



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

April news & updates



Upcoming Events
See what's happening this [month](#).

Finance Report:

Date: 2.28.23

Income: \$216,840.80

Expenses: \$193,994.39

Difference: \$22,846.41

Celebrating Joys

We give thanks for the collective effort in assembling 139 baby layettes for AMOS ministry in Nicaragua during the Sunday Group hour on March 26. This care package for new mothers is used as an incentive for them to come to the clinic to receive

What will you be doing this Holy Week?

There are certain Pullen traditions around Holy Week —Jesus' last week before his death and resurrection. We began with Palm Sunday where most years we reenact and reflect upon his entry, some call it Triumphant, into Jerusalem riding a donkey. This year, we will once again enter worship in a processional waving our palms with shouts of *Hosanna*. **Those who wish to participate in the processional will gather in front of the Gregg Museum at 10:40 am. to prepare.** Reverend James Forbes, Pullen's *Theologian-in-Residence* will offer the Palm Sunday sermon. An intergenerational choir of Pullen children, youth, and adults will lead in worship and the staff will serve communion.

Palm Sunday ushers in Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday celebrates the day Jesus rose from the dead but what did Jesus do Monday through Saturday. And how might we individually and communally walk

medical care. Thank you to those who researched, donated, organized and assembled.

Praying in Loss

We pray for Howard Romaine and Rita Rakestraw in the death of Rita's uncle and Howard's brother-in-law, Bob Waymer, whose service was held in late February in Atlanta.

We pray for Lou and Janet Fabrizio. Lou's younger sister, Susanne (Sue) Fabrizio Walters, died from an unexpected cerebral hemorrhage on March 6. A family service was held on March 11 in Maiden, NC, where Sue and her husband, Tom, have lived for the past 12 years. Sue would have celebrated her 69th birthday on March 17.

We pray for the family of Lucy Reich who passed away on March 11. Lucy was a dedicated member of Pullen for 35 years, but moved to Florida to be near her daughter as her health challenges increased. There will be a private family service to scatter Lucy's ashes in the Siler Garden at a later date.

Praying for our Community

We pray for Carolyn Sexton's cousin, Rich Frymoyer, who had a bi-literal lung transplant in early March;

for Pam Woodall as she continues to heal from a successful open heart surgery;

for baby Rowan Forrest and mom, Shelby Forrest, who are both recovering from surgery.

for Paul Tew who had a stent placed in one of his arteries on March 30;

for Laura Crumpler, who is recovering from back surgery; And for Cecilia Farmer Shultz, sister of Barbara Ann Huges, who was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, and is beginning treatment in Tennessee.

We continue to pray for the Pikes, Jim, Susan and Andrew. Andrew is finally back at home, and Susan is still recovering from her fall having suffered broken bones in her hands.

Praying for our Partners

We offer prayers for our family in

through this week with Jesus as we remember this central story of our faith? What follows are a few invitations as you, and we, make the journey of Holy Week.

Monday – On Monday Jesus clears the temple. Disturbed to find the money changers in the Temple, Jesus overturned their tables and proclaimed: *“The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”*

Monday's invitation: Have a conversation with someone about what the church today, the universal church and Pullen Church, need to clear out so that we will truly be a “house of prayer.” Include in that conversation what you hear in that phrase “house of prayer.”

Tuesday – Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives. On Tuesday morning, Jesus and his disciples returned to Jerusalem. They passed the withered fig tree on their way, and Jesus spoke to his companions about the importance of faith.

Tuesday's invitation: Take a few minutes of your day to write down why your faith is important to you.

Wednesday – The Bible doesn't say what Jesus did on Wednesday of Holy Week. Some scholars speculate that after two exhausting days in Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples rested in Bethany in anticipation of Passover.

Wednesday's invitation: Rest. Seriously, make plans now to not schedule anything for Wednesday of Holy Week. If you have any vacation days at work, take one on Holy Wednesday and rest.

Maundy Thursday – Holy Week takes a somber turn on Thursday. Jesus returns to Jerusalem with his disciples for Passover. In an Upper Room, he washes the disciple's feet before sharing his last meal with them. After dinner, he goes into the garden to pray. On this evening he would give his disciples a new commandment: *“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”*

Maundy Thursday Invitation: Join fellow Pullenites for a simple meal in Finlator Hall at 5:30 pm. and for an intimate Maundy Thursday worship service in the Chapel at 6:30 pm.

Good Friday – Friday is the most difficult day of Holy Week. On this day, Jesus stood trial, was crucified, died, and was buried. It was on this day that he uttered the words, *“Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”* His final words were: *“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”*

Good Friday Invitation: Consider walking the Labyrinth in Pullen's Chapel. The chapel will be open from 10:00 am. to 2:00 pm. Chalice will welcome you from 10:00-12:00 pm and Ian will welcome you from 12:00-2:00 pm. Questions to consider for this day: Where am I resisting forgiveness—for myself and others?

Matanzas, Cuba. For Wanda whose mother, Sara, died on March 2;
for Carolina who had a recent biopsy for skin cancer and desires to get back to serving in the Cantina ministry;
for Yenier, the son of Julio's partner, Maily, who has epilepsy and has had challenges with his medicine;
and for Kenny's grandmother who is sick.

We pray for our siblings in The Republic of Georgia who have been protesting for over a week now, protesting proposed "foreign influence" legislation.

Praying for our World

We pray for the families of those who died in storms across the south in late March and for the individuals and communities trying to piece their lives back together.

We pray for families devastated by another school shooting in Nashville, and the many who are impacted by the gun violence that takes place daily in our country. We pray for our LGBTQ siblings and allies in Uganda are in greater danger of being imprisoned or killed for living authentically after the passing of the Anti-homosexuality Bill last month.

Saturday – Jesus' body lay in its tomb, where it was guarded by Roman soldiers throughout the day, which was the Sabbath. When the Sabbath ended, his body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices purchased by Nicodemus.

Saturday Invitation: Death is real and in death there are preparations that have to take place. On this Holy Saturday consider writing your obituary. It will be a gift to you and your family.

Resurrection Sunday – On Resurrection Sunday, or Easter, we reach the culmination of Holy Week. On this day, the resurrected Christ made at least five appearances; first to Mary Magdalene, then to Peter, next to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later in the day to all of the disciples except Thomas.

Easter Sunday Invitation: On Resurrection Sunday please join your fellow Pullenites for worship at 11:00 a.m. We will ring our bells at the sound of our *alleluia*'s and celebrate in word and song the risen Christ.

Important note: We will not have an Easter Baptism Service. To date, no one has expressed interest in baptism. If that changes between now and Easter Sunday, we will notify the congregation. If you would like to discuss baptism, I would love to talk with you.

May this Holy Week have meaning for you and for our community as we seek to be faithful in following the one who gave us the commandment to "*Love one another as he loves us.*"

-Nancy



The Table: Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in Finlator Hall

Join us at The Table this month! Our Wednesday evening begins with dinner from 5:30-6:15 pm, and continues with community celebrations, announcements and prayer before we move into our programming for the evening at 6:30 pm. We also offer activities for children and youth. Dinner is \$4 for children (grades K-5), and \$7 for youth (grades 6-12) and adults, with a \$24 cap per family. Check out what's going on in April at The Table!

April 5 - No Program - Holy Week

We will not have dinner and program on April 5. Please join us for Maundy Thursday service on April 6. We will share a simple meal at 5:30 pm before worship at 6:30 pm.

April 12 - An Update on the Peace Project

James Crook gives an update on the progress of this unique project led by our friends at Peace Cathedral in the Republic of Georgia. Peace Cathedral, a Baptist congregation, has been in the process of expanding to house a synagogue and mosque, embodying their commitment to inter-faith dialogue. James made a pilgrimage earlier this year to commemorate another milestone in the project, and will share that experience with us. He will also showcase the water-color art of Bishop Rusudan Gotsiridze and will have a limited series of signed prints available to purchase with proceeds going to further the work of the Peace Cathedral and its projects.

April 19 - Helping Students Survive the Housing Crisis

A survey of N.C. State students in 2017 indicated that almost 10% of students experienced

homelessness in the prior year, a rate that climbed to 15% during the pandemic. The Housing Options for Students Today (HOST) Program was created to address college student homelessness by connecting students to temporary, safe, and stable housing in the homes of local hosts and assisting students to exit the host home into permanent housing. Member and HOST Program Coordinator, Libby Stephens, will tell us more about the program housed in Pullen's mission space and the strides that it's making to support Wake County college students.

April 26 - Intergenerational Talent Night

Sing a song, play an instrument, display your art, tell a story or a few jokes! Share your talent with the world! That is, the world of people who gather at The Table in Finlator Hall on Wednesday nights. This will be a fun night of enjoying each other's gifts! If you plan to participate, please complete this brief form by April 16.

[Sign Up](#)



Sunday Groups

Sundays at 9:30 am

We have an exciting line-up of Sunday groups for 2023! If you have wanted to dive into the Bible a bit more, this is your year. We have two groups centered around the Bible that will allow you to learn more about the text itself, as well as how it is being used in conversations about controversial topics. We are blessed to have several Pullen members with backgrounds in Theology and Religion leading those groups. This year also offers opportunities to explore subjects like prayer,

forgiveness, the afterlife and anti-racism with members of Pullen's ministerial staff, including our Theologian-in-Residence, Dr. James Forbes. Take a look at a more detailed description of the all the offerings below, including the addition of a 4th Sunday breakfast! Let's come together for fellowship and formation!

[View our Sunday Groups](#)

Church wide

Pullen News



4th Sunday Service Project

On March 26, Pullenites assembled 139 baby layettes for AMOS Health & Hope in Nicaragua. Thanks to all who participated in this 4th Sunday service project!

-Pat Long

An Update from the Personnel Committee

The Pullen community has reason for joy - starting April 1, Chalice Overy is back with us full time as Associate Pastor! During the fifteen months she served with us part-time, we may have missed seeing as much of Chalice as we'd like, but she was away serving an important mission. I hope you'll read her summary below of that work - it sounds truly life-changing.

The Personnel Committee is delighted that Chalice is fully back with us and we also want to thank the rest of staff for their flexibility during these months. We appreciate all the support from staff and congregation that allowed Chalice to undertake and complete this important work.

-Bill Gowan, Chair of Personnel Committee

In January 2022 I began working on a project to support pastors who are Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC) through a program called *To Heal the Wounded Soul*, a joint effort of the Clergy Health Initiative and the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School. The program emerged from a recognition that BIPOC clergy had a particular experience during the pandemic that might have made them more susceptible to burnout. Black and Latinx communities saw disproportionate death rates from COVID compared to their White counterparts, which means that BIPOC pastors had to walk with people through grief, anxiety, and economic hardship, sometimes while holding their own grief around the loss of loved ones, and facing other pandemic related stressors. Added to this were the racial tensions that seemed to come to a head following the death of George Floyd early in the pandemic. *To Heal the Wounded Soul* offered care for these clergy by bringing them together in community to build natural support systems and equipping them with strategies aimed at supporting their overall well-being.

The program served 271 clergy from North and South Carolina. Centered around a series of retreats, pastors were split into 3 cohorts, each of which met 3 times over the course of a year. The retreats were designed to offer rest to a largely bi-vocational group of clergy, give them structured space to process their experiences over the last few years, and equip them with tools to promote positive mental health. I organized 9 retreats in 3 locations, bringing in speakers who were theologians, pastors and clinicians to engage clergy through plenaries and workshops. Other practitioners like yoga instructors, body work therapists, and artists brought embodied practices for healing to the retreats. In addition to the retreats, we established small peer support groups which met at retreats and online between retreats led by professional facilitators. I also worked with the North Carolina Council of Churches, Partners in Health and Wholeness to design a curriculum aimed at supporting pastors by helping congregations create a referral system they could use to refer congregants to various services in the community.

My gratitude to Pullen for allowing me leave to serve BIPOC clergy through this program runs deep. So many were weary in their work and reeling from their own pandemic related losses. It was a great gift for me to be able to offer help and hope to these BIPOC clergy in particular because I was familiar with the kinds of challenges they were facing, and very aware of the lack of resources available to them. I'll end by sharing some of their words about their experience, an experience that was made possible by you being willing to support me in this work, and welcoming me back as it ends.

"Even though I am a helping professional, I found that I had layers of things that grieved my heart. It was good to allow myself to be guided by someone else and trust the process."

"I've not experienced anything like this in the church and I don't think it would have happened unless someone noticed [that we were wounded]. Thank you to whoever noticed."

"When I first came, I felt like my wings were broken. I came here and they started spreading, and now I can fly!"

-Chalice Overy

Kid's Ministry

Pullen Kid's Annual Easter Egg Hunt: *Sunday, April 2*
(Palm Sunday) after worship

Save the Date for the Easter Egg Hunt! Join us after worship rain or

shine!



Mark your Calendars!

Pullen Kids Summer Day Camp: *June 17-21*

Youth Ministry



Spring Youth Retreat: April 21-23 at Camp Agape

Join us for the Spring Youth Retreat on April 21-23 at Camp Agape in Fuquay Varina. This is a time for youth to deepen their connection with one another through spending time together doing fun activities. Drop off at Camp Agape at 5 pm on Friday, and pick up is at 11 am on Sunday.

The cost of this trip is roughly \$187 per/person. To make it accessible to as many of our youth as possible we are using programming and scholarship funds to offer 3 different price points. Please select according to your ability to pay. The deadline to register is April 6!

[Register Now](#)

Around the Pullen Community



Children's and Family Concert with Grammy nominated artist Pierce Freelon: *April 22 at 2:00 pm at 301 S Swain St., Raleigh*

Grammy nominee Pierce Freelon's joyful music blends hip-hop, electronic jazz and soul. His modern and dynamic sound is inspired by his journey as a millennial dad and is carefully crafted for today's modern families. Through honest and playful lyrics, rich melodies and fresh beats, Freelon welcomes kids and adults to his world. Pierce's work has been featured on the **TODAY Show**, **NPR**, **Parents Magazine** and more. We hope your family will join us as we

highlight the richness of our local talent, connect with families across the Triangle, and honor

the cultural impact of Hip Hop during this year's 50th anniversary. The concert is offered to our families and community through a collaboration with Southeast Raleigh Table UMC where the event will take place. Admission is free, but you will need to reserve a ticket through [Eventbrite](#).

Get Tickets



ONE Wake Listening Session Launch

Pullen at ONE Wake Listening Sessions Voicing Concerns About Environmental and Economic Injustice and Seeking Emergency Shelter for White Flag Nights and Affordable Energy Bills

Pullen voices called attention to environmental and economic racial injustice in our community at a [ONE Wake](#) Listening Session on March 16 sponsored by Baptist Grove Church and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. People from Pullen were spread across many of the small group discussions and expressed

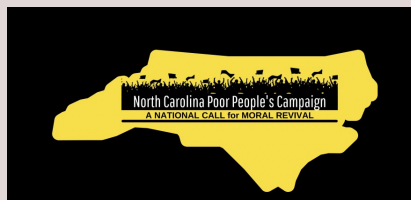
concerns about:

- the need for life-saving emergency shelter and to bolster White Flag services for our homeless neighbors during times of extreme weather,
- the need for affordable energy bills for low income renters and owners through energy efficiency upgrades that will lower energy bills and reduce carbon footprints, and
- the need for underserved communities to have equity and accessibility to federal funding coming in the IRA and Infrastructure Acts to help with energy efficiency upgrades.

Pullen's Earth Ministry embraced this action and joined the listening session with others from Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle congregations -- Benson Memorial Methodist, Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic, St. Paul's Christian, Temple Beth Or, and UU Fellowship of Raleigh.

Future listening sessions will be held in the months ahead including one on May 2nd that is being co-hosted by Pullen at First Baptist Church in downtown Raleigh. We encourage everyone to [register here for one or more ONE Wake listening sessions](#) and bring your friends to raise these concerns.

You can find more information about these two needs and about funding options [here](#). Contact Lynn Lyle with questions and suggestions at lynnlyle777@gmail.com.



Moral Monday Ten-Year Anniversary and Recommitment Rally:

Monday, April 24 at 5:30 pm at the NC State Capitol - 1 E.
Morgan Street, Raleigh, NC

For the soul of our democracy, we are continuing the push for a moral revival and the realization of a Third Reconstruction.

Calling all justice-loving North Carolinians to Raleigh on the last Monday in April for a Moral Monday Ten-Year Anniversary and Recommitment Rally! Ten years ago, seventeen North Carolinians walked into the NC General Assembly to bear witness to the immoral attacks on the most vulnerable residents of our state. Soon thousands came together at our legislature and informed a new vision

for our state. The movement went on to see one of the largest direct action campaigns at a state legislature in US history, with over 1,000 people arrested while demanding North Carolina's leaders do right by its people.

Ten years later, the leadership of the NC General Assembly is still hell-bent on scape-goating some of us to distract from their agenda to consolidate power and money in fewer and fewer hands. Just last week, the Governor allowed two bills to become law that only two years ago he vetoed when there was a smaller chance of his veto being overridden. One law criminalizes protests and organizers, the other criminalizes poor families who have resorted to hotels for shelter. And the attacks are only going to get worse as the session continues this spring. Some things are still bigger than Republican and Democrat or Left and Right. We are coming back to Raleigh to demand our leaders govern from the moral center and from our state constitution's mandate for "the good of the whole."

Join us for this rally of recommitment to restore and realize the promises of our democracy. Ten years ago, we stood together, withstood some of the most extreme attacks on democracy since Jim Crow, made significant change and helped bring North Carolina new leadership and moral vision. Let's stand together again and continue to build a People's Moral Fusion Movement in North Carolina for the next decade to come. What we said a decade ago still speaks to our predicaments:

Excerpt from Why We Are Here, April 29, 2013

"We are calling together a coalition of goodwill, a nonviolent volunteer army of love, to oppose this legislature's heartless, ideologically driven agenda. We call on all people of good will to join us, that we might build the bridges of understanding, not the walls of division. We call on all residents of North Carolina who believe in the common good to pray and partner with us as we use the tools of protest and the tactics of nonviolent moral suasion to illuminate for the nation the shameful acts taking place here. We are not alone. We shall speak and we shall act. We will become "the trumpet of conscience" and "the beloved community" that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called upon us to be, echoing the God of our mothers and fathers in the faith. Now is the time. Here is the place. We are the people. And we will be heard."

March 2023 Hope Center Updates

Raising Hope 2023

Raising Hope 2023, our signature fundraiser, is set for April 20, 2023 at One-Eleven Place in Cary. We are so grateful to the Regional REALTOR Association of Raleigh for joining in as the exclusive venue sponsor. Kristin Cooper, First Lady of North Carolina, plans to be with us in person and WRAL's Elizabeth Gardner will be back for the fifth year to serve as emcee. In 2022, this community helped us raise over \$100,000 to support Wake County's foster teens and former foster youth. Thank you to everyone who supported Raising Hope in 2022.

Thank you to everyone who has already sponsored Raising Hope this year. Because capacity in the room is limited to 200, we anticipate that the evening will sell out in sponsorships. We hope to see all of you there! For more information on how to become a sponsor, [please click here](#) or email Melissa Gregory at mgregory@hopecenteratpullen.org.

-Erin Witcher



Pullen Memorial Baptist Church | 1801 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27605

Unsubscribe_news@pullen.org

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data](#)
[Notice](#)

Sent by news@pullen.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!