

# THE EPISTLE

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February 23, 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 I will be preaching on Mark 8:31-38 and my title will be “The Easy Way.”

There is nothing easy about following Jesus. He said so. He was clear in his teaching from practically the very beginning that his way was difficult, and it could even be deadly. That came true, for him, and for many of his followers. We often forget how much early Christians sacrificed. We overlook the daily risks and challenges they faced. Yet that is something to be expected when you follow a leader who was killed for his teachings.

In our modern world, there is an emphasis on making life easy. I think sometimes people are motivated to make a lot of money because they are hoping that having money will help them or their children have an “easy” life. We will talk about that and how following Jesus makes us look at that so-called “easy” life from a different perspective.

Blessings,  
Pastor Tom

# This Sunday in Worship

February 25, 2024

10:30 a.m.

The Easy Way

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.

Education Building Room 203

Holy Communion and  
Food Drive for Loaves and Fishes on  
Sunday, March 3, 2024

## Flowers

The flowers in the narthex are in  
honor of Logan Smith on his birthday  
and in appreciation of his service to  
Sedgefield church from his family.

## Future Sermons

*Mar 3 - Pre-Spring Cleaning*

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

- **Chili Cook Off**  
Saturday March 9, 2024  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

# Upcoming Events

- **Serve At Rebound-Breakfast**  
Sunday February 25, 2024  
7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.  
907 W. 1st Street
- **Youth Group**  
Sunday, February 25, 2024  
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
SouthPark UMC  
3151 Apex Drive  
Charlotte, 28211
- **Charlotte Checkers Game**  
Sunday February 25, 2024  
1:00 p.m.  
Bojangles' Coliseum  
2700 E Independence Blvd.  
Charlotte, 28205
- **Bible Study - Esther**  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024.  
11:00 a.m. - 12 Noon  
Fellowship Hall
- **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

**Sedgefield at Charlotte Checkers  
This Sunday, February 25th at 1:00pm  
Bojangles' Coliseum  
2700 E Independence Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28205**



**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**



# Symbols of Lent



Purple was considered the color of royalty and wealth in the ancient world. It was an expensive and lengthy process to make it. The dye came from mollusk (shellfish), and they could get only about one drop out of each mollusk. We remember that Jesus was King of Kings, so purple is an appropriate color for us to use to remember him. We also know that many people mocked Jesus, calling him “king” as a cruel joke.

**Dan and Olivia Kaphammer joined  
Sedgefield United Methodist Church on  
Sunday February 18, 2024.**



***Dan and Olivia and their fellowship friends Johnny and Kelli Horn.***



## Receiving Holy Communion



On Communion Sundays, generally the first Sunday of the month, servers are available to bring Communion to your home.

We encourage you to contact the church office at 704-523-0077 or email the church office at [office@sedgefieldchurch.org](mailto:office@sedgefieldchurch.org) if you, or someone you know, would like Holy Communion brought to the home.

**Our next observance of the Lord's Supper is Sunday, March 3, 2024.**

# **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



# Chili Cook-Off

## Saturday, March 9, 2024

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

If you want to participate as a Chili Chef Contestant, please sign up using the Link Below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FABA628A5FFC25-47201110-2024>

*(Those attending just to have fun and sample the Chili do not need to Sign Up.)*

Please come join us for this fun event.





**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 Lily Information

Order Forms to purchase Easter Lilies will be available in the Church lobby beginning this Sunday, February 25th.

The price remains the same at \$14.00 per Lily.

Please place your completed Order Forms in the Black Box on the Lobby Desk with payment by **Sunday, March 24th.**

(Please note *“for flowers”* on check).

If paying online please note that on the order form.

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If you are unable to come to Church, please call the Office at 704-523-0077 or email [office@sedgefieldchurch.org](mailto:office@sedgefieldchurch.org) and give us the information listed below by **Thursday, March 21st.**

**Your Name**

**Your Telephone Number**

**Number of Lilies Ordered**

**Given in Honor of**

**or**

**Given in Memory of**

The cost per Lily is \$14.00. Payment can be made by mailing a check payable to Sedgefield UMC, 2830 Dorchester Place, Charlotte, NC 28309 or Paying Online on our Church

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

Please note *“for Flowers”* on your check and designate for *“Flowers”* when paying on line.



# 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)

Any questions please contact:  
Mary Jo Bridges  
VBS Director  
[marycbridges@yahoo.com](mailto:marycbridges@yahoo.com)  
704-617-4056

**OR**

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



# 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.**

## 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.





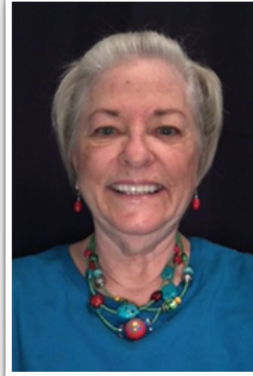
**Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley**, Pastor  
[pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org](mailto:pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org)



**Ron Aldridge**  
Worship Leader



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



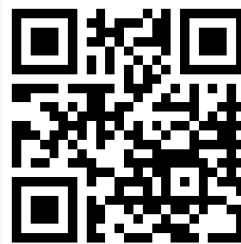
**Ellen Freitas**  
Office Manager



**Robin Moore**  
Nursery Caregiver



**Bradley Kirksey**  
Youth Director



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