



April 2020

# THE SELWYN SPIRE

Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church

2929 Selwyn Avenue Charlotte, NC 28209, Tel: 704-372-6836, [www.selwynpres.org](http://www.selwynpres.org)

## RETHINKING CHURCH

With great concern over the ever-changing health crisis, our Session and staff are adjusting and making plans on how we continue to be church together. SAPC is poised to claim courage, community, and abundance even now as we re-orient ourselves. For now our plans extend through April 5, and each week we will assess the days ahead.

- All in-person gatherings will cease until further notice, including Sunday School, studies, choirs, and socials.
- Worship will livestream on Facebook Live and Instagram Live at 10:30am each Sunday. A link for joining will be sent at 10:15am each Sunday via email and is available on our website.
- We will offer online gatherings, studies, and meetings through Zoom. Zoom is an easily accessible online platform and app. A schedule of links to online gatherings will be available on our website and via emails.
- We are diligently seeking tangible ways to sustain connectivity, including care, support, assistance for those in our community and for our mission partners at Montclair Elementary and Urban Ministry Center.

In keeping with recommended health guidelines, the staff will be adopting new ways of working. Although the church building may not be open, we are available. The best way to contact staff is via email. If you need to reach out by phone, you may call the church, 704-372-6836. Please listen to the instructions carefully and follow the prompts for leaving a voice message on the extension of the appropriate staff person.

- For pastoral care emergencies please leave a message on Reverend Raible's extension.

Your continued stewardship and pledges are much needed and celebrated as we navigate the weeks ahead.

We invite you to use our new **text to give** platform for giving. Instructions are below:

- Text 704-734-9818.
- Enter an amount.
- The first time you will be prompted to SHELBY to confirm set up.
- From then on, it is as easy as texting the amount to the number with or without a key word.
- Key words are:
  - GIVE (an offering to SAPC's general fund)
  - COVID (a special offering in response to the needs of Montclair Elementary and Urban Ministry Center)
  - 75 (a gift to the Roots and Wings fund)
- You DO NOT need a key word if you are giving to the 2020 annual fund.

Please look for updates via email and on the church website, [www.selwynpres.org](http://www.selwynpres.org).

You may also find the following community resources helpful:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Mecklenburg County Government](#)

[COVID 19 Contact Sheet](#)

March 18, 2020

Blessings and Peace in the name of Christ!

It has been a difficult and disorienting week, and we are grateful to all of you who have reached out in solidarity and faith. With the landscape of COVID-19 constantly shifting beneath our feet we might feel afraid, isolated or threatened by the news of scarcity. Even now, especially now, the Gospel calls us to re-orient ourselves toward courage, community, and abundance.

Could it be that the season of Lent has particular significance for us this year?

After all, we are being asked to give up a lot. Many are navigating vocational and financial instability, schooling, athletic and art events are halted, not to mention table fellowship, hugs, and basic human contact. Such uncertainty. Such grief.

“Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God.” Joel 2:12-13.

I wonder how we might engage God with our whole hearts? Lent has always been a season of commitment, spiritual discipline, and self-reflection. In Jesus’ sermon on the mount, Jesus addresses the practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving as ways to unity, freedom, and peace with God. Click [here](#) to read Matthew 6.

Lent calls us to re-order our lives with new and disciplined purpose, so does the Coronavirus. Create a sacred place in your home for prayer and study. Place all cell phones in a basket for one hour each evening. Schedule a daily walk or prayer time outside. Commit to a weekly Lenten church offering with money normally spent on school lunches or Starbucks.

For the next several days Selwyn’s website will present new pathways and invitations to connect, give, pray, and serve. We hope you will invite and include your friends near and far to join us.

Every week we will worship together on Facebook Live and Instagram Live at 10:30am. While many of us navigate the realm of social media with ease, it is new territory for some. Every week at 10:15am, you will receive an email with a short bulletin and a link to the service. We will also post a link to the recorded service on our website, [www.selwynpres.org](http://www.selwynpres.org).

Small Groups and Studies will gather on ZOOM, an online platform and mobile app. Response teams are also forming to coordinate our care for one another and Selwyn’s community partners at Montclair Elementary and Urban Ministries. Links to all online gatherings and response teams will be available on our website and in our weekly emails as they launch. For a tutorial on how to download and use ZOOM, please click [here](#).

Many of you have reached out in love and concern regarding our plans to celebrate with Rush as he transitions to retirement. Rest assured, we are planning to worship with Rush in a few months when we can all be together in our sanctuary again.

Lastly, our shared commitment to the church is as important now as it has ever been. These plans extend through the month of March, and each week we will assess the days ahead. Thank you for your patience, commitment, and flexibility. Along with our Parrish Associate, Lisa McLennan we are available to talk and listen along the way. Please reach out if you have a concern or need during the coming days.

With God’s Grace, Easter will come.



# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



## We welcome

Quin Abigail Black,  
daughter of Jeremy and Allison Black,  
born on March 11, 2020



Details will be addressed to finish inside building spaces.

Exterior work will continue as weather permits and crews are available.

The concrete for the front side walk and amphitheater was recently poured.

Thank you for your patience during this time.



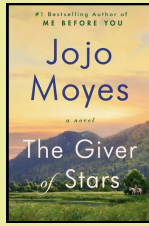
## MONTREAT CHURCH RETREAT UPDATE

Unfortunately we have to postpone our church-wide getaway until fall 2020, or early 2021. If you have already paid for your registration and would like a refund or to move the monies to your regular giving please contact accountant [Tonya Moore](#).

## SAPC BOOK CLUB

This month's selection is The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes.

Questions contact Beth Ramsey, 704-840-9433.



## In Nursing or Retirement Home

- Aldersgate - Dick Metzler
- Asbury Health Center - Dottie Metzler
- Carriage Club - Mildred Long, Herman Thomas
- Charlotte Square - La Melle Hagerty
- Genesis Salisbury - Margaret Cunningham
- Merrywood- Jo Caldwell
- Plantation Estates - Anne McMackin, Cara Munday, Anne Rutherford
- Sardis Oaks- Marie Pressley
- Sharon Towers - Richard and Joan Foad
- Southminster - Art Jones, Bobby Linn
- The Cypress - Bill and Nancy Budd, Bobby Davis, Olen and Nancy Smith
- Waltonwood Cotswold - Mary Faye Proctor



## BSA TROOP FUNDRAISER

Autobell gift cards are being sold for \$20 through April 20. Ten dollars will stay in the Troop to offset the cost of trips and equipment. If interested contact Joe Bentley or a Scout, as they will not be selling at church.

## Lent 2020

This Lenten season you are invited to make a contribution to the Agnes and Matt Lyle Flower Memorial Fund in memory or honor of a friend or loved one.

Please return this form and your check (payable to SAPC) to the church office and designate "Flower Memorial Fund" in the memo line of your check. **The deadline is Sunday, March 29.**

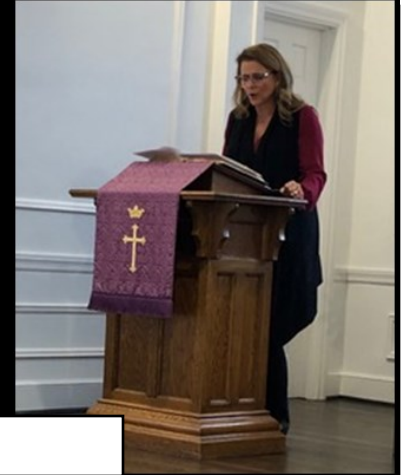
Your phone # \_\_\_\_\_ and email address \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of giver(s) \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

## WORSHIP



First Sunday of Worship on Facebook Live, March 15.



# MISSION

## CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR MISSION INVOLVEMENT

We are especially mindful of how we might best respond to ever evolving needs in areas related to children in need, hunger and homelessness.

Homelessness: We are focusing on immediate needs for the Urban Ministry Center. Their requests change daily and are [being updated on their website](#). For those interested in assisting, you can order directly from the Amazon list and ship it directly to Urban Ministry Center, or you can purchase wish list items and drop them in the plastic bin labeled Urban Ministry Center on the front porch of our church. Bins will be checked and deliveries made weekly on Mondays and Thursdays, 3pm.

Hunger and Children: We will initially focus on the children of Montclaire Elementary and their families. The Daughters of Faith quickly raised \$1000, purchased and delivered 100-\$10 Aldi gift cards for Montclaire families. We hope to give additional gift cards and food to families when students come to the school to get a chrome book for online learning. The school will be a lunch/breakfast pick up site for CMS students. In addition to regular meals, Monday through Thursday each week, this will provide opportunities for Aldi gift card and food distribution.

To assist, we ask you to continue to donate food items. The blue First Food Sunday bags will be on the front porch, as well as a bin to return your items on Mondays and Thursdays. Items will be picked up on Mondays and Thursdays at 3pm for delivery. You may donate \$10 gift cards or contribute additional funds via our website giving portals to buy additional cards.

Please email [Lisa McLennan](#) with questions or for ways to assist.



### LENTEN GIVING

A traditional Lenten discipline is to fast from something and to give the money we would have spent to the care of our neighbors as a way of reflecting God's mercy. Selwyn is designating this year's Lenten offering to go to our Appalachia Service Project (ASP) mission trip's building supplies this summer and for enrichment experiences at Montclaire Elementary School's new afterschool and summer Greater Enrichment Program (GEP). Collect coins or send a check to the Church designating Lenten Special Offering. You may also give to the Presbyterian Church USA "One Great Hour of Sharing" with designation on the memo line of your check.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION



We will offer online gatherings, studies, and meetings through Zoom. Zoom is an easily accessible online platform and app. A schedule of links to online gatherings will be available on our website and via emails.

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 19



### Vacation Bible School June 15 – June 19

- Three-Year Olds through rising Kindergarteners, 9am – 12noon at Selwyn. [Sign up](#).
- Rising First through Fifth graders 9am – 3:30pm at the Quarry - Carrigan Farms, Mooresville. [Sign up](#).

Prayer written by the children to offer the blessing at Room in the Inn.


Dear heavenly father, We thank you for this wonderful day that brought us all here. Thank you for this ~~amazing~~ food and ~~water~~ <sup>Drinks</sup>. Thank you for ~~the~~ the Springtime weather, the breeze in the air, and the smiles on everyone's faces. We bless this delicious food and dessert. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- |   |   |   |  |                                    |
|---|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Jack McCormick  | 8 Carly Arrington<br>Sally Moore<br>Ford Smith                | 16 Will Harris<br>Sarah Skibinski<br>Carol Yarbrough                          | 23 George Dewey<br>Ashley Ellis<br>Joyce Greene<br>Jen Johnson                   | 29 Graham Cooper<br>Charles Harris |
| 2 Marsha Cooper<br>Welch Liles<br>Henry Widmer                  | 9 Joe Darsey  | 17 Jo Caldwell<br>Travis Parsons  | 24 Sutton Stark<br>Elizabeth Stearns<br>Helen Whitesides                         | 30 Will Hoskins<br>Ben Phillips    |
| 3 Joe Bentley<br>Tom Moore<br>Meg Peebles                       | 11 Alex Dewey<br>Josh Ollek<br>Evie Tom                       | 19 Jane Elrod<br>Alex Flowers<br>Daniel Smith<br>Aiping Ying                  | 26 Bill Davison<br>Clark Spencer   |                                    |
| 4 John Barkley<br>Faith Gibson<br>Adam Lindsey<br>Rachel Walker | 13 Stephen Zande  | 20 Kim Lee  | 267 Norah Bolewitz<br>Vivian Randall   |                                    |
| 6 Jonathan Haruta   | 14 Renita Boykin<br>Sam Howard<br>Roger Mills<br>Curtis Scott | 21 Allison Black<br>Leah Lowe<br>Jay Masanotti<br>Amelia Masanotti<br>Ray Tom | 28 Jill Cann<br>Julie Harris<br>Chuck Martin<br>Charlie Pfeifer<br>Traver Stuart |                                    |
| 7 John Lemmon<br>John Sutton                                    | 15 Dean Byers<br>Meredith McCormick<br>Monroe Tan             | 22 Jon Byers<br>Watson Phifer   |  |                                    |



## CALENDAR



Sunday Morning Worship we will livestream on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) Live at 10:30am.

For those not on Facebook/ Instagram, we will email a link to members each Sunday at 10:15am to join. It is also available on our website.

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Zoom is an easily accessible online platform and app.

A schedule of links to online gatherings will be available on our website and via emails.

Youth Groups Online

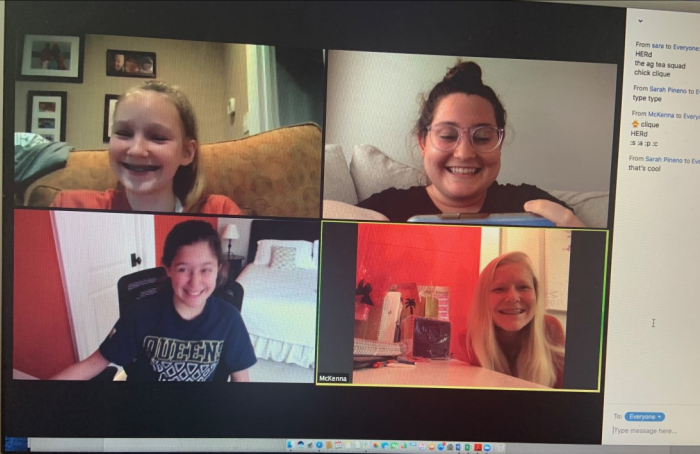
Margo will send Zoom links via email and post to Instagram.

Youth Bible Study, Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm

Confirmation Class, Sundays, 4-4:45pm to discuss faith statements and the big questions.

Sunday Online Youth Group, Sundays, 5-6pm to play online games.

# YOUTH NEWS



Margo and members of the Youth Group online.

All meetings will take place on Zoom. To access, please see Margo's youth email with the Zoom links, meeting IDs and passwords.

- Thursday Bible Study, 5:30pm
- Sunday PM Youth Group, 5-6pm (Online Games & More!)
- Sunday Confirmation, 4-4:45pm (Discuss Faith Statements & the Big Questions)

Montreat Conference Registration: July 11-18  
\$200 Deposit due March 31. Balance due April 24.  
Register with [Margo](#)

ASP Registration: June 14-20  
\$200 Deposit due March 31. Balance due April 24.  
Register with [Margo](#)

**YOUNG ADULT CHECK IN** Join Margo and Lisa for an online Happy Hour, Wednesday, March 25 with a 5-7pm drop-in time on Zoom.

## SAPC STAFF

Lori Raible, *Pastor*

Lisa McLennan, *Parish Associate*

Kim Lee, *Director of Children's and Family Ministries*

Fred Spano, *Director of Music*

Gay Pappin, *Organist*

Margo Richardson, *Director for Youth/Young Adults*

Marsha Cooper, *Church Administrator*

Lawson Caldwell, *Administrative Assistant*

Tonya Moore, *Church Accountant*

Reba Hardaway, *Accounting Administrative Assistant*

Jessica Masanotti, *Communications Specialist*

Steve Stevenson, *Facilities Coordinator*

Beth Sharpe, *Director of Child Development Center*

## GROUP CHAIRS

*Administration* - Matt Baskerville

*Child Development Center* - Jamie Yearwood

*Christian Education and Formation* - Erin Mills

*Congregational Life* - Emily Battle

*Mission* - Ashley Armistead/Meg Dewey/Allison Tibe

*Worship* - Pam Brownlee

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