

THE BEACON

Brookstown United Methodist Church
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April 2026

A Message from Pastor Chip

**Commemorating the Appearances:
Participate in Small Groups, Move, Eat!**

The observance of Resurrection Day (Easter) begins forty days in grateful praise celebrating the appearances of the Resurrected Christ as we move towards Ascension Day (May 17). The Gospels vary in perspective and details of the resurrection appearances. Mark, the earliest and most succinct of the gospels, relates the details of the pronouncement of “a young man dressed in a white robe”.

“As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ‘Don’t be alarmed,’ he said. ‘You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter: He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” ~ Mark 16: 5-7

The “they” in Mark’s account refers to a **SMALL GROUP** of women: Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome.

Luke offers additional details to a brief account in Mark of an appearance “in a different form to **two** of them while they were *walking* in the country”. We know these details in Luke’s account as Jesus’ appearing to the **two** on the Road to Emmaus. Matthew gives us the account of the **two** women, the Marys, Magdalene and the other one, meeting the resurrected Christ as they *ran* home from the Tomb. ***“Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”*** Small groups, teams of two, on the move!

Luke’s account of the appearances focuses on Jerusalem and Judea. In Acts, Luke offers Peter’s summation of the appearances around Jerusalem. Notice the eating and drinking! We did not just see him; we ate with him!

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ~ Acts 10: 39-41

While the Gospel of John (Chapter 20) begins with the significance of the Jerusalem appearances, John concludes (Chapter 21) with the wondrous details of the appearance in the Galilee. Thank you, John! Most of what we know about Jesus’ ministry occurred in a very small area of the Galilee around the lake. Jesus’ redemptive conversation with Peter followed helping the boys catch fish and a fellowship breakfast prepared over a charcoal fire.

(continued on next page)

A Message from Pastor Chip (continued)

Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. Several of the disciples were there — Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. ~ John 21: 1-2

Let's count! Simon, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and two others – Peter and six disciples, a **SMALL GROUP** of guys, back at home, who decided to go fishing with Peter. Why not? **SMALL GROUPS** of disciples engage in lots of activities these days: walking, hiking, worshipping, home repair, Sunday school, fishing, women's groups, blood donation, singing (all ages), planting, chicken pie-making, VBS, cooking and eating! ***They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing...***

Later, following Jesus' instructions, they dragged their loaded nets to shore, filled with a hundred and fifty-three fish. ***Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.***

Eating and drinking with Jesus after his resurrection was central to the witness of the disciples as they moved beyond home to proclaim the Gospel to the world. Fish was a staple of the Jewish menu during Jesus' ministry, particularly understandable among fishers from the Galilee. In appearing after the resurrection, Jesus revealed himself through the breaking of bread, with fish – broiled and charcoal grilled – featured prominently.

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. ~ Luke 24: 41-43

Share the word about the small groups at Brookstown. Food is often involved. Can Easter People gather without eating? Why would we?

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 5 at 7am

You're invited to gather in the Brookstown Cemetery for this time-honored tradition on Easter Sunday morning. Please bring fresh flowers to decorate the big cross outside.

Come and experience the sun rising, the birds singing, and God's Greatest Gift, as we celebrate Resurrection Morning!



*He is Risen!
Rejoice in the victory
of the Resurrection!*



Easter Morning Breakfast

Sunday, April 5

Following the Sunrise Service, everyone is invited to Brookstown's traditional Easter Morning Breakfast, where you can fill body and soul with food and fellowship! If you would like to help prepare this breakfast, see Jimmy Holder or Tim Lasley.

Help each of us, O Lord, experience the same joy the friends of Jesus felt when meeting the risen Christ.

*"Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see."
~ Martin Luther*

Stations of the Cross

Sunday March 29, through Saturday, April 4 During Daylight Hours, at the Pavilion.

On this meditative walk, experience through Scripture and prayer, the last days of Jesus' earthly life and His Resurrection. Booklets are provided to use as a guide. Thanks to the Children & Youth, and to their leaders, for hosting this walk and for making the crosses.



The Brookstown Express

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

*"April hath put a
Spirit of youth in
everything."*

*~ William
Shakespeare*

**Happy
Easter!**

*"In the spring, at the
end of the day,
you should smell
like dirt."*

~ Margaret Atwood

Dear Friends,

As Easter arrives, it reminds us of the renewal of life. In light of this, please take time to experience the "Stations of the Cross" meditative walk. The Children and Youth put a lot of creative work into preparing it for everyone to enjoy. Pause at each cross to reflect on the blessings in our lives, as well as the storms. Jesus gave us everlasting HOPE and GRACE through it all, when He died for us on the cross. We celebrate His Resurrection!!

The children have been bringing their Bibles to Sunday School. Some have been reading with their families at home. They are all eager to know about the treasures found in their Bibles. On March 22 at Sunday services, our rising third graders were presented with new Bibles! We hope to instill a love of reading God's WORD into His youngest disciples.

Remember VBS will be held June 6-12, 6:30-8:30pm. Our theme will be "Come Follow Me." Please join us as we discover how Jesus chooses His disciples. If you'd like to help, there are volunteer sheets that you can use to let us know how you would like to volunteer. Jesus calls us all by name; thank you for continuing to help our children grow in their FAITH.

We hope you have enjoyed the children singing for some of our services during Lent. Thanks to Kelli and Roberta for working with them, and for our wonderful Audio/Visual crew for helping with the presentation!

The Children keep one of the bulletin boards by the ramp in the Fellowship Hall decorated, and have recently made artwork that is displayed there. We hope you enjoy it!

Sincerely ~ Marsha Campbell

*You are a child of God,
You are wonderfully made, dearly loved,
and precious in His sight.*

~ Psalm 139

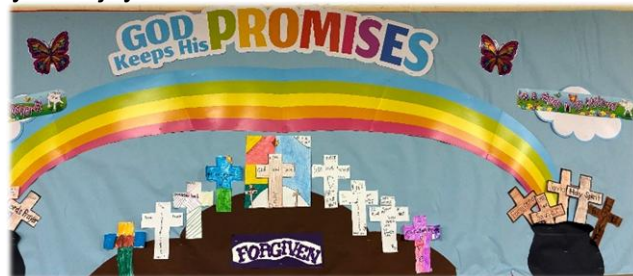
Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday, April 5 at 3pm

Calling all children to come out to Brookstown for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. There will be lots of eggs, prizes, and candy! AND....there will be a very special guest present: THE EASTER BUNNY!

Come and join the fun!

*Marsha Campbell, Children's Ministries Coordinator
Jonna Lasley, Youth Ministries Coordinator*



Thank You!!

Thanks to our wonderful Brookstown Church Family for supporting our Children & Youth programs through your generous donations of Easter candy for our Egg Hunt, and for the lily orders for our Easter Services. We couldn't have these successful programs without your love and help!

~ Marsha & Jonna

*"It is spring again. The earth is like
a child that knows poems by heart."*

~ Rainer Maria Rilke



*“God proved His love on the cross,
When Christ hung, and bled, and died,
it was God saying to the world,
‘I love you.’”
~ Billy Graham*

Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!

Happy
EASTER



*“Those hands that keep a million worlds
from spinning into oblivion were nailed
motionless to a cross — for us...
~ Elisabeth Elliot*

Bishop's Climate Summit

Saturday, April 18, 2026 9am-4pm
Maple Springs UMC, 2569 Reynolda Road

“The Bishop’s Climate Summit is an invitation for us to follow Jesus in a warming world. This is not about politics. It is about the praise of God and our stewardship of God’s good creation, for ourselves and our descendants. Together, we will learn how to care for God’s gifts and protect those most vulnerable to the harm we now see across our communities and our state. Caring for God’s creation is central to our Christian witness. I hope you will join me for this important day of worship, learning, and faithful action as we seek faithful, practical ways to respond to the challenges of a warming world.”

~ Bishop Carter, WNCC

The Bishop’s Climate Summit will include worship, conversation, learning, lament, and shared hope. Workshops will offer practical ideas and ministry tools that churches of all sizes can implement in their communities. Rev. Dr. Melanie L. Harris will be the Keynote Speaker of the day. She will share the intersection of climate change on church ministry, health, food security, and more.

Registration is open through April 10; Brookstown will reimburse you for the \$25/person cost.

To register: <https://wnc-reg.brapp.com/2026BishopClimateSummit>

For more information and details: <https://www.wnccumc.org/bishopsclimatesummit>

*“Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you even Solomon
in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” Luke 12:27 (ESV)*

United Women in Faith

Our monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, April 15, at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a potluck dish of your choice as we gather for a meal before our business session. The program will be "Seeds of Hope" and will focus on building hope, particularly in our climate justice work. We invite all women to join us.

We continue our monthly volunteering in the community kitchen at Second Harvest Foodbank of Northwest NC. During the past year, we have helped plate and package over 10,000 meals to be distributed to those who are food insecure. That is just one of the many ways we have put love into action and it's a project we enjoy.

The UWFaith District Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, April 25, from 9-11:30am, at Bunker Hill UMC in Kernersville. The theme is "Practicing Hope" with guest speaker Darlene McClendon. A light continental breakfast will be served. There is no charge for the event, but please let me know if you want to attend by April 10, so I can make reservations for our members who want to attend.

~ Martha Isenberg, UWF President

Special Offering

Sunday, April 19

The Native American Ministries offering supports Native American outreach and provides seminary scholarships. It also strengthens, develops, and equips Native American rural, urban, and reservation congregations, ministries, and communities.

Thank you for your generous gifts.

*“Easter is more than a day,
an event, a remembrance.
It is a way of life.”
~ Michael Marsh*

*“We are Easter people living
in a Good Friday world.”
~ Barbara Johnson*

Easter Is Eternal

If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that Truth is eternal.

You can nail it to a tree, wrap it up in grave clothes, and seal it in a tomb. But Truth crushed to earth shall rise again. Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It might be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow ... but with an inevitable certainty, after every Black Friday, dawns Truth's Easter morn.
~ Donald H. Tippet



AMERICA'S HOMETOWN MOVIE THEATERS:

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING

By **BENITA VANWINKLE**

Hardcover, 608 pages, 512 photographs

Benita VanWinkle is an award-winning artist who uses the medium of photography and bookbinding to express her creative passions. Concentrating on the documentary genre, she has photographed vintage movie theaters across America in all fifty states for over 40 years with more than 900 theaters in her collection. Her art has been exhibited in over 150 peer-juried exhibitions including 20 one-person exhibits. Her photographic artwork has been published widely in national publications and has garnered radio and television spotlights, and magazine stories.

Announcing BOOKMARKS event with
Benita VanWinkle's book launch:

"America's Hometown Movie Theaters: Please Remain Standing"

Book launch and signing event, with Michael Morin,
executive director of RiverRun International Film Festival.

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026

Time: 6:30–7:30pm

Place:

EST  2004

BOOKMARKS

— BOOKS WITH PURPOSE —

634 W 4th St #110

Winston-Salem, NC 27101

This is a free event; registration is required at:

<https://BenitaVanWinkleatBookmarks.eventbrite.com>

BOOK LAUNCH FOR
BENITA VANWINKLE
in conversation with
MICHAEL MORIN
Executive Director of RiverRun
International Film Festival
THURS., APRIL 23
6:30 PM / BOOKMARKS BOOKSTORE
GET TICKETS
BOOKMARKSNC.ORG/BENITAVANWINKLE
RIVERRUN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
a/perture
BOOKMARKS - BOOKS WITH PURPOSE

*"The very first Easter taught us this:
that life never ends and
love never dies."*

~ Kate McGahan



*If the only prayer you said in your
entire life was "Thank You,"
that would suffice.*

~ Meister Eckhardt

Brookstown School & Summer Care News

We Welcome Jenny Tilley!

In case you haven't met her, Brookstown School and Summer Care has a new director, Jenny Tilley! If you are ever at the church for any reason while Jenny, the staff, and children are there, please drop in and introduce yourself, so they can get to know some church members. The exit door to the Fellowship Hall might be locked at times to help keep our children safe, so just knock and wait for someone to come and let you in.

This program is an important outreach and service to our community, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this service. ~ Roberta Lasley

"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." ~ Martin Luther

Brookstown Summer Care

Open Registration

It's time to register elementary-aged children for the Summer Care Program! Open registration began March 16 – first come, first served. Let your friends and neighbors know about this great opportunity for children to have a fun-filled "summer camp" experience.

Parents may stop by or call 336-945-2547.

Many thanks to our congregation, friends, and community for your support of Brookstown School and Summer

Care through all these years!

~The BSSC Board

Drivers Needed

For our Summer Care program, we are looking for persons able and willing to drive the big school bus for summer outings for the children. If anyone is interested in this, or in getting their driver's license with school bus endorsement, please contact Roberta Lasley at 336-817-3051.

Playground

The Brookstown playground needs some updating, as we are looking at replacing a play structure. Our playground serves our church children, the School Care, and community families. If you would like to donate to this project, this is an opportunity, and it will be very much appreciated!

April Fellowship Meal

Wednesday, April 22 at 6pm

Join us for our very special April Fellowship Meal here at Brookstown UMC. The menu will be hamburgers, hotdogs, and chips; we welcome any sides, salads, and desserts our good cooks here at Brookstown would like to contribute!

We will take this opportunity to honor Margarita Burton, our long-time director of Brookstown School and Summer Care, who retired December 31, 2025. Since 1989, there have been a lot of children who received care in this program and had fun with Miss Margarita! Years later, many of those children brought their own children to also experience the love and care that she gave.

If you know children or parents in the community who attended BSSC, please invite them. We want to show Miss Margarita how very special she has been to hundreds of children over the past 37 years. Mark your calendars and spread the word. It will be an evening of great fellowship and food!

"Easter is the soul's first taste of spring."

~ Richelle Goodrich

Easter's Dawn

On the third day, the friends of Christ coming at daybreak found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways, they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool, not of the evening, but of the dawn. ~ G.K. Chesterton

HE IS NOT HERE

he is risen

Community Festival

Please put the Annual Brookstown Community Festival on your calendar for Saturday, September 12! It's a fun day with the community and a great opportunity to spread our love to others.

We are accepting vendor applications, and also your preferences on where and how you would like to help. Whether it's providing baked goods or frozen casseroles to sell; volunteering a shift in the bakery, country store or welcome tent; breakfast or lunch preparation; or set-up and take down; we welcome all help and suggestions! Of course, we will have a couple of chicken pie workshops between now and then so we have plenty to sell that day.

Thanks for all your help in years past; we know it will be another great festival this year! If you need a vendor application, call Roberta or contact the church office. ~ The Festival Committee

Christ Has Triumphed!

*Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but life is stronger.
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter Day.
~ Phillis Brooks*

Lost & Found

A door key was found on or near the fire extinguisher in the Fellowship Hall. It doesn't seem to fit any door of the church. If someone might know whose it is, please call Lavonda in the office: 336-945-3029.

VCC Event

The Vienna Civic Club will host a Cruise-In here at Brookstown on Saturday, April 18, from 8-10am. Bring your vintage vehicle, or any vehicle you are proud of, and want to show. Come and see what others have brought. We hope to have the parking lot full!

There will be breakfast biscuits for sale and the owner of Great Wagon Road Coffee will be here selling his great coffee! There will be a donation jar available for our scholarship fund as well, which helps students in the community.

This will be a fun community event, so make plans now to join us!

*Why do you look for
the living among the
dead?*

*He is not here, but
has risen. Luke 24:5*

"Easter says you can put Truth in a grave, but it won't stay there."

~ Clarence W. Hall

Misery Be Gone!

On the Sunday after Easter, some churches celebrate “Holy Humor.” Laughter is a gift from God, who wants us to be joyful. A happy disposition is also an effective — and infectious — way to share our faith.

“I cannot think that when God sent us into the world, He had irreversibly decreed that we should be perpetually miserable in it,” said John Wesley. “If ... taking up the cross [implies] bidding adieu to all joy and satisfaction, how is it reconcilable with what Solomon expressly affirms of religion, that ‘her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace?’” (Proverbs 3:17, KJV)



Bunny Funny

Q: What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards?

A: A receding hare-line

Q: How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group?

A: Just look for the gray hares.



Just for Laughs . . .

Yes, I am a Senior Citizen.

- ❖ I'm the life of the party – even if it lasts until 8pm.
- ❖ I'm very good at opening childproof caps – with a hammer.
- ❖ I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I'm going.
- ❖ I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.
- ❖ I'm very good at telling stories – over and over and over and over . . .
- ❖ I'm not really grouchy, I just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds, lawyers, loud music, unruly kids, barking dogs, politicians, and a few other things I can't seem to remember right now.
- ❖ I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 150?
- ❖ I'm a walking storeroom of facts – I've just lost the key to the storeroom door.
- ❖ I won't say my memory's bad, but I'm getting to the point where I can hide my own Easter eggs!



*I “fudged” on my Weight Watcher’s list.
I wrote that I ate three eggs ...
but they were Cadbury chocolate eggs.*

~ Caroline Rhea



*Sometimes you need chocolate
eggs for breakfast!*



Easter Joy

A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen. ~ Mother Teresa



**APRIL
ANNIVERSARIES**



Bruce & Leshia Bailiff 23
Jim & Diane Byers 23

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

**Crisis Control
Gifts of the Month:
Canned Fruit
For Kids:**

Goldfish Snack Bags

*There are bins at the church
entrances for donations.
Please help fill them for those
who are in need.*

April

*The resurrection was only the
beginning of a great, grand and vast
outreach that has never ended,
and will not end until our*

*Lord Jesus Christ
comes back again.
~ A.W. Tozer*

**Church Contact
Information**

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brookstown.umcchurches.com
Like us on Facebook

*The earth laughs
in flowers.*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

*April Showers
bring
May Flowers*

**APRIL
BIRTHDAYS**



Chip Webb 3
Karen Buoyer 4
Steve Yates 5
Georgia Saylor 6
Emily Hopping 9
Nina Anderson 13
Robin Norris Williams 17
Bobby Macemore 18
Michael Barajas 18
Marge Lanier 19
April Hager 24
Charlotte Douglas 26
Wayne Burton 26
Andrew Swart 27
Jay Burton 30
Amie Crews Harris 30

**Flowers for
Worship Services**

April 5 – Easter Lilies
April 12 & 19 – Open
April 26 – Scott & Robin Williams

Flower Chart

The 2026 Flower chart
has lots of Sundays open
for flowers to be placed in
our services. It's a nice way
to remember & honor special
people and events!





Dear God,

*I like to think that the dear ones we have lost awhile are very near in April.
I like to think that, when we walk through new gardens, memory walks beside us.
It was in a springtime garden that Christ, Your Son, came back to the ones He loved.
It was down a path consecrated by flowers that He hurried to greet them.
And I like to think that the ones who have gone on ahead of us retrace their steps to do,
in a lesser way, the same thing. It is a comforting thought to carry!*

*I have heard voices calling through the twilight in a springtime garden.
I have felt something brush against my fingers and have told myself that the cold,
quick sensation was more than the touch of a nodding daffodil that swayed.
Sometimes in the early morning, the dews that lay softly upon a garden have been
mingled with my tears. But these tears have not always been tears of sadness.
God, You have fulfilled many promises with Your gift of Springtime.
But the greatest of all these is the promise of resurrection and of life that is
the heart and soul and the understanding glory of every garden. Amen.*

From The Beckley Post Herald/The Raleigh Register
Beckley West Va., April 7, 1957

