

Cloister thoughts...

In Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth, so many false teachings were popping up in the early church. In order to validate the credentials of those bringing the Word, letters of recommendation were required.

Here Paul is addressing this concern: *Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ towards God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*" (2 Corinthians 3:1-6)

During this time in antiquity, preachers would come with letters of recommendation to small churches, just recently organized, and they would plan to take advantage of the hospitality and kindness of the young Christian community. They would preach their version of the message, and if the church heard something that was strange to them, they questioned the visiting preacher. The preachers would be inquisitive of credentials.

Paul writes back to them, "Are you crazy?" You yourselves are our letter of recommendation. Your faith ought to commend me to you and to all the people who see you. You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on your hearts because I keep the memory of your faith with me all the time to encourage me, written on your hearts so that your life, your actions, your feelings, all you do, is evidence of your faith and can be seen by all people.

*Do you see yourself
as the end
of a long working out
of God's promises?*

You are my letters written in the "Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy down in your hearts." The faith, hope and love in Christ Jesus which they have in their hearts is the confirmation of Paul's credentials. That joy, that faith, is visible for all to see. You are letters of recommendation which all can see because of the way you love and deal with each other.

Paul takes it further stating they are not only his letters of recommendation, but they are letters of recommendation of the work of Christ. The faith and joy of Christ alive in their lives is ample evidence that the spirit and power of Christ must have been at work in Paul and through Paul in them ... because, heaven knows, Paul is not that kind of dynamic person. Paul says, look at the evidence, do you think I could have persuaded you of the reality of Jesus Christ on my own?

There is a whole lot of debate about the effectiveness of Paul as a public speaker and preacher within the church at Corinth. He is weak, has poor eyesight, is an invalid and is not very good looking. So Paul is aware of his faults, and he says your faith is not only a letter saying that I was an effective minister, but evidence that the power which came through me was the power of Jesus Christ to offer hope and make life vibrant. Paul encourages the disciples to look into their own hearts. He is calling them to the awareness that their lives give evidence of the story of God's activity in history: God giving the promises to Jeremiah to make a new covenant in the hearts of people.

Is that how you see yourself? Do you see yourself as the end of a long working out of God's promises? The Spirit of Christ is still at work making you a part of that new covenant people which was promised by Jeremiah. You are a letter of recommendation to those around you of the faithfulness, of the redemptive purposes and love of the power of God.

Is what others see authentic? Is it real? Does it propel the living faith of God to bring about transformation of the good in life? When others read the letter of your heart are they seeing the grace-filled presence of One who desires to understand, to love and to bring healing and wholeness to a hurting world?

IN-PERSON WORSHIP UPDATE WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP!

We are excited to begin the progression towards reopening and gathering together as the body of Christ on our campus! Our Sunday morning communion services on the patio have expanded to 30 people, and we will be increasing the number of attendees and services in the coming weeks.

At this time, we will not provide childcare. Pre-recorded and livestream worship options will still be available each week. Masks are required at all worship services. Services will be 40-45 minutes in length.

Small groups may begin meeting at church in late April; we'll keep you posted as those opportunities begin. Children and youth in-person activities will also increase. Please monitor your church emails and social media for announcements.

Holy Week

Holy Thursday, April 1

Sign up to attend a small-group, outdoor Communion service at 8am, 10am, 12noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, or 8pm.
An online worship service will also be offered.

Good Friday, April 2

Tenebrae online worship featuring our Haitian Stations of the Cross.

Holy Saturday, April 3

Brief online meditation and prayer service.

Easter Sunday, April 4

Services celebrating the risen Christ with special music emailed to you and streamed at hbumc.org and on Facebook.

6:30am sunrise worship service in the Stone Street lot
9am and 11am worship services in the Stone Street lot

Chairs will be provided for all services
Please park in the Reid Street lot
and walk down Fairview to the Stone Street lot
Attendance will be limited to 100 people per service;
please register to attend at hbumc.org/signups starting 3/19
If you have trouble registering online,
call Cheryl Fortineau at 919-832-6435 x1112.

First Sunday after Easter, April 11 – Sunday, May 16:

9am and 11am services in the Stone Street lot
Attendance may be increased as medical guidance allows

Beginning Pentecost Sunday, May 23:

9am outdoor worship in the Stone Street lot
11am indoor worship in the Sanctuary
Attendance will be limited to 100 people;
please register to attend

The Commissioner

Save the Dates for VBS

We are excited to announce that VBS is scheduled for August 2-6. Look for details coming soon about registration for volunteers, students, and information about our activities!

HBUMC Youth Scholarship Applications

Interested High School Senior church members active in the HBUMC youth programs are encouraged to apply. The application is available at:

hbumcyouth.com

Complete application packages are due by April 25, 2021.
Questions? Contact Tim Crawford at 919-349-2842.

HBUMC Youth Raleigh Mission Week July 12-16

This summer, since we are unable to travel to Nashville or host a "traditional" SLAM Raleigh mission trip, we are going to have a Raleigh Mission Week. It will be from Monday, July 12 - Friday, July 16. It is open to all current middle school and high school students.

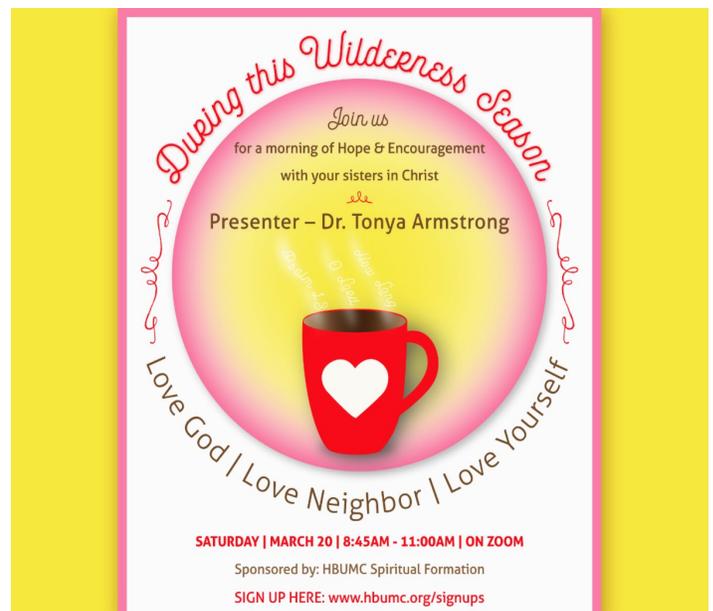
The week will consist of mission work around the city, meals together, fellowship, worship, and of course fun. The goal is for this week to mimic what has been SLAM Raleigh in the past, with the exception of staying overnight in the church. We will not be staying overnight (due to COVID-19 projections for that time) but we will have all other aspects of a mission trip included.

Cost of the week is \$150. The cost will cover lunch, dinner, t-shirt, mission supplies, transportation, worship, and fun surprises.

Payments can be made online or by check. Deadline to sign up is May 30th.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Carter at:

rcarter@hbumc.org



Scattered to Serve Opportunities (hbumc.org/signups)

Alliance Medical Ministry Community Garden

Saturday, 3/20, from 10AM-1PM. All volunteers must be at least 12 yrs old.
Project Leader: Betsy Allen
(betsyallen@me.com)
5 of 10 slots filled

BloomHere: Cleaning and organizing warehouse space. (4)

Sunday, 4/18, from 1-4PM.
Project Leader: Georgia Brown
(georgiagmb@gmail.com)

Family Promise - Outdoor Cleanup

Saturday, 3/20, from 9AM-12PM at Day Center (903 Method Rd).
Project Leader: Nelson Brugh
(nbrugh@gmail.com)
Leaf raking/blowing, litter pickup, pruning/trimming, and general landscape work.
14 of 15 slots filled

Friends of Oberlin Village Oberlin Cemetery Cleanup

Saturday, 4/17, from 9AM-12PM.
Project Leaders: Phillip & Lee Hoffman
(phoffman4@nc.rr.com)
Ages 16+
13 of 20 slots filled

Grace Home - Yard Sprucing Up

Saturday, 4/10, at 9AM. Project Leader: Matt (mwmiddle@gmail.com)
5 of 10 slots filled

Hearts & Hands for Haiti Walkathon

Saturday, 4/24, and Sunday, 4/25.
Registration info at:
<https://heartsandhandsforhaiti.org>
24 of 100 slots filled

Neighbor to Neighbor Landscaping/Gardening (Project Leader)

Date TBD. Coordinate with Royce Hathcock at royce@n2noutreach.org

Oak City Cares Serving People Experiencing Homelessness

Saturday, 4/10, from 11AM-1:30PM.
Project Leader: Joelyn Harrington.
3 of 5 slots filled

Parkview Manor Sending Easter Cards and Goodie Bags

48 residents. Project Leader: Janet Gruchacz (gruchaczj@gmail.com)
13 of 15 slots filled

StepUp Ministry - Outdoor Cleaning and Painting (Project Leader)

Date TBD. Coordinate with Danya at djameson@stepupministry.org

Women's Center - Construction

Date TBD in March.
Project Leader: Jim Jones
(jaustinjones113@gmail.com)
Build a metal railing and install phone charging stations.
2 of 10 slots filled

Women's Center - Construction

Date is TBD in April.
Project Leader: Jim Jones
(jaustinjones113@gmail.com).
Stripping a tile floor.
4 of 10 slots filled

Women's Center Working in Garden

Sunday, 4/25.
Project Leader is Georgia Brown
(georgiagmb@gmail.com).
7 of 10 slots filled



Lenten Learning Opportunities

Register for and learn more about events at hbumc.org/lent

Tuesday morning devotion and discussion with Pastor Adam

Tuesdays, 10-11am,
based on Beth Richardson's book Walking in the Wilderness: Seeking God During Lent.

Wednesday evening book reflection with Pastor Molly

Online reflection time using Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects by Jill J. Duffield,
Wednesdays, 5pm, on Facebook Live.

Elementary family devotions and preschool prayer and song time

Children's ministry activities using Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects

Combined Sunday School

Study of The Little Book of Biblical Justice: A Fresh Approach to the Bible's Teaching on Justice by Chris Marshall on Facebook Live with the pastors every Sunday at 10am.

Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Love Yourself

Saturday, March 20, 8:45-11am - Register at hbumc.org/signups

Please join us during this wilderness season for a morning of hope and encouragement with your sisters in Christ. There will be encouraging music, Dr. Tonya Armstrong as the keynote speaker, breakout groups, and movement.

What Is a Lay Leader?

When Pastor Rick reached out to me to ask if I would consider the role of Lay Leader, I had no idea what was involved in being a lay leader. I attended a conference-wide training session to learn more about the role. After training, I was reminded of the song we sang as children. “We are the Church.” I’m sure you remember that the song goes like this:

I am the church! You are the church!
 We are the church together!
 All who follow Jesus,
 all around the world!
 Yes, we are the church together.

Through my training, I have learned that a lay leader:

- Works with the pastors to ensure that church ministries support the church’s mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The lay leader meets regularly with the pastors to discuss the state of the church and the opportunities for ministry.
- Collaborates with other church leaders to envision, support, and cele-

brate ministries of laity within and beyond the local congregation.

- Represents laity on the church leadership team and other committees or teams of the nominations and leadership development committee.
- Encourages teamwork between the pastors and lay leadership and work to strengthen the relationship between the pastors and the congregation.
- Works with the pastors to identify committed laypersons who may be called to leadership in the congregation and help develop them as leaders.
- Participates in district and conference-level training
- Connects with lay leaders from other congregations and the district lay leader to share ideas and provide mutual support.

A lay leader is tasked with connecting the people of the church, the leadership of the church and the local community. This connection is multi-directional. A

lay leader represents the laity and provides crucial insight into the wider community’s needs. In the other direction, the lay leader helps to engage the people in the church’s ministries.

Now that you know more about the role of a lay leader, I’d like to introduce myself. I am Debbie Walter, and I have been a member of HBUMC since 1987. I have served at Hayes Barton in several capacities and most recently as Church Council Chair. I am married to Doug and we have 5 children, 3 grandchildren and one sweet pug named Rosie. I am excited to serve you and welcome any feedback or desire from you to engage in conversation. You may reach me at:

debbiewalter1221@gmail.com

or 919-740-7187. I work fulltime but have a fairly flexible schedule so I am happy to talk and/or meet most any time.

We are the church together and I look forward to working to together with you.

Debbie Walter

Confirmation Class of 2021 - March 14

Confirmands

Grayson Edward Adams.....	Hunter Jones
Cole Crosby Ballard Bell.....	Sean Timmons
Pierce Andrew Bloedon (baptized).....	Clark Womack
Alexis Chase Bloomer.....	Becky Brown
Ella Paige Breeding.....	Lisa Coster
Benjamin Hammond Brewer.....	Robert Parvin
Anne Spencer Brugh.....	Karen Burke
John Leister Burke.....	Mike Busick
John Walker Cain (baptized).....	David Sherlin
Allie Katherine Camp.....	Laura Kirby
Avery Vaughn Campbell.....	Sarah Flinn
Margaret Elizabeth Clark.....	Sally Bates
James McClentick Cobb.....	Matt Kirby
Harrison Joseph Daly.....	Todd Culpepper
Oliver Sean Doyle.....	Bryan Safrin
William Britton Ferrell.....	Blair Holland
Geoffrey Thomas Francis.....	David Coster
Jacob Adams Gastmeyer.....	Patrick White
Emory Holt Hamilton.....	Suzette Acree
Everett Grayson Hilliard.....	Todd Culpepper
Andrew Cole Jackson (baptized).....	David Coster
Wiley Miller Jones.....	Adam Charville
John Lawrence Kirby.....	Brad Breeding
Ryan Alexander Knox.....	Robert Parvin

Confirmands

Margaret Wilson Lowrance (baptized)	Melanie Tharrington
Avery Grace Lund.....	Brooke Stickney
Molly Hayter McMahon.....	Laurie Harrell
Christian Forster Motamen.....	Tonya Culpepper
Olivia Virginia Nespeca.....	Audrey Gastmeyer
Austin Barnes Penley.....	Wray Gillette
Hunter William Potter.....	Bo Walker
Harrison Gray Propst.....	Wray Gillette
Henry Clyde Robinson.....	Jim Jones
Andrew Kearney Rostick.....	Harrison Gillette
Avery Grace Schillmoller.....	Catherine Lackey
Elizabeth Martha Sheaffer.....	Lise Sherlin
Henry Cooper Smith.....	Andy Gastmeyer
Samuel Robbins Smith, Jr.	Jim Jones
Jacob Dunham Stickney.....	Beau Cates
Thomas Clark Tant.....	Bill Valdespino
Walker Holden Tattersall.....	Mike Trexler
Emma Maria Teague.....	Melissa Ferrell
Leyton Charles Thompson.....	Mike Busick
Owen Joseph Thompson.....	Mike Busick
Zayden Owen Vogler.....	Kenneth Haywood
Hudson David Welsh.....	Dave Butts
Davis Hayes Womack.....	David Coster

Three Ways to Pledge

1. Mail in your pledge card that was sent by mail or email us to receive a new one.
2. Contact Russell Wilcox at rwilcox@hbumc.org or 919-832-6435 x1118 with your pledge.
3. Pledge on-line at hbumc.org/give

If you want to learn more about giving or discuss your pledge with Pastor Rick, Adam or Molly, please call the church.

Sympathy and Love to

- ✦ Anna Neal Blanchard and family on the death of her father, Charlie Blanchard, on March 10.
- ✦ Courtney Breeding and family on the death of her granddaughter, Kenneth Merritt, on March 10.

Births

- ✦ Taytum Pearl Altman, daughter of Richard & Kristen Altman, sister of Tripp, granddaughter of Scott & Anne, was born on February 28.
- ✦ Novello Ann Taft, daughter of Jena & Chris Taft, was born on February 25.



Vaccine Volunteers Needed

Hayes Barton Pharmacy is looking for volunteers to help with vaccinations as they become more available to the community. They are in need of those who can help administer a shot but also people who can help with paperwork. If interested, email volunteerhbp@gmail.com.

Memorial Gifts Processed by March 11

In Memory of **Jesse Chappell, Jr.** to the Music Ministry Fund by an anonymous donor.

In Memory of **Barbara Ann Harris Earnest** to the Wee Care Fund by Bill & Lanier Murr.

In Memory of **Dr. James "Mickey" Efird** to the UMCOR Fund by Scarlett F. Bryant.

In Memory of **Fran McMillan** to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund by Sandra Chappell.

In Memory of **Clarence Trexler:**

- to the Chancel Choir Fund by Bill & Lanier Murr.

- to the Creative Arts Ministry Fund by Mike & Lori

Constantino and Kathy & Steve Pretzer.



Prayer Bookmarks: 03-07-21 & 03-14-21

Deaths

Charlie Blanchard, father of Anna Neal Blanchard
Kenneth Merritt, grandfather of Courtney Breeding

Births

Taytum Pearl Altman, daughter of Richard & Kristen Altman,
sister of Tripp, granddaughter of Scott & Anne
Novello Ann Taft, daughter of Jena & Chris Taft

Ongoing Concerns

Mark Angelo	Landon Peed
Richard Birtch	Nancy Perry
Stacey Buescher's dad, Fuzzy	John Phillips
Kent Burns	Robert Earl Phyllian
Kim Collins	Jane Preiss
Barbara Freeze	David Robertson
Mary Lou Goodrich	Rhumell Ross
Kay Gregory	Barbara Smith
David Hesmer	Nancy Stamey
Ongoing Concerns	Phil Templeton
Finlay Carter Judy	Elvey Thomas
Margaret Lucas	Georgia Webb
Jo Ann Moore	

Our Church Leaders

Pastors Rick, Adam & Molly; D.S. Southern; Bishop Ward

Our In-Crowd Members

Church members who have suffered from COVID or are caring for those with the virus

Those grieving the over 530K who have died from COVID in the US

Our Leaders at All Levels of the Government

Easter Lilies for Our Worship Spaces: \$12

Please clearly print the names of those you wish to honor/remember and your name(s) exactly as you wish them to appear in print. Send this card and a check, made out to HBUMC Floral Cross Fund, to arrive by March 31, to:

HBUMC Business Office
2209 Fairview Rd, Raleigh NC 27608

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Your Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed _____

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PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
AT
RALEIGH, NC

Children's Lent/ Easter Activities

Preschool: Ms. Karen and Ms. Blair will email a Lenten prayer and song time each Wednesday night in Lent at 5pm. Ms. Karen will provide a special Easter activity for you at home.

Elementary: Ms. Laurie has provided a Lenten family devotion guide. There is also a virtual egg hunt - with supplies provided - again this year! Sign up for the March 19th, 5-6:30 event in advance at hbumc.org/signups. Please put your child/ren's names and grade so that we can have enough supplies.

You'll receive instructions for receiving your palms for Palm Sunday soon!

Pick Up Palms & Submit Videos for Our Children's Palm Processional!

Come by the Stone Street entrance this week to pick up palms from the pastors and the children's ministry team and then submit a short video of your children waving them for our virtual palm procession! Palms may be picked up starting at noon on March 17, and staff will be handing them out and visiting at these times:

Wednesday, March 17	12-1pm Pastor Rick	4-5pm Blair Holland
Thursday, March 18	12-1pm Pastor Adam	4-6pm Ms. Laurie
Friday, March 19	12-1pm Pastor Molly	4-5pm Ms. Karen

For your video: Please have your phone in LANDSCAPE (horizontal) position, make sure your video is at least 10 seconds long, and submit to tinyurl.com/PalmWaving by Wednesday, March 24th. The video will be embedded in the Palm Sunday worship service on March 28th.

Scattered to Serve
March & April 2021

See page 3 for more details.

Safe, distanced, and outdoor projects to offer compassion to our community
Register at hbumc.org/signups

MARCH 21:
5th Sunday in Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

MARCH 28:
Palm/Passion Sunday
Mark 11:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Isaiah 50:4-9
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47

WEEKEND WORSHIP ON VIMEO

The service will be available at noon on Saturday so that you can worship at a convenient time.

Go to vimeo.com/hbumc to view the service. For questions, contact Susan at:
919-832-6435 x1135
or sbaldwin@hbumc.org.