

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

Some *Good* News!

This month's "Some Good News!" may seem a little close to home, but in my mind, it is nothing short of monumental. In the month of May, we will celebrate three infant baptisms. **May 9** will be a big day for the Fay family, as Bobby & April Xayavong bring their third child, Josie Hope, and Patrick & Georgia Fay bring their first, James Edward, to our outdoor Mother's Day celebration. The following Sunday will be a wonderful one for the Causeys, as Joey & Holly Daas bring their firstborn, Lorenzo James.

If your lead pastor were to make a list of his favorite things, not just in ministry, but in life, baptisms would top it. There is nothing that brings me greater joy than baptism.

Presbyterians baptize infants, because we believe that our journey of faith begins not when we claim God, but when God claims *us*.

Confirmation or an affirmation of faith is the essential second step. So, whether you are baptized as a baby and confirmed as a believer or "dedicated" as a baby and baptized when you able to choose it, most every church has a rite for both!

For me, what lies in between is hope, possibility, and growth. What lies in between is the opportunity for the Church of Jesus Christ to do its good work: to teach faith, hope, and love, that abide.

Baptism is a symbol of resurrection. We say that, in our baptism, we die and rise with Christ. After a year or so that has been filled with loss, death, isolation, and hardship, the church needs baptism more than ever! It needs baptism to

remind us that our story is a resurrection story, a story of overcoming all odds to see life restored and renewed. We need baptism to remind us that we are not made for endings. The Christian faith is about God making all things new.

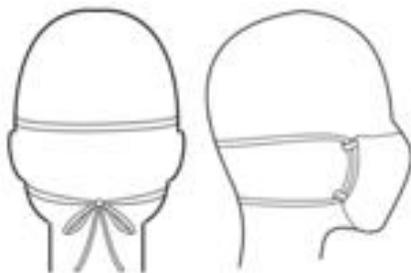
I hope we will see you on **May 9** and **May 16**. We invite you to come in person. Even if you are not yet ready to worship indoors, consider worshipping with us outside on Mother's Day. We all need baptism. We need that reminder. We need to see it. We need witness to that living hope, in Josie Hope, James Edward, and Lorenzo James.

If you have never been baptized, or even if you would like to celebrate a renewal of your baptism, I would love to talk to you about that. Presbyterians don't "re-baptize," but we can offer a moment of blessing, reaffirmation, and renewal. If you are needing a fresh start — and who isn't?! — we would welcome that to be a part of our worship service on Pentecost (**May 23**) or a Sunday following.

In Christ's Peace,
Kyle

We are a Matthew 25 Church.
We are a Hunger Action Church.
We are a Stephen Ministry Church.

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Wear a face mask in public.
Wash your hands often.
Wait a safe distance apart.

May Birthdays

- 1 Jim Poe Sr., Linda Reid,
Savannah Thomas
- 2 Ted Huie
- 3 Pat Royal, Terry Schubert
- 5 Spencer Whitesell
- 6 Keegan Mendenhall
- 7 Mason Donoho
- 9 Sadie Hackett, Jason Long
- 10 Chris Fay
- 11 Norman Causey, Albert Smith
- 12 Cayce Church
- 14 Cheryl Ward
- 17 Connie Hackett
- 18 Madison and Mason Forbis
- 20 Birdie Church, Joanna Whitesell
- 23 Connor Roys, Michael Skerlak
- 24 Clint Aydelette
- 26 Jennifer Frazier, Eileen Hogan
- 27 Joseph Preston
- 29 Kennedy Dail
- 30 Diana Carlo
- 31 Ryan Brooks



A Life of Daily Prayer

The outside is a lot easier to reform than the inside. Going to the right church and saying the right words is a lot easier than working out a life of justice and love among the people you work and live with. Showing up at church once a week and saying a hearty Amen is a lot easier than engaging in a life of daily prayer and Scripture meditation that develops into concern for poverty and injustice, hunger and war.

The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know.
(1 Timothy 2:1)

- Eugene H. Peterson, from **Living the Message: Daily Reflections.**

A History of Memorial Day in the United States

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day, a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868. During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield (later, President Garfield) made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

After World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday in May.

Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11. A kind donor provides booklets of APC veterans each November. Because that document includes those honored at Memorial Day, no separate booklet is printed in May.

Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small U.S. flag is placed on each grave. In keeping with that commemoration, flags are placed on veterans' graves in the APC cemetery.

The United States flag is raised on the cemetery flagpole in their memory. Take time during this holiday weekend to walk through the cemetery and visit the final resting places of the many men and women who served God and our country. Veterans from wars dating back to the American Revolution are buried here. It is a history lesson for all of us about

our church, about our community, and about the dedication of its people.



COVID-19 Restrictions Update

At its meeting on April 25, our Session considered easing some of the restrictions we have in place for seating capacity in the sanctuary. Gov. Cooper has said he plans to lift all occupancy restrictions for indoor gatherings on **June 1**.

Assuming we continue to stay on track, we will remove the blue tape and open up every pew in the sanctuary beginning in **June**. We will no longer require ushering for seating or dismissal, when that happens.

We will still encourage everyone to practice physical distancing, and we will still collect "Welcome Back" cards for attendance counts and contact tracing. For the time being, we will still require masks for indoor worship. (Some of those leading from the platform may remove them when speaking or singing, as all of our staff has been fully vaccinated.)

As of this writing, Gov. Cooper has also lifted the executive order requiring outdoor mask wearing, but our Session has not had time to rule on that yet. Look for an update before the Mother's Day service.

Do keep in mind that the Mother's Day (**May 9**) and Pentecost (**May 23**) services will both be held outdoors, weather permitting. Those plans will not change.

We are thrilled that things are moving in the right direction, and we are so glad to welcome people back to worship on our campus. If you are not ready to come back yet, we hope you will tune in to our Livestream broadcasts.

A Challenge from Your Pastors (and the Holy Spirit!)

Yes, we are writing this, but we want you to think of it as the actual Holy Spirit, speaking right to your heart. The Spirit is calling you to take a break from *The Relay*, pick up your church directory, find someone you have not seen or spoken with in a long time, and give them a call.

Just check in and see how they are. Tell them you are calling as a friend, and that you are calling from the Church. Reach out in love and care. And if you find your heart lifted from the call, then make another!

Please do not just call the people you know well. Look for someone who may need to hear from you. If you are feeling so boldly inspired, try calling someone you do not know well. Call someone you do not even know at all. Make another friend in this body of Christ.

And finally, if you are so filled with the Spirit's joy, fire, and light, then ponder reaching out to someone who is not listed in our directory anymore, and check on them too!

Now is the time to reach out and connect. And if your pastors need to know something and they give you permission to share it, then pass it along to us! We really mean it. Go ahead and call ...

With Love and Grace to you,

*Kyle, Jess,
and the Paraclete*



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry at APC

The Stephen Ministry is a "distinctly Christian caregiving ministry." Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting — usually one person at a time — meeting with that person once a week for about an hour.

Members of the APC Stephen Ministry are actively engaged with the Congregational Care and Outreach team to develop a reference tool for our congregation, that will connect users with local community resources for help in times of emergency or distress.

Our current Stephen Ministers at Alamance Presbyterian Church were commissioned in August, 2020: Becky Brinkley, Nancy Durham, Kathy Medder, Sam Nelson, Lee Shores, Judy Uniatowski, Kitty Wells, and Melinda White.

Contact APC Stephen Ministry Leaders with your questions (Becky Brinkley, 336.269.6096, ranb2005@gmail.com; Lee Shores, 336.202.8410, rlshores88@gmail.com.)

Thank-you Note

The Juarez family wants to send a very huge THANK YOU to our APC family and thank you all for your generosity! We appreciate your support as we start a new journey. If you'd like to follow along with our mission work in Peru, you can follow Laurie's blog

laurieslittlemonkeys.blogpost.com. She will be posting bi-monthly reports. If you would like to follow the organization Puriyninchik, which is where Noé will be working, they can be found on Facebook and Instagram or online at their website <https://puriyninchik.org/en/home/>

Thank you again for your love and support.

- Laurie Juarez



PURIYNINCHIK – Our walk
Puriyninchik is a Quechua word that reflects the Christian and intercultural journey in the Andes of Peru. 'Puriy' means to walk, to advance, to be in pilgrimage. '- ninchik' is a suffix that means our; but it also means in the same level, equal, side by side. puriyninchik.org



Missions Update:

Submitted by Jesse & Erin Atkinson
Wycliffe Translators,
Oaxaca (wah-HAH-kah), Mexico

What we've been up to:

We're starting to feel a little more settled in here at Wycliffe and SIL-Mexico's secondary headquarters in Tucson, AZ. While we continue to wait for God to open the door to go to Oaxaca (COVID conditions don't currently permit us to go there), we're keeping busy serving in other ways! Check out our latest video update for some of the details of our daily responsibilities and a glimpse of baby Samuel! (<https://youtu.be/fglyg1GUq7w>)

Here are the bare bones of the video:

- The Wycliffe/SIL center here is a key base of operations for Bible translation in Mexico.
- We're both helping to run the center while we're here. The center's been understaffed for the better part of a year, so we're thankful to pitch in.
- Erin is helping in the center administration office.
- Jesse is serving in center maintenance.
- Baby Samuel gets to come to work with Erin! He does a great job of keeping morale up in the office.

While we're here, **we're also excited to begin the process of discerning which language group the Lord wants us to serve alongside in bringing God's Word to their community.** There are so many needs — some places without a single word of the Bible, some with just the New Testament, and some with just small portions of the New Testament. There are so many language groups still waiting to "taste and see" God's goodness in the fullness of his Word!

This is a really exciting process! However, it can also be overwhelming. There is so much to research and learn from colleagues. Additionally, there's a possibility of going back to the language group where Erin served during her first term. **We want to ask for your prayers for discernment and wisdom, and that we would listen well to God's leading.** We want to serve wherever he wants us!

We'll keep you all updated on when we're able to finally head to Oaxaca! In the meantime, know that we're so grateful for your partnership. We could not do this without you! Thank you for coming alongside us in our Wycliffe ministry, but also the peoples of Mexico.

Wycliffe[®]
Bible Translators



Oaxaca (wah-HAH-kah), Mexico



STAY CONNECTED:

Our Wycliffe page/Giving: wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson

Facebook Group: facebook.com/groups/AtkinsonAdventuresInOaxaca

Sign up for newsletters: jotform.com/form/92304614403144

Jesse's e-mail: jesse_atkinson@wycliffe.org

Erin's e-mail: erin_atkinson@wycliffe.org

From the APC Food Pantry Team: “Feed my sheep.”

The Food Pantry continues to serve up to 30 families a week. We ask that you remember our pantry when you shop: Please pick up a little extra, for our hungry guests. We always need cereal, pop tarts, mac-and-cheese, spaghetti sauce, instant mashed potatoes, and such.

A blue container at the door to Brown Fellowship Hall behind the church is the best place to leave your donations of shelf-stable foods. (The APC Child Development Center uses Brown Fellowship Hall as classroom space, so entry there is not permitted on weekdays.)

Please contact the Food Pantry to arrange for donations of fresh produce: leaving it in the bin may lead to spoilage and insect infestation. No one wants that.

Note: The Alamance Church Food Pantry does NOT accept donations of clothing, toys, books, kitchen appliances, or furniture. There are many other fine charities that will accept such donations. We do not have room to store them for you, nor any way to distribute them.

The Food Pantry DOES always need clean, empty egg cartons, for a weekly bulk donation of eggs. They also desire your clean, empty plastic grocery bags, to pack food items for our hungry guests’ convenience.

If you have any Food Pantry questions (or if you need your items to be picked up) please contact Amy Yow at (336)-706-3550.

If you would like to volunteer, we ask that you sign up on the APC website, www.alamancechurch.org. We follow all COVID-19 guidelines; masks are **required**.



APC’s Food Pantry works under recommended COVID-19 restrictions, including pre-packing food and delivering it to clients in a car line. All volunteers are masked, and frequently use hand sanitizer, when packing and delivering food.

Once each month, we pick up food from Second Harvest Food Bank in Winston-Salem. Every **Wednesday**, volunteers pack grocery bags into carts. Pandemic protocols for safe distribution of food were developed in partnership with Second Harvest.

A Food Pantry volunteer verifies needed information from clients over the phone, early in the week. When clients arrive on a Saturday morning for food pick-up, they stay in their cars and provide their name to a masked volunteer, from a safe, six-foot distance. Once verified, masked volunteers load up the car. There is no physical contact.

The team still gathers in a circle to pray before it begins distribution; but they do not hold hands, and they stay six feet apart.

The Food Pantry 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 as you want, but do, **please**, sign up rather than just showing up. Kris Levine, Volunteer Coordinator, needs to know how many volunteers are coming ahead of time. We want this to be a good experience for volunteers as well as clients! Questions? please call Kris Levine at (336)-558-6759.

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**. 2021 dates: **May 15, July 17, September 18, November 20**.

This essential local hunger-relief ministry is allowed to operate during pandemic restrictions. G.U.M. has implemented physical distancing measures in its dining room. Servers 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. Pies are tricky to serve, very messy 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.

Special Collections

The APC Food Pantry has designated specific food items to be donated each month. Here’s a list of the specific items wanted for each month:

- **May:** Canned vegetables
- **June:** Macaroni-and-cheese
- **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

Knit, Pray, Love Ministry Baby Items

- submitted by Linda Aydelette

I hope all of you are well and safe. We are doing such a wonderful thing for God with our baby hats, shawls and chemo caps! Baby blankets are always needed at the hospital, if you have time to create one. Such beautiful blessings for all who receive, and for all of us who freely give.

Our hearts are full! Our sweet and kind ladies who lovingly create hats for “little blessings” who arrive earthside at Cone are true treasures. Out of this love and creativity, we have now officially donated 1,000 baby hats, all since mid-September 2020! Amazing or what?

We continue this project, along with our chemo caps and prayer shawls. God truly does lay on our hearts what we need to do to help even in the smallest of ways.

Our themed hats this month are flowers, fruits and veggies, and anything spring-oriented. Mother’s Day hats are “little sprouts.” Of course, you can always create the traditional pink, blue, yellow, and lilac ones as well!

Since we are heading into June and July, feel free to get a head start and create some patriotic hats in red, white and blue. Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day are just around the bend.

Thanks so much to everyone for your continued talents! This could not be accomplished without God's guidance and the creativity of your skilled hands!

Finished prayer shawls can be dropped in the baby hat drop-off box on the front porch of the yellow house (space permitting). Do the same for chemo caps.

Thank you all for your hands that create, your hearts that love, and your prayers for healing. God is good all the time and all the time, GOD is good!



Keep those needles (and hooks) clicking

APC KPL has an ongoing project: baby hats, receiving blankets, and burp cloths for Women's and Children's Hospital at Cone Health. We are excited to help the maternity and newborn departments — which average 25 babies born every day.

This project is NOT limited to KPL. Lots of talented folks in our congregation can create beautiful things for these new little people! Is that someone YOU?

Suggested patterns are posted on Facebook. More info is in a video at www.alamancechurch.org.

In the meantime, contact Linda Aydelette for any information at linda.aydelette@gmail.com.

THANK YOU all for your donations. Keep turning them in at the box on the porch of the little yellow house.

Mission Focus in May

Mustard Seed Community Health Clinic, in the east Greensboro Cottage Grove neighborhood, is nationally recognized as a model for integrated care. Some of the most vulnerable people in Guilford County are its patients. Many went without healthcare until Mustard Seed opened.

Cottage Grove

In the 1950s this neighborhood (on South English Street) was a thriving African-American community of homes, shops and professional offices. By the 1970s, the community was in decline.

A decade ago neighbors began to restore Cottage Grove to its proud roots. Yet, the community was changing: Mustard Seed's patients include families from Myanmar, Haiti, Mexico, Vietnam, the Congo, and more.

Long-neglected apartment complexes have been rehabbed, community gardens and a weekly fresh produce market offer healthy food, and new park equipment and sidewalks are safer places for physical activity.

What does Mustard Seed provide?

Mustard Seed Community Health's primary effort is to provide care to those in the Cottage Grove community who cannot afford medical insurance. Residents of surrounding neighborhoods will be accepted for care if they have private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare. This care includes:

- Basic urgent medical care for health concerns: acute illnesses, cuts and burns, fractures, and medical issues needing prompt attention
- Screening and treatment of anxiety, depression and bipolar disorder; referral to local specialized behavioral health providers

- Continuity care for chronic disease such as diabetes mellitus, hypertension, seizure disorders, and asthma
- Complete physical exams for adults and adolescents, with routine screening for STDs, HIV, and chronic viral hepatitis (B & C)
- Complete physical exams for children: sports physicals, well-child exams, routine immunizations



May 8, 2021
11:00-2:00
Revolution Mill

www.mustardseedclinic.org

Mustard Seed Community Health

celebrates five years of service, as it partners with the Greater Greensboro Society of Medical Alliance to present the *Sowing Seeds Rodeo*.

This family-friendly event features food trucks, a flower market, live music by the UNCG Quartet, and more. Guests will enjoy roaming entertainment, balloon artists, and an opportunity to witness and contribute to the power of community health — bring your picnic blanket or chair, and come out for a good time supporting a good cause! Most importantly, *Sowing Seeds Rodeo* is a time of charitable giving to raise funds to help care for neighbors in Greensboro and Guilford County.

Memorials and Honoraria

To the Operating Fund: In memory of Christine Trull by Harold & Barbara Alexander, Cindy & Jeff Brownfield, Connie Hackett. In memory of Bryce Greeson by Thelma Greeson, Marie Hodgkin. In memory of Fred Holt by Thelma Greeson, Marie Hodgkin, Norman & Edna Causey. In memory of Carolyn Allred by Marie Hodgkin. In memory of Gene Carroll by Marie Hodgkin. In memory of Kenneth McAdams by Marie Hodgkin.

To the Cemetery Care Fund: In memory of Christine Trull by Floyd Fogleman; Loretta Allred; Marie, Toby and Tim.

To the Food Pantry: In memory of Christine Trull by Jackie Fogleman.

To the Coble House Fund: In memory of Charles M. Hodgkin, a Coble House friend by the Howard Hodgkin family.



"Thank you" to Sherry Freeman Starr, who donated a lovely cross-stitch of APC to the Alamance Historical Room. She created it in 1983 for the late Harvey & Tookie Starr. The piece currently graces a Gathering Room wall. Stop by and take a look, when restrictions allow. It's truly an intricate piece. Thank you, Sherry, for sharing this meaningful artwork.

- Linda Aydelette,
Historical Room Team Leader

**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, Discipleship Pastor
Andrew Long, Dir., Youth Ministries
Katie Long, Director of Music
Rebecca Oden, Accompanist
Joy Thomas, Dir., Children’s Ministries
Dana Adams, Financial Coordinator
Lynn Barnes, Administrative Assistant
Mary Ellen Shores, Director,
 Child Development Center
Jane Preston, Asst. Director, CDC

Missionaries: Jesse & Erin Atkinson,
 Linguists, Wycliffe Bible Translators

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Opening Up a Little Bit

The Session of Alamance Presbyterian Church voted at its March 28 Stated Meeting that church groups and church-affiliated groups may once again schedule regular meetings inside church buildings. Individuals and outside groups are not yet allowed to use any of our facilities except the Coble Center for Community Outreach.

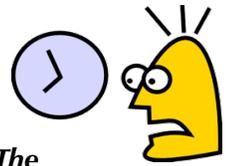
Phase 3 of NC’s *Safer at Home* order is scheduled to end June 1. Therefore, face masks and physical distancing are **required** while on church property.

Church offices are open, though staff members may still elect to work from home.

We began limited in-person worship services in the sanctuary on March 14. Seating is at no more than 25% capacity, face masks and social distancing are **required**, a *Welcome Back* card is **required** at every service.

You may, as ever, attend Sunday worship services through electronic devices, via Livestream or YouTube postings on the church website and Facebook page.

**Newsletter
Deadline**



Deadline for the **June, 2021** issue of *The Relay*, our church newsletter, is **Monday, May 24**. Post your articles by “snail mail,” by e-mail (lynn@alamancechurch.org), phone the office (697-0488 x 121) — or hop on your skateboard and roll 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!
www.alamancechurch.org

Current Officers

The Session is the governing body of our congregation. Officers are called Elders. Each “class” serves a three-year term. Stated meeting is on the **fourth Sunday of each month, at 6 p.m.** in the upper conference room — unless otherwise noted (via Zoom during COVID-19).

Class of 2023:

Darren Hadley
 Tim Hobbs
 Judy Uniatowski
 (Two still to be elected)

Class of 2021:

Pam Dixon
 Randy Maness
 Wendy Mills
 Keith Morris
 Gary Trull

Class of 2022:

Barbara Alexander
 Tom Cimino
 Scott Mendenhall
 Steve Starr
 David White

Youth Elder:

Nathan Garrett

Live-streaming Worship Services

Look and listen to Sunday morning worship at Alamance live, on-line.

1. Go to our website, www.alamancechurch.org. Scroll down the homepage for the *Live Sunday Worship & Info* box. Choose that option, to go to the *Worship* page. (Or, get to *Worship* from the *Connect* 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).

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

4. On www.alamancechurch.org, the *Worship Live Streaming* page has all the recorded services still available — and options for not-yet-happened services so you can log in on *those* Sundays at **10 a.m.**, in real time.

Sometimes, Livestream does not work as well as we expect it to work. Bear with us! With God’s grace, we’ll all get through this together.