



Christ Is Risen!

by Pastor Alan Felton

The purple-hued shadows of Lent have been pushed back by the brilliant sunshine of Easter morning. One sort of journey is at an end, while another has begun. Christ is risen; he is risen indeed!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not simply a historical event we lovingly recall each year. The resurrection is a way of life as we continue to follow Jesus. The disciples did not fully realize the enormity of the resurrection on the first Easter. The original ending of the Gospel of Mark tells us that the disciples were afraid. It was not an altogether auspicious beginning for these few who had so faithfully followed Jesus during his life.

The disciples may have been cowering in fear on the first Easter; however, they did not remain there long. They, in time, expressed their faith in obedience to what they knew to be true and continued to follow their teacher.

The Holy Spirit was soon upon them, and they received the gift of power promised by Jesus. They remembered the words Jesus spoke to them and began to share them with others. People believed and were made disciples. The church was born. What began with a fear-filled few that first Easter just outside of Jerusalem has grown now to reach every corner of the globe and change the lives of millions

upon millions. Christ is risen; he is risen indeed!

I wonder how we will continue to follow Jesus on the continued journey toward perfection. Will we huddle behind locked doors, afraid of the world and its disappointments and dangers, or will we, like our forebears in faith, share the truth we know and make disciples for the transformation of the world? I pray we will not forget that we are Easter people, living in the hope given by resurrection. It's Easter Sunday. It is a day of joyful celebration. Christ is risen; he is risen indeed!



Benson Memorial United Methodist Church, 4706 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC 27612
Open office hours: M–Th 9AM–1PM | Available by appointment: M–Th 9AM–4PM / F 9AM–1PM
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BENSON MEMORIAL UMC

EASTER SERVICES

MARCH 31 // 8:45 & 11AM



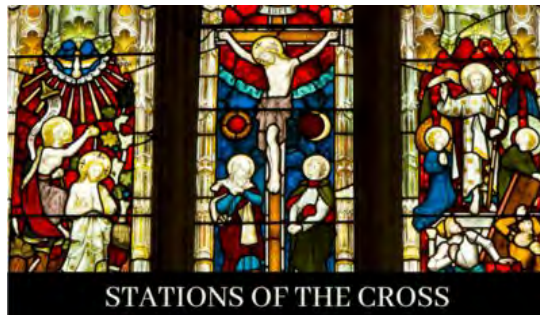
Palm/Passion Sunday | March 24
8:45 and 11am services in the sanctuary



Easter Egg Hunt | March 24
12-1pm in the courtyard and front lawn



Holy Thursday | March 28
12pm and 6:30pm services in the sanctuary



Stations of the Cross | March 29
self-guided 10am-2pm; guided tour at 3pm



Good Friday | March 29
7pm service in the sanctuary



Easter Sunday | March 31
8:45 and 11am services in the sanctuary

Invite your friends and family to our Holy Week events!

Celebrate Easter and Holy Week with us!
Visit bensonmemorialumc.org/easter/
for all the details.

Join the Post-carding Party to Boost Voter Turnout with Reclaim Our Vote Project!

Do you want to participate in a fun, nonpartisan effort to get voters to the polls that has proven to be effective? Through the [Center for Common Ground Reclaim Our Vote project](#), a grassroots, nonpartisan campaign that focuses on increasing BIPOC voter turnout, Benson Memorial has access to 250 postcards to be completed, decorated, and sent to Georgia voters before that state's congressional primary on May 21. Voters will be provided early voting locations and times, voter registration deadlines, information for free rides to the polls, and phone numbers for county election officials via colorful and personalized postcards.

The post-carding party will be held in the conference room on Saturday, April 6, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Drop by whenever you can during that window, and as long as the cards hold out, you can take your turn in making a difference. All you need to bring is your writing hand, as everything else will be provided. If you find you like doing this, opportunities will be available to make an impact in other states, including North Carolina, as the election year proceeds.

Mark your calendars, and feel free to contact Susan Brooks at sebrks@bellsouth.net for more information.



Congregations for Children (C4C) Exciting Outreach Opportunity!

As you know, Benson Memorial has partnered with Jeffreys Grove Magnet Elementary School for the past ten years—that's right, *ten years!* Through this partnership, we've offered grants to several beginning teachers, given countless school supplies and other needed items for classrooms and students, tutored and offered social and emotional support to hundreds of K-3rd graders, encouraged and supported many teachers and staff, helped families in emergency situations, given hundreds of summer reading packs at the end of the school years, and have been part of the dialogue with the school superintendent about what's working (and what's not) in Wake County Schools.



You may not have heard yet that, this school year, our Benson Memorial Reading Buddies have been building relationships and tutoring students who are new to the country. For most of them, they are not only new to the country but have never had any formal education. On top of these huge transitions, they are also learning to speak English. It's hard to even imagine how overwhelming that could be for an adult, let alone a child. So, our Benson Memorial Reading Buddies have been meeting with these students once a week to give one-on-one social and emotional support, as well as help with learning the English language.

With the influx of new students to Jeffreys Grove since the beginning of this calendar year, teachers and school administrators have noticed that these families, understandably, need extra support and, therefore, haven't had the means to engage fully with the school community, causing very spotty attendance for their students. In order to create a space for support and engagement, Jeffreys Grove has decided to host a Community Fun Day and has asked Benson Memorial to help. **The Community Fun Day will be on Saturday, April 6 (rain date: April 13) from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at a pavilion at Regatta at Lake Lynn Apartments.** Benson Memorial will have a table set up where we will meet families and invite them to come be a part of the Benson Memorial UMC family. We'll also be supplying homemade snacks for the event.

We are looking for no more than 10 people to come to the event and help welcome families, as well as people who are willing to bake some goodies for us to take. If you are interested in either of these opportunities to serve or would like more information, please contact Cortney Babajtis, Minister of Families and Outreach, at outreach@bensonmemorialumc.org.

You are Invited

JEFFREYS GROVES

COMMUNITY FUN DAY

April 6, 11 am–2pm

(Rain Date: April 13)

Location: Regatta at Lake Lynn Apartments

6917 River Run, Raleigh NC 27613

Get ready for fun activities, community resources,
meet your teachers, and more!

Snacks

Free Books

Crafts & Games

Bingo & Loteria

Prizes

Music

Raffles





Benson Memorial UMC
CELEBRATING SIXTY YEARS
OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**60TH
ANNIVERSARY**

Sunday, May 19, 2024
Worship at 10AM | Party at 11:30 AM
Everyone is welcome to come!

Let's Remember Together

Benson Memorial's 60th Anniversary Celebration is approaching and we need your help to celebrate well! Do you have a favorite memory from the past 60 years? Maybe you recall a special event or a milestone in your or your family's life at Benson Memorial? Go down memory lane and find photos from past years that we can include in a photo presentation during the anniversary celebration.

Send all photos (physical or scanned/electronic copies) to [Martha Johnston](#) in the church office by April 21. Please include information about the photo, including when and where it was taken, what the occasion or event was, and who is pictured. We look forward to remembering together at Spiritfest and the 60th Anniversary Celebration on May 19.

And remember, there will be one worship service at 10 a.m. that morning, with lunch and celebration to follow.

Watch for details after Easter!



Worship at Magnolia Glen

Pastor Alan will be offering a worship service at 1:00 p.m. on Good Friday (March 29) at Magnolia Glen Retirement Community, 5301 Creedmoor Road in Raleigh. Come out and worship with the residents in addition to visiting the Stations of the Cross and our Tenebrae service at Benson Memorial. Contact [Pastor Alan](#) for more details.

Invite a Friend to Easter Services

Just one more week until Easter, and we ask everyone to speak to someone in your circle to invite them to church with you. Offer to pick them up, or even go out for lunch after the service! Whatever you do, simply *invite!* Pick up an invite card at the welcome table at church this Sunday and give it to someone you know.



Study the Acts of the Apostles

We are launching a new Bible study this Easter season. Join us on Wednesday evenings or on Thursday mornings and explore the thrilling movement of the Spirit and the astonishing growth of the church as recounted in Acts. This six-part study will thematically examine Acts through the lenses of building community, offering witness, and growing in God's promises. The study is open to everyone. Starting on Wednesday, April 3 (meal at 5:45 and the study starts at 6:45 p.m.) and Thursday, April 4 at 10 a.m.

Yarn Donations

Our Benson Memorial family continues to support the women at the women's prison. We had another request for knitting yarn, and again, church friends donated yarn for a new series of knitting/crocheting classes at the prison. Thank you so much for supporting our Women's Prison Ministry team with your loving hands and hearts.

—Pat Lee



Join Us in Creating Our Easter Flower Cross!

Our Easter flower cross is created on Easter Sunday using cut flowers and flower bush cuttings provided by the congregation. These flowers can be from your yard, your neighbor's yard (with permission), or may be purchased from your favorite market.

Flowers can be dropped off at the church on Saturday or Easter morning. All flowers should be dropped off under the breezeway by the entrance to the narthex. Containers of water will be available in this area for Saturday flower drop-offs. The Easter flower cross will be part of both the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. services, so the earlier the flowers are provided, the better.

Please help create this beautiful addition to our celebratory service.
Thank you!



[\(complete church calendar is here\)](#)

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday

- 8:45 a.m., Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m., Coffee Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m., Sunday School Classes
- 11:00 a.m., Worship Service
- 12:00 p.m., Chancel Chimes Choir

Monday, April 1

Church office closed

- 5:00 p.m., Women's Prison
"Blue Card" Training
- 7:00 p.m., Church & Society

Tuesday, April 2

- 10:30 a.m., Women Who Read

Wednesday, April 3

- 7:00 a.m., Coffee and Prayer
- 5:45 p.m., Wonderful Wednesday
Fellowship Dinner
- 6:45 p.m., Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m., High School Bible Study

Thursday, April 4

- 10:00 a.m., Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m., Chancel Choir

Saturday, April 6

- 2:00 p.m. GOTV Post-carding Party

Sunday, April 7

- 8:45 a.m., Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m., Outreach Meeting
- 9:45 a.m., Sunday School Classes
- 11:00 a.m., Worship Service
- 12:00 p.m., Chancel Chimes Choir
- 3:00 p.m., Prayer Shawl Group

Monday, April 8

- 7:00 p.m., SPRC Meeting

Wednesday, April 10

- 1:30 p.m., Preschool Board
- 5:45 p.m., Wonderful Wednesday
Fellowship Dinner
- 6:45 p.m., Bible Study

Thursday, April 11

- 10:00 a.m., Bible Study
- 11:30 a.m., Adult Fellowship
- 5:00 p.m., Chancel Choir