



# 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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## Easter Doings

Holy Week activities started off with a Palm Sunday procession of children waving palm fronds. Following that, an Easter Egg Hunt in the early afternoon saw delighted children engage in some games and crafts and storytelling. Then they were set loose to find and open and eat the contents of over 3,000 plastic eggs that had been stuffed with treats by many volunteers.

The Worship Arts Team set up prayer vigil stations in the sanctuary, that remained in place until after Good Friday.

Maudy Thursday worship was held at Community in Christ, Presbyterian.

On Good Friday, a Tenebrae service at APC featured anthems sung by the Adult Choir, Scripture readings, meditative readings, and traditional hymns.



## Celebrate Pastor Jessica Rigel at a going-away party!

Join with all nature in manifold witness to the love and admiration we hold for our Discipleship Pastor, at a light luncheon reception in the Gathering Place **immediately after worship on Sunday, May 18.**

**May 18** is Jess's last Sunday with us before she begins her three-month sabbatical.

She returns to us at **the end of August.** We promise.

Easter Sunday opened with a Community Sunrise Service at the Tabernacle Methodist ball field. Worship in the APC sanctuary was ebullient. White geraniums lent their perfume. Bright flowers adorned a cross in the forecourt. "Christ is risen!" was shouted from the pulpit, and enthusiastically answered from the congregation with a roar of "He is risen, indeed!"

Here, and on the following page, is an array of photographs for your viewing pleasure.



## 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



## June Birthdays

- 2** Ken Monroe
- 3** Billy Starr
- 5** Robin Long
- 6** Thelma Greeson
- 7** Lou Gonzalez
- 8** Owen Smith, Michael Ward
- 12** Bob Dagenhart
- 13** Bobbie Black
- 14** Roger Blum, Sam Burgess
- 16** Barbara Garrett
- 17** Amos Roseman
- 19** Miranda Busby
- 21** Dianne Clapp, Richard Grubb
- 22** Geraldine Sharpe, Sherry Starr
- 25** Marianne Cimino, Andrew Irwin
- 27** Ryan Garrett
- 29** Nick Roys



## 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 for information at [kathyefay@gmail.com](mailto:kathyefay@gmail.com).

On **May 31**, MEETS plans a fish fry at Randy & Linda Maness' home. Fish, french fries, hushpuppies, slaw, tea provided. Bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share — and a swim suit, if you wish. RSVP deadline: May 29 ([kathyefay@gmail.com](mailto:kathyefay@gmail.com)).

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

## Food Pantry Special Collections

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

- **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
- **April:** Canned fruits

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!** Recycle yours responsibly. (You can use the “foam trailer” across the street.)

## 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.

On Saturday, April 26, LIFT hosted the second annual Ladies' Tea in the Coble House. There were two seatings for the event, which raised funds to make needed improvements to the house.



## Missions Update:

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

### Becoming a Tortilla Master ...

Last week, a medical brigade came to visit San Dionisio to share the Gospel and do community outreach. (Some of you may have seen what we shared about this in our Facebook group!) The small church we're a part of in San Dionisio was responsible for feeding the brigade for the two days that they were there, which meant that all the women got together starting early in the mornings in order to cook food for everybody. We felt a nudge that I (Erin) should help out, so we made plans for me to participate alongside the other women.

To be honest, I wasn't quite sure what to expect for the two days of cooking, and felt a bit nervous. I agonized over what to wear (there are fairly prescribed dress codes for what to wear based on your role in society; but since we are outsiders, I don't quite fit any role 100%) and prayed a lot! **I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to "just show up"** — the is a mantra I often use when there are ministry things that feel daunting! **If we just obey and "show up," God takes care of the rest!**

When I first arrived, I think nobody was quite sure what to do with me! But once I said outright that I wanted a job, we were off to the races! The women took great joy in putting me through "tortilla boot camp." **A woman's ability to make good corn tortillas is very closely tied to her value as a wife and mother in this culture, so they've been hoping to teach me this for a while!** Tortillas have to be made fresh and uniformly,

even when you are feeding a large group. **The margin of error for the size of a tortilla was about two pea's worth of dough!** It took us about two hours to make enough tortillas for 50 people

It felt incredibly surreal and sweet to listen to the women chat and laugh as we worked out in the smoky cookhouse behind the pastor's house. They smoothly traded off stations between rolling dough, pressing the tortillas, and cooking them on the two wood-fired *comals*, or clay griddles, so that nobody got too tired. After much trial and error, I "passed" the dough-rolling test the first day and then learned about pressing the tortillas on the second day. Next time, I get to learn about working the *comal*!

Our time was also filled with chopping, cooking, serving, washing, and more. Though I made dozens of mistakes and even outright gaffes in terms of culture and language, the women were so kind and patient with me. I felt so welcomed and encouraged by them. **Most of all, I came away from these two days feeling immensely privileged that this is our life.**

On this past Sunday, we were further encouraged when we attended church. The *hermanos* (brothers and sisters in Christ — Christians use this title with each other in Latin America) greeted us even more warmly than usual and then requested that we stay after the service for a congregational meeting. These meetings are frequent and we typically leave before they start, based on a mutual understanding that we aren't true members of the church; but this time was different.

The *hermanos* were planning the upcoming Children's Day celebration (an annual holiday that's very important in Mexico) and asked us to weigh in on the decisions and then also requested that we join their community responsibility system. Though it sounds odd, this was a huge deal for us!

In small indigenous towns like this in Mexico, **all of government and life are governed by a complex system of communal responsibilities, which is closely tied to one's identity and belonging in the community. Basically, if you are part of the community, you participate in the communal responsibility system, too.** However, outsiders are generally excluded from this system,

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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.

which reinforces them being outsiders and different from the community members.

**So, to be invited to join this system of shared responsibility for the church marked a huge change in how we relate to our brothers and sisters in Christ — from complete outsiders to beginning to be part of the “in group!”** After three years of faithfully showing up, learning the language, and investing in relationships, it feels like things have started to really click following Jesse sharing in church in Zapotec and my cooking adventures with the women.

We are praising God and feel so encouraged by these experiences. (As well as some other recent experiences, but we’re out of room!) He is working. **Please join us in praying for strength — it feels like the “rubber is meeting the road” and there are quite a few more meetings and special events in the next couple of months that we will be participating in with the church now, as well as our normal ministry rhythms and some upcoming workshop courses in June/July. We are expecting an incredibly busy summer.**

We are so very thankful for your faithful partnership with us in this work!

*Jesse, Erin, Samuel,  
and Amos*

**Pray with Us!**

- **Pray:** For the development of the **very special Zapotec VBS curriculum that we mentioned last month.** The *hermanos* haven’t been able to start on it yet due to the brigade, so we feel a lot of time pressure.
- **Praise:** for many opportunities to serve alongside our *hermanos en Cristo* coming up over the next

couple of months. Please pray for strength for us, and that we will be attuned to the Spirit’s leading as we participate.

- **Pray: There are multiple workshops being offered over the next couple of months, which is exciting!** However, we aren’t sure which would be most beneficial to the community and which it would even be most feasible to have people from the community attend. Please pray that God would clarify what we should do.
- **Pray: We’re in a season of increasing social obligations to others, which can be difficult to navigate** in this culture of interconnectedness and communal identity. It can also just feel heavy. Please pray for us to be in step with the Holy Spirit and have wisdom as we respond to these obligations so that we can have a good testimony.

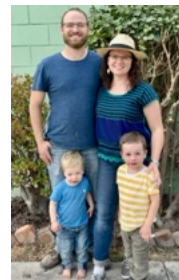


**Left:** The cookhouse. It was smoky and hot!  
**Right:** The green tortilla press and behind it, the *comal*, where the tortillas are cooked six at a time.

A nice perk of the dress code is that women wear beautiful embroidered aprons! Our Zapotec tutor, Sandy, made me this one.



**Left:** Samuel came with me on day #2, and was enjoying a mini tortilla while he helped me press tortillas.  
**Right:** Sunday services are quite long and the meeting after made for a draining day for Amos — he gave up after a while and laid down on the church floor for a quick recharge!

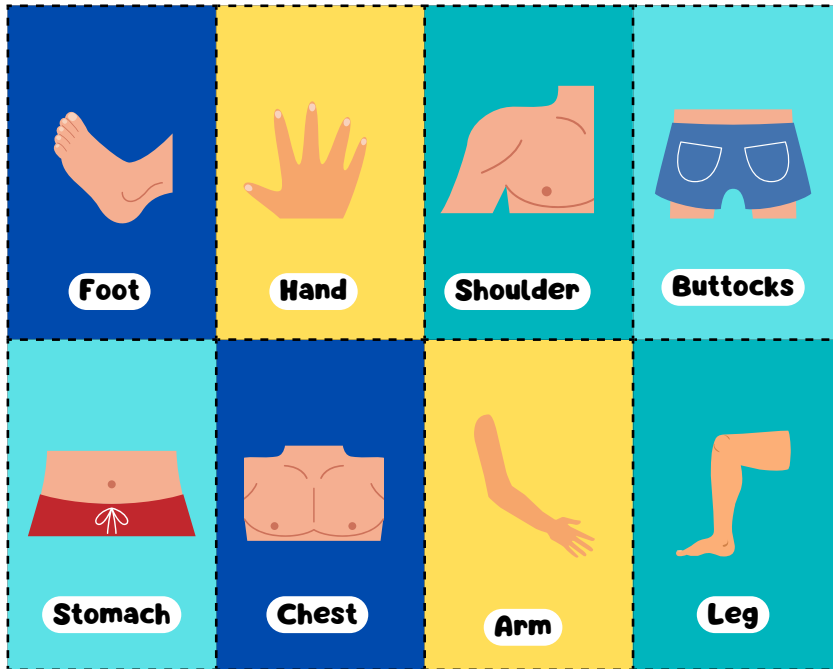


Over Easter weekend we made a quick excursion to some nearby pre-Columbian Zapotec ruins.



# JOIN US FOR YOUTH SUNDAY! MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

**MUSIC! DRAMA! ENERGIZERS! JESUS!**



## THIS YEAR'S THEME: MANY PARTS, ONE BODY



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 Edna Causey by Sophia Jackson, Willie & Glenda Goncharow, Jackie Fogleman, Clint & Linda Aydelette, Patsy Helms, Gary Coble, Ken & Diane and Matt Hollingsworth, Bob & Grace Dagenhart. In memory of Barbara Alexander by Shirley Johnson, Debbie Gill, Jackie Fogleman, Tony & Debbie Bowman, Willie & Glenda Goncharow, Nancy Durham, Ron & Cheryl Fox, Bob & Grace Dagenhart, Steven & Faye Shoffner. In memory of Bain Allred by Willie & Glenda Goncharow. In memory of Johnny Greene by the McLeansville Firefighters and the McLeansville Board of Directors. In memory of Ginny Hanner by Patty Staley. In memory of Marie Hodgkin by Patty Staley.

**To the Building Fund:** In memory of Barbara Alexander by Connie Hackett.

**To the Music Fund:** In memory of Barbara Alexander by Scott Maurer. In honor of Glenda Goncharow by the family of Bain Allred.

**To the Food Pantry:** In memory of Edna Causey by Buck & Amy Yow. In memory of Barbara Alexander by Norma Caviness, Linda Maurer, Buck & Amy Yow, the Red Hat Circle. In honor of Hazel Aydelette's 96th birthday by Frankie & Angie Forbis.

**To the Sanctuary Ramp Fund:** In memory of Bain Allred by the Sherlie Andrew Sunday school class.

**To the Fuller Center Special Missions Offering:** In memory of Edna Causey by Loretta Allred, Floyd Fogleman.

**To the Cemetery Care Fund:** In memory of Barbara Alexander by Darrell Parker.

## A Note of Thanks

The family of John Greene would like to thank everyone for their calls, cards, visits; and most of all, the prayers for Johnny during his illness — and for the family during his passing. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Thanks,  
**Brenda**

## Press On

Here is a traveler. He has launched out on a long journey. He comes to the first inn, and there he remains forever. His reason? He has been told that many travelers have come this way and have stayed at this very inn; even the master of the house once dwelt here . . . . Oh soul! All that is wished for you is that you press toward the end . . . . Only remember this: Do not stop at the first stage.

- Jeanne Guyon,  
from *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*



Alamance Presbyterian Church  
cordially invites you on

# A VISIT TO BENEVOLENCE FARM

Since 2008, Benevolence Farm has helped formerly incarcerated women secure housing, acquire job skills, and find meaning through growing and selling fresh produce, flowers & herbs and by manufacturing body care products infused with what's grown on their 13-acre farm. We hope you'll join us for a farm tour & opportunity to learn more about their important work!

**11am-12pm**  
followed by an optional lunch in  
Graham

**Saturday, May 17th**

Sign up to attend!  
Call or email Pastor Jess by Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
[jess@alamancechurch.org](mailto:jess@alamancechurch.org)

**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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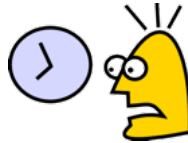
**Live-streaming Worship Services**

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 **June, 2025** issue of **The Relay** is **Monday, May 26**. 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 goat cart and deliver them in person (park the goat 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, [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org).

**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.



**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).

**Class of 2025:**

Lou Gonzalez  
Shannon Haynes  
Ty Kimbro  
Trey Oliver  
Terry Schubert

**Class of 2027:**

Beth Pulliam  
Steve Starr  
Tommy Lynn Sullivan  
David Wray

**Class of 2026:**

Becky Brinkley  
Naomi Church  
Beth McCall  
Kitty Wells

**Youth Elder:**

Grant Smith

**Clerk of Session:**

Beth McCall

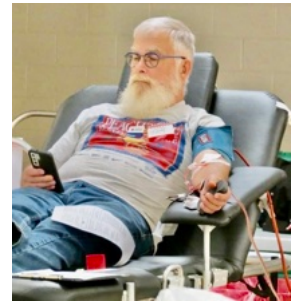
**Find Us on Instagram**

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).



**Thanks, Y’all!**

The April 25 Red Cross Blood Drive garnered 33 pints! Thank you for your support of this (literally) life-giving ministry to our community.



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.