

HEARING AND PROCLAIMING GOOD NEWS

Second Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2019

CALL TO REVERENCE

PRELUDE “Baia”

Barroso

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We believe in God, who made us in His image.

All: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.

One: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

All: He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.

All: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!

One: Though the world may seem dreadfully serious at times

All: We will be joyful because Christ has risen from the grave.

One: Let us worship God.

All: Let us worship God with joy, laughter, and thanksgiving!

* HYMN #401

“Here In This Place”

*PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious and responsible all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart. Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

All: Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

*HYMN #370

“This Is My Father’s World”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 30

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-9

One: This too is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “The Orchestra Song” Trad.

SERMON “A Prayer for Seniors” Mary Maxwell

*AFFIRMING THE JOYFUL COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS (*insert*)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*concluding with the Lord’s Prayer*)

OUR OFFERING

Offertory: “The Old Pianna Rag”

Phillips

* Doxology

Hymnal, #606

* Prayer

*HYMN #80 “The Trees of the Field”

*BENEDICTION

Congregational Response (#243, vs. 1)

“Be Not Afraid”

Be not afraid. Sing out for joy. Christ is risen! Alleluia.

Be not afraid. Sing out for joy. Christ is risen! Alleluia.

*POSTLUDE

*Those who are able, please stand.

Some resources used in today’s service are adapted from the joyfulnoiseletter.com, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com, and re-worship.blogspot.com

* * *

WELCOME VISITORS! We are delighted to welcome you today and hope your time here is a blessing. If you are not active in another church, we hope you will consider making Thyatira your church home. If you would like to find out more about us, please contact Pastor Stacey Steck at 704-245-8100.

WELCOME RENEE: We welcome to Thyatira’s piano once again Renee McCachren, our accompanist this morning. Thank you for helping us worship God.

USHERS: **April Team** – Mike Hawkins (captain), Bill Bergstrom, Jeremy Deal, Steven Wetmore, A.J. Waller

Upcoming May Team – Melissa Waller (captain), Aaron Richmond, Paul Gaylor, Daniel Milam, Randall Patterson

LITURGIST: **Today** – Phares Sechler

Next Sunday – Leigh Anne Wetmore

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: All children are strongly encouraged to remain in worship following the Time with Young Disciples. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the educational building, and is available for infants and very young children.

This Sunday – Leigh Anne Wetmore, Selena Bell

Next Sunday – Jada Ware-Guy, Debbie Edwards

GENEROSITY UPDATE: After the first three weeks in April we have reached 120% of our monthly anticipated contributions. Your generous gifts help us be the Good News Capital of Rowan County!

THYATIRA PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep in your prayers the Session, Deacons, and Staff of the Church, as well as all who faithfully serve one another and our community through the ministries of the church.

Mocksville Senior Living: Mary Moon

At Home: JoAnn Kerr

- Robert Wilkie, recovering from an accident
- Barbara Karriker, Joyce Caldwell's cousin, diagnosed with cancer
- Whitaker Raymer, being treated for leukemia
- Johnny Moore, being treated for a recurrence of cancer
- Georgia McCorkle recovering from surgery
- The Organist Search Committee
- Mike Hawkins, being treated for back pain
- Fred Stamper recovering from a heart attack
- Drema Clemens' brother, Arthur Warden
- Norma Lauder, facing health challenges
- Ted Deal
- Communities affected by California fires, and Hurricanes Florence and Michael
- Bill McLaughlin
- Edna Stamper
- Joyce and Danny Caldwell, facing health challenges
- Julie, a co-worker of Jada, diagnosed with cancer
- Mike Hawkins' mother, Elizabeth, at Genesis
- Linda Gaylor's mother, Barbara
- Ada Jo Sloop, serving in the Peace Corps
- Bill Bergstrom is being treated for leukemia
- Drema Clemens' mother, Bertha Warden
- Millicent Hoffner's brother, Joe Kerr

PHONE PRAYER CHAIN: If you, a family member, or friend would like to be added to our Phone Prayer Chain, please call Jim Albright at 704-279-3317. Thyatira's Phone Prayer Chain is different from being added to our electronic newsletter, mailed newsletter, and bulletin. We have 3 people that spread the word by calling approximately 25 prayer list members, who add your request to their daily prayers. Whatever your prayer need may be, finding peace of mind provides a foundation of strength to face any situation. Your request is a sacred trust and is kept confidential among our prayer list members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

April 28 Kate Richmond

May 01 Aislinn Watts, Jill Ingram

GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY: The next 13 week cycle of GriefShare, Thyatira's grief support ministry, begins on April 28 at 4:00 p.m. If you know someone who could use some support during their grieving, please share this information with them. Details can be found on the church's website.

GRAD SUNDAY: Join us next Sunday as we celebrate those young people in our church who are graduating this Spring.

MEALS ON WHEELS: Volunteer drivers are needed the first and third Wednesdays of each month to deliver meals to our homebound neighbors. Please contact John Sloan at 704-633-3870 for more information or to offer yourself for this important community ministry.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION OPEN: Thyatira Preschool is accepting applications for 2 and 4 year-olds (age as of 8/31/19) for the 2019-2020 school year. (3's class has been filled.) Classes begin Tuesday, August 13. If you know someone who may be interested, they may contact the church office or go the church website for the registration form.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Today	9:30am	Children's Choir (Big Kids) & The Happy Place
	10:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00am	Worship
	4:00pm	GriefShare
	6:30pm	Adult Choir
Monday	8:15am	Preschool
	6:30pm	Boy & Cub Scouts
Tuesday	8:15am	Preschool
	7:00pm	Christian Education Meeting
Wednesday	8:15am	Preschool
	11:00am	Meals on Wheels
	7:00pm	Prayer, Song & Study
	8:00pm	Strategic Planning Meeting
Thursday	8:15am	Preschool
	10:00am	Smart Start
	11:00am	Meals on Wheels
Friday	8:15am	Preschool
	11:00am	Meals on Wheels
Next Sunday	9:30am	Children's Choir (Big Kids) & The Happy Place
	10:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00am	Worship
	4:00pm	GriefShare
	6:30pm	Adult Choir

THYATIRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

220 White Road
Salisbury, NC 28147
704-636-1595
PASTOR STECK: 704-245-8100

Office Hours Monday – Friday 9:00am – 2:00pm
EMAIL ADDRESS: office@thyatirapresbyterian.org
WEB SITE: thyatirapresbyterian.org

STAFF AND OFFICERS

STAFF

Pastor The Rev. Stacey Steck
Faith Community Nurse Nora Patterson, RN, FCN
Faith Community Health Promoter. Georgia McCorkle
Office Manager Sharon Gantkowski
Treasurer. Doug Patterson
Assistant Treasurer. Keith Vaughan
Director of Music Angela Moore
Organist

THE SESSION

Moderator The Rev. Stacey Steck
Clerk of Session. Janet Lambert

Class of 2018

Beth Bates
Janet Lambert
Sandra Swanson
Keith Vaughan

Class of 2019

David Hall
Norma Lauder
Eric Rouse
Juanita Turner

Class of 2020

Robin Luther
Doug Patterson
Phares Sechler
Brian Waller

Elder Emeriti. Jim Albright, Charles Newsome

THE DIACONATE

Chairman of the Diaconate. Paul Gaylor

Class of 2019

Jeremy Deal
Jada Ware-Guy
Daniel Milam
Aaron Richmond
Steven Wetmore

Class of 2020

Mike Hawkins
Randall Patterson
Paul Rogers
A.J. Waller
Ben Watts

Class of 2021

Bill Bergstrom
Mike Corriher
Ted Fuller
Paul Gaylor
Melissa Waller

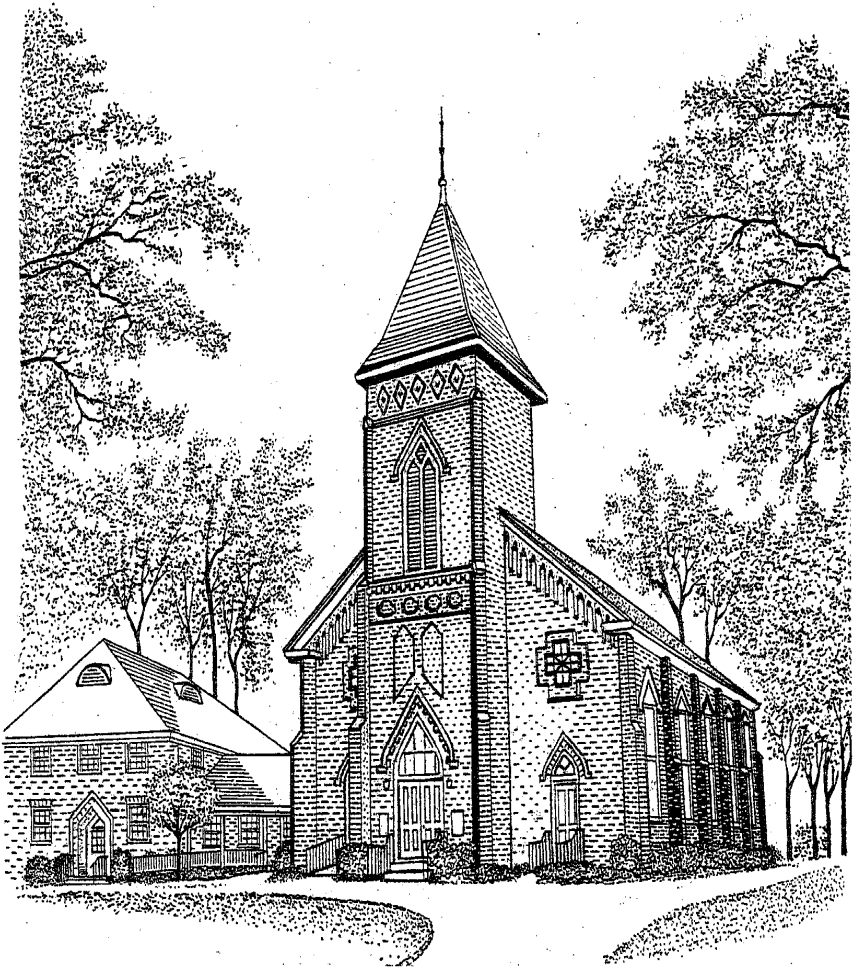
CONTACT PERSONS

Thyatira Memorial Association President. Ed Hall
Church School Superintendent Jimmy Hoffner
Men of the Church President. Greg Hager
Presbyterian Women Moderator. Jada Ware-Guy
Boy Scouts. Greg Hager
Cub Scouts. Jon McCachren
Girl Scouts. Jada Ware-Guy

WELCOME

THYATIRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT MILL BRIDGE

*The Good News Capital
of Western Rowan County*



Organized by 1750

A Living Legacy of Love, Faith, Service,
and Patient Endurance

Affirming the Joyful Communion of the Saints

One: We believe with the Bible that

All: “there is a time to weep and a time to laugh.”

One: We believe with Chrysostom that

All: “laughter has been implanted in our souls.”

One: We believe with Aquinas that there is a time for

All: “playful deeds and jokes.”

One: We believe with Luther that

All: “You have as much laughter as you have faith.”

One: We believe with Calvin that

All: “we are nowhere forbidden to laugh.”

One: We believe with Francis De Sales that

All: “humor is a foundation for reconciliation.”

One: We believe with Wesley that

All: “A sour religion is the devil’s religion.”

One: We believe with Kierkegaard that

All: “Humor is intrinsic to Christianity.”

One: We believe with Dostoevsky that

All: “If a person laughs well they are a good person.”

One: We believe with Chesterton that

All: “A good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation.”

One: We believe with Bonhoeffer that

All: “Ultimate seriousness is not without a dose of humor.”

One: We believe with Fulton Sheen that

All: “The only time laughter is wicked is when it is turned against he who gave it.”

One: We believe with Flannery O’Conner that

All: “Christianity is a strangely cheery religion.”

One: We believe with Elton Trueblood,

All: “Never trust a theologian without a sense of humor.”

One: We believe with Charles Schultz that

All: “Humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless.”

One: We believe with Krister Stendhal that

All: “humor, along with irony, forms a safeguard against idolatry.”

One: We believe with Eric Gritsch that

All: “Humor is thus anchored in a self-knowledge that indicates one’s limitations.”

One: We believe, with all the saints, that God is good.

All: God’s love endures forever. Amen.

About Holy Humor Sunday

Many churches have resurrected an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity – “Holy Humor Sunday” celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter.

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including “Bright Sunday” (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced.

The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. “Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh,” the early theologians called it.

In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it “Holy Humor Sunday,” with the theme: “Jesus is the LIFE of the party.”

Many churches from different traditions responded enthusiastically. Holy Humor Sunday services are bringing back large crowds to churches on a Sunday when church attendance typically drops dramatically.

If you Google “Holy Humor Sunday” on the Internet, you’ll be amazed at how widespread Holy Humor Sunday celebrations on the Sunday after Easter have become among churches of all traditions.



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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