



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

March news & updates

Upcoming Events

See what's happening this month.

Finance Report:

Date: 2/28/22

Total Contributions: \$183,455

Total Expenses: \$162,300

Difference: \$21,155

Joys and Concerns

We share in the joy of:

Neal Braswell recently started a new job.

Hadi, Maryam, and four-month old Ryan and the Pullen Resettlement Committee in finding a beautiful housing option that is located near a number of Pullen members who can continue our support and friendship with Hadi, Maryam and Ryan. Hadi, Maryam and Ryan had been living the the resettlements space in our building.

The 30th anniversary of Pullen's journey of becoming a welcoming and affirming congregation of the LGBTQIA community; and that 30



One Word: Gratitude

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude."

-A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

As I write this article, my heart is holding a large amount of gratitude from this past Sunday when our church celebrated the 30th anniversary of the vote to bless same-gender covenants and to be a welcoming and affirming church of the LGBTQIA community. My gratitude extends...

- To the generations of Pullenites who laid a firm spiritual foundation so that Pullenites in 1992 could make the decision they made.
- To the people who were the members of Pullen in 1992, and their courage to proclaim God's love for all.
- To Mahan Siler and his prophetic and pastoral ministry that guided the church.
- To the generation of Pullenites since 1992 who have carried on the legacy of being a church committed to justice-love.
- To the many lay leaders of Pullen that made Sunday's celebration a day to remember.

My heart is holding a large amount of gratitude for

years ago this church took the prophetic action of blessing same-gender covenants. We are grateful for all who participated in the celebration on February 27.

We hold in our prayers:

John and Cathy Corbin in the death of John's brother-in-law who died last month after a battle with cancer.

The family of Ronnie Marshall, former Pullen member, who died in early February.

Kristen Anderson and her family in the death of her cousin who died unexpectedly last month.

Lori Jordan, whose mother, Jean Jordan, who died on February 17 after dealing with more difficult health issues over the past 6 months.. We pray for Lori and her father, David.

Barbara Smalley-McMahan and her family in the death of her nephew, Joseph Dixon Gyles, who died on February 11.

Barbara Ann Hughes and her family in prayer. Her nephew's wife, Melanie Schutz was killed in a car accident this past weekend while on duty as a postal worker. We also pray for Melanie's husband, Patrick, and their children.

another reason. Since Sunday, I have received a number of emails thanking me for displaying the Ukrainian flag on our communion table this past Sunday. As I thought through that decision, I had mixed emotions. I didn't want in any way to dampen our celebration or shift the focus away from the extraordinary and significant decision Pullen made 30 years ago. I struggled. I want to share with you two emails that I received after Sunday's worship.

"Looking to the present and future, the Church went to the trouble to place the Ukrainian flag on the altar. I was impressed and heartened that you did this. It would have been so much easier to mention Ukraine and go on with the service but you took this extra step. Praise be to God, praise be to Pullen to use Church language. Thank you."

"Celebrating the 30th anniversary of Pullen's becoming a welcoming and affirming congregation and blessing same-gender unions is/was important. But we live in the present. Putting the Ukraine flag on the altar was hugely important to me. Visually the flag was front and center. Using the flag as an altar cloth was itself a kind of prayer – in many ways more powerful than a spoken prayer because the flag formed a backdrop to the service."

I am deeply grateful that Pullen is a church that can hold together gratitude and grief. We can celebrate one decision and have deep concern for another all in the same worship experience. To use church language, we can offer our praise and our lament to the same God and trust that God can hold both. Thank you, Pullen, for holding that kind of space in the world. More than ever, and in these times, we need such spaces where our blessings and our burdens can be held in the promise of God's hope. You, Pullen people, are such a space and place. And for that, my heart is holding a large amount of gratitude.

-Nancy Petty, Pastor

Church wide

Upcoming Pullen Events:

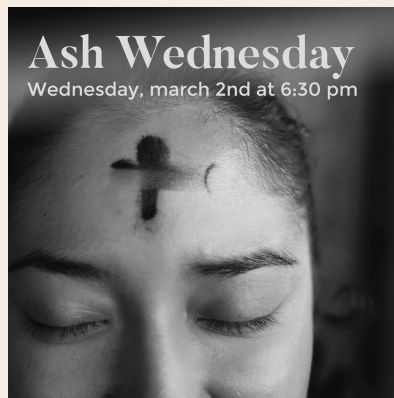
March at The Table

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm on Zoom

We've got a lot going on at our midweek gathering between now and Easter. I'm talking art, mysticism and (friendly) interfaith debates. Don't miss it! If you have not yet registered for The Table this year, be sure to [register](#) to join any of our virtual gatherings during Lent.

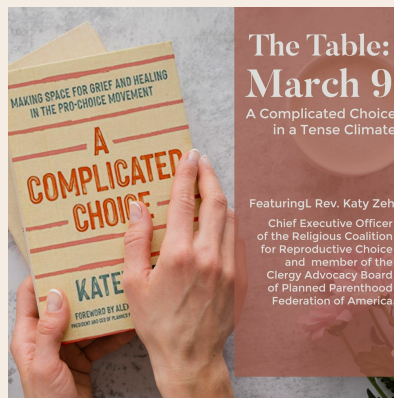


[Register Now](#)



March 2 - Ash Wednesday Service

Join us for an Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm in the Chapel. This contemplative service of prayer, scripture, communion and the imposition of ashes serves as an invitation into the season of Lent. We will share simple refreshments on the Terrace at the close of service, weather permitting. There will be no online gathering this Wednesday.



March 9 - A Complicated Choice in a Tense Climate

Katey Zeh joins us to shed light on the current landscape of reproductive rights while introducing us to her latest book, *A Complicated Choice: Making Space for Grief and Healing in the Pro-Choice Movement*. Rev. Zeh is the Chief Executive Officer of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and a member of the Clergy Advocacy Board of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She is also the author of *Women Rise Up: Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today's Revolution*, the co-host of the monthly Kindreds podcast, and a member of Pullen.

Two options to close out Lent, March 16 - April 6:



Art Series (In-Person)

Through the fun and meditative practice of drawing and art journaling, explore the meaning of Lent for you this year led by Grace Evans and Valerie Collins. No artistic experience is necessary. Just an open mind and heart. Please register by March 11 so we can be sure to have materials for all participants. Register on [Realm](#) under the "Events" tab, or call the church office.

Mysticism & More (Virtual)

March 16 - The Great Debate: Shamrock vs. Hamantaschen

In the year 2022, on March 17, known in the Hebrew calendar as 14, Adar II, 5782 the great religious holidays of St. Patrick's Day

The Table: March 16 - April 6

Mysticism & More (Virtual)

pullen.org/connect



and Purim coincide. Both holidays are marked by merriment and outlandish fun-making. In preparation and pursuit of such merriment, the Baptists of Pullen and Jews of Temple Beth Or will witness an eccentric debate between the right Reverend Dr. Nancy Petty, and the revered Rabbi Lucy H.F. Dinner. Bring your favorite drinking stein or Kiddush Cup filled with your beverage of choice. Have your noise makers ready for the reading of the Holy Scriptures. Wear your St. Patty's Day hats or scarfs or Your Purim Masks. Which is better: the shamrock or hamantaschen? The relative merits of the St. Patrick's Day shamrock goes head to head with Purim's triangular fruit- or poppyseed-filled cookie. You be the judge and join in the merriment and glee.

March 23 - Wading into Mysticism

This week we begin exploring the topic of mysticism. Pullen member Ned Yellig offers an introduction to mysticism, common mystical experiences, and will share some of his own experiences, and why the topic intrigues him so much.

March 30 - A Psychic's Perspective

This week we'll hear from Susan Reintjes, the psychic featured in the NY Times bestselling book Proof Of Heaven by Eben Alexander, MD. She was commissioned by Oprah Winfrey as a psychic consultant and has helped thousands of clients clear illnesses and resolve relationship dilemmas through past life regression. A certified parapsychologist, Susan has led paranormal investigations. She has been a practicing psychic, Jungian psychotherapist for 40 years and is a five-time author.

April 6 - Mysticism and Faith

Rachael Wooten and Chalice Overy talk about mysticism as it relates to their faith—how they stumbled upon mysticism in the faith journey and how it has sustained it. In addition to being a Pullen member, Rachael Wooten is a Zürich-trained Jungian analyst and psychologist who has been in private practice as a therapist for more than forty years. As a child, Rachael was drawn to different religious expressions and followed her instincts to study and practice in different traditions. Her interests in human consciousness led her to the field of psychology. Given its limitations for encompassing the whole of the individual, she began Jungian studies and a deep dive into spiritual practices for her own healing, that of her clients, and members of her community.

-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor



Pullen Outdoor Weekend

5/27-30 2022 Memorial Day Weekend at Hanging Rock State Park

Pullen folk have gathered in the Great Outdoors on Memorial Day weekend for over 40 years! Join us camping for the annual Pullen Outdoor Weekend Event at Hanging Rock State Park. We will have some loosely organized activities, like tubing and hiking, and group dinners on Saturday and Sunday.

Please contact Kevin Neiley at kneiley1@gmail.com, 919-622-4315 to sign up. Sites are already reserved so PLEASE let me know asap if you are interested! More information is coming soon.

-Kevin Neiley

Pullen News:

Celebrating New Members

Andrew and Liz Kasper

Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences. Liz grew up in New Jersey, the daughter of a Jewish mother and atheist Anglican father. Andrew is from Tennessee, where he was raised in the Unitarian Universalist

church. We have three children, all born in North Carolina - Eve (9), Ophelia (7) and Isaac (3).

Why did you choose Pullen? Finding a place to balance the competing religious (and non-religious) elements of our backgrounds was not easy! We feel at home at Pullen and particularly value how Pullen's welcoming community is grounded in established religious tradition and a commitment to applying those principles to everyday life. We also appreciate that this is a community that can provide our children with a grounding in moral values and exposure to other belief systems.

How do you imagine yourself growing with this community? We have been attending Pullen since 2017 and are involved in the church orchestra, the children's committee, and the Nicaragua layettes project. As our children become less tiring, we hope to get more involved in service work through Pullen.



Kid's Ministry

Save the date!

Pullen's Children Summer Day Camp
July 18-22
9:00 am- 5:00 pm
Sign Up begins in April

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and Their Families

Youth Ministry

Wednesday Night Live

2022 brings one more change to the Wednesday night schedule. We will now have programming from 6-8 pm in the youth space so that we have more time to do all the things we want to do. Masks are still required except when eating. Bring your dinner or eat what we have. Please [RSVP on Realm](#) each week so we can accurately plan food and programming.

March 2 - Love, part 2

March 9 - Parent/Youth night

March 16 - An Introduction to Islam

March 23 - Drugs

March 30 - The complexities of alcohol

April 6 - 3 Powerful Women



Upcoming Events

April 16 - Durham Bulls Game - Meet at the church building at 3:00 pm and bring money for dinner
April 25 - 7:00 pm - Propaganda Concert - Spoken word poet, rapper, and activist, Propaganda is coming to Pullen!

May 28 - Understanding Your Journey at Morrow Mountain State Park - The youth will take a journey through the woods to climb to the top of the mountain where parents will be waiting with a meal to celebrate the finish. Leaving at 8:00 am and returning by 6:00 pm

June 11 - Tree Runner aerial park adventure - Arrive by 10:00 am

July 3 - 8 - BYC Summer Camp - With all hope alive, we should be in-person this year at Laurel Ridge. More details coming soon!

August 28 - 4-7:00 pm - Back to school party at Kerr Lake for youth and parents

Parental Conversations

Returning in May! - 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm - Parents, join Bryan and other parents at Trophy Brewing on Maywood Avenue. There will be a food truck on-site and there are non-alcoholic options available. Special guest each month! May 12, June 9, August 11. Let Bryan know if you need childcare

-Bryan Lee, Minister with Youth and Their Families

Around the Community

Heather Newton (daughter of Suzanne and sister of Erin) will present her new book MCMULLEN CIRCLE March 3 6:30pm at Page 158 Books in Wake Forest, in conversation with Piedmont Laureate Heather Bell Adams. Book description: "In 1969, as Karl Wallenda prepares to walk a tightrope across the gorge in the tiny town of Tonola Falls, Georgia, faculty families at the nearby McMullen Boarding School learn about racism, war, and what makes a hero."

-Erin Newton

Hope Center Update

Raising Hope 2022

Raising Hope 2022 is set for April 8, 2022 at The Woman's Club of Raleigh. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored this night. We look forward to seeing everyone at the event. Vaccinations or negative tests within 48 hours of the event will be required for all attendees.

If you don't feel ready to be a part of an indoor gathering, stay tuned for details on a simultaneous video event that will allow you to Raise Hope with us from a place that feels comfortable to you.

We'd love to have you join us in whatever form feels safest to you! [Sponsorship information can be found here](#). Individual in-person tickets will go on sale at the end of March when we have a better idea of what safe capacity will look like at the event. Please reach out to Erin Witcher at ewitcher@hopecenteratpullen.org or Melissa Gregory at mgregory@hopecenteratpullen.org with any questions.

Overcoming Barriers to Affordable Housing

Alex opened the door to his new apartment for the first time on Valentine's Day 2022. One week earlier, Alex and his HCP Transition Specialist, Kevin, were out to a birthday lunch. It was the first time Alex remembers being taken out to lunch for his birthday – and he is in his 20s. His birthday lunch was a bright spot in an otherwise anxious time.

At that point, Alex had been living in a hotel for nearly two months waiting for final approval to move into a new apartment. Alex's voucher application was approved in December 2021. He picked out a place to live. He was ready to move in and just needed to wait on the mandatory inspection of his new apartment. Due to forces outside his control, the wait lasted almost 2 months. He continued to work at a local restaurant and care for his baby girl on the weekends. With the help of our supporters, HCP was able to support him with groceries and ensure that he had temporary housing during the wait for final approval.

Three days after his birthday lunch, Alex got the best birthday present: final move-in approval! Four days after that, the Transition Specialist team was helping Alex move into his new apartment. Our supporters made sure he had a Welcome Home Basket to stock his cleaning closet and pantry. A lot changed in a week. He's now living in a place of his own that is down the road from Wake Tech where he wants to take classes, closer to more job opportunities, and a safe place to co-parent his baby girl. He'll continue to have the support of Kevin and the rest of the Transition Team over the next two years while he looks at enrolling in college and focuses on raising his daughter.

Hope Center at Pullen has been cheering Alex on, providing support and opportunities, since he was a young teenager. With your help, we're looking forward to continuing to support him as he reaches towards his goals."

-Erin Witcher, Director of Development & Communications for The Hope Center

