	30 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm	31	<b>The church office will be closed Thursday, March 9th.</b>

**Ramseur Food Pantry:** Powdered and Canned Milk. **We will need volunteers March 27-31.** Always a need: Personal Hygiene items, Infant Formula, Baby Food, Diapers. Additionally, the Food Pantry is in need of donations of bar soap, packs of disposable razors and shaving cream.

## 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  
09-Beth Embree  
09-Priscilla Allen  
09-David Harris  
10-Mary Cole Pike  
10-Kimberly Ragsdale

13-Shirley Mitchell  
14-Betty Mace  
14-Hal Leonard  
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



## Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church

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### Free Community Meal

Our next free community meal is March 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:00 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  
La Luz Service 1230pm

