



# Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

## May news & updates



Wednesdays 5:30 pm | [pullen.org/connect](https://pullen.org/connect)

### Upcoming Events

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

### Finance Report:

**Date:** 4.19.23

**Income:** \$347,010.94

**Expenses:** \$312,954.87

**Difference:** \$34,056.07

## The Table this May

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 May at The Table!

### May 3 - Supporting LGBTQ people in Uganda

Pullen is building a connection with people on the ground in Uganda, where people in the LGBTQ community and allies are criminalized. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from them, and to think together about how our church community can come alongside in partnership. There is an option to join on Zoom for this gathering. The passcode is Pullen2023. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81999822588?pwd=YIRhcDE2N3Vuc2dBck1iTk wzTmlTd z09>

May 10 - TBA

### **May 17 - Personnel Committee on Staff Reconfigurations**

Personnel Committee will lead a discussion of some recent staff job description reconfigurations and the motion being brought for a vote during the May 21 congregational meeting. The job reconfigurations will affect primarily ministries with youth and their families, missions and outreach, and young adults. The Personnel Committee has met with each of these groups previously and solicited their feedback about the reconfigurations. The motion to be voted on would make a change to one of our constitutional bylaws related to search committees. The specifics of the motion will be distributed to the congregation in advance of this Wednesday evening discussion. The Personnel Committee welcomes your questions and comments around these important topics.

### **May 24 - End of Year Celebration with the Pullen Pickers**

We're celebrating the end of our first full year at The Table post-pandemic! At this final gathering before our reduced summer schedule, we'll enjoy a performance by the Pullen pickers, featuring their favorite folk, bluegrass and gospel songs. There will be lots of opportunities to sing along!

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*

## **Community Prayer**

### **Celebrating Joys**

We give thanks for Stephanie Gomez and Stephanie Poole Gomez who affirmed their faith on Easter morning through the ritual of baptism.

We celebrate with Vanessa Martinucci who has completed months of treatment for a pituitary adenoma, which included surgery, radiation and a course of steroids.

David and Kristen are excited to welcome a new niece! Memphis Anderson was born March 31 to David's brother Jacob and his wife Paula, who live in Harnett County.

Brooke Grayson celebrates the birth of her nephew Bodhi, in Australia. Her sister, Chloe, and the baby are well.

Ian McPherson is celebrating the birth of their nephew, Jackson Phillip McPherson. After a challenging delivery, baby and parents are doing well.

Bekah Rhea celebrates a new job at North Carolina State University after a long search.

We had been praying for the Pike family—Jim, Susan, and Andrew—who were dealing with illness and injury. They are all doing much better.

Pullen's Round Table Fellowship will be one of four local anti-hunger initiatives to receive a portion of funds raised by this fall's Greater Triangle Area CROP Hunger Walk. We give gratitude for Pat Long, who initiated the application, and Pullen Mission Women have been faithful supporters of this ministry since it began.

### **Praying in Loss**

We hold the Anderson family in prayer in the loss of Kristen's grandmother, Jackie Thomas, who

died on April 6 after years of declining health.

We hold the Rhudy family in prayer in the death of Steve Rhudy's mother, Johnny Bess Rhudy, who passed away on April 14, after being in hospice care.

We are in prayer for the Cook family in the death of Richard's brother who died in April.

Dick Volk passed away on April 14. Dick was a committed lay leader and a member of Pullen for over 70 years. He served as a Deacon, a member of the Finance Committee and was chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. He was instrumental in the creation of the Siler Garden, and he and his late wife, Barbara, began programs for youth and college students in the late 60's and early 70's.

### **Praying for our Community**

We pray for Tom Henderson who is receiving treatment for cancer and was hospitalized last week with an infection. He is recovering at home and looking to continue treatment again soon.

We also pray for Sharron Underwood who is recovering after a successful surgery to remove a tumor in her abdomen;

for Steve Rhudy and Linda Rodriguez as they undergo treatment for cancer;

for Paul Tew who is doing well after having stents placed in arteries;

for Greg Bruhn's uncle, Leonard, who was injured in a car accident;

for Jason Martinucci who was recently diagnosed with Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy, and is looking to have surgery this month;

and for Carol Majors' brother, Parks, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor earlier this year and is now under hospice care.

### **Praying for our Partners**

We offer prayers for our family in 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 our transgender siblings and transgender youth, in particular, in the face of continued attempts to legislate their lives across the country with several bills filed last month in North Carolina.

We pray for the families of the 39 people killed in mass shootings in the US in April, and for legislation that will help bring an end to gun violence.

One of 12 tornados that hit central Oklahoma this week was in Lu McCraw's hometown of Shawnee. Lu was there at the time, and both she and Larry Schultz have family there. Their family members were safe, but we pray for those who lost loved ones and were impacted in other ways.

We pray for all those affected by the conflict in Sudan—for those who are fleeing and those who cannot. Ultimately, we pray for peace.

**Church wide**

**Pullen Events**

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## 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!

-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor

[View our Sunday Groups](#)



**Pullen Women's Group:** May 15 at 6:00 pm at Vivace 4209 Lassiter Mill Rd

Calling at those who identify as female! Please join us for the next Pullen Women's Group. We get together to visit each other and catch up with no special agenda. Newcomers are welcome. This is a way to get to know other Pullenites! Please call/text Rita Rakestraw at 919-360-0975 if you can make it.

—Rita Rakestraw

## Pullen News



### A Year of Sunshine on the Roof of the Cox Building

April 12th, 2023 marked one year since the commissioning of Pullen's solar panel system on the roof of the Cox Building. The panels produced 88,560 kWh of electricity, which was 6.7% more energy than expected! This reduced our electric bill by \$5,844!

The energy produced by our solar panels avoided the emission of 138,364 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is equivalent to the emissions released by burning 70,302 lbs of coal or 7,062 gallons of gasoline. It is also equivalent to the amount of carbon sequestered by 74.8 acres of U.S. forest land annually.

Investment in solar panels is helping to slow climate change and lower Pullen's electricity costs. Duke energy has already announced significant rate increases for the next six years, which will mean even greater savings for Pullen in the future.

-Gail Powell, Pullen Earth Ministry

**Audio/Visual Volunteers Needed**



## AUDIO/VISUAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Audio/Visual - Pullen is in need of some Audio/Visual Team Volunteers! Experience is great, but we are also willing to train. The commitment for being on the Audio/Visual team is serving one Sunday a month from 9:30-12:00 pm and potentially special events. This is a great service opportunity for students! Contact Kate Amesbury at [kamesbury@pullen.org](mailto:kamesbury@pullen.org).



## Calling all Knitters!

If you enjoy knitting or would like to learn to knit and would like to join a community of knitters, there has been interest in a knitting group at Pullen. If you would like to participate, please email Kiara Ruth at [kruth@pullen.org](mailto:kruth@pullen.org).

## Kid's Ministry



**Pullen Kids Family Gathering:** *May 21 @ 12:15 PM at YMCA Play Ground on Cox Ave (down the road from the church)*

After worship, all children's families are invited to join us for our Pullen Kids Family Lunch! We'll provide lunch- just meet us at the YMCA Park right off of Cox Ave. Hope to see you there!

To help prepare for the day, please let us know if your family will attend the Pullen Kids Family Lunch after worship. Hope to see you there!

Contact: [Tommy Cook](#)

Register



## Mark your Calendars!

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

## Youth Ministry

**Youth Ministry Biking and Picnic:** *May 13, 10:00 am - 1:30 (or 2) pm at 4121 Blue Ridge Rd.*



Bring your bike and meet at the McDonald's parking lot ( 4121 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh) just off the greenway. We'll bike together to Shelley Lake where we'll enjoy a BYO picnic lunch, and then return by bike. You can carry this lunch in a backpack, or maybe even stuff it in a youth leader's backpack. We should return to the parking lot by 1:30 or 2:00 pm. It's a pretty easy trail and about 5 miles roundtrip. Please RSVP on Realm, and don't forget your helmet!

Contact: [Ian McPherson](#) or [Chalice Overy](#)

## Around the Pullen Community

ONE Wake  
**LISTENING  
SESSION**

We're Listening! Please Join us for the ONE Wake Listening Session. This is an opportunity for the community to make its voice heard – raise awareness about important issues facing you and your loved ones and develop support for taking action.

First Baptist Church of Raleigh is hosting the event, in partnership with Pullen Memorial Baptist Church.

**Tuesday  
May 2  
7-8:30 pm**

First Baptist Church of Raleigh  
99 N Salisbury St,  
Raleigh , NC 27603

Share [Your Story](#)   Share [Your Opinion](#)   Share [Your Voice](#)

More info at [www.onewake.org/events](http://www.onewake.org/events)

Scan the QR code to register

### **Urban Forestry and Racial Justice in the Triangle:** May 11 at 5315 Creedmoor Rd., Raleigh at 6:00 pm

Join Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle and our allies for an in-person and online meeting: *Urban Forestry and Racial Justice in the Triangle*, on Thursday, May 11, 6:00-7:15 at Temple Beth Or. For on-site participants: doors open on May 11 at 5:45 for the 6:00-7:15 program. Refreshments will be served after the program.

## URBAN FORESTRY AND RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE TRIANGLE

Confronting the legacy of redlining and leveraging new sources of funding to address it

May 11, 6:00 PM  
Temple Beth Or  
5315 Creedmoor Rd. Raleigh  
Zoom option available

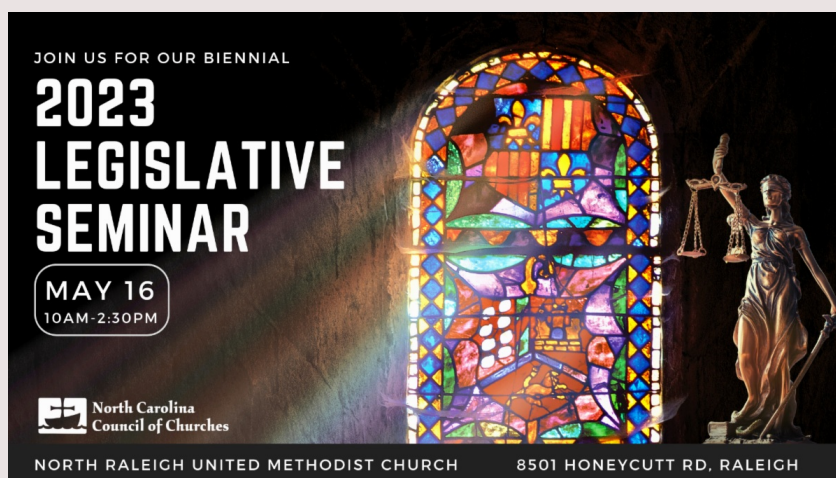


Learn from our expert panelists about the history of redlining leaving under-resourced communities disproportionately vulnerable to the harms of a warming climate, how urban forestry practices address climate impacts, and how community groups and individuals can best work together to secure IRA funding for urban forestry projects here in the Triangle. Panelists are:

- Andrew Pleninger, Urban & Community Forest Program Head for the NC Forest Service
- Ginell Rogers, Ex. Director of TreesDurham
- Bonita Green, President of Merrick-Moore Community Development Corp.

Read more and register at the link below for on-site and Zoom access.

[Learn More](#)



### A Call to Policy Advocacy – Register for the NCCC Legislative Seminar : May 16 from 10-2:30 pm at North Raleigh UMC

Whether you are new to policy advocacy or have been engaged in this work for years, the North Carolina Council of Churches Legislative Seminar offers a chance to learn about the important discussions during this 2023 General

Assembly session. By refracting policy through the lens of faith, we can frame a different conversation that leads to meaningful change together.

The Legislative Seminar is designed to inform people in the Council's network about crucial issues on the General Assembly's agenda and, more broadly, about North Carolina's significant public policy changes. Held biennially when the General Assembly holds its "long session," the Seminar offers people of faith the factual tools they need to faithfully consider the policy matters that affect our lives and the lives of our neighbors.

Registration begins at 9:30 am with opening worship at 10 am. Following worship will be two sets of workshops. Closing remarks will be delivered at 2 pm. Registration is \$35 and includes a light breakfast and lunch. (If you need assistance to attend the Legislative Seminar, please email [rachel@ncchurches.org](mailto:rachel@ncchurches.org) to receive a discount code or request a fee waiver). Click here to register.

[Learn More](#)

**Race & Housing Dialogue:** May 18 at 7:00 pm at Crosspointe (6911 Carpenter Fire Station Road, Cary)

Crosspointe Church, Cary First Christian Church, and Transformation Church are hosting a Race & Housing Dialogue at Crosspointe. We will watch Segregated By Design, a 17-minute documentary based on the book The Color of Law. This documentary (click here to watch the trailer) examines the often-forgotten history of how our federal, state and local governments unconstitutionally segregated every metropolitan area in America through law and policy and the lasting impact it has

today. We will watch the film together, and then break out in smaller groups to discuss. Then we will talk about how to advocate for changed policies, especially after the last election season. Please join us for this important conversation. We are intentionally inviting an interracial community of folks to join us, because our experience has been that this leads to the most compelling dialogue. We are asking everyone to register using the link below and to include your congregation in the Organization box.



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

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