

The Circuit Writer

A monthly newsletter of
Tryon United Methodist Church

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March 2023

Planning for Lent and Easter

- March 1 **Lenten Meditations. 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary**
 Lunch provided in the Comfort Shawl Room following the service.
- March 5 **2nd Sunday in Lent**
- **Lenten Bible Study. 9:45 a.m. Parlor**
The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross
by Jon Meacham
 - **Worship. 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary**
- March 8 **Lenten Meditations. 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary.**
- Lunch provided in the Comfort Shawl Room following the service.
- March 12 **3rd Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins**
- **Lenten Bible Study. 9:45 a.m. Parlor.**
The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross
by Jon Meacham
 - **Worship. 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary**
- March 15 **Lenten Meditations. 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary.**
- Lunch provided in the Comfort Shawl Room following the service.
- March 19 **4th Sunday in Lent UMCOR Sunday**
- **Lenten Bible Study. 9:45 a.m. Parlor.**
The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross
by Jon Meacham
 - **Worship. 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary**
- March 22 **Lenten Meditations. 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary.**
- Lunch provided in the Comfort Shawl Room following the service.
- March 26 **5th Sunday in Lent**
- **Lenten Bible Study. 9:45 a.m. Parlor.**
The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross
by Jon Meacham.
 - **Worship. 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary**

Continued

Planning for Lent and Easter

- March 29 **Lenten Meditation. 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary.**
- Lunch provided in the Comfort Shawl Room following the service.
- April 2 **Palm Sunday Stations of the Cross for Holy Week Begins**
- **Lenten Bible Study. 9:45 a.m. Parlor.**
The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross
by Jon Meacham.
 - **Worship. 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary**
- April 5 **Stations of the Cross Meditation. 12:00 p.m.**
- No Lunch Served.
- April 6 **Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday Community Communion Service. (Time TBD)**
Sanctuary, Congregational Church/United Church of Christ.
- April 7 **Good Friday Tenebrae Service. 5:30 p.m. Sanctuary.**
- April 9 **Easter Sunday**
- 
- 6:30 a.m.--Community Sunrise Service. Tryon UMC, Congregational Church and and Tryon First Baptist. TFAC Amphitheater.
 - 11:00 a.m. Service
- April 10 **Easter Monday Office Closed**

At start of spring I open a trench in the ground. I put into it the winter's accumulation of paper, pages I do not want to read again, useless words, fragments, errors. And I put into it the contents of the outhouse: light of the sun, growth of the ground, finished with one of their journeys.

To the sky, to the wind, then, and to the faithful trees, I confess my sins: that I have not been happy enough, considering my good luck, have listened to too much noise; have been inattentive to wonders; have lusted after praise.

And then upon the gathered refuse of mind and body, I close the trench, folding shut again the dark, the deathless earth. Beneath that seal the old escapes into the new.

Wendell Berry, in *Earth Dreams*

Regular Gatherings

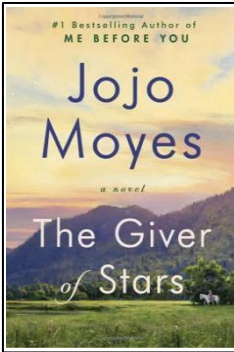
Men's Group meets in the library on the first and third Sundays. Contact Jim Holly (803-221-4276).

Comfort Shawls meets the second and fourth Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. If you don't know how to knit or loom, someone will be happy to show you. Contact Jane Armstrong if you have questions.

Living Clean meets on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

AA Meetings are held on Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Page Turners



The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes is the Page Turners book for discussion on March 22nd. Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve, hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law.

So, when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky.

What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity, and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives.



Lenten Meditations begin March 1 at 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

These mid-week meditations will guide us in our focus on the season of Lent, leading us toward Holy Week and Easter. Meditations will be held each Wednesday (through April 5th), with a light lunch served afterwards. Consider inviting a friend to be part of our meditation time this year.



A service for Chuck Davis will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, at Veteran's Cemetery, Black Mountain.



Such Talent. Such Hard Work!

If you haven't been able to find Pam McNeil, Tena Greene-Porter, Steve Porter or Jennifer Monterisi in recent evenings, you might look for them at the Tryon Little Theater rehearsing for upcoming performances of "State Fair." Tickets are still available. See page 5 for contact information.

A lovely note from our Office Assistant

As I prepare to move forward, I want to let each of you know how much my time here has meant to me.

Tryon United Methodist Church is a very special place because of how God's love works through each of you. You have been most welcoming, genuine, and kind.

Sparrow and I will return every now and again to see your friendly faces.

I wish you so much goodness and light.

Much love, Savanna



HOW YOU CAN MAKE YOUR GIFTS TO TRYON UMC MINISTRIES:

- ❖ Offering given during worship services.
- ❖ Drop off offerings in the locked mailbox outside the church office.
- ❖ Give on-line with your credit card. See our website at www.tryonumc.org Click on "Giving" link.

COINS FOR LENT

In the last two and a half years working alongside Jamie Wollin (our missionary in Albania), Eno has gained a good skill set and a vision for operating a shop that exemplifies a way of life with Jesus. He wants to see others experience the love of God through ordinary means, like in a mechanic workshop. He wants to see future employees experience the love of God in a loving, encouraging and supportive environment like he has experienced at Litany Motors. God has changed Eno's life and he wants to tell his story to others. This shop gives him even a broader reach! We need your financial help.

If you would like to lend a hand, consider participating in **Coins for Lent**, a project that involves the whole family collecting coins throughout the season of Lent and dropping them in a collection bowl at the two entrances to the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Following Easter, we will have the pleasure of forwarding the funds to Jamie Wollin for the Litany Motors expansion, By The Grace Motors. Here is a suggested list of ways to collect the coins each day during March.

- **Sunday, March 5: Pray today, thanking God for the food you enjoy. Pray for those who have no food this day.**
 - March 6: A coin for every ball cap or hat
 - March 7: A coin for every pair of shoes
 - March 8: A coin for every pair of jeans or pants
 - March 9: A coin for every coat
 - March 10: A coin for every t-shirt
 - March 11: A coin for every sweatshirt
- **Sunday, March 12: Pray today, thanking God for clothing that protects you from the elements.**

Pray for those who lack clothing to keep them warm and dry.

 - March 13: A coin for every ball or piece of athletic equipment
 - March 14: A coin for every electronic video game
 - March 15: A coin for every smart device (phones, tablets, etc.)
 - March 16: A coin for every television
 - March 17: A coin for every doll or stuffed animal
 - March 18: A coin for every board or card game
- **March 19: Pray today, thanking God for how you can enjoy entertainment in your home.**

Pray for those who would be grateful for just one of these items.

 - March 20: A coin for every box of Band-Aids®
 - March 21: A coin for every bottle of vitamins
 - March 22: A coin for every box of tissues
 - March 23: A coin for every bottle of hand sanitizer.
 - March 24: A coin for every toothbrush and tube of toothpaste
 - March 25: A coin for every cough drop found in your house.
- **Sunday, March 26: Pray today, thanking God for your health. Pray for those who are sick.**
 - March 27: A coin for every room in your home
 - March 28: A coin for every electrical outlet in your home
 - March 29: A coin for every chair in your home
 - March 30: A coin for every desk in your home (virtual work/school)
 - March 31: A coin for every bathroom

In-person worship is held each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary.

In addition, you can view our recorded worship service on our website at www.tryonumc.org.

Use the drop-down menu and select "Worship Video."

Recorded services are also available on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/tumctryon.

Click the menu item "video".

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg		1 12:00-Lenten Meditation, Sanctuary 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	2 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean Sean McKinney	3 10:00-Qi Gong	4 Debbie Vehorn
5 9:45-Lenten Bible Study 11:00-Worship	6 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	7	8 12:00-Lenten Meditation, Sanctuary 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	9 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	10 10:00-Qi Gong	11 Alice Payne
12 9:45-Lenten Bible Study 11:00-Worship Dona Jean Dacey	13 10:00-Qi Gong 1:00- Sisters in Service 5:30-AA mtg	14 10:00-Comfort Shawl	15 12:00-Lenten Meditation, Sanctuary 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	16 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	17 10:00-Qi Gong Pat Patrick	18
19 9:45-Lenten Bible Study 11:00-Worship	20 10:00-Qi Gong 1:00-Leadership Team 5:30-AA mtg	21 Pam Justice	22 12:00-Lenten Meditation, Sanctuary 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	23 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	24 10:00-Qi Gong	25
26 9:45-Lenten Bible Study 11:00-Worship	27 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	28 10:00-Comfort Shawl	29 12:00-Lenten Meditation, Sanctuary 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	30 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	31 10:00-Qi Gong 10:00-Qi Gong	

Next Month: Staff Parish Relations Committee, April 18 at 10:30 a.m.



March 3-5 & 10-12

State Fair Musical

Tryon Fine Arts Center

Tickets: \$25

Tlinfo.org 859-2466

Featuring our own

Music Director, Pam McNeil, Jennifer Monterisi, Tena Greene-Porter and Steve Porter

Set against the colorful backdrop of an American heartland tradition, State Fair travels with the Frake family as they leave behind the routine of the farm for three days of adventure at the annual Iowa State Fair. Mom and Pop have their hearts set on blue ribbons, while their children Margy and Wayne find romance and heartbreak on the midway.

The movie, "80 for Brady" is coming to Tryon...

...and women of a certain age throughout Polk County are checking their calendars and making plans to attend. It's based on a real group of ladies who faithfully followed their beloved Patriots football team and their even more beloved player, Tom Brady. One of those ladies was featured recently in an article shared by the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church (neumc.org) and we have taken the liberty of sharing a generous number of excerpts.

Five women over 80.

One GOAT.

Eighteen weeks of football.

It adds up to a story of great friendships and fandom that's now a feature film: "80 for Brady," starring Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, Sally Field and Rita Moreno.

Elizabeth "Betty" Pensavalle, 94, is one of the five women whose devotion to the Greatest of All Time quarterback Tom Brady inspired the movie.

Pensavalle joined First UMC in North Attleboro, MA, in 1955. "When people ask me how long I've been a Methodist, I say, 'I was a Methodist in the womb.'" Her parents and grandparents were Methodists, and like her were active in the church.

First UMC has been promoting the movie – and some of Pensavalle's media appearances — on its Facebook page.

The attention surrounding the movie has been "overwhelming," Pensavalle said, (she's letting her daughter field media calls these days) but it's been a good experience.

"The whole thing is fun," she said. "We had a wonderful interview with [CBS Sunday Morning](#). They were in the kitchen, the hallway, the back rooms ... We really enjoyed it. They took everything out of my living room except the piano ... they put everything back."

The five members of "Over 80 for Brady"

Pensavalle, Elaine St. Martin, Anita Riccio, Pat Marx, and Claire Boardman began watching games together more than a decade ago. Each week they would gather at each other's homes to share some food and conversation.

"We were really a close group," Pensavalle said. Some, like herself, were already football fans, others learned the game as they watched together while sharing family stories and food.

"They marched through that door with hors d'oeuvres, we sat on my patio or in the sitting room. It was a lot of fun. Lots of yelling. We'd say, 'Tom Brady is the best!' and if the Patriots were winning we'd say, 'Tom Brady is the best!'"

And the movie captures the friendship between elderly women. We



Pensavalle's grandson, a graphic designer, had T-shirts made in 2010. About two and a half years ago, another grandson, Max Gross, who is an agent in Hollywood, pitched the idea for a film based on the Over 80 for Bradys.

While they are the inspiration, events in the movie are fiction – they never went to the Super Bowl, for example.

"A few things in [the movie] we wouldn't dream of doing ..." Pensavalle said; pausing, she added: "Maybe we would if we were in our 80s again. We're all in our 90s now."

Riccio and Marx are in assisted living facilities, but Pensavalle hasn't lost her enthusiasm for the game.

Brady went to Tampa Bay in 2020, and Pensavalle makes it clear that she's a Brady fan whose team is still the Patriots.

Methodist church memberis inspiration for movie.



Betty Pensavalle with her Tom Brady cutout

These days she's happy to watch on TV with plenty of snacks on hand — "popcorn, a sandwich, wings – lots of wings, love wings." Watching from home is great, unless the Patriots and Buccaneers are playing at the same time: "that's the worst part going back and forth with the buttons," she said.

As for the movie, Pensavalle and St. Martin were invited to a special premiere; a good friend Joan Hutson attended as well. The event included a filmed message from the stars thanking the Over 80 for Bradys for "showing that women can do anything and have great friendships.

So which of the stars is Betty?

"I've been known to be bossy and I've been known to be feisty, so I think maybe Lily Tomlin toward the end of the movie is more like me," Pensavalle said, but it could be Jane Fonda, she admits.

"I hope it does well," Pensavalle said. "It's fun. It's a happy movie."

January 24, 2023