



# 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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**Holy Week Worship Services**

Join us in the sanctuary on **Sunday, April 13 at 10 a.m.**, for a service marking the beginning of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday worship on **April 13** begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The service then takes a turn into Passion Sunday, the beginning of the end of Jesus' earthly ministry.

Maundy Thursday, on **April 17**, will be marked by a shared service at Community in Christ Presbyterian Church, at **7 p.m.** in their sanctuary. Communion will be served. Feet will be washed.

An **April 18** Good Friday Tenebrae service at APC begins at **7 p.m.**

Community Easter Sunday Sunrise service is **7 a.m.** at the Tabernacle Church ball field. Easter Sunday worship at APC is at **10 a.m.**

## It's Already April!

### The Ministry Musings of Rev. Jess Rigel

As many of you know, the past year has seen a number of shifts in my job responsibilities. In June of 2024 I became acting Head of Staff when Pastor Kyle took a sabbatical. Though I returned briefly to my prior responsibilities when he came back in September, my job shifted again with the dissolution of the Youth Director position.

I took on all the responsibilities for our youth ministry beginning in January of 2025. As I began to understand this new role, it became clear to me that my own sabbatical — originally slated to take place this March — should be shifted, to better accommodate the needs of our youth.

I adjusted my plans, to take a sabbatical starting **Monday, May 19** with a return on **Monday, August 18, 2025**. I am delighted to share that, at the March Stated Session meeting, my new plan was approved!

In Scripture, the Genesis story attests that humanity was formed in the image of the Creator; who gave us our true identities as beings made with the intention of co-creation alongside the Divine. I have derived great joy in the last few years through exploring art and craft; and with that in mind, I am focusing my sabbatical on reorienting myself to my creative identity by spending time valuing God's creation, observing the creative work of others, and exploring my own creativity through making things in community.

Each month will feature both creative opportunities and celebrations of creation, here outlined as follows:

1. In **May/June**, I will take a tufting workshop at Penland School of Craft in Bakersville, North Carolina; using wool yarn to create a rug, and learning in community about the history of the craft. Following this experience later in June, I will practice celebrating creation through completing a walking tour of the healing landscapes of the Lake District of England alongside my mother.
2. In **July**, I will travel to Ghost Ranch Presbyterian Camp & Conference Center in Abiquiu, New Mexico, where I will explore journaling through water color as a spiritual practice, while soaking in the beauties of the desert landscape. Afterwards, I will make my way to Santa Fe, New Mexico to visit the original MeowWolf, The House of Eternal Return, an immersive art experience created by a friend from high school.
3. In **August**, I will participate in a soft sculpture and inflatable art workshop at Peter's Valley School of Craft in Leyton, NJ. Following that experience, I will spend time reconnecting with friends in New York City, touring the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Brooklyn Museum and Garden, and Storm King Sculpture Park.

Of course, I will also spend quite a bit of time this summer at home; which I plan  
(continued on next page)

## April Birthdays

- 1 Darrell Parker
- 6 Amarylis Allred, David White
- 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
- 25 Pat Greeson
- 28 Katrina Schubert
- 30 Angela Burgess, Naomi Church,  
Lois Vinson



## May Birthdays

- 1 Savannah Jones, Linda Reid
- 3 Pat Royal, Terry Schubert
- 6 Keegan Mendenhall
- 9 Sadie Hackett, Jason Long
- 10 Chris Fay
- 11 Norman Causey, Albert Smith,  
Diane Hollingsworth
- 12 Cayce Church
- 14 Cheryl Ward
- 17 Harold Causey, Connie Hackett
- 18 Madison Forbis, Mason Forbis
- 20 Birdie Church, Joanna Whitesell
- 23 Loretta Allred, Conner Roys,  
Michael Skerlak
- 24 Clint Aydelette
- 26 Eileen Hogan, Freddie Michaels
- 27 Judy Uniatowski
- 29 Kennedy Dail
- 31 Ryan Brooks

(continued from page 1)  
to spend worshipping in other local congregations, napping, gardening, reading, and enjoying the company of family and friends.

Since I am taking my sabbatical in the summer, my responsibilities for our youth ministry program will be on hold for the season, due to school break.

Though we do have a mission trip with Middle School youth planned, adult volunteers who are regularly engaged with that program have already agreed to step up and serve as chaperones in my stead.

My additional pastoral duties will be covered via redistribution among the Lead Pastor, other church staff, our Stephen Ministry Team, the Elders of the Session, and a team of lay leaders who were trained last year and have practice in the planning and leading of worship.

Additionally, a Temporary Supply Pastor may be brought in to offer further support, particularly with situations that require an ordained pastor.

I am very excited about this opportunity to take a break from the demands of the life of ministry and hope that, through this sabbatical, I might reignite my passion for ministry.

I believe that time away will give me the space I need to refine my understanding of how I am called to be present in this next season; as well as stimulate new ideas for congregational vitality, creativity, and awe in both worship and daily life.

My final Sunday before this time of rest and renewal will be **May 18**. There will be a reception following worship, for the congregation to say "*Bon Voyage!*" as I prepare for my journey. I hope you'll plan to participate in that celebration — and I welcome any questions or further conversation you may wish to have, in the interim!

Thank you all for the privilege of this sabbatical opportunity. I can't wait to share my learnings upon my return!

With love and light,

*Pastor Jess :)*



## No Problama, Y'all

A few — well, okay, a lot — of people enjoyed a “paint your own llama” workshop recently. The results of their happy labor is still on display in the Thin Place Gallery and Gathering Room.

## Ladies in Fellowship Together

Looking for a small group of ladies to fellowship with?

LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) welcomes you to join them in the Coble House at **7 p.m.** (normally) on the **second Tuesday of each month.**

They are ladies in fellowship together; growing stronger in their relationship with God and with each other, providing hospitality, and uplifting others in the surrounding community.

Sherri Frazier is contact for this Presbyterian Women's Circle.

## MEETS Meets

MEETS (Meet, Eat, Entertain, Travel, Socialize) is an adults-only fellowship group. They invite you — if you are at least 21 years old — to join them. Contact Kathy Fay via email at [kathyefay@gmail.com](mailto:kathyefay@gmail.com) for more information about their next meetings.

The April 5 "NC Ale Trail by Rail" to Cary is already filled.

On **June 7**, MEETS plans a fish fry at Randy & Linda Maness' home.

As always, adult friends and family members are welcome. No children, please.

## Easter flowers

**Easter Sunday,  
April 20, 2025**

**(order deadline: Monday, April 7)**

Please deliver this to church office, or phone or e-mail your order to [info@alamancechurch.org](mailto:info@alamancechurch.org)



**In honor of:**

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**In memory of:**

---

**Given by:**

---

**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.



## Middle School Boys' Basketball Team Post Big Wins

The APC Middle School Boys' Basketball Team won the Pleasant Garden Basketball League regular season AND the tournament.

Way to go, gentlemen!

## Missions Update:

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

### **FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERING — THANK YOU!!!**

All we can say is “WOW!!!” and “Thank you so much!” Or, in Zapotec, “Xtios duxgibtu!” Our jaws dropped to hear of God’s provision through your giving to the February Special Offering. Thank you so much for your generous participation in what God is doing in San Dionisio! We praise God that we can be your partners here in Oaxaca, and for the now ten years (!!!) of partnership with APC! Thank you so much!

### **TAKING INITIATIVE**

“Xizi nu’u?” Or, “how are you?” in English. This simple question recently led us into a very surprising conversation with “Sandy,” our main Zapotec tutor.

With a twinkle in her eye, she said there had been some new developments in the small church in San Dionisio. (We had missed the congregational meeting after the service the Sunday before.) It turns out that the church wants to restart its Summer VBS program after a multi-year hiatus, which is very exciting. VBS programs can be crucial and highly effective outreaches in small communities like San Dionisio; where there are few Christians and they’re often misunderstood; and where their neighbors are often looking for something for their kids to do (since they live in a small town) over school summer vacation.

**But even more exciting, Sandy wants to take the lead on developing this year’s VBS. Not only**

**that, but she is dreaming of doing the whole program in Zapotec, including making five “Big Books” that tell Bible stories in Zapotec while also teaching kids to read and write in their own language! (!!!)** Jesse and I were THRILLED to hear this! Thanks to the Basic Writers Workshop she attended last year, Sandy has the skills and know-how to tackle this goal.

“Sign us up to help!” we eagerly responded. **Turns out, Sandy had already volunteered us to the congregation to help, even though we weren’t at the meeting!**

While it surprised us at first, we soon realized that **the fact that Sandy did this indicates that A) she is taking the lead, instead of us; and B) she feels like she knows and trusts us well enough to feel confident saying we’ll help with something like this, even though we weren’t there.**

Once we realized this, we were even more excited. **This is exactly what we have been praying for God to do for years — raise up people from within San Dionisio that will take the lead and initiate getting Scripture translated into their language!** This is also often one of the most challenging parts of a translation project here,

because education levels where we serve are typically very low; and because we foreigners bring so much formal training with us, which is valued highly here. It can be daunting and culturally strange for indigenous people to take the lead, instead of the “educated” white foreigners.

**However, Sandy knows what we know — that God has uniquely made and called her to be involved in this process. We may have more formal training, but God has uniquely formed and prepared her for this work in a way that we could never be.** We’ve been praying that God will lead her and others to step forward and drive the translation forward, because we know that the end result will be a better translation of Scripture that is used more in the community.

The very next thing we felt was overwhelmed! Developing this curriculum will be a lot of work, even if other church members get involved, as we hope they will. We need to essentially do oral storying with five separate Bible stories, check them, transcribe them using the tentative alphabet; and then put together five Big Books, which is a long process for each one. (Plus plan all the other VBS activities!)

**Wycliffe**<sup>®</sup>  
Bible Translators

### **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](http://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.

**Please pray that God will bring all of this together, and that Sandy's dream of a Zapotec VBS program will come to fruition!**

It will take God's strength and blessing to make this ambitious goal happen.

*Jesse, Erin, Samuel,  
and Amos*



With Sandy and her nephew, our two participants at last year's Basic Writers Workshop.



**Why is Erin so excited about the February Special Missions Offering?**

Wycliffe Bible Translators Jesse & Erin Atkinson asked Alamance Presbyterian for \$2,400; to pay their primary Zapotec tutors, and to fund literacy development.

We sent them every penny that you donated: \$3,423. They are overjoyed at your generous response to their request for help.



## Knit, Pray, Love Strikes Again

The many nimble fingers of the APC Knit, Pray, Love ministry have crafted yet more adorable caps for the Cone Health System to plop upon the heads of newborn babies

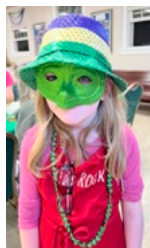
To clarify: each member of KPL has only the usual number of digits. Together, there are many more than ten fingers involved in this long-running ministry of needlework.



## Mardi Gras Celebration Did Not Disappoint

Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, is the final fling before the season of Lent. This year's celebration saw a whole bunch of people merrily meeting in Brown Fellowship Hall to enjoy a delicious meal in good company — and to giggle at what some people had put on their heads.

Kids ROCK and the youth groups prepared and served pancakes, sausage, and all sorts of things that go with pancakes and sausage. This is an annual fundraiser for children's and youth programming.



## Vacation Bible School 2025:

Sunday, July 6 -  
Thursday, July 10.

VBS this year is *True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*.

Participants in *True North* will “travel” to Alaska, to see the northern lights and discover that **we can trust Jesus in a wild world**.

If you would like to help with Vacation Bible School this year, please let Director of Children's Ministries Joy Thomas know as soon as can be, at [joy@alamancechurch.org](mailto:joy@alamancechurch.org).

There are many ways to contribute, before, during, and after the event.



Requirements for volunteers include: a sweet disposition, patience with small children, even more patience with large children, enough stamina to last for a few hours each evening trotting up and down stairs and walking all over our vast campus, and — first and not at all least — passing a background check so that APC can assure the safety of all the children in our care.

Contact Financial Coordinator Dana Adams to accomplish the background check ([dana@alamancechurch.org](mailto:dana@alamancechurch.org)).

[www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org)

## Memorials and Honoraria

**To the Operating Fund:** In memory of Bain Allred by Toby Jobe, Floyd Fogleman, Loretta Allred, Jackie Fogleman. In memory of Geraldine Melvin by Floyd Fogleman, Loretta Allred, Ella Lemons. In memory of Johnny Greene by Willie & Glenda Goncharow, the Gill family, Michael & Catherine Holt, Toby Jobe, Floyd Fogleman, Loretta Allred, Jackie Fogleman, David & Nancy Michaels, Bob & Grace Dagenhart. In memory of Ginny Hanner by Willie & Glenda Goncharow. In memory of Tracy Gibbs by Willie & Glenda Goncharow. In memory of Carol Gant by Willie & Glenda Goncharow. In memory of Lester Dyson by Ray Sparks. In honor of the Western NC Mission Team by Bob & Grace Dagenhart.

**To the Benevolence Fund:** In memory of Johnny Greene by Ron & Kathy Medder.

**To the Music Fund:** In memory of Marie Hodgin by Willie & Glenda Goncharow, the doctors and staff at Guilford Medical Associates.

**To the Food Pantry:** In memory of Bain Allred by Bob & Grace Dagenhart. In memory of Johnny Greene by Buck & Amy Yow.

**To the Sanctuary Ramp Fund:** In honor of Nancy Dyson's 90th birthday by Willie & Glenda Goncharow.

**To the Cemetery Care Fund:** In memory of Bain Allred by Darrell Parker. In memory of Ginny Hanner by Renée Karmanocky.

## A Reminder

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, commonly known as HIPAA, is a federal law that requires public entities to respect the privacy of individuals regarding information about their health.

We are bound both by a polite consideration of their request for privacy, and also by federal law, not to reveal details when people ask Alamance Presbyterian Church not to reveal details about why prayers for health are requested.



## The Coble House

The former manse was re-named the Coble House, in memory of the Honorable John Howard Coble, a long-serving U.S. Representative.

The mission of Coble House is to extend the hospitality and welcome of our church to all who seek a space to gather, celebrate, find retreat, and renew their faith.

Coble House may be reserved for church-sponsored events. It is also available to rent for private events. Coble House may well serve your entertaining needs.

For more information, contact [coblehouse@alamancechurch.org](mailto:coblehouse@alamancechurch.org); or look on the Coble House page on the church website ([www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org)).

## Food Pantry Special Collections

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

- **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
- **March:** Peanut butter, jelly

Deposit food in the big box in the Gathering Place (and clean, dry, plastic grocery bags); or contact Amy Yow directly to arrange a transfer directly to the Food Pantry storage rooms (336.706.3550).

**Please, no more empty egg cartons!** We have run out of space to store them. Recycle yours responsibly. (You can use the "foam trailer" across the street.)

**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.





**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

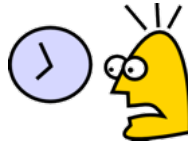
**Alamance Presbyterian Church**  
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**Live-streaming Worship Services**

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.

**Newsletter  
Deadline**



Deadline for the **May, 2025** issue of **The Relay** is **Friday, April 25**. 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)), climb on a pachyderm and deliver it in person (park the elephant in the back yard, please), or phone the office (336-697-0488 x 121) to deliver the news. Newsletter policy is posted on the church website, [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org).

**What Are These Two  
So Happy About?**

See page 6 for details.



**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 2025:</b> | <b>Class of 2027:</b>    |
| Lou Gonzalez          | Beth Pulliam             |
| Shannon Haynes        | Steve Starr              |
| Ty Kimbro             | Tommy Lynn Sullivan      |
| Trey Oliver           | David Wray               |
| Terry Schubert        |                          |
| <b>Class of 2026:</b> | <b>Youth Elder:</b>      |
| Becky Brinkley        | Grant Smith              |
| Naomi Church          |                          |
| Beth McCall           | <b>Clerk of Session:</b> |
| Kitty Wells           | Beth McCall              |

**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.