

Englewood United Methodist Church Newsletter

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APRIL 1, 2021

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SOUL PURPOSE - APRIL 2021

Jane and I have been watching a CNN series on Sunday nights, "Lincoln—Divided We Stand." Narrated by Sterling K. Brown of "This Is Us" fame, this 6 part series looks at the remarkable life and unexpected journey of our 16th President.

I mention this because April is often referred to as "the cruelest month." It's April when tax returns are due and, as I learned in the series, it was Lincoln who imposed the first federal income tax in 1861 to help fund the Civil War, which began in April that year and ended in April 1865.

Unfortunately, Lincoln's life also ended in April 1865, marking one of the darkest days in America's history.

But, let's take a moment and look at this through a different lens.

Unless you are a glutton for punishment with thoughts of continuing cold weather, there is almost no better time than "April" as you give thought to sitting outside, listening to the birds singing, kids laughing and friends taking walks through the neighborhood.

"The cruelest month"? I don't think so. April brings with it the rebirth of the MLB baseball season as we see fans sporting their NY, LA, or B caps. (For you that don't follow baseball, those letters are the insignias worn by three of the more famous teams in sports.)

April. The Romans knew what they were doing when they named April from the Latin word "aperire," meaning "to open." The opening of flowers, the opening of life and, as I just mentioned, the opening of baseball season are all part of "the cruelest month."

For us, April brings the celebration of Easter. Sure, the Romans may have opened Jesus' wounds, but the joke was on them when his tomb was opened and found empty. It is, after all, the month for openings.

Now, we know Easter doesn't always happen in April. Sometimes Easter is celebrated in March. When holidays bounce around rather than being celebrated the same day each year, we call those "moveable feasts", which means they aren't celebrated on the same day

every year. Christians borrowed this from the Hebrew Lunisolar calendar, which therefore occurs on a different date each year. When I was growing up, a moveable feast meant that I was fixing a sandwich at my house but walking across the pasture to my grandparents' house to eat it.

April. April is going to serve as the relaunching of our outdoor worship services at Englewood UMC. It's hard to believe that this is our second Easter that will look different due to the pandemic. All of us are aware of the challenges COVID-19 still presents to the church's schedule.

It's stressful to try and plan another major holiday around the restrictions of COVID. It's stressful to feel like you're missing out on past traditions and making adjustments. But, if we've learned anything this year it's that God's reach isn't limited to just inside of our sanctuary, but we can actually gather for "Sunday" school as a "Monday", "Thursday" or "Zoom" school, and that flexibility is key to making memorable celebrations.

April. I can't wait until we meet again outside on the Bell Tower Lawn for April and May worship services and see and hear God speak to us in the midst of Creation.

Actually, I think we can change the thoughts of April being the "cruelest month" and make it one of great memories for our Englewood family.

Shalom,

Pastor Terry



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Maundy Thursday: April 1

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship
Englewood UMC and Saint Paul UMC
(Facebook Live and then posted on Website:
www.Englewood-umc.com)



Good Friday: April 2

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship
Englewood UMC and Saint Paul UMC
(Facebook Live and then posted on Website:
www.Englewood-umc.com)



Easter Sunday, April 4

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship - EUMC Bell Tower Lawn
10:30 a.m. Worship - EUMC Bell Tower Lawn

Remember to bring
live flowers to place
on the cross on
Easter Sunday,

April 4 at
10:30 a.m.

Please arrive early
to allow time to place
the flowers on the
cross before the
service starts.



BEGINNING EASTER SUNDAY...AND YES, WE ARE EXCITED...

Our COVID-19 Response Team met recently and decided that for the months of April and May we will explore our worship of God back out on the Bell Tower Lawn. This decision was not made in haste; as with all decisions that have been made by this team over the past year, much thought and prayer went into our process. With so many of our friends and fellow members still feeling a bit uncomfortable about gathering indoors, and with the long anticipated break from the cold winter weather, we'll be worshipping God in the midst of Creation. What better way could there be to celebrate this Spring season together?!

Because of our ability to distance outdoors, we will relax some of our guidelines for worship at these services:

- Please be sure to wear your mask when walking to and from your vehicle to worship or when talking with your friends. However, once you're seated, you may remove your mask for our time of worship. This is a personal choice for you to make while remembering to "do no harm". We will still wear masks when inside the building.
- We ask that you continue to practice social distancing and place your chairs at least six feet away from other seating groups.
- You will not need to register for outdoor worship services, and we will not have a check-in process before worship.
- If we experience inclement weather during any of our Sundays outside, we'll simply retreat indoors and follow protocols as currently in place (wearing masks, socially distanced seating, and temperature checks).
- We will continue to livestream our services to our Facebook page for those who wish to participate from home, and they will be posted to our website (www.Englewood-umc.com) later in the day.

We are so excited to see you, and we pray that as we move into summer more of our members will have time to be vaccinated and the jeopardy of meeting together will be even lower. The past five months of offering the opportunity for in-sanctuary worship have been a blessing. We are so fortunate that not a single outbreak from COVID-19 occurred as a result of our being indoors, and that we were still able to connect with our whole church family through online worship.

Let's keep making wise decisions for the broader good of all, and together we'll continue to let Englewood be Englewood and, as always, give the glory and thanks to God.



Our Sympathy Is Expressed To:

Grace Bellamy and family upon the deaths of her cousins, **Howard Moss and Gail Williams.**

Thank You

Dear Friends, Church Choir & Members,

What a wonderful surprise! Thank you all for the beautiful prayer shawl I received honoring Ruth. She loved her church and especially her choir. Thanks for loving and caring for her. I will always remember you for your love for Ruth.

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal—and I know where Ruth is.

Love & Prayers,
Hazel Murray
(Sister of Ruth Jones)

Thank You

Dear Flower Ministry,

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful flowers that Janice Roberson dropped off for me.

They are so pretty and I have really enjoyed them each day.

Again, thank you!

Love,
Mary Bandy Simpson

Thank You

Englewood United Methodist Church
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you for the lovely prayer shawl that you sent me in appreciation of my friendship and care for Ruth Jones. As you well know, she was a special lady...as well as a dear friend.

Sincerely,
Lynette F. Street

Thank You

Thank You Englewood UMC!

Thank you to the Flower Ministry for the beautiful flowers that brighten my week and to Janice Roberson for delivering them to me.

Shirley Frederick



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

03	Lois Barnes	18	Krista Kann
05	Adam Hodges	18	Kimberly Murrill
08	Sally Spreder	21	Doug Bullock
09	Melissa Barbour	21	Gary Green
09	Shirley Frederick	21	Holt Hodges
11	Tyler Clark	21	Patrick Holt
11	Richard Ladd	22	Eric Pullen
12	Mary O'Donnell	23	Peter Varney
12	Signe Ulrich	24	John Batts
13	Blaine Corrick	25	Alex Beasley
15	William Dove II	27	Tommye Collins
16	Bobbie Streater	29	Sally Zeigler

Birth



Congratulations to

*Keegan & Kristi Ray
upon the birth of their twin sons,*

Quentin Tucker Ray and Murphy Owen Ray

on February 24, 2021.

Big brothers are Finley and Kayden Ray.

Grandparents are Donnie & Cindy Barnes.

Aunt is Alyson Barnes.

Great grandparents are Don and Lois Barnes.

Thank You

On behalf of the Englewood Elementary School staff, thank you so much to you and your members for providing lunch for us. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. Those surprises help with the morale so much!! Thanks again!

Michelle Griffin
Englewood Elementary School Principal

Thank You

Many thanks for all the prayers, cards, and flowers from the Flower Ministry. Also thanks to Pastor Terry for his encouragement and prayers. It's people like you that made my surgery seem so trivial, because I have no pain, zero side effects and my daughter (although she said she was not a nurse) took wonderful care of me.

I hope to be back with my church family very soon.

Helen Bronner

CONGRATULATIONS ENGLEWOOD UMC!

For the first time in almost 10 years, **you** gave to our Missional Giving in Full as set by the Annual Conference! How awesome is that! But **you** just didn't stop there, **you** contributed to each of our Special Sunday Offerings, and then on top of that, **you** supported one project in each of the Five lanes of the Rainbow Covenant. Each lane is as follows: Persons in Mission, NCC Advance Missions, National Missions, World Missions, and UMCOR.

"Each lane reminds the local church that it has touched persons with the love of God in its own community, in the broader areas of the Conference, on a national level, and throughout the world." This is about **you** being part of a "Connectional Giving Church"—as Englewood United Methodist Church. "As a connected church—the word *united* is in our very name—we work together to accomplish what could never be done on our own."

(from the United Methodist Church Handbook)

Englewood, **you** are the hands and feet of Christ! Give God all the glory and honor for all the great things He has done!

So Congratulations Englewood United Methodist Church for letting God use **you** to transform the world!



FAITH CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES OF NASH COUNTY - APRIL NEEDS

Thank you for your continued support of this mission project by donating food to feed the hungry in Nash County. We sent approximately 2 boxes to this agency last month. This agency supports all of Nash County, not just Nashville. This continues to be very important with all the health issues and job problems due to the Coronavirus. Many more people will be in need of food. So let's step up to the plate with donations. The Outreach Committee will deliver the food. You just need to drop it at the church.

Starting Sunday, April 4th, the "Meals of the Month" donation will be **Canned Ham, Dried Beans, and Canned Greens**. There is a tub and two yellow boxes located in the area beneath the name tags in the church lobby, labeled "**FCM MEALS OF THE MONTH**". Please donate these food items to help stock their food pantry throughout the month of April. This is another wonderful opportunity for this generous congregation to help others who can't help themselves.

Flower Vases

As you know, the ladies in the Flower Ministry distribute flowers to the shut-ins each week using the flowers from Sunday worship. This requires several vases each week. If you have vases (especially bud vases) at your home that you could contribute to this cause, please bring them to the church kitchen or church office. If you do not feel comfortable bringing them to the church, please call the church office (252-443-2926) and we will make arrangements to pick them up from your home. Thank you!

2021 FLOWER CALENDAR

There are still many Sundays available on the 2021 Flower Calendar for you to reserve that special Sunday to provide flowers for worship in memory of your loved ones or in honor of a special event in your family.

The 2021 Flower Calendar is now online on the church website (www.Englewood-UMC.com). Under the Worship heading click on Flowers. Scroll down for instructions to use the calendar to reserve a date. Click on the Sunday you would like to provide flowers. If the date is available, provide your name, email and the message you would like placed in the bulletin regarding the person(s) or event being honored by the flowers. Click 'Submit'. You should get an e-mail confirmation that your date has been reserved.

If you have questions or are unable to make your reservation, call the church office (252-443-2926) and we will be happy to help you.

As in the past, you will receive an e-mail or phone call reminder the week before your scheduled Sunday.

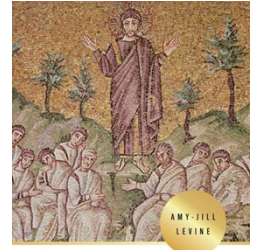


EUMC Book Club

Our EUMC Book Club will meet again on Monday, May 24nd at 7:00 p.m. to discuss our next reading selection: *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven* by Amy-Jill Levin.

There are three copies of each of our books for 2021 in the church library on the UMW shelf. Feel free to check them out to read and return them when finished. You can also purchase your own copy (the books are all available on Amazon).

Everyone is welcome to participate! Our May meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall, following the church's protocol for indoor gatherings.



SERMON
on
the MOUNT
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Women of the Way

The Women of the Way Circle invites everyone to donate paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, etc. to The Lighthouse. You may bring them to the church on Sunday or during the week.



Please contact
Jeannie Gibbs for
more information.

Thank You!

Lydia's Sisters Circle

Lydia's Sisters will meet April 20th at 6:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be socially distanced and masked.

OUR YEAR-TO-DATE RECORD

(Thru March 28, 2021)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Ministry Needs

	<i>Monthly Actual</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Receipts	\$44,079.18	\$120,940.26
Goal	\$35,260.00	\$105,780.00

Our 2021 General Budget includes our Missional Giving

AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP



AUTISM
AWARENESS

Our group is continuing to meet via Zoom. We have been receiving especially valuable information for families and will post to our Facebook page, Twin County Autism Family Support Group-Rocky Mount or on our website, twincoutyautism.org. Join us as we reach out to support our families. Please tell someone about this ministry. Call Barbara Batts, 450-5000 for more information.

The Autism Society of America is kicking-off its annual #CelebrateDifferences campaign in April with two exciting events on Facebook Live. On April 1st, a panel discussion about Autism Acceptance Month will feature autistic self-advocates, Anthony Ianni, Chloe Rothschild and Kris Guin; then on April 2nd, Freeform's cast of 'Everything's Gonna Be Okay' will lead a discussion on what it means to accept people no matter their differences.

#CelebrateDifferences aims to champion those affected by autism to live full, quality lives through connection and acceptance. This coincides with Autism Society's collaborative effort to advocate for a formal federal designation to make April *Autism Acceptance Month*.



**The deadline for receiving
information to be included in
the MAY Newsletter
is April 20th!**



Help Needed!

The Flower Ministry needs volunteers for the months of
March, June, September, and December.

Please call Sharon Dunn at 252-443-1920 for more information.

Thank you!



“Our loving actions can be God’s presence to others.”

ANNOUNCING A NEW OUTREACH MINISTRY!

“Caring Card” ministry is a way that all of our members can reach out and provide a loving, caring touch to others. What can you do to help? Just write a loving note and sign your name! The cards, names, addresses, stamps and instructions will be provided. When you complete your cards, you may mail them, have someone come pick them up from you, or you can drop them off at the church to be mailed. We will send cards to the people listed on the back of our church bulletin. Cards will be sent monthly.

How can you volunteer? Call or text Barbara Batts, 252-450-5000 or email, bbatts291@aol.com and say YES! Our Caring Card ministry is a perfect way to send God’s spirit and the love of EUMC to person’s needing a boost of caring! If you are “inside” during this time of COVID, this is a wonderful way to “reach out” to those who need a hug, giving them words of encouragement and love.

Thank you,
Your Outreach Committee



CANINES FOR SERVICE UPDATE

We just completed another successful Souper Bowl of Caring, but I thought you might like an update on SBC 2020. I talked with the people at Canines for Service in March to get an update on “our dogs”, **Wesley** and **Tabitha**. If you remember, these are the dogs we rescued for our 2020 Souper Bowl of Caring. So something good did happen in 2020!! Both dogs are happy, healthy and doing very well. Wesley is currently in intermediate training and Tabitha is working on her basic training. As we have all seen with a lot of things, the pandemic has also slowed things down at CFS but both dogs are very much progressing as expected. The staff told me they are both very loving dogs and work hard with their training. But they also love a good bone or being with people when not in training. Below you will see current pictures of both dogs. Wesley is relaxing with a bone after a training session and Tabitha is looking very grand with her trainer.



Isn't it awesome to know that what YOU did made a big difference in these dogs lives and will make a GREAT difference in the independence of two veterans in the future!!

Youth News

UMYF APRIL SCHEDULE

Sunday	April 4	No UMYF - Easter Sunday
Sunday	April 11	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm UMYF
Sunday	April 18	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm UMYF
Sunday	April 25	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm UMYF

UMYF Dinners

Our UMYF is continuing to meet on Sundays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for dinner, Bible study, games, and fellowship. If you are able to provide a meal for our UMYF one Sunday evening, our group would really appreciate your help! You can either bring the meal or donate financially toward our meal fund. Thank you for your ongoing support of our UMYF!

YARD SALE

After missing both of our church yard sales for 2020, we're ready to give it a try in 2021!

Our spring yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 1st from 7:00 a.m. to noon. We're still working on some of the details for how to make this event work safely, but we want to make sure you have the date on your calendars! If you have items that you would like to donate to the youth for us to sell, you can bring them to the Rock or the room behind the Fellowship Hall stage.

Our children will also be selling baked goods at the yard sale as a fundraiser for our Children's Ministry! If you would like to donate baked goods (cakes, cupcakes, cookies, brownies, muffins, etc.) please wrap/package them individually and bring them to the church kitchen by Friday, April 30th.

Thank you for supporting our Youth Mission Fund and Children's Ministry Fund!!!



Children's Church

Our children and adult leaders are having such a wonderful time learning about God's Word in Children's Church during worship on Sunday mornings! Our nursery, which is open to our youngest children, as well as Children's Church (for children in Pre-K through 5th Grade) are meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Our theme for April is "Resurrection". Here's what we'll be learning about each week:

- April 4 Easter (John 20:1-18)
- April 11 Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
- April 18 Breakfast at the Sea (John 21:1-19)
- April 25 The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)



Saturday Morning CAFE (Children And Families @ Englewood)

Our next Saturday Morning CAFE will be on **April 17th at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall!!! Our theme for April is "Growing in God" and we'll learn that just like we grow taller and bigger as we get older, we can also grow closer to God. We hope all of our EUMC families with children will join us!

The Saturday Morning CAFE is designed for children to participate with their family, whether that is parents, a grandparent, or any adult who wants to share this special time with them! We will gather in the Fellowship Hall, which gives us plenty of space to spread out and allows each family to have their own space. To help us prepare, please let Savanna know if you are planning to participate ahead of time.



**Saturday Morning
CAFE**

Children And Families @ Englewood