

THE EPISTLE

March 8, 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
Ephesians 2:1-10 and my title will be
“That’s Not The Way God Works.”

As we go along in life, we learn “the ways
of the world” and “how life works.” It is
part of growing up. What we have to
understand, as people of faith, is that God
is not like the world. The lessons we learn
as we grow up educate us about life and the world but they do
not necessarily apply to God.

For instance, life doesn’t always give us a second chance. God
always does. The world doesn’t always value helping others
and putting their needs above our own. God does. In life, love
is often conditional. God loves us unconditionally. You can
probably think of other examples. We will be talking about
how God is unlike the world in the sermon on Sunday.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

This Sunday in Worship

March 8, 2024

10:30 a.m.

That's Not The Way God Works

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.

Education Building Room 203

Flowers

The flowers in the narthex this Sunday, March 10, 2024 are in honor of Frank Fields' Birthday from Mary Beth Fields.

Future Sermons

Mar 17 - Tom Little Preaching

Mar 24 - Palm and Passion Sunday

Holy Communion

Mar 31 - Easter Sunday

Done and Undone

► Serve At Rebound-Dinner

Sunday, March 17, 2024

4:45 p.m.

907 W. 1st Street

► Admin Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

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

Room 204 in the Education Bldg.

► Serve At Rebound-Breakfast

Sunday, March 24, 2024

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

907 W. 1st Street

Upcoming Events

► Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, March 9, 2024

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

Fellowship Hall

► Youth Group

Sunday, March 10, 2024

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

St. Andrews UMC

1901 Archdale Drive

Charlotte, 28210

► Room In The Inn

Serve Dinner and Host

Sunday, March 10, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Avondale Presbyterian Church

2821 Park Rd, Charlotte 28209

► Lenten Lunch

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

12 Noon

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 Hunt

Saturday, March 16, 2024

10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon

Fellowship Hall and Courtyard

Time Change This Weekend



**Don't forget to turn
your clocks ahead one
hour this Saturday
night, March 9th.**

**Chili Cook-Off is tomorrow
Saturday, March 9, 2024
2pm - 4pm in Fellowship Hall**

**Please come join us for this
fun-filled event.**

All are Welcome.

**We'll be sampling the chili and
voting for the winners in both
the Traditional and Non-
Traditional categories.**



Symbols of Lent



As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds were praising him, saying “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.”

The Pharisees wanted Jesus to tell the people to be silent. Jesus said, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.” The presence of stones also calls to mind the stone which was rolled in from of Jesus’s tomb.



**This Sunday, March 10, 2024 is
our fourth and final Sunday
hosting, providing food and
serving the RITI guests at
Avondale Presbyterian Church
2821 Park Rd, Charlotte 28209.**

**Thank you to everyone who
made our participation in this
vital ministry possible.**



Reminder

**All bags of Easter Eggs are due back to the church
this Sunday, March 10th!**

**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



*Lynn Hager
Pianist and Organist
is retiring.*

Lynn Hager, our church pianist and organist for the past ten years, is retiring. Her final time playing for us is this Sunday, March 10th.

We will miss you Lynn and we thank you for bringing your amazing talent and your spirited presence to our Sunday Worship Service.

There will be a reception for Lynn after the service in the narthex and on the front lawn.

Please join us.

Four Lenten Lunch Wednesday's in March 12 Noon

We will be hosting this week's lunch. Please 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 13th & March 27th

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

March 20th

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



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.



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)**

**Any questions please contact:
Mary Jo Bridges
VBS Director
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>

**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.**



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

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.



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.

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.

Special Report from Samaritan's Purse regarding Operation Christmas Child 2023.



Thankful for What God Has Done

God did extraordinary things around the world through Operation Christmas Child in 2023! We praise Him that 11.3 million shoeboxes were packed worldwide during last year's collection season. That means millions of children will now hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be discipled in 2024!

To read the Special Report click on the Link below.

<https://links.e.samaritans-purse.org.uk/els/v2/emrKSk9Wg~CY/TEJTcGpSMWRRN0tKdGhjNGRGdUhpSWVCMFIGMC9WVUxFRIFzUG9zUVJ4UIRGdTVkNEhnZk1wOWlrR3VjaEYwVEtNbXZMdkVrdlZpY0pPMHg5ZFhlcUFpMWs4TXJXMUtwQnRQK1hPbkRBYmc9S0/>

We invite you to explore some of 2023's highlights in our Special Report and get a glimpse of just how God expresses His love through simple shoeboxes. You're sure to enjoy discovering some dynamic stories, including how shoeboxes led to several new churches being started in a remote region of Madagascar that was previously hostile to Christianity.

We are grateful for your partnership through faithful prayers, packed boxes, volunteer hours, and other support. Let's continue to “*declare His glory among the nations*” (Psalm 96:3).

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.



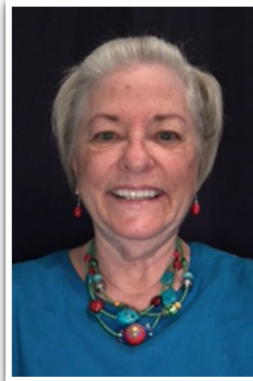
Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor
pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org



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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Charlotte, NC 28209
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office@SedgefieldChurch.org
SedgefieldChurch.org