

# THE EPISTLE

March 9, 2025

*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 Luke 4:1-13 and my title will be “Do No Harm.”

Although most people assume that the phrase “First do no harm” is a part of the Hippocratic Oath that doctors take, actually, those words don’t appear in the oath - at least not in that way. The oath includes the words “... I will abstain from all intentional wrongdoing and harm...” That’s pretty close. It is a great ethical foundation for doctors and for all of us.

As we begin the season of Lent, we are invited to re-commit ourselves to God in specific ways. If we choose to celebrate Lent by making promises and commitments, it will be most meaningful if we give up something or add something that matters to us. We want to choose a change that will draw us closer to God.

The Scripture lesson this week is Jesus’s temptation in the wilderness. Satan tried to divert and distract Jesus from his assigned mission as Messiah, but Jesus refused to fall for Satan’s tricks. Notice both the supposed good and the real harm that could have been done if Jesus had said yes to Satan. However we choose to spend our Lenten season, we should consider the good and harm that we do. I look forward to seeing you in worship on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Pastor Tom

# This Sunday in Worship

March 9, 2025  
10:30 a.m.  
Do No Harm

Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m.  
in Room 203 in the Education Bldg.

## Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers for this Sunday, March 9, 2025 are in honor of Frank Fields birthday from his wife Mary Beth.

**Do you want to honor or remember someone by donating Altar Flowers?**

**You can do so by:**

- Signing Up on the Altar Flowers page in this Epistle
- Email the office at [office@SedgefieldChurch.org](mailto:office@SedgefieldChurch.org)
- Call the office at 704-523-0077.

**In order for your flowers to be announced in the Newsletter and in Church on a particular Sunday, your order must be placed by Wednesday morning of that week.**

The flower donation remains at \$40.

## Future Sermons

*Mar 16 - An Uncertain Future*

*Mar 23 - A Soul Unsatisfied*

*Mar 30 - Leigh Fresina Preaching*

- ▶ **Charlotte Checkers Game**  
Sunday, [March 30, 2025](#)  
1:00 pm  
[Bojanles Coliseum](#)  
[2700 E. Independence Blvd.](#)  
[Charlotte, NC 28205](#)

# Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Youth Group**  
[Sunday, March 9, 2025](#)  
[12 Noon - 1:30 p.m.](#)  
[St. Andrews UMC](#)  
[1901 Archdale Drive](#)  
[Charlotte NC 28210](#)
- ▶ **Room In The Inn**  
[Serve Dinner and Host](#)  
[Sunday, March 9, 2025](#)  
[5:30 p.m.](#)  
[Avondale Presbyterian Church](#)  
[2821 Park Rd, Charlotte 28209](#)
- ▶ **Lenten Lunch**  
[Wednesday, March 12, 2025](#)  
[12 Noon - 1:00 pm](#)  
[Fellowship Hall](#)
- ▶ **Trustees Meeting**  
[Wednesday, March 12, 2025](#)  
[6:30 p.m.](#)  
[Via Zoom](#)
- ▶ **Susanna Wesley Circle**  
[Thursday, March 13, 2025](#)  
[6:30 p.m.](#)  
[Room 204 in the Education Bldg.](#)
- ▶ **Serve At Rebound-Dinner**  
[Sunday, March 16, 2025](#)  
[4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.](#)  
[907 W. 1st Street](#)
- ▶ **Serve At Rebound-Breakfast**  
[Sunday, March 23, 2025](#)  
[7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.](#)  
[907 W. 1st Street](#)
- ▶ **Admin Council Meeting**  
[Tuesday, March 25, 2025](#)  
[6:30 p.m.](#)  
[Room 204 w/ Zoom Option](#)

# Time Change This Weekend



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour this Saturday night, March 8th.



## Results of our Chili Cook-Off held on Saturday, February 15, 2025

Winner - Linda Russ  
3rd Place - Johnny Horn

*Congratulations!*





This Sunday night, March 9th, members of our church will be serving and hosting the guests at Room in the Inn.

Arrival time is 5:30 p.m.  
Avondale Presbyterian Church  
2821 Park Road  
Charlotte, NC 28209

If you have any questions, please email Ellen Lankford at [ewlankford@gmail.com](mailto:ewlankford@gmail.com).



*This is our fourth and final Sunday hosting the guests at Room in the Inn for 2024-2025.*

*Thank you to everyone who prepared and donated food, served dinner, the children who made breakfast bags and those who hosted the guests overnight.*

*You made our participation in this vital ministry possible.*

# *The 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.*

# Lenten Luncheons

**Sedgefield UMC and Woodlawn Community Fellowship UMC are hosting five Lenten Luncheons at 12Noon on Wednesdays during Lent.**

**This Wednesday, March 12th, is our first Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.**

Please join us we gather for a brief time of devotion and fellowship. Remaining dates and locations are listed below.

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



**All are Welcome!**

## **March 26th and April 9th**

12Noon - Sedgefield United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor

## **March 19th & April 2nd**

12Noon - Woodlawn Community Fellowship UMC  
737 E. Woodlawn Road  
Charlotte 28209  
Jonathan Coppedge-Henley, Pastor



## **Donate Altar Flowers**

**Use the Sign-up Genius Link Below  
to Donate Flowers in 2025.**

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

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

**You can also call the just Church Office  
at 704-523-0077 to order flowers.**

**In order for your flowers to be announced in the  
Newsletter and in Church on a particular Sunday, your  
order must be placed by Wednesday morning of that week.**

**The Altar Flower donation remains the same at \$40.  
Payment can be made by mailing a check payable to Sedgefield  
UMC, 2830 Dorchester Pl, Charlotte, NC 28209 or  
pay online using your usual method of giving.**

**Note for “Flower Fund” on the payment method you use.**





**Home Dedication for Tabitha  
and her Son  
Saturday, March 15, 2025  
at 10 am at the house on  
James Street.**

**Marwen**



**Tabatha and her Son in  
Front of the House**



## **Sedgefield Church at the Charlotte Checkers**

**Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 1:00 pm**

Sedgefield Day at the Charlotte Checkers Hockey Game will be Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm! Come hang out with your church friends and enjoy some hockey. Tickets are \$29.12 each - use the link below to purchase. This event is open to all ages!

Blessings!  
Mary Jo Bridges  
704-617-4056

**Below is the link to purchase**

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Sedgefieldchurch7>

**Bojangles Coliseum  
2700 E. Independence Blvd.  
Charlotte, NC 28205**



## Lay Servant Training 2025 - Register Now!

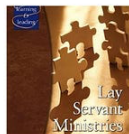
**Metro District is Offering Basic Lay Servant Training  
and two Advanced Courses on March 29 and 30.  
The deadline to register is March 17!**



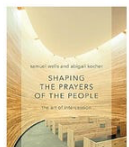
The Metro District is offering the opportunity to become a lay servant through the basic course or to become, or maintain your status as, a certified lay servant through an Advanced Course.

**Certified Lay Servants must take an advanced course every three years to maintain certification.** We hope you will join one of our classes listed below.

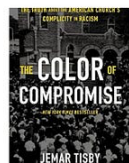
**Deadline to register is March 17, 2025**



**Basic Lay Servant Ministries Course** - "God calls you to a life of servanthood as a disciple of Jesus Christ. ...Lay Servant Ministries is the first step for many laypersons toward their faith journey as they strive for a closer relationship with the Lord,



**Advanced Course: "Shaping 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.



**Advanced Course: The Color of Compromise: The Truth About American Church's Complicity in Racism** by Jemar Tisby. An acclaimed, timely narrative on how people of faith have historically - up to the present day - worked against racial Justice. The course is both enlightening and compelling, telling a history we either ignore or just don't know. Equal parts painful and inspirational.

## MARCH 29 & 30, 2025

*All courses will be held at University City UMC,  
3835 W W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte - (You MUST  
attend all ten hours to receive credit for the  
course.)*

SATURDAY - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

SUNDAY - 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM (followed by a  
closing session)



**Below is the Link to Sign Up for a Lay  
Servant Ministry Training Course**

[https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/  
2025MetroDistrictLayServantTraining7171?  
utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/2025MetroDistrictLayServantTraining7171?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)



# Vacation Bible School at Sedgefield Church

**Monday-Thursday, July 14–17, 2025**  
**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.

**OR**

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

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**2025 - TRUE NORTH**



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

**First United Methodist Church**  
501 N Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202

***BREAKFAST MINISTRY  
NEEDS VOLUNTEERS***



Every Sunday morning between 8-9:15, some 250 guests receive breakfast in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church, called the **Muffin Ministry**.

Since it began 15 years ago, volunteers actually serve a full meal, with cereal, fruit, sandwiches, eggs, biscuits, pastries, bagels, and coffee and juice.

Individuals or church groups are welcome to assist in this important work! Come once, or schedule a recurring Sunday.

If you would like to help set up, serve, visit, or clean up, please email the Muffin Ministry Coordinator, Ann Huskey at [annhusk@yahoo.com](mailto:annhusk@yahoo.com).

**Thank You!**



## Hurricane Helene Volunteer Opportunity from Woodlawn Community Fellowship

Woodlawn Community Fellowship has been in collaboration with other area churches and Neighborhood Table to provide hot meals several days a week as part of Hurricane Helene Relief.

Every Tuesday in February and March, we will take a team of 3 people to Newland UMC in Avery County. Catered food is picked up at a local restaurant in Avery County, delivered to Newland UMC and served to approximately 200 guests 12:00-2:00 pm. Guests include local residents impacted by the storm, FEMA workers and other work crews.

**Please contact Barbara Helm at [wcf@woodlawncommunityfellowship.org](mailto:wcf@woodlawncommunityfellowship.org) if you can help by:**

1. Travel on a Tuesday in February or March. Leave Woodlawn Community Fellowship at 8:30am and return approximately 5:00pm. Everyone travels in one vehicle.
2. Provide baked goods/desserts. Desserts need to be placed in individual baggies or wrapped in clear plastic wrap. 200 desserts are needed each Tuesday. Desserts can be dropped off Monday morning or Tuesday morning between 8:00 - 8:30. Please schedule a drop off with the number of servings with Barbara.
3. Provide soft drinks.

Thank You!



## How To Help With WNC CUMC Hurricane Helene Relief

### **Step 1: Sedgefield UMC Will Collect Supplies.**

Current list of supplies needed:

- Water
- Flood Buckets
- Non-perishable food
- Diapers
- Baby Formula
- Cleaning Supplies

**Absolutely NO clothes or food items that need refrigeration.**

We will work on a more detailed list over time. This list may change quickly, and we will keep you updated.

Please leave your donations under the sign next to the stairs in the Narthex.

### **Step 2: We Will Deliver Our Donated Supplies to:**

**Woodlawn Community Fellowship** (our District Collection Hub).

Ann Davis - Collection Hub Coordinator

704-502-9265 (Please text.)

Call Woodlawn Coordinator to schedule a time to drop off supplies.

### **Donate directly to WNC CUMC**

**Online:** Use this Link: <https://bit.ly/WNCCHurricaneReliefDonations>

**Checks:** Checks can be made out to WNC C Treasurer and mailed to PO Box 2757, Huntersville, NC 28070 with memo Disaster Response.

You can also donate through Sedgefield UMC by whatever method you currently use (**note for Disaster Relief**). We will forward to WNC CUMC.

## 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.





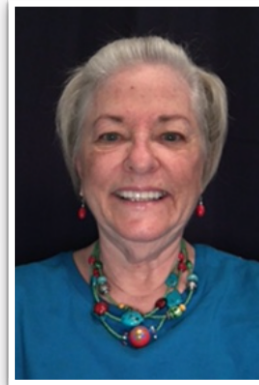
**Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor**  
pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org



**Ron Aldridge**  
Worship Leader



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



**Ellen Freitas**  
Office Manager



**Bradley Kirksey**  
Youth Director



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