

# THE EPISTLE

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February 16, 2024

*Find Hope Here*

*Sedgefield United Methodist Church*

*2830 Dorchester Place  
Charlotte, NC 28209*

*[www.SedgefieldChurch.org](http://www.SedgefieldChurch.org)*

*704-523-0077*

*Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor*



# Reflections From Pastor Tom



Dear Friends, this Sunday is the first Sunday in the season of Lent (Lent will have begun on Ash Wednesday, February 14). I will be preaching on Mark 1:9-15, Mark's very brief description of Jesus's temptation in the wilderness and transition to his public ministry.

For several generations, our society has had a desire for immediate gratification. Maybe it's always been a problem. We want what we want right now. We don't want to wait for anything. With online shopping and home delivery services, the problem has only gotten worse in recent years. It is easy for us to criticize these impatient tendencies as immature or irresponsible.

However, this week's Scripture lesson shows that not all urgency is bad, as long as it comes from the proper motivation. Mark the Gospel writer doesn't include the details of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness by Satan, but instead, he jumps ahead to the beginning of Jesus's ministry. Jesus must have shown great patience during those 40 days but as soon as he arrived in Galilee, he got to work proclaiming an urgent message. Jesus knew when to slow down and when to move quickly. He understood the difference between urgency and impatience. Do we know that difference?

Blessings,  
Pastor Tom

# This Sunday in Worship

February 18, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Why Wait?

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.

Education Building Room 203

## Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers for Sunday, February 18, 2024 are in honor my sister Amy's birthday from Mary Beth Fields.

## Future Sermons

*Feb 25 - The Easy Way*

*Mar 3 - Pre-Spring Cleaning*

*Mar 10- That's Not The Way God Works*

### ► Lenten Lunch

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

12 Noon

Woodlawn Community Fellowship UMC

737 Woodlawn Rd, Charlotte 28209

### ► Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

# Upcoming Events

### ► Confirmation Class

Sunday, February 18, 2024

11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Combined Second & Third Class

Fellowship Hall

### ► Serve At Rebound-Dinner

Sunday February 18, 2024

4:45 p.m.

907 W. 1st Street

### ► Bible Study

Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

11:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Fellowship Hall

### ► Admin Council Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall (w/Zoom option)

### ► Serve At Rebound-Breakfast

Sunday February 25, 2024

7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

907 W. 1st Street

### ► Charlotte Checkers Game

Sunday February 25, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Bojangles' Coliseum

# Symbols of Lent



The Cross was a wooden post with a wooden cross-beam used to execute Jesus. It eventually became the primary symbol of the Christian religion. The cross is significant both for what it meant at the time of Jesus's crucifixion, that is DEATH, and what it came to mean for Christians - unconditional, sacrificial love and surprisingly, LIFE. The cross is also a reminder that nothing is impossible for God and in what seems to be a defeat and a failure, God can be victorious and successful.



**Thank you to all who helped with our  
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner.  
It was delicious!**



## **Sedgefield at the Charlotte Checkers**



### **Sedgefield Church Congregation**

Sedgefield Day at the Charlotte Checkers Hockey Game will be Sunday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm!

Come hang out with your church friends and enjoy some hockey. Tickets are \$30.00 each - use the link below to purchase tickets.

**<https://fevo-enterprise.com/Sedgefieldchurch>**

Mary Jo Bridges  
704-617-4056



# **Four Lenten Lunch Wednesday's in March 12 Noon**

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 is the first of four opportunities during the Lenten season to join us for a brief time of devotion and fellowship.



Those attending are invited to bring their own lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided by the host church.

**All are Welcome.**

## **March 6th & March 20th**

Woodlawn Community Fellowship UMC  
737 E. Woodlawn Road  
Charlotte 28209  
Jonathan Coppedge-Henley, Pastor

## **March 13th & March 27th**

Sedgefield United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

# Saturday, March 9, 2024 The Chili Cook-Off Is Back On!!

Sedgefield Church is partnering with the Sedgefield Neighborhood Association in hosting a Chili Cook-Off from 2:00pm-4:00pm on Saturday, March 9th in Fellowship Hall.

We will offer two categories of Chili for judging.

Traditional Chili and Non-traditional Chili

Sign up for Chili Chef Contestants coming soon.







**Sunday, March 10, 2024 is your final  
opportunity to host, provide food and  
serve the RITI guests at  
Avondale Presbyterian Church  
2821 Park Road  
Charlotte, NC 28209**

**We still need help for this final event.  
Please consider volunteering by clicking  
on the Link Below.**

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/  
20F0D4EACAB23A64-46252965-room](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4EACAB23A64-46252965-room)**

**Thank you.**



# Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 16, 2024

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt and activities will be on  
Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 12Noon.

The children will enjoy Easter activities and crafts from  
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Please remember to Sign-In in the Fellowship Hall and  
to bring an Easter basket or bag!

This event will be held Rain or Shine!

Blessings!

Mary Jo Bridges

704-617-4056

Children's Program Director





# Metro District Lay Ministries

Western North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## ***Registration is now open for the 2024 Metro District Lay Servant Ministry training!***

We are offering basic and advanced classes at Central UMC, Charlotte April 13-14 as well as an advanced course via Zoom. Class size is limited so register early. Deadline to register is **March 31**.

Remember, if you are a Certified Lay Servant or want to become a Certified Lay Servant, you **must** take an advanced course every three years (and have completed the Basic course).

The ministry of the laity is vital to our churches, district, communities, conference and the world! Lay Servant Ministry is a way we, as lay persons, can grow spiritually, become equipped to serve, discover our spiritual gifts and ways to use them, and experience connection and fellowship with other Lay Servants.

The training is open to all laity, provided you have spoken to your pastor and received the recommendation for taking the course you choose. I will contact them after you register to ask for their approval. All Lay Servants must be approved by their church council/charge conference and have the approval of their pastor to participate in Lay Servant Ministry.

**Registration fee for in person courses is \$15 and the fee for the Zoom course is \$10.**

**You MUST purchase your own book.** Books are available to purchase online at Amazon, The Upper Room and Cokesbury.

### **April 13-14 Lay Servant Ministry Training**

Central United Methodist Church (6030 Albemarle Road, Charlotte, NC 28212)

You must attend all sessions to receive credit for the training.

Saturday, April 13: Check-in: 8:45 am – 9 am Class: 9 am – 4 pm  
Snacks and lunch provided.

Sunday, April 14: Class: 2 pm – 5:30 pm Snacks provided.  
Closing service: 5:30 pm – 6 pm

### **ZOOM Advanced Course**

We are offering one advanced Lay Servant Ministry course via Zoom. See the information below for The Method of our Mission (United Methodist polity course).

Friday, April 12: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Saturday, April 13: 8:30am - 12:30pm

Sunday, April 14: 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Description of courses being offered:

## **BASIC**

Lay Servant Ministries, Participants Book (Basic Course) by Sandy Jackson and Brian Jackson

“This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.”

## **ADVANCED COURSES**

The Method of Our Mission by Lacey C. Warner. (Polity Course) This course gives participants an overview of the structure and organization of The United Methodist Church. It uses a Wesleyan theological frame – connection – to help students understand United Methodist Polity and organization. (Offered both in person and via Zoom)

The Caring Congregation Ministry Implementation Guide by Karen Lampe & Melissa Gepford. This new advanced course, Exploring a Culture of Care for a Caring Congregation, uses the book The Caring Congregation Ministry Implementation Guide, to equip participants with tools for deep listening and grow their capacity to care in difficult situations of loss – all within healthy boundaries and a thoughtful awareness of the varying cultural contexts of caring ministry.

Sharing the Prayers of the People: The Art of Intercession by Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher. Praying in public can be daunting, but prayer is something one learns. This course on praying in public will help the participant grow in confidence and skill in public prayer and enrich their personal prayer life.

## **CLICK LINK BELOW TO REGISTER**

<https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/2024MetroDistrictLayServantTraining71>

Please contact me with any questions.

Blessings as you serve the Lord,

Jatana

**Jatana Royster Email:** [msgs-wnc-3393@brtapp.com](mailto:msgs-wnc-3393@brtapp.com)





# Save The Dates

**for Vacation Bible School  
at Sedgefield Church**

**Monday-Thursday, July 15–18, 2024  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**This year's theme for Bible Study is  
“*SCUBA: Diving Into Friendship With God.*”**

**To see a short introductory video  
about this year's program please  
click on the Link Below.**

**[https://player.vimeo.com/video/834887893?  
h=e87b078ead](https://player.vimeo.com/video/834887893?h=e87b078ead)**



# Vacation Bible School at Sedgefield Church

**Monday-Thursday, July 15–18, 2024**

**9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**Registration is open for rising kindergartners  
to rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders and for Volunteers.**

Click on the Link Below to  
Register your child or to  
volunteer at VBS.

[https://vbspro.events/p/  
c43d9d](https://vbspro.events/p/c43d9d)

**OR**

Use the QR Code to  
Register your child or to  
volunteer at VBS

Any questions please contact:

Mary Jo Bridges

VBS Director

[marycbridges@yahoo.com](mailto:marycbridges@yahoo.com)

704-617-4056



# Altar Flowers



**You can now sign-up for Altar Flowers online.**

**Use the SignUp Genius Link below to:**

- pick an available date
- write a message to let us know who/what you want to memorialize, honor or celebrate on a special day

**Sign up Genius Link**

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/  
10C0D4DA5AB2AAB9-sedgefield](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA5AB2AAB9-sedgefield)

**The Altar Flower donation remains the same at \$40  
which can be paid online using the Church Website  
sedgefieldchurch.org**

**or by sending a check to Sedgefield Church,  
2830 Dorchester Place, Charlotte 28209.**





## **Observations at Keystone**

**Imagine a beautiful classroom with lovely materials and young children moving about freely, choosing their work in a peaceful and calm way. It truly is a sight to see! Keystone offers observations in all of our classrooms every Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. We invite you to come and observe to witness the peace and beauty for yourself. Within the hour you are with us you can expect to see a wide range of activities, as well as some sweet and kind interactions. We are quite sure you will leave with a new appreciation for just how capable young children are!**

**Observations are scheduled through the school office by calling 980-355-0900.**

**Hawley H. Hoggard  
Head of School  
Keystone Montessori School**

## Ways to Give Your Offerings to Sedgefield UMC



### **Online Through**

[sedgefieldchurch.org](http://sedgefieldchurch.org)

Make a credit card  
or electronic  
contribution.



### **Bank Draft**

Set up automatic  
contributions  
through your  
bank's Online  
Bill Pay.



### **Church**

Mail your check to:

Sedgefield UMC  
2830 Dorchester Pl  
Charlotte, NC 28209



### **Online Through**

[wnccumc.org](http://wnccumc.org)

Make a credit card  
or electronic  
contribution.



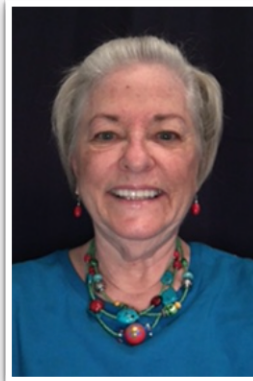
**Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley**, Pastor  
[pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org](mailto:pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org)



**Ron Aldridge**  
Worship Leader



**Mary Jo Bridges**  
Director of  
Children's Ministry



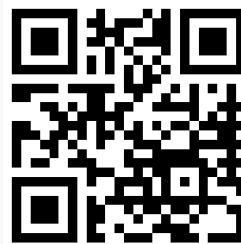
**Ellen Freitas**  
Office Manager



**Robin Moore**  
Nursery Caregiver



**Bradley Kirksey**  
Youth Director



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