

✝ HYMN OF PREPARATION                      “Lord, Speak to Me”                      #463 UMH

✝ SCRIPTURE READING                      *John 11:1-45*

SERMON                      “Lord, if you had been here...”                      Rev. Howard James

✝ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP                      “Blessed Assurance”                      #369 UMH  
(You are invited to pray at the Communion railing.)

✝ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✝ BENEDICTION

✝ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: We are a people loved by God.

**People: We will live as signs of this love.**

Leader: We are a people blessed with hope.

**People: We will live in light of this hope.**

Leader: May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the courage of the Spirit, strengthen our faith and set us loose to share God’s love with all.

**People: Amen and amen!**

✝ POSTLUDE                      “Rondo” attributed to John Bull/ arr. by S. Drummond Wolff  
L.A. Cothorn, Organ

✝ Please stand if you are able.

*The 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.....Suzanne Hall, Celia Lynch,  
Margie Rabon, Sandy Turner and Gina Deans  
Soundboard.....Bob Page

# WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 26, 2023



**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 at Whiteville. 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** "Aria" from Suite in D by J.S. Bach/ arr. by S. Drummond Wolff

L.A. Cothorn, Organ

### 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: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

**People: We are learning to follow Jesus.**

Leader: this Lenten journey, where do we find God's presence among us?

**People: One thing we know: God calls us to witness extraordinary love in ordinary moments.**

Leader: On this Lenten journey, how does God's presence work among us?

**People: One thing we know: God uses the messy and mundane to heal and restore us to one another.**

Leader: On this Lenten journey, what does God's presence do in our midst?

**People: One thing we know: God opens us to recognize presence, sustenance, and abundance where the world perceives isolation and lack.**

Leader: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

**People: We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.**

#### ✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

"Ask Ye What Great Think I Know"

UMH #163

#### ✠ UNISON OPENING PRAYER

**God of life, present and promised, you are the One to whom we call: for you are the One who hears, and you are the One who acts, bringing us new life with your grace and love and power. Lead us in our time of worship, that we may be prepared to follow your lead in places where life is at risk— places where hope seems far away, places where dreams die during sleep. When we leave these walls, help us live the teachings we proclaim within this place of worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

**Out of the depths of darkness and despair we have cried out for your mercy, O God. Instead of marking our iniquities with the just weight of our condemnation, you have forgiven us, breathed new life into our souls so that we may now stand, a cleansed, holy, and fully alive people. In Christ, we are forgiven.**

#### THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE

Piano Selection

#### PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER

#### OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Jane Schulken Handbell Choir

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" arr. by Anna Laura Page

#### ✠ PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD ("Praise God")

#95 UMH

#### ✠ CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Suzanne Hall

## 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.

**The Reaching Out** group will meet Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Dale's Seafood.

**Lenten Lunches** will continue this Wednesday March 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:00 pm.

**The United Women in Faith** will meet on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor. We will finish our project for the Food Pantry clients.

**The Food Pantry** would like to thank the ladies Wednesday Morning Bible Study group and each person that contributed to our February food drive.

**Flowering of the Cross** represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of his resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol. This year, as you come to Easter Sunday Service, pause by the cross, say a short prayer and add some flowers to it. You can bring flowers from your garden, your favorites that you purchased, or you can place flowers provided by the church.

**Prayer Concerns:** Rev. Wayne Brown, Ashley (daughter of Rev. Andy Anderson), Peggy Tancraitor (niece of Chalmers Waddell), Melinda Cook, Margaret Hicks, Tony Gore, Phyllis Merritt, Wayne Overcash, Jan Avant, Jim Hill, Sara Brooks, Thetus Sessions, Grant Smith, Bob Deans, John and Louise Barkley, Clara Hunsucker, Marty Ward.

**Prayer Requests:** Via email to the Church Office at [wumc@whitevilleumc.org](mailto:wumc@whitevilleumc.org).

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

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

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

**Choir Rehearsals on Wednesdays:** Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the choir room.

**Handbell Rehearsals on Wednesdays:** Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the handbell room.

**Food Pantry:** 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Cub Scouts: [ages 6-10]** Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall

**Boy Scouts: [ages 11-18]** Mondays @ 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall

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

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

<i>2023 Church Budget</i>	<i>\$292,488.00</i>
<i>As of 03/19, Needed</i>	<i>\$67,500.00</i>
<i>As of 03/19, Received</i>	<i>\$42,209.00</i>
<i>Needed Each Sunday</i>	<i>\$5,625.00</i>
<i>Received on 03/19</i>	<i>\$1,865.00</i>
<i>Attendance 03/19</i>	<i>104</i>

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