



# WESTOVER UMC

April 2020



Dear Westover UMC Friends and Family,

We are in the midst of strange times. COVID-19 has changed our lives, and changed the ways that we remain connected as a church family. It was my hope that the social distancing would not last so long, but now we expect to continue the distancing through to the end of May. If you have access to the internet, email, and/or a phone, there are opportunities to connect to one another. So if you have not availed yourself to any of these new opportunities, I encourage you to try them out:

1. We are still worshipping on Sundays at 11am via Facebook Live. You can join the livestream by clicking on the link:  
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/westoverUMCRaleigh/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/westoverUMCRaleigh/posts/?ref=page_internal)
2. Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7pm for Bible Study via Zoom. You can phone in or login. No download is required unless you use your smartphone and want to join by video. Email [revsungmoy@gmail.com](mailto:revsungmoy@gmail.com) for the call details and study material or call her at 845-206-3914.
3. Join us on Wednesday mornings at 11:30am for our Prayer Group via Zoom. You can phone in or login. No download is required unless you use your smartphone and want to join by video. Email [revsungmoy@gmail.com](mailto:revsungmoy@gmail.com) for the call details and study material or call her at 845-206-3914.
4. Join the Westover UMC Online Congregation on Facebook.
5. Call each other on the phone.

While it is not the ideal situation, we want everyone to remain connected, pray for each other and care for each other. Please also know that we have a Discretionary Fund available in case you lost employment or have reduced hours and find yourself in hardship. We are here to support one another through this time. Let these words from **1 Peter** encourage you: ***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*** While we will not be gathered physically for Easter in April, let us not forget that we are people of the resurrection. And I witness so much good being done even in the midst of this pandemic. We believe in a God who brings life out of death, who brings joy out of sorrow, and exalts the humble. May God bless you and please reach out to me, even if all you want to do is talk.

Peace,  
Pastor Sung

**Contact Information for Pastor Sung**  
Mobile number: **1-845-206-3914**  
Email: [revsungmoy@gmail.com](mailto:revsungmoy@gmail.com)

Westover UMC is now using **GoogleGroups** to send out email announcements about the church with a separate googlegroup email to send newsletters. Everyone, please complete a new contact information form for your family/address, so that we may have all of this information updated and on file with your preferences. You may also email Becky at the church office at [WestoverUMC@gmail.com](mailto:WestoverUMC@gmail.com).



**He is Risen**

### **LIVE STREAMING:**

We are **live streaming** the Westover UMC 11am church worship service through Facebook Live on the Westover UMC Facebook page. Join us at 11am or watch the video of the service during the week at your convenience.



## **Administrative Council**

As I'm writing this we are in a "stay at home" mode as, together, we respond to the horrible virus that is causing such despair for so many. We pray to our Lord to keep us strong, to keep us healthy, and to keep us mindful of our family, friends, and neighbors – anyone we need to keep close and to help. What we keep hearing is so true: "We are in this together!"

As we are approaching Easter Sunday, we remember that our risen Lord gives us hope at all times, in all situations. It is that hope that helps us continue as a church family to keep on "keeping on!" And we're doing that as we check on loved ones, friends, neighbors, and our church family. It's those phone calls, notes and caring that can bring sunshine into our lives during this time.

We are hopeful that some type of service can be worked out for us for Easter Sunday – Pastor Sung will keep you informed about plans for that.

The work of the church continues as Pastor Sung, David, Bruce, Seyi, and Yemi are "showing up" on Sunday mornings with the livestream to bring us Church, and we are so thankful for their dedication and love of the Lord that they are willing to gather (at a safe distance) to keep us spiritually uplifted in these difficult times. Thank you so much! (I'm sending hugs to you!)

And the trustees are working on the install of the sound system and painting of the sanctuary and other areas so that when we do return, we'll have a true "newness" about us!

I'm missing the hugs – but know that I keep you in my prayers and when we're back together, the hugs, tears, and "so good to see you" greetings may take up half of the Sunday School/Worship time, but that'll be o.k. with me!

May you and your loved ones have a joyous Easter Season as we celebrate all that this beautiful season means. There is nothing that can take that away from us! God bless each of you!

**Clara Worsley** [claraworsl@aol.com](mailto:claraworsl@aol.com)  
**Administrative Council Chair**

**Church Office:** The church office will be closed for as long as Wake County or the governor call for a shelter-in-place order. If you need something from the office, please contact Pastor Sung, and she will drop off whatever you need to your porch. Also, if you have something that needs to go to the church office, please call Pastor Sung, and she will arrange for pick up of your item to get to the church office.

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS!**

- 1 SONJA ANN WILSON
- 2 SEAN MICKENS
- 3 LIZA MEDLIN  
MARLEY MEDLIN
- 4 EVERETTE JONES  
PAMELA NOWELL GALI  
BENJAMIN LAWRENCE WORSLEY
- 5 TOM OVERBY
- 7 DAVIS POOLE
- 9 MEG SARGENT
- 10 SAMANTHA LEDBETTER
- 11 MERCEDES LEDBETTER  
WADE TROUTMAN
- 13 CLARA WORSLEY  
DEVON MICKENS  
SEYI ADEBIYI  
MIKE CLANCY
- 15 JOHN CARTER IV
- 16 ALICE BATTS
- 19 CALLIE BAREFIELD CARTER
- 21 AMBER GORDON
- 22 CLAY CULPEPPER
- 23 VICKI CARTER  
CHARLES MULLEN  
JEANNE STANCIL
- 24 NETTIE SHAFER
- 26 JAMES JOHNSON
- 29 DAVID PRICE  
JESSE GILSTRAP



## **Congratulations!**

**CAMRYN WATKINS -**  
who graduated from  
Wake Tech  
December 2019



## **Prayer Concerns**

### **Acute Care Needs:**

**Jean Massengill, Peggy Brown,**  
**Robert Simmons (Janitor), Dora Gibbs, Doug**  
**Nowell, Bill Jones, Nettie Shafer, Carl Ray,**  
Greg & Kim Miller & Family



### **Long-term Concerns:**

**Mag Highsmith, Doris Ray, Dot Avery, Mary**  
**Alice Black,** Dawn Miller, Wayne Allen,  
Edward Thompson, Hanna Markham, Marie  
Powell, Helen Wyble

### **Homebound/Assisted Living/Nursing Care:**

**Viola Ward** (Brighten Gardens), **Nancy Tew,**  
**Helen Sloan, Everett Jones, Bob Gue, Faye**  
**Batts,** Bob & Polly Hendrix

## **PANDEMIC OUTBREAK**

## **Trustees**

The Trustees have been very busy with efforts to update and modernize our Sanctuary Building!

Bruce is working with the Audio/Video folks to complete installation of a **new sound system**. Getting specific detailed schedules for completion of this work as well as **painting of the Sanctuary Building** is difficult due to the current restricted environment everyone is dealing with now. For example, we are experiencing delays in getting equipment installed because of unforeseen shipment delays. Work is on-going in the upstairs restroom and the nursery restroom to update those as well. Thanks to Jesse Gilstrap for taking on that task. The restroom work should be finished by early April. We are hoping that the upstairs A/V system and all painting will be completed by Easter barring any other major delays.

In addition, we are working with an architect and general contractor for renovation of the Fellowship Hall. The plan is to replace the ceiling and walls and add a new HVAC system which is independent of the main furnaces and AC to better control the environment in the Fellowship Hall. We are still in the planning stages and have not signed any contracts as yet.

The funds for most of this work, particularly the downstairs renovation, will not come from our normal operating budget. We have significant funds from our property sales which will be used for this purpose.

In addition, Sue Nowell is working with Logan Landscaping to develop a plan for beautifying the prayer garden! The Hobby Chapel door to the gravel lot is not working while awaiting parts to come in from the locksmith. And we just switched from AT&T internet & phone to Spectrum Business which will lower our costs and improve the internet speed dramatically which should improve the live streaming services on Sunday!

The trustees continue to do all the necessary maintenance of our facilities during these times, even though we have closed both buildings for use by all the outside groups that normally use them.

Thanks and everyone be safe !!

**Phil Epley, Trustee Chairman**

**Circles of Care:** If you are not sure whether you are in a circle of care and wish to be placed in a circle, please contact Pastor Sung. At this time, everyone should have been contacted by your shepherd who will be your point of contact for church related communication and for care.

**Hardship Help:** Friends, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is a private way to receive help without the whole church knowing that you have a need. Contact Pastor Sung if you find yourself in hardship. We will provide you with food cards, pay for you to see a doctor if you are sick and without insurance, or help with critical bills before your credit is ruined. If you wish to make a donation to this fund, please send a check to the church with "Discretionary Fund" in the memo line.

**You can attend Zoom meetings by phone.** If you do not have internet or are uncomfortable with setting up a Zoom account, you can use your mobile or landline phone to dial into the meeting. You can always call 1-646-558-8656 and then punch in your Meeting ID number which the meeting host (Pastor Sung) will provide when prompted. Please note that this is a long distance number and so if you are on a pay-by-the-minute plan, there will be a cost. If your phone plan is unlimited, there is nothing to worry about. We would love to have more people participate in our Prayer and Bible Study meetings. We also may offer other worship and fellowship opportunities through Zoom. Please contact Pastor Sung if you would like to do a test run. She is happy to help you to connect.

**Zoom Help:** Did you sign up for a Zoom account and want to test it before you join a meeting? Contact Pastor Sung and she will test it with you to make sure you feel comfortable using your account.

Contact Information for Pastor Sung:  
Mobile number: 845-206-3914,  
Email: revsungmoy@gmail.com

## **Bag Lunch Mission**

On March 28 Oak City Cares started distributing bags with enough food for 3 meals. They requested pre-packaged foods, and each Saturday and Sunday will distribute the bags in the morning outside their building. They had a list of preferred items, including money, which is what we opted to do. We, Westover UMW, sent a check for \$150 (the average of what we spend monthly). We felt that we needed to be on the safe side and not expose anybody to possible illness. We will send the same amount for the next two months also.

Thank you to all of you who support helping those in need.

May God bless and keep us all safe, and help us to "do unto others as we would like to see done for us".

Until we can hug again,  
Blessings,

**Janet Giannattasio** [scandia1963@gmail.com](mailto:scandia1963@gmail.com)

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**WESTOVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
300 Powell Drive  
RALEIGH NC 27606-1317

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE P A I D**

**PERMIT NO. 903**  
**RALEIGH, N.C.**

## **ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Church Office: 919-851-4431  
Email: [WestoverUMC@gmail.com](mailto:WestoverUMC@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.westoverumc.org](http://www.westoverumc.org)  
Capital District Email: [www.capitaldistrictnc.org](http://www.capitaldistrictnc.org)  
Conference Website: [www.nccumc.org](http://www.nccumc.org)

**Rev. Sung Moy, Senior Pastor**  
[revsungmoy@gmail.com](mailto:revsungmoy@gmail.com)  
Bruce Smith, **Director of Music**  
Becky Rogers, **Office Secretary**  
Robert Simmons, **Custodian**

**SENT WITH A PRAYER FOR:**

### **Westover United Methodist Church**

ALL SERVICES ARE **LIVESTREAM ONLY** DURING THIS  
PANDEMIC CRISIS AT 11AM ON SUNDAYS.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US BY LIVESTREAM!

[www.westoverumc.org](http://www.westoverumc.org)



## First Fruits of Worship!

by **Bruce Smith**

Director of Music Ministries

### Hymn Story: “Christ The Lord Is Risen Today”

**“Loves redeeming work is done – alleluia!”**

One of the most recognizable hymns of the Methodist Church is Charles Wesley’s great Easter hymn, “Christ The Lord Is Risen Today”. It’s exuberance, power and celebratory tone make it a perfect triumphant hymn for Resurrection Sunday. Wesley wrote this hymn in 1739, just one year after his Aldersgate conversion. It was included in a John and Charles Wesley publication “Hymns and Sacred Poems” and at that time did not include the reoccurring “alleluias”, which were added in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. There was no original hymntune assigned to this text, but the melody we now recognize with this hymn, “Easter Hymn” was applied in 1749.

The purpose behind Wesley’s hymn is to declare the power of Christ – with the stanzas proclaiming His victory over death and the grave, with heaven and earth singing praise for Christ’s victorious work. Wesley even included this taunting quote from Paul’s letter to the Corinthians with his line "Where O Death is now thy sting? Where's thy victory boasting grave?" (1 Cor. 15:55)

Of particular note in this great hymn is Wesley’s use of the present tense throughout. “Christ the Lord IS risen today” – not he “rose” or “has risen”. The purpose behind this is the ever-present resurrection power available for us today. Jesus’ resurrection was not just a historical event in the world, it is a daily source of strength and power to those who believe. “Made like Him, like Him we rise” is the future promise of the resurrection.

Peyton Strouth, of Perkins School of Theology and a sacred music scholar wrote this apt description of the hope this hymn invokes for us all.

***“Hope? Now? Is Wesley saying that Christ's hope is now? And if so what does this mean for the suffering, the oppressed, the abused and the lost? Is Wesley calling us to action? If we follow the example of our "exalted head," will it take us to "the cross, the grave, the skies?" Alleluia, it will! I think he is calling us to action! The skies are exciting, but we also need to be willing to follow Christ to the cross and the grave even if we know that we will be triumphant over them.”***

So as we gather Easter Sunday morning and sing this glorious hymn, let us remember the hope and promise embedded in this hymn of praise, and that it is written in the present tense – because our victory is now and ahead of us. The only response to that good news is “raise your joys and triumphs high, alleluia!”

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**Church Communications:** As we do not know how long we may have to close the church office, the May newsletter may either be delayed or skipped. To keep up with church communications, please either sign up to receive church emails through our group distribution, check out the news and events section in the church’s website (Westoverumc.org), or follow the church on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/westoverUMCRaleigh/>).





**WESTOVER UMC**  
 Contemporary Service  
 8:45AM - Sunday Mornings

What's in a name, you say? Well, a lot! We've changed the name of our 8:45AM service from "The Early Service" (not very appealing, wouldn't you say?) to "Arise & Shine" (pretty exciting, huh?) But why did we do it?

We want to reach all the folks in our neighborhood as well as others across Raleigh and the triangle area to our great contemporary worship service. The name "Early Service" is a difficult name to connect with young families with small children or youth. It says "you're going to have to get up EARLY to make it to this early service!" Not too appealing for youngsters!

So how and why did we come up with "Arise & Shine"? The 8:45 service congregation voted overwhelmingly for it. The name is taken from the scripture in Isaiah 60:1-3

***"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."***

When the Lord rises upon us as we worship Him, we will draw everyone to His light! This imagery of the morning light, and light in general makes this such a meaningful name for what God has called us to do when we come and worship Him.

So from now on, please refer to the 8:45 service as "Arise & Shine" and encourage everyone you know to come and experience God's glory as it appears over us in worship! A great way to start your Sunday!



**Easter Remembrances**

In Honor or Memory of our loved ones, people who are special to us, this year we have "living remembrances" that will keep on benefiting families for years-to-come. Through Heifer International "your donation will support the lives of families in need around the world. Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business". You can choose an animal, give a share towards one, or make a donation of any amount (\$1-?). You can even give a gift of clean water! Families who receive a gift of an animal are required to pass an animal on to another family - "A gift that keeps on giving".



We will publish a list of all the people who have made a donation and who they are honoring or remembering. We will also list separately how many flocks of chickens, ducks or geese; or sheep, goats, pigs, alpacas, or other animals, clean water, bee hives , or whatever is chosen, also the amount of money if a gift is not chosen.

**Janet Giannattasio**

*The form for this offering is on back of this page.*

## Easter Remembrances Offering

While we don't know at this time whether we will be able to have services in April, we decided not to let that stop us from doing whatever good we can. It was our decision before the COVID-19 outbreak reached the US to change our Easter Memorial Offering this year. In lieu of lilies, we decided that we would encourage people to purchase animals for people in poor areas through Heifer International. These animals would help create a sustainable livelihood for a family and for their community as they share animal offspring.

You can find a link of the catalog of animals that you can purchase online at this link: <https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/animals/index.html>

Or by picking up a brochure in the church office next week.

Here are your instructions:

1. Select how much you want to spend on either a particular animal or to put toward an animal if you want to go in with others on an animal. If you simply want to make an unspecified donation, check that box on the form below.
2. Make sure you either mail or get your form and check to the church office. Forms will also be available in the church office next week. We will make sure that even if we don't have a regular Easter service that we will share by email all the donations. Make checks out to **Westover UMC**.

Thank you for your patience at all of this.

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Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Animal (for example, full share of Pigs):

\_\_\_\_\_  for unspecified

Name of Person You Wish to Be Remembered or Honored:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ If donation is in Memory \_\_\_ If in Honor

If you are going in together with someone, name of other partners:

\_\_\_\_\_