

# The Edge

Edgefield Methodist Church Newsletter

Estel Williams – Pastor

Suzanne Whittaker, Associate Pastor

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April 2026

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Greetings from the Pastor. As we welcome April, Easter is on the way. We will hear the shouts of He Is Risen as we watch the sun rise on Easter morning. We will continue to praise his name with singing and preaching as we gather for Easter Sunday worship services. We will leave worship and convene with family and friends for a delicious Easter Sunday meal. Some will even finish off the afternoon with egg hunts and some old fashion Carter County egg fights. In other words, a day of celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. What a great day and what a celebration, but how did we get to this day? Yes, it might sound like a broken record but you hear this each year from your Pastor. You cannot truly celebrate Easter and the resurrection without first going to the cross. The week before Easter was an event filled week for our Lord and Savior Jesus. From the entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday with loud shouts of praise and acceptance. To the turning point away by Friday that sent him to the cross. The last meal with his disciples, the prayer in the garden, the betrayal by one of his own, the mock trial, the beating, and then a cruel execution on an old rugged cross. Oh my goodness, what Jesus went through for us. With all that physical pain he also carried the sin of the world on his shoulders and became the sacrificial lamb that takes yours and my sins away. What a week. From joy to sorrow and then back to a joy beyond compare. Yes, bring the roof off the place on Easter Sunday but he sure to go to the cross. I can promise you if you do so when the sun comes up on Easter Sunday morning your heart will be filled with thankfulness and the joy of the Resurrection.

MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU

PASTOR ESTEL



- **Apr. 2 – 7:30 pm** – Maundy Thursday Service in Sanctuary.
- **Apr. 4 – 10:00 am-1:00 pm** - The Edgefield Ladies Group will be having their "Easter Bake Sale" at JD Metals (beside Bojangles).
- **Apr. 4 – 4:00 pm** – Children's Easter Egg Hunt at Edgefield CLC.
- **Apr. 5 – 7:00 am** - Sunrise Service at CLC
- **Apr. 5 – 8:30 & 10:30 am** – Easter Services

## “Recognized in the Breaking of the Bread” (Luke 24:13–35)

In the Gospel of Luke we read how two disciples are walking on the road to Emmaus, weighed down by the events leading up to and including the crucifixion. Jesus comes alongside them—but they don’t recognize Him. As they walk along the road together He teaches. *Still, their eyes remain closed.* It isn’t until they sit at the table, when He takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them, that suddenly *their eyes are opened.* And just as quickly, He vanishes.

In this story, we see a deeply Wesleyan truth: God is always reaching toward us before we even realize it. This is what John Wesley called *prevenient grace*—grace that goes before. Jesus was present on the road long before the disciples knew it. He was guiding, teaching, and stirring their hearts. They later say, “Were not our hearts burning within us?” That burning was grace at work.

But recognition came in a specific moment—in the breaking of the bread.

For Wesleyans, Communion is not just a symbol or a empty ritual. It is a *means of grace*—a real, God-given way through which we encounter Jesus. Just as on the Emmaus road, with the breaking of bread, Christ takes the ordinary and does something extraordinary.

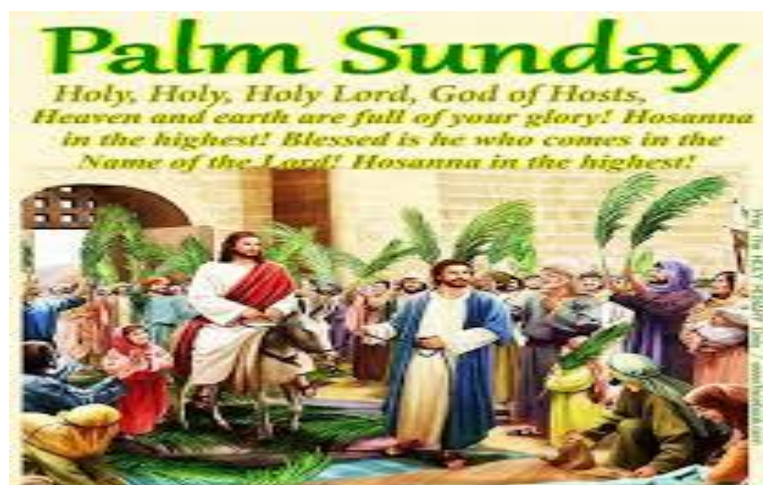
At the Table, we experience *justifying grace*—the assurance that we are forgiven and reconciled to God. In the liturgy we hear again that Christ’s body was broken and His blood poured out *for us.* And we also encounter *sanctifying grace*—the ongoing work of God shaping us – transforming us -into Christ’s own likeness. Communion nourishes our souls, strengthens our faith, and rekindles that “burning heart.”

Notice, too, what happens after the disciples recognize Jesus: they immediately return to Jerusalem to share the good news. **Encounter leads to mission. Grace received becomes grace shared.**

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see You—on the road, in Your Word, and at Your Table. Kindle our hearts, renew our faith, and send us out to share Your love. Amen.

Pastor Suzanne



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Congratulations to Ashley and Brandon Minton on their wedding on March 7, 2026.

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Sympathy is extended to Patty Williams and Family in the death of her brother, Buster Cox.

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Sympathy is extended to the Margaret Barnes Family.

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Sympathy is extended to Ivy Smith and Family in the death of Howard Smith, Jr.

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Congratulations to Madilena Keesee and Preston Absher on the birth of Elijah Eldon Jude Absher born on Jan. 28, 2026. Elijah was 10 lbs. 8 ozs. and 21 ½ ins. long.

Proud grandparents are Martha Oliver Ballard, Preston Keesee, and Jennie Absher.

Great grandparents are Marilyn Oliver and Johnny and Sarah Dillow.

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The Chosen Series 5: The following dates will be reserved for The Chosen. Study guides will be provided for those who would like them. March 29 (E2): 2-3 pm, April 19 (E3): 2-3 pm, May 3 (E4): 2-3 pm, May 17 (E5): 2-3 pm, May 31 (E6): 2-3 pm. There are 8 episodes in this season; the remaining two have not been scheduled. These will be shown in the CLC Classroom.

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**Apr. 18 – 5:30-7:00 pm - Bingo Night!** One card for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.

Cookies and drinks provided. Lots of great prizes, including two –black-out \$50 gift cards or one \$100 black out gift card. Proceeds from this event will assist Aly Whittaker’s journey to Africa and any expenses not covered by the Mid-South Global Methodist Church. Children 12 and under will be able to play three games with one free card.

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**STATISTICS: February Averages**

Worship – 113

Sunday School – 46

Average Budget Offering - \$13, 077.00

(Needed – \$5,518.00 weekly)

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**MEMORIALS:**

In Memory: **Margaret Barnes**

By: Pat Tester

In Memory: **Warren Torbett**

By: Pat Tester

In Memory: **Warren Torbett**

By: Tom & Polly Torbett

In Memory: **Warren Torbett (Food Pantry)**

By: Helen Houston

Vesta Zimmerman

Dwight & Pam King

John & Jan Weaver

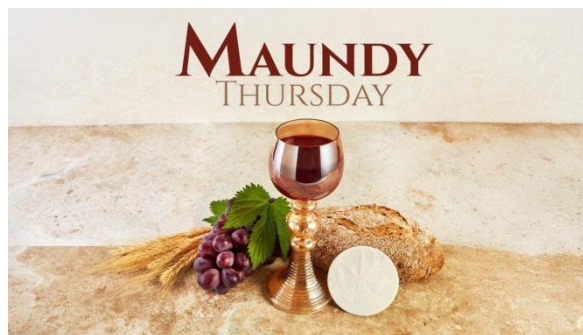
Val & Mary Lee Heil

James & Teresa Oler

John Roberts Family

Travis Hurley, Dayla Hurley, Stacie Davis, Jen Buttry, Jill Rawls, Cindy Saylor

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**Apr. 1 - 7:00 am** – Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles

**Apr. 2 – 7:30 pm** – Maundy Thursday Service

**Apr. 4 – 10:00 am-1:00 pm** - The Edgefield Ladies Group will be having their "Easter Bake Sale" at JD Metals (beside Bojangles).

**Apr. 4 – 11:30 am -1:00 pm** - Howard Smith Jr.’s visitation and 1:00 pm Memorial at Edgefield

**Apr. 4 – 4:00 pm** – Children’s Easter Egg Hunt

**Apr. 5 – 7:00 am** - Sunrise Service at CLC

**Apr. 5 – 8:30 & 10:30 am** – Easter Services

**Apr. 11 – 10:00 am** – Women’s Meeting in CLC

**Apr. 12 - 2:00-4:00 pm** – Card Ministry @ Dawn Tuck’s Home (906 Denvers Lane)

**Apr. 12 – 2:00 pm** – Meeting of Team Leaders for Meal Ministry in CLC

**Apr. 17 – 10:15** – Food Pantry Unload

**Apr. 18 – 8:30 am** – Food Pantry Distribution

**Apr. 18 – 5:30-7:00 pm - Bingo Night!** One card for \$5.00

or 3 for \$10. Cookies and drinks provided. Lots of great prizes, including two –black-out \$50 gift cards or one \$100 black out gift card. Proceeds from this event will assist Aly Whittaker’s journey to Africa and any expenses not covered by the Mid-South Global Methodist Church. Children 12 and under will be able to play three games with one free card.

**Apr. 19 – After Worship** - “Table for One?” at Chef Alfredo’s in Piney Flats

**Apr. 19 – 2:00 pm** – The Chosen E-2 in CLC

**Apr. 19 – 4:00 pm** – Evangelism Committee Meeting in CLC

**Apr. 19 – 5:00 pm** – Mission Team Meeting in CLC

**Apr. 24 – 10:15** – Food Pantry Unload

**Apr. 26 - After Worship** - “Table for One?” at Chef Alfredo’s in Piney Flats

**Every Monday, Tuesday – 12:00-3:00 pm** – Saturday – 9 -11:00 am – Quilting for the Homeless

**\* Every Wednesday:**

**9:00 am** – Mayberry Bible Study (CLC)

**10:30 am** – Dulcimer Jam Session

**6:00 pm** – III John Bible Study in CLC & On-Line

**6:30 pm** – Youth Adults (bi-weekly)

**7:00 pm** – Choir Practice

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Cole Fleeman	3
Kaleb Hazelwood	3
Patty Williams	7
Jim Hope	7
Kathy Hurlbert	8
Mary Lee Heil	9
McKinley Casasola	10
Teresa Oler	10
Mason Johnson	14
Jeff Hyder	15
Sam Reed	17
Kristie Yeomans	19
Cade Fleeman	21
Casey Hodge	21
Hayleigh Minton	22
Sam Voorhees	23
Kellie Whitehead	24
Nancy Little	28
Mitchell Weaver	29



Gary & Evelyn Hunt	1
Bodey & Teri Fox	2
Mike & Kathy Chapman	22
Jack & Kathy Hurlbert	27
Randy & Trish Shipley	30

## **LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER**

Mary Beth Sidebottom	Judy Carver	Middle East
Charles Arnold	Eric Hughes	Debi Beverly
Shane Malone	Angie Blevins	Mike Garland
Carol Williams	Jeff Sluss	Patty Travers
Jane Howell	Rhonda Moore	Deana Davis
Dickie Matney	Ted Chapman	Sherry Pless
Anne Whittemore	Diane Whaley	Jim Hearn
Roger Davis	Joe Lee Hughes	
Stacy Fox	Tallulah & Belle Bright	
Bill Sawyers	Nancy Broyles	
Tom Pruitt	Alyson Arrington	
Beth Hearn	Robert Davidson	
Jean Oliver	Marina Williams	
Sherry Hensley	Chris Trivette	
Marshall Lineberry	Francine Dickinson	
Pat O'Neill	Martha Leonard	
Johnnie Lee Smith	Becky Chapman	
Ava Cox	Rhonda Haverlack	
Henry Sheldon	Reba Anderson	
Andy Wilhoit	John Bradshaw Family	
Martha Oliver Ballard	Bessie Hale Family	
Keith & Nancy Wilson	Beth Baker Family	

## **Homebound**

Betty Berry	Betty Birdwell	Eleanor Ensley	Carol Fox
Betty Hale	Sam O'Dell	Stan & Earlene Strouth	

## **Nursing Homes/Assisted Living**

Pete Carrier.....Dominion Senior Living of Bristol, 425 Shelby Lane, Room 180, Bristol, TN 37620

Lynne Deakins....Greystone Healthcare Center, 181 Dunlap Road, Blountville, TN 37617

Trula Hodge.....Dominion Assisted Living, Room 223, 2412 Knob Creek Road, Johnson City, TN 37604

Phyllis King.....Dominion Senior Living of Bristol, 425 Shelby Lane, Bristol, TN 37620

Rena Lewis.....Princeton Assisted Living, 401 Princeton Road, Room 309, Johnson City, TN 37601

Pauline Oliver.....NHC Healthcare, 3209 Bristol Hwy., Room 312, Johnson City, TN 37601

Jean Sartain.....NHC Healthcare, 3209, Bristol Hwy., Room 142, Johnson City, TN 37601