

JORDAN  
MEMORIAL UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



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# The Link

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APRIL 2023



The above picture is from the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. This is one of the spots that claims to be the site of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. I say one because there are multiple places that make this claim. Tradition tells that the more likely spot was where the Church of the Holy Sepulcher sits on the west side of Jerusalem. However, the Garden Tomb is well worth a visit while in the Holy Land, not so much for its accuracy or rather inaccuracy on location but rather because it feels more like what it would have been like in the time of Jesus. In the late 1800's a British officer named Charles Gordon was in Jerusalem and noticed a rock formation that looked like a skull. He thought to himself that this was the real location of Calvary because Jesus was crucified at Golgotha which means skull. He also did not like the site of the church of the Holy Sepulcher because it was inside the city and Scripture tells us that Jesus was crucified outside the city. (This was because at that time he was not aware that the city had expanded and at the time of Jesus the Church of the Holy Sepulcher location was outside the city walls.) Since that time pilgrims have traveled to both sites to remember the Easter story and celebrate the goodness of God. Both locations are great, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher is full of gold and priceless decorations, there are beautiful paintings on the wall, and at one point you walk up some stairs to where they built the church over the rock outcropping and you can reach in and touch the rock that is Calvary. There are thousands of people at any given time making their way through this church, it is loud and rushed as you are paraded through each site in a hurry. Perhaps that is why the Garden Tomb meant more to me on our visit. While not the physical place it felt more like the real place.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Please send mail and  
pray for our Homebound**

**Ray Albright**

230 East Presnell Street  
Asheboro, NC 27203

**Sharon Jones**

2988 Tuttle Road  
Archdale, NC 27263

**Ann Robinson**

2800 Spoons Chapel Rd  
Asheboro, NC 27205

**John and Sue Sinkewicz**

814 McDowell Country Trail Lot#41  
Asheboro, NC 27203

**Jordan Memorial Military**

**SGT Trexler, Dylan**  
Unit#93199 TF Hammer  
(553rd CTC)  
APO AE 09008

**Quinton Smith**

144 Mt. Vernon Ave.  
Portsmouth, VA 23707

**Memorials and Honorariums**

**In Honor of Toni Marley**

Greg Fox

**In Honor of Rob Roberts**

Bob & Betty Jo Armfield

**In Honor of Doug Collins**

Bob & Betty Jo Armfield

**In Memory of Joanne Luck**

Larry & Crandall Ellison

**In Memory of Esther Greene**

Grey Graham

**In Memory of Jerry Shackelford**

Betty Shackelford

**College Students**

**Maria Almanza (NCSU)**

PO Box 362  
Ramseur, NC 27316

**Kara Camp**

5546 Nightwood Drive  
Randleman, NC 27317

**Hannah Harris**

2504 NC Hwy 22 South  
Ramseur, NC 27316

**Ashley Shackelford**

2367 Woodridge Drive  
Asheboro, NC 27205

**Melissa Strickland**

2868 Spoons Chapel Road  
Asheboro, NC 27205

**Holy Week Services**

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.



**Easter Egg Hunt**

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



# General Information

## Jordan's Closet

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

## Craft Circle Group

The Craft Group meets on Wednesday's at 3:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

## 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.

## Growing Together



Join us for **Growing Together** April 22nd 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. The ladies enjoy crafting while the men have been going and enjoying breakfast together. 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!

## Back to School Bash 2023



Back to School Bash meeting April 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM in the Conference Room.

## 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.

## UWF News

Thank you to all who have so faithfully supported United Women in Faith. With your help, we collected around 30 blankets and reusable water bottles to give to the homeless.

Our Silent Auction was a huge success! We raised over \$800 for missions projects.

This month, we are collecting feminine hygiene items for the Food Pantry. Please place donations in the container outside the church office.

Thank you again for your help.  
Betty Jo Armfield

## Youth



A special thanks to our youth for working in Jordan's Closet and stuffing Easter Eggs for our Egg Hunt. We are so excited to see our youth actively participating in the life of the church.

*(Continued from page 1)*

We arrived and it was quiet, not a lot of people walking around, it is designed that way, you have to make reservations to get in, they never want a large crowd there at one time to take away from the experience. The garden is beautifully landscaped with tropical trees and flowers. You get to go and see the rock formation that Gordon thought was a skull (pictured below). Then you get to go to the tomb that I first mentioned. Again, not likely Jesus' actual tomb, but a very good resemblance of what a first century tomb would have looked like. You get to walk in and see the stone table where the body would have been laid, there is a window which I thought was odd, but this was to make sure air could enter and help with the decomposing of the body. The light shining through shone right on the spot where the body would have been. All I could think of was how amazing that even in the tomb, that we associate with darkness, there is light that shines in. God's light is always present.

John's gospel tells us Jesus was buried in a garden tomb; he is the only one that gives us this information. I have always loved that detail. As we have been studying Genesis in our small group we have looked at the fall and how everything went backwards in the Garden of Eden. We have also looked at how the Garden of Eden was the first Temple and how the later Tabernacle and Temple mirrored the Garden of Eden in form. It was in a Garden Tomb that Jesus restored what was lost in the first garden and this modern Garden Tomb for us became a temple and a place for worship. We celebrated Holy Communion together as a group and worshipped in this place. It didn't matter that it was not historically accurate to the place. What mattered was why we worshipped. Easter is about remembering that God has restored creation and set in motion the healing of the brokenness of the world through Jesus' death and resurrection.

As we come to celebrate Easter this year it is easy to get distracted by all the things that are happening. It's easy to feel like the Church of the Holy Sepulcher where we rush from one service to the next, stay busy making meals for family, or look to get out of town on a much needed vacation. There is noise and chaos all around us that if we are not careful we can miss what is right in front of us. Take time this Easter to find your Garden Tomb. Remember the location is not important. Find a place that is quiet where you can feel the wind (the breath of God) where you can hear the birds, (the worship of God) and join the worship that is already taking place. Spend time to remember what Easter is all about. It is light in the darkness of death, it is new life springing forth in creation, it is hope that the brokenness of the world will one day be no more. Take a moment to celebrate the emptiness of the tomb and the cross. To know that Jesus has died our death and risen for us so that we may live eternally. May you find your Garden, your Tabernacle, your place to commune with God and share in the joy that he offers not just on Easter but everyday of our lives!

Chris Smith





## Thank You!

First off, I would like to thank the anonymous person who gifted me the set of zoo animals eating dinner together. This was in our silent auction and I was certainly intrigued by the craftsmanship and just general idea of animals eating together. Perhaps this is a reminder that this is my zoo because sometimes ministry can feel this way. As I look across all that is happening in our denomination and in our world it feels like a zoo. People compartmentalizing into groups, putting up barriers and fences to keep the “others” out. Life is messy and we see it even in the church. But then I come back to this wood carving, there are different animals finding unity at the Table. The lion is next to the zebra, the leopard is next to the elephant, animals that have no business being together can find common ground at the Table of Grace. Perhaps there is more to this wood carving than an artists playful rendition of animals eating, perhaps there is a lesson here for us all. What would happen if we quit focusing on the things that divide and rather seek to find our common ground? How can we come to the Table of grace and find unity among the differences we have even in our own congregation? In the center of the art work is a small table with a representation of food for each animal. Our question is what is at the center of our table? Is it selfish desires, is it our assertion that we are right, or is our center Jesus? My prayer for our church in the middle of talks of disaffiliation and everything else going on in the world is that we would focus on who is at our center. That we would focus on the love of Christ and allow His spirit to breathe new life into us each day. We need to recognize that its not about us and to be willing to give up a little for the sake of others. We need to truly study scripture and recognize the complexity that is present in verses that we read over casually and allow God to breath better understanding into His Living Word. We need to find unity in Christ who can bring together people of different beliefs, different theological understandings, different languages, different passions, and bring us together at one table to be the church. Yes this is my zoo and my prayer is that we would be a zoo that comes to the Table of Grace and finds our unity in the love of Jesus that brings us all together. Pastor Chris




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## RAMSEUR FOOD TRUCK SATURDAY

On Saturday, April 29 at 9am, the Ramseur Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Food Truck Festival. Jordan Memorial has been invited to participate and a space in front of the church has been provided for us. The Connect Team agreed to accept responsibility for this project. Our superior chefs, Rob Roberts and Doug Collins will provide Italian Sausage sandwiches. The sandwich, a cold drink and chips will be the menu. The cost will be \$10.00.

We are asking church members to donate cookies, brownies or a dessert that would be easy to serve especially if the weather is hot. If you would rather donate some money to help purchase the items, that would be very helpful. Just put your money in the church offering and designate it for food truck festival. John will sort out the details.

We encourage you to come on Saturday, April 29 and participate in this new adventure. I am sure the lunch will be great – and it is a chance to mingle with our fellow citizens on Main Street.



## 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!

**April 13<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM in the Conference Room 1511 Main St. Ramseur**

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

**April 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM in the Conference Room 1511 Main St Ramseur**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM at the parsonage 307 Elam Ave. Ramseur**



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.

Second Meeting- Dreaming what a Fresh Expression could be April 23rd 3:00 PM

Third Meeting – Workshop in Salisbury with Dr. Michael Beck May 13th 9AM-3:00 PM

Fourth Meeting- Planning the details and implementation June 11th 3:00 PM

Launch a New Fresh Expression!!!!

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
2 Palm Sunday Lunch, Ester Egg Hunt	3 AA Mtg 6:30pm	4 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan Closet 5pm	5 Craft Grp 3pm Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	6 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Maunday Thur 6:30pm	7 Food Friday Svc 6:30pm	8 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
9 Easter Sudnay	10 AA Mtg 6:30pm	11 9am Faith & Fitness Back to School 6:30pm	12 Craft Grp 3pm Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	13 9am Faith & Fitness The Well 10am & 7pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	14	15 Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
16	17 AA Mtg 6:30pm	18 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan Closet 5pm Community Meal 5pm	19 Craft Grp 3pm Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	20 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm	21	22 Growing Together 10am Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
23	24 AA Mtg 6:30pm	25 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan Closet 5pm	26 Craft Grp 3pm Handbell 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	27 9am Faith & Fitness The Well 10am & 7pm Small Grp 6pm AA Mtg 6:30pm	28	29 Food Truck Festival 9am Women only AA Mtg 6:30pm
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## April Birthdays

04-Meredith Duell  
 05-Jasmine Gager  
 05-Carolyn Albright  
 05-James Rains, Jr.  
 09-Dorsey Chamblee  
 09-Harris W. Marley  
 13-Arthur Gant, III  
 14-Elisa Sumakeris  
 14-Geri Bressler  
 17-Teresa McNeil  
 19-Katy Gant  
 20-Sandy Ihme  
 22-Carl Anderson Jr.  
 23-C. Mike Dorsett  
 24-Timothy Rains  
 25-JoLynne Allen  
 27-Mont Gilmore  
 27-Cornelia Rankin  
 28-Sidney Blake  
 29-Joanna Sumakeris  
 30-Lee Armfield

**Ramseur Food Pantry:** Dry Beans, Pork & Beans, Powdered Milk.



## Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church

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[www.JordanMemorial.org](http://www.JordanMemorial.org)



**Community Meal** April 18th, 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

