

## FUMC Prepares for Poignant Holy Week

Several new approaches to sharing the Passion story are featured in this year's Holy Week observances at Elkin FUMC.

A combination commemoration of the Last Supper and Tenebrae (Service of Shadows) will take place in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 13 at 7:30 pm. The experience will open with the lighting of the table candles in the tradition of the Passover meal followed by celebration of the Eucharist. The service will segue into the Tenebrae featuring the gradual extinguishing of the table candles with related readings. The service will end in silence as the evening moves toward Good Friday.

On Good Friday, the primary commemoration will be through 14 Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary. Meditation booklets will guide worshippers through the stations depicting the major occurrences with Jesus on his road to Crucifixion. The final station features leaving the Sanctuary through the "tomb." Several persons have been working on Wednesday evenings planning and preparing the stations. The Sanctuary will open at 1 pm and remain open until 9 pm or until the last person completes the stations.

At 8 pm on Good Friday, those who are in the middle of "journeying" through the stations may pause and others join to participate in a short worship experience featuring poetry, music and prayer. At the conclusion, participants may complete the stations.

A new feature this Easter is the addition of a special Gathering at the Well breakfast held between the two worship services in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring some type of breakfast food: breakfast casserole, pastries, biscuits, sausage balls, etc. to share as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



*Larry and Birdie Johnson work on a crown for one of the Stations of the Cross during a Wednesday evening preparation session. Individuals have teamed to plan, design, and construct the 14 stations to be featured in the Sanctuary on Good Friday. In addition, they wrote reflections that can be used for prayer and meditation at each of the stations.*

### Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9

**8:45 am – Early Worship**

**9:45 am – Sunday School**

**10:55 am – Worship**

The service begins outside in front of the church weather permitting.

### Holy Thursday, April 13

**7:30 pm – A Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae**  
(Fellowship Hall)

### Good Friday, April 14

**Anytime between 1 and 9 pm - Stations of the Cross**  
(Sanctuary)

**8 pm - Pause from Stations of the Cross for Worship**  
(Sanctuary)

### Saturday, April 15

**10 am – Easter Egg Hunt**

### Easter, April 16

**8:45 am – Service of First Light**

Gather around the fire in front of the Chapel.

**9:45 am – Special Gathering at the Well**  
(Fellowship Hall)

**10:55 am – Easter Worship in the Sanctuary**

Don't forget to bring fresh flowers for the Easter cross.

## New Application Process Implemented for Scholarship

Applications are now available for the Calvin and Evelyn Wright Award to be given to a 2017 high school graduate (or GED) from our congregation. This year all applications are to be completed and submitted online no later than 5 pm on Thursday, April 27. Students wishing to apply should go to <https://goo.gl/forms/105FPAVAIKMatTzV2>.

Consideration is given to church participation (30%), financial need (25%), candidate interview (15%), application questions/essay (15%), academics (10%) and references (5%).

The Wrights were devoted educators and long-time members of our congregation. This award was established in their memory "to assist students as they pursue their educational goals."

This year's committee is under the new leadership of Co-Chairpersons Larry Irwin and Taylor Gaddis. Dosha Teachey, Jerre Boren and James Freeman serve on the committee. Thanks to Louise Cockerham and Marian Spencer who served faithfully for many years and have passed on the "mantle" to new leadership.

# Announcements & Reminders

**YOUTH TO VISIT HOMEBOUND:** The youth will leave after the 10:55 am worship service on Palm/Passion Sunday for lunch and to visit some of our homebound members.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE:** You are invited to the Annual Easter Sunrise Service in the Vineyards at RagApple Lassie hosted by Boonville United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 16 at 6:40 am. Chairs will be available or you may bring a lawn chair. Breakfast will follow the service in the Boonville Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** The church office will be closed on Monday, April 17 in observance of the Easter holiday. Pastor Mark will be on vacation the week after Easter working on his dissertation in Washington, DC.

**PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS NEEDED:** One of our neighbors at Chatham Woods, Beanie Taylor, is stocking one of the food stations in our areas and is in need particularly of personal care products. This station, along with several others, are for anyone who needs food or other necessary items. Our Mission Team is going to partner with Beanie as together we provide another way to help those in need. Details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

**TRAIL WORKDAY:** Everyone is invited to our next trail workday on April 22 at 8:30 am to do some “heavier work.” If you would like to volunteer, meet at the end of Yorkfield Dr. just off Carter Mill Rd. For more information, contact Herb MacDonald at herbmacedonald999@gmail.com.

**SOUP FOR HOLY THURSDAY:** Elkin FUMC will provide the soup for the Thursday meal of the Holy Week Services, partnering with Wesley’s Chapel and Piney Grove Churches who will provide the sandwiches and desserts. You can help by making a crockpot of soup for the Thursday meal. Please assist us by signing up on the sheet located on the bulletin board across from the office by Palm/Passion Sunday. It is very important that we have an accurate number of crockpots to expect so we can plan accordingly.

**CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS:** As the end of the academic semester and final exams approach, nothing lifts the spirits of a college student more than a care package from home. Once again, the youth are collecting goodies to go in care packages for about 20 college students from our congregation. You are invited to help them out by bringing 20 of the same item(s) and drop them off at Cindy Furr’s office before Sunday, April 23 when the youth will assemble them for mailing. Suggested items can be found in the March 30 edition of *The First Word*.

**CHURCH WORKDAY IS SET FOR APRIL 29:** The trustees invite volunteers to assist them in the next church workday on Saturday, April 29 beginning around 9 am. There are quite a few projects to be done as we “spruce up for Spring.”

**STEPS RENOVATION:** The Trustees are moving on to the next capital project, renovation of the steps and walkway in

front of the main entrance to the Sanctuary. Work will begin as soon as funds are raised (approximately \$23,000.) Prayerfully consider a contribution and designate it for the Capital Fund. For more information, contact Steve Wells, Trustees Chairperson (stevenwlls990@gmail.com).

**NEW DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS:** April 30 is the deadline for Project AGAPE donations and UMCOR kits. Consult the March 30 edition of *The First Word* or www.wnccumc.net for details. Information sheets are also available on the table located outside of the Library.

**REMINDER: NO CHILDREN’S CHOIRS, WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER OR WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES THE WEEK FOLLOWING EASTER.**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Church Family:** Bliss Vanderpool, Ann Graham, Sam Tesh, Holly Gambill, Betty Tesh, Rev. Paul McCauley, Sallie Park, Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhayat, Ray Fencil, Linda Maxey, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Greta Wallace, Bill Amburn, Matthew Brown, nursing home residents & homebound

**Extended Care:** Jim Cockerham, Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Jenny Brown

**Extended Family:** Hattie Ford, Ruth Deck, Aileen Sparks, Sarah Jarvis, John Seats, Vickie Key, Richard Sparks, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, McKenzie Barneycastle, Clifford Jordan, Rick Gallimore, Ronnie Ray, Lelia Carico, Nada Sheets, Lana Craft, Gertrude Hamm, Emily Stewart, Family of Bob Norton, Andess Weishaupt, Ethan Spencer, Shirley Williams, Tim, James Sebastian, Dick Bailey, Family of Linda Perkins, Anne Marlette

**All of our military personnel and their families**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Youth Ministry Team**  
Monday, April 10, 6:30 pm (Library)

**Trustees** — *No April Meeting*

**Staff-Parish Relations Committee**  
Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 pm (Library)

**Worship Ministry Team**  
Tuesday, April 18, 6:30 pm (Library)

**Finance Team**  
Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 pm (Library)

**Vision & Leadership Team**  
Sunday, April 23, 12:15 pm (Library)

**Missions Team**  
Monday, April 24, 7:00 pm (Library)

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