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Kingdom Kid News

Spring is here! This is my favorite season. Outside has been bare and dreary, but now the daffodils are blooming and the trees are starting to bud with new leaves and the weather is getting warmer. It looks like “new life” again! That is exactly what we will be celebrating this month, Easter!!!! Easter is all about the resurrection of Jesus giving us “new life”! We see lots of symbols of Easter in our church, but did you know that there are lots of symbols of Easter that we see everyday. If you will bring me a list of 10 Easter symbols that you have found, Ms. Susan has a surprise for you!!!! Mark your calendars, Saturday, April 19th, will be the Easter Egg Hunt at the church from 11:00 to 1:00!!! It will be lots of fun!! There will be lots of activities!! Come and bring a friend!!

Sunday, April 13th is Palm Sunday. That is always a special day at our church!! We will have palm branches to decorate our cross! Also that Sunday, GracePointe, will be leading us in worship through their dance. They have been working very hard and will be beautiful!

We sure had lots of fun at the Lent Adventures!!! We made Easter cookies, Ms. Lisa had awesome Easter crafts, Ms. Karen had delicious snacks and we played the most fun games ever! How fun was ring toss to bunny ears!!!

Save the date for VBS!!! July 22-24, 2025!! We will have more details coming soon!

Remember each Sunday we have lots of activities for kids!! We have Sunday School, Children’s sermon and Kingdom Kids!!

The kids have lots of fun at First Methodist Valdese!!! You need to come check us out!! We can’t wait to see you Sunday!!! **Love, Ms. Susan**

*Follow Jesus.
 Make Disciples.
 Change the World!*

The Messenger

April 2025

**FIRST
 UNITED
 METHODIST
 CHURCH
 VALDESE,
 NC**



The Slow Walk Toward Easter

With each passing day, we inch closer and closer to Easter. We will begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday, with its palm branches and loud Hosannas. But, in the midst of the joy of Palm Sunday, we will be mindful of all that the week ahead will hold. On Thursday evening, we will remember that last supper shared by Jesus with his disciples, the entry way into his arrest. On Friday, we will remember the cross upon which our Savior was nailed, hanging there for us, his life’s blood flowing to cover our sins, his last breath uttering his plea for our forgiveness. Painful as it may be, we will again look upon his suffering, upon his cross, upon his death, and in faith and hope we will call it Good Friday.

At first, Saturday will seem like any other Saturday. There are no services scheduled. It will seem to be a day like any other day. And yet, throughout Saturday, there are reminders of the previous day . . . Good Friday . . . and the nagging thought will enter in: “Can I imagine a world without our Savior? Could there ever have been a day where death ruled supreme? Did our God really lay lifeless in that cold tomb?”

It is good to go slowly through Holy Week. It is good to again look slowly at the face of Jesus as he breaks the bread and shares the wine, saying “This is my body. This is my blood.” It is good to stare intently upon the cross, seeing in our mind’s eye the King of kings who willingly gives himself for us. And even Saturday is not to be neglected. It is a day to contemplate what our world and our lives would be like if there were no Risen Savior to know, to love, and to trust. It is good to go slowly, even at the painful spots, so that we will know what Easter truly means, what resurrection means to each of us.

I look forward to seeing you and your family throughout Holy Week. I look forward to sharing its meaning with you. I hope you will all come to the services throughout the week to hear with fresh ears and open hearts the familiar words of what our Savior Jesus has done and is doing for us. Easter will hold new meaning if you have experienced the whole week in times of worship with us. Resurrection will hold deeper significance if you have walked through the week of Palm Sunday Hosannas, of last supper embraces, of Golgotha suffering, and of Saturday wondering. New life in Jesus Christ will become a whole new experience when it is placed in the full context of Holy Week. Only then can we begin to understand what resurrection really means.

Our Holy Week Services of Worship

Palm Sunday Worship
 April 13, 2025, 11:00 am - First UMC-Valdese

Daily Community Holy Week Services
 Monday - Friday, Noon until 12:30 pm - Waldensian Presbyterian
 (Rev. Bill Roberts will preach at the Monday service.)

Maundy Thursday Worship: Communion and Foot Washing
 7:00 pm - First UMC-Valdese

Good Friday Worship
 7:00 pm - First UMC-Valdese


Easter Sunday
 7:00 am Sunrise Service at Methodist Park
 We will share in worship with the congregation of First Baptist-Valdese
 Easter Breakfast following Sunrise Service - First UMC-Valdese
 Easter Service: 11:00 am - First UMC-Valdese

The Lord be with you!

Bill Roberts

Rev. Bill Roberts

- ◆ Pastor
Bill Roberts
- ◆ Director of Music
Nancy Epley
- ◆ Organist
Nancy Epley
- ◆ Secretary
Joan Hogan
- ◆ Custodian
Pat Pons
- ◆ Groundskeeper
Larry Holden
- ◆ Youth Pastor
Tamika Garrison

There is a place for you at our table...  Dinner Church
 Bri McKoy writes in *Come and Eat* "In this moment, I struggle to list foods I don't like or won't eat. The best I can do on the spot is beef liver, which I'm convinced no one under the age of sixty-eight enjoys. I also recall once making a complicated relish involving shaved fennel that reminded me of stale Easter candy. The table breaks down the walls of social class and back-grounds and race. We are all one at the table, human beings receiving the necessary act of eating a meal. We are all citizens with one another. No other act of coming together so powerfully proclaims this."

Date	Number of Guests	Number of Youth	Number of Members	Total
March 4	17	16	19	52
March 18	14	10	17	41

Please Note that on March 4 we had the largest group joining together that we have ever had! Come join us at Dinner Church! 5:30 on Tuesday, April 1 and 15! (WE HAVE ROOM FOR YOU!) -Jen Boggs

April 19th from 11 am - 1pm



EASTER egg HUNT

Donations of candy to fill our eggs will be much appreciated!

Check out the gallery page on our webpage at: <https://www.valdesefumc.org/gallery>

The United Methodist Men will have their monthly breakfast meeting on Sunday, April 6th at 8:30 am. Plans are being made for the spring yard sale on May 3rd! All are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

Youth

On April 15th, as a part of our youth program we are excited to host "Billy James" who is a local musician and minister to come and share his testimony. This will be open to church members and dinner church participants. We will meet in the sanctuary at 6:30, following the meal and Pastor Bill's devotional.

Grace & Peace be with you,
 Tamika Garrison

Our April meetings are on the 1st & 15th
 5:30—7ish


 Family Movie Time on April 12th "The King of Kings"
 We will be going to the AMC Hickory 15 on Catawba Valley Blvd close to the Valley Hills Mall. The show time is 2:00pm. We would like to leave the church by 12:00 to stop by Chick Fil A in Hickory for lunch before the movie. With at least 10 people we can get group tickets at \$7.50 each, but don't let ticket price hinder anyone from going. We would like to know who is going as soon as possible so we can get our tickets. Please see Susan Ogle if interested!

A message from Beth Heile and Friends of the Valdese Rec (FVR)

FVR is hosting free Lunch & Learns for Adults in our fellowship hall. These occur the **3rd Thursday of each month.**

April 17, 2025
Valdese Recreation Department Programming

To RSVP for lunch, email friendsofthevaldeserec@gmail.com or call church office 874-0006 by Tuesday before the event.

 You may attend if you do not RSVP, but lunch is only guaranteed for those who reply.

United Women in Faith (UWFaith)
 April Meetings

April 14th @ 1:00 pm: UWFaith Circle #3
 UWFaith Circle #2 will **not** meet
 April 14th @ 6:30 pm: UWFaith Circle #6



April Fellowship Meals


April 2nd: Covered Dish
April 9th: Baked Potato, Salad Bar, Dessert & Drink
April 16th: Chicken Pie, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Casserole, Dessert & Drink—Meal hosted by UWFaith Circle #2
April 23rd: Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert & Drink
April 30th: Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Bread, Dessert & Drink


Meals are: \$7/plate for adults and \$4/plate for kids
No Charge for Covered Dish

Pay weekly or prepay for the month by using the brown envelopes in the pews or pay at the door.

MUSIC NOTES


The 40 day period of Lent is a reflection of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring Satan's temptations. It is an opportunity for us to examine our lives, seek forgiveness and turn to God. Lent serves as a period of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The choir has focused our music during this period on reflection and preparation for the joy of Easter Sunday. I hope you are reading and enjoying the Lenten devotional written by Tamika Garrison, Josh Lail and our own Bill Roberts. All of our readings, our music, our preparation draws us closer to God and to the wonderful celebration of the Resurrection!

In His Love, Nancy 

 **Dry Bottoms Ministry Update**
 Greetings from the Dry Bottoms Team!

Please note our new distribution time:
 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 4:00 (previously 3:30 pm) - 5:30 pm


Our most recent day together was March 11, 2025. We served 22 families with 31 babies. We had four new participants as well as two very pregnant participants. We also had representatives from the Enola Group and Catawba Valley Healthcare. Both of these representatives explained their different services to our participants. We also want to share that our team is growing, with the addition of Kathy Watts as a permanent member. We are continuing to think of ways to improve our services. Thank you and all blessings to each of you.
 -Sharon Aikens


 Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

On Saturday, April 5, 2024, from 7:30 - 11:00 a.m., the Rotary Club of Valdese will host a Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny in the Fellowship Hall of First UMC-Valdese. This is a great opportunity to support the important work of Rotary in our community, and a great opportunity to invite folks to our Church and to remind them of all of our Holy Week activities. Tickets are \$10 each, and you can get them from Rev. Bill Roberts, Beth Heile, or any other Rotary Club of Valdese member. Children under age 5 eat for free.

Unified Mission Churches

Waldensian Presbyterian Church
 Food Pantry Ministry
 Collection for
April: Peanut butter

 Operation Christmas Child
April: Stuffed Animals

 Change the World Offering
April 20
 An Operation Christmas Child items can be given during our Change the World Offering Sundays (red wagon) or left in the tote in the Narthex.

First Baptist Church—Valdese
 Twice Blessed Closet
 Donations needed for gently worn clothes. Most needed are baby clothes, children clothes and young adults; however, all clothing items are greatly appreciated. *If you have items to donate, please bring to the church office and we will get the items to FBC-Valdese or if you want to take them to FBC, they take donations on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm.*

East Burke Christian Ministries
April: Dried Beans


The Pass Along Box

Please continue to bring devotionals, Advent booklets, and other reading materials for the Pass Along Project.
 -Norma Rains

From Jen Boggs
 It was a joy having Finn & Piper Boggs (grandchildren) with us for almost a week!
 Several times Finn said Mimi I love your church! So I asked him what do you like about our church? And he said People smile at me, they know my name, and I get to spend time there eating snacks and food. And Jesus made the food! -Finn Boggs
 Thank you for loving little children! Jen & Dan Boggs

Food Truck coming on May 27th!
 Need Volunteers!

Lemonade on the Lawn begins on May 18th and will conclude on September 28th. Please see Bobie Seagle if you are interested in providing refreshments on a Sunday or Sundays!

Holy Week  **DAILY ACTIVITY GUIDE**

Palm Sunday
 Triumphant Entry
 • Reading: Matthew 21:1-11
 • Activity: Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.

Monday
 Cleansing the Temple
 • Reading: Mark 11:15-18
 • Activity: Take a reflective walk, silently praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.

Tuesday
 Speaking in Parables
 • Reading: Matthew 22:1-14
 • Activity: Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.


Wednesday
 Silent Wednesday
 • Reading: Psalm 46
 • Activity: Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.

Thursday
 The Last Supper
 • Reading: John 13:1-20
 • Activity: Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.

Good Friday
 The Crucifixion
 • Reading: Isaiah 53
 • Activity: Draw, paint or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.

Holy Saturday
 Day of Preparation
 • Reading: Luke 23:50-56
 • Activity: Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional foods like bread.

Easter Sunday
 Jesus is Risen!
 • Reading: John 20:1-18
 • Activity: Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing worship songs or sharing a meal.



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