

**“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.”**  
**2 Corinthians 13:11**

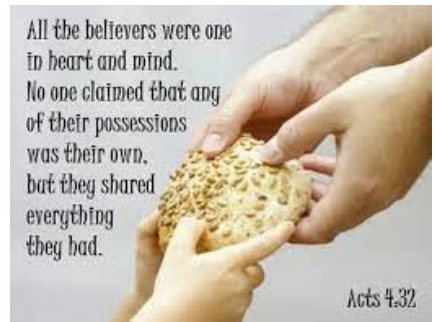


Volume 1\* Issue 4  
April, 2023

First Troutman UMC  
Troutman, N.C.



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**“All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.”**  
**Acts 4:32 (NLT)**

Peter and John had been put in a prison after performing a miracle and preaching in the name of Jesus. They were eventually released and returned to the church. Here’s how their fellow believers responded to the story of their imprisonment, the trial, and later release: “When they heard this, they were united and loudly prayed to God” (Acts 4:24 GW).

Praying together unifies the church. After this unified prayer of people in the early church, the building where they were meeting shook. That must have been a powerful prayer! The building shook, they were all filled with God’s Holy Spirit, and the people began to speak God’s message with boldness. Those gathered in prayer were bold, fearless, and confident in sharing their faith. What keeps you locked in fear and insecurity that keeps you from sharing your faith or praying a bold prayer?

One way we can become a bolder follower of Jesus Christ is if we focus on our unity with other

Christians. The Bible says that, when people in the early church were unified, they became bold in speaking the Word of God. Division creates fear and destroys vision of the church. A divided church is a fearful church. But unity removes fear. It helps God’s people remember the Gospel and what he has done, giving them hope.

We also learn from the first Christians in the book of Acts: when a church is truly unified the way Christ wants it to be, then all the member’s needs are met. Acts 4:32 says, “All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had” (NLT). They shared everything they had so nobody was in need. Acts 2 says that this was impressive to the non-Christians in Jerusalem. The church had the favor of the community because they saw how Christians loved and cared for each other.

Unity in your church—and in the larger body of Christ—will have the same effect: People will see your love for each other and your common purpose in the Gospel. They’ll want to know what makes the difference. Then you’ll have boldness to tell them about the One who unites you.

**Pastor Jeff Hamrick**

**Bible Study (Adults/Kids/Youth)**

Weds. April 5th, 19th, & 26th

6:30–7:30 PM

Bible Study Topic—Chosen Season #3  
& James Chapter 1

**Wonderful Wednesday Meals**

Meals served from 5:30–6:20 PM

Weds. April 5th, 19th, & 26th

**Methodist Men**

Tuesday, April 18th, at 6:30 PM

Meeting & eating At Talley House

**Easter Egg Hunt & Literacy Event**

Saturday, April 1st, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM

**Community Sunrise Service**

Sunday, April 9th, 7:00 AM

Breakfast afterwards in fellowship hall

**Maundy Thursday Service**

Thursday, April 6th, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

**Good Friday on the Greens**

Friday, April 7th, 11:30 AM–2:00 PM

Broad Street UMC, Statesville





Notable April Birthdays Past years - April 2nd, Marvin Gaye (Singer); April 3rd, Eddie Murphy (Actor), April 5th, Bette Davis (Actress); April 5th, Colin Powell (General Secretary of State); April 7th, Jackie Chan (Actor); April 8th, Betty Ford; (First Lady of the United States); April 10th, John Madden (Football Coach), April 13th, Thomas Jefferson (3rd President of United States), April 14th, Loretta Lynn (Musician), April 23rd, William Shakespeare ( Author); April 23rd, Shirley Temple (Actress)

**Troutman First UMC - Notable April Birthday's**

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| April 10th - Hope Bridges    | April 11th - Earl Adams       |
| April 13th - Robin Schade    | April 13th - Lance Sigmon     |
| April 14th - William Brown   | April 17th - Nancy Sigmon     |
| April 17th - Pete Plyler     | April 17th - Keisel Larson    |
| April 21st - Gail Short      | April 24th - Eric Wilson      |
| April 25th - Christian Mills | April 26th - Jeff Maloney     |
| April 26th - Marchia Boone   | April 29th - Sheila Dagenhart |

**Troutman First UMC - Anniversaries**

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 6th - Mac & Linda McCabe | April 19th - Gordon & Carol Hebbard |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Troutman First UMC Mission Statement**

**Discover**

*All eyes are opened to the grace and love of God and lives are transformed through the act of worship.*

**Develop**

*In a love and inclusive environment, disciples of Jesus Christ are nurtured and prepared.*

**Deploy**—*We respond to needs locally and throughout the world as the Holy Spirit sends disciples forth to serve.*



First Troutman United Methodist

**C O N T A C T**



704 528-5110



[www.firsttroutmanmethodist.com](http://www.firsttroutmanmethodist.com)



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**S O C I A L**



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### **Upcoming Sermon Topics**

April 2nd - Sixth Sunday of Lent / Palm Sunday (Sermon Title) *"Ripped & Torn"* - Sermon Scripture Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45; & Hebrews 10:19-23.

Thursday, April 6th—Maundy Thursday  
*Do This In Remembrance of Me*  
Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-15; Luke 22:7-13; & 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

No Good Friday Service In Person  
Watch Online A Reposting of 2020 Event

April 9th—Resurrection Sunday  
*"From Death to Life"* - Ephesians 2:5  
Decorate Living Cross w/Flowers

April 16th - Second Sunday of Easter  
*"Past to Present"* - 1 Corinthians 15:4

April 23rd—Third Sunday of Easter  
Guest Minister

April 30th - Fourth Sunday of Easter  
*"A New Kind of Alive"* - 1 Peter 1 3:-9

During the Month of April – After we celebrate Palm Sunday, remember the Passion of Christ during Holy Week, then Celebrate Easter Sunday (Resurrection Morning), we will focus on the ***"Good News"*** of Easter. Come join us as Easter People and let the world know that we serve a Risen Savior.

### **Bible Study Series Month of April**

April 2023 we will finish watching Chosen Season #3 and discussing each episode. With each episode that is reviewed, we will look at the scripture passage for the basis of that episode and dive into interpretation and meaning for our lives today.

April 5th – Episode #7 (Season 3) - *"Ears to Hear"* - Mark 7:31-37; & tons of parables

Tons of parables [The Great Banquet ([Luke 14:12-24](#)), the Mustard Seed ([Matthew 13:31-32](#)), the Sower ([Matthew 13:1-9](#)), the Two Sons ([Matthew 21:28-32](#)), the Treasure ([Matthew 13:44](#)), the Pearl ([Matthew 13:45-46](#)), and a brief allusion to the Wheat & Tares ([Matthew 13:24-30](#)).

April 12th - No Bible Study—Break for Easter (Spring Break w/ Schools)

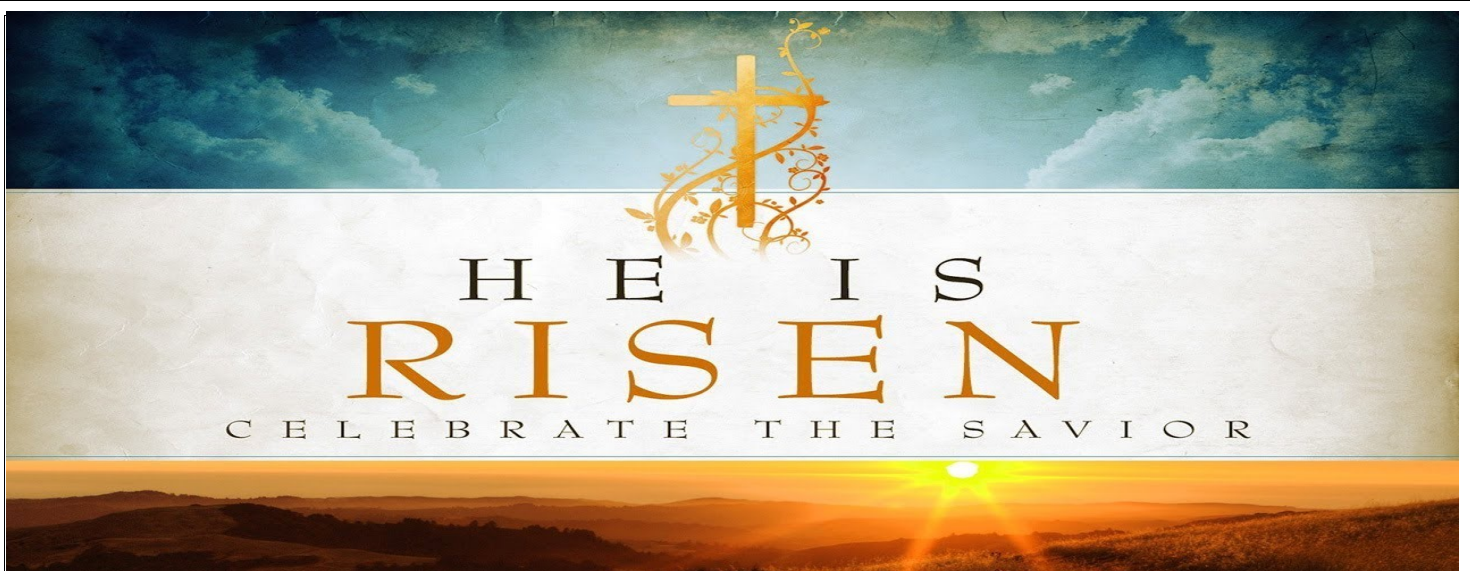
April 19th— Episode #8 (Season 3) - *"Sustenance"* - Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:31–44; Luke 9:12–17; John 6:1–14

April 26th – James *"Living the Christian Life 24/7"* - James 1



H E I S  
R I S E N

C E L E B R A T E T H E S A V I O R



**Welcome New Members**

***Sierra Beane & Sean Pittman***

**Sierra & Sean joined Troutman First UMC  
on March 19th, 2023**

**Sierra transfers her membership from  
St. Stephens Lutheran Church  
Hickory, North Carolina.**

**Sean transfers his membership from  
Mountain View Baptist Church  
Hickory, North Carolina.**

**Sierra & Sean both are involved in TFUMC  
Praise Team.**

**Help us welcome them to TFUMC.**



**Open Door Friends Gathering**

***Fellowship & Fun Gathering—Tuesday, April 11th***

**At Village Inn Pizza Parlor**

**1503 Cinema Drive, Statesville, NC 289625**

**11:15—11:20 AM Gathering**

**Pizza & Salad Buffet, Spaghetti, Soup, & Bread**

**Conversation with Friends**

**A Fun activity or two with those gathered**

**Regular Buffet Cost without Drink     \$10.39**

**Senior Discount     \$1.00**

**Senior Buffet Cost Without Drink \$ 9.39 + Tax**

**Open Door Contributing \$2.00 Bill toward purchase of Meal**

**Reservation due by Friday 4/7 to Jim Wollin**

**(704) 724-7942 or [opendoorfcr@gmail.com](mailto:opendoorfcr@gmail.com)**



## **Practices to Cultivate Humble Leadership**

The best leaders understand the importance of humble servanthood. But what practical measures can a leader take to demonstrate genuine humility? Here are practical suggestions to cultivate a godly and humble spirit. Sometimes a leader just needs to know what to do next and why that is important. Humility takes a lifetime to cultivate but only a moment to plow under—a thoughtless comment, a brief indulgence, a selfish motivation that leads to a prideful action. In no time at all, the pure and simple life of humility we long for suffers a blow that knocks our lives out of balance.

### **1. Look for some way to serve each day.**

Life offers a limitless variety of opportunities to serve others. Why not make it a point of special emphasis to find out how you can encourage humility in your own heart by taking the initiative to find needs in others and meet them?

### **2. Treat everyone with respect and without partiality.**

Life offers a limitless variety of opportunities to serve others. Why not make it a point of special emphasis to find out how you can encourage humility in your own heart by taking the initiative to find needs in others and meet them? Demanding people, complaining people, critical people, excessively needy people. You name it. Churches are filled with them. We can really afford to do that while affirming genuine love for them? It is fitting to show them respect, even honor, in the name of the One who places them in our care. Likewise, we need to make sure that we do not show partiality or preference to anyone in a self-serving manner.

### **3. Learn the art of asking questions and listening to others.**

One of the greatest marks of humility in a person is that they care what others think. They have the ability to ask questions instead of doing all the talking. Try asking questions the next time you are with someone new. By taking the low place and letting them do the talking you might find it refreshing to listen and learn for a change.

### **4. Boast of nothing but Christ and the cross.**

I have no trouble talking about my family, sports, and ministry issues, so why shouldn't I become more consistent in bringing Christ into my conversations? Speaking more of Him and less of myself can be just what I need to do to take the focus off of me! We boast most about what matters the most to us!

### **5. Never demand or even expect preferential treatment.**

Some in vocational ministry believe everyone owes us special treatment for the great sacrifices we think we have made to follow Christ. It is time we get a grip! No one owes us anything! Be careful then. Refuse to allow yourself to expect to be treated differently than anyone else.

### **6. When you meet someone, take the initiative and introduce yourself.**

Never assume people know who you are. I find it helps me and the other person if I assume nothing of them and take the responsibility to introduce myself first. This may seem like such a simple thing, but first impressions go a long way. I want to make sure that my actions convey humility in even this small way.

### **7. Believe the best of people and always give them the benefit of the doubt.**

Humility will lead us to conclude that we are not always right and that we do not always command all the facts. Therefore, whenever possible, resist drawing conclusions until you give people the opportunity to tell their side of the story. When you do this, you are admitting that there is room for another perspective. When we rush to judgment, we feed our own ego to need to be right, to stay on top of every situation, maintain control flow of the information flow, and remain in charge. Simply saying, "You may be right..." offers grace with humility.

### **8. Learn how to accept praise and take compliments graciously.**

I heard about a young soprano soloist who sang just before a veteran preacher was to deliver his sermon. The pastor told her, "that was wonderful. You did very well." In a stab at humility, she replied, "Oh, that was the Lord, not me!" With a twinkle in his eye, he said, "Well, it wasn't that good!" How hard can it be just to say, "Thank you! You are very gracious to say so." The person offering the compliment feels acknowledged, and then you can turn their praise immediately into a word of gratitude to the Lord.

### **9. Admit your mistakes quickly and seek forgiveness when your mistakes cause pain to others.**

Humble people quickly admit their mistakes, instead of insisting on defending themselves and their intentions, justifying, rationalizing, trying somehow to present themselves in the best light. The sooner you acknowledge your fallibility, the sooner you rebuild trust and regain your credibility.

### **10. Create situations that will remind you and others that you are not indispensable.**

The more the ministry revolves around us, the more our egos get inflated. Our estimation of our own importance blinds us to the truth. One of the best ways to combat this is to make sure that you regularly delegate to others the things you normally do. It will give you a break now and then. It will allow others to exercise their spiritual gifts. And it will prove to you and your congregation that you aren't irreplaceable. That is a good thing for you to know and them to find out.

### **11. Honor others by recognizing their efforts, publicly and privately, by expressing thanks.**

People love to put their leaders on pedestals. Once you learned how liberating it can be to get off the pedestal, you will want to do it more often. Teamwork makes the load of ministry much lighter for everybody and ultimately more effective. Wise leaders look for ways to share the work and then express thanks in many ways that honor others.

# COMMUNITY MINISTRY MISSION AND OUTREACH



## Troutman Help Ministries

With school fixing to dismiss for the summer months, Troutman Help Ministries has asked for donation of items school kids could eat that would be easy to open and not require extensive cooking. During the month of April our United Methodist Churches in Statesville / Troutman will be collecting the following items for Troutman Help Ministries:

Jello cups; Pudding cups; Fruit Cups; Easy open cans of food (small Chef Boyardee, Beenie Wieners, etc.); Tuna / Chicken Pouches; Packs of Peanut Butter Crackers; Chips; Pouch Drinks or small bottles of drinks/water; individual cookies / cakes; taco kits; pizza kits; box meals (lunch snack packs, etc).

Please collect these and bring to the church by Monday, May 1st. Thank you for your support. You can drop off items on side pew from altar.

## Kenny & Elizaveta Llywelyn



In 2022, Troutman First UMC was privileged to have Kenny & Elizaveta Llywelyn come to our worship service and share with us in song and message. Elizaveta is from Ukraine and she shared about her country and the struggle her country has faced due to the war Russia has forced upon them. She also shared about her concerns for family and friends still living in the Ukraine. We were blessed to have her sing for us in her native tongue. A generous love offering was taken to help assist one of her brothers and family relocate to the United States. After a year of red-tape, the family is now located and are residents of Iredell County (in Statesville). Elizaveta's brother and family will join us for worship on April 16th to share their gratitude and thanks. Elizaveta will sing for us again.



## **Greetings from the Children's Ministry**

### **April News from Alice Ward (Children's Coordinator)**

Greetings from Children's Ministry!

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." (Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read with My Eyes Shut!") Dr. Seuss, Pastor Jeff, explained how this also applies to the Bible. By reading the Bible, you will not only go "to far away" places, but you will meet and get to know people from the Old and New Testaments!

On Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed storybook characters to worship and blessed the books for the Blessing Box on the playground. This wonderful Blessing Box is dedicated to Shelbia "Jean" Ervin and a plaque will be placed in her honor. Thanks again to Danny Ervin and Jim Wollin for building, to the children and youth for painting, and to Ralph Dagenhart and Virgil Crater for installing the Blessing Box! Also, thanks to all who donated books and bookmarks! The box is ready for children to select a book and take it home with them or read while visiting the playground.

Our Easter event will be on April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:30am to 12:00pm. We will continue the Storybook literacy activities and again, children and adults may dress up as storybook characters. Activities include: exploring books through storytelling, crafts, games, hunting for eggs, and eating pizza.

In Sunday School, we are almost finished with our lessons on Servanthood for Kids: The Life of Jesus. This month, we will have lessons on the Crucifixion (Part 2), the Resurrection, and Jesus Sends Disciples. To learn about the Trinity, the children made shamrocks and passed them out to members attending church. We are also learning the books in the New Testament.

In Children's Church, we finished our lessons on The Creation Story and will focus on Easter activities. Leigh Payne helped on Sunday, where the children designed Crosses with "Jesus Loves Me." We also welcomed some of the children from the homeschool group.

The Sunday School, Children's Church, and Wednesday Night lessons are now meeting in the classroom next to the kitchen.

Thanks to those who donated or support Children's ministry! We will be selecting new tables and chairs for the children soon. I would like to invite you to work with our precious children. Come join us for lots of fun, fellowship, and building of faith. They bring us such joy!

Alice Ward, Children's Coordinator  
Troutman First UMC



## **Congregational Care**

Please remember these shut-ins during the month of April by sending them a card letting them know you are praying for them. These notes are always encouragement and support to our friends as they wish they could be with us for worship. Some are recovering at home, while others are in nursing facilities.

Mr. Pete Plyler  
718 East Monbo Road  
Statesville, NC 28677  
Birthday—April 17th

Ms, Billie Jo Powell  
167 Cedar Lane  
Troutman, NC 28166

Ms. Beverly Ostwalt  
158 Lytton Farm Rd.  
Troutman, NC 28166  
*Eye Surgery 3/29*

Mr. Gordon Hebbard  
115 Lauren Drive  
Statesville, NC 28677  
Annv. 4/19 & Health Concerns

## **Global Methodist Presentation**

### **DATE CHANGED**

The Global Methodist representative changed the date for the presentation to Troutman First United Methodist to Sunday, April 30th.

We will be unable to have a lunch similar to when UMC representative came to church due to setting up for Consignment Sale (weekend May 6th).

Tentatively the time set for the presentation & question answering will be immediately following worship at 11:15 / 11:20 AM. Watch and listen for more details to come.

## News from Troutman First United Methodist Youth Group

The group is studying the Women of the Bible.

We have started our lesson on Mary, Martha, and Lazarus and each of their relationships with Jesus.

Our activity for this lesson is pictured below along with some others from that evening. Earl was very gracious and put up with our shenanigans. He let us make him Lazarus for the evening.

We are working on our "bio" spotlight for each youth to put in the newsletter. May's newsletter will feature our 1st youth...MELINA! More to come, be sure to check it out! Working on activities and missions for the year. First mission and service project planned is making a Youth Reflection garden behind the Church.

April 19th after the Wednesday night meal before bible study we will be having our 1st meeting with parents and youth to discuss some items and activities on our agendas and I will report back from my seminar from the previous day as well. Consignment Sale is the first activity we have for the summer. May 4-6. Youth will be helping when they can for set-up, sale, and clean-up.

We are working on getting a schedule for the youth to participate in worship and as greeters and ushers and scripture readers.

### **Blessings from Julie Yager and the Youth**



### **Methodist Men in Action (Ham Biscuit / Hot Dog Sale)**

We tried to get Virgil to purchase horse so Pastor Jeff could be a circuit rider.





**Blessing Box & Books Dedicated**

On Sunday, March 26th, Troutman First dedicated a blessing box in Memory of Jean A. Ervin, made by her husband Danny Ervin & Jim Wollin in the church playground. We also blessed the books donated to the church by our congregational members. These books will be placed in the book box for families and children to take, read, and return to the blessing box. Thank you to Danny & Jim and all those who donated books for our blessing box. Stop by the playground and check the box out.



*There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all. ~**Jacqueline Kennedy***

*Today a reader - Tomorrow a Leader. **Margaret Fuller***

*A book is a gift you can open again and again! **Garrison Keller***

*The more you read, the more you will know, the more places you'll go!*

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The MESSENGER

Volume 1 \* Issue 3  
March, 2023

