

# April 2024 Newsletter

## Remember Me

During the Good Friday service I was struck by verse five of “According to Thy Gracious Word.” We sing the hymn in response to the crowds derision of Jesus as he is dying on the cross: *If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.*

And when these failing limbs grow numb,  
and mind and memory flee,  
when thou shalt in thy kingdom come,  
Jesus, remember me.



Following the singing of this verse is the story of the criminals who were hanged with Jesus. One cries *Save yourself and us!* a perfectly understandable plea from desperate straits. The other criminal pleads *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

In a fit of melancholy, the sage of Ecclesiastes declares *There is no remembrance of those who came before, nor of those who will come after. There will be no remembrance of them among those who will come afterwards.* (Ecclesiastes 1:11)

On the day he graduated from college, Dale C. Allison’s younger son told him that lately he had been thinking about death. What bothered him most wasn’t going out of existence but rather the everlasting loss of his most cherished memories. *What saddens and terrifies me is that my experiences and memories—the things that I learned, felt, valued, sensed, and loved—will not be remembered after I die.*

We are commanded to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Abraham Joshua Heschel was a Polish-American rabbi and one of the leading Jewish theologians and philosophers of the 20th century. In his little book *The Sabbath*, he argued that remembering the Sabbath day is what preserved Jewish identity through centuries of wandering without a homeland.

In the celebration of the Eucharist, each time we partake of the bread and wine, we are commanded to remember Jesus. Our identity as Christians is preserved by faithfully participating in the Sabbath remembrance of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

Jesus’ response to the criminal’s plea to be remembered is *Today, you will be with me in Paradise.* This undiscoverable place, in that unimaginable moment, this ultimately irrefutably revelation of reality to all of us is one that lies yet ahead. To know irrefutably is not given to us this side of death.

Jesus’ assurance of Paradise assumes a God who is the absolute reality in whom we live and move and have our being in every moment, now and at the hour of our death. We believe, if we believe, obscurely, hopefully, on the testimony of others.

Jerry Harris

Happy Spring Messiah Family,

Spring is a great time of year with the birth of another season. I love seeing the signs of spring. Flowers blooming and the smell they produce. Trees budding out a little more each day. Grass growing as it greens up. Butch Pacula working his magic on our church yard.



Springtime also brings us Easter. Each Christian denomination celebrates Easter differently with the same results. Celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord!! I have experienced the celebration of Easter in the Baptist, Episcopal and Moravian Church. I have grown to love the spirit of the Moravian traditions of Easter more and more each year.

When thinking about this article for the newsletter I found myself reflecting on all the events of the Easter Season - Palm Cross Workshop, Palm Sunday, decorating the gravestones at the Second St. Philips Graveyard, Good Friday Service, cleaning and decorating God's Acre, Sun Rise Service, the smell of Easter Lilies in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and of course our own Easter Sunday Service.

My reflection always turns to the time I spent with my church family members. What a special time! Lynne and I are grateful for volunteers that were able to juggle their time to assist us with the making of Palm Crosses and cleaning decorating of God's Acre. Many of you approached me disappointed that your other family was taking your time away from church or that you were just not able to do the things you love to do for Easter because time is catching up and we understand. That is what we like about doing these activities. We hold each of you in our hearts and use your spirit as our inspiration.

God Bless,

Dick Butler, Board Chair

### **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

The Good Friday Service was a very moving and exceptional service this year. 25 people attended the service with 3 people coming to the service that had never been to Messiah before. They saw the announcement on the marquee.

Michelle Lawrence accepted the invitation to perform a portion of the readings. Her voice was powerful yet at the same time you could feel the emotion of the subject while she read.

Truly, an emotional and spiritual service that everyone should attend at least once.

### **A VERY IMPORTANT THANK YOU**

*The congregation of Messiah would like to thank the staff, Jerry Harris, Ricky Johnson, Tracy Robinson, and Mariano Lara for the extra work they did during the Easter Celebration at Messiah.*

*From getting Palm Trees for the Sanctuary to securing volunteer readers, arranging for special musical guests and for putting in extra time in your craft so we can have a special Easter to remember at Messiah.*

*Thank you!!*

## April Worship Calendar

See below for a link to sign up for worship volunteers. The March worship calendar is below. As you can see, we are in need some nursery volunteers, Children's Message and a Get Acquainted Time Hosts. If you want to volunteer by phone or email instead, please let me know and I will put you down. Thanks so much!! [Click Here for Google Sheet](#)

Date	Lay Reader	Children's Message	Sunday School	Adult Nursery	Youth and/or Adult Nursery	Get Acquainted
07-Apr	Marshall Marvelli		XXXXXXXXXXXX	Barb Mory		Nancy Bramlett
14-Apr	Lee Smith	Stuart Punger				Janelle Frazier
21-Apr	Elizabeth Bankson	Dane Perry	XXXXXXXXXXXX			Janelle Frazier
28-Apr	Larry Foltz	Elizabeth Bankson	Elizabeth Bankson			

No need to plan a meal on **Wednesday, April 10** Drop in for a casual dinner at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall!

RSVP to Tracy please if you are planning to attend. As always, if you forget to RSVP or decide at the last minute that you can make it, you are welcome. (There is always plenty and we share well.) Email Michelle Lawrence if you plan to bring a dessert at :

([mhopkins@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:mhopkins@alumni.princeton.edu)).



**SPECIAL THANK YOU  
SPECIAL THANK YOU  
SPECIAL THANK YOU  
SPECIAL THANK YOU**

\*A special thank you to all of those that were able to volunteer their time for all of the Easter events.

Palm Cross Workshop – Nancy Bramlett, Janelle Frazier, Linda Petitto, Lynne Butler, Dick Butler, and Mimi Davis for pinning crosses on the congregation.

Coordination of Easter Lillies for the Sanctuary – Michelle Lawrence

Cleaning and decoration of gravestones at the Second St. Philips Graveyard – Adrian Lawrence, James Goodwin, and Roma Combs.

Cleaning and decorating of God's Acre – Tom and Barb Mory, Virginia Perry, Gray Wilson, Lynne Butler, and Dick Butler. Special flowers from Janelle Frazier

Ushering at the Sunrise Service – Lee Smith, Gray Wilson, and Dick Butler.

Ushering the Easter Service – Michael Cauthen, Tom Mory, and John Petitto.

*\*If your name was not included, please contact the church office.*

ORGAN UPDATE

If you love to hear our organist, Ricky Johnson, play the organ you only have the four Sundays in April to hear him play for a while.



On April 29, the work to rebuild and fix the organ will begin. If all goes well, we hope to have the organ back in tip top shape by the Middle of August. Fingers are crossed.

On the bright side of not having an organ is that we get to have Ricky Johnson become our church pianist for the next several months. He promises to continue to perform at his best and work to provide additional musicians as well.

Website

Hey Messiah Family:

I just want to remind you of the Messiah Website. It is updated weekly with the sermon, next week's sermon title, monthly newsletter and upcoming events.

Please check it out. For those online, click link below. Tracy Robinson, Office Manager

[Messiah Moravian Church](#)



Jon Hus Class

If you are looking for an interesting and intriguing preparation for our Sunday worship services at Messiah, consider joining the Jon Hus Study Group. This long-running and eclectic collection of fellow searchers meets every Sunday at 9:30 in the Fidelas Room in the Fellowship Hall. No expertise is required. Our reading selections can be provided free of charge. All that is needed is a willingness to join.



Currently, the members are reading Howard Thurman's classic book-length essay, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, a piercing vision of the American church that has, in large measure, failed the African American community in the church's essential task of spreading the message of Jesus of Nazareth. The core of the book is a review of what Thurman calls the "Three Hounds of Hell:" fear, deception, and hate. He concludes with a discussion of how the only appropriate response to the attacks of the three 'hounds' is love. Our next book will be a departure from the normal selections, *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben, a German author. The book's subtitle provides a glimpse into how trees feel and communicate. Maybe the fictional 'Ents' in J.R.R. Tolkien's "Ring" trilogy are not that far off the mark.

Marshall Marvelli



# Volunteer Workday

April 13, 2024  
9:00am - 3:00pm

RSVP - [blair@laurelridge.org](mailto:blair@laurelridge.org)  
or [tres@laurelridge.org](mailto:tres@laurelridge.org)  
for a project list and lunch  
reservations.

*All Women of the Southern Province are invited to a Spiritual Life Retreat!*

**ASK  
LISTEN  
MOVE**

**Ask, Listen, Move:**

**Following Jesus' Loving Lead to be Set In Motion by God  
Friday, April 19, 2024 – Sunday, April 21, 2023**

Retreat Facilitator: Rev. Christy Clore  
Laurel Ridge Camp and Conference Center  
Higgins Lodge

**For further information please contact:  
The Provincial Women's Board**

**336.722-4911 or [pwbmosp@gmail.com](mailto:pwbmosp@gmail.com)**

Salem Band 2024 Summer Concert Series – Tuesdays in Salem Square, 7:30 pm, FREE:



May 07, **MARCH MADNESS** with 6:45 pm pre-concert music by the SB Flute Ensemble; and soloist = band & audience!

May 28, **PUPPET MAGIC** with 6:45 pm pre-concert music by the SB Brass Quintet and Guests, Paperhand Puppet Intervention!

June 18, **OLYMPICS** with 6:45 pm pre-concert music by the SB Tuba Quartet; and Community Choir

July 04, **THURSDAY, STARS & STRIPES** with 6:45 pm pre-concert Jazz; & vocal soloist Mignon Dobbins (July 05 rain-date)

August 06, **DISCO & DANCE!** With 6:45 pm pre-concert music by the Community Ensemble

August 20: Summer rain-date (as needed)



**FAMILY FUN! LIVE MUSIC!  
FOOD TRUCKS!  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION!**

**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 20  
10AM - 4PM  
WS FAIRGROUNDS**

**FREE PARKING & BIKE VALET | RAIN OR SHINE**

Bulletin and Scriptures

If you would like to receive by mail or email the bulletin, scriptures and sermon, please contact Tracy at: [messiah1401@gmail.com](mailto:messiah1401@gmail.com) or by phone at: 336-765-5961.

2024 Church Directory

The 2024 church directory is available in the fellowship hall or come by the church office. Please let me know if there needs to be any changes to the directory. Thanks, Tracy



124 Pendry Drive  
Laurel Springs, NC 28644  
laurelridge.org

## Spring Family Camp

[Register Here!!](#)

May 24-26, 2024

For families of all ages. Stay in a summer camp cabin with your family, enjoy the beautiful mountain along with program, canoeing, fishing, and other great camp activities.

### Cost

Adults \$65.00

Children 4-12 \$40.00

Children 3 and under are free



**New Member**

Welcome to Messiah!

The congregation is excited to announce the Cheryl Harris joined our fellowship on March 17, 2024.

### Join Messiah Moravian News Group

Are you interested in receiving emails about information from the Province, other Moravian Churches, Old Salem, Sunny Side Ministries and Salem Band?

If you are, please contact the church office at [messiah1401@gmail.com](mailto:messiah1401@gmail.com) with your email address and you'll be added to the group. You can always be removed at any time if you sign up and change your mind. So give it a try! Tracy

*Prayer Requested for:* Ruth Brandquist, Marilyn Stowers, Michael James, Bill Porter, Kim Shonzz (Randy Speas' girlfriend), Denise Calderwood (Cyndie Tomlin's sister), Sabrina Maksi, (Nancy Bramlett's niece), Jane Butler (Dick Butler's mother)

## April Birthdays



- 1 Gray Wilson
- 1 Kendra Witner
- 3 Kitty Grubbs
- 6 Ranny Story
- 9 Dane Perry
- 12 Britt Mittemeijer
- 20 Ellie Cauthen
- 23 Linda Combs
- 23 Lillian Lawrence
- 25 Andrew Stone
- 30 Ann Sattenfield



## BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

of the Moravian Church • North America

### 2023 Mission Service Awards

Each year, the Board of World Mission presents the Ted Wilde Mission Service Award and the Herrnhut Affirmation to Moravians who have given of themselves for the benefit of others either down the street or around the world.

In 2023, the Ted Wilde Mission Service Award was presented to Rev. Marian Boyle-Rohloff and Br. Ed Winney in a special worship service at West Side Moravian Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Ted Wilde Mission Service Award recipients are Moravians who have been willing to take up the great commandment and the great commission by learning from our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ, and then engaging in humble service in his name. This description of service fits the ministry of both Ed Winney and Marian Boyle-Rohloff, as they consistently and passionately commit their lives to ministry toward those at the margins of society.

The Herrnhut Affirmation for Dedicated Mission and Service goes to a Moravian congregation or organization that is in some way following the example of the Moravian community in Herrnhut by actively giving of themselves in terms of time, talent, and treasure to be the light of Christ to others. With gratitude for all the ways they are meeting the basic needs of the "least of these" in their community and beyond, we were thrilled to name Trinity Moravian Church as the 2023 recipient of this affirmation at a special worship service with their congregation in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

*Learn more about Marian Boyle-Rohloff, Ed Winney, and Trinity Moravian Church, and find nomination forms at [MoravianMission.org/Awards/](https://MoravianMission.org/Awards/). Nominations for both awards are open continuously, but those nominated by May 15th, 2024, will be considered for 2024 awards.*



### Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to remember or honor someone with sanctuary flowers, please contact the church office at 336-765-5961 or by email at:

[messiah1401@gmail.com](mailto:messiah1401@gmail.com) and call Daisy A Day at 336-723-1925 and they will deliver to the church the Saturday before.

On a side note: If you order flowers, please pick them up or let us know if you want us to donate them. You may return the vase if you do not need it.