



# WEEKLY CHATTER

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**PASTOR NOTES**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026**



**Dear Family and Friends,**

As we enter the sacred days of Holy Week, we are invited to walk with Jesus, to the table, to the cross, and ultimately to the hope of the resurrection.

Good Friday confronts us with a difficult truth: the reality of suffering and death. In John 19:30, Jesus' final words from the cross are, "It is finished." At first, these words may sound like defeat. But in truth, they are a declaration of victory.

Death is not the end. On the cross, Jesus was not overcome, He was in control. He willingly gave His life, fulfilling God's plan for the salvation of the world. What appeared to be a moment of loss was, in fact, the completion of His mission. The cross was not an accident. It was purpose. It was love. It was triumph.

In these past years together, many have experienced loss and grief. They have shed tears and said goodbye to loved ones. Yet even in the sorrow, we hold onto this truth: God walks with us. In our suffering, He is present. In death, He offers new life.

Good Friday calls us not only to remember Jesus' sacrifice, but to respond to it.

To take up the cross means allowing our lives to be

transformed, reoriented toward the way of Christ. It is a call to humility, repentance, and faithful discipleship. It is a call to live not for ourselves, but for God's glory. We cannot truly celebrate Easter without first walking through Good Friday.

The cross reminds us that the path to resurrection is not found in avoiding suffering, but in trusting God through it. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed... struck down, but not destroyed." Even in hardship, God is at work, bringing life out of death.

This Holy Week, may we not approach the cross out of routine, but with open hearts. May we sit with its meaning, embrace its truth, and allow it to shape our lives.

Because of Jesus, we live in hope.

Death is not the end. The work is finished. And resurrection is coming.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Norma



**Holy Thursday Service:**  
**April 2nd, at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.**

**Good Friday Service:**  
**April 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

**Easter Egg Hunt:**  
**April 4th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon** on the church grounds and in the Family Life Center.

**REMEMBER TO BRING FLOWERS FOR THE EASTER CROSS.**

**Easter Sunday Services April 5<sup>th</sup>: Sunrise Service in the Columbarium at 7:00 a.m.**

**Traditional Easter Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**

**Covenant Sunday School at 11:00 in Room (#17) / Hybrid.**

**Small Group Gatherings at 11:11 a.m.**

**12:30 p.m. Servicio de Adoracion en el Santuario.**

**See you there!  
All are welcome!**

**The Church Office Will Be Closed On Easter Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**

**St. Andrew's Easter Egg Hunt is almost here.** Help make this a fun day for the children.

A sign up sheet will be passed around this Sunday during worship for ways to volunteer. Want to help decorate? Join us on **Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. Want to help on the hunt day with crafts, coloring, and more? Join us **Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. - noon.** Donations of individual wrapped candy, cup cakes, punch, and fruit are needed. Please drop off candy in the green bin located in the Narthex. Food may be left in the Emerywood kitchen refrigerator. Please mark food items for Easter Egg Hunt use. Thank you.



- 7 Isai Padilla
- 7 Maria Alvarado
- 8 Justin Johnson
- 9 Chris Picha
- 10 Stone Simpson

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**APRIL 5, 2026**

9:15 a.m.

Intercessory  
Prayer Service #18.

10:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary.

*"The Message of the Empty Tomb."*

*John 20:11-18*

11:11 a.m.

Small Group Gathering.

**NO YOUTH GROUP MEETING.**

**REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Closed on Friday.

**GIVE ONLINE/  
OFRENDAR EN LINE.**



**Our QR code will take you to SECURE GIVING/  
Nuestro código QR lo llevará a DONACIONES SEGURAS.**





# WEEKLY CHATTER

...CONTINUED



**PICKLEBALL!**

**WEDNESDAYS:**  
**APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup>,  
 22<sup>ND</sup>, AND 29<sup>TH</sup>.**  
**FROM 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER.**  
 Join us for loads of fun. All skill levels are welcome. Bring a friend. Please use the Emerywood Dr. entrance.

**FUNDRAISER!**  
**UMM Fish Fry and Holy "CRAP"**  
 (Church Rummage and Purpose Sale)  
**FISH FRY!** **Holy CRAP SALE!**

**YARD SALE**

**April 18th 7:00am - 2:00pm**

**Reserve a Parking Spot to Sell Your Items!**  
**Only \$10 per Parking Spot!**

You can reserve as many spots as you would like.

**For More Info or to Reserve a Spot:**  
 Contact Chris Picha @  
**704-340-3706**  
 or  
**Sweetss1@comporium.net**

## UNITED METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST.

All men are invited to breakfast and a time of fellowship here at St. Andrew's UMC. Feel free to bring a friend. Please see the following schedule for the breakfast dates for this year.



**8:00 - 10:00 a.m.**  
**One Saturday each month.**  
**Family Life Center**  
 April 18th & May 16th.  
**Gathering at Park Place Restaurant (PPR).**  
 June 20th, July 18th, & Aug. 15th.  
**Family Life Center**  
 Sept. 12th, Oct. 17th, & Nov. 14th.  
**PPR - December 12th.**

**BOOK CLUB MEETING.** Join us on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. as we discuss the book "The Book Club for Troublesome Women" by Marie Bostwick. We'll gather at the home of Nicole Campbell (1617 Lyndale Place, Charlotte, NC 28210). Please obtain the book on your own. All are welcome. Invite a friend.



## FROM THE DESK OF MUSIC TOM:



## Our Director of Music and Worship Arts, Tom Lyons, a/k/a Music Tom,

now has a weekly blog related to worship! Check out his musings by scanning here or the following church's website: [www.standrewsumc.com](http://www.standrewsumc.com).



## DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE?

Share your happy news with us. Please send any pictures and information that we may post in the Chatter. Email Patti Huss at: [churchchatter@standrewsumc.com](mailto:churchchatter@standrewsumc.com)

**PALM** *Hallelujah!*  
 Sunday

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS!

Sunday, March 29, 2026  
 Palm Sunday Worship Service.

