

✝ PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD “Praise God” UMH 95

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

✝ HYMN OF PREPARATION “And Can It Be that I Should Gain” UMH 363

✝ SCRIPTURE READING *Acts 16:16-34*

SERMON “Jesus Set Us Free!” Rev. Howard James

✝ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHP “Only Trust Him” UMH 337

(You are invited to pray at the Communion railing.)

✝ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✝ BENEDICTION

✝ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We leave this place of prayer, to join God in listening to the hopes and dreams, the hidden fears and the doubts of our neighbors. We leave this place of grace, to share the compassion and joy of Jesus with others, so they will discover how deeply they are loved. We leave to be with the people of our world, so the Spirit might bless us with their rich gifts, and we may discover our oneness in God. Amen.

✝ POSTLUDE Nan Leggett, Organist

✝ Please stand if you are able.

The lovely flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God.

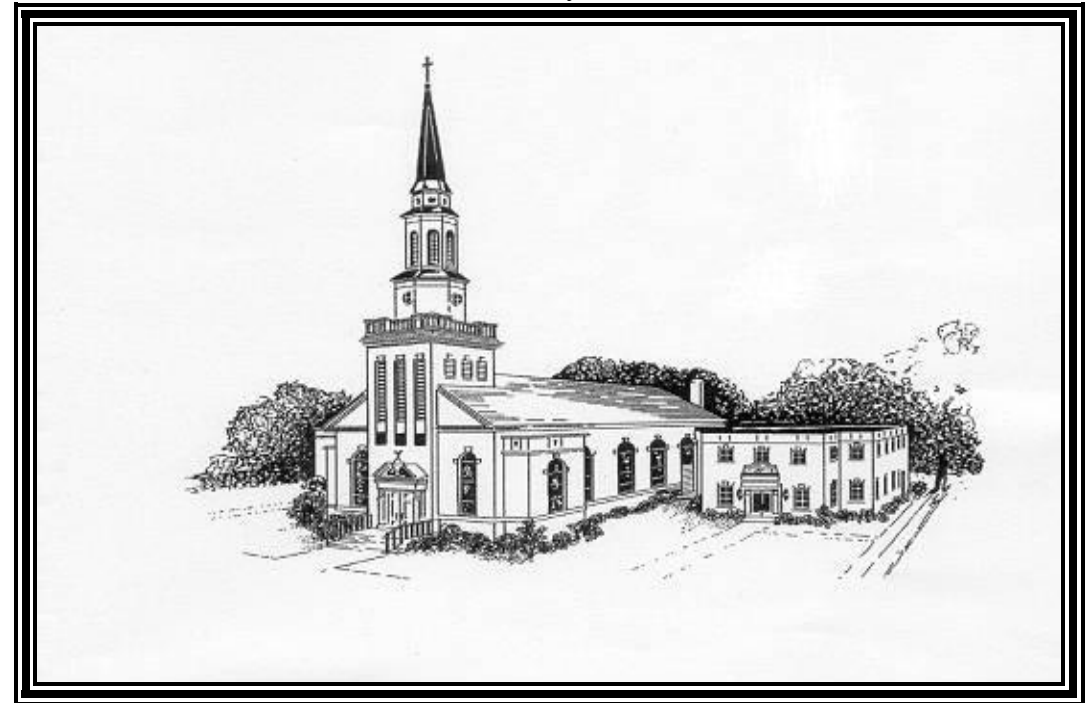
SERVING THIS MORNING

Greeters..... Rob Conway & Tom Leggett
Music Director.....L.A. Cothorn
Organist..... Nan Leggett
Pianist.....Geneva Ashley
Altar Committee.....Sandy Turner, Margie Rabon
and Elizabeth Gibson

WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

902 Pinckney Street, Whiteville, NC 28472
(910) 642-3376
wumc@whitevilleumc.org
Rev. Howard James

April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church
As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ’s name.

Welcome to Whiteville United Methodist Church

Thank you for worshiping with us today! We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, program, and ministry life here.

We hope the worship will inspire and comfort you as we hear God's message proclaimed. During this time, now more than ever, may the grace and love of Christ surround you.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please use a microphone.)

Rob Conway

PRELUDE

Nan Leggett, Organist

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(Symbolizing the presence of the Spirit of the Lord in our service.)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

✝ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the midst of their troubles, Paul and Silas chose to pray and sing.

People: We join them in lifting our voices, even when the foundations of our world are shaking.

Leader: No prison door is too heavy, and no chain is too strong for the presence of the Lord.

People: We offer a sacrifice of praise, knowing that our God inhabits the songs of His people.

All: Let our worship today break chains and open doors to new life and salvation. AMEN!

✝ HYMN OF PRAISE

“God Will Take Care of You”

UMH 130

✝ UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Lord, We come to You with chains of despair, fear, and doubt, and lay them down at Your feet, knowing that Your power can break every chain and open every door. Just as you rescued Paul and Silas from prison, we ask You to send forth Your mighty Spirit to shake the foundations of our lives and awaken in us the hope of deliverance. Break our chains of despair with your grace. And, may our hearts choose to praise You, even in the midst of our trials. Let our praises ring out as a sweet sound to You, as we realize even the darkest nights culminate in the most remarkable dawns in you Kingdom. In Jesus name we pray, Amen!

✝ STATEMENT OF FAITH

Affirmation from 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 1:15; 3:16 (UMH 889)

Leader: There is one God and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus, who came as a ransom for all, to whom we testify.

People: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory. Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen.

✝ GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

✝ WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND RESPONSE

Leader: O Lord, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith. Forgive us when we are shackled by our narrow understandings of discipleship and our clouded sense of purpose. Forgive us when we are frightened of the future or pull back from the demand of your calling. Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past, to acknowledge your grace in the present moment, and to trust you for our future.

People: We seek renewed and renewing faith. Touch us now with your Spirit, Lord. Through your Spirit we stand in the assurance of your acceptance, and are drawn into the illumination of your empowering love. In love we offer ourselves and stand together as your disciples. Amen!

✝ THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE

Piano Selection

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

“You Raise Me Up” arr. by Roger Emerson
Mac McGougan & L.A. Cothorn – Baritone
Nan Leggett - Piano

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Whiteville United Methodist Church.

Visitors, please complete a Visitor's Card, which can be found in the pew rack, and place it in the offertory basket in the Narthex. We are happy to have you here with us today. Thank you.

The Ayre family will be joining the church on April 26th. All are invited to a picnic at their residence following service, around 12 noon @ **226 Mary White Rd. Whiteville.**

Retirement Party for our very own Gus Cothorn, will be given by Edgewood Elementary on Sunday, May 3 beginning at 3:00.

Church Rummage Sale Saturday, June 6 from 8:00-2:00. Donations for the rummage sale are still being accepted in the classroom across from the fellowship hall bathrooms. No Clothing please.

Blood Drive Thursday, June 11 from 2:00-6:30 in the fellowship hall. If you would like to donate to volunteer, please see Patricia Ray or Peggy Huffman.

Prayer Concerns: Tom Leggett, Jan Avant, Myra Snipes, Wayne & Linda Overcash, Dick & Janice Simms, Butch & Sharon Dutton, Sabra Allen, John Turner, Florence Marlowe, Mary Hutchins, Phil Stoll, Wendy Hood, Peggy & Ralph Huffman.

Prayers of Support for our ongoing ministries: WUMC Preschool & Staff, Scouts, Food Pantry.

Prayer Requests: Contact the Church Office at wumc@whitevilleumc.org to add or remove names. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks.

Ongoing ministries:

Adult Sunday School: Meet in parlor @ 9:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School (ages 3-12): Upstairs classroom @ 9:00 a.m.

Handbell Rehearsals: Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsals: Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts [ages 11-18] Mondays @ 7:00 p.m.

Cub Scouts [ages 6-10] Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: @ 10:00 a.m. in the parlor

Preschool [ages 2-4] Monday – Friday 8:15-11:30 a.m.

Fifty-Plus Exercise Class: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the parlor

Food Bank: distributes food on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.


United Women of Faith: 1st Monday of the month @ 6:00 p.m. in the parlor


Caregivers Support Group: 2nd Thursday of the month @ 1:00 p.m. in the parlor


Reaching Out: 4th Tuesday of the month @ 11:30 (support group for widows and widowers)

Join us for

A Retirement Concert Honoring Gus Cothorn



 **SUNDAY, MAY 3**
3:00 PM Reception to follow

 **WHITEVILLE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
902 Pinckney St, Whiteville

Join us for a free concert celebrating Gus Cothorn 'Mr. C' as he retires after 37 years of teaching music at Edgewood Elementary School.

 **Edgewood Chorus Alumni:
You are invited to participate!**

Scan the QR code or visit mrccconcert.carrd.co
FOR MORE INFO & WAYS TO PARTICIPATE



2026 Church Budget	\$394,528.00
As of 04/19, Needed	\$78,966.00
As of 04/19, Received	\$52,059.00
Needed Each Sunday	\$5,664.00
Received on 04/19	\$4,186.00
Attendance 04/19	41
Online Views	