



**“But forget all that – it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.
For I am about to do something new. See I have already begun!
Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness.
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”
–Isaiah 43:18–19, New Living Translation**

The above was said by God as a promise to the Israelites as they waited for 150 years for things in their lives to change. The Babylonians in 586 B.C. invaded Jerusalem and not only destroyed the Temple but totally annihilated Jerusalem. In the writings of Josephus, he writes that Jerusalem was so destroyed that the Babylonians even plowed up the street, leaving nothing uncovered that they had not destroyed. Through Isaiah, God was reminding the Israelites of how God rescued them from Egypt in the past. But God was also saying the Exodus event was nothing compared to what God was getting ready to do among them.

Christians celebrate Easter in the Spring for a reason. It is the time when the created world around us begins to change. What at one time seemed to be dead not only comes alive, but new growth happens, and life is restored and resurrected. We usually do not think of Easter as a time to celebrate our blessings – we hold that for Thanksgiving. However, Easter should be a time of celebrating new life and growth, as well – especially from the times when we thought nothing good would ever come from this again. Like the Israelites, the church has been there too – with COVID and disaffiliation seemingly happening simultaneously. With both, we lost friends and loved ones. In short, we have been in the wilderness for a few years, thinking that not only was our past greater than our future, but we were not even sure if we had a future. We were not sure where or how we were going to move forward, much less get to a Promised Land.

Church, God is doing a new thing among us! So, celebrate this Easter with the signs of not only growth, but resurrection happening at Sedge Garden UMC. First, there are many signs of God working. There are also affirmations that we are heading in the right direction toward what God has always promised us. And those promises are being fulfilled. As we, like the Israelites, remain obedient and faithful in taking the steps God is leading us in. Not because we know all the details, but because we believe in God's promises despite what has been or even what we can only see or believe in.

A resurrection and renewal are happening at Sedge Garden UMC! This is the direction we are being led by God to take. First, our average attendance for 2024 was 160 for both services. This is up significantly from previous years, but so far 2025 is incredible! Our online views have gone from an average of 353 views to 753 views each week. So far this year, 3,703 people have watched our First Fruits Service, and 4,583 people have watched the Traditional Service. In addition, our average Sedge Garden Kids are 15 children; and there are 15 youth each week. However, the exciting news is that this year there are 10 Confirmands within that group. Also exciting is the fact that the Preschool enrollment is up and pre-enrollment for both the Summer and Fall classes are also up. In fact, most classes are filling up quickly or are already full. Meaning – unlike the Israelites – we are not going to have a generational gap. We are passing on the promises to the next generation. And to make sure of that promise, we have started having Chapel Time with the preschool, as well.

At Sedge Garden UMC, we are not stopping just to smell the daisies. New ministries are flourishing and helping resurrect and renew the church, as well. The Bus Ministry is now rolling along (pun intended). We are picking up residents from Arbor Ridge and soon we will be going to Kerner Ridge. In addition, many of the homebound are receiving monthly Holy Communion as volunteers are going out and ministering to them. Coffee Connections have started to help bring all generations together so not only can relationships be built, but stories of life experiences can be shared, and traditions can be passed down.

There is so much more that is happening and coming in the future. God is blessing us, but also preparing us for not only a revival, but a new resurrected life. Let us all come together and celebrate for God is doing a new thing and a new life has begun at Sedge Garden UMC – and it begins in each one of us.

*Love you all,
Pastor Keith*

Pastoral Care Notes

We extend ongoing prayers of petition for comfort and healing to the following:
Congregational Care Circle of Concerns

Shirley Ayers
Greg Roth

Landon Graham
Bryan Staley

Hope McClure
Ruth Tucker

Vince Murphy
Robin Weavil

...and prayers unspoken.

Homebound Friends, Nursing Home, Assisted Living & Independent Living Residents

Dare Burge

Nancy Ellison

Dot Sides

Pat Vogler

Zane Chandler (Arbor Ridge, Room 209)

Pratt Dunlap (River Landing, Colfax, Room HT107)

Hugh & Willie Hill (River Landing, Colfax, Room P301)

Becky Hines (Bermuda Commons, Advance, Rm 505B)

Carrie Lowe (Kerner Ridge, Room A-11)

Josephine Mathis (Arbor Ridge, Room 211)

Mary Lea Shreve (Kerner Ridge, Room A-1)

Mona Terrell (Room 17, 1560 Skeet Club Road,

High Point, 27265)

Sadie Weavil (Trinity-Elms, Clemmons, Room 402)

Evangeline Davis (Cadence, Huntersville, Room B9)

Linda Heath (Cadence, Wake Forest Senior Living,
Wake Forest)

Jenny Linville (Arbor Ridge, Room 110)

Bub & Karen Manning (Salem towne)

Patsy Rowell (Arbor Ridge, Room 218)

Peggy Smith (Arbor Ridge, Room 111)

Ruth Tucker (Arbor Ridge, Room 202)

Robin Weavil (Davie Nursing & Rehab Center)

Jerry Young (Chesapeake VA, 23322)

March Feature Member

Bryan Staley
5091 Oak Garden Drive
Kernersville, NC 27284

(DOB: 1.8.1949) Age: 76
Member since 1986 (39 years)



One of the nicest men ever in our church family is Bryan Staley. Among his many years with the Methodist Men, Bryan represents the best in everything Boy Scout related, having sponsored 35 Eagle Scouts over his 66 years with the scouts. As a scout, Bryan has completed 1,800 miles of the 2,200 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

Bryan recalls his favorite memory hiking "while a Boy Scout in Troop 307 in Greensboro: during a Patrol Leaders Council Meeting, our Scoutmaster, George Stentz, told us about the Francis Asbury Trail in the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. Francis Asbury, a Methodist Circuit Rider, used this trail to serve his churches. There was talk that we may hike that trail, but it never happened. During my service as Scoutmaster, our District in the General Greene Council sponsored a backpacking trek in October 1976 on the Asbury Trail. A few Scouts in the troop were interested, so we attended and had a good time. We decided to hike a section of the Appalachian Trail in 1977 and continued annually. It was all memorable. Hump Mountain in NC, a fantastic view as we approached it. On June 24, 1977, as we approached Locust Ridge lean-to, we noticed a lot of treetops that had snapped. Some Wilderness Trail Ministry hikers from SGUMC arrived at the lean-to after we did. Bob White was one of them. They went down to an area below the shelter to camp. Later in the evening a strong thunderstorm with high wind came through. A few of the girls in the group came up to the shelter to wait it out."


Bryan grew up in Greensboro, NC, and attended Gillespie Park from first grade to ninth. He played a baritone from 3rd to 9th grade. After moving, he attended Southeast High School in Guilford County, where he played a tuba and was a school bus driver. Bryan majored in Civil Engineering at NC State University in Raleigh. There he played a tuba in the concert band and a sousaphone in the marching band and joined Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, a national service fraternity. The purpose of the fraternity is "to assemble college students in a National Service Fraternity in the fellowship of principles derived from the Scout Oath and Scout Law of the BSA."

Bryan married his love, Margaret, at Core Creek Methodist Church in Beaufort, NC, on December 27, 1970. They have two children, Chris Staley (step-son) and Brittany Baynes, and five grandchildren. After college, he was employed with the NC State Highway Department Division 9 as an Assistant District Engineer. Next he became the Forsyth County Division 9 Maintenance Supervisor. Then he became the Division 9 Assistant Traffic Engineer. After taking a couple of tests in Raleigh, he became a Professional Engineer (PE). Afterwards, until retirement, Bryan was the Division 9 Traffic Engineer. Because he liked working there, he worked part-time about 9 years after retiring with employees who previously worked for him.

When asked what his most treasured accolade he ever received was, Bryan stated two: "First, when Doug Watts presented him with the Methodist Church Cross and Flame Award, and secondly, when the Scout Hut was named in his honor."

Bryan's philosophy of life is "The Lord, my God." Bryan's response to what he loves most about your church: he remarked, "Being able to watch the traditional service on YouTube and seeing everyone." Bryan misses no longer being able to talk on the phone or attend church in person. Send him a card and say hello. He would love to hear from his dear friends.

OUTREACH



4th Annual Cereal Bowl

March 17 - April 17

Who will get the trophy?!

Easter Caroling

Thursday, April 10th & Wednesday, April 16th
2 - 4 PM



Meet in the back parking lot



Gift of the Month

Applesauce & Canned Fruit

April 2025



Wee Care!

April Gift of the Month

Goldfish snack bags

GOOD FRIDAY Service

April 18 6:30pm



Easter Sunrise Service

April 20 6:30am

Breakfast provided by United Methodist Men to follow.





Garden Kids Ministry

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he shall not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6



Cooperation isn't always something that may happen naturally, but it is something that is near and dear to God's heart. Since the beginning of creation we see how God created us to be in community with one another. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God, and throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish God's plan for the world. When we work together, we reflect Jesus to others, and our love for one another can point people to Him as we explore what God wants us to do together.

Mrs. Anne and Mr. Bob's Small Group practiced cooperation by working together to cross an imaginary creek! Mrs. Ashley's Small Group learned all about cooperation by helping Nehemiah rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. Kids are never too young to learn to cooperate.

CLUB 3-4-5

AMAZING RACE
TO EASTER...AND EASTER EGGS!
APRIL 13TH, 12-2PM

Amanda Betters, Director of Garden Kids Ministry
336-624-1423 amanda@sedgegardenumc.org

SEDGE GARDEN UMC YOUTH

Pine Needle Sale

\$6 per bale | \$7 per bale delivered

delivery/pick-up dates: March 15, 22, 29, April 5, & 12
pre-order: (336) 624-1423 or youth@sedgegardenumc.org

The Garden Kids invite you to the annual...
Easter **EGG HUNT**

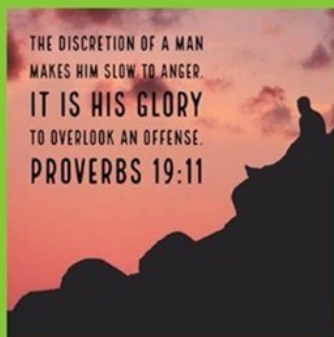
Saturday, April 19th @ 10am · Sedge Garden UMC
Duck Donuts · Crafts · Pictures w/ the Easter Bunny · Egg Hunts

grounded

YOUTH MINISTRY 24/7

UMYF Schedule

- April 5th -
 - 8:15-9am - Confirmation Class Bread Baking!
 - Pine Needles!
- April 6th -
 - Confirmation Class to Serve Communion (both services)
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - 12-1pm - HS Confirmation
 - 5-7pm - GYM Chopped!
- April 12th - Pine Needles!
- April 13th -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - 2-3pm - HS Confirmation
 - 3-5pm - GYM
- April 19th @ 10am - Easter Egg Hunt!
- April 20th -
 - 6:30am - Sunrise Service!
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - No GYM (Easter)
- April 27th -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - 2-3pm - HS Confirmation
 - 3-5pm - GYM



"...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Matthew 6:12



Confirmation Spotlights

Kennedy Fackrell - 11

Kennedy's favorite memory from Confirmation Class is learning the stories of the Bible. She has learned that God is very patient and forgiving.

Emma Fackrell - 14

Emma's favorite memory from Confirmation Class is spending time with friends and playing charades. She has learned that God chooses



different people to serve Him. He doesn't always choose who we think would be the best person, sometimes they are average and they become good servants. She has also learned that God has a great sense of humor!

Amber Fackrell - 16

Amber's favorite memory from Confirmation is hearing everyone's testimonies and praying on the church bus during the retreat. One thing she has learned about God is that He can change lives in the most unexpected, but amazing, ways.



Chad & Amanda Better, Co-Directors of Youth Ministry
 chad@sedgegardenumc.org amanda@sedgegardenumc.org
 336-682-6899 & 336-624-1423 youth@sedgegardenumc.org

Gifts have been given to the following ministries...

In Memory Of

<u>Kay Ballard Brown</u> General Fund	Manuel Class
<u>Steve Conaway</u> Building Fund/Roof	Peggy, Shawn, Kevin, & Leigh
<u>Johnny Larrimore</u> General Fund	Robin Larrimore
<u>Johnny Larrimore</u> General Fund	Robin Larrimore
<u>Harold Sapp</u> Building Fund/Roof	Andy Holder
<u>Harold Sapp</u> Choir Fund	Harry & Vicki Jarman
<u>Harold Sapp</u> Choir Fund	Janice Veach
<u>Harold Sapp</u> General Fund	David & Jan Marshall
<u>Harold Sapp</u> General Fund	Vonnie Motsinger
<u>Harold Sapp</u> General Fund	Tom & Sherry Riley

Ways to Give

Cash or check using an envelope.
Online at sedgewardenumc.org/give
or by scanning the QR code!

Thank you for your generosity!



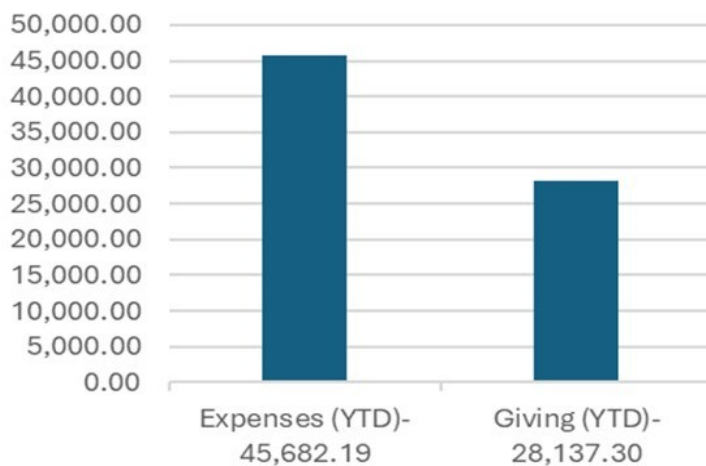
From the finance committee...

Needed to meet weekly budgeted expenses:

\$11,137.00

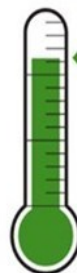
Giving in February: \$28,137.30

Mission and Ministry Fund Update



RAISE THE ROOF

Goal: Raise \$23,120 to replace Fellowship Hall and Admin Roofs



Funds raised since March 9th:

\$22,416

Our New Roofs Are Complete— Thanks to You!

We are thrilled to share that the roofs on both the Fellowship Hall and the Admin building were replaced on March 22 by Collins Roofing and Construction. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our congregation, we are on pace to fully fund this project, with additional gifts expected to help us reach 100% of our goal soon! This is a true testament to the faithfulness of our church family. Thank you for being Difference Makers and ensuring our church remains a safe and welcoming place for all.

Want to see the progress? Check out a video of the roof replacement on our **Facebook page** (facebook.com/sgumc)!

Someone said:

“Why does the feeling of emptiness take up so much space?”
Perhaps it is the fact that:
The worst feeling in the world is not loneliness, it is emptiness.

It is being surrounded by so much life but feeling so lonely. The world is not crashing down. No one is breaking my heart. I am not sad, but I am not happy either. I am neutral. There is a void in me that I cannot fill... I think I had rather be lonely, at least then I could feel something.

Connect with us in person or online during this time of Lent – perhaps you will be surprised by what really fulfills you.

**“Feeling Empty, Filling Full”
Lent & Easter Sermon Series**

April 6 - “Filling the Hurt”
1 Peter 3:13-22

April 13 (Palm Sunday) - “Expectations”
John 12:12-19

April 18 (Good Friday) - “The Thief”
Luke 23:32-43

April 20 (Easter Sunday) - Sunrise 6:30am “Living”
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

FF & TW Services - “Good news”
Acts 10:34-43

Love Notes Presents:
Love Walked In: Senior Recital
(UNC School of the Arts)
Featuring:
Alicia Bivona, soprano
Dr. Robert Rocco, accompanist



Saturday, April 5, 2025
7:00pm

Free and open to the
public.



Stitches of Love

April 7th
10:00am - 12:00pm

A Love Offering for Next Step Ministries
will be received at the concert



Rachel's Roses
April 10th
6:30pm-8pm
A.S.K. Classroom



**Golden Agers
Luncheon**
April 14 @ 1:00pm
Chicken Tenders, Tater Tots, Slaw, &
Yogurt Pie
Entertainment: Glenn High School Jazz Band
Bring a bag of individually
wrapped Easter candy to stuff
plastic eggs for the SGUMC
Egg Hunt.



Widows & Widowers
Wednesday, April 23rd
11:45am



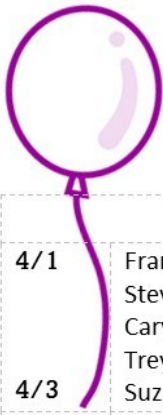
UWF Tulips
April
23rd
1:30pm-
2:30pm



**United Methodist Men's
Breakfast**
April 27th @ 7am



Daisies Circle
April 28th
3:00pm
Fellowship
Hall



April Celebrations



Birthdays					
4/1	Fran Amburgey Steve Hobbs Cary Thompson Trey Vaughn III	4/11	Don Berrier Jessi Idol	4/20	Robert Comer Becky Gurley
4/3	Suzanne Fewell	4/12	Blaire Edwards Jan Powell	4/21	Emily Denny
	Barbie McLean Star Nowlin Kayla Sprague	4/14	April Manuel	4/22	Jimmy Williams
4/4	Jacob Walker Vickie Whapham	4/15	Justin Whapham Luke Pike	4/23	Nancy Klutz
4/5	Tevin Dobson Jared Hoyle	4/16	Belinda Ellington Jimmy Nichols Vicky Roberts	4/24	Janet Dunnaway Jeanette Peace
4/6	Lacie Casstevens	4/17	Tammy Caudle Judy Swaim	4/25	Kathy Hogan
4/8	Kerry Leetz		Banks Totten Zachary Zielinski	4/26	Cameron Miller
4/9	Debbie Talley			4/27	Cassie Beno Mary Motsinger Cindy Wilson
4/10	Amy Henderson	4/19	Justin Kuhlman Thomas Pigg	4/29	Melissa Klein
	Nikki Hogan Drew Houseknecht			4/30	Michael Berry Owen Daniel Bey April Bocholis Cynthia Daley



**Sedge Garden United
Methodist Church**
*Applications now
available*

Attention graduating high school students:

The SGUMC Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that scholarship funds will again be available to members within the church for the Academic Year beginning in the Fall of 2025.

To receive a copy of the application, contact the church office at 336-788-2297. The staff will be happy to send you the instructions and application. Contact Anthony Gurley at agurley99@gmail.com with any questions.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: April 25, 2025

Anniversaries	
4/1	Greg & Brenda Roth
4/7	Don & Brenda Berrier
4/22	BJ & Ashley Locklear



SGUMC Contact Information

Mailing Address

794 Sedge Garden Road, Kernersville, NC 27284

Office Phone

(336) 788-2297

Preschool Office Phone

(336) 788-2230

Pastor

Pastor Keith Edwards

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Office Coordinator

Brandi Waggoner

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Director of Traditional Music

Cindy Darden

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Director of Contemporary Music

Tommy Holder

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Co-Director of Youth Ministries

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Sexton/Security

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