



# Kingston Chronicles

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## MARCH 2024

Dear Kingston Family,

I was sitting in a meeting yesterday at the First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Beach, SC. If you are not aware, part of our duties as ordained pastors in the PC(USA) is not only to serve the church we are installed at, though that is priority number one, but also to serve our denomination at large. Each Presbyterian church is governed by its session, a group of ruling elders elected by the congregation to oversees its functions and responsibilities.

Each local church belongs to a larger organization known as the presbytery. Presbyteries are located geographically, and each presbytery has an executive presbyter, who basically serves as the supervisor to all the ordained pastors in the presbytery. Kingston is part of New Harmony Presbytery. New Harmony spans the areas of Sumter, Hartsville, Bennettsville, Marion, Conway, the Grand Stand, all the way down to Georgetown.

The presbytery is not unlike a local church in that it also has committees that serve certain functions. I serve on a committee known as the "Committee on Ministry" or "COM" as we call it. The Committee on Ministry helps support pastors at our churches and their staff. We help churches that have conflicts between the pastor and congregation or even between 1 or more ruling elders. We help churches that have been hurt by their leadership to heal. We also oversee the approval of pastors who are being called to New Harmony Presbytery, as we actually have to sign off on their terms of call.

I was with another pastor and a ruling elder yesterday meeting with a gentleman who was a retired Baptist minister but felt called to serve a small Presbyterian church nearby. Being that he was not ordained in the PC(USA), he wanted to have permission to oversee the celebration of the sacraments and be able to moderate their session. This church had 10 people coming to worship when he arrived. That's right, I did not leave off a zero- 10 whole people, 5 of them were on session! Why did he want to transfer? In the one year he has been filling in the pulpit, they now have 50 coming to worship. They have grown 5 times!

As we were discussing the reasons for growth, we kept coming back to a conclusion that is actually backed up by research. Post pandemic, what the research is showing is that people are looking for connection in a local church more than anything else. Yes, good parking is important, a talented choir or musician is important, good preaching is you know, whatever, seeing young families is important, but what folks really crave these days is connection. This small little church knew the importance of connection and they grew.

I think we do this really well at Kingston, too. I was reminded of this at the new member dinner last Wednesday. Our ruling elder Frances Dennis, who led the program asked each new member to say, "Why did you choose Kingston?" (continued pg2)

Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.  
**Pastor**

Holly Bannan  
**Director of  
Discipleship and  
Communications**

Bradley Hardee  
**Music Director**

Mary Alwine  
**Administrative  
Assistant**

David Moore  
**Sexton**

Kira Hamilton  
Emma Hamilton  
**Nursery**

Over and over again, people said, "The people here are so welcoming!" We do a really good job of welcoming people. I know I am biased when I say that, but when I am on vacation or away for continuing ed, I will often go visit another congregation to worship, usually out of town. I kid you not, there have been times I have walked in, worshipped and not a single person said a word to me. The numbers show that we welcome people well. We had a gross increase in membership last year of 13%. We had a net increase of 9.2%. For most mainline churches, 5% in this area was around the norm, we over doubled that. Now, I know, "numbers are not everything," that is true; however, they are something. When that 13% says out loud in front of everyone it is because they felt welcomed, they mean it. As we head toward Easter, now is a great time to ask someone to come check out Kingston and see what the Spirit is doing, but also keep living up to our reputation for being the warm welcoming congregation in our community. I will leave you with Paul's words to the church in Rome: "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." -Romans 15:7

Blessings,



Pastor Robert

## rightnow MEDIA

### March RightNow Media Spotlight

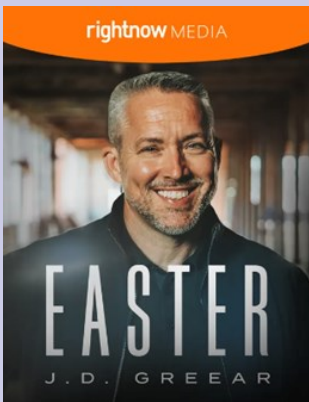


THE EASTER  
EXPERIENCE  
DR. JASON TURNER

#### From the book of Luke...

There is no doubt, that life can be a roller coaster of experiences and emotions which the Gospel of Luke shares the emotions, of two wondering Disciples who felt disappointed in what they had seen and witnessed.

An emotional rollercoaster awaits the despairing disciples as news travels from the empty tomb to two retreating disciples headed from Jerusalem to Emmaus. The two disciples have an encounter with Jesus, that is not only life changing but leaves them understanding that no matter what life brings us, Jesus is always right beside us.



EASTER  
J. D. GREEAR

#### From the book of Matthew...

The resurrection is the most important moment in history, but it is more than an event we remember on Easter Sunday. Join pastor J.D. Greear as he takes a deeper look at Jesus's life, death, and resurrection in the Gospel of Matthew, revealing the ways we should see ourselves in Jesus's story.

Jesus died for us so that he could be alive in us today. Easter changes everything.

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR KINGSTON

# COLLEGE GATHERINGS

4TH SUNDAY EVERY MONTH

6:00 - 8:00PM  
DINNER + FELLOWSHIP + HANGOUT



In 2024, we are starting gatherings for all of our college age students. We will meet on the 4th Sunday of every month, at different church member's homes. Invite your friends and come for a free meal, fun, and fellowship!  
Text Holly to RSVP or to answer any questions (864-497-8246).



Our Kingston Kids making Prayer Bracelets for our toiletry bags that will go to the Shepherd's Table.



# Youth Sunday

(front LtoR) Lawton Broughman, Riles Hucks, Marcos Sanchez, Gabe Baxter, JP Courtney  
(back LtoR) Preston Sorensen, Jacob Bannan, Winn Hucks, Holly Bannan, Caroline Hogue

*Holy Week 2024*

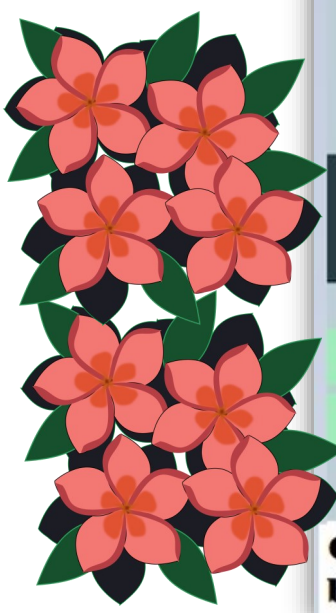
|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b><u>Palm Sunday</u></b></p> <p>9:45am<br/>Pray-n-Play</p> <p>10:30am<br/>Worship</p> | <p><b><u>Maundy Thursday</u></b></p> <p>7:30pm<br/>Maundy Thursday Service</p> | <p><b><u>Good Friday</u></b></p> <p>12:15pm<br/>Good Friday Service</p> | <p><b><u>Easter Sunday</u></b></p> <p>7:00am<br/>Sunrise service</p> <p>9:45am<br/>Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>10:30am<br/>Worship</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

# Women's Ministry

**KINGSTON LASSIES** don't miss the event below and if paying by check, please make payable to **Rock N Roots Plant Co.**

**MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY**

Join us March 4th at 7pm in the KB to continue *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. This study is open to all women!!



## Spring Succulent + Flower Wreath Workshop

**Rock N Roots**  
with **Roots Plant Co.**

**Monday, March 18**  
**6:00 pm - 8:00pm**

class includes:  
live instruction  
plants + decor

\*plants may vary based on availability

Event will be held in the Gore House.

**Cost is \$61 for a 14" wreath. All reservations and fees must be made to the Church Office by March 1, 2024.**



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Erin Marsh  
John Bittle
- 2 Jan Dieter  
Mary Wilson
- 3 Forrest Beverly  
Wilson Harry
- 6 Lawton Broughman
- 7 Carol Gilroy
- 9 Theodosia Carter
- 10 Steve Redding
- 22 Johnny Dennis  
Paul Lawson
- 26 Susan McMillan  
Paul Brown
- 27 Ford Courtney
- 28 John Hammonds  
Howell "Wells"  
Sorensen
- 29 Joanne Delahaut



## WACCAMAW YOUTH CENTER BIRTHDAYS

If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Cathy Beverly.

For one of the boy's birthdays, you will need to bring a homemade cake, a tub of ice cream, 16 candles, 16 napkins, 16 plates and potato chips.



The following are immediate needs CAP has as they can't get from their main source (Lowcountry Food Bank) :

- Tomato Soup
- Canned Chicken
- Jelly (Plastic Jars)
- Grits
- Cereal
- Canned Pasta

## MARCH VOLUNTEERS

**Head Usher:**  
Ron Whittington

**Ushers:**  
Press Courtney  
Bill Hazen  
Emily Eicher

**Counters:**  
Teresa Hardee  
Cathy Beverly

### Weight Watchers Workshops

are reopening in our church starting the week of February 18, 2024!!!

The schedule will be the same; **Tuesdays at 6:00PM first Workshop on February 20**, and **Saturdays at 9:00AM, first Workshop February 24**. Workshops will be held at the **same location**; *The Kingston Education Center, 907 Third Avenue, Conway, SC 29526.*

*Please share this info with your family members and friends that you think would be interested. Weight Watchers has been voted once again the number one Diet Program by US News & World Report, and the number one program doctors recommend to help manage your weight health.*

Monica N. Galea



# MARCH 2024

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat       |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|-----------|
|   |  |  |   |  | <b>1</b><br>Youth<br>Breakfast<br>@ 7am&8:15  | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3</b><br>Sunday School<br>9:30am<br>Worship<br>Service@10:30am<br>Covered Dish   | <b>4</b> Altar Guild<br>@ 10am<br>ASL class 6pm<br>in Gore House<br>KPW Bible<br>Study @ 7pm | <b>5</b><br>Youth to serve<br>at Shepherd's<br>Table<br>4-5:30pm | <b>6</b><br>Wed Night<br>Supper @<br>6pm in FH<br>Choir @ 7:15                            | <b>7</b><br>Lenten<br>Luncheon @<br>Noon at St.<br>Anne's<br>Episcopal<br>Church                                       | <b>8</b><br>Youth<br>Breakfast<br>@ 7am &<br>8:15   | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>10</b><br>Sunday School<br>9:30am<br>Worship Service<br>@10:30am<br>w/Communion  | <b>11</b><br>CE Mtg @ 2:30<br>in Parlor<br>ASL class 6pm<br>in Gore House                    | <b>12</b><br>Diaconate<br>Mtg @ 6pm in<br>KB                     | <b>13</b><br>Wed Night<br>Supper @<br>6pm in FH<br>Kingston Kids<br>6-7pm<br>Choir @ 7:15 | <b>14</b><br>Lenten<br>Luncheon @<br>Noon at St.<br>James<br>Catholic<br>Church  | <b>15</b><br>Youth<br>Breakfast<br>@ 7am &<br>8:15  | <b>16</b> |
| <b>17</b><br>Churchwide Breakfast<br>@ 9:15am in FH<br>Worship<br>Service@10:30am<br>KPW Coord. Mtg @ 3   | <b>18</b><br>ASL class 6pm<br>in KB<br>Kingston<br>Lassies @ 6pm<br>In GH                    | <b>19</b><br>Session Mtg @<br>6pm in KB                          | <b>20</b><br>Wed Night<br>Supper @<br>6pm in FH<br>Kingston Kids<br>6-7pm                 | <b>21</b><br>Lenten<br>Luncheon @<br>Noon at<br>Trinity United<br>Methodist<br>Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry<br>@ 6pm in KB | <b>22</b><br>Youth<br>Breakfast<br>@ 7am &<br>8:15  | <b>23</b> |
| <b>24 PALM SUNDAY</b><br>Sunday School 9:30am<br>Pray-n-Play @ 9:45am<br>Worship<br>Service@10:30am   | <b>25<br/>HOLY<br/>WEEK</b><br>ASL class 6pm<br>in Gore House                                | <b>26<br/>HOLY<br/>WEEK</b>                                      | <b>27<br/>HOLY<br/>WEEK</b><br><br>NO SUPPER  | <b>28<br/>HOLY<br/>WEEK</b><br><br><b>Maundy<br/>Thursday<br/>Service w/<br/>Communion<br/>At 7:30pm</b>               | <b>29<br/>HOLY<br/>WEEK</b><br><br><b>Good<br/>Friday</b><br><br>Youth<br>Breakfast<br>@ 7am &<br>8:15<br><br>Good Friday<br>Service @<br>12:15pm | <b>30</b> |
| <b>31 EASTER</b><br>Easter Sunrise Service<br>@ 7:00am<br>Sunday School<br>@ 9:30am<br>Easter Egg Hunt<br>@ 9:45am<br>Easter Worship<br>Service@10:30am |  |  |   |  |   |           |



# Lenten Lunches

Thursdays | 12:00 - 1:00pm

February 22

Kingston Presbyterian Church  
Speaker: Rev. Kyle Randle

March 14

St. James Catholic Church  
Speaker: Rev. Emily Kirby

February 29

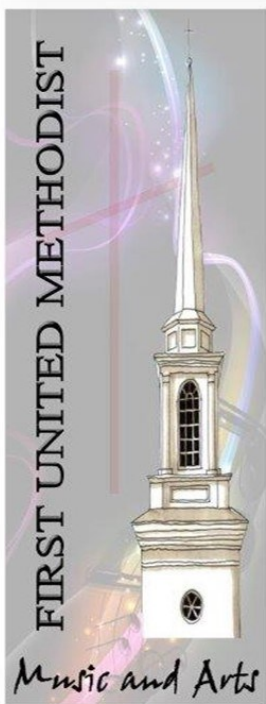
First United Methodist Church  
Speaker: Rev. Bill McCown

March 21

Trinity United Methodist Church  
Speaker: Father Oscar Borda

March 7

Saint Anne's Episcopal Church  
Speaker: Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.



## Lenten Organ Meditations

Wednesdays during Lent  
FREE CONCERTS @ Noon



First United Methodist Conway and Grand Strand Chapter of American Guild of Organists will co-sponsor Lenten Organ Meditations on Wednesdays at Noon during Lent in the Sanctuary.

The Organists are:

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| February 21 | Billy Fallaw,  |
| February 28 | Jessica Eaton  |
| March 6     | Kevin Uppercue |
| March 13    | Jim Hepler     |
| March 20    | Billy Fallaw   |

**A free event.**

# Kingston Kids + Youth



Preschool + Young Children choir will be processing in on Palm Sunday and will be singing the introit. Be here by 10:00am no March 24 to practice.

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Sunday, March 31  
9:45am

**March Pray-n-Play**

Sunday, March 24th | 9:45am  
PALM SUNDAY

**YOUTH**  
friday morning  
breakfast - NEW schedule

**7:00AM**  
MIDDLE + HIGH  
(ANYONE WITH 8:15 TARDY BELL)

**8:15AM**  
JUNIORS + SENIORS  
(ANYONE WITH LATE ARRIVAL)

**RSVP!**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL HANGOUTS**

Calling all Middle School students! Once a month, invite all your friends and join us for an outing + fellowship.

March's activity:  
**Arcade Night @ Dave & Busters**

Friday 3/22  
4:00 - 7:00pm

#kingstonyouth