

✝ SCRIPTURE READING

*John 15:1-8*

SERMON

“The True Vine”

Rev. Howard James

✝ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

“There’s a Spirit in the Air”

UMH #192

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

✝ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✝ BENEDICTION

✝ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: Beloved children of God, love one another well. Be born in the Spirit of grace. Grow into branches bearing the fruit of love: peace, joy, hope, faith.

**People: We will abide in Christ’s generous love. We will live in the fullness of hope. We will remember that the greatest harvest is the harvest of love.**

✝ POSTLUDE

“Maestoso” F. Walczynski

Nan Leggett, Organist

✝ Please stand if you are able.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Soo Soo and Glenn  
in memory of  
Ferebee Sledge, Katharine Sledge, and Elizabeth Magenbauer*

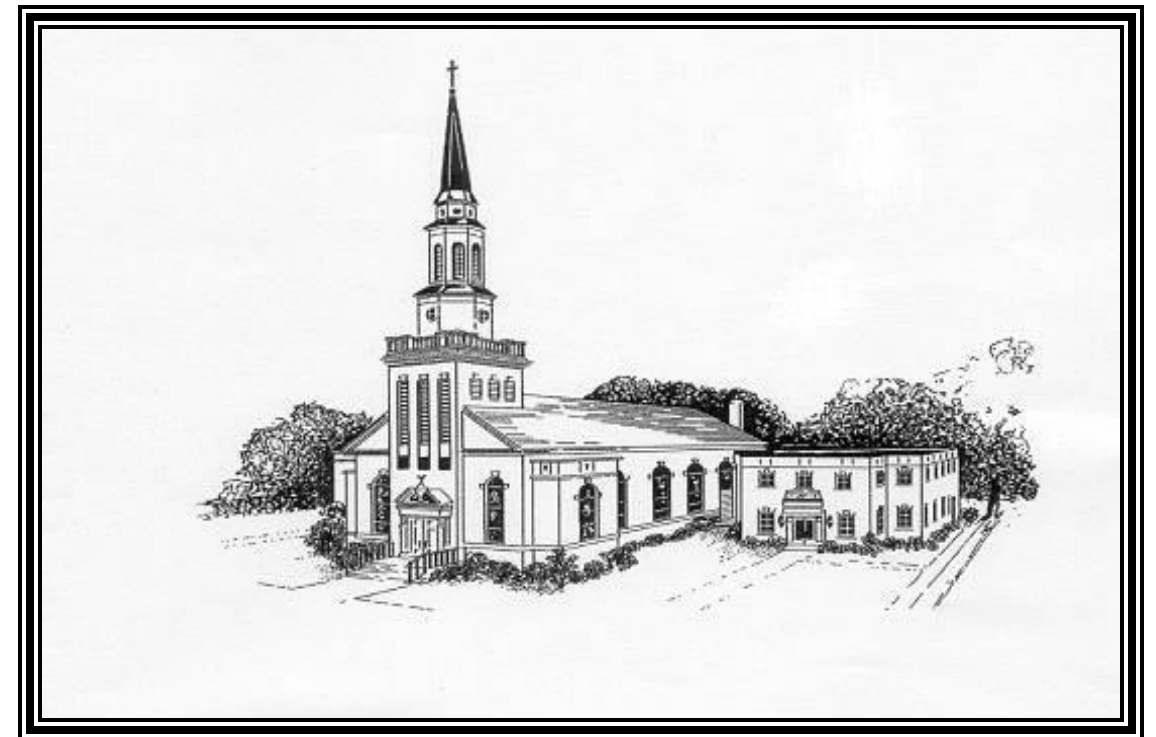
**SERVING THIS MORNING**

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

# WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024



**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 worshipping 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

“Andante” J. Stanley

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: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**People: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

Leader: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**People: We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

Leader: If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**People: We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

Leader: We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

**People: May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.**

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

UMH #92

✠ UNISON OPENING PRAYER

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

✠ APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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: Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us. Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name and it will be granted. In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God, the gardener of our hearts.**

✠ THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE

Piano Selection

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

“Deep Within” arr. by Mark Hayes

L.A. Cothorn, Baritone

Nan Leggett, Piano

✠ PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

“Praise God” UMH# 95

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

✠ HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

UMH #189

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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.

**WUMC Information Update** forms are available in the narthex or church office. We are using these forms to update our email list, birthday list, church directory, etc. **These forms will be used to build our new church email list and directory. If these forms aren't filled out and turned in it may result in you not receiving emails or text messages from the church and you may not be included in our directory. Thank you!**

**Newsletter Articles** for our May/June newsletter should be emailed or turned into the office no later than Monday, April 29 please.

**Spring Yard Sale:** May 4 the church will hold another yard sale. Please bring items to the classroom across from the fellowship hall as you begin your spring cleaning. No clothes! Helpers are needed for Friday, May 3 to help move items from the classroom to the fellowship hall at 12:00. For more information, please contact Ann Pait. Thank you!

**Prayer Concerns:** Marty Ward, Kathy Graham & Family, Alan Pait, Emily Stephens, Tiffany Locklear, John Turner, Sabra Allen, Peggy & Ralph Huffman, Jim Rabon, Lynda Thompson, Dan Biser, Marie Burnham Thompson, Thetus Sessions, Dan Smith, Sara Brooks, Carolyn & David Nix, Melinda Cook, Margaret Hicks, Bob & Alma Deans, Wayne Overcash, Jan Avant, Jim Hill, Grant Smith, John and Louise Barkley.

**Prayer Requests:** Contact the Church Office at [wumc@whitevilleumc.org](mailto:wumc@whitevilleumc.org) to add or remove names.

### Ongoing ministries:

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

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

**Caregivers Support Group:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month @ 1:00 p.m. in the parlor

**Reaching Out:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month @ 6 p.m. at Dale's Seafood

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

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

**Handbell Rehearsals:** Wednesdays

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

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

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** @ 9:30 a.m. in the parlor

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

<i>2024 Church Budget</i>	<i>\$262,331.00</i>
<i>As of 04/21, Needed</i>	<i>\$80,720.00</i>
<i>As of 04/21, Received</i>	<i>\$59,565.00</i>
<i>Needed Each Sunday</i>	<i>\$5,045.00</i>
<i>Received on 04/21</i>	<i>\$1,640.00</i>
<i>Attendance 04/21</i>	<i>27</i>

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