

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

CONTENTS	PAGE
A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR	1
FOOD THOUGHTS	6
ITEMS OF INTEREST	2-3
MEMORIAL GIFTS	7
MISSION MENTIONS	3-4
THE BACK PEW Volunteer schedules, hours of operation, etc.	8

No "April Fool" Joke

March 24, 2020

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

Beloved friends
of Alamance Presbyterian Church,

Psalm 139:7-10 reminds us that there is nowhere that God's presence and God's care cannot reach. In these strange and uncertain days, we can take comfort in knowing that God's presence finds us, even at home. Though we cannot be physically present with each other, we are called to stay connected to this community — the Body of Christ — and to the God who is always *Immanuel* (God with us).

I wanted to write to you to let you where we are in caring for you as a church during this pandemic. Your Session met via Zoom video conference on Sunday night. We decided that, at this time, the **church building will continue to remain closed for all group activities including Sunday worship**. The Session will meet every two weeks to reevaluate the situation, and to make decisions to help our congregation navigate these uncharted waters.

Please understand, **we are not planning to reopen in a few weeks**. We will simply meet to reevaluate our status to better determine when we

will open our doors again. That time will inevitably come later.

One of the biggest concerns we have is our celebration of Holy Week and Easter. The Session has decided that **Easter Sunday for Alamance will be the day we all come back together as a church**. What better metaphor could there be for resurrection than the day the church can safely gather together again? In turn, the passion of Holy Week will be explored during our streamed Sunday services. In essence, the season of Lent will last longer than 40 days. How glorious it will be when we all can sing *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* in our sanctuary! That will come when this wilderness journey and passion is finally over.

Speaking of our streamed services, we hope that you are able to take advantage of our weekly Livestream broadcast. You can find it on the homepage of our website, www.alamancechurch.org. We know that many of you are taking advantage of that from home. We would encourage you to offer your comments and prayer concerns with us live, or to share them with us afterwards. The calls, texts, emails, and messages we have been receiving from you have been so encouraging. They are a great way to stay connected to each other.

Our staff and other members are also making videos to share with you. You can find them on a YouTube channel link on our website. Go there for the latest content. They will eventually be included on the website homepage as well. They will be posted to Facebook. Our newsfeed there is being updated daily.

(continued on next page)

Current Officers

The Session is the governing body of our congregation. Our officers are called Elders. They serve 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	

We recognize that many of you are not as “plugged in” to the internet as others. I would share two things: 1. Our session and pastoral staff will be calling on everyone in our directory in the coming weeks. We encourage you to stay connected by phoning each other. Be in prayer for one another. Even though we cannot be together at church, this terrible moment in our lives can also be one we use to deepen our connection to God and to each other. 2. If you do not have a computer or device to watch our Livestream at home, let us know. We will do everything in our power to make that available to you if at all possible.

I mention how important it is for all of us to faithfully support our church during this crisis. We recognize that financial uncertainty is a big part of the impact of this virus. We know that some of you have lost your jobs and livelihoods during this season. We know that many more are worried about these long-term effects on employment and our investments. We also know that our congregation is something that you value. I promise, your whole staff is working hard for you right now, making contacts, creating videos, planning ahead, and tending to some tasks that have long been neglected. I would say that we are working harder now that we were before we closed the church to activities. We ask you would support this place, our fantastic staff, and the ministry yet to come as faithfully and generously as you can during this time. You know we depend on you! As I have said often in recent days, I would rather ask now that plead later!

To make your contribution, sign up for our new online giving platform. We want many of you to take advantage of it, even after the pandemic is over. It's a great way to give, and to set up a pattern for faithful generosity. Of course, you can mail in your tithes and offerings,

or if you absolutely must, stop by the church to give. The church office will be open for now. I would note with you that I have directed the staff to come into the office for essential functions only. Much of our work can be done remotely. Please call before you come to ensure that someone is present to receive you.

You may be wondering about our Child Development Center. **As of this writing, it remains open.** Though such action obviously increases risk, it is providing an essential service to many health care professionals, first responders, and others who absolutely cannot work from home. Our directors, Jane and Keri, are in constant communication with authorities about recommendations for child care centers; and they are following every possible protocol to protect the children in their care. Our policy will be to act on recommendations from the authorities in this matter.

I would urge you, though, to do everything in your power to observe the preventative measures asked of us by the authorities. The truth is, the more faithful we are to the practices of distancing and disinfecting everything, the sooner this will all be over. If we all ignore the restrictions on our activity, those restrictions will persist much longer. Our pastoral staff (Jess and I) are available to you when absolutely needed, but **we will not make in-person visits to our more vulnerable members until the restrictions are lifted.** Trust me, we want to see all of you ... but we want more than anything to keep everyone safe.

Look for updates from us. We will write you again to tell you when we will reopen the church to gatherings. Until then, we encourage you to stay home, tune in, call each other, and pray

without ceasing. And remember, even in such a time as this, **God is with us.**

In Christ's Presence and Peace,

Dr. Kyle Goodman,
Lead Pastor



April Birthdays

- 6 Amarylis Allred, David White
- 9 Hazel Aydelette
- 10 Michael Holland, Jill Skerlak
- 14 Jim Carter
- 15 Becky Oliver
- 16 Dub Bridges
- 17 Becky Hall
- 19 Bain Allred
- 20 Daniel Church
- 21 Ed Gonzalez, Jennifer McMurtrie,
Mary Ann Sugg
- 22 Blaine Mills, Cindy Morris
- 24 Chad Fields, Erica Lane
- 25 Mikey Donoho, Pat Greeson
- 26 Bill Lane
- 27 Chad Drye
- 28 Katrina Schubert
- 30 Lois Barnes Vinson,
Angela Burgess

News from the Juarez Family



Laurie Camp Juarez reports:

We have some news to share with everyone! For years, Noé has been in communication with friends and contacts in Peru; and has been feeling nudged to return to help the community where he was born.

Noé was born in Ayacucho, Peru, just before the era of the Shining Path (a communist terrorist group that started in Ayacucho and spread throughout Peru).

His community was hit hard. In total, almost 70,000 people were killed: half at the hands of the Shining Path, a third by the Peruvian government, the rest attributed to other groups. 7,500 were killed just in Ayacucho.

It was very dangerous for Christians, and for Quechua Indians specifically. Peruvian churches collaborated to help Noé's congregation, flying them to northern Peru for safety.

Noé has long wanted to return to his community, to help the Quechua people there. I have never lost my own passion for teaching and ministering to children in Peru.

Why am I telling you all this? After much prayer and discussion — and more prayers and more discussion — we decided that the timing was finally right. Our family will move to Peru for one year, at the end of this summer.

Noé called a contact in Ayacucho about a job. In less than a week, he found a job! This definitely felt like a confirmation of Call. After more phonnng, we found that we can get enough financial support to get started. This was also a blessing!

Noé will work with a nonprofit organization that focuses on literacy and education. It's called Puriyninchik, which is Quechua for *nuestro caminar* in Spanish; *our walk* in English.

"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 *equal, side by side, same accord* and *belonging*. Together it means "our pilgrimage, our journey together."

They have a brand-new a website: <https://puriyninchik.org/>. They have a [facebook page](#). [IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT] "We encourage you to obey the orders of our authorities and stay home, but also, we invite you to know each other more and visit us virtually. #QuedateEnCasa #Puriyninchik #Perú"

Wycliffe Wanderings

A column by Wycliffe translators Jesse & Erin Padgett Atkinson

Hey APC family! We're excited to start sharing brief updates with you via *The Relay* each month! It's a rich blessing to partner with you in Bible translation; and we want to keep you in the loop on what God is doing.

What we're up to: Good news — we are over 65% of the way to

meeting our Wycliffe ministry budget! God is on the move! Praise God with us for his provision, and please pray that he would continue to raise up new partners for our Wycliffe ministry. Our goal is to reach 100% by August, so that we can return to Mexico!

Pray with us: For Mexico, as it confronts coronavirus. We're especially concerned about many of the rural indigenous area where Wycliffe serves, where resources and healthcare are often scarce.

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

Jesse & Erin



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. 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).

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 **10:15 a.m.** to experience worship with the rest of the congregation, as it unfolds in real time.)

Great meet for the HPGA Level 10 Boys!

Jonah Thomas is the 15-yr-old Level 10 State Champion in Parallel Bars! He finished 4th in Floor and High Bar, 6th on Pommel Horse, 7th on Rings and 5th in the All Around. Jonah also received the NC Academic All American Award; and qualified for the NC State Men's Elite Team. The team finished in 3rd place!

Though team members are disappointed that regional competition has been suspended for the duration of COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, the stalwart young athletes continue to train at home. They look forward to garnering more honors in the months and years ahead.



Monthly Mission Offering

The Missions Ministry Team chooses recipients of special missions offerings for each month of the year.

Use the little Missions envelope in the pews to make a donation to special missions. Or, simply designate that cause on your check.

- **April:** The Shepherd Center in Kigali, Uganda
- **May:** APC Resident Artist program
- **June:** Heifer International

A Lenten Meditation

(from *God Is No Fool*, Lois A. Cheney, 1969, Abingdon Press)

fifty-seven

I stand before the cross
and wonder.

I stand before the cross
and fear.

I kneel before the cross
and weep.

I pray before the cross
and rejoice.

To know the cross
is to know Christ.

To feel the cross
is to feel Christ.

To gaze at the cross
is to gaze at Christ.

To carry the cross
is to be a Christian,
and not until then.

God, forgive us.

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 to one person at a time — meeting with that person once a week for about an hour. Twice monthly, the ministers meet with their leaders for supervision and continuing education.

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.

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



A Change in Policy about Prayer Requests

For at least the duration of the Guilford County, Greensboro, and North Carolina *Stay at Home* orders, Alamance Presbyterian Church will relax its policy against publishing the weekly *Celebrations & Concerns* prayer list. That document will be posted weekly on the homepage of www.alamancechurch.org.

As ever, we respect the privacy of the congregation and their extended families. We will only publish news about those who have given permission to share health information publicly. If we do not have permission to give details about someone's medical condition, we will not print those details. If we do not have permission to refer to someone by name, we will not print that name.

For the safety of all US military personnel, please do not use any form of electronic social media to post details of their service! This means that you should not refer to them by their "go by" name, or mention their military rank, or where they are serving. You should not post any photographs that might reveal where in the world they are, or what they are doing while they are there.

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 fires,
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 in *Extravagaria*.

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 Livestream, 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!

APC Food Pantry

Team members send out a great big “Thank you!” to all who support this local hunger-relief mission, who provide food, and money, and time to make the mission possible.

Since 2010, this church has offered groceries to up to 30 hungry families each week. Distribution is on **Saturday mornings, from 10:30-11:30.** Set-up for the week’s distribution starts well before then.

APC will continue to operate the Food Pantry for the foreseeable future. Our pantry already worked under precautions recommended to it by the Second Harvest food bank,

including pre-packing food bags and delivering them to clients in a car line. Unless required to stop by state or county government, the Food Pantry will continue its fine work.

One **Tuesday** 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.

You can now schedule your own workdays at <http://signup.com/go/h2b6xy>.

“Do All to the Glory of God”: Words from Paul, to the church at Corinth

“All things are lawful,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience, for “the earth and its fullness are the Lord’s.” If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, out of consideration for the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience — I mean the other’s conscience, not your own. For why should my liberty be subject to the judgment of someone else’s conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why should I be denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

So, whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, so that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1**

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.** These are the remaining 2020 dates to serve: **May 16, July 18, September 19, and November 21.**

This local hunger-relief ministry is considered essential for the community, and is allowed to continue in operation.

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.**

Your donation of home-made desserts are welcomed. Cakes, bars, and cookies are the easiest for us to serve, and for our 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). He will keep track of volunteers, to keep both APC and GUM in compliance with all *Stay at Home* orders in force at the time of each Potter’s House meal we serve.

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:

- **April:** Canned fruits
- **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



Memorials and Honoraria

To the Operating Fund: In memory of Larry Reynolds by Nancy Durham. In honor of Albert Smith by Doris Walsh.

To the Food Pantry: In memory of Larry Reynolds by Harold & Barbara Alexander, Buck & Amy Yow, Brad & Barbara Reese, Clint & Linda Aydelette, Larry & Dee Holt, Doug & Dianne Clapp, Jackie Fogleman, Bobby & Jeannie Wyrick, Carolyn M. Edwards, Connie Hackett, Allen & Sandra Wade, Gerald & Jane Younts, Thelma Greeson.

To the Benevolent Ministry Fund: In memory of Elmer Anderson by Jackie Fogleman, Nancy Dyson.

To the Bereavement Team: In memory of dear ones by Barbara Durham Dark.

To the Building Improvement Fund: In honor of Mary Ann Sugg by the Sherlie Andrew Sunday school class. In honor of Sam Nelson by the Sherlie Andrew Sunday school class.

To the Missions Fund: In memory of Bernard Aydelette by Clint & Linda Aydelette.

A Note

Holding a funeral at Alamance Presbyterian Church? Remember to inform the church office! The staff can help with your plans — and alert you of events already planned for that date and time. If another funeral or graveside service is already scheduled for the same time and place, the first funeral scheduled will receive precedence.

Several Bereavement Teams help with refreshments at the time of the funeral. The church office can inform the teams that you'd like their aid.

Cemetery regulations, cemetery privileges with membership, and a roster of graves (through the year 2000) are all posted on www.alamancechurch.org. Look under "Learn" in the header bar.



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 almost every day during the pandemic. These videos are certainly not limited to just our staff.

They are posted on the church Facebook page, and the church YouTube channel. You can access them through the church website (www.alamancechurch.org).

If you'd like to include a video of you or your family sharing an inspiring message, a song, or a devotion, let us know!

The Garrett Family made a devotion about *Psalm 146*. Savannah Thomas sang an inspirational song. Katie Hensley and Rebecca Oden hosted a hymn sing.

We'd like to hear from you, too! Contact Pastor Jess if you are willing to lead a devotion (jess@alamancechurch.org).

Past Sunday worship services are posted on the church website.





Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the **May, 2020** issue of **The Relay**, our church newsletter, is **Friday, April 24**. Post your articles by "snail mail," by e-mail (lynn@alamancechurch.org), phone the office (697-0488 x 121) — or hitch up your wagon 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.

Coffee Hour hosts

Donations for the food and drink we enjoy each week at Coffee Hour are 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 & 5th Sunday

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

3rd Sunday

Jackie Fogleman, Dianne Clapp
Side door: Jean Poe

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 & 5th Sunday

Naomi Church, Pam Dixon,
Tony Sizemore, Gary Trull

3rd 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 Hensley, 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

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