



The Connection

Seeking to Link Person to Person And All to Christ

April/May 2017

Christ United Methodist Church
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The Pastor's Pen

Greetings,

For two thousand plus years, we Christians have called ourselves "Easter People," and every Sunday is referred to as a "Little Easter." Why these references? Paul writes that if Jesus Christ had not been raised from the dead, then our faith is in vain. On April 16th, Christians will gather to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. God raised Jesus so that His power, grace, and love would be unleashed across time!

Hope, forgiveness, new life, and life with purpose were manifested in Jesus' resurrection. The cross is the emblem of Jesus' sacrifice, and Jesus' death reconciled us to God. What Jesus did for us on Calvary was a gift. God's love for us in Jesus is forever. There is nothing we can do to change God's love for us through Jesus. Saying "Thank you," showing care for others, and being Christian become our affirmations of faith. Here at Christ UMC, the worship services planned for Holy Week (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Sunrise & Easter) are designed to help you experience God and His amazing grace. Jesus gave His all for us. How we live out our faith expresses our thankfulness.

Let me add that Easter and Holy Week are great times to invite family and friends to CUMC who have been absent from a faith community. This is a great time of the year to introduce someone to a relationship with Jesus. Details about our Holy Week schedule can be found on page 2 of *The Connection*. Pray about who you would like to invite to church; bring them with you!

I would like to bring to your attention a sermon series that will start on Sunday, April 23. I will be preaching on Jesus' healing ministry. On the weekend of May 5-7, we will host a Conference on Wholeness and Healing, and you can find more details on page 4 of this newsletter.

I want to encourage you to be a part of the experience. God in Christ cares for us to be whole. Wholeness does not mean we are without physical, emotional, or spiritual needs. I have come to realize that not all ailments are cured, but God wants for us to be whole. What does that look like? What is the role of faith in our wholeness? Jesus would see a human need and out of compassion would do something about it. Regularly, Jesus connected healing someone with glorifying God. I am looking forward to exploring this very important ministry of Jesus with you.

May each of us and our families have a joyous Easter season and a wonderful springtime. Let this year be an opportunity to get closer to the Lord Jesus.

Peace and Love, Pastor David



Holy Week at Christ Church



RESURRECTION IS HAPPENING.

Easter Sunday is April 16. Celebrate with us!
6:30 am (Sunrise Service!) • 8:30 am • 9:45 am • 11 am



HOLY WEEK

April 13

Maundy Thursday
da Vinci's The Last Supper
Living Tableau, 7 pm

April 14

Good Friday
Tenebrae Service, 7 pm

April 16

Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service, 6:30 am
Brunch follows in Ascension Hall
Worship & Communion, 8:30 am*
Celebration Worship with Brass & Organ, 9:45 & 11* am*

**Please bring cut flowers to decorate the cross.*

Join Us for Easter Dinner

If you are not able to celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior with family or friends this year, please know our home is open and you are invited to enjoy dinner and a time of celebration with members of your church family. Our home is warm, relaxing, and just a short distance from Christ Church in rural Chatham County. Come at 3 PM for dinner and fellowship . . . just as you are. Call or email Don to accept this invitation on this most meaningful of days: donwollum@centurylink.net; 919-451-6812. My wife Carole and I look forward to sharing the day with you.

In recognition of the Easter holiday, the church office will be closed on April 17 and 18.

New Faces @ CUMC

Meredith Perdue & Bobby Davis

- ♦ Marrying at CUMC on November 25
- ♦ M: 252-341-1943
B: 919-889-4664
- ♦ meredithperdue12@gmail.com
21robertdavis@gmail.com



Heather and Dennis Pike

- ♦ Children: Waverly (7), Sylvie (4), Bowen (4 mos.)
- ♦ H: 919-607-3375
D: 919-360-6755
- ♦ heather_pike@yahoo.com
dwpike@yahoo.com



Princess Williams

- ♦ Lives in Southern Village
- ♦ 919-903-8993
- ♦ princesswilliams@nc.rr.com

Congratulations to **Richard Poole**, CUMC's March Madness/Gladness Bracket Challenge winner!! The beneficiary of Richard's win is **Chatham County Habitat for Humanity** which will receive \$480.



Music News and More!

Benevolence

Taking Care of God's Family

The Christian is a person who makes it easy for others to believe in God.

Every day, someone from the community calls the church office for help with paying rent or utilities or with basic needs for food for his/her family. On Wednesday afternoons, Pastor David Harvin meets with these folks to discuss those needs, fulfill them if possible, offer prayer, and guide families to additional resources . . . including jobs. Unfortunately, the need in our community is great, and our benevolence fund is running low. Under the creative leadership of Daniel Steinert, different musical groups from CUMC will perform at an April 26th concert, with a love offering taken to replenish our benevolence fund. Save the date for a chance to enjoy great music and enjoy doing GooD WORKS for others in our community.

Concert to Benefit CUMC's Benevolence Fund Wed., April 26th

5:00 pm Food Trucks & Christ Church
Preschool Scholastic Book Fair

6:30 pm Concert

► Congratulations to the CUMC Choir for being the **January 2017 Winner of Allen Organs Inspiring Congregations video contest!** In addition to a plaque, our music ministry was awarded a \$100 gift & is entered in the annual contest to win \$1000 for the music ministry. Go to http://www.allenorgan.com/www/allennews/inspiring_congregations.html to watch our choir's winning performance!

► **Attention Christ Church Youth!** Join your voice with 5 local church youth choirs at a concert to benefit the Refugee Support Center in Carrboro. We will practice with Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Chapel Hill a few times prior to the May 7th concert. All choirs will rehearse together on May 7 at 4:44 pm at United Church of Chapel Hill (1321 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill, 27514). At 6 pm, we'll enjoy a meal together, & the concert will begin at 7 pm. For more information, contact Daniel Steinert (919-969-7126; dsteinert@christmethodist.org.)



Children Sing in Worship Sun., April 30th

It is such a joy to sing with the CUMC children each week during Sunday School. We've been having a great time committing Bible verses and stories to memory through our songs, and we want to be able to share what we're learning with the congregation. Look for us on Sunday, April 30th at 9:45 am when we make a joyful noise to the Lord. We'll be singing regularly during Sunday School over the next month and a half, and we hope your children will enjoy the process of learning music and participating in worship. Thank you for sharing your awesome kid(s) with us!

Peace of Christ,

Jordan Holoman

8:30 am Contemporary Worship Leader

Director, Children's Choir

Kids! Grab Your Passport for an Unforgettable Trek!

Dates: July 24- 28

Morning session (9 am-noon)

or Afternoon session: (1-4 pm)

Age Group: rising 2nd - rising 5th graders

Camp Size: up to 15 kids per session



Passport to Peru is like taking an adventurous trip to that amazing country without leaving home! Kids will play high-energy games, dig into tasty Peruvian treats, experience cool Bible adventures, collect Bible Buddies Trading Cards, and explore what daily life is like for children living in Peru through short, captivating videos. Immerse your child in this vibrant culture where they'll discover God's good gifts for us all. Space is limited, so please email Ms. Jane today to reserve your spot: jreeb@christmethodist.org.

Transforming the World & Ourselves . . . with Jesus!

Honoring our Past as We Move to our Future

By Chris Woodfin, Church Council Chair

My Dad wrote his weekly newspaper column using an Underwood No. 5 typewriter. It was older than he was. He loved writing, and he loved that typewriter. It was his Dad's, & his Dad was a newspaperman, too. My brother now has that typewriter since he also went into the newspaper business. To this day, he keeps it near where he writes, but he doesn't type on it. He uses a Mac. He keeps that Underwood where he writes, just like we keep our Dad in our hearts. Both inspired a family of writers. My nephew writes regularly, as well, but he's not a newspaperman. He's an Episcopal priest, following a long line of Baptist Woodfins.

Our pasts are full and rich, blessing us with inspiration and a path to follow. In many ways, our past propels us into the future while always being an integral part of who we are. As Ecclesiastes 3:1 teaches us, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven". There are times of inception, and there are times of maturation and moving along the well-laid path.

Christ United Methodist Church of Chapel Hill was built around our mission statement to "seek, nurture, and send Christian disciples into the world". Through living our mission statement, we have glorified God and honored our church founders by growing a vibrant and loving congregation of followers. Just as our church has grown and matured in its history and mission, so can our mission statement as we continue to step out in faith. That's why your CUMC Council established a task force to revisit our mission statement. The full Council has reviewed the recommendation of the task force and approved adoption of a revised CUMC mission statement that we believe speaks to where we currently are in our journey of church life.

Our revised mission statement faithfully acknowledges where we began and where we have come. While we "seek", we also move ahead to "connect" in a deeper relationship. While we "nurture", we also look to "grow" further in our faith. While we "send", we do so faithfully to "serve" our neighbors. As such, a new generation honors the one that came before—not to replace it—but to honor it. And, not to set aside but to stand beside.

**"At Christ Church, we follow Jesus for the transformation of the world.
We connect with God and one another, *grow* in our faith, and *serve* our neighbors."**

Thanks be to God.



Healing Our Wounded History

Creating Space for Miracles

A 3 day conference of healing & wholeness

Date: May 5-7

Fri. 7:00 pm-9:00 pm , Sat. 9:30 am-4:30 pm,

Sun. 9:30 am-11:30 am



**Come and experience
Rev. John Rice
as he leads us on the
journey toward health.**

After 24 years as an Episcopal priest, Rev. John Rice focuses his ministry on healing communities, families and individuals. John has served as president of the North American Board of the Order of St. Luke (OSL) and Director of Region 3 OSL (southeastern states). John is currently serving as Chaplain of the North American Board of Directors of OSL.

A Catered Lunch on Saturday by Plott Hound
www.plotthoundnc.com

Child care will be provided

RSVP to Maggie Ivancic if you plan to attend
mivancic@christmethodist.org

Suggested minimum donation \$20



SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE

**CHRIST CHURCH
SUMMER PICNIC**



**SUNDAY
JUNE 4TH
3-6 PM**

**Southern Community Park
More information to follow**

Looking Ahead to Summer

It's Time to Get Growing!

By Kris Weigle, CUMC Member

KOINONIA, A Community Garden is celebrating its second spring. We are now welcoming and registering new and returning members, or for the curious, we'll happily give garden tours. Koinonia is a joint ministry of Christ UMC and Evergreen UMC to praise God by serving our neighbors. Visit us this spring at 11098 US Highway 15-501 North, just south of Cole Park Plaza, at Evergreen UMC. The garden is open Tuesdays/Thursdays (9-11 am) and Saturdays (9 am-noon) in the spring. In the summer, we open one hour earlier. All are welcome, regardless of church affiliation, gardening experience, or age. Our new *Try-it Option* lets you taste the experience of gardening before committing to garden membership. Come help grow healthy food for your family and friends (including those in need), meet new friends, and witness God's creative force.



Olivia Weigle & Lauren Jelec at Koinonia

Gardening helps us to experience God's presence with us on the earth through the gifts of nature and gardening together. Leviticus 27:30 tell us that "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord."

In 2016, we were blessed with a plentiful harvest that was shared with the Take and Eat food pantry at Evergreen UMC, the Interfaith Council (IFC) food pantry, refugees, Christ Church benevolence families, fellow parishioners, friends and neighbors. Other achievements included the construction of our shed, building new soil using the "lasagna" bed method, traditional composting, and building community through monthly potlucks. By partnering with other community organization, we are now an approved site of the Community Service and Restitution Program of Communities in Service (Chatham County) and host challenged youth and their supervisors.

We are growing community, faith . . . and yes, vegetables! Come grow with us! Find out more about Koinonia Garden at <http://koinoniagardennc.org/>.

If your contact information has changed, including home/ email address or phone, please update the church office at office@christmethodist.org.



Hello Christ Church Family!

I am happy to announce I've been accepted to UNC's part-time Masters of Social Work program starting this fall. I will continue working full-time Monday through Thursday at Christ UMC, but starting August 11, I will be taking classes all day on Fridays during the academic semester. I am so grateful for all the prayers, phone calls, and emails I received during the application process. Your support has meant the world to me.

Our regular Friday office hours are 9 am—12 pm. When I begin school in August, we will be looking for a few friendly volunteers to answer the church office phone and do simple administrative tasks on Fridays. We can work out a schedule that fits your needs. If this volunteer opportunity interests you or you'd like to learn more, contact me at mivancic@christmethodist.org or 919-969-8820, x200. I look forward to hearing from you!

Peace, Maggie Ivancic
Administrative Assistant

This summer, the children's ministry team has the tools to help keep your family's faith in good working order.



Stop by Ascension hall beginning June 4 to pick up a Good Works Summer toolbox full of devotions and family activities. These tools are designed for families who are headed out of town but still want a way to remain connected to God, the church, and the children's ministry.



GOoD WORKS—Spring is for Serving!



*They Make A Difference,
Near & Far!*

CUMC SNACK Food Drive
May 7-21

S.N.A.C.K!
Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids

You can help CUMC to provide meals for hungry kids in our community! SNACK (Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids) feeds local children during the summer months, when subsidized school meals are unavailable. SNACK provides a box of food weekly to eligible families, and CUMC can help fill those boxes.

Shopping lists of needed food items and boxes will be available in Ascension Hall beginning May 7. Simply grocery shop, pack the box, and return it to church by May 21. If you prefer, checks can be written to CUMC, with SNACK printed clearly on the memo line. \$15 feeds one child for a week. \$150 covers the summer. To serve in other ways (shopping for those who can't, food distribution, etc.) or for more information, contact Shari Ligett (ncshari@bellsouth.net).

Mission 1:27 Team Travels to Slobodskoy

(The following article is an excerpt from Patsy Smith's post to the Mission 1:27 Blog. Read more at <https://mission127.org/posts/>.)

We made it! After many, many hours of travel, we are safely in Slobodskoy with the kids at the orphanage! Travel here is never easy but arrival is oh so sweet. We are eight strong this year: Pastor Suzanne Hultman and her boys, Hank and Timothy; Ruth Chavis and Ian; Patsy Smith and Max; and CUMC Youth Pastor, Nick Jonckowski. We are excited for the week ahead!

... We meet them in the cafeteria, 33 kids ready to present us with our traditional opening ceremony of bread and a short program about Slobodskoy, the orphanage, and most importantly, who the kids are and what they have been up to at the orphanage. Then, it's our turn. Suzanne leads us in two songs - "Home on the Range" and "Wagon Wheel" (a last minute change to our line up, but I think it was perfect). We sing (and sway) with bandanas around our necks, and although no one really knows what we are singing, they smile and clap (and laugh) right along with us. When we are done, Suzanne graciously explains the meaning behind our "southern" song choices, and then our team of boys passes out a bandana to each kid and the staff.



Name tags are next, another annual tradition and an easy ice breaker to help us and the kids get to know one another. Old friendships are renewed and new ones begin to form. Nick, of course, is an instant hit, and as I sit at a table with him, I know God has brought him here with us intentionally. He is quickly comfortable in this space and makes even the "coolest" of boys laugh. It is going to be a great week!

We then head out to see the kids in their living space, or as they call it here, their "family groups". There are four groups (with about 8 children per group), and at each stop, we hear a little about the kids who live in the rooms and their individual roles and strengths as a part of their "family". Everyone has a place, every space is neat and tidy, and the kids are proud of their living quarters and the work they do to keep them just right. As we finish our tour, the kids start to get more comfortable with us and begin to share pieces of themselves with our team. A few small handmade gifts are shared with some of the travelers, and I can feel the love beginning to grow.

I am always in awe of how much of themselves they give. Even "the least of these" have an abundance of love to share with us. It is why I travel to Slobodskoy, Russia, this place so far away, where I see God in the eyes of these beautiful children. They have been given up by their parents and left in the care of the state, yet they give and receive love so generously that I easily forget anything and everything else that came before this moment. We are in the presence of something special here, and we will be full of love, stories and incredible memories when we leave. But tonight I will sleep with a full heart. I am home here in Slobodskoy and with my "family group".

Children and Youth News

Register Now!

Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School

Created by God; Built for a Purpose

June 26th-30th; 9:00am - noon

**Send your kids on an imaginative,
impacting adventure!**

At Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids discover not only that God made them the way they are, but for a purpose too! Maker Fun Factory is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids will see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gadgets, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Ready to register? Want to learn more? Visit First Things First - VBS 2017 or <http://christmethodist.org/ministries/first-things-first-vbs-2017/>.



Design a Robot Contest




**Finished Robot(s) Due by
9:30am June 11th**

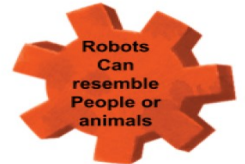
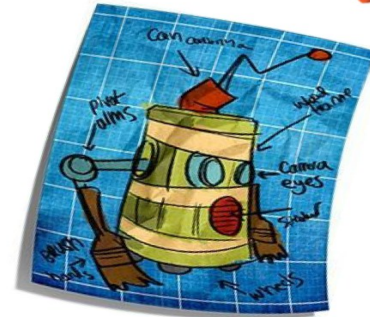
We are starting the planning and preparations for Vacation Bible School (VBS). We want you all to be a part of the action. You can join the fun by using your imagination and creating a robot. All Robots will be used as decoration during VBS this summer!

Prizes!

Voting will be from
June 11- June 18

3 categories:

-  6 years old and under
-  7 - 12 year olds
-  Family -- if teens or parents want to get in on the fun



Robots can be made out of anything that you have at home. Think recyclables, craft items or even junkyard finds!

Questions? Ask Ms. Jane or contact her at jreeb@christmethodist.org

THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME SO WONDERFULLY COMPLEX (Psalm 139:14)



Want to be a part of the VBS planning and leadership team? Email Jane Reeb jreeb@christmethodist.org.

Parents' Night Out

**Friday, April 21
5:30-8:30 pm**

Parents, how does a super fun night for the kids and the opportunity for some adult time sound? Then mark your calendar for PNO. You may drop off your 4 year old - 5th grade kids (must be potty trained!) for a fun night of pizza, games, and a movie in rooms 3 & 5 in building 105 . You may drop the kids and then go enjoy an evening on your own. \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child in the same family (max \$20/ family). **Advanced registration is required and space is limited!** To register for our Friday April 21st PNO, email Ms. Jane today at jreeb@christmethodist.org.

Future Dates: May 19, June 16, July 14

**April 22 | 5pm to 7pm
\$20 Per Student**

Bumper Balls is coming to CUMC Youth Group! Bumper Balls or "bubble soccer" is an amazingly fun sport that combines a mix of sumo wrestling, soccer, and football. Junior high and senior high guys won't want to miss out on this awesome event! Register at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ee0k093ye067d332&oseq=&c=&ch=>.



**April 21 | 6pm to 8pm
Cost: Free**

Join us at the Hanlon's home (116 Graylyn Dr., Southern Village) as we treat ourselves to a night of fun activities including nail painting, facials, s'mores by the bonfire, ice-cream sundaes, karaoke, and dancing the night away. Friends are welcome. RSVP here: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ee0vhql920333bd3&oseq=&c=&ch=>.

CHRIST CHURCH

United Methodist

800 Market Street

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BOOK CLUB AT TOWN HALL GRILL

WED., MAY 10

6:30-8:00PM



Men, Women, and Youth! Bring a friend and join Pastor Suzanne Hultman & Deon Roach as they lead a lively discussion of ***The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World***. Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than 50 years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships—or, as they would say, because of them—they are two of the most joyful people on the planet. In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in India to celebrate His Holiness's 80th birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: *How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?* We'll talk about their answers and some of our own, as well.



CUMC will be hosting a Mental Health First Aid Training focused on aiding adolescents on **Saturday, May 20th** in 103 Market Street. Do you regularly interact with young people as a parent, family member, caregiver, teacher, neighbor, health/human service provider, or other caring adult? **Youth Mental Health First Aid** will teach you how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or is in crisis.

This 8-hour course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and outlines a 5-step action plan for how to help in crisis and noncrisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders, and eating disorders. Class size is limited. Register with Maggie Ivancic (mivancic@christmethodist.org) in the church office by May 12.

This event is sponsored by the Mental Health Team at CUMC, a member church of Duke Divinity School's Reimagining Health

Youth Service Saturday Event Durham Food Bank

April 29 | 9am to 12pm

2700 Angier Ave., Durham, NC 27703

CUMC Youth Ministry is partnering with the Durham Food Bank for our next Service Saturday Outreach Event. Students can expect to assist with sorting, labeling, & repackaging bulk food items. Let's make a difference in our community. Parents can join us, too! Contact Pastor Nick for info at njonckowski@christmethodist.org.

"SAVE THE DATE"

**AMERICAN RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**

**Tues., April 25; 10 am—2:30 pm
Ascension Hall**

