



**SKYLAND**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
LOVE · GROW · SERVE



## Skyland UMC Weekly News

April 4<sup>TH</sup> 2024



### Peace Be With You

"Peace be with you."

These are the words that the resurrected Jesus offered to the disciples and their friends when they gathered in a locked upper room. Scripture indicates that they were "startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost" (Luke 24:37). Jesus asks them about their apparent fears and doubts. And, then he invites them to touch and see... a ghost does not have flesh and bones as he has (Verses 38, 39). Fear runs throughout the whole stream of life. Even in the church, fear is experienced among the faithful. And, in the particular tradition to which we belong, fear prevails more than we would like to think or feel.

In the United Methodist Church, there are a number of conversations that are swirling in all corners of the globe. Sometimes there seems to be a lack of conversation that inspires and ignites our energies to do the good we are called to do. As we launch out into the Easter Season today, I want to encourage you to find ways to love and serve with gladness—with less fear if it is humanly possible. Our church's general meeting will be happening in just a few short weeks in Charlotte. Indeed, there are emotional issues that will rear their heads to the point that the threat of further division may subsequently emerge. I want to remind you... in case you have forgotten... that the church *has always been confronted with emotional issues* that have threatened to divide.

One only has to go back and read the Book of Acts. Begin with about Chapter 15 and recall how slavery, divorce, and many other issues were causing strife in the early church. It seems that every time we open the door to schism, we lose out. We lose something of our momentum. We lose something of our influence in the community and in the world. We lose members of our family of faith. By allowing fear to win instead of love, what on earth are we teaching our children?

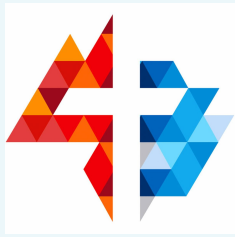
In this Eastertide, I am committed to several things at Skyland and in my own life. As we approach the General Conference, I am committed to daily prayer (look elsewhere in this newsletter for ways you can join me in prayer for this general meeting). And regardless of the outcome, I want to be committed to Skyland as it leans into the difficult challenges that may present and into the prayer that Jesus offered in John 17:11: "...that they all may be one..." Even though schism is present within the church, I remain prayerful that we can both disagree in love and work for love (together) in the world today.

We have so much to celebrate at Skyland such as our Summer Vacation Bible School, another exciting Youth Mission Trip, excellent small group and bible study experiences, the Manna Food Distribution monthly event, Bridges Reading, and more. These are just a few examples of how we work for love in the world today. Jesus is alive! I give thanks for the people of Skyland.

My prayer is that we can continue to be faithful Easter people for many years to come!

Joe

Church In Action



## Next Board of Stewards Meeting

The next Board of Stewards meeting will take place on **April 9<sup>th</sup>** in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is open to anyone in the congregation who would like to attend. Click [here](#) to view the agenda!

## Board of Stewards Town Hall

Your church leadership, the Board of Stewards, will hold a town hall **following CHOW on April 17** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

There will be a handout with information on recent Skyland developments. And an opportunity for you to give input to the Skyland leadership. Click [here](#) to view the agenda!

## Welcome Our Newest Members

We welcome **Sarah and Jim Grant** who joined us as members in full connection this past Easter Sunday. They come to us by transfer of letter from another church. We look forward to getting to know Sarah and Jim more in the days and months ahead!

**Anyone wishing to join the church** is invited to give this level of commitment consideration. We have an orientation time scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. after CHOW. Please contact the church office if you are interested or contact Joe Tarpley at [JTarpley@skylandumc.com](mailto:JTarpley@skylandumc.com) or by phone at (336) 613-3085.



## Festival of God's Creation in April

Genesis has plenty to say about Earth Day! Indeed, in Chapter 1, God created the world and blessed all that is within it. During the month of April, we want to give some attention to the created world around us and incorporate some liturgy in our worship and find some ways to highlight our responsibility for the world around us. We are stewards of the planet and it is important for us to take that role seriously today. Watch your newsletter and email inboxes for ways that you can join Skyland Church in celebrating God's creation!



## Pray for General Conference

As our denomination prepares to meet later in April for its General Meeting, you are invited to join others around the world in praying for this gathering and for the matters that will be confronted. The meeting will be held in Charlotte, NC. People from around the world will convene to deliberate matters that are pertinent to the life and ministry of our particular Christian tradition. Let us pray that God's Holy Spirit will lead all in making decisions that will be life-giving to the people called "Methodists."

You can access the prayer guide [here](#). It functions much like an Upper Room devotional guide beginning next Sunday, April 7.



## Centering and Intercessory Prayer

For those who are interested, Joe is available for centering and intercessory prayer time at 5 p.m. on April 17<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> in the Prayer Room - located in the Havener Building. No need to sign up; just plan to attend as you are available. Reach out to Joe with any questions!

## Missions Highlight

### The Blessing Box

New signs will soon be posted on the Blessing Box reminding all of our generous donors that donations should be placed in the large bin on the ramp, not directly in the box or in front of it. Recent donations from the community have crowded the box, making it difficult to access. It's actually not unusual for our monitors to clear out multiple boxes of canned goods and carry them to the pantry before being able to stock appropriately for the day. We appreciate the generosity and just need a little help managing it!



### Blessing Box current needs include:

refried beans, black beans, and peaches



## Music Corner

### Easter Communion Music

Hello, Everyone! I'd like to use this little "Music Corner" to occasionally introduce new tunes to your ears! One such beautiful melody will be sung within our 11 a.m. Service this Sunday: The *Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)* from our Communion Music for Easter. This gorgeous setting of the Eucharist was composed by Mark Miller in 2001 and gives us a fresh opportunity to sing "Hosanna in the highest," as you will hear! We hope you will join us in singing these beautiful melodies on Sunday!  
- Kimberly C. Link: [Click Here to Listen!](#)



## Let's Get Together

### You're Invited!

Join us in celebrating **Betty Sams' 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday** on **April 14<sup>th</sup>** in the Fellowship Hall, right after the 11 a.m. service. Everyone is invited to the big birthday bash!

### Men's Gathering Tonight

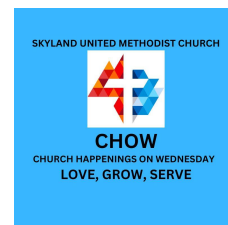
We are meeting Tonight at 6:45 p.m. at Fahrenheit Pizza and Brew. You're invited to join in on the fellowship and food. They've got wings! (if you want them-- buffalo, buffalo lemon pepper, hot honey, garlic, BBQ, Cajun...) and, of course, pizza! The address is 17 Lee St—South, Asheville, NC 28803. Contact Joe if you know you'll attend in advance (336-613-3085, text/call; [JTarpley@skylandumc.com](mailto:JTarpley@skylandumc.com), email). Hope to see many of you.

### Have a Heart Circle Meeting

Have a Heart Circle of United Women in Faith will meet on **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, after the late service (noon) in the Aldersgate classroom. All women in the church are welcome. Refreshments will be provided, or bring a lunch. This is a change from our usual meeting time on the first Thursday evening of each month. There will be a short program related to the work of United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women. Celebrating more than 150 years of service, this Christian organization supports programs and institutions around the country and the world that promote the well-being of women, children, and youth. Questions? Call Karen Anderson (828) 628-9385 or Kathy Woods (828) 777-8617.

### CHOW Returns Next Week on April 10

Spring breaks are almost over, our new fridge has arrived, and we're ready to gather again on Wednesday evenings for our CHOW dinner and activities! Chin and Albert will prepare **beef stroganoff, egg noodles, salad, and rolls** and we'll celebrate April birthdays and anniversaries. Reserve by Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at noon via the [Signup Genius](#), sheet in the colonnade or by contacting the office. As always, help with setup, serving or cleanup is welcome! The signup sheet for cleanup is in the colonnade.



### Support Our Students

Come watch Skyland's own Kaitlyn Byrd and Malina Santacruz perform in Valley Springs Middle School's performance of Frozen Jr. April 18th-20th. Performances are at 7 p.m. with an additional Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Get your tickets here: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/82354>

TC Roberson High School will be performing Les Mis April 25th-27th (Valerie Brady and Phoebe Smith - Skyland youth, and one of our younger Skyland kids, Aurelia Lacono!) canva Get your tickets here: [https://tcrhs.booktix.net/cart.php?action=show\\_pers&show\\_id=32&show\\_sec=e7e4e34e91dc9cae](https://tcrhs.booktix.net/cart.php?action=show_pers&show_id=32&show_sec=e7e4e34e91dc9cae)

### Getting Ready for VBS

VBS is coming up and we need some craft supplies! We would like to start crafting some things now for this year's theme and need these items by April 15<sup>th</sup>. You may already have a lot of these items in your house! We need:

- Large rolls of brown kraft paper (needed to cover large boxes)
- 2 rolls of parchment paper or wax paper
- 4 bags of artificial grass or moss
- 100 pipe cleaners in bright colors (need at least 16 each color- colors can repeat)
- 24 Styrofoam balls 2 inch and 4 inches
- 1 large jar of brown tempera paint
- 100/ 1-inch flat white beads
- 100/200 large multi-temperature hot glue sticks

- 1 spray paint can each of red, blue, yellow, orange, purple
- 48 wooden BBQ sticks
- 80 wooden chopsticks
- 24 cans of expanding foam like 'Great Stuff'
- 10 rolls of floral mesh any color
- 40 pool noodles in bright colors
- 1 Styrofoam cooler 28 quarts (needed for a pirate chest)
- A bunch of coffee filters
- Red and blue Ritz dye
- Seashells and nets

A box will be in the colonnade for items to be placed in. Thanks so much!  
 This year's **Vacation Bible School** will be **July 15- 19, 2024**, so mark it on your calendars.  
 We will need all kinds of help!

*Diane Plott*

## Pictures from Easter Sunday

Thank you to everyone for making Easter Sunday a beautiful day of celebration at Skyland UMC!



## SUMC Pastoral Contact

**Skyland UMC Pastoral Contact:**  
 Rev. Joe Tarpley, Senior Pastor ([jtarples@skylandumc.com](mailto:jtarples@skylandumc.com))  
 Find more staff contact information on our website [www.skylandumc.com](http://www.skylandumc.com).





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