



WEST END PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

275 Knox Lane, West End NC • www.westendpres.church

WEPC Newsletter

March 2024

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Welcome to West End Presbyterian Church



General Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9:00am - 12:30pm

Available by Appointment: 12:30-4:00pm



275 Knox Lane • West End, NC 27376
(910) 673-4341

www.westendpres.church

The church office has been through many transitions in a short time and the ministry staff would like to thank you for pitching in to help and being patient. The session moved to hire a part-time Office Secretary, Carol Moss, who joined our Ministry Staff at WEPC in January.

The church office hours are different for part-time and full-time staff. The church office is open Monday through Thursday 9-12:30 and Carol is available to assist you during those times.

If you would like to ensure there is someone to speak to you after 12:30, the Pastor and DCE encourage you to make an appointment with them by phone or email. Church ministry often means we are away from our offices but you are important to us. Please let us know if possible so we can make ourselves available to you.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 13 • West End, NC 27376 • **Church Address:** 275 Knox Lane • West End, NC 27376

Visit the church website www.westendpres.church for weekly information and worship.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00-12:30 and 12:30-4pm by Appointment

Church Phone Number (910) 673-4341

Email: churchadmin@westendpres.org

Holy Week Schedule



Sunday March 24th- Palm/Passion Sunday



Thursday March 28th- Maundy Thursday 7pm

-Communion

Friday March 29th- Good Friday

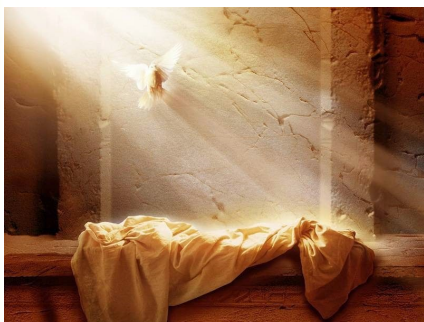
Sunday March 31st- Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Sunday

10:00 Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 Easter Worship

Communion





Words from the Pastor

Reverend Natasha Blackwood

Dear WEPC,

During the past few weeks, I have been preparing myself for a few days of continuing education time. I have asked colleagues and friends in ministry for recommendations. I have selected the books and materials that I will actually have time to read from a rather long list of “books I hope to read one day”. And, I have the devotions, wise words and memoirs that will be my spiritual food. As trivial as this may sound, we pastors, the teaching elders of the church, love the time we have to focus our attention completely on study and prayer. During my preparations, I was reminded of a quotation of Howard Thurman on the “growing edge”.

He writes, “Look well to the growing edge! All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of the child — life’s most dramatic answer to death — this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!”

The Lenten season is the one time during the church year that we Christians look more closely at our finite selves, and that is never easy. I can be even more difficult when Lent and difficult life situations take place at the same time. The beauty of Lent is that its dual purpose includes looking forward with resurrection hope. This very special hope inspires, creates, encourages, loves, believes in miracles, and is itself new life. So, I challenge each of us to look for the growing edges in our lives this week. Where might we see God glimmers shining through the clouds and are there signs of new growth? Are there growing edges in the places and people that we least not expect? What will we see God doing around us if we take time and look.

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43: 18-19

Grace and Peace, Rev. Natasha Blackwood

Pastors Office Hours

Monday– Work Remotely Sermon/Study

Tuesday -Thursday–9:00-4:00

Fri/Sat –Sabbath

Sunday—Worship

Phone: (910)673-4341 (ext. 2) **Email:** natasha@westendpres.church

If you have an emergency and need to reach the pastor, please contact the Elder of the Month, Linda DeYoung or Nancy Cunningham.



The Director of Christian Education
Elizabeth Nix



Join us for our Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday!

Sunday March 31st, at 10:00am

Event is for toddlers through elementary school age, but open to everyone!



Director of Christian Education: Elizabeth Nix

Email: dce@westendpres.church

Phone: (910)673-4341

We Welcome the Heathcote Family to WEPC!

March is Colon and Rectal Cancer Awareness month. Dr. Sam Heathcote is working to bring awareness to the prevention and treatment of the disease. He is a fellow trained Colorectal Surgeon with Pinehurst Surgical.

The Heathcote family joined as members of WEPC last fall and we are so happy they have joined our church family.

The Heathcote family moved to Seven Lakes in the Summer of 2021 when Sam took a job as a Colorectal and General Surgeon with Pinehurst Surgical (reminder to get your routine colonoscopy!). Megan is a Financial Advisor (insurance and investments) and continued her job working with Northwestern Mutual from home.

“As we became more ingrained in the community, the last piece missing in our lives was to find a church. Megan comes from a long line of Methodist ministers and Sam was raised a Presbyterian; after researching churches in the area, we settled on trying WEPC in the Summer of 2023. We immediately felt a connection and were excited to join later in the year. We look forward to getting to know the congregation better and growing in God’s plan for us all.”

The Heathcote family would like to encourage you to take care of yourselves as you all take care of each other and our community. Colonoscopies are recommended to start at age 45, earlier if there is a family history. Preps for Colonoscopies have also gotten a lot better and easier to manage. So if you have been putting off this routine healthcare (or any other medical needs) please talk to your healthcare provider today! Colon cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable!

Learn more about preventing colorectal cancer online by visiting

<https://colorectalcancer.org/screening-prevention>



The Mission Team Update

During this Lenten season West End Presbyterian Church has been working together to gather money to support TEAM WORKZ, a ministry to end Local Homelessness in Moore County. As we continue to collect money during worship on Sundays, we are encouraged by the generosity we have seen so far. Let's continue to work together, gathering change and giving what we can, West End Presbyterian Church and end local homelessness.

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO END OUR LOCAL HOMELESSNESS

We assist locally qualified homeless individuals, including veterans, families, and vulnerable individuals, by removing typical barriers. We offer a helping hand through our Cold Weather Relief Program, providing emergency support with limited shelter, food, and basic



Additionally, our Sponsorship Program helps qualified homeless individuals achieve stable independence by providing access to limited shelter, transportation, job placement, and affiliated programs for clothing, food, and counseling, subject to resource limitations.

One Great Hour of Sharing



Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed
We will take up this Special Offering Easter Sunday. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



Kiwaniis
SEVEN LAKES



**41st Annual Seven Lakes Kiwanis
Pancake & Sausage Breakfast**

**West End United Methodist Church
March 16, 2024 - 7:30am to 10:30 am**

Tickets Available NOW- \$12.00 each
!ALL YOU CAN EAT!
Children under 8 eat FREE



For The Benefit of The Children of Seven Lakes & West End and Other
Kiwaniis Projects Benefiting Moore County Children





Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies will once again adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday morning. If you are interested in purchasing Easter Flowers as a memorial or in honor of family or friends, the cost is \$25.00 per plant. You may take them home after the Easter service or have them delivered to members unable to attend church.

Please complete the form below and return it along with payment in the offering plate or to the office by Monday, March 25.

"In loving memory of..."
 Name: _____
 Name: _____

"In honor of..."
 Name: _____
 Name: _____

Given by: _____

I will pick up flower(s) after the service
 Please deliver flower(s) to someone in need

Make check payable to:
 West End Presbyterian Church and memo
 "Easter Flowers"

Easter Lilies

The Worship Team invites you to purchase Easter Lilies by filling out the order form and leaving it in the offering plate during worship. You may also stop by the church office.

Altar Flowers Sign Up

The calendar for Worship Flowers is available for 2024. You may sign up to bring flowers by calling the church office or you may go to the church website www.westendpres.church.



Thank You From Cub Scouts



To the Members of WEPC,

We are more grateful than you will ever know for the support of the members here at WEPC for being our Cub Scout Pack 98 charter organization. We feel spiritually uplifted after Scout Sunday, and we had the best Pinewood Derby in recent memory this past weekend! Mac Clark, Tom Mirillo, Elizabeth Nix, Jackie Kinney, Tim Kline, the Kitchen family, Ron Shepard, and probably more people we cannot even name were so sweet to volunteer to help us and come out to support the boys' big race. :) The facilities are so nice, and we are doing our best to "leave no trace." Our next big events will be: finishing each grade level's rank requirements during den meetings, one more service project (a cereal drive), one more fundraiser (the meat sticks), and our Blue and Gold Banquet to end the year when the 5th graders cross over to Boy Scouts. If you have any questions about Cub Scouts, reach out to Joanna Perkins or Jenny Gooch whose boys Nolan and Maddox are in the Pack.

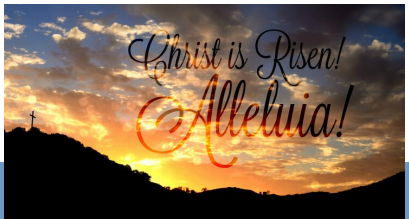
Gratefully,
 Pack 98 Leaders and Boys



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings 10- Sunday Sch. 11am - Worship	11 10 - Membership 1:30 Music /Wor.	12 2- Tues. Tutoring 7-Christian Ed.	13 2- WOW 6 - Cub Scouts	14 No/Staff Mt. 1:30 Lenten St.	15	16
17 10- Sunday Sch. 11-Worship 6pm - Youth	18	19 2- Tues. Tutoring	20 2- WOW 6 - Cub Scouts Email Minutes	21 10:30- Staff Mt. 1:30 Lent Study	22	23
24 10- Sunday Sch. 11-Palm/Passion 6pm - No Youth	25	26 2- Tues. Tutoring	27 2- WOW 5- session 6 - Cub Scouts	28 10: Staff Mt. 1:30 Lent Study 7-Maundy Thur.	29	30

Easter Sunday 31
 10- Egg Hunt
 No Sunday Sch.
 11-Easter Worship

Happy Birthday

- 3rd Robin Baker & Noreen Sawyer
- 9th Ashlyn Tilley
- 14th Lynne Graham & Leslie Rose
- 16th William Crisp
- 18th Nancy Cunningham
- 19th Charley Crisp & Archie Stevens
- 20th Weston Thomson
- 21st Edna VonCanon
- 25th Cheryl Fox
- 26th Josh Crisp
- 29th Chip Lee & Gayemell Shepherd
- 31st Maggie Beamguard

Officer Training Dates

Officer training for all new and incoming officers is scheduled for April 13th. Officers will receive detailed information about the training including specific times as soon as they are available.

March Anniversaries



- 6th Page and Scot Brown
- 17th Joanna and Stanley Perkins