

THE BEACON

Brookstown United Methodist Church
Reverend James T. (Chip) Webb, Jr.
March 2025



A Message from Pastor Chip



LENT: Do No Harm; Do Good; And Focus on Your Heart

“In the latter end of the year 1739 eight or ten persons came to Mr. Wesley, in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads.”

And so, for those who like things spelled out and enumerated, Mr. Wesley produced “The General Rules of the United Societies.”

“It is therefore expected of all who continue therein that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation.”

“First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced.”

This prohibition is followed by a good list of those practices which were to be avoided. Some have stood the test of time, and others are best understood within the historical context. Most of us have a good sense of right and wrong, and might benefit from a review of our personal transgressions, from which conviction, repentance and grace have delivered us. And, be open to the possibility that we are not yet a finished product!

“Secondly: By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men:

Again, Mr. Wesley followed with a reasonable list of “good of every possible sort,” consisting of communal and individual behaviors that we now regard as “works of mercy”. Mercy is key.

Here, it is beneficial to recall perhaps the most quoted of all Wesley quotes: **Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.**

The BAD NEWS is that Mr. Wesley probably never said it. Anyway, we have no record that he said it. But, as a misquote, it is just about as good as you can get, and it emphasizes the wholeness of heart with which we are to love our neighbor.

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

(continued on next page)

Luke 18:10-12



A Message from Pastor Chip (continued)

Read within the context of the General Rules, Luke's account of Jesus' teaching on doing no harm and doing good, bears repeating. Note that the Pharisee avoided lots of evil behavior, even expressing gratitude, and engaged in doing good regularly, fasting twice a week and giving a tenth, presumably of his gross earnings! Yet, Jesus teaches that behaviors- our doings and not doings- are not the full picture of who we are.

In the General Rules, Wesley continues:

“Thirdly: By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are:

The public worship of God.

The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded.

The Supper of the Lord.

Family and private prayer.

Searching the Scriptures.

Fasting or abstinence.”

Wesley concludes the Rules with this third admonition to attend upon all the ordinances of God. We might refer to these practices as “means of grace”, and our attending upon them focuses our hearts not on our relations with others, but appropriately upon our relationship to God: **worship, Word, Supper, prayer, Scriptures...**

And, **fasting and abstinence** remain for United Methodists appropriate disciplines, particularly during the days of Lent. But be cautioned, attending upon the ordinances of God is not a competition sport, and succeeding is more a matter of one's heart than effort. A failing effort in fasting remains a means of grace!

Hear again the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Only one was a successful practitioner; and only one went home justified before God. Look inward, angels. ~ Pastor Chip

As we progress in our journey through Lent, Dear Savior, help us remember that we don't live by bread alone but by every word that comes from You (Matthew 4:4).

Dinner Church

Brookstown will hold a Dinner Church beginning Sunday, March 2, and continuing through Palm Sunday. Dinner Church will begin with a meal each Sunday at 1 pm. Gathering, hymns and prayers at 12:30; the meal will be followed at 1:30 with United Methodist Belief and Practice, an examination of our Articles of Faith, Church Polity, and Biblical Study of Luke-Acts.

The Dinner Church is offered as a Short-Term Small Group Study and Worship, and will qualify as a Confirmation Class for those considering membership or renewal. ~ Pastor Chip

Lent is an occasion for us to journey with Christ ... into tomorrow. For you never walk with Christ long but what the dawn breaks, the sun shines, and hope breaks through.

~ C. Neil Straight

Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, March 9, 2am

We lose an hour this month, as Daylight Savings Time begins. Be sure to “Spring forward” an hour Saturday night, March 8, before you go to bed, so you won't be late for church Sunday morning, in whatever way you attend!

Lent is a time for both walking with Jesus toward the cross and being strengthened in our faith and knowledge of God.

Crisis Control Ministry

Children across Forsyth County are joining the fun and learning about helping their neighbors! From March 17 - April 17, daycare centers, preschools, elementary schools, and other organizations are participating in Crisis Control Ministry's Wee Care! Cereal Drive.



Crisis Control Ministry

**Wee Care!
Cereal Drive**

March 17-April 17, 2025

Wee Care! is a program designed to educate preschool and elementary school-age children about the importance of good nutrition, while encouraging them to give to support their local community. The donated cereal will be distributed in the Crisis Control Ministry Winston-Salem and Kernersville client-choice food pantries to hungry families experiencing financial crises. Last year, 71 participating schools donated - **9,194 pounds**, which is **more than 147,000 servings!** Because of this support, not only were we able to provide more than **1867 households** with cereal, but we were also able to share cereal with those in Western North Carolina who were impacted by Hurricane Helene and many local community partners.

Crisis Control Gifts
for March
Pancake Mix & Syrup
For Kids: Cereal



UMCOR Sunday – March 30

*"For I was hungry and you gave Me food,
I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed Me."*

Matthew 25:35 (NRSV)

UMCOR Sunday calls the church to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. UMCOR reaches children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster. Your contribution ensures UMCOR's response in times of crisis. The UMCOR Sunday offering restores and rebuilds lives around the world.



Mission Trips

Prayers continue for the Brookstown Building Team as they travel repeatedly to the western NC mountains to work with Disaster Relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Helene. Our prayers go with Roy Mendenhall, John Stepto, Rick Steppe, Georgia Saylor, and all who volunteer for this very important mission.

Hurricane Helene Disaster Response Update

Efforts are on-going to help our neighbors in the NC mountains. A trip is planned for early March to take the pantry goods that have been collected recently. Thanks to everyone who has given generously! We continue to collect the following items for the community of Minneapolis, NC :

Sugar, flour, corn meal, small bottles of cooking oil, chocolate Ensure, chips, small bottles of vinegar, ranch dressing, trash bags (different sizes), cereal, dog and cat food. They are still in need of electric heaters as well.

We continue to accept monetary donations, which will be sent to the Conference for mission efforts, or used to purchase items from local businesses in the affected areas. Please mark your envelope or check as to how you would like your donation to be used. Thank you for reaching out to those in need!

Rise Against Hunger Packaging Event

Meals You Packaged in August 2024 Were Sent to Sierra Leone!

Sierra Leone, a coastal West African country, has a population of over 8 million people, where almost 60% of its population is under the age of 25. Increasing food prices and income insecurity are affecting the ability of people in Sierra Leone to meet food and nutritional security needs. The Global Hunger Index, which assesses food insecurity based on indicators that measure undernourishment and undernutrition, categorizes Sierra Leone as having a "serious" level of hunger.

To address some of the food security challenges that children, families, and communities here face, Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and early childhood development centers. This is a key part of Rise Against Hunger's Nourishing Lives pathway. In some cases, the food children receive at school will be the majority of the food they eat in a day. The meals you packaged will help ensure that children have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives and successfully pursue their education.

Thank you for volunteering at the Missional packaging event. The impact we are make together starts with a meal and leads to resilient communities worldwide. Gratefully ~ Rise Against Hunger

We will let everyone know Brookstown's next packaging date as soon as we get word!

*Matthew 25:40
"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*



Irish Prayer
*Bless us with good food,
the gift of gab,
and hearty laughter.
May the love and joy we share
be with us ever after. Amen.*

*Hebrews 13:16
"Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are
pleasing to God."*



United Women in Faith

Our monthly meeting will be March 19 at 11am in the fellowship hall. Bring a pot luck dish of your choice as we gather for a delicious meal before we have our business session and program. Following the program, we will set up an assembly line and assemble the UMCOR feminine hygiene kits that are being collected for a district mission project.

The district mission study is March 22 at Faith UMC at 1645 Griffin Road, Rural Hall. Topic of the study is "The Kind-dom Is Among Us: Welcome Home." Registration and refreshments are from 9:30-10am, and the program is from 10-2:30pm. Bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided. There is no cost for this event. Please let me know if you plan to attend by March 10 so I can call in our number of reservations by the deadline.

We will be volunteering at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC on the 2nd Monday of each month from 2-4pm. Our first time to work at the Food Bank is March 3 and we have 8 members who plan to help that day. We will be working in the community kitchen there where we will be filling, labeling and boxing plates of food which will be distributed to seniors, children and handicapped people in our 18-county area. We are looking forward to this new adventure which will help provide nourishment to many in our area who need assistance.

~ Martha Isenberg
UWF President



The Brookstown Express

Hello friends,

I want to give an update on our Sunday School Class. We are blessed to have a total of 13 children and/or grandchildren of church members attending our class!

February was a fun month – we learned about LOVE as an action word. Jesus taught us how to show LOVE, and gave us powerful words to use: “I am sorry” and “I forgive”.

We have also started learning about God’s gifts to us....**The Fruit of the Spirit.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

The children have made artwork centered around this verse, and they love decorating the halls with their work. Come upstairs to the Sunday School floor and see it sometime.

Get ready for a fun adventure in Vacation Bible School in July! We’re heading out west to “Wonder Junction” to learn about who Jesus is. Our theme verse will be:

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the NAME of the LORD is to be praised.

Psalms 113:3 (ESV)

All we need to do is round up some volunteers to help us celebrate and praise our Savior!

Love from,
Our Youngest Disciples



Marsha Campbell, Children’s Ministries Coordinator

If they see God’s love lived, they learn to live God’s love.



Youth Ministries

Our Youth have planned a Mission Trip to “Jimmy and Jeans Distribution Center” in West Jefferson, NC, to serve those still struggling with hurricane aftermath and other community needs. Anyone is welcome to join us; there are meaningful ways to contribute for all ages. We will meet at the church at 8am to have breakfast biscuits and pray together, and then we will head into western NC. If you can come along or want to contribute, please reach out to Jonna Lasley at (336) 995-2861. We will need a head count to share with our contact at the distribution center.

The children and youth are starting to practice during the 11am service for their performance on Easter Sunday. Please bring your children and youth each week so they can be ready. If you would like to volunteer to help with their program, please contact Jonna Lasley at (336) 995-2861.

On Palm Sunday the Easter Bunny will be hopping by for an Easter Egg hunt and fellowship lunch right after the 11am service.

Gardeners needed! The children and youth will be planting a scripture garden and grilling out here at Brookstown for Earth Day on April 23rd at 5:30pm. We hope to plant beautiful perennial flowers that the children and youth can tend to and sign up to provide bouquets for some of the Sunday Services. We are asking all our gardeners to donate anything you can. We are seeking: your time, your wisdom and expertise, your borrowed gardening tools, and bulbs or plants for the children to plant. Please reach out to Jonna Lasley (336) 995-2861 so we can coordinate ideas and supplies.



Jonna Lasley, Youth Ministries Coordinator

Blood Drive

Wednesday, March 12, 1:30-5:30pm

Make plans to come out to Brookstown and give the gift of life by donating much-needed blood! The Red Cross will set up in the Fellowship Hall, and will take good care of you.

You can make an appointment by calling Tim Lasley at 336-817-4593, or sign up online:

www.redcrossblood.org

Use Sponsor Code: Brookstown

If you would like to help check people in that day, let Tim know.



VCC Fundraiser

Saturday, March 15

Vienna Civic Club will hold its annual BBQ Chicken Dinner fundraiser in the West Central Community Center parking lot. It will be held March 15, 11am until we're sold out. We have been selling out around 3:30-4pm, so don't wait too late to come and get your delicious dinner!

Take-out plate includes: 1/2 chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, a roll and dessert. Thank you for your support of the Vienna Civic Club!

Our fundraising goes toward helping the Vienna Community with annual scholarships, support of the Scouts, and other benevolent requests from the community.

~ Vienna Civic Club



The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is March 5 this year. As Christians, we observe Lent for 40 days (excluding Sundays) to examine our spiritual condition and strive to improve our relationship with God. In the New Testament, forty days is the length of Jesus' time of trial in the desert, in preparation for his public ministry proclaiming the Gospel.

Lent is a period of spiritual preparation for Easter Sunday, the greatest day of the Christian year. Many Christians commit to fasting or giving up certain luxuries during Lent as a form of penance. Some add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional, to draw nearer to God.

It's important that each Christian practice spiritual disciplines to "show that you are a letter of Christ ... written not with ink but, with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." (2 Corinthians 3:3, NRSV).

~ From "The Newsletter Newsletter"



BSSC Open Enrollment

March 24

Registration for the Summer Program will begin March 24. If you or someone you know might be interested in sending their children to this, please see someone on the School Care Board, or Margarita Burton, for an application. There is also one on the Brookstown webpage.

Chicken Pie Workshops

March 28 & 29

Chicken Pie workshops are scheduled for Friday, March 28, from 4-8pm, and Saturday, March 29, from 8-12pm. We need de-boners, choppers, pie assemblers, dough makers, dough pressers, broth cuppers, and people to put the pies in the freezer. And, of course, our dishwashers are always a big help!

We welcome anyone who can help in any way! We appreciate everyone's hard work for this important fundraiser for our church.

~ Roberta Lasley

Easter Lily Sale

Easter lilies orders will be taken now through Palm Sunday, April 13. You will find an order form on the last page of this newsletter, and they will be available on Sunday mornings from ushers. It's a nice way to honor and remember loved ones. This fundraiser helps our youth while bringing God's beauty and promise of Spring into our worship services.



2025 Community Festival

Saturday, September 20, 9am – 2pm

Be sure to mark your calendars for September 20, the day of our annual Community Festival! We're looking forward to another successful event. The Festival Committee will meet soon for planning; we welcome anyone who would like to come and share your ideas!



MARCH

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Tony & Audrey Apperson 10
 Charlie & Sherrill Sharpe 28



If your birthday or anniversary needs to be added, please let me know.
 Lavonda

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Jameson Lasley	6
Abby Jameson	7
Tyler Warlow	7
Audrey Apperson	13
Judy Ingle	14
Jon Gray Quiros	15
Michelle Snider	21
Sean Quiros	22
Jeff Thomas	23
Will Douglas	26
Cole Sheek	30
Conner Warlow	30
Pam Steppe	31



Fast and Feast

- *Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.*
- *Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.*
- *Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.*
- *Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.*
- *Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.*
- *Fast from pride, and feast on humility.*
- *Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.*
- *Fast from fear, and feast on faith.*

~ From "The Source Book of Wit and Wisdom"



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli, but I can't stand it, so I'm giving it up for Lent."

Flowers for Worship Services

March 30
 Tim & Roberta Lasley
All other Sundays are open.

Church Contact Information

336-945-3029
 6274 Yadkinville Road
 Pfafftown, NC 27040
 brookstown@triad.twcbc.com
 brookstown.umcchurches.com
 Like us on Facebook

Flower Chart

The 2025 Flower chart has many Sundays open for flowers to be placed in our services. It's a nice way to remember & honor special people and events!

Lent is a good time to recall these words of Jesus: "If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me". Matthew 16:24

Brookstown United Methodist Church
6274 Yadkinville Road
Pfafftown, NC 27040



Easter Lily Sale

Brookstown's young people are selling lilies to place in the sanctuary for Easter, which is April 20 this year. They are \$10 each (wrapped, no bow). You may designate them "in memory" or "in honor" of someone. Please place your order and payment with your offering or in the basket on the church office door. Make checks payable to **Brookstown UMC**. Please note on your check it is for an Easter Lily(s). The deadline to order is Palm Sunday, April 13.

Your Name: _____

Number of Lilies: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Thank you for making our sanctuary beautiful for Easter Sunday
and for supporting our Brookstown Children & Youth.