

# the Messenger

Volume 26 Issue 1

Spring 2024

Myers  
Memorial  
United Methodist Church

## GENERAL CONFERENCE IN CHARLOTTE

United Methodists from all over the world are traveling to attend General Conference in Charlotte, NC from April 23-May 3, 2024. General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The conference meets to consider revisions to church law and to adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. General Conference also approves plans and budgets for church wide agencies and programs. This gathering is expected to attract about 5,500 to 7,500 people from around the globe. **Psalm 46:10 sets the theme for this important gathering: "...and know that I am God."** In all we do, God guides our every decision.

Delegates are United Methodist from around the world elected by their annual, missionary or provisional conference. The total number of delegates at General Conference ranges between 600 and 1,000 people. The body of General Conference consists of an equal number of lay and clergy delegates. Lay members of annual conference elect lay delegates and clergy members elect clergy delegates. Rev. Sally Queen is a reserve clergy delegate.

We have a unique opportunity to welcome the world to North Carolina! There will be opportunities to provide hospitality through physical service as well as covering the gathering in prayer. The host committee comprised of leadership from both WNC and NC Conference has created a dedicated website for visiting General Conference, [WelcomeToGC.org](http://WelcomeToGC.org). If you wish to serve as a member of the hospitality team either at the airport, area hotels or at the Charlotte Convention Center before and during the gathering, please visit the website and click "Serve at GC".

## OUR MISSION

*The Mission of Myers Memorial United Methodist Church is to cultivate a Christ-centered community that welcomes, loves, and serves one another & the world.*

## Cultivating

### A CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY Worship on Sundays at 9a and 11a

On-site and Live-Stream

via Facebook, YouTube & Church Website

- Feb. 4: 8a UMM; 9a & 11a Worship; Communion  
Sunday, Praise Team Planning; 5p Youth & Wonder;  
5:30p & 6:30p Sunday Night Studies
- Feb. 11 9a & 11a Worship; Children Sing; Souper Bowl  
Sunday; No Youth or Wonder
- Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday; 11a Trinity Memories Café; 6p  
Ash Wednesday Service
- Feb. 15-16: Regional Middle School Ensemble  
Competition
- Feb. 18: 9a & 11a Worship; 5p Children's Lenten Fair; 5p  
Youth; 5:30p & 6:30p Sunday Night Studies
- Feb. 24: UWF Mission Study, FUMC Hickory
- Feb. 25: 9a & 11a Worship; 12p UWF Luncheon; 4:45p  
Youth Service Night 5p Wonder; 5:30p & 6:30p  
Sunday Night Studies
- Mar. 1: Franca/McGuire Wedding Rehearsal & Meal
- Mar. 2: 9a Soul Sneakers; Franca/McGuire Wedding
- Mar. 3: 8a UMM; 9a & 11a Worship; Communion  
Sunday; 5p Youth & Wonder; 5:30p & 6:30p Sunday  
Night Studies
- Mar. 10: *Time Change ~ Spring Forward* 9a & 11a Worship;  
5p Youth & Wonder; 5:30p & 6:30p Sunday Night  
Studies
- Mar. 17: 9a & 11a Worship; 5p Wonder; 5:30p & 6:30p  
Sunday Night Studies
- Mar. 21: 6p Maundy Thursday Service
- Mar. 22: 6p Good Friday Service of Darkness
- Mar. 24: Palm Sunday 9a & 11a Worship; 11a Children  
Sing; 5p Youth, Children's Egg Hunt; 5:30p & 6:30p  
Sunday Night Studies
- Mar. 31: Easter Sunday 7a, 9a, 11a Worship
- Apr. 13: Confirmation Day Retreat
- Apr. 16: 5p DYEP Career & College Fair
- Apr. 23: 2p General Conference Opening Worship
- Apr. 26-28: Camp Tekoa 75th Anniversary Weekend

## OUR VISION

*Together God's life grows in us, so that we  
can share that life with others.*



## SUNDAY WORSHIP & SPECIAL SERVICES

Join us for Worship Each Sunday at 9a and 11a in the Sanctuary and via live stream on Facebook, YouTube, and our Church Website. Communion at Myers Memorial UMC is offered on the first Sunday of each month and is open to all who desire a relationship with Jesus Christ.

During Lent 2024 we will focus on being fearless. This year, Lent is February 14 through March 30th, the period of 40 days leading up to Easter (Sundays don't count). It's a time of preparation and focus, reminiscent of Jesus' time in the wilderness before he started his public ministry (see Mark 1, Matthew 4, or Luke 4). We believe that Jesus went into the wilderness to set aside the distractions of a normal, 'worldly' life and focus on God and God's will for him. So we attempt to do the same during Lent—although often on a *slightly* less stringent scale. You are invited to give up something or take on something in an effort to bring into focus your relationship with God's will for you. Visit [ResourceUMC.org](http://ResourceUMC.org) for more about lent in The United Methodist Church.

February 14: Ash Wednesday | 6p  
March 24: Palm Sunday | 9a & 11a  
March 28: Maundy Thursday | 6p  
March 29: Good Friday | 6p  
March 31: Easter Sunday | 7a, 9a & 11a

## EASTER PEOPLE, RAISE YOUR VOICES

Do you love to sing but can't commit to a year round choir? Why not join the Choir just for Easter Sunday! Join the choir for rehearsals on March 20 and 27 at 7p in the Choir Room and sing in worship on March 31st. If you have questions, please reach out to Laura Beatty, Choir Director, [music@myersmemorialumc.com](mailto:music@myersmemorialumc.com).

## FROM THE STAFF PARISH COMMITTEE

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has received the bittersweet news of Connie Elzey's retirement from Myers Memorial UMC. Connie began her ministry at Myers in August of 1988 and will retire effective May 31, 2024. We invite you to celebrate Connie's ministry in the coming months as she becomes a full-time G-Connie.

## SOUL SNEAKERS

We're still walking so lace up your shoes and join us! The Myers Health Cabinet continues to host group walks on the first Saturday of each month at 9a. This is designed for all walking abilities although some trails will be unpaved. If you are interested, please contact Allison Evanoff ([evanoff.allison@gmail.com](mailto:evanoff.allison@gmail.com)) so she will be able to connect with you regarding any last minute details and let you know where the next month's hike will be located!

## SANCTUARY EASTER LILIES

You're invited to decorate the Sanctuary with beautiful Lilies on Easter Sunday (March 31). The cost is \$15 per lily. The flower pot base will be wrapped, including a bow, and delivered to the church to add to our Easter Sunday celebration. Easter Lilies can be given in honor or in memory of a loved one and acknowledgments will be printed as well as shared on the Sanctuary screens. Online orders and payments are accepted, checks to MMUMC with the memo: *Easter Lily*. Online orders and payment options can be found at [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/worship](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/worship). Please complete your order by March 17.

## BRAIN FOOD FOR DYEP

Studies show that students learn better with a full stomach! Help us feed the students in our partner program, DYEP, on Monday nights and join the fun of learning! Meal options could include: hamburgers/hot dogs, pasta dishes, or breakfast for dinner! More information and to select a date can be found at [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/serve](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/serve).



## THE NURSERY NEEDS ADULTS!

We have a wonderful gathering of children each **Sunday in the Nursery ~ don't you want to come play with them?** If you are interested in serving on Sundays, please contact Connie Elzey, [dce@myersmemorialumc.com](mailto:dce@myersmemorialumc.com). Volunteers must be cleared through Safe Sanctuary policies and procedures so we may provide a safe and loving **environment for these little ones to know God's Love** while their parents enrich their spiritual growth.

## BUTTERFLY ORDERS

Butterflies are a beautiful symbol of Holy Week and Easter! In years past, we have placed a bulk order so that each person/family would have their own butterflies. Given our previous experience with doing this with an early Easter date, bulk ordering was not successful and thus the church will only be **ordering a small batch of butterflies for the children's Sunday groups** (Sunday School, Nursery, Wonder). You are invited to visit [InsectLore.com](http://InsectLore.com) to place your personal orders for caterpillars (or other bugs). If you would like to raise caterpillars for an Easter release, you will want to order by February 28.

## MYERS MAKERS MARKET A SUCCESS!

Thank you for your support of the 2023 Myers Makers Market, a unique pop-up artisans market. We all agreed we enjoyed the excitement of discovering the gifts of our fellow worshippers while finding unique and perfect gifts for family and friends. We celebrate not only reaching but surpassing our goal by raising \$7,910! This will fully fund our Sandwich Brigade Ministry and feed the children of the West Gastonia Boys & Girls Club dinner on the first Monday of each month well beyond the 2025 school year. Planning is already underway for the 2024 Myers Makers Market!



[Facebook.com/myersmemorial](https://www.facebook.com/myersmemorial)

[YouTube.com/c/MyersMemorialUMCGastonia](https://www.youtube.com/c/MyersMemorialUMCGastonia)

[Instagram.com/myersmemorialumc](https://www.instagram.com/myersmemorialumc)

## 2024 ~ PEACE

The 2024 Ministry Focus for Myers Memorial UMC is the word Peace. At the Servant Leadership Summit in January we took time to explore this word and practiced some ways of having peaceful conversations. What would you add?

- **Make "I" Statements**
- Yes, and (no buts)
- Ask curious questions
- See people as people; not objects
- Assume Positive Intent
- Practice the Pause
- Self Monitor
- Everyone gets an opportunity to speak
- Listen & Silent ~ they have the same letters
- One person speaks at a time
- Agree on what important words mean
- Be aware of your body language (and others)

## THE TRINITY TREE

The Trinity Tree, is our giving tree and donation point in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. We thank you for your support in 2023! As a Myers Family, we contributed to the merriment of over 128 children, youth and older adults on Christmas Morning through your support of the Salvation Army Christmas Tree, the DYEP Christmas Stars and the **stockings for the Loray Girls' Home**. In 2024 we have already collected over 315 hats, pairs of gloves, and scarves/neck warmers which were distributed with the Point in Time Homeless Count led by the United Way.

## CAN YOU MAKE IT A SOUP-ER SUNDAY?

**Super Bowl Sunday is February 11th and we're going to make it a SOUP-er Sunday!** You are invited to bring soups for Crisis Assistance Ministry - Chicken Noodle, Tomato and Ramen soups are much needed in the pantry at CAM! Monetary donations will also be collected in soup pots. Place your items in the Narthex under the team of your choice! No matter who wins the game, the people of our community will be the winners! We CAN do it!

# Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14 at 6p  
in the Sanctuary and via Live Stream

## LENTEN DISCIPLINES

Lent, the 40-day season before Easter, is a time when we spend extra time in prayer, reading our Bibles, and serving others as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Use the Lenten Disciplines List on page 7 to explore PEACE. For each item on the calendar, give it a dollar amount, and save it up all of Lent. During Holy Week you are invited to contribute your funds to the baskets in the narthex. The children have selected the ministries of CAM, Cancer Services and the Little Free Pantry in the Patch ~ organizations they see as providing peace for others. They'll be adding to this during the Egg Hunt as they find Myers Mission Money hidden in some of the eggs!

## SUNDAY NIGHT STUDY LENTEN JOURNEY

On February 18th, the 5:30p Sunday Night Study will begin a Lenten study on the book of Psalms using *Psalms: A Lenten Journey* by Barbara Roose. All are welcome! The study contact is Allison Evanoff, [evanoff.allison@gmail.com](mailto:evanoff.allison@gmail.com).

## HAVE A BEAUTIFUL, TERRIBLE WEEK

The 6:30p Sunday Night Study is a small group of women who will begin on February 4th and then spend Lent reflecting on the writings of Kate Bowler's latest book *Have a Beautiful Terrible Day!* The group will gather on Sundays in the Choir Room and through the week, support one another through digital communication. Contact: Laura Beatty: [Music@MyersMemorialUMC.com](mailto:Music@MyersMemorialUMC.com).

## THURSDAY STUDY GROUPS

The Thursday Studies, held at 10a and 6:30p are open to any one who wishes to participate. Feel free to switch between times as your schedule allows! Rev. Everett Stoddard is facilitating these groups ([evstoddard51@gmail.com](mailto:evstoddard51@gmail.com)).

## CHILDREN'S LENTEN FAIR ~ FEBRUARY 18

What is Lent?! Nope, not the stuff in the dryer. It's a season where we consider more about what Jesus did for us on Good Friday and what's the big deal about Easter Sunday! Gather on Sunday, February 19 at 5p in the Youth Lounge for dinner and exploring.

## CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 24 at 5p, you'd better bring a big basket because there will be a lot of eggs! Some will be empty (surprise ~ so was the Tomb, some will be filled with treats and some will be filled with Myers Mission Money! When you find the Myers Mission Money you're invited to donate it to one of the helping agencies: CAM, Cancer Services of Gaston County, or The Little Free Pantry in the Patch.

## EGGS & CANDY & TREATS

We're looking forward to an egg-citing time celebrating the surprises of Easter at the annual Easter egg hunt for children on March 24 at 5p. We need your help in providing the hundreds of eggs that will be filled with individually wrapped candy or small treats. All donations will be greatly appreciated and can be left in the Narthex or the Church Office area.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY NIGHT WONDER

On Sunday nights from 5p to 6:30p our children 'wonder' about God's great world through music, crafts and bible story time. This is a fun weekly gathering for children birth through 5th grade! Invite a friend or two! Please enter via the Back Door and head to the youth lounge for dinner then our grown ups will take us to the third floor to Wonder and explore! Special events are happening on February 18 and March 24 so don't be late!!! There will be no Wonder on February 11 or March 31.

## SPRING MUSIC MINISTRY CONCERT

You are invited to Save the Date for a spring concert of all our Myers Music Ministries on Sunday, May 19 at 3p you are invited to a spring concert of all our Myers Memorial Music Ministries!

## YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN SESSION

Some of the Young Adults (identified as college age, young professionals, young marrieds, young parents, under 35) have been gathering each Sunday at 10a in the CFC Classroom (first door on the right as you come in the end of the CFC hallway). They're currently working with Adam Hamilton's book "Making Sense of the Bible".

## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SMALL GROUPS

Christian Education is highly valued at Myers Memorial UMC and there is a class for everyone starting in the Nursery! Adults are encouraged to attend classes that meet their interests! No one will be offended if you want to switch it up when a new study comes along! These groups meet at 10a in the Education Building classrooms nearest the amazing piano bookshelf in the hallway!

- Friends in Faith (previously known as the Contemporary Class) in Room E103 are studying the *Big Picture: Seeing God's Dream for Your Life* by Jevon & Nicole Caldwell-Gross
- The New Life Class in Room E105 is reading *Hope for Hard Times* by Magrey DeVega
- The Open Minds Class in Room 102 is reading *Third Day* by Tom Berlin

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date for Vacation Bible School at Myers Memorial UMC ~ in the evenings of July 14-17. VBS will be for the youngest through just completed 12th grades as we 'travel' around the world learning peacemaking skills ~ essential for those who want to follow Jesus' way of peace. We hope all in the church will make these days a priority to not only make this ministry possible, but to learn along side the children what it means to make peace a way of life. Details are forthcoming.

## MYERS MEMORIAL 60+

This group is designed for those 60ish and over to meet for food and fellowship on a monthly basis. Mark your calendar for the Third Thursday of each month. Stay connected to our weekly emails so that you may be alerted to any last minute changes and be sure Connie Elzey (dce@myersmemorialumc.com) knows so she can save you a spot!

Thursday, February 15 at 11:30a Don Pedro Mexican Restaurant (3272 Union Rd)

Thursday, March 21 at 11:30a Eggs Up Grill (2609 S. New Hope Rd)

Thursday, April 18 at 1p Enjoy an afternoon stroll among the spring blooms at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens (6500 S. New Hope Rd)

Thursday, May 16 at 11:30a Depart the church for lunch at the US National Whitewater Center. (5000Whitewater Center Pkwy, Charlotte)

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9 NRSV**

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LUNCHEON

The UWF of Myers Memorial UMC invite you to a luncheon and a time to remind us all to "Love Yourself" on Sunday, February 25 at 12p in the CFC. Enjoy a lunch of Spaghetti, Salad and Dessert while you enjoy live music by Bailey Griggs. Tanya Lunsford is the contact for United Women in Faith.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH~CATAWBA VALLEY UWF District Mission Study will be held on Sat, Feb. 24 from 9a to 2p at First UMC in Hickory. The theme is *Living in the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation* with study leaders Renee Hayes and Sherry Sink. Bring your own lunch and snacks are provided. No prior registration is required.

UWF District Prayer Breakfast will be held at Myers Memorial UMC on Saturday, March 16. A continental breakfast will be held in the CFC at 8:30a and the service will be in the Sanctuary at 9a. Rev. Sally Queen will be preaching.

---

FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE

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

/Give /Youth /Children /Worship  
/Lighthouse /Serve /Calendar  
/TMC /TheStainedGlassWindows

## ONGOING/WEEKLY GROUPS

SUN: Worship, 9a & 11a;

Sunday School for all ages, 10a;

Praise Team, 4p; Youth &

Children, 5p; Sunday Night

Study, 5:30p

1st SUN: UMM, Communion

3rd SUN: Cancer Services

Collection

MON: DYEP, 6p Boy Scouts

1st MON: Sandwich Brigade, 2p

TUES: GriefShare, 10a; AIAnon,

11a; DYEP, 6p; DivorceCare,

6:30p; Girl Scouts

2nd TUES: Alzheimer's

Support, 4p

WED: DYEP, 6p; Music

Rehearsals

1st & 3rd WED: Youth Out to

Eat (Chick-fil-a/Qdoba)

2nd WED: Trinity Memories

Café, 11a

THURS: Thursday Study

Groups, 10a and 6:30p,

Narcotics Anonymous

3rd THURS: 60+ Fellowship,

FRI: **Men's Prayer Group**, 7:15a

1st SAT: Soul Sneakers, 9a

*Mission Possible* serves as the weather allows and the need arises! Since its inception in July 2009, the Mission Possible team has worked hundreds of days completing hundreds of projects throughout the Southeast. Currently, most projects are in Gaston County and are comprised of building accessible walks to homes. If you would like to know more about Mission Possible, please contact the Church Office.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 NRSV

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School classes gather in room 102 at 10a each Sunday before heading to their classrooms for a hands on time of learning more about God's love for us! Grown-ups, please pick up the children at 10:45 at the same location. The younger children will be learning stories about Jesus growing up and Jesus always being with us while the older elementary children will be discussing "Beginnings" and "Covenants" in the Bible. Wonder Children will sing in worship on February 11, March 24 (11a only) and May 12. Watch for emails from Logan McGuire with all the details! And don't miss Wonder ~ that's when we practice!

## IGNITE US

IgniteUs is a retreat for youth & their leaders – an opportunity to get away from the expectations & chaos of everyday life and join with other youth & adults from across the Western NC Conference-UMC for a weekend of spiritual renewal. Myers Youth (6th-12th grades) are invited to hop on the bus and head to Camp Hanes in King, NC on the weekend of March 15-17. The cost is \$150 but please do not let the cost of the retreat prohibit anyone's participation! The deadline to Register with Andrew by February 11 for a commemorative T-shirt! This year we have an amazing opportunity to experience leadership from three of our students, Mattie Queen, Ella Queen, and Eva Kline, members of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry and have worked hard to plan this retreat.

## SUMMER SERVICE WITH YOUTH

*Middle School Mission Trip* | Harvest of Hope | July 17-20 | Rising 6th through rising 9th graders

*High School Mission Trip* | July 21-27 | current 9th– 12th graders

*Mission Mania* | Day Camp Mission Experiences | August 5-8 | rising 3rd through rising 9th

## OUT TO DINNER WITH ANDREW

Myers Youth and Friends are invited to join Andrew for dinner from 6p to 7p on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays. Bring money for dinner or you are welcome to just come hang out but let's be in community together! Don't let Andrew eat alone!

1st Wednesdays: Chick-fil-a (Cox Rd) : Feb 7, Mar 6, Apr 3

3rd Wednesdays: Qdoba (Cox Rd.) Feb 21, Mar 20, Apr 17

## SUNDAY YOUTH MINISTRY

Andrew Ingram, Dir. of Children & Youth  
[Andrew@MyersMemorialUMC.com](mailto:Andrew@MyersMemorialUMC.com)

For all the latest details please make sure you're receiving all the news from Andrew via email & text. You can also find details in weekly church eNews and at the youth webpage [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth). In addition to Sunday Mornings at 10a, Myers Youth meet most every Sunday night from 5p to 6:30p so join us by entering the building via the back door. It might be a study, it might be a service project, it might be a party! Check the dates and make sure you're where you need to be each week! We want you to be a part of Myers Youth!

Feb 4: Love in a Big World: Choices  
*Matt. 4:18-22*

Feb 11: Souper Bowl Sunday, Bring cans of soup to worship! No Youth at night

Feb 18: Unplugged Game Night

Feb 25: Night of Service *\*early meeting time\** Meet at 4:45p for dinner, then hop on the bus to serve at CAM. We'll return to the church by 6:30p.

Mar 3: Love in a Big World: Forgiveness  
*Luke 15:11-32*

Mar 10: Sunday Night Service

Mar 17: No Youth due to *IgniteUS* retreat

Mar 24: Palm Sunday Unplugged Game Night

Mar 31: Easter Sunday Worship (7a, 9a, 11a) *No evening youth*

Apr 7: Love in a Big World: Courage  
*Luke 15:11-32*

April 14: Unplugged Game Night

Apr 21: Sunday Night Service

April 28: Love in a Big World: Responsibility  
*Luke 8:4-15*

## 40 ways to explore PEACE this Lenten Season

- Define Peace
- Make time for daily prayer
- Memorize The Serenity Prayer
- Practice peaceful conversation techniques
- Memorize Philippians 4:7
- Participate in a Small Group Study at Myers
- Practice curious questions
- Journal your thoughts
- Learn about the General Board of Church & Society of The UMC
- Consider what it means to be peaceful
- Learn conflict resolution skills
- Advocate for peace
- Spend time in nature
- Read "Peace is a Practice" by Morgan Harper Nichols
- Stay abreast of current events
- Consider your role in creating Peace
- Be Vulnerable
- Learn about symbols of peace and use tangible reminders in your home, workplace, car, etc.
- What does it mean for you to 'have peace'?
- Read passages in the UM Book of Resolutions on peace
- Engage in random acts of kindness on a regular basis
- Vote in every available election
- Reduce your carbon footprint
- Volunteer
- Attend local government meetings
- Say you're sorry when necessary, even if it's belated.
- Be Patient
- Develop meaningful relationships beyond your race
- Participate in UWF Mission Study on 'kin-dom'
- Learn more about conflict resolution skills
- Read or re-read "Anatomy of Peace" by The Arbinger Institute
- Consider what it means to be 'diverse'
- Memorize the Myers Memorial UMC Mission Statement.
- Read "Fear+Less Dialogues" by Gregory C. Ellison II
- Create a space for prayer, meditation or reflection in your home
- What's your favorite song about Peace?
- Don't honk your horn unless you're unsafe
- If you have a platform, use it to educate
- Donate to a local agency seeking to bring peace to others.
- Practice the Golden Rule



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Gastonia NC  
Permit #185



**2024 Ministry Theme at Myers Memorial UMC**

The PEACE of God, which surpasses all understanding, will  
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org 704-864-3222

