



# THE SELWYN SPIRE

April 2024

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church  
2929 Selwyn Avenue Charlotte, NC 28209, Tel: 704-372-6836, [www.selwynpres.org](http://www.selwynpres.org)

Dear Selwyn Members and Friends,

We are standing on the edge of Easter! In John's version of the [narrative](#), it is still dark outside as Mary approaches Jesus' tomb early that morning. Peter and the other disciple would have been racing by the feel of their feet as they hit the ground. Moving through the unknown requires a bit of confidence and loads of trust. They say it's always darkest just before the dawn, but that's not true.

Standing on the edge of Easter, things come into focus as the sun breaks through the horizon. What is true is that Holy Week reveals as much about humanity as Easter Morning reveals about God. In fact, the events of Jesus' betrayal and murder are far more predictable and easier to understand. Are they not? However, the Church, by God's design, is called to order our lives according to the resurrection. Like Mary, Peter, and the other disciple, as long as we are pursuing Christ, we will not be forsaken. Even if we aren't yet sure of what we will encounter along the way, we can (and should) move through the unknown toward the living Christ.

As we stand on the edge of Easter, I give thanks for your faithful presence at Selwyn Avenue. You, *yes you*, are essential to our narrative and the way we share the Gospel within and beyond our walls. There is so much to celebrate this Spring! As the beloved hymn so aptly states, our *hearts unfold like flowers before* the One who's grace has blessed our community. Last month, the fellowship hall was packed with members for Selwyn's annual congregational meeting. If you were not able to attend, several hopeful and important reports were discussed. [Click here](#).

Also, an update on SAPC's vision for the future and an invitation from Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church to consider a merger were shared. Many good points and important questions were raised by members like you! Since then, the Planning Team continues to meet with interested members as often as possible, a joint Session retreat between SAPC and QHPC was led by Dr. Tim Conder of Black Mountain School of Theology, and Selwyn's Session voted unanimously to grant the planning team permission to further research the opportunity with QHPC.

Understanding QHPC's invitation presents Selwyn with great possibilities, we still have more questions than answers. SAPC's Session cannot and should not make an decision without first fully examining and exploring the potential benefits and risks Selwyn would encounter.

Over the next six months, SAPC's Planning Team will organize several smaller teams for the purpose of discovery. By praying, listening, researching, and acting together, we hope a clear path will be revealed. Findings will be shared along the way, and the Thriving Congregation's team will continue to serve as trained leaders and guides in our mutual discernment. The process of research will explore the feasibility of a shared vision, identity, finances, assets, barriers, staffing, organization, land use at QHPC and more. Only then, will our Sessions and congregations be informed enough to vote this fall.

If this seems excited or scary (or both), I wholeheartedly agree! As we all know, these feelings bubble up every time God is calling us toward a new thing. However, this sense of wonder and hope should be affirmed by careful planning, due diligence, and prayerful consideration. The Planning Team will share a process of discernment soon. You will be invited to share your ideas, expertise, and feedback along the way. As always, if you would like to meet with a member of the Thriving Congregations team for a 1:1 meeting, please reach out by emailing chairperson, [Courtney McLellan](#).

Right now, we are standing on the edge of Easter. Remember the invitation from QHPC was extended in good faith. SAPC has received it in the same spirit of Christian unity. We are discerning God's call for SAPC and QHPC from a position of abundant gratitude. I give thanks to God for the new, life-giving relationships we have formed between our congregations. The Planning Team has cultivated a culture of openness and mutual discernment, and the Session invites your engagement through a faithful sharing of ideas, trust and prayers.

With Easter Hope and Joy,

## SAPC STAFF

Lori Archer Raible, *Pastor*

Margo Richardson Fraga, *Associate Pastor*

Lisa McLennan, *Parish Associate*

Nancy Nutter, *Director of Children/Family Ministries*

Fred Spano, *Director of Music*

Gay Pappin, *Organist*

Allyson Anderson, *Seminary Intern/Membership*

Marsha Cooper, *Church Administrator*

Debbie Pott, *Administrative Assistant*

Tonya Moore, *Church Accountant*

Reba Hardaway, *Accounting Administrative Assistant*

Jennifer Dixon Remsen, *Communications*

Dwight Jones, *Weekend Facilities*

Beth Sharpe, *Director of Child Development Center*

## GROUP CHAIRS

*Administration* - Grant Armistead

*Child Development Center* - Sam Phifer

*Christian Education & Formation* -  
Charlie Harris/Jodie Bolewitz

*Congregational Life* - Ginny Burgin/Lori Burbank

*Mission* - Christy Horne/Denise Pineno

*Worship* - Dick Metzler

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

## IN MEMORIAM

Sue Barker McCarter

May 20, 1944 - March 11, 2024

## SERVE, WORSHIP, GROW, AND GIVE WITH JOY!



We hope to inspire every member to share in blessings of stewardship in support of Selwyn's annual budget.

To make a confidential pledge visit the church website, email church accountant, Tonya Moore, or return your completed pledge card.

Text to Give: 704-734-9818 Enter an amount. The first time you will be prompted to SHELBY to confirm set up.

A key word is not needed if giving to the annual fund.



You may also give by scanning this QR code.

## In Nursing or Retirement Homes

- Aldersgate - Dick Metzler
- Asbury - Mary Faye Proctor
- Carmel Hills - Marie Pressley
- Carriage Club - Herman Thomas
- Cypress - Bill and Nancy Budd, Steve and Ellen Byrum, Bob and Joe Anne Cole, Mike and Frankie Hinshaw, Robert Shore, Olen and Nancy Smith
- Matthews Glen - Anne McMackin, Cara Munday, Anne Rutherford
- Merrywood - Pat Ferguson
- Sharon Towers - Richard and Joan Foard
- Southminster - Kathy Dixon, Kay Hastings, Bobbye Linn, Sally Moore
- Summit Place - Willa May Young
- TerraBella Cramer Mountain - John McCarter
- The Pines on Carmel - Beth Carter



### We welcome

Reese Collins Klinker, daughter of Ben and Calli Klinker, born on March 4, 2024.



### We welcome

James Gary Cheek son of Brad and Hillary Cheek, born on March 17, 2024.

## SAPC BOOK CLUB



will meet April 16, 6:30pm at Sir Edmonds Halley's Restaurant to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Questions, contact [Nancy Bobbitt](#).

## SALT SHAKERS

on Sunday, April 7, 6pm, Vince and Malyn Pratt will host. Remember to bring a covered dish to share. Questions contact [Malyn Pratt](#).



## Non-Member Deaths

- Scott Matthew Shoaf, brother of Sally Shoaf, on March 5, 2024
- Charles Horne Sr., father of Charles Horne, on March 9, 2024
- Althenia Frances Hawkins, mother of Kim McGirt, on March 22, 2024

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1 Chris Dietrich<br>Jack McCormick  | 7 John Lemmon<br>John Sutton                            | 16 Caroline Bourg<br>Will Harris<br>Sarah Skibinski                            | 24 Elizabeth Stearns   | 30 Tina Dietrich<br>Will Hoskins<br>Ben Phillips |
| 2 Marsha Cooper<br>Welch Liles<br>Henry Widmer  | 8 Carly Arrington<br>Sally Moore                        | 17 Violet Baker  | 25 Sally Lucas   |  |
| 3 Joe Bentley<br>Meg Peebles  | 11 Alex Dewey<br>Bennett Hackman<br>Evie Tom            | 19 Alex Flowers  | 26 Bill Davison<br>Thomson Riley<br>Clark Spencer                                |  |
| 4 John Barkley<br>Froggii Gibson<br>Casey Koppelman<br>Loren Korch<br>Adam Lindsey<br>Rachel Walker | 13 Brandi Milewski<br>Steve Zande                       | 21 Ray Tom   | 27 Norah Bolewitz<br>Vivian Randall  |  |
| 6 Jonathan Haruta<br>Phillip Potter   | 14 Sam Howard<br>Roger Mills<br>Curtis Scott            | 22 Whitney Cheek<br>Watson Phifer  | 28 Jill Cann<br>Julie Harris<br>Chuck Martin<br>Charlie Pfeifer<br>Traver Stuart |  |
|   | 15 Meredith McCormick<br>Monroe Tan<br>Vince Piacentino | 23 George Dewey<br>Ashley Ellis<br>Joyce Greene<br>Jen Johnson<br>Will Peebles | 29 Graham Cooper<br>Charles Harris   |  |



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The Presbyterian Women will recognize one of its members with the Honorary Life Membership during the April 21 worship service. Join us in recognition of this faithful disciple.

There will be a reception following worship on April 21.

All women are invited to participate in a Presbyterian Women's Circle. Choose the day and time that works best for you. Monthly morning and night meetings are available with one weekly meeting available on Wednesdays.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

## SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:30AM

Our new Sunday School series will begin on April 7 and continue through June 2.

*Please note* — Sunday School classes will not meet on April 28 due to the All Church Retreat at Montreat.

- ◇ **Conversations on Faith Class** will discuss "Science & Faith" using the book *Stars Beneath Us: Finding God in the Evolving Cosmos* by astrophysicist and minister Paul Wallace. The class will meet in the parlor.



- ◇ **Life Changing Encounters with Christ** will be a series of stories reflecting how Jesus changes individuals and communities. This will be a study on how the Risen Christ transforms, disrupts, uproots and changes everything. The class will meet in the Chapel.

◇ **Middle and High School Youth** are invited to join our intergenerational Sunday School Class Life Changing Encounters with Christ at 9:30am in the Chapel.

- ◇ **K-5 Sunday School children** will explore scripture and story through an adult guided 'Montessori style' of learning using hands on stations, crafts, reading and group interaction. Children will be led by Nancy Nutter and a team of adult volunteers.

- ◇ **During 10:30am worship**, age-appropriate activities for readers and non-readers, 4 years old—5th grade, can be found in Worship Bags. These are provided to encourage participation in following along in worship. The bags are available in the narthex. Please return the bag to the basket after worship.



- ◇ **Nursery** with our skilled nursery workers will be downstairs for children ages 0 through 3 years old.

- ◇ **Men's Group**, meets at 7am each Friday morning at the Bates House.

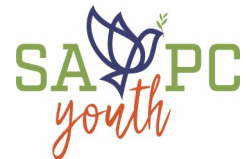
- ◇ **The Tweens**, grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, will meet at 5pm on April 21 in the Bowman building. The class will also participate in Second Sunday Service opportunities. Questions, please contact [Nancy Nutter](#).

## YOUTH NEWS

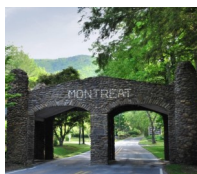
**Sunday Mornings**—Youth are encouraged to attend the intergenerational Sunday School class, "Life Changing Encounters with Christ", meeting in the Chapel at 9:30am.



**Second Sunday Service**—All Youth are encouraged to participate in the April 14 Rise Against Hunger event following worship. Please [register here](#) for the event.



**ASP Participants Meeting**—Sunday, April 21, 5 - 7pm, ASP participants will meet at Providence Presbyterian Church for a trip training and information session. Questions, [contact Margo](#).



**Montreat Youth Conference** —Rising 9<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> grade may register for the July 7-13 trip. Total trip cost \$400; \$100 deposit due upon [registration](#); \$300 due April 30, 2024. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. Two adults are needed. Please [contact Margo](#) with any questions.

**Graduating Seniors**—On May 12 Selwyn will celebrate and offer blessings for our graduating High School seniors in 10:30am worship. Parents please see Margo's email for additional information.



# WORSHIP

## MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

6pm Worship at Quail Hollow Presbyterian  
Combined Table Worship,  
with dinner and communion,  
and the music presentation of Fauré's Requiem.



## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

You are encouraged to sign up  
in honor or memory of people  
or occasions.

Contact [Marsha Cooper](#) to  
reserve a date. Once the date is  
confirmed, online payments or  
checks for \$78 should be made  
to the church indicating  
sanctuary flowers".



## EASTER SUNDAY AT SELWYN, MARCH 31

8:30am Outdoor Easter Service  
Sunday School classes will not meet.  
10:30am Traditional Easter Service  
with Brass Ensemble and special music.



Join us weekly for Worship in the sanctuary at 10:30am.  
If you cannot attend worship in person  
an email is sent to members at 10:15am



Sign up to Usher in Worship.  
Scan the QR Code with your mobile app  
or contact Jill Cann.

# MISSION



## FOOD FIRST SUNDAY FOR MONTCLAIRE ELEMENTARY

We need one pound plastic jars of peanut butter, 16 ounce or  
smaller cans of fruits and protein items (tuna or canned meat).  
Anything larger is difficult for the students to carry.  
No glass jars, please!

Bring items to the church on Sundays or during weekday office  
hours Monday through Thursday 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-1pm.

[Sign up here](#) to help with the April 18, 9am  
food packing and delivery.



## APRIL 14, RISE AGAINST HUNGER - SECOND SUNDAY SERVICE


Join us after worship in a time of community  
and a meal packaging experience in the  
movement to help end hunger. Please [register here](#) for the event.

## HABITAT WORKDAY, APRIL 20

The crew will be painting a house at  
7003 Estelle Smith Court.  
Lunches for the crew are also needed.  
Volunteer to help [here](#).



## MAY 18 - OPERATION SANDWICH

Assist by preparing bagged lunches for our Roof Above homeless  
neighbors. Please [sign up](#) in increments of 10 lunches and drop  
 prepared lunches at the church on May 18 between 9-10am  
for lunches to be delivered to Roof Above.



## MONTCLAIRE ELEMENTARY NEEDS YOU!

There are a variety of opportunities and commitment  
levels to assist MontCLAIRE. Scan the QR Code or  
contact [Ellen Harris](#) or [Denise Pineno](#).

Selwyn participates in the vital Room in the Inn program  
through Roof Above from December through March  
each year, providing three meals and a warm,  
safe place to sleep.

**Thank you to everyone** that participated this  
Season, helping make it a success for our  
Roof Above neighbors.

**A big thank you** to our SAPC coordinators  
Michelle Bentley, Jen Daily, and Christy Parbst.



## PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE

A dire humanitarian crisis resulted from the October 7, 2023 deadly  
attacks in Israel and the ongoing conflict between Palestine and  
Israel. Due to tremendous loss of lives, forced evacuations, and  
suffering of people without access to basic necessities,  
Presbyterian Church (USA) is providing assistance and  
supporting partners in Israel and Palestine who are  
responding to the needs of those in their midst, no  
matter their religious beliefs, political views or nationality.

We are called to care for all of God's children by responding to the  
urgent needs of those directly affected. Please pray for peace, safe  
passage, and relief for those needing medical attention and help. To  
offer financial support you can give [online](#), call (800) 872-3283, text  
PDAIP to 41444, or mail a check to Presbyterian Church (USA),  
PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700, made payable to  
Presbyterian Church (USA) with "DR000081-Israel/Palestine" on the  
memo line.

