

We welcome all to the community of Jesus: to connect, to learn, to worship, to serve. We are an ecumenical congregation in a Presbyterian Church (USA) form.

# The Relay

Alamance Presbyterian Church • 4000 Presbyterian Road • Greensboro, North Carolina, 27406 • 336.697.0488 • [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org)

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## Current Officers

The Session is the governing body of our congregation. Our officers are called Elders. They serve for a three-year term, called a "class."

Stated meeting is on the **fourth Sunday of each month, at 6 p.m.** in the Scott-Monroe-Anderson room — unless otherwise noted.

### Class of 2022:      Class of 2021:

Barbara Alexander	Pam Dixon
Tom Cimino	Randy Maness
Scott Mendenhall	Wendy Mills
Steve Starr	Keith Morris
David White	Gary Trull

### Class of 2020:      Youth Elder:

Clint Aydelette	Dara Reece
Elizabeth Hadley	
Lee Shores	
Sara Strandberg	
Kirby Ward	

## July Jumble: A Heaping Helping of Knowledge

The month of July was named for Julius Caesar. The word that we use today is from the Middle English, *Julius (mensis)*, meaning "month of July."

What we know today as England originally included most of Britannia, the northernmost colony of the Roman Empire. Much of the English language evolved from languages that derived from Latin, which was the official language of that enormous (and enormously powerful) ancient political institution. Julius Caesar was the first Emperor of Rome. Hence, "July."

## Salem Presbytery Update on Resuming Worship: June 17, 2020

### III. Worship Matters

We continue to get inquiries and to observe online discussion of when churches might resume in-person worship. I refer you once again to the Executive Council task force's advice (see box on Home page of [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org)). That word was based on the best wisdom for Phase 2 of reopening. As a spike in cases of COVID-19, with an increase in hospitalizations, has followed the state's move into Phase 2, state health officials may find it necessary to reimpose earlier restrictions in order to stop the spread of disease.

We find it hard to be patient under these circumstances. Some people think we have done this for three months, so it must be time to move on, but that's not the way this threat to everyone's health works. Please remember we are taking extraordinary

measures for everyone's protection, particularly for the sake of those who are most at risk. Meanwhile, we are reinventing what it is to be the church for now, and our ministry and mission have taken on new forms.

Walking in the park recently, I recalled that our daughter and her husband's wedding was six years ago last week, in 2014. I thought of how the world changed in the last century from 1914 to 1920, with the Great War and a worldwide epidemic in between. Then I was struck that we are living through such a time, and we don't know what the church or we ourselves are going to be like on the other side. Trust that the God we know in Jesus Christ is our companion, our example of how we ought to respond to human need, our guide and our goal.

Grace and peace!

*Steve Scott*

Transitional General Presbyterian

## Divine Focus Photography Club

"A picture is worth a thousand words." This adage implies that complex ideas can be conveyed by a single still image more effectively than a mere verbal description. The saying was invented by an advertising executive, Fred R. Barnard. To promote his agency, he took an ad in *Printer's Ink* in 1921 with the headline "One Look Is Worth a Thousand Words." He attributed it to an ancient Japanese philosopher. See page 5 for more about Divine Focus.

## Live-streaming Worship Services

Look and listen to Sunday morning worship at Alamance live, on-line. A few steps before you start are simple to accomplish:

1. Go to our website, [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org). Scroll down the homepage for the *Live Sunday Worship & Info* box. Choose that option, to go to the *Worship* page. (Or, go to *Connect* at the **top** of the page, and choose *Worship* from the drop-down list.)

2. On the *Worship* page, the box for *Worship Live Streaming* is on the **top right** of your screen. It sends you to the Livestream page for Alamance Presbyterian Church ([www.livestream.com](http://www.livestream.com)).

3. **Before you can access the live streaming service**, you'll be required to open an account with Livestream, either with your e-mail or your Facebook account. The Livestream site will prompt you to enter your e-mail. It will then send you an e-mail that will instruct you how to enter a password of your own choosing.

4. On the Alamance Presbyterian Church website, the *Worship Live Streaming* page has all the recorded services still available; and options for services still to come. (The not-yet-happened ones are listed so you can log in on those Sundays at **10 a.m.** to experience worship with the rest of the congregation, as it unfolds in real time.)

Sometimes, Livestream does not work as well as we expect it to work. Bear with us! In these times of pandemic, social messaging is being accessed by many thousands more people than before — we are doing the best we can. Providers of social messaging sites are doing the best they can.

With God's grace, we'll all get through this together.

## Pandemic Policy Update

The Session of Alamance Presbyterian Church has decided that, until the end of Phase 2 of the North Carolina *Safer at Home* protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic — whenever that shall be — church offices and buildings will remain closed and not available to any group for any gatherings.

Even then, Session will wait until there has been at least two weeks of a steady downward trend in the number of hospitalizations and ICU occupancy due to COVID-19 in the state of North Carolina. Data to illustrate that downward trend will be gleaned from trusted sources, such as local health departments, the Center for Disease Control, and the Cone Health System.

It will be necessary for every person, ministry team, class, study group, or community group that wants to use space in/at Alamance Presbyterian Church to **request**

**permission from Session** to use a room. Please apply for permission **at least two weeks** before your wanted date and time.

Session will give priority to events that promote a service activity, or that fulfill a live-saving purpose. Sunday school classes and Session ministry team meetings, Kids R.O.C.K. and youth groups, Presbyterian Women circles, and Bible study groups **are not exempt from the requirement to request permission** to meet in the church.

**Permission must be requested to use the Pavilion.** Groups will be required to adhere to NC *Safer at Home* standards for the number of participants, for wearing face coverings, and for practicing safe distance one from another. **No access to indoor conveniences will be allowed** until it is deemed safe to re-open the entire church.

## July Birthdays

- 2 Brian Forbis
- 3 Jimmy Tew
- 4 Walker Sullivan
- 5 Jackie Haines, Shannon Haynes, Jeff Vance
- 6 Frankie Forbis
- 7 Bobby Jobe, Kathy Medder, Kirby Ward
- 8 Danny Church
- 9 Jason Ward
- 10 Nathan Garrett
- 14 Susan Martin
- 17 Sydney Mills
- 19 Buddy Fields, Jan Smith
- 20 Katie Long
- 22 Edna May
- 23 Darren Hadley, Grant Smith
- 24 Van Whitesell
- 26 Kyle Goodman, Richard Sharpe
- 28 Shearer Bridges, Patty Staley
- 30 Harold Alexander, Edna Causey, Lewis May, Laverne Vance
- 31 Peggy Busby, Nick Irwin, Marcia Lane



## Virtuous Videos

During this time of physical distancing, Alamance Presbyterian Church is staying in touch through videos meant to connect, educate, and inspire.

The church posts videos on the church Facebook page, and the church YouTube channel. Access them through the church website ([www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org)).

We'd like to hear from you, too! Contact Pastor Jess if you are willing to lead a devotion or sing/play a song ([jess@alamancechurch.org](mailto:jess@alamancechurch.org)).

Past Sunday worship services are also posted on the website.

*It's a Drive-By Wedding Shower  
Honoring Andrew & Katie Long*



*Since we can't celebrate together in person,  
let's shower this couple in a different way.  
Drive by to show your love and support,  
and enjoy a curbside treat!*

*Enter at top of driveway by children's playground.  
(Please stay in your vehicle, someone will take your gift.)*

*Sunday, July 19, between 4-6 p.m.  
at the  
Alamance Presbyterian Church Picnic Pavilion*

*Registered at: Bed, Bath & Beyond; and at Belk  
<https://www.myregistry.com> (Andrew Long & Katie Hensley's wedding registry)*

## Wycliffe Wanderings

A column by Wycliffe translators  
Jesse & Erin Padgett Atkinson  
(Oaxaca, Mexico)

### What we're up to:

We have some exciting news to share with you, APC family: we are pregnant! Baby Atkinson is due just before Christmas. We are SO excited about this little one — a true gift from God!

More exciting news: We have an updated departure timeline to share with you. Due to coronavirus and a postponed training, we have had to push back our goal date for heading to Mexico. Here's the lowdown on our new timeline:

- **October 1:** "Faith date" for reaching 100% of our Wycliffe ministry budget.
- **Oct/Nov:** Attend training for cross-cultural life and ministry, in Waxhaw, NC.
- **Late December:** Baby Atkinson is due!
- **Early 2021:** Adjust to being a family of three, apply for baby's passport, apply for visas.
- **March 2021:** Head to Mexico!

We're praying for you, partners and APC family. May God meet your every need during this challenging season.

-Jesse & Erin

### Stay connected:

**Our Wycliffe page/Giving:**  
[wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson](http://wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson)

**Facebook Group:** [facebook.com/groups/AtkinsonAdventuresInOaxaca](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AtkinsonAdventuresInOaxaca)

**Sign up for newsletters:**  
[joform.com/form/92304614403144](https://joform.com/form/92304614403144)

**Jesse's e-mail:**  
[jesse\\_atkinson@wycliffe.org](mailto:jesse_atkinson@wycliffe.org)

**Erin's e-mail:**  
[erin\\_atkinson@wycliffe.org](mailto:erin_atkinson@wycliffe.org)



There are still a lot of unknowns about our plans for the next year, but we're trusting God to direct our path. ... While we feel more urgency than ever to get to Mexico, we also know that it must be in God's perfect timing. ... We remain so very thankful to share this journey with each of you. Thank you for choosing to participate with us in bringing the Good News to those do not yet have it in their own language! We can't wait to get to Mexico and dive into Bible translation firsthand — as a family of three!



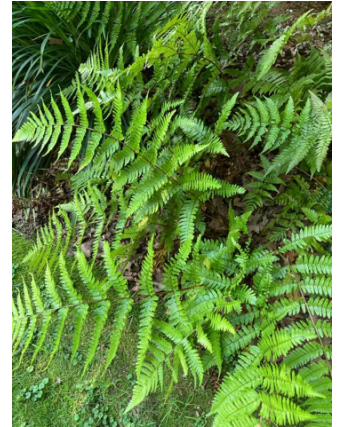
**Wycliffe**<sup>®</sup>  
Bible Translators



Ducks dunking, by Danny Thomas

## Divine Focus Photography Club Shares Its Vision

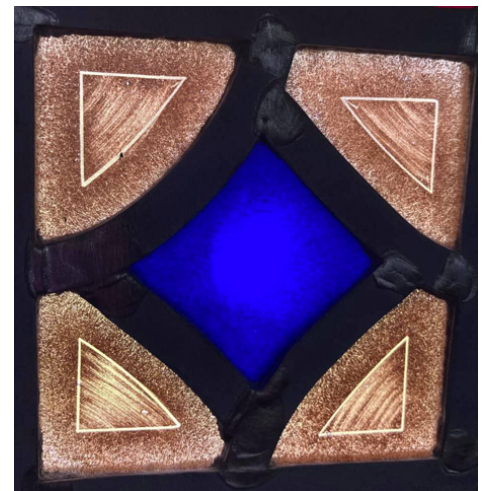
Contact Kyle Goodman for details about this fellowship group, led by Danny Thomas and Kyle, that meets/ gives lessons **via electronic communication** this summer! You are cordially invited to join — no prior experience is necessary.



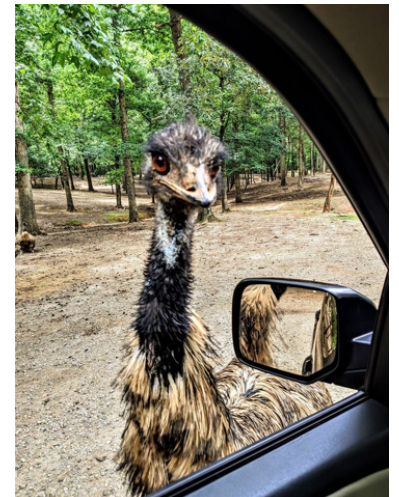
Three by Linda Aydelette



A View to the North, by Kathy Fay



Two Pentecost Bonfires and an Emu, by Kyle Goodman



## A Few Good Words

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' - **Lamentations 3:22-34**

These are some of my favorite verses in scripture. I love their poetry and their unbridled optimism. They are proclaimed in **Lamentations**, a book of five poems that express the grief and anguish of God's people as they are carried off into exile in Babylon.

These verses fall at the very center of the book, a ray of hope in a seemingly unending litany of despair. To read them apart from that that context is truly not to read them at all.

We have no idea what it is like to be utterly destroyed and carried off into exile. We are extremely blessed, even now. To believe otherwise is to fail to understand the great misery that others around the world feel.

Yet, we do know what it feels like to feel cut off, separated from all we have known and loved. It will not be for a lifetime, as it was for the people of Jerusalem in the days of **Lamentations**. But, to us, it already seems like a lifetime ago since things felt "normal."

I wish I were writing you to tell you that things are getting back to normal at Alamance Presbyterian Church. I am not.

We still do not know when we will resume in-person worship. Our Reopening Task Force and our Session evaluates the North Carolina guidelines as that news is published.

We know that many of you are eager to get back to church. We ask for your patience. We may err, but it will be on the side of caution — we are considering all options.

We also recognize that many of you will not feel comfortable

returning to the sanctuary when we reopen, in any capacity. We affirm that. We remain committed to offering Livestream services, virtual gatherings, and electronic giving platforms as options for the foreseeable future — even when they are concurrent with in-person gatherings. We are doing our best to meet needs of the whole church.

When we do return to the sanctuary, things will look remarkably different (as they do in churches around our country). The truth is, there is no "right way" to do this. We are forging ahead through uncharted territory.

### Drive-in Church on July 5

We are excited to announce our first drive-in worship opportunity! We'll meet at **10 a.m.** (our regular worship time) on **Sunday, July 5** in the lower parking lot (between the Coble House and former MMO building). Plan to arrive **no later than 15 minutes before 10 a.m.**

We will obey parking attendants' directions, to fill in spaces from the front to the back. We'll alternate parking spaces in each row, to maximize visibility and to maintain distance between cars.

A brand-new FM transmitter means that you may listen to the service from your car radio, at **88.9 on your FM dial**.

There will be a lot of music to sing. We will pray together, have a car-horn passing of the peace, listen to a (hopefully) good sermon, and undoubtedly feel the Spirit move from car to car. We hope you come!

If you don't feel comfortable or cannot attend, know that the same content will also be on Livestream. We insist that everyone remain in cars through the whole service. Your faithfulness to this condition will have some influence on our willingness to hold future in-person gatherings. To put it bluntly: **Please don't ruin it for everybody else!**

## Fiscal Year news in a time of plague

I need to share some words about our financial picture. I offer my gratitude to everyone who has gone above and beyond in meeting pledges. I am supremely grateful for everyone who has moved to online giving, or who has routinely sent in contributions. Your faithfulness has kept your church afloat through this season, without a doubt! Without you, I don't know where we would be.

Our current fiscal year finished at the end of June. Offerings are relatively strong, yet the overall financial picture is not so good.

First, in our annual budget, we rely on investment income as a significant funding source. The losses we have incurred from the market in the last few months have hurt our bottom line.

Second, we also budget for expected income from several fundraisers — fundraisers we were not able to hold this spring.

I want to be honest with you about the situation. Without these two sources — and with the inevitable losses from unpledged giving — we are far behind where we hoped to be at this time. There are no definite numbers to share until Financial Secretary Jeanine Rossi closes out the books, in mid-July.

Following recommendations from the denomination and from several wise financial consultants, Session has approved a six-month working budget, to end **December 31**.

We could not hold a stewardship drive this spring. We ask everyone, if able, to maintain their current pledge to the church through the end of the calendar year. If you need to adjust your pledge up or down, please contact Jeanine to do so.

We intend to conduct a full stewardship campaign in the fall. Again, if you have any questions about this, please be in touch with Jeanine.

(continued on next page)

I am convinced that the words of **Lamentations 3** are at the heart of where we are in the midst of this time of trial. When the news never seems to hold any promise or hope, when it feels as if the storms of life threaten to overwhelm us, when the ends do not seem to meet, and when there is no definitive end in sight, we can find hope in the truth that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's promise is new every morning. Great is God's faithfulness to us!

Thanks for your faithfulness to God and to your church. Keep praying for the church. Keep praying for one another. Keep tuning in. Keep the faith, Alamance Church! I love you and I miss you!

In Christ's Love and Light,

*Dr. Kyle Goodman,*  
Lead Pastor



Photo by **Danny Thomas**

## Ministry Musings

Greetings Family,

I've been spending a lot of time lately with the book of **Esther**, a mere 10-chapter account in the Old Testament that explains the origins of the Jewish festival of Purim.

The narrative revolves around Esther, a young Jewish woman who is living in Persia as a result of the Babylonian exile. Esther is an orphan, and is being raised by her cousin Mordecai, when the King of Persia announces that he is seeking a new wife.

Through her beauty, Esther wins the favor of the King, and becomes Queen — but she keeps her Jewish heritage a secret from her husband.

Simultaneous with Esther's rise to power, a royal official named Haman grows angry when Mordecai refuses to bow before him, as Mordecai cites his commitment and sole submission to the One True God.

As a result, Haman plots "to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day ... and to plunder their goods."

When Mordecai tells Esther of Haman's plan, she doesn't know what to do. She knows that petitioning the King may cost her own life, and she is afraid; but Mordecai challenges her to speak out, saying "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

Esther overcomes her fear, she risks her life to petition the King, and her actions save her people from destruction.

In the past month we have been reminded that COVID-19 is not the only disease raging through our world. Racism has been making us ill for centuries. And though many of us have been able to ignore the oppression of black people in our

nation, like Esther we find ourselves in a cultural moment where we are called to act.

As Christians, we worship a Savior who undermines inequity, violence, and hate wherever he encounters them. If we are to reflect Christ's light in our own lives, it is our duty to confront the damage that racism has caused to our own community and to our own souls.

I am both intimidated and humbled to be engaging in the *21-day Journey Toward Racial Equity* with many of our APC members and with other churches throughout Salem Presbytery.

It is challenging work, it is painful work, but it is my hope that in confronting my own complicity — within a community of believers — that I might become brave like Esther, and that we may be moved to take further steps as a congregation towards the kingdom promise of reconciliation.

Until next month, with love and light,

*Pastor Jess*



## APC Food Pantry Continues to Safely Distribute Food

**APC will continue to operate the Food Pantry for the foreseeable future, unless required to stop by federal, state, or county government.**

Our pantry works under precautions recommended during COVID-19 restrictions, including pre-packing food bags and delivering them to clients in a car line.

Once each month, we pick up food from Second Harvest Food Bank in Winston-Salem. Every **Wednesday**, volunteers pack grocery bags and put them in carts for the week's guests.

### Pandemic Procedures

Once the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, the APC Food Pantry team was in a quandary about how to continue to distribute food, when even more families would need it, while keeping our volunteers safe.

Working with Second Harvest Food Bank, we developed new processes to do just that. One of the important changes is that — instead of having clients fill out paperwork in their cars — now a Food Pantry volunteer calls the clients to verify all needed information over the phone, earlier in the week.

When a client arrives to pick up food on a Saturday morning, they stay in the car and provide their name to a masked volunteer, who maintains a safe, six-foot distance. Once verified, masked volunteers load up the car with the food. There is no physical contact with the clients.

In preparation for the food distribution, all volunteers wear masks and use hand sanitizer, before doing the prep work to divide up food and load up the shopping carts that are pushed out to clients' cars.

We still gather in a circle to pray before we begin distribution, but we do not hold hands, and we stay six feet apart.

These creative, well-thought-out changes have allowed this especially important ministry to continue when so many people are hurting.

We can always use more **Saturday morning** volunteers to help with distribution (**9-11:30 a.m.**). If you would like to help, visit <http://signup.com/go/h2b6xy> to sign up for a date. Sign up as often or as infrequently as you want, but we do ask for you to sign up rather than just showing up. Kris Levine, our Volunteer Coordinator, needs to know how many volunteers are coming ahead of time, so she can reach out to others if there are not enough people. When people just show up, they may find there are too many people already helping, and not feel useful.

We want this to be a good experience for volunteers as well as clients! For help with the online sign-up process, or any questions, please call Kris Levine at 336-558-6759.



Masked, gloved,  
and six feet apart  
for safety's sake

## Potter's House

Since July of 2004, APC has served supper to hungry guests at the Greensboro Urban Ministry's Potter's House on the **third Saturday of each odd-numbered month**. Remaining 2020 dates: **July 18, September 19, and November 21**.

**This essential local hunger-relief ministry is allowed to operate during pandemic restrictions.**

As of this writing, G.U.M. has implemented physical distancing measures in its dining room. Servers are required to wear masks and gloves. Guests are instructed to wash their hands before being seated (and are monitored as they do so).

The work is intense, but not long. Arrive at **6 p.m.** to set up for the meal. Serve food from **7-7:45 p.m.** We clean up and are out the door by **8:15 p.m.** most usually.

Your donation of home-made desserts are welcomed. Cakes, bars, and cookies are the easiest to serve, and for guests to eat.

Let Darren Hadley know that you or your group want to help serve a meal — or two, or three — at Potter's House. ([darren.hadley@triad.rr.com](mailto:darren.hadley@triad.rr.com)).

## Special Collections

Each month, the APC Food Pantry designates specific food items to be donated. Here's a list of the specific items wanted each month:

- **July:** Crackers
- **August:** Canned pasta
- **September:** Cereal, oatmeal
- **October:** Canned meats
- **November:** Dry pasta, sauce
- **December:** Soups
- **January:** Canned beans
- **February:** Canned pasta
- **March:** Peanut butter, jelly
- **April:** Canned fruits
- **May:** Canned vegetables
- **June:** Macaroni-and-cheese

## APC Food Pantry Is Looking for Families!

The APC Food Pantry has continued to distribute food to families who need some assistance, on **each Saturday** throughout this long pandemic. If you have recently lost a job, been furloughed, or are having difficulties paying your bills, you may qualify to receive free food once per month. We do not ask about your circumstances — your privacy is maintained.

Family size, names and date of birth of all family members, and family income information is collected; per federal guidelines that we must follow. You can check the family income qualifications based on family size to determine your eligibility, in the table below.

Family Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income
1	\$24,984	\$2082
2	\$33,840	\$2820
3	\$42,672	\$3556
4	\$51,504	\$4292
5	\$60,360	\$5030
6	\$69,192	\$5766

It is easy to sign up to receive the free food. Call the church office (336-697-0488 ext. 111) on **Monday morning**, beginning at **8:30 a.m.**; and leave a message that you would like to receive food.

Someone from the Food Pantry will return your call to let you know if you are on the list for pick-up that coming Saturday. Food is distributed on a “first called, first served” basis. We can serve up to 30 families each week. Once the list is filled, we must turn families away and ask them to call again the following week.

Once confirmed that you are on the list for that week, you then drive around to Brown Fellowship Hall on **Saturday morning**, provide your name — and food is loaded into your car by volunteers. You do not need to exit your car; there is no contact with others. Food Pantry volunteers all wear face masks and use hand sanitizer.

The kind of food typically distributed includes some frozen meats, some fresh produce, breads and desserts, and canned and dry staple foods.

The amount of food distributed varies by family size and varies somewhat each week depending on what food we have on hand. Typically, a family of four receives about 100 pounds of food.

Families are eligible to receive food once per month for six months as long as income level eligibility is maintained.

The APC Food Pantry is here to serve ALL in our community. If you could use a little extra help, or if you know a family member, friend, or neighbor who needs assistance, please pass on this information; so that we can connect people with free, nutritious food.

If you have any additional questions about APC Food Pantry eligibility, you may call Amy Yow at 336-706-3550.



## Let the Masquerade Begin!

Your APC Session is exploring the best ways to implement physical distancing policies for the future. At the very minimum level to maintain public safety, **worshipers will not be allowed inside unless they are wearing masks**. APC will maintain a small stockpile of masks, for those who forget to wear their own.



## Thank you, mask makers!

More than 330 cloth face masks were sewn and donated for our early May “drive-by” pick-up of communion supplies. More than 150 masks were given away at the event. Thank you! Thank you, too, to those who donated fabric and supplies.

Many of the masks left over were gifted to teachers and staff of the Child Development Center. A few went to contract workers who are often here, attending to mechanical needs.

In coming months, when our sanctuary is again open for worshipers to gather, we will still need cloth masks. **Worshipers will be required to wear face masks to attend services.** We invite you to keep making and donating masks — though not in the vast quantity we received in the first donation! Most needed: adult masks, in small and medium sizes.

"IF I KNEW YOU WERE COMING I WOULD'VE BAKED A CAKE" – but I didn't know so many people would drive by the Pavilion to wish me a happy 90th birthday.

What a fun surprise it was to see so many of my friends from the church — led by a fire truck with blaring siren!!

Thank you for all the many, many cards and phone calls. I miss church so much and look forward to all of us being back together soon.

Love to all of you.

*Thelma Greeson*

Alamance Church Family:

Thank you. I will never forget your kindness.

So grateful for your prayers, cards, and phone calls during this difficult time!

Love,

*Treva Caveness*

## Kids R.O.C.K. Sundae Sunday is July 12

On **Sunday, July 12**, Joy Thomas will offer "drive-through ice-cream sundaes" for children!

She will also hand out bags with supplies for the **August 16** Zoom meeting (*Minute to Win It* games). Be sure to come by and get your bag.

Sunday Sundaes will be distributed on **Sunday, July 12** from **4-5 p.m.** behind Brown Fellowship Hall.

Please enter from the lower entrance to the cemetery driveway, near the bridge on Presbyterian Road. Drive under the portico to the covered Brown Fellowship Hall door.

Joy will take your order, fix your sundae, and hand over a bag of *Minute to Win It* supplies. Exit by driving past the playgrounds to the upper entrance/exit.

There will be no need to get out of the car! Joy will wear a mask and gloves, and keep a six-foot distance while serving ice cream. Parents and siblings are welcome to join, too.

Please let Joy know if you plan to attend (and how many will be coming) — and also let her know if your child will participate in the Zoom meeting on **August 16** — so she will have enough supplies. Alamance Presbyterian Church



Photo by Linda Aydelette

## Independence Day

**Saturday, July 4, 2020** is Independence Day! It is a time to remember the Declaration of Independence, which signaled the birth of the country that became the United States of America.

Most localities have cancelled any festivals, parades, and fireworks displays this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a disappointment in a long season of disappointments. But, this country has weathered storms before. United we stand. We will get through this, together.

Church offices will be closed on **Monday, July 6**. Indeed, church offices have been closed since March 26, and are likely to remain so for an indeterminate time. Still, to observe the July 4 national holiday, let us agree that is the reason for closing on July 6. Thank you for that small grace!

## Memorials and Honoraria

**To the Children's Ministry:** In memory of Martha Brown by the Martha Brown Circle.

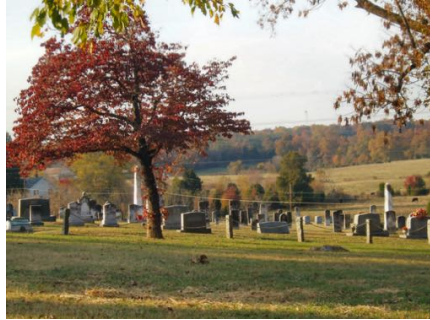
**To the Operating Fund:** In memory of George Staley by Clint & Linda Aydelette, Ginny Hanner, Bobby & Jean Wyrick, Kenneth & Sue Fogleman. In memory of Martha Brown by Clint & Linda Aydelette. In memory of Judy Forbis by the John Watkins family; Gary & Kendra Trull and Salon 45; Marie Hodgins; Celyn Holt; Geneva Boswell; Buck & Amy Yow; Dean & Ellen Maddox; Brad & Barbara, Dylan and Dara Reece. In memory of Jerry Bain Sharpe Sr. by Lillie Snider. In memory of Virginia Kirkman by Marie Hodgins, Geneva Boswell, Dallas & Gloria Belvin. In memory of Jim Hunter by Geneva Boswell, David & Nancy Michaels. In memory of Rossie Sharpe by Marie Hodgins, Bobby Jobe. In memory of Jean Poe by the John Watkins family, Gary & Kendra Trull and Salon 45, Dean & Ellen Maddox, David & Nancy Michaels. In memory of J.C. Andrews Jr. by Rachel McKaughan; Dean & Ellen Maddox; Brad & Barbara, Dylan and Dara Reece. In memory of Flo Reece by Gary & Kendra Trull and Salon 45. In memory of Lester Dyson by Sidney Sparks. In memory of A.S. Higgins by the John Watkins family. In memory of O.L. & Lottie Watkins by the John Watkins family. In honor of the L.I.F.T. Circle by Marie Hodgins. In honor of Thelma Greeson's 90th birthday by Bobby Jobe.

**To the Food Pantry:** In memory of Judy Forbis by Peggy Ferguson, Joseph & Pam Moorefield, Rachel Quarles, Arthur Moorefield. In memory of Jean Poe by Brad & Barbara, Dylan and Dara Reece.

**To the Missions Fund:** In honor of Clint & Linda Aydelette's patriotic

dedication to placing flags in the cemetery by Harold & Barbara Alexander.

**To the Building Improvement Fund:** In memory of George Staley by Connie Hackett. In memory of Virginia Kirkman by ITG Brands LLC.



## Funeral Procedures During Safer at Home

**For the duration of strictures against public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic, church buildings are CLOSED.** This means that, should you attend a graveside service here, **there will not be any restrooms available** for your use.

Obedience to current guidelines mean that churches and funeral homes should not share the day, time, or place of memorial services. We ask that everyone — outside of immediate family and friends — **stay at home** in order give those closest to the deceased the room they need to stay safe.

If anyone needs care or support, your pastors are here for you.

When all restrictions are lifted, Alamance Church will hold an "All Saints Service," giving thanks for the lives of those who have died during this pandemic.

## Keeping Quiet

Now we will count to twelve and we will all keep still.

For once on the face of the earth, let's not speak in any language; let's stop for one second and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment without rush, without engines; we would all be together in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea would not harm whales and the man gathering salt would look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire, victories with no survivors, would put on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused with total inactivity. Life is what it is about; I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded about keeping our lives moving, and for once could do nothing, perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves and of threatening ourselves with death. Perhaps the earth can teach us as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve and you keep quiet and I will go.

- Pablo Neruda  
(translated by Alistair Reid)



## Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the **August, 2020** issue of ***The Relay***, our church newsletter, is **Friday, July 24**. Post your articles by "snail mail," by e-mail ([lynn@alamancechurch.org](mailto:lynn@alamancechurch.org)), phone the office (336-697-0488 x 121) — or hitch up your goat cart and drive to the church to deliver it in person.



## Connect with Us Electronically

**"Like us" on Facebook** We maintain several pages on the social media site Facebook. "Like" the pages to receive automatic notice on your own Facebook wall.

### ... and check our website!

The church website is found at [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org).

## Coffee Hour hosts

Donations for the food and drink we enjoyed each week at Coffee Hour were used for the Food Pantry. When public gatherings are again allowed, and we can meet in fellowship together, remember to put a little money in the donation box, in gratitude to God and to the volunteers who set up and serve us during Coffee Hour.

## Sunday Morning Volunteers: When We Meet Again

### Ushers/Greeters

#### 1st Sunday

Jon Garrett, Patty Starr  
Side Door: Pat Lovell

#### 2nd Sunday

Ada Nelson, Patty and Cayce Church  
Side Door: Birdie and Nora Church

#### 3rd Sunday & 5th Sunday

Jackie Fogleman, Dianne Clapp

#### 4th Sunday

Dena Fail, Leta Pillion  
Side door: JoAnn Camp

### Offering Collectors

#### 1st Sunday

Graham Dail, Tina Garrett  
Kathy Medder, Tommie Lynn Sullivan

#### 2nd Sunday

Naomi Church, Pam Dixon,  
Tony Sizemore, Gary Trull

#### 3rd Sunday & 5th Sunday

Nick Purvis, Albert Smith,  
Steve Starr, Kirby Ward

#### 4th Sunday

Harold Alexander, Bobby Jobe,  
Willie Goncharow, Ed Gonzalez

## ALAMANCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS INCLUSIVE, ECLECTIC, AND REFORMED.

We are an ecumenical congregation in a Presbyterian Church (USA) form.

### CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Dr. Kyle Goodman**, Lead Pastor

**Rev. Jessica Rigel**, Associate Pastor  
for Discipleship

**Andrew Long**, Dir., Youth Ministries

**Katie Long**, Director of Music

**Rebecca Oden**, Accompanist

**Joy Thomas**, Dir., Children's Ministries

**Jeanine Rossi**, Financial Manager

**Lynn Barnes**, Administrative Assistant

**Jane Preston**, Director,  
Child Development Center

**Keri Rojas**, Asst. Director, CDC

**Missionary: Erin Padgett Atkinson**,  
Linguist, Wycliffe Bible Translators

### Alamance Presbyterian Church

4000 Presbyterian Road  
Greensboro, NC 27406  
(336)-697-0488

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

[info@alamancechurch.org](mailto:info@alamancechurch.org)

## Closed Until Further Notice

**For the duration of strictures against public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic, church offices and the sanctuary are CLOSED.**

**Please** do not attend Sunday worship services except through your electronic devices, via Livestream or YouTube postings on the church website or Facebook page, until we are again allowed to meet together as a congregation in the sanctuary.

Those of the staff who come into the sanctuary to lead worship each Sunday are fastidious about maintaining cleanliness, personal physical distancing, and keeping the total number of people in the room under 10. Don't make their job any harder than it already is!

