



The Lake Gaston Charge

Calvary UMC - Corinth UMC - Littleton UMC - Weaver's Chapel UMC

March / April 2019

The Pastor's Portion - Stan Lewis

Pastor: Stan Lewis
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Associate Pastor: Jason DuVall
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Calvary UMC
136 Calvary Church Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-7058
Sunday Worship: 11 am

Corinth UMC
21847 Justice Branch Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-7058
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am
(2nd & 4th Sundays)

Littleton UMC
105 East South Main St.
PO Box 26
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-5385
www.littleton-umc.org
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Weaver's Chapel UMC
2209 Weaver's Chapel Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-7058
Sunday Worship: 11 am

As Easter with its glorious promise of resurrection is just a little less than two months away, we must first begin with Lent. Lent brings an honest, open, and transparent reality check! Here it comes. We are going to die! Yes, it is that blunt! No one gets out of here alive! We will each die physically, but so will most of the organizations we know and cherish as well. The reason for that should be self-evident in that there is no "perpetual motion machines." It is as Ecclesiastes 3 states: "there is a time to die (Ecc. 3:1-2)." Jesus would use the "grain of wheat" image as well. Unless the grain dies, it cannot produce fruit (see John 12:24-26). Lent is the opportunity for us to deal with the very stark reality of death. It is an opportunity to deal with death in a healthy way.

This is why most people would rather skip Lent and go straight to Easter. Go to the life part and skip the death. It does not work that way! Easter comes precisely through death, the death of Jesus Christ. Much of the Bible is written around the sorrows of life here, and the glory to come in God's Kingdom. There are numerous promises by Jesus to bring us life, but this does not mean that we are without hardships. These promises remind us that death is not the end of story but it is the next to last chapter. Yet, we think we can cheat the process. We think we are somehow special. I'll let you in on a secret.

We are not special, we are sacred! We are sacred because God deems that to be so!

Why do we think that God will grant to us "special privilege" and not have to deal with hard issues? It is because we do not see things clearly! From 1 Corinthians 13, the Bible speaks of our capacity to see and understand as being dim. There are other scriptures as well that speak on this issue. It is too easy to fool ourselves. We can wrap "godly language" around our own ideas, say we see clearly, and all the while we are seeing poorly, very poorly.

Lent and the Lenten disciplines help us to see more clearly. The Lenten disciplines help nourish our relationship with God. So let's ask some hard questions. Are you working on your relationship with Jesus? How much time do you spend reading the Bible? In daily prayer? Lent is a time of deep soul searching with piercing questions!

Socrates once said that "an unexamined life is not worth living." Lent provides that examination against the backdrop of death. Easter then adds resurrection. Remember, if Christ did not die and was not resurrected then we are still dead, dead in sin (1 Corinthians 15). We must go through death to get to life. We want the resurrection without cost. We want a "sugar coated" life which may be the stuff of fairy-tales but it is not biblical. Jesus said that "today has enough trouble of its own" (Matt. 6:34). We want to get to the good stuff without dealing with the difficult stuff. That is the crux of the problem! We must deal with the difficult stuff, death!

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So we just endure Lent right? Absolutely not! We embrace Lent by inviting God to examine us (Psalm 51, Psalm 139:23-24) to reveal to us areas in our relationship with Him that need work, even painful work. God through Lent reveals stuff that must be removed before life. The traditional term for this is “dying to self.” That means letting go or “dying” to those things that are not spiritually healthy or vital. Relationships like life are hard work, even difficult in places.

Lent is about using the spiritual disciplines to allow and even ask God into our lives in a deeper way to show what needs intense work so that God can bring life and vitality. The spiritual disciplines and practices do not bring life, only God does that, but they create space for God to work! The disciplines are “spiritual nourishment” for the Christian.

We can develop those disciplines that foster life and vitality (current buzzword in many places) or we can limp along being malnourished and unhealthy.

That leads us to the question of “how do we develop those disciplines”? John Wesley wrote to John Preboth on August 17, 1760 “O begin! Fix some part of every day for private exercises. You may acquire the taste which you have not: what is tedious at first, will afterwards be pleasant.” The first step is to start!

So what are the basic spiritual disciplines? According to Wesley, the disciplines are: prayer, searching Scripture (bible study), receiving the Lord’s Supper (worship and sacraments), fasting, and conferencing (holy fellowship). These are not “ala carte.” We do not get to pick and choose from the list as they are all needed to nourish us into well-rounded Christians.

These disciplines are critical to create a space for God to nourish us with His Life-Giving Presence. Otherwise, we are often driven like chaff (Psalm 1) by many “good things.” The disciplines are necessary to move us into a more vital relationship with God, with our fellow believers, and our community.

As many ask the question of vitality, Lent becomes a God-given gift for us to look honestly, openly, and transparently into what we need to “die to” so that God can bring more life. Vitality comes from our relationship with God, so why not take John Wesley’s advice and “O begin!”

LUMC Adult Sunday School News

Every Sunday morning right after we grab a coffee and snack, we gather in the conference room for Sunday School. Don Beazley is the assigned teacher, but he is on sabbatical right now, so Marti Theune has stepped in. For the interim lessons, we are doing an original overview study called, “Let’s Take A Look At The Bible.” We started with the Book of Genesis and have progressed thus far to Psalms, taking the Old Testament in order. This is proving to be a popular class. We hope you will join us. Just listen for the bell.





2019 Lenten Lunch Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
3/6/19	Littleton UMC (LUMC)	Rev. David Little
3/13/19	Littleton Baptist	Rev. Stan Lewis
3/20/19	Littleton Presbyterian at LUMC	Rev. Sherrie Hofmann
3/27/19	Roanoke Chapel	Helen Burtchell, CLM
4/3/19	South Street BC	Fr. Brian Benton
4/10/19	St. Albans	Rev. Robert Faulcon

**This is where we will be every Wednesday at Noon.
Bring a bag lunch and join us. The Host Church will
provide beverages and dessert. See you there.**

2019 Vacation Bible School: To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You

Littleton UMC will host the 2019 VBS and we're happy to announce this year's theme. We are going to Mars and Beyond! You can watch the trailer and see more about the lessons at the following link: <https://www.concordiasupply.com/To-Mars-and-Beyond-Super-Starter-Kit-Plus-Digital-Cokesbury-VBS-2019>

VBS will be held from June 24-28, 2019. We will hold a Lift Off to Mars Countdown Meeting sometime in March for everyone who is interested in helping. We will need all the help we can get, so stay tuned for more information. 2019 VBS promises to be a "blast"!



Tai Chi at Weaver's Chapel UMC Mary Coates

In the summer of 2013, Celest Long told me about a program at Jo Story Sr. Center called Tai Chi. She also encouraged me to get the training. Jo Story charges \$10.00 a month for 4 classes and they pay for your training and retraining every 2 years as long as you agree to voluntarily teach Tai Chi classes there. So I went for my first training with Celest that fall. Since then I've trained with Dr. Paul Lam twice, once in Ashville, and once at Black Mountain. Dr. Lam is a physician in Australia who now travels the globe teaching his Tai Chi for health programs. I've also taken Tai Chi for: beginners, diabetes, and rehabilitation. I use all these programs at home to help me stay fit, but only teach Tai Chi for Arthritis at Jo Story and at Weavers Chapel.

My first teachers were Rose Massey and Brenda Hudson as well as the other students in the class. Since I was going through grief at the loss of a good friend at the time, it took me longer to learn the movements and the sequence, but Rose and Brenda both taught with compassion. They were very patient encouraging all to visualize and stay in their comfort zones.



The best article I've read about Tai Chi and its benefits was published in the New York Times last year: "Every 11 seconds an older adult is treated in the emergency room following a fall, and 1 in 5 falls results in a fracture, concussion, or other serious injury. Tai Chi strengthens the lower body, improves posture, promotes flexibility, increases a person's awareness of where the body is in space, and improves one's ability to navigate obstacles while walking. If you should trip, Tai Chi can enhance your ability to catch yourself before you fall. Even if you do fall, Tai Chi can reduce your chances of breaking a bone. The movements in Tai Chi minimize stress on painful areas and, by improving circulation, can foster relief and healing."

Our class wishes to thank Weavers Chapel for allowing us to learn and practice in their fellowship hall. Loretta Woodburn is our treasurer and is doing a great job helping us connect with Littleton UMC.

Please come try it out and discover how it helps you. Personally it has improved my posture, patience, focus, strength, and breathing. At Weavers Chapel we take donations for the classes and have spent the money on training, cooking classes, and eating out at Christmas time. **Classes at Weavers Chapel meet every Monday in the Fellowship Hall at 11 am.**

With friendship, humility, and strength,
Celest Long (252-538-1958) and Mary Coates (252- 578-7369)



Please join us for Game Night the 2nd Tuesday of each month (March 12th, April 9th...) We play games, starting around 4, and we break for a light supper around 5:30, then tidy up and go home. This is a fun way to get to know our church family members better plus have a great "evening out." Anyone can come... not just LUMC members...the more the merrier!

UMW NEWS

Marie Fields

The LUMC UMW took a road trip on Feb 11 to Tarboro to have lunch and visit with Lois Weaver, Anna Brown, and Frieda Hayes. A good time was had by all 12 ladies, Stan, and Jason and we look forward to future visits.

UMW will meet on Monday, March 11 and Monday April 8 at 11:30 for lunch and our meeting afterwards...all ladies are welcome. Please give Marie a call to let her know you will be joining for lunch.

There will be several UMW Heritage district studies, the first two being held at Halifax UMC on Sat, March 2. One is "What About Our Money?" and the other is "The Missionary Conferences of the UMC." If you would like to carpool, let Marie know right away.

RiseSM AGAINST HUNGER

food • community • sustainability

This year the **Rise Against Hunger packaging event** will NOT be the Saturday after Easter as it has in the past. Instead it will be on **Saturday, April 13 in the LUMC Fellowship Hall**. As in the past, we are **planning to package 30,000 meals in under 3 hours**. To accomplish this, we need **\$8,700** (just 29 cents per meal) and at least **100 volunteers** (all ages, no experience necessary).



If you would like to make a donation, write your tax-deductible check to "LUMC" with "Rise Against Hunger" in the memo section. If you would like to volunteer, just show up:

9 AM about **15 strong volunteers** are needed to help **unload the supplies** from the truck and help set up the production lines.

9:30 AM all other happy and willing volunteers need to **arrive**, register and put on their provided hair nets or their own caps and take their places on the production line.

We plan to **start production 10 AM** or shortly after and if all goes smoothly we should finish in under 3 hours.

Remember—RICE GOES LAST!



Photos above are from our 2018 event - Let's fill up the LUMC Fellowship Hall again!



From Betty Freuler and the Weaver's Chapel crew:
Weaver's will be having a **Stew, Bake and Yard Sale** this weekend, **Saturday, March 2**. The Bake and Yard Sale will start at **9:00 am** with the stew (**\$8/quart**) ready by **11:30**.

Anyone interested in pre-ordering stew can call **252-586-7118**.



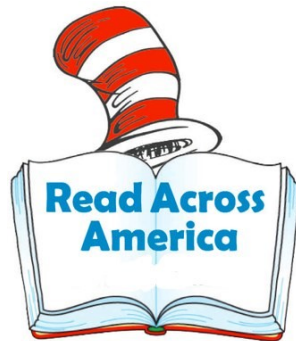
Our friend and longtime LUMC organist, **Trudi May**, passed away on January 29, 2019. Her husband, Jack May, passed away after he and Trudy relocated to Birmingham. We have missed them terribly and are saddened by this news.

Trudi is survived by her daughter Darien Roche of Birmingham, Alabama, her son, Andy, of Jacksonville, NC, and her sister, Anna Brown, who currently lives at The Albemarle in Tarboro. She has grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well, that she dearly loved.

There will be a **Memorial Service** for Trudi on **March 8** at 11:30 am at Littleton UMC.



Above: Previous LUMC Fellowship Hall window now has a new home at Camp Willow Springs, Littleton.



Once again members of LUMC will be distributing books at Vaughan Elementary School on Dr. Seuss's birthday. On Tuesday 2/26, 7 helpers packed over 400 donated books to be distributed at the school on March 1st.



First quarter Conversation Dinner at Kaye Herman's home



Happy Birthday, Stan!

**Report from LUMC Church Council
Dick O'Sullivan, Chairperson**

We have big decisions to make this year. The group of your peers have now finished their job of working with the other churches on the Pathfinders. This group is now disbanded. We now need our whole Church to come together at our Congregation Meetings. We need to determine what we want to do in 2020. These questions and more can be answered at these meetings. At our last church meeting we had only 23 people in attendance. We will be able to hear what Tim Townsend talked about when he met with our D.S. a few weeks ago. Pastor Stan will be at these meetings and will be able to help us with some answers. WE NEED your help at these meetings so Please come. The next meeting is scheduled for March 24th. We will probably set up Coffee & Snacks, in the Fellowship Hall, so come right over after church. Stay tuned in case the time changes.

The Trustees have signed a contract to have the parsonage painted on the inside. Not every room will be done, but they will spackle, prime & paint. The maintenance on the air purification system has been completed. When it gets a little warmer we will take a look at the bell in the tower, Bill Kuhns thinks we just need to replace the microphones in there.

We start our Lenten lunch series again on March 6th with LUMC hosting the first Lunch Service. It starts at 12 noon & finishes at 1pm. Remember to bring your own bag lunch. The host church will provide drinks & dessert.

May the Lord Bless & keep you safe,
Respectfully submitted,
Richard O'Sullivan, Chair

March Birthdays	Date
Karen Roebke	5
Keith Fishel	6
Dal Dickens	9
Leah Brewer	9
Doris Dickens	13
Darrell Wilson	14
Mary-Beth Aycock	18
JoAnn Gediek	25
Rose Dickens	25
David Earl Isles	28
Gail Workman	29
Frances Howell	30



March Anniversaries	Date
Henry & Frances Shearin	1

April Anniversaries	Date
Audrey & Rick Hurst	2
John & Margie Drescher	12
Joseph & Shondrea Gediek	19
Dick & Vi Neil	21
Robbie & Leigh Morris	28
Charlie & Cheryl Fritzing	29

April Birthdays	Date
Faye Pepper	1
Blaine Parks	2
Rose Marie Inscoe	3
Betsey Howell	4
Doris T. Aycock	4
Anna Brown	5
Celest Long	5
Scott Morris	6
Annie B. Jenkins	8
Rick Hurst	8
Greg Solovieff	13
Jean Jarvis	15
Gene Carter	16
Loretta Woodburn	16
Jimmy Lyles	17
Matthew Bishop	17
Michael Bishop	17
Joyce Taylor	20
Margie Drescher	20
Jamie Inscoe	21
Jim King	21
Richard Sherman	21
Marti Theune	22
Grant Morris	22
Brandon Bertram	23
Tim Townsend	24
Ryan Aycock	25
Dick O'Sullivan	27
John Bishop	28
Walter Rook	29



LUMC Greeters & Ushers Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Coffee time Host	Communion Stewards
March 3	Loretta Woodburn	Richard Odom George Alston	Marti Theune	Les & Susan Powell
March 10	Peg Fowler	Richard Odom George Alston	Peg Fowler	
March 17	Jean Houston	Richard Odom George Alston	Ann Herbert	
March 24	Pat Chance	Richard Odom George Alston	Jodie Dowhan	
March 31	Ann & Gary Herbert	Richard Odom George Alston	Carol Lindley	
April 7	Carol Lindley	Richard Sherman Matt Johnston	Marti Theune	Mike & Susan Doughtie
April 14	Jean Houston	Richard Sherman Matt Johnston	Jean Houston	
April 21	Pat Chance	Richard Sherman Matt Johnston	Pat Chance	
April 28	Marj Prescott	Richard Sherman Matt Johnston	Charlotte Wright	

LUMC Scripture Reading Schedule

DATE	READER	SCRIPTURE
March 3, 2019	Jason Duvall	Exodus 34:20-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2 Matthew: 6: 1-6, 16-21
March 10, 2019	Marti Theune	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16 Romans 10: 8-13 Luke 4: 1-13
March 17, 2018	Jason Duvall	Genesis 15: 1-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3: 17-4:1 Luke 13: 31-35
March 24, 2019	Matt Johnston	Isaih 55: 1-9 Psalm 63: 1-8 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9
March 31, 2019	Jodie Dowhan	Joshua 5: 9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
April 7, 2019	Jason Duvall	Isaih 43: 16-21 Psalm 126 Phillians 3: 4-14 John 12: 1-8
April 14, 2019	Nancy Beazley Wehrman	Luke 19: 28-40 Psalm 118 Philippians 2: 5-11 Luke 23
April 21, 2019	Jason Duvall	Actis 10: 34-43 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26 John 20: 1-18
April 28, 2019	Susannah Sherman	Acts 5: 27-32 Psalm 150 Revelation 1: 4-8 John 20: 19-32



march

Friday, March 1

8 am Read Across America Day at Vaughan Elementary

Saturday, March 2

9 am Stew, Bake, & Yard Sale at Weaver's

Sunday, March 3

3 pm District Gathering at Wake Forest UMC

Tuesday, March 5

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, March 6

12 pm Lenten Lunch at LUMC
1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, March 7

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Friday, March 8

11:30 am Memorial Service for Trudi May at LUMC

Sunday, March 10

8 am Men's Breakfast at Calvary
1 pm Church Council at LUMC

Monday, March 11

11:30 am UMW Lunch & meeting
at LUMC fellowship hall

Tuesday, March 12

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's
4 pm Game Night & Supper at LUMC

Wednesday, March 13

8 am Men's Breakfast at Weaver's Chapel
12 pm Lenten Lunch at Littleton Baptist
1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, March 14

12 pm LUMC Trustees meeting at Casa Mia's
7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, March 17

3 pm SPRC at LUMC

Tuesday, March 19

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, March 20

12 pm Lenten Lunch at LUMC
1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, March 21

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Friday, March 22

10 am Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Sunday, March 24

9 am Fellowship Breakfast at Weaver's
11 am Church Council meeting at Corinth
12 pm Structure Meeting at LUMC Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 26

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, March 27

12 pm Lenten Lunch at Roanoke Chapel
1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, March 28

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice



April

Tuesday, April 2

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, April 3

12 pm Lenten Lunch at South Street Baptist
1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, April 4

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, April 7

12 pm Council meeting at Calvary

Monday, April 8

11:30 am UMW Lunch & meeting
at LUMC fellowship hall

Tuesday, April 9

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's
4 pm Game Night & Supper at LUMC

Wednesday, April 10

8 am Men's Breakfast at Weaver's Chapel
12 pm Lenten Lunch at St. Albans
1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, April 11

12pm LUMC Trustees at Casa Mia's
7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Saturday, April 13

3-7 pm Fish Fry at Weaver's Chapel

Sunday, April 14

8 am Men's Breakfast at Calvary

Tuesday, April 16

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, April 17

1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, April 18

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, April 21

3pm SPRC LUMC

Tuesday, April 23

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's
5:30 pm Weaver's Chapel Church Council

Wednesday, April 24

1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, April 25

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Friday, April 26

10 am Littleton ACTS Food Pantry
5 pm Newsletter deadline

Sunday, April 28

9 am Fellowship Breakfast at Weaver's

Tuesday, April 30

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

*Littleton United Methodist Church
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FLETCHER

“The Pastor keeps referring to ‘this morning’s text’ ... but which one?”



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