

The Shepherd's Voice

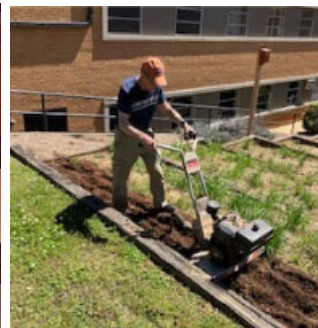


Volume 60, Issue 4

April 2024

Mountain Park United Methodist Church

He is Risen, Indeed



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Pastor's Corner

First, I would like to wish you a happy, happy Easter! Easter, of course, is the celebration of resurrection, for through the resurrection, Jesus revealed his identity as our God and our Lord! Easter is not just a day to be celebrated but a season for us to live into. Easter lasts for 50 days, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday! Easter Sunday is the highest holy day of the year, and Easter season is the highest holy season for us. As long as

I am here as your pastor, Easter will always be the highest holy day and season for all of us here at Mountain Park! We are defined by Easter, we are Easter people!

I am tremendously grateful to our staff and many volunteers who came together to make the church look beautiful for Easter. I want to thank you for we had a record number of Easter lily orders. The Easter Egg Hunt led by Hope was a great success. Dr. David led the decorating of the sanctuary and Rev. Annakate, the Family Life Center. A special thanks goes to our hardworking staff, choir, Bonnie Baker, Elizabeth Brown, Terri Burnette, Dave Ernst, Nickie Ernst (her cousin, Sarah), JD and Austin Green, Helen Hogan, Betsy Jenkins, Will McKenzie, Iris Mull, Phil & Kathy Slaton, Kevin Soh, etc. I know there are people I am forgetting. Thank you! Your hard work paid off! Our church looked great and it was full of people! Thank you! I just cannot say 'thank you' enough. As you know, it was my first Easter at Mountain Park and it was just glorious! My heart is full!

I want to remind us in this season that Jesus, not only died and rose for our salvation so that we may have eternal life with him, but he also died and rose for our earthly life so that we may have abundant life here on earth. A life saturated with faith, hope, and love! In his death and resurrection, Jesus conquered physical, emotional, mental and spiritual death so that we may truly be resurrected from sin and death and live as His beloved. During this Easter season, I will be preaching on resurrection and what resurrection means for us physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually! Easter magnifies God's forgiveness and love and our joy in Christ and zest for life!

Please pray for me as I prepare for these sermons. As you know, Sunday comes every 7

days! 😊

Hallelujah! Happy Easter!
Pastor Millie





Hope's Highlights



March was an extremely busy and successful month for MPUMC Fam Min! Our youth enjoyed a weekend retreat at Camp Glisson with amazing worship and even better fellowship. The next weekend, we hosted a community Egg Hunt in the FLC to kick off our Easter celebrations. We are so grateful for all the volunteers that made these events possible, and for our amazing youth and kids that make everything we do such a blast! We're looking forward to wrapping up the school year on a positive note in the coming weeks.



Lunches of Love - Backpack Buddies

Each week Lunches of Love partners with Backpack Buddies to provide weekend food for elementary school children who don't have enough to eat at home. We have had a waiting list since the very beginning and we just got approved for an increase from 100 to 200 children each week!

Volunteers coordinate pick up and delivery of the food, and a larger volunteer group meets on Thursday's at 6:30pm in the Family Life Center to assemble 13-14 non-perishable items into 200 individual bags of food.

This month we were able to provide a "Spring Break" treat bag for each child in the school. Each bag had several candy and toy filled eggs as well as a stuffed animal (which had been collected and donated by a Girl Scout troop.)

12 volunteers went to the school and assembled the 500 treat bags in the cafeteria during lunch time. As the first group of kids came in they jumped up and down, chanting, "the Easter Bunny was here!" "Look what he brought us!" Over and over again.

As the students finished their lunch they filed by the hundreds of brightly colored bags, choosing the one they wanted. We watched as they hugged their new stuffed animal tightly to their chest. One by one, they repeated "thank you" to each of the 12 volunteers.

If you are looking for a way to serve others, we'd love to have you join us. Please sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/BPBMA>





"A Peek at Preschool"

We have had a tremendous "March" into Spring. Our littles learned some great hymns and springtime songs for our performance at Pastries with my Peeps. Hope and Nicole have done an amazing job with music and dance across this year and they have made this year amazing. Thank you to our almost 30 volunteers that showed up for the playground clean-up. We had a remarkable turnout from church staff, trustees, congregation members, preschool families and scouts and we spread mulch in a record 45 minutes and also cleaned up some fallen limbs around the playground. This clean-up was just in time for beautiful weather and egg hunts and a lot of fun to come during April.

Preschool week at MPUMC is just around the corner- April 21 - 27. On Sunday, April 21st, we invite all our preschool families to attend service at 11am. They will perform the songs that they learned for our earlier performance. Wednesday, April 25th will be a special preschool friendly Wednesday Night Dinner. We have another delicious Spirit Night on Thursday, April 25th from 5pm - 8pm at Brusters Ice Cream off Five Forks Trickum. Finally, we will conclude the week with **Party Like a Preschool on Saturday, April 27th from 10am - 1pm.** This is a family friendly community event with music, food, games, and a tremendous silent auction that you will not want to miss. Wesley and the Ridge Riders will be performing, Huck's Barbeque will be serving up BarBQ sandwiches. Silent auction will have theme baskets, sporting tickets, and local merchant gifts. All proceeds will continue to support the efforts of the preschool to create an outdoor learning classroom over this summer.

This is a very exciting month and we can't wait to worship with you and play with you all through April.

Sincerely, Beth McWilliams



Sermon Series: True Resurrection

4/7/24 Series #1 "Resurrection and the Body" Luke 24:36-49, Communion Sunday

4/14/24 Series #2 "Resurrection and the Mind" Ephesians 2:1-10

4/21/24 **Unified Service**- Rev. Dr. Annakate Rawles, preacher, Preschool Sunday, FLC

4/28/24 Resurrection and Suffering, Isaiah 53:1-6

5/5/24 **Unified Service** "Resurrection and Goodness" Mathew 28:16-20,
Confirmation Sunday, Sanctuary

5/12/24 "Mother's Love" 2 Samuel 2:1-10

5/19/24 "Wind and Fire", Acts 2:1-13, Pentecost

5/26/24 "In Remembrance" John 14:23-31, Memorial Day Weekend



Wednesday Night Dinner Menus

Menus are posted for April. Check this website:

<https://www.mountainparkumc.org/wnd>

Please sign up by Monday afternoon to help our Kitchen Staff plan for the meal. Drop-ins are always warmly welcomed.

Music Ministry - Good Friday & Easter Morning



Financial Update

- **Financials as of 3/31/24**
 - Operating Cash: \$ 154,272
 - Designated Cash: \$ 207,433
 - Total Cash on Hand: \$ 361,705

- YTD Revenues \$ 313,733
- YTD Actual Expenses \$ 270,544
- YTD Budget \$ 294,301

Finance Committee meeting - Tuesday, April 16th 6:30pm Youth Room
It is an open meeting.



Mission News

Announcing Honduras Mission Trip

September 7—15

Our church is organizing a mission trip to Honduras this year from September 7-15, 2024. Rev. Millie and Mike Leone will be leading the trip, and we are looking for volunteers to join the mission trip. We will be doing construction work and outreach in Jesus' name! Scholarship is available! Please let Mike Leone know if you are interested.



***April 21*— Unified Worship and Serve Sunday in the Family Life Center**

Join us for Preschool Sunday and Serve Sunday! There are projects for people of all ages.

***May 26*— Serve Sunday in Contemporary Worship followed by a**

Cookout for our whole church family!

Lunches of Love - Neighborhood Food Delivery

March was a busy month for our Lunches of Love Community! Church and community members donated hundreds of canned beans, tomatoes, and snacks. We added a bag of rice and a spice packet of carefully measured ingredients (bouillon, chili powder and dehydrated bell pepper) to make these ingredients into meal kits which could be prepared a couple of different ways with the recipes we provided. Over 100 pounds of chicken was donated. Monetary donations were used to purchase an additional 200 pounds of chicken and ground beef which were portioned and frozen. 30 portions of venison and elk were also donated by a church member (those were the most fun to distribute, usually to our more adventurous and more experienced cooks!)

On Saturday, March 30th we loaded a 26' truck with food. 30 Lunches of Love volunteers of all ages prepared to assist the families that were waiting in line. As we arrived at one of the neighborhoods a familiar mom took me aside and asked if she could speak with me. We were half a parking lot away from the long line of neighbors waiting for us to unload the tables and supplies from the truck. She was trembling as she whispered in my ear that both she and her sister's families were hungry. "My sister's family doesn't have any groceries at all." It crushed me a little to think that there was any question about whether or not we would help her. These 2 families are a part of the "working poor" whose income doesn't match up with their rent and food bills. Thankfully, when I had told our bread man that we couldn't afford bread for this outing, he donated 150 loaves.

May those of us who may sometimes feel forgotten be reminded of the renewed hope that comes with this Easter Season. May those of us who are searching find the Joy and happiness they are seeking. May those of us who may sometimes feel alone be reminded... You Are Loved!

Happy Easter Season! He is Risen!



Weekly Activities

<p style="text-align: center;">T u e s d a y</p> <p>10 AM-12 PM H.U.G.S- Parlor</p> <p>2 PM-Grief Support Group- Parlor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W e d n e s d a y</p> <p>5:30-6:30 PM-WND-FLC</p> <p>6:30-7:00 PM-A.R.C. Presentation-FLC</p> <p>6:30-7:15 PM-WAM-Kids and Youth</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">T h u r s d a y</p> <p>12:30- 2:00 PM - Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver's Support Group- Parlor</p> <p>6:00 PM- LOL WE CARE-FLC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">S u n d a y</p> <p>9:45 AM- Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM- Worship</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM- Sunday Night Youth- Youth Room</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">O T H E R D A T E S</p> <p>April 16 at 6:30 Finance Meeting</p> <p>April 21 at 11:00 AM for Unified Worship in the FLC</p> <p>April 25 at Brusters for Preschool Night</p>	<p>April 27 at 10 AM-1 PM for Party like a Preschooler</p>

SAVE THE DATES

May 4
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

June 9
MPUMC 60th
Anniversary Celebration

June 10-14
Vacation Bible School

July 7- 14
Appalachia Service Project

Sept. 7-15
Honduras Mission Trip



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser



May 4, 2024

Family Life Center
From 11:30 AM - 6:15 PM

Funds will go to the Kenya Mission Trip





Sponsored by:
FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE CIRCLE



HELPING SEVERELY NEGLECTED CHILDREN THRIVE

Many of these children have experienced significant trauma and multiple transitions and need stability before they can begin their healing journey. Unfortunately, children often arrive on campus with nothing but the clothes on their back.

Providing personal care items for teenagers is critical for their health, wellbeing, and confidence. This is a powerful first step in the healing process! Help us help these kids!

We are collecting hygiene items for these teens. Give in honor or memory of your mother.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Guest Speaker:

Gary MacDonald
Murphy Harpst Children's Home

All are welcome to attend!

EVENT DETAILS

MAY 7, 2024

3:00 PM YOUTH ROOM



1405 ROCKBRIDGE RD.,
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30087

**Last day to donate is
May 7th, 2024
Donation list is in the Narthex**

**For more information:
[mountainparkumc/events](https://mountainparkumc.org/events)**

Community Outreach



Atlanta Area Stamp Bourse
April 12 - 13

GwinnPex 2024 SPRING Stamp Show, hosted by Button Gwinnett Stamp Club, will be held April 12-13 at the Mountain Park United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 1405 Rockbridge Rd., Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087.

Show Hours:
Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



THE SOOP is a non-profit organization for individuals with developmental disabilities pursuing three core values: Life, Harmony, and Restoration. Each member comes with a paraprofessional and plays a string instrument. This concert is to raise funds for their tour this summer.

When: Saturday, April 27, 5pm
Where: Mountain Park United Methodist Church Sanctuary

Community Outreach

A poster for the Stone Mountain Chorus. At the top, there is a logo of a bird in flight and the text 'Stone Mountain CHORUS'. Below this, it says 'presents' and 'Notes of Spring' in a cursive font. The location is listed as 'Mountain Park United Methodist Church, 1405 Rockbridge Rd SW, Stone Mountain GA 30087'. The date and time are 'Saturday, May 4, 3:00 PM'. Ticket information includes 'Tickets online at www.StoneMountainChorus.org', '\$22 in advance, \$20 Senior/MPUMC Member, \$25 at the door', and 'Special Student Pricing'. There is a QR code on the right and a small logo for 'focus! Families of Children under Stress' at the bottom left.

Stone Mountain CHORUS presents *Notes of Spring*

Mountain Park United Methodist Church
1405 Rockbridge Rd SW
Stone Mountain GA 30087

With its Barbershop Quartets Saturday, May 4, 3:00 PM

Tickets online at www.StoneMountainChorus.org
\$22 in advance, \$20 Senior/MPUMC Member, \$25 at the door
Special Student Pricing

We support **focus!**
Families of Children under Stress



SUMMER DRAMA CAMP 2024 AGES 10-16 YEARS

Come this summer and get your groove on with "The Emperor's New Threads!" a fun-filled music, dance, and theater production where participants will learn how to do it all!

CAMP DETAILS:

June 17 - 21, 2024 from 12 PM - 3:30 PM daily

FRIDAY, June 21st SHOW is at 3:30 PM for family, friends, and the community!

LOCATION:

Mountain Park UMC
Youth Room
1405 Rockbridge Road,
Stone Mountain, GA 30047

REGISTRATION IS \$200.00

