

# The Vital Connection

Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

*Bi-Monthly  
Newsletter*

March / April 2021

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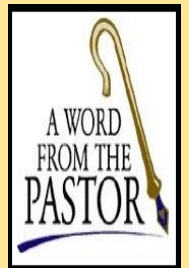
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God's Good Grace

I have made mention to several people that I am reading, "The Screwtape Letters," by C.S. Lewis as a part of my devotion time during the season of Lent. It is not a difficult read, but it sure steps on my toes. The basic point of the book is we have a lot of distractions in our lives. The devil knows he cannot sway us with a straightforward attack on our faith because we would see through that. If the devil said believe in me and follow me instead of God, we would only laugh in Satan's face for the whole truth of Scripture tells us in the end God wins. So, the devil tries to get our minds off of God and the life saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Instead, the devil gets us to focus on who to blame for this Covid-19 mess, or how we hate wearing masks. The devil gets us fuming about how much we hate these Democrats or Republicans when if we thought about it we know full well we don't know those people from Adam's house cat. How can we really hate them? Certainly, we disagree, but hate; that is an all together different emotion. So you see this is what the devil does. The devil tries to get us angry about people and things when that is not what we are supposed to do at all. We are supposed to be focused on God and our neighbor. We are supposed to be focused on the upward call of God in Jesus Christ. That means learning more about who Jesus is and what Jesus' sacrifice means for the way that we relate and speak to God in prayer. It means seeing the hurt and struggling in our community and in our schools and in our church and then showing up as the hands and feet with a hand up out of their difficult situation instead of a hand out which enables them to continue to stay in that situation. This is the season of Lent. Lent is all about preparing for that great and wonderful day of the Lord, and that means following the guidance of the letter to the Hebrews; "let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2-3, ESV). My sisters and brothers, this is Lent. Lent is training day for the race which is coming with Christ's death and resurrection. How will you prepare?



*By God's Good Grace, Pastor Richard*

## NOTE:

**May & June Newsletter**

Deadline for News & Pictures

April 30, 2021

email to [cumcdenton@gmail.com](mailto:cumcdenton@gmail.com)



# OUTREACH MINISTRIES

## OPEN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN IN THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY!



The UMW of Central United meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. ALL Women are invited to come fellowship as women with a purpose in our church and community. Our next meeting is April 6th @6pm in the Hut.

*UMW Sunday will be held April 11th with guest speaker Debra Matthews, former UMW Uwharrie District President, and recognition of this year's service pin will be presented.*

**The Methodist women collected Toys For the Town as part of their mission outreach in December 2020.**



The Trustee's had new LED lights installed in the sanctuary, pre-school, offices, & bell tower. These new lights look beautiful!



Items that are presently needed are: Canned meat items (Chicken, Tuna, Spam, Beef Stew, Vienna Sausage, Ham, Pork n Beans, Soup, Evaporated Milk, Toilet Paper \*Make sure to check the expiration dates. We cannot give out expired food.

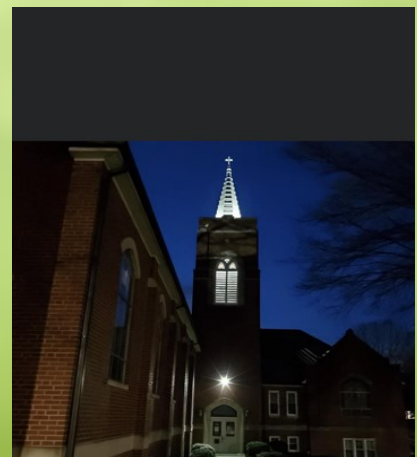


**The food pantry is open on Tuesday's & Thursday's 8:30-noon.**

**Our Food Pantry gives out around 40 bags of food each month. We couldn't do it without your support and our great volunteers!**



***Our SGA food drive by is held the 4th Thursday of each month!  
Our next drive by is March 25th from 5-6pm with hotdog meal.***





## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS



**Next Meeting**  
**1:00**  
**Sunday, May 2**



**April 4, 2021**



**Concerns:** Lee Bowden (deployed Feb. 19), Benny Clodfelter, Katie Fralic Cloninger (Covid), Larry Cook & LaRue Cook, Dawn Daniel, First Responders, Glenda Futrell, Nancy Futrell, Jeff Gordon, Ricky Harris (Covid), Conrad Harrold, Jeff Harwell, Medical Personnel, Makenzie Moose, Sylvia Morris, Parents, Phillip Pierce, Bobbie Ridge, Eva Sewell, Julie Stickler, Students, Woody Sturdivant, Irving Surratt, Teachers, Mikol & Kelli Ward (Covid), Wilbanks family, Pat Woodard, Our Nation, State, & Community.

**Mt: Vista** Ella Mae Beck (83), Joan Briggs, (206), Bobby Buie, (100), Barbara Carrick (84), Linda Dobbins (98), Betty Gobble (59), Virgie Goodwin (92), Minnie Harris, (59), Hilda Hedrick (204), James Hopkins (72), Betty Jones (106), Helen Loftin (94), Pat Nicolia (101), Louise Rogers (78), Carole Snider (84), Jeanette Stratas (64-1), Geneva Swaringen (52-1), George Tillotson (89), Peggy Wilkins (109)

**Brookdale-South Charlotte:** Navahlia Quesenberry 5515 Rea Road, Charlotte NC 28226

**Sandy Ridge Homes:** Ava Lea Surratt 326 Bowman Road, Candor, NC 27229

**Piedmont Crossing Thomasville:** Lawrence & Bobbie Ridge 100 Hedrick Drive, Thomasville NC 27360

**Families of** Phyllis Hawkins (Marie Penry's sister), Diane Hughes, John Hamilton, Susan Hubbard Ewing (Rev. Laura Auten's mother), & John Byerly

**SUNDAY, MARCH 14**



**April 1, 2021**  
**11am @ CUMC**



## EASTER stravaganza

**Saturday, March 27th, 12-2 p.m.**

It's a Bunny Hop with BunnyStops all over town!

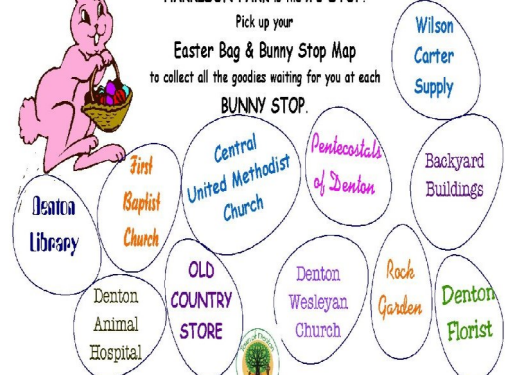
HARRISON PARK is the #1 STOP.

Pick up your

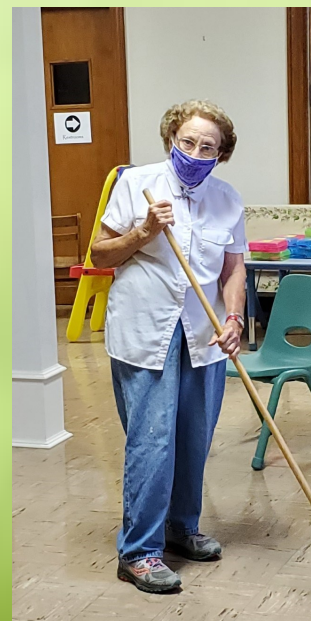
Easter Bag & Bunny Stop Map

to collect all the goodies waiting for you at each

BUNNY STOP.



Sponsored by Town of Denton Parks & Recreation, churches & businesses



## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Eva Sewell served as our church custodian for many years. Due to health reasons, Eva has had to retire. We will surely miss her !**

**New carpet was installed in the fellowship hall for the preschooler's.**



**Before**



**During**



**After**



**Protecting one another by wearing their masks.**



**Thanking our Veteran's,  
Caleb Ward, Nova  
Ward's dad, & Brad  
Glisson, Cooper Reid's  
grandfather.**

***Our Preschooler's singing for Lenten Service.***





***May the Glory of God Bless Each of You on the Celebration of Your Special Day!***

**March Birthdays**

- 1-Mike Russell
- 2-Terri Johnson Nolasco, Jacob Cabrera, Julie Carroll
- 3-Erin Bean, Kay Taylor
- 4-Lee Bowden, Gaye Markham, Dustin Graham
- 5-Cylie Cabrera, Tony Vazquez, Gabriel Crouch, Adeline Calhoun, Ann Morris Luck
- 6-Lori Jones, Madalyn Willet, JP Hamilton, Jr.
- 7-Cathy Morris, Shawna Kinley
- 8-Piper Vazquez, Alyssa Futrell, Mary Skeen, Bowman Carroll, Callan Loflin
- 9-Scott Hinesley, Roxie Rayburn
- 10-Piper Linthicum, Hunter Smith, Laura Ann Harrison
- 11-Rachel Davis, David Lanier
- 12-Sean Kennedy, Mya Lynn Simpson
- 13-Janet Moses
- 14-Kallie Gentile, Charlotte Dockham
- 15-Stewart Sexton, Lynda Kearns, Jerry Lanier, Jason Morris, Asher Crouse
- 17-Leah Hulin
- 18-Meagan Young, May Bisher, Emily Harrison
- 19-Matthew Dockham
- 20-John Lomax III, Susan May Bland, Nickolas Morris
- 21-Glenda Futrell, Stella Beth Sizemore
- 22-Edith Sigmon, Jerry Dockham, Robert Rieger, Jr, Bo Carroll, Matthew Kiser, Lisa Grubb, Carolyn Lovell
- 23-Linda Markham
- 24-Ryleigh Howard
- 25-Laura Walton, Steven Clark
- 26-Brock Blount
- 27-Katherine Morris, Dennis Cadle, Grace Garner
- 28-Irving Surratt, Johnathan Crouse, Annabelle Jones, Jody Jackson, Emily Smith Earle
- 29-Holly Berg
- 30-Eddie Richey, Suzanne Surratt, Bo Chitwood, River Trent, Jay Lanier, Johnathan Loftin
- 31-Debbie Crouch

**March Anniversaries**

- 11-Esko & Addie Nopanen
- 13-David & Colbey Garrison
- 16-Sam & Michelle Whitlock, James & Elizabeth Loftin
- 18-Richard & Brenda Wilson, Buddy & Nancy Sexton
- 19-Dale & Glenda Futrell, Brandon & Dianna Killmyer
- 20-Harvey & Doris Crenshaw
- 27-Eddie & Melissa Gallimore
- 31-Donald & Diane Hill



**April Birthdays**

- 1-David Davis,
- 2-Donna Dalton, Annabelle McIntyre
- 3-Dianna Killmyer, John Mitchell
- 4-Matt Howard, Nicholas Glover, Dean Bulakowski
- 5-Kaci Markham, Elliott Chitwood
- 6-Joe Mitchell, Conner Earle
- 7-JoAnne Harrold, Colton Kennedy, Judi Boggs
- 8-Imelda Morris, Esko Nopanen, Joey Layne, Chrissy Hedrick
- 9-Kerry Gallimore, Drew Skeen, Ava Sexton
- 10-Lona Everhart, Samantha Sexton
- 11-Devon Smith, Bella Sexton, Briana Smith
- 12-Amy Rowell, Jim Boggs, Marsha Surratt
- 13-Jacob Clodfelter, Larry Fritts, Lee Ann Smith
- 14-Praxton Crouse, Penelope Crouse
- 15-Hailey Calhoun
- 16-Larry Cook, Marcia Everhart
- 17-Zachary Ligon, Tony Frank, Andy Flowers
- 19-Gretchen Crouse
- 20-Wright Wege
- 21-Ronnie Hall, Susan Allen, Ellie Hege, Sydney Morris, Bonnie Shuler
- 22-Dustin Marshall
- 23-Reedling Harris
- 24-Peggy Marshall, Denver Moses, April Parker
- 25-Josh Swaringen, Gina Grubb
- 28-Michael Baum, Baysden Harris, Sarah Parker,
- 29-Judith Bowman, Vickie Clark, Jeff Hulin
- 30-Lawrence Ridge, Savannah Surratt

**April Anniversaries**

- 5-Aaron & Candice Smith
- 7-Scott & Sharon Hinesley
- 10-Brantly & Jamie Surratt
- 14-Larry & LaRue Cook
- 17-Baxter & Marsha Surratt
- 21-Keith & Cathy Morris, Rob & Devona Dunn
- 26-Rick & Angie Nelson
- 27-Rickie & Rhonda Workman
- 28-Neil & Suzanne Bulakowski, Heath & Lisa Cranford, Wayne & Linda Markham
- 29-Roy & Pat King
- 30-Reid & Ann Crouse



**A rose and Bible was presented by the UMW in honor of Witten Ryatt Haneline, born on November 23, 2020, weighing 7lbs 12oz. Parents are Brannon & Natalie Haneline, Grandparents are Ronnie & Tonya Haneline, Great Grandparents are Gilbert & Nancy Futrell, Big Brother, Briles Haneline.**





**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST**

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*For information on church calendar events, visit  
Central's website at [www.centralumcdenton.com](http://www.centralumcdenton.com)*

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