

View [email](#) in your browser



[AUMC News](#) | [Church Center](#) | [Livestream](#) | [Financial Update](#) | [Give Now](#)

Lean into Lent

40 Days



We are quickly approaching the season of Lent, the 40-day* stretch that begins on Ash Wednesday and culminates in Holy Week, when we'll walk with Jesus through his betrayal, arrest, and death, and finally celebrate his resurrection on Easter. It's a season in which we Christians often give up a worldly pleasure (such as chocolate or TV), or we take on a new spiritual discipline (such as a new prayer practice), all with the intention of focusing our daily living more intently on Jesus.

Much like Jesus spent 40 days praying in the wilderness (see Mark 1:13, Matthew 4:1-2, and Luke 4:1-2), so we are called to lean into the Lenten wilderness for 40 days, honing our focus on God that we may grow stronger in our faith and in our daily discipleship.

There are several ways we invite you to Lean into Lent with your church family over the 40 days of Lent. This newsletter lists several of the opportunities available for you to participate in, including

our Lent Photo Challenge, worship services, studies, meals, and special events like Ashes to Go and Dinner with the Disciples. Read through the Lent section below or check out www.apexumc.org/lent for more information.

Before Lent officially begins on February 22, I invite you to spend some time prayerfully considering how you can lean into Lent this year. Will you give up something that might be distracting you from a more robust spiritual life (a little less time on social media and a little more time in prayer, for example)? Will you take on a new spiritual practice to be more attuned to God's presence (like daily Bible reading or a weekly service commitment)? However you choose to lean into this holy season, my prayer is that we'll encounter Jesus in our Lenten journeys and arrive on Easter with a deeper, fuller, more robust relationship with God.

Grace and Peace,
Laura Johnson
-Teaching Pastor

*Fun fact: did you know that Sundays are not included in the 40-day count of Lent? They are "Little Easters" in which we can take a break from the Lenten wilderness and celebrate the good news of Jesus' salvation. So, on Sundays, you may choose to indulge in that chocolate you've given up for the season, or take a break from that daily discipline you've adopted - and no, it's not "cheating." It's pastor approved!

[FORWARD CAMPAIGN](#)

[PRAYER BOOKLETS](#)

January 29-February 19

[8TH ANNUAL](#)

[YOUTH TALENT SHOW](#)

February 10

[BEST OF MARK'S GOSPEL](#)

February 12

[MONDAY MORNING](#)

[BIBLE STUDY](#)

February 13

[WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY](#)

February 14

[YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY](#)

February 15

[S.A.M.I.](#)

February 16

[GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP](#)

February 18

[PANCAKE SUPPER &](#)

[ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE](#)

February 22

[WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS RESUME](#)

March 4

UNITED METHODIST MEN

March 4

PROM SHOPPE

March 10-11

ENCORE TROLLEY TOUR

March 16

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

March 17

DINNER WITH THE DISCIPLES

March 29

PALM SUNDAY/

EASTER CANTATA

April 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9

APEX OUTREACH

SERVICE PROJECT

July 16 - 22

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION **FORWARD Commitment Gatherings**

We are grateful for the 113 church leaders who came out for our Advanced Commitment Gatherings on Sunday and Monday evenings. We shared a meal together, heard a presentation, and dreamed about how we can move FORWARD in this campaign together. Our total Advanced Commitments will be announced in worship on Sunday, February 12, as part of the capital campaign series.

Laura Katherine Stern
-Senior Pastor



FORWARD

FORWARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - BUILDING ON THE ROCK

As we move into a new year, we are looking **FORWARD** to what God is doing in and through Apex UMC. Join us as we explore together a future vision for our church that is built on a strong foundation, that trusts in God's provision, and looks forward, faithfully, to what God will do next.

www.apexumc.org/forward

FORWARD DAILY PRAYER BOOKLET

You are encouraged to pray these daily prayers, alone or with your family, each day of the Capital Campaign (Sunday, January 29 through Saturday, February 18), to give thanks for our rich past and ask God to lead us into the future with hope. The prayer booklets, created by the AUMC prayer team, will be available [online](#) and in worship beginning January 29.

FORWARD MITE BOXES

Our children are the legacy for which this church moves forward. Therefore, our children are also invited to be a part of this initiative. Today in Sunday School and Children's Church, all preschool through middle school children will be receiving "mite" boxes to take home so that they can consider how they might contribute part of their earnings or monetary gifts to support our church's future (see the story of the widow's mite in Mark 12:41-44). Please return boxes on February 19, Commitment Sunday, so that these can be celebrated in worship. Contact [Ellen Griffin](#) with any questions.

FORWARD PLEDGE CARDS

This coming week you will receive a pledge card in the mail. Please join us in Building on the Rock by submitting your pledge [online](#) or by returning your physical pledge cards in worship on Commitment Sunday, February 19, during the offertory.

LENT

LEAN INTO LENT

Lent is a church season designed for self-reflection, repentance, and re-orienting our hearts and lives on Jesus, as we remember his sacrifice and the resurrection life he offers us. Join us in worship this Lent as we lean into this holy season, whole-heartedly pursuing spiritual practices and values that draw us closer to our Savior.

LEAN INTO LENT PHOTO CHALLENGE

Every week in Lent you will be invited to share a photo of how you are pursuing the spiritual practice or value explored in worship. Post your photo on social media using the hashtag #aumclent or email to Director of Contemporary Worship and Digital Media, [Kevin Thompson](#). Your photos will be shared in worship each week.

EASTER LILIES

Order a lily to be displayed in our worship spaces in honor or in memory of loved ones on Easter Sunday. The deadline to place an order is midnight on Sunday, April 2. Lilies are \$20 per dedication, and orders can be placed [online](#) through Church Center. Questions? Contact our flower coordinator Jessica Grantham at granthamJL@gmail.com.

PANCAKE SUPPER

Join the United Methodist Men on February 22 from 5-7 p.m. in the CLC gym for a pancake supper before the Ash Wednesday service. \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids, \$25 cap for families. All receipts go to the pastor's discretionary fund, used to respond to emergency and special needs. Register on [Church Center](#).

ASH WEDNESDAY

This holy day reminds us of our mortality and need for God. Drive through the Crossroads Circle on February 22, from 6:30-8:30 a.m. for Ashes to Go, where a pastor will pray and impose ashes on your forehead. Join us for a bilingual service of repentance and renewal in the sanctuary at 7 p.m., held jointly with Fiesta Cristiana. Nursery will be available for children 3 and under.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS RETURN

Wednesday dinners will run March 1 - April 12. [Registration](#) on Church Center will open on Thursday the week prior, and close on Monday evening the week of. Cost will be \$10-\$12 for adults, \$5-6 for children, \$30 cap for families.

IN-DEPTH JOURNEY TO THE CROSS BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Laura on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. March 1 - 29 for a Bible study tracing the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. Register on [Church Center](#).

WHITE TOO LONG BOOK STUDY

Mondays 7 p.m., February 27 - April 10. This is an advanced book study for those who are on the journey toward antiracism. This study will invite participants to consider racism's historical and lasting impact on American Christianity and theology. Led by Mary Danforth. Register on [Church Center](#).

LOOKING FOR A SMALL GROUP FOR LENT?

We have a variety of Sunday School and small groups that would love to have you! Check out the many options on Church Center and contact Pastor Laura if you would like help getting connected.

DINNER WITH THE DISCIPLES

Join us Wednesday, March 29 from 6 - 7 p.m. for an interactive, family-friendly dinner where we will explore the Easter story with costumed guests, a skit, and intergenerational activities. This is a special edition of our typical Wonderful Wednesday meal and all are welcome. Dinner will be catered by Jason's Deli (\$10 adult/\$5 child/\$25 max). Register on [Church Center](#) no later than March 24.

PALM SUNDAY

In our 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Traditional services, our Chancel Choir and chamber orchestra will present "A Journey to Hope" by Joseph Martin. This cantata uses a variety of traditional spirituals and tells of the ministry, passion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In our 9:35 a.m. Contemporary service we will celebrate with special music and narratives that tell the story from the Triumphant Arrival to the events of the Last Supper. Children are invited to join the palm branch processional at the beginning of the 9:35 and 11:00 services.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Join us on Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m. in the CLC for a communion service to remember Jesus' last supper and his command to love one another. Music will be led by members of our praise team.

GOOD FRIDAY

Join us on Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for a service remembering the seven last words spoken by Jesus Christ before his death. We will gather on this holy day to reflect on the crucifixion of our Lord through Scripture, music, and prayer.

EASTER SUNDAY

Join us to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior at our sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. in the Memorial Garden or at our 8:15, 9:35 or 11 a.m. Traditional services in the sanctuary or 9:35 or 11 a.m. Contemporary services in the CLC.

www.apexumc.org/lent

CONNECT

WATCH THE YOUTH TALENT SHOW ONLINE

While in-person registration has closed, all are welcome to join us virtually to see our talented youth in action this Friday, February 10. The livestream will begin at 7:15pm, and you must [REGISTER HERE](#) to receive the private link to view the show. Questions? Contact Casey Purdy at casey@purdy.info.

ENCORE HISTORIC RALEIGH TROLLEY TOUR

Join Encore (55+) on a trolley tour on March 16 at 1:30 pm. Enjoy a tour of downtown Raleigh aboard the Historic Raleigh Trolley, followed by a tour of Mordecai Historic House and Gardens. Cost is \$10 per person. Registration is limited to 26 people because of the trolley's capacity limits. Registration opened on [Church Center](#) on February 9 at 9 a.m.

TABLE FOR SALE

Would you like to own a piece of Apex UMC history? There is one table in the Parlor for sale. Price is \$35, so take a look and own your very own piece of church history. Questions, contact Trustee Anne Helm at Helm2nc@gmail.com.

NOAH'S ARK SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Noah's Ark is now taking summer camp registrations for rising kindergartners, elementary and middle schoolers. Registration for before and after school programs is in full swing. Space is limited in all programs. More information is at noahsarkcsi.com.

GET REAL 4th & 5th GRADERS

Get REAL is a fellowship group for pre-teens to learn personal faith practices, while having fun and making friends. Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:00 pm, March 1 - April 12 (skipping April 5). [Registration required](#). Optional pre-catered dinner at 6:00 pm in conjunction with Wonderful Wednesdays, open to the whole family. Register and pay separately for each week's dinner. For more information, contact Ellen at ellen.griffin@apexumc.org.

APEX OUTREACH SERVICE PROJECT 2023!

Get ready for Apex Outreach Service Project 2023! AOSP, our High School summer mission week, will be July 16-22, 2023. [Registration](#) and more details are available on our website!

SAMI (Sharing the Anxieties of Mental Illness)

Apex UMC has launched this support group that focuses on the family members of those who battle mental illness. Please join us 5-6 p.m. or 7-8 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Contact [Kara Matthews](#) with any questions.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Join other caregivers via Zoom monthly on the second Tuesday. [Sign up online](#) for the Zoom link. Questions? Contact [Sharon Monfort](#).

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (YAM)

Young adults (18-30ish) are invited to join the Young Adult Ministry (YAM) for Christian community that includes social events and service opportunities. YAM meets on Wednesday nights for fellowship and fun. Follow @apexumcyam on Facebook or Instagram, join their [GroupMe](#), or contact [Raven Friday](#) to get involved.

SERVE

PROM SHOPPE 2023

Our Annual Prom Shoppe will be held on March 10-11, 2023 in the CLC Gymnasium. This outreach ministry provides prom dresses and accessories to area teens who may not otherwise be able to afford these items. How can you help?

- Sign Up to Volunteer!
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49AFAB28A6FC1-apex1>
- Donate Dresses, Shoes & Jewelry!
 - Bring gently used items to the staff office from Mon-Thurs, 9am-4pm.
- Shop the Amazon Wish List
 - https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1PFPP7C4J539C?ref=wl_share
- Share Prom Shoppe Info!
 - Invite friends and neighbors who may be in need to come shop.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/AUMCPromShoppe>

For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Brandy Sadler at brandysadler@hotmail.com. Thank you for serving as the hands and feet of Jesus!

UKRAINIAN FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEER TEAM

We met last week with Christ the King Lutheran Church to begin preparatory conversations for an ecumenical event on Friday, April 21, 6:30-8pm, that will be open to Ukrainians, their sponsors, and friends of this community. The event will consist of fun, food, and fellowship. We would love to have you join us as we seek to bring this evening into fruition. Please sign up on [Church Center](#) to join us. Please contact Kara Matthews at kara.matthews@apexumc.org or Brian.d.snyder@outlook.com with any questions.

REFUGEE TOILETRIES COLLECTIONS

We will be collecting the following items for refugees: men's and women's deodorants, shaving cream, disposable razors, toothbrushes and toothpastes, liquid shampoos and conditioners, and toilet bowl cleaners. Please place in the refugee cart located in the circle outside or bring to the baskets in the crossroads space in between services. If you have any questions please contact Kara Matthews at kara.matthews@apexumc.org. Thank you so much for serving as the hands and feet of Jesus.

FRIDAY NIGHT IMPACT FOR KIDS

IMPACT is a time for children in K-5th grade to learn to serve others and build community by sharing a pizza dinner, learning about God, playing games, and completing a mission project together. Friday, March 3, from 6:00-8:30 pm. The cost is \$15 per child, \$35 max per family, which covers the cost of dinner and all project supplies. Our mission partner for this IMPACT event is the AUMC [ZOE](#) mission team. Register on [Church Center](#) no later than February 27.

ZOE TRIP TO TANZANIA - September 19-28, 2023

Interest Meeting: Experience God at work first hand as we travel to Tanzania to meet some of the orphans and vulnerable children that AUMC supports through ZOE Empowers. Our purpose is to witness the empowerment model in action and how Zoe Empowers is changing lives socially, economically, and spiritually. If you are interested in learning more about the trip please join us for an informational meeting on Mon, March 20, at 7:00 in room DC 407. Please contact Beth Rosko at: Bethsrosko@gmail.com for more info.

FEED THE KIDS

FTK provides weekend food bags to food-insecure students in Western Wake County. Current needs: any individually packaged foods, but especially breakfast items (cereal/oatmeal/grits) and individual fruit packs. Place items in the Feed the Kids bin in the Crossroads Circle. Thank you!

WESTERN WAKE CRISIS MINISTRY (WWCM)

The pantry is in need of canned meat (tuna, chicken, spam, stew, etc.), snack crackers (like Lance crackers variety pack), pasta sauce, pasta, individual drink mix packets (like Crystal Light) and small bottles of hand dishwashing soap and laundry detergent. All non-perishable items are appreciated. Place donations in the bins outside marked WWCM in the Crossroads traffic circle. Thank You! www.wwcm.org/donate.

GIVE

UMCOR DISASTER RELIEF

[UMCOR](#) (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) is always one of the first organizations to arrive and one of the last to leave when natural disasters occur. With the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, UMCOR will be sending aid. To contribute to this effort, please mark your cash or check donation *UMCOR: Tukey/Syria* or choose from the menu when donating [online](#).

GIVING TO APEX UMC

Every time you give to Apex UMC, you are making a way for others to experience the love of God that you have experienced here. You can set up a recurring gift online, you can place your offering in the offertory plate during worship, or you can give by texting the dollar amount to 84321 and choosing Apex UMC as recipient. To find out more, [visit our website](#). Questions? Contact our [finance office](#).

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS: July 1 – January 31, 2023

- General Fund Offerings: \$1,075,335
- Other Income: \$31,397
- Total Expenses: \$1,080,156
- Difference: \$26,576

Our fiscal year runs July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. \$166,373 of excess revenues from the prior 2021-22 fiscal year are being used to fund the current operations in fiscal year 2022-2023.

Deferred mortgage payments NOT included above

Early gifts to the FORWARD Capital Campaign totaling \$246,300 through Jan 31, 2023 have been applied to our mortgage, reducing our total debt to \$4,934,789. Since April 2020 our lender has allowed us to pay only interest on the debt. Total deferred principal payments of \$681,291 (Apr 2020-Jan 2023) are NOT included in the annual budget, but are now reduced by the early gifts payments to \$434,991. Principal payments are scheduled to resume no later than July 1, 2025; deferred principal is not considered past due and is not required to be paid on July 1, 2025. The deferred principal is part of the total debt of \$4,934,789 which is due in full on February 1, 2035.

Please visit our [website](#) for more detailed information.

GIVE NOW

Interested in what is going on with our extended Apex UMC family?
Sign up to receive newsletter for [The Peak](#). For Fiesta, [visit their website](#).

Copyright © **|CURRENT_YEAR|* *|LIST:COMPANY|**, All rights reserved.
|IFNOT:ARCHIVE_PAGE|* *|LIST:DESCRIPTION|

Our mailing address is:

|HTML:LIST_ADDRESS_HTML|* *|END:IF|

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

|IF:REWARDS|* *|HTML:REWARDS|* *|END:IF|