

THE EPISTLE

March 1, 2024

Find Hope Here

Sedgefield United Methodist Church

*2830 Dorchester Place
Charlotte, NC 28209*

www.SedgefieldChurch.org

704-523-0077

Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor

Reflections From Pastor Tom



Dear Friends,
This Sunday, I will be preaching on John 2:13-22 and my title will be “Pre-Spring Cleaning.” We will celebrate Holy Communion.

We have a certain image of Jesus - it's usually a warm and loving image. We think of him welcoming children or gently washing the disciples' feet. This Sunday's story, the Gospel of John's version of the cleansing of the temple, does not conform to those more passive images of Jesus. First of all, he's violent, using a whip to drive out the money changers. Second, he's angry, yelling at people. Third, he made a mess and generally caused chaos, turning over tables and upsetting people and animals. That is a different side of Jesus, one we don't often consider.

However, it's an important image to keep in mind. Jesus did get angry and did argue for justice. There were things in this world that actually made him mad and things that made him sad. We will talk on Sunday about this Jesus, the one who loses his “cool” because of human sin.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

This Sunday in Worship

March 3, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Pre-Spring Cleaning

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.

Education Building Room 203

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

Flowers

The flowers in the narthex this
Sunday, March 3, 2024 are in
honor of Mae Pearsall's birthday
from the Pearsall family.

Future Sermons

Mar 10 - That's Not The Way God Works

Mar 17 - Tom Little Preaching

*Mar 24 - Palm and Passion Sunday
and Holy Communion*

► Serve At Rebound-Dinner

Sunday March 17, 2024

4:45 p.m.

907 W. 1st Street

► Admin Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 22, 2024

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Room 204 in the Education Bldg.

Upcoming Events

► Confirmation Class

Sunday, March 3, 2024

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

► Youth Group

Sunday, March 3, 2024

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

St. Andrews UMC

1901 Archdale Drive

Charlotte, 28210

► 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

► Chili Cook Off

Saturday, March 9, 2024

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

► SW Circle Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Room 204 in the Education Bldg.

► Easter Egg Hung

Saturday, March 16, 2024

10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon

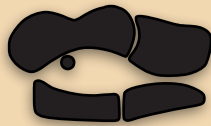
Fellowship Hall and Courtyard

Symbols of Lent



After Jesus was arrested, the soldiers guarding him made fun of him.

They made a crown of thorns and put it on him, calling out “Hail, King of the Jews!” In addition to publicly humiliating him, the crown itself would have been quite painful, and likely contributed to the already weakened condition of his body.



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

On Communion Sundays we have a tradition of collecting food for our neighborhood Loaves & Fishes pantry. Items most needed are: canned meat, canned fruit, peanut butter, boxed or canned pasta, and canned vegetables.

You are invited to bring your food donations forward as you receive Communion on Sunday, March 3, 2024.



The collection of non-perishable food items is an ongoing mission opportunity. Collection baskets are in the lobby each Sunday or donations can be dropped off at any time during office hours.



Reminder

All bags of Easter Eggs are due back to the church this Sunday, March 3rd!

I want to thank you for filling our eggs with candy!

I really appreciate your donation!

**We are still in need of volunteers to help with crafts/games
(10:30 – 11:30 a.m.) or to hide eggs at our Egg Hunt (11:00 – 11:30 a.m.)
on Saturday, March 16th!**

**If you can volunteer, please call or email me or simply sign-up
on the Sign-up Sheet in the narthex on Sunday!**

Blessings!

Mary Jo Bridges

704-617-4056

marycbridges@yahoo.com

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.

If you are unable to come to Church, please call the Office at 704-523-0077 or email 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

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



Pictures from the Charlotte Checkers' Hockey Game

We had a fun afternoon watching the Charlotte Checkers beat the Lehigh Valley Phantoms 6–3 in an exciting game on Sunday afternoon, February 26th. One of the highlights of the game was when our group made it onto the Jumbotron (big screen in the middle of the arena). Everyone enjoyed eating popcorn, hotdogs, ice cream, candy and chicken, but I believe the younger girls enjoyed dancing to the music and rooting for the Checkers the most!

Our next church-wide event will be announced soon!

Blessings!
Mary Jo Bridges
704-617-4056





Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 16, 2024

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt and activities will be on
Saturday, March 16th 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



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 5th 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
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.**

Sponsored by Keystone Montessori School

THE POWER OF MONTESSORI

with

Jennifer Shields

Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) Teacher-Trainer

AMI Consultant

AMI Board Member

Director of Primary Training at Washington Montessori Institute, Maryland

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

6:30pm

Fellowship Hall

Sedgefield United Methodist Church

2830 Dorchester Place Charlotte, NC 28209

All interested adults are welcome to attend.



What is General Conference?

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The conference meets to consider revisions to church law and to adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. General Conference also approves plans and budgets for churchwide agencies and programs.

Delegates are United Methodists from around the world elected by their annual, missionary, or provisional conference. The total number of delegates at General Conference ranges between 600 and 1,000 people.

The body of General Conference consists of an equal number of lay and clergy delegates. Lay members of annual conferences elect the lay delegates, and clergy members elect clergy delegates.



Help North Carolina Welcome The World

United Methodists from all over the world are traveling to attend General Conference in Charlotte, NC from April 23-May 3, 2024. Psalm 46:10 sets the theme for this important gathering: "...and know that I am God." In all we do, God guides our every decision. The gathering is expected to attract about 5,500-7,500 people.

You are invited to serve as part of our Welcome Team during General Conference and offer gracious hospitality to our guests.

We have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ and create a holy space where spirits can be nurtured. This will foster a welcoming environment and support delegates as they come together in worship, discernment, and holy conferencing on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

Serving at General Conference, you will have the opportunity to participate in the connectional nature of the church, to meet new people, and to live into your commitment to support The UMC with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

What a wonderful way to extend the love of Christ to all! Come extend God's hospitality to those from around the world gathering for the General Conference. Thank you for your partnership in this important work.



Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.
Western NC Conference (Charlotte Area)



Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton
NC Conference (Raleigh Area)

Welcome Team Opportunities



AIRPORT

Welcome guests,
Direct them to baggage claim
and transportation



HOTELS

Welcome guests,
Greet and answer questions



CONVENTION CENTER

Welcome guests,
Greet and answer questions



REGISTRATION

Greet and check-in attendees,
Requires attention to detail and
comfort with technology

APPLY ONLINE TODAY

WelcomeToGC.org

About Charlotte

“The Commission selected Charlotte as the site that best met our varied needs. We believe that delegates and attendees will be pleased with all the city has to offer,” said Kim Simpson, Chair of the Commission on the General Conference.

The Commission also considered Charlotte’s suitability and capacity of available meeting facilities, the proximity of hotel rooms, accessibility, amenities, and the convenience of travel.

Serving at General Conference

As part of the Welcome Team at General Conference, you will have a tremendous opportunity to see the United Methodist connection up close and provide hospitality to friends in Christ from around the world!

- Apply online to serve:
WelcomeToGC.org.
- Anyone 18 years and older is welcome to serve.
- After your application is processed, you will receive an invitation email with a link to select your available serving dates and times.
- Opportunities will be set up in 4-hour shifts.
- Help needed starting April 18.



- Welcome Team members will wear red aprons to help be easily-identifiable while serving.
- You are responsible for hotel and meal costs associated with your stay.



Located 7 miles from the Charlotte International Airport, the Convention Center is accessible from I-85, I-77, and U.S. Highway 74. The city has a 19.3-mile light rail system known as the LYNX Blue Line connecting the southern and northern parts of Charlotte.

The 600,000-square-foot facility recently completed an expansion project to add meeting space and an exterior over-street pedestrian walkway that connects to several

stores, hotels, and the LYNX Blue Line Stonewall Station.

Within walking distance are approximately 200 restaurants and numerous art, history, and science museums, galleries, and theaters.

Charlotte also has a network of greenways, parks, and other outdoor spaces and hosts sporting events including NFL football, NBA basketball, hockey, baseball, NASCAR, soccer, and more.



We are so excited to share with you some information about our Spring 2024 Encounter Charlotte program happening April 24-25, 2024. This session is open to those who are looking to get involved in the community or orient themselves to Charlotte. During this engaging experience, you will hear from a wide range of community leaders and walk away with a greater understanding of what makes this city work. If you or anyone you know would benefit from learning and meeting like-minded individuals, please share this information.

Click the link below to learn more.

[ENCOUNTER Charlotte - Leadership Charlotte](#)

Lakisha Rios
Development & Engagement Director
Leadership Charlotte
Phone 704.422.4279 ext.3

Ways to Give Your Offerings to Sedgefield UMC



Online Through

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

Make a credit card
or electronic
contribution.



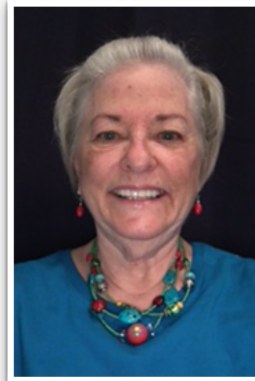
Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor
pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org



Ron Aldridge
Worship Leader



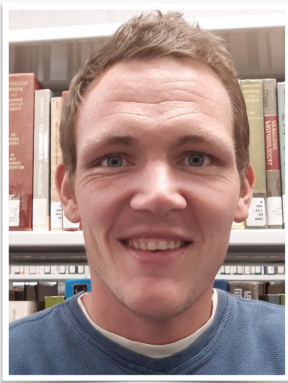
Mary Jo Bridges
Director of
Children's Ministry



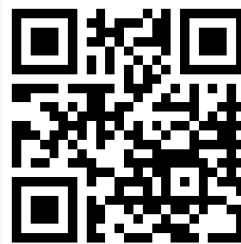
Ellen Freitas
Office Manager



Robin Moore
Nursery Caregiver



Bradley Kirksey
Youth Director



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