



HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY
April 16, 2023

Back by popular demand!

For centuries, in Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant countries, Easter Monday and “Bright Sunday” (the Sunday after Easter) were observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Parishioners and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, sang, and danced. It was a time for clergy and people to tell jokes and to have fun.

The custom of Easter Monday and Bright Sunday celebrations were rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was “God’s supreme joke played on death.” “Risuspaschalis – the Easter laugh,” the early theologians called it.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Philippians 4:4
You have as much laughter as you have faith. Martin Luther
We are nowhere forbidden to laugh. John Calvin



Birthdays In April

Happy Birthday to You!



- 6- Cooper Hall
- 8- Kristin Robison Cottle
- 9- Kelli Norris
- Mary Laine Rouse
- 10- John Bullard
- 17- Bruce Lyon
- Callie Jane Cottle
- Emily Ludlum

- 19- Joey Fussell
- 24- Harper Ludlum
- 25- Elizabeth Wells Merritt
- 26- Ginger Black
- 30- Eduardo Moreno
- Sam Rose



NEWSLETTER
 WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dr. Philip K. Gladden, Minister

APRIL 2023

Cheryl Brinkley, Editor



Holy Week & Easter Services

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Sunday, April 12
 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday
 Wallace Presbyterian Church Sanctuary



Friday, April 7
 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday
 Wallace Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

A service of gospel readings, music, prayers, and Communion shared with the Beulaville Presbyterian Church



Sunday, April 9
 7:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday
 Early Easter Service, steps of First Baptist Church, Wallace
 Rev. Philip Gladden, preacher

Sunday, April 9
 11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday
 Easter Sunday Worship in our Sanctuary



*Dear Friends,
Over the years, many people have commented on the tagline of my emails:
“Ask yourself this question: Where is God already at work in this situation?”
That question has made a difference in my life and in my ministry. Based on
the comments I have received, I think it has made a difference in other
people’s lives, also.*

*I came across that question when I joined the Pastor as Spiritual
Guide program, led by Rev. Larry Williams, a retired Baptist minister. Since
2008, Larry has become a dear friend and mentor and has been my
spiritual director for fourteen years. Larry recently published a book in which
he compiled and edited spiritual writings of Rev. Samuel H. Miller, minister
of the Old Cambridge (MA) Baptist Church from 1934 to 1959 and dean of
Harvard Divinity School from 1959 until he died in 1968.*

*Because so many of you have commented on my email tagline, I
want to share one of Samuel Miller’s writings that Larry included in his book,
entitled “God Already At Work.” Samuel Miller wrote, “Nowhere is the
ministry of Jesus more moving than at those times where God was already
at work in people’s lives. In all this work there was a radical presupposition
that when he came near to anyone he could be sure that God had already
worked in that person’s experience. Every soul had been touched by the
spirit of God. Indeed every soul had been created by God, sustained by
God, and in a million places divine mercy had been present. The people
may have been blind or deaf or dumb; or may have been moved at the time,
even glorified and lifted up, and yet had forgotten it, or the person may be
confused, weak of insight, lacking faith, and unwilling to grasp with a ready
heart the gift of God’s offering. But Jesus preached and acted everywhere
as if people had known God, as if God had been busy in their lives as in his
own, and if they had moved away from such experiences, if they had lost
touch with God, he could remind them of what had been theirs, even help
them find what they had never altogether known that they had possessed.”*

*Samuel Miller’s thoughts about “God Already At Work” are a good
directive and reminder for us as a congregation as we engage in ministry.
Instead of approaching our ministry as if everything depends on our efforts
and energy, we can, instead, accept the invitation to join God who is
already at work in people’s lives. We can “act as if God has been busy in
their lives as in our own.” God is already at work with the same power that
raised Jesus Christ from the dead. May everything we do as a congregation
serve to remind people of what once had been theirs or “even help them*

At the March 21, 2023 stated session meeting, the elders and minister:

- Conducted the meeting as a worship service;
- Were led in an opening devotion and prayer by Elder Greg Maready;
- Read the Word of God in Ephesians 2:1-22 and Galatians 3:23-29 and talked about what we are called to do as the church;
- Met with Ruling Elder Alan Parent of the Sneads Ferry Presbyterian Church, Commission on Ministry liaison for our session/congregation, to talk about the process in the interim period after the minister’s retirement;
- Approved the minister’s request to use vacation time Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning, March 27-29;
- Approved the request of Grayson and Ashton Casteen to have their son, Evan Thomas, baptized on Sunday, April 30;
- Approved the partnership between the Helping Hands Food Pantry and Pet Friends of Duplin County to begin distributing dog and cat food to people who are having trouble affording food for their pets;
- Approved the minutes of the February 21, 2023 stated session meeting;
- Heard a report from the Clerk of Session regarding the review of session minutes;
- Began discussion about developing a plan for clear communication when the minister retires;
- Heard a report from Ruling Elder Joyce Ange and Rev. Philip Gladden about the March 4, 2023 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina;
- Prayed for members of the congregation and community;
- Were led in a closing prayer by Elder Greg Maready.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Sandra Phillips and Ron Meadows who were married in our sanctuary on March 16, 2023.



Hospital & at home:
Judy Robinson (home)
Dan & Eva McLaughlin (The Gardens)

Bruce Lyon (Dayspring)
Shirley Carlton (home)



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with Evan Thomas Casteen, son of Grayson and Ashton Casteen, during worship on Sunday, April 30.

find what they had never altogether known that they had possessed.”

“Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Happy Easter!

In Christ,

Phil



**FEED OUR HUNGRY CHILDREN/
BACKPACK MINISTRY OFFERING
SUNDAY, APRIL 23**



We will receive our monthly (school year) Feed Our Hungry Children/Backpack Ministry Offering during worship on Sunday, April 23. This offering is an extension of Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries and provides lunches and weekend food for students in Duplin County Schools. You may contribute to the offering in worship, by mailing a check to the church at P.O. Box 717, Wallace, NC 28466, by dropping your contribution through the mail slot of the front door of the church office building, or by giving online at www.wallacepresbyterian.com.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO END HUNGER

Please join us for a meal packaging experience in the movement to end hunger. Wallace Presbyterian Church is excited to sponsor a very unique service opportunity, joining the fight to end hunger with Rise Against Hunger. Through this event, we will package meals to be distributed through global partners that administer school feeding programs, orphanages, health clinics, vocational training or respond to crises.

Please go on the church website to register for this fun, high-energy, high-impact event.



We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, April 2 during the 11:00 a.m. worship service and on Good Friday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome at the table.



WHEN: Saturday, April 22, 2023: 1:00-3:00 pm

WHERE: Wallace Presbyterian Church
205 W Main Street
Wallace, NC 28466



April Bible Study Schedule

- Week of April 2:** Monday, April 3 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Wednesday, April 5 @ 10:00 a.m. in Room 304 & Zoom
- Week of April 9:** No Monday night or Wednesday morning Bible Study
- Week of April 16:** Monday, April 17 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Wednesday, April 19 @ 10:00 a.m. in Room 304 & Zoom
- Week of April 23:** Monday, April 24 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Wednesday, April 26 @ 10:00 a.m. in Room 304 & Zoom
- Week of April 30:** No Monday night or Wednesday morning Bible Study



APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS

SUNDAY	ELDER	PREACHER
April 2	Hope Turnbull	Philip Gladden
April 9	Curt Simpson	Philip Gladden
April 16	Curt Simpson	Philip Gladden
April 23	Hayes Ludlum	Philip Gladden
April 30	Debbie Price	Philip Gladden

- 04/02: Tonya & Michael Patram
- 04/09: Danielle Sills & Hope Turnbull
- 04/16: Casey & Clayton Hall
- 04/23: Christy Johnson & Payton Westbrook
- 04/30: Debbie & Katie Price

Greg Maready Royal Johnson
Curt Simpson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

OPENING CHURCH BUILDING

- April 1-15: **Greg Maready**
- April 16-30: **Dave Wells**

- 04/02: **Joyce Ange**
- 04/09: **No Children's Church**
- 04/16: **Emily Ludlum**
- 04/23: **Hope Turnbull**
- 04/30: **Ellie Newton**

CHURCH NEWS . . . For Your Information

- **We will celebrate** the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, April 2 at 11:00 a.m. and on Good Friday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome at the table.
- **We will celebrate** the Sacrament of Baptism with Evan Thomas Casteen on Sunday, April 30.
- **Our Good Friday worship service with Communion** will be April 7 at 7:30 p.m.
- **First Baptist Church of Wallace** will host an Early Easter Service on the front steps on Sunday, April 9 at 7:00 a.m.
- **We will receive** the annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during worship on Easter Sunday, April 9.
- **The church office** will be closed Monday, April 10 in observance of The Easter Holiday.
- **Philip Gladden** will be on vacation Monday – Friday, April 10-14. Please contact Cheryl Brinkley in the church office (910-285-2808) or Clerk of Session Hope Turnbull (910-284-1341) in an emergency.
- **There will be** no weekly Bible Study on Monday night, April 10 or Wednesday morning, April 12.
- **The session** will meet on Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 304. Please speak to one of the elders or the minister if you have any business or concerns for the session to consider.
- **Plan to participate in the Rise Against Hunger Experience** in the Currie Building on Saturday, April 22, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter and on the church website.
- **We will receive** the Feed Our Hungry Children/Backpack Ministry Offering on Sunday, April 23.
- **Confirmation 2023 Class** will have a lock-in at the church on Friday night/Saturday morning, April 21-22.
- **We will receive** the 5th Sunday Building Offering on Sunday, April 30.



Kirkwood Creation Camp is Coming Soon!

When: June 4 - June 8

Sunday 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 4:00 WPC Swim Test
 Hot Dog Dinner

Mon-Wed 9:00 AM - 3:15 PM

Thur 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 Closing Worship
 Walking Taco Dinner

Who: Current Kindergarten to Grade 5

Youth Helpers: Current Grade 6 - Grade 12

Adult Volunteers Needed



Registration

March 19 - April 30
 Registration Forms: available in the Fellowship Hall or <https://wallacepresbyterian.com/>

Cost Per Child/Volunteer: \$20
 Make checks payable to WPC

Forms Required for Registration (Return forms to Debbie Price or the basket in the Fellowship Hall)

- Participant Registration Form or Volunteer Registration Form
- YMCA of Southeastern NC Release Waiver



**BIG GOD
 BIG QUESTIONS**
 CONFIRMATION FOR A GROWING FAITH

Confirmation 2023 continues on Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, 6:00 p.m.–11:00 a.m. at a Confirmation Lock-In; and Sunday, April 23, 12:00-3:00 p.m. Ten 6th-8th graders are exploring their faith and preparing for Confirmation Day on Sunday, May 7. Please keep these young people and their Elder Mentors/Covenant Partners in your prayers.

Confirmands

- Fisher Blanton
- Robert Coombs
- Windsor Farring
- Hannah Floyd
- Miller Ludlum
- JJ Rouse
- Hayes Skidmore
- Burroughs Strickland
- Parker Thompson
- Trace Thompson

Elders

- Wayne Casteen
- Kelli Norris
- Danielle Sills
- Karla Casteen
- Patsy Ludlum
- Georgia Longest
- Hayes Ludlum
- Fred Burroughs
- Joyce Ange
- Harriet Farring



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING
 Easter Sunday, April 9**

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

April 2023



March 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- Holidays in United States
- WPC Calendar
- drphil@wallacepresbyterian.com
- cheryl@wallacepresbyterian.com
- cheryl@wallacepresbyterian.com Home

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, Room 304 & Zoom 10:00 AM Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship in-person and live-stream 12:00 PM Confirmation Class 2023	27 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	28	29 10:00 AM Bible Study, Zoom and In-Person (Room 304) 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir Practice	30	31	1
2 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, Room 304 & Zoom 10:00 AM Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship in-person and live-stream	3 10:30 AM Circle #1: Room 304 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	4 10:30 AM Circle #3: Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Circle #4: Room 304	5 10:00 AM Bible Study, Zoom and In-Person (Room 304) 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir Practice	6 12:00 PM Lenten Worship and Luncheon, WUMC	7 7:30 PM Good Friday Worship with Communion	8
9 Easter Sunday 7:00 AM Early Easter Service, First Baptist Church, Wallace 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, Room 304 & Zoom 10:00 AM Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship in-person and live-stream	10 Easter Monday 7:00 PM No Zoom Bible Study	11	12 10:00 AM No Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 PM No Handbell Practice 7:00 PM No Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, Room 304 & Zoom 10:00 AM Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship in-person and live-stream	17 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	18 Tax Day 7:00 PM Session Meeting, Room 304	19 10:00 AM Bible Study, Zoom and In-Person (Room 304) 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir Practice	20	21 6:00 PM Confirmation 2023	22 ... Confirmation 2023 1:00 PM Rise Against Hunger Experience
23 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, Room 304 & Zoom 10:00 AM Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship in-person and live-stream, Feed Our Hungry Children/Backpack Ministry Offering 12:00 PM Confirmation 2023	24 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	25	26 10:00 AM Bible Study, Zoom and In-Person (Room 304) 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 9:30 AM Alternative Sunday School Class, Room 304 & Zoom 10:00 AM Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship in-person and live-stream, Sacrament of Baptism/5th Sunday Building Offering	1 First Day of Asian American Heritage Month 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	2	3 10:00 AM Bible Study, Zoom and In-Person (Room 304) 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6