



# The Relay

We welcome all to the community of Jesus: to connect, to learn, to worship, to serve.

We are an ecumenical congregation in a Presbyterian Church (USA) form.

Alamance Presbyterian Church • 4000 Presbyterian Road • Greensboro, North Carolina, 27406 • 336.697.0488 • [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org)

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## A Special Worship Service

You are invited to a service of worship marking the last day of the Rev. Jess Rigel's pastoral relationship with this congregation. Join us in the sanctuary at **10 a.m.** on **Sunday, March 15**. Communion will be served.

After worship, come to a true covered-dish luncheon, in Brown Fellowship Hall. Bring out your best salads, casseroles, and side dishes — but no desserts! Dessert will be a ginormous cake, in honor of Jess's deep and abiding love of cake.

We will sadly miss her, as she leaves Alamance to accept a Call to the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church in Swannanoa, NC.

## Special Missions Offering

For the **March 2026** Special Missions Offering, we continue our support of Wycliffe Bible Translators. See page 5 of this newsletter for more information.

## Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time 2026 begins at **2 a.m.** on **Sunday, March 8**.

Be certain to set your clocks ahead one hour — either at **2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8**, or before you go to bed on **Saturday, March 7**.

# God Bless Pastor Jess!

*March 15, 2026*



Join us for a service of celebration, blessing, and sending as we say goodbye to Pastor Jess after 7 1/2 years of service to Alamance Presbyterian Church.



A Covered Dish Luncheon will follow. An abundance of cake shall be provided. Bring a dish, a card, and a story to share.



## March Birthdays

- 2 Nancy Michaels
- 3 Treva Caveness
- 7 David Wray
- 8 Jared Gill, Zach Hobbs
- 9 Gerald Coble, Leta Pillion,  
Betty Sizemore, Tony Sizemore
- 12 McCartney Ward
- 14 Peggy Fields
- 17 Mike Ford
- 18 Grace Dagenhart
- 19 Tina Garrett
- 22 Barbara Dark
- 23 Floyd Fogleman
- 27 Brad Benton
- 31 Griffin Brown



## April Birthdays

- 1 Darrell Parker
- 6 Amarylis Allred
- 9 Hazel Aydelette,  
Maelyn Goodman
- 10 Michael Holland, Jill Skerlak
- 15 Becky Oliver
- 16 Dub Bridges
- 20 Daniel Church
- 21 Ed Gonzalez, Jennifer McMurtrie
- 22 Blaine Mills, Cindy Morris
- 24 Chad Fields, Erica Lane
- 25 Pat Greeson
- 26 Laura Roseman
- 28 Katrina Schubert
- 30 Angela Burgess, Naomi Church,  
Lois Vinson, David White

## Bunches and Bunches of Blessing Bags

The February Special Missions Offering was to collect items to stuff Blessing Bags with items that would be useful to unhoused persons in the Greensboro area.

Kids ROCK and both Youth Groups packed bountiful bunches of the bags, on Sunday, March 1. Here is some photographic evidence of their efforts.



## Welcome, little one!

Gary & Lois (Barnes) Vinson welcomed the birth of a daughter, Clare Elspeth Winter Vinson, on January 13, 2026.

Mother and baby are doing well. Father seems to be coping beautifully.

The dimpled darling was 6 lbs. 1 oz., and 19 inches long at birth.

Proud grandparents are Tom & Lynn (May) Barnes. Proud great-grandparents are Lewis & Edna May.



## Food Pantry Special Collections

The APC Food Pantry asks for specific food items each month:

- **March:** Peanut butter, jelly
- **April:** Canned fruits
- **May:** Canned vegetables
- **June:** Macaroni-and-cheese
- **July:** Crackers
- **August:** Canned pasta
- **September:** Cereal, oatmeal
- **October:** Canned meats
- **November:** Dry pasta, sauce
- **December:** Soups
- **January:** Canned beans
- **February:** Canned pasta

Deposit food in the big box in the Gathering Place, or contact Amy Yow directly to arrange a transfer directly to storage (336.706.3550).

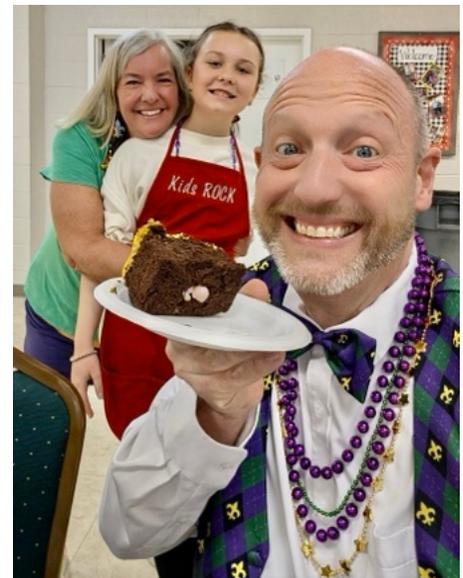
## Memories of Mardi Gras



## Another Plea for Food

Alamance Elementary School has started a food pantry, to supplement groceries for students' families who suffer the loss of SNAP benefits.

We plan to support families at A.E.S. in any way we can — as well as the 120-150 households already served every month through the APC Food Pantry. As the need dramatically increases, we asked for your support to help meet it.



Missions Update:  
Submitted by Jesse & Erin,  
Samuel, and Amos Atkinson:  
Wycliffe Translators,  
Oaxaca (wah-HAH-kah), Mexico  
Serving the Zapotec people  
of San Dionisio

**“They just keep coming back!”**

Apparently, our tutor and friend, Sandy, has been hearing this comment lately; and others like it, from the *hermanos* (Christians) in San Dionisio. She said that people are amazed and pleased that we are still here, and are **beginning to realize that we are serious about translation and serving their community.** This has been tremendously encouraging to us!

Apparently, before we arrived on the scene, there were a few sets of outsiders who came as missionaries to the community, both expats and Mexicans. For one reason or another, they all only stayed for a short time. Few of the *hermanos* really knew why they were there, and each time the outsiders left after just a year or two without any tangible product to leave with the church. So it has taken them a while to really believe that we are here for the long haul, Lord willing, and that we want them to be part of what we’re doing!

**The latter part of this is where we are particularly focused right now — drawing the congregation into the work so that they, not us, become the driving force behind the translation work that we hope to begin soon.**

To this end, **we recently invited several *hermanos* to join us in observing a workshop going on related to Oral Bible translation,** which is a newer approach to translation work that is more accessible and well-suited to predominantly oral cultures like the one in San Dionisio. It was a very encouraging day, **with two of the people who accompanied us committing to join the translation team!**

Soon, we hope to **begin meeting with the congregation in small groups to share more about this approach and allow them to “get their feet wet”** with it before meeting as a Body to discuss more of the logistics of translation and how the congregation wants to proceed with it. **We earnestly desire your prayers for this process, especially because the upcoming birth of baby boy (due in less than a month!) complicates this timeline!**

Partners, we remain deeply thankful for how you walk alongside us in this work.



Thank you for your faithful giving and prayers. It is our great privilege to be your hands and feet here in Oaxaca!

*Jesse, Erin, Samuel,  
and Amos*

**Pray with us!**

**Pray:** for a healthy baby and delivery here in Oaxaca at the new clinic where we plan to give birth.

**Pray:** We have an appointment to meet with the San Dionisio authorities to share our work and introduce ourselves to the new town leaders. Please pray for favor and a good meeting!

**Praise:** The new well has been safely dug! We are now in the process of getting a cover and brick collar made, and running the plumbing and electrical for the pump system. We are very, very thankful for a safe excavation and that we will soon have better access to water!

**Pray:** Erin’s childhood church is hosting a Special Missions Offering on behalf of our Wycliffe ministry, during the month of March. Please pray for God to bless this partnership



**STAY CONNECTED:**

- Our Wycliffe page/Giving:** [wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson](http://wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson)
- Facebook Group:** [facebook.com/groups/AtkinsonAdventuresInOaxaca](https://facebook.com/groups/AtkinsonAdventuresInOaxaca)
- Sign up for newsletters:** [jotform.com/form/92304614403144](https://jotform.com/form/92304614403144)
- Jesse’s email:** [jesse\\_atkinson@wycliffe.org](mailto:jesse_atkinson@wycliffe.org)
- Erin’s email:** [erin\\_atkinson@wycliffe.org](mailto:erin_atkinson@wycliffe.org)

**To give online:** [wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson](http://wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson)

**To give by mail:** Make checks payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators. Include a separate note saying, “Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Jesse & Erin Atkinson, account #398700.” Send to Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 23862.



Amos turned three this month! We celebrated with a few friends and cake.



One of Amos's birthday presents was a red (his favorite color!) backpack. It is unfortunately about as big as he is!



## March Special Offering

On behalf of the Wycliffe ministry of  
Jesse & Erin Atkinson (Samuel, Amos, & boy #3 due any day!)

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Serving in Oaxaca, Mexico



**Special Offering Goal: \$2500**

(To pay the translation team's wages as they begin work)

### WHAT WE DO:

We serve in the indigenous Zapotec community of San Dionisio Ocotepec, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Our vision is to see them transformed by Scripture in the language that best speaks to their hearts, Zapotec.

After completing our initial foundation phase of learning the language, learning the culture, and building relationships, we're ready to begin translating Scripture! We're now in the process of setting up the translation team to start work.

Working alongside the community, we've also developed an alphabet, a series of early literacy materials, a literacy app, and even a few hymns in Zapotec.

# Easter flowers

Easter Sunday,

April 5, 2026

(order deadline: Monday, March 23)



This year, we are pleased to offer live geranium plants to decorate the sanctuary. White, pink, or lavender flowers will grace the pulpit platform on **Easter Sunday, April 5**.

(Colors may vary, because some colors bloom earlier than others — Easter is early this year, so delivering all white flowers is impossible for a greenhouse to guarantee.)

After they have added their beauty to worship, the plants can be set in garden flowerbeds, to thrive all summer long.

A “geranium” at a garden shop is actually a *Pelargonium*, a group of plants which have commonly come to be called geraniums.

A truly classic garden plant, geraniums have been favorites for well over a century. The old-fashioned standard for beds, borders, and containers is still one of the most popular plants today. Traditional bedding types love hot weather and hold up well in dry conditions. Bring them indoors to overwinter, then replant outdoors in spring. Or, they can bloom indoors all year long, if they get enough light.

Please deliver this to church office, or phone  
336-697-0488 ext. 121,

or e-mail your order to [info@alamancechurch.org](mailto:info@alamancechurch.org)

In honor of:

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In memory of:

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Given by:

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Person ordering:

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Daytime phone #:

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E-mail:

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**My check in the amount of  
\$14 per plant is attached  
and made payable to  
Alamance Presbyterian Church.**

Easter flowers are from Mindenhill Farm, a local nursery.

## Holy Week Happens — then Easter is coming!

**Palm/Passion Sunday** is March 29. **Worship at 10 a.m.** begins by rejoicing in the kingship of Jesus Christ; ends in sorrow at his coming trial and crucifixion.

**Maundy Thursday** worship service at **7 p.m.** on **April 2** is at Community in Christ Presbyterian Church. Communion will be served. Feet will be washed.

**Good Friday** is **April 3**. A worship service at **7 p.m.** is in the sanctuary of Alamance Presbyterian Church.

**Community Easter Sunrise Service** at the Tabernacle Methodist ballpark is scheduled for **Sunday, April 5 at 7 a.m.**

**Sunday, April 5 is Easter Sunday**, the holiest and happiest of days in the church year. Worship is at **10 a.m.**, either in person in the sanctuary, or by watching on Vimeo.

Bring flowers from your garden to adorn a cross on the front lawn. Enjoy the sweet fragrance of the geraniums that decorate the sanctuary. Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Memorials and Honoraria

**To the Operating Fund:** In memory of Peggy Busby by Willie & Glenda Goncharow., Nancy Durham In memory of John Gidley by Willie & Glenda Goncharow. In memory of Vernie Thomas by Clint & Linda Aydelette.

**To the Music Fund:** In memory of Peggy Busby by Barbara Coleman; Ernie & Marie Wall; Joe Fische Finison and LeAnn Finison; Whitney Grove Vanderwerff; George & Sharon Benson; Richard & Janice Coble; Toby Jobe; Loretta Allred; Floyd Fogleman; Jane Coble; Jo, Michael and Bradley Starr; Clint & Linda Aydelette; Danny & Joy Thomas; Judith Ledbetter. In memory of Dorothy Strayhorn by Willie & Glenda Goncharow.

## Bereavement Teams

The APC Fellowship Ministry Team seeks persons to form a few Bereavement Teams. Members interested in assisting grieving families by joining a team would be responsible for preparing and serving refreshments — and cleaning up afterward.

Do you feel led toward this opportunity for fellowship? If so, please contact Fellowship Team member Phyllis Monroe (336-549-7178) or Cathy Wray (336-202-6590).

## More Mardi Gras



## Qualified Charitable Distribution

Alamance is a generous church. Generosity is one of our spiritual gifts! We are so grateful for that generosity. It makes an incredible difference in the ministry we do here.

We want to make you aware of one way you can provide your charitable giving that helps you *and* the church. We have shared this information with you before, but more members are taking advantage of it this year. We thought it timely to share again.

See this note from our Financial Coordinator Dana Adams:

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows individuals aged 70½ or older to transfer up to \$111,000 annually (for 2026) directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as your church, excluding the amount from taxable income.

This type of contribution satisfies Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) without increasing income tax, offering a tax-efficient way to donate without itemizing deductions.

### Key Aspects of Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

- **Eligibility and Age:** You must be at least 70½ years old at the time of the distribution.

- **Maximum Amount:** The limit is \$111,000 per individual per year, or \$222,000 for married couples filing jointly — if each spouse acts from their own IRA.
- **Eligible Accounts:** Funds must come from a Traditional or Roth IRA; and sometimes SEP or SIMPLE IRAs if they are inactive.
- **Tax Benefit:** The distribution is not included in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), which can help keep you in a lower tax bracket and minimize taxes on Social Security or Medicare premiums.
- **RMD Satisfaction:** A QCD counts toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) (which start at age 73).
- **Qualified Charity:** The donation must go directly from the IRA custodian to an eligible 501(c)(3) organization such as your church. It cannot go to donor-advised funds, private foundations, or supporting organizations.

You should consult with a financial or tax advisor before making a QCD to ensure compliance, particularly if you have made deductible IRA contributions after age 70½.

**ALAMANCE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IS INCLUSIVE, ECLECTIC,  
AND REFORMED.**

We are an ecumenical congregation  
in a Presbyterian Church (USA) form.  
We are a **Matthew 25** church.  
We are a Stephen Ministry church.  
We are a Hunger Action congregation.

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Dr. Kyle Goodman**, Lead Pastor  
**Rev. Jessica Rigel**, Discipleship Pastor  
**Andrew Long**, Audiovisual Technician  
**Katie Long**, Director of Music  
**Jacob Dishman**, Pianist  
**Joy Thomas**, Dir., Children’s Ministries  
**Dana Adams**, Financial and  
Administration Coordinator  
**Lynn Barnes**, Administrative Assistant

**Missionaries: Jesse & Erin Atkinson**,  
Linguists, Wycliffe Bible Translators

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**Current Officers**

The Session is the governing body of our congregation. Officers are called Elders. Each “class” serves a three-year term. Stated meeting is on the **fourth Sunday of each month, at 2 p.m.** in the Bible Seekers classroom (unless otherwise noted).

<b>Class of 2026:</b>	<b>Class of 2028:</b>
Becky Brinkley Naomi Church Beth McCall Kitty Wells	Tommy Causey Frankie Forbis Hank Gill Eileen Hogan
<b>Class of 2027:</b>	<b>Youth Elder:</b>
Beth Pulliam Steve Starr Tommy Lynn Sullivan David Wray	Nora Church
	<b>Clerk of Session:</b>
	Beth McCall

**Live-streaming Worship Services**

Look and listen to Sunday morning worship at Alamance live, on-line. Here’s how:

1. Go to our website, [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org). At the top of the page, choose *Livestream*. That option takes you directly to the latest worship service, and any prior recorded services that are still available for you to view.
2. **Before you can access the live streaming service**, you must open an account with Vimeo, either with your e-mail or your Facebook account.



**New Officers**

At a Called Congregational Meeting held in the sanctuary of the church on Sunday, March 1, 2026, the following slate of Elders, Class of 2028, were duly elected:

Tommy Causey  
Frankie Forbis  
Hank Gill  
Eileen Hogan

Nora Church was elected to a one-year term as Youth Elder.

**QR** stands for "Quick Response." QR codes store lots of data. Scan with the camera function on a smart phone to access information instantly.

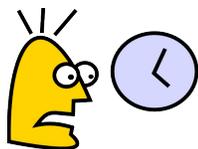
APC has a QR code to connect you quickly to our website ...

... **and** one that will take you directly to the Serve page, for info about how to volunteer.



**Daylight Saving Time**

Daylight Saving Time 2026 begins at **2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8.** Be certain to set your clocks ahead one hour — either at **2 a.m. on Sunday,**



**Newsletter Deadline**

Deadline for the **April, 2026** issue of *The Relay* is **Friday, March 20.** The deadline is printed on the back page of each issue of the newsletter.

Post your articles by U.S. mail, by e-mail ([lynn@alamancechurch.org](mailto:lynn@alamancechurch.org)), hitch up your team of goats and deliver them in person (park the caprines in the back, please), or phone the office (336-697-0488 x 121) to deliver the news. Newsletter policy is posted on the church website.

**Find Us on Instagram**

To follow the adventures of Alamance on our Instagram page, just scan this QR code. You can also find us on Facebook, YouTube, and [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org).



No one from the church will **EVER** email you, phone you, or message you to ask you to send gift cards. This form of request is a scam. Do not respond to these sorts of requests.