



# Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

## March news & updates



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

**Financial Update**  
Income: \$130,499.39  
Expenses: \$107,876.84  
Difference: \$26,203.55

## Take the Journey with Jesus This Holy Week

As we have spent Lent listening with the ears of our hearts, we enter into Holy Week hoping for a fresh word from this familiar story. Once again, we come alongside Jesus as he journeys through his final days on earth.

**Palm Sunday** - Once again, we will wave our palms and shout hosanna as we accompany Jesus on his triumphal entry into Jerusalem through our intergenerational Palm Sunday worship service. If you want to participate in the processional, please gather in front of the Gregg Museum at 10:40 am.

**Maundy Thursday** – Shouts of praise turn to somber resignation 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."

Join fellow Pullenites for a simple meal in Finlator Hall at 5:30 pm. and for a worship service with communion in the Chapel at 6:30 pm.

**Good Friday** – On Good Friday, Jesus watches public opinion turn against him and he is condemned to the brutality of the cross. Some stories just don't end well, and those that do often contain some hard chapters. Life doesn't always offer us time to acknowledge our pain and grieve our losses. Good Friday is a good opportunity to sit with our grief.

Consider visiting the labyrinth where you can walk with your grief, your questions, your fears and your hopes. The Chapel will be open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Resurrection Sunday** – On Resurrection Sunday, or Easter, we reach the culmination of Holy Week. As the resurrected Christ makes many appearances, the disciples' grief turns into wonder at what else might be possible. If death and suffering must be a part of our story so must resurrection!

At 9:00 am, we will celebrate new life through the waters of baptism. At Pullen we celebrate baptism once a year. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact one of our ministers.

At 11:00 am, we will ring our bells at the sound of our alleluia's and "raise up new hope" for the life that is still springing forth.

May we be transformed as we draw near to Jesus this Holy Week.

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*

## Community Prayer

### Joys and Concerns

#### Celebrating Joys

- Noel and Harold Litchin celebrated 54 years of marriage on January 31.
- Quinn Neiley has released [a single on Spotify](#) under the name fluerr.
- We celebrate with our former Associate Pastor Cathy Tamsberg who received the Social Justice Award from Congregations for Social Justice at their annual meeting on February 11.
- Ian's partner, Heidi Biermann, was approved for ordination on February 24 by the New Hope Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, USA. She will be ordained at First Presbyterian Church in Durham this spring.

#### Praying in Loss

- We pray for the Tenney and Brooks families in the loss of Jo Ellen Brooks Godfrey who died on January 31. Jo was Bill's Brooks' sister, Helen Tenney's aunt, and the mother of former Pullen staff member, Brooks Godfrey.
- We pray for the family and friends of Perry Jordan who died suddenly of a massive heart attack on February 3 at the age of 38. Perry was Paige Moody's friend and Pullen's landscaper. He leaves behind a wife and two boys and many more friends and family devastated by the loss.
- We hold in prayer our Communications Director, Kate Amesbury, in the loss of her grandmother, Mary Joan Darrah Amesbury, who died on February 10;
- Lori Jordan in the death of her life partner, Earnest Butler, who passed away after a major operation on February 8;
- Deivis, our brother in Matanzas, Cuba, in the death of his mother;
- And Ian McPherson in the death of their dear friend, Jonathan McGregor, who died on February 13 in Texas, leaving behind his wife, Jennifer, and their two little girls, Maggie and Charlotte.

#### Praying with our Community

- We pray for Arnold Burke who had hip replacement on February 7;
- Sharon Ferber, who is recovering at Wake Rehab after a second hospitalization;
- Mark Becker and Jim Kastner's friend, Christi Peri, whose bladder cancer has returned;
- Tim Stephenson, who spent 5 days in the hospital with a respiratory infection, and is now recovering at home;
- and for Round Table guest, Shawn, who requests prayers for healing and for guidance and a place to stay.

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*

# Church wide

## Pullen Events



### Amazing March Sunday Groups

*Sundays at 9:30 am*

Don't miss out on these amazing opportunities for learning, meaningful conversation, and the possibility of deepening your faith and spiritual life. Our March Sunday line-up includes: **The Landscape of the Soul**: March 3 and 10 in the chapel, led by Rachel Smith, **Exploring the Bible**, Sundays, now- May 19 in 307 and on Zoom led by Jim Jarrad on the place and power of the women in the Passion narratives, **Race and... Conversations Around Intersectionality**, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and April 7, and 14, in Room 203 led by Grace Evans and Gail Powell, Maggie Zeillmann, Rev. Chalice Overy, Rev. Ian

McPherson and Chris Schwertman, Dr. Jeremy Mani (bio at [pullen.org/connect](http://pullen.org/connect)), and Jill Hinton, and **Living Through Life's Many Transitions**, led by Mary Moore and Jonathan Sledge, Lindsay Smith, Ned Yellig and Nancy Petty and Karla Oakley March 3,10,17, & 24 in Room 310. You can read descriptions of all offerings at [pullen.org/connect](http://pullen.org/connect).

*-Nancy Petty, Pastor*



### 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 March at The Table!

### March 6 - Local Media Matters

In a time of mass information and misinformation, we remember an era where local newspapers played a vital role in our communities. Judy Williams and John Price's fathers were both award-winning editors of small-town newspapers. John's father, Gene Price, was editor of the Goldsboro News-Argus for over 50 years. Judy's father, Bill Williams, spent 66 years at the Gastonia Gazette. John and Judy will share the impact of their fathers' work in the community along with the lessons learned from their dads.

### March 13 - "Ready to Vote" Community Education Tour

Common Cause NC brings their 100-county #UniteNC "Ready to Vote" Tour to Pullen. The tour provides North Carolina voters with the latest non-partisan information they'll need to navigate new voting, elections, and redistricting changes. Common Cause will also share opportunities to get out the vote here in North Carolina. Big changes to the way we vote are here in 2024. It's time to get ready and help our communities do the same!

**March 20** - To be announced

**March 27** - No program, Holy Week

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*

### Pullen Building Tour

*March 3 at 9:30 am*

Frank Farmer will lead a building tour from 9:30-10:30 am on March 3. We hope that folks who are newer to Pullen will take this opportunity to get acquainted with the different aspects of our building and the purpose our facility serves in carrying out our mission. The tour will begin in room 308. Please let us know you will attend by contacting Frank Farmer at [farmerfa@earthlink.net](mailto:farmerfa@earthlink.net).

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*

### Pullen Mission Women

*March 5 at 10:00 am on Zoom*

Reaching out to each other and the world is the focus of Pullen Mission Women.



In monthly Circles, women meet for fellowship, support, devotions, and informative, inspirational programs. The Circles respond to local and international needs through financial assistance, in-kind gifts, and direct assistance. PMW also joins with other women through Church Women United programs.

Pullen Mission Women meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am. We gather in person at the church in Room 203 on even-numbered months and on Zoom on odd-numbered months. Please contact Deb Norton for information and Zoom links.

Contact: [Deb Norton](#)

## Loving-kindness Meditation for the World

March 13 and March 27 in the Chapel at 5:00 pm

Our world is currently in a state of unrest—unresolved conflict and wars leading to much suffering, polarized viewpoints spewing hatred into social media, the devastation of our planet and beyond, and we could go on. With so much at stake and so little that any one person can do to change things externally, it is time to pray. Prayer can change the course of the world. The congregation is invited to gather for thirty minutes of loving-kindness meditation for the world six times during Epiphany. The dates are January 17, January 31, February 14, February 28, March 13, and March 27. We will gather in the Chapel at 5:00 pm and end at 5:30, just in time for you to attend the Wednesday night supper and program. Let's change the world through our prayers!

-[Ann Eller](#)



## All-day Shape-Note Singing Convention

in Pullen's chapel, Saturday, March 9

The annual all-day North Carolina Shape-Note Singing Convention will return to Pullen's chapel on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Singers who meet monthly to sing in Raleigh, Durham, or Chapel Hill will host the event. In past years, 80-100 singers have attended from across NC as well as from several other states, and they love the acoustics of our chapel. This event is free of charge.

Registration will open at 9:30 a.m., and singing will commence at 10:00 a.m. We will pause for a potluck lunch about noon in Finlator Hall, and then continue until

about 3:30 pm or until our voices give out, whichever happens first!

-[Erin Newton](#), 919-460-9797

# Pullen News

## Join the Committee on Becoming an Antiracist Congregation

The Committee on Becoming an Antiracist Congregation (ARCC) would like to invite you to join us in our work. We're looking for 4 new committee members to help us plan events and initiatives here at Pullen Church as we continue on this journey toward becoming an antiracist congregation. We meet on the fourth Sunday of the month after worship at 12:30 pm, and you would serve for a 3-year term. If that sounds like something you'd like to hear more about, please reach out to Maggie Zeillmann at [mzeillmann@gmail.com](mailto:mzeillmann@gmail.com) or 919-757-3658.

-[Maggie Zeillmann](#)

Ashes Alive: Lent 2024  
Lenten Devotionals by LGBTQIA+ Christians & their friends



## Ashes Alive: Lent 2024

Our own Rev. Ian Carr McPherson, Minister of Social Justice and Students, is featured in this Ashes Alive devotional for Lent 2024. This is a devotional written by (and for) LGBTQIA+ people and their allies from around the world. Ian's reflection on Psalm 22 is for March 29 (Good Friday), but they invite our community to dive into all the writing through the entire Lenten season. [You can view the devotional here.](#)



## **Alliance of Baptist Annual Gathering**

*April 12-14 at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte*

In 2000, I had the privilege to travel with a group of Alliance of Baptists friends to the Broken Land (what used to be called the Holy Land). There I met Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, a native of Palestine and then the pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem. Our interaction with this peacemaker was one of the highlights of the trip for me. Mitri has made it his life's work to create educational opportunities for both Christian and Muslim Palestinians who have faced the harsh conditions of occupation. You can learn more about Mitri's work here: <https://www.brightstarsbethlehem.com/page/mitri-raheb>

The Alliance of Baptists will welcome Mitri as one of its keynote speakers at the Annual Gathering at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte on April 12-14. Many of our international partners will be in attendance including Rusudan Gotsiridze from the Republic of Georgia. I hope you can join us! Register here: <https://allianceofbaptists.org/ag24>

*-Brooks Wicker*

## **Clothing and Toiletries for Migrant Farmworkers**

*Now- March 17 in Room 127*

As we have for many years, Pullen Mission Women will be collecting toiletries and clothing to be distributed to farmworkers through the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry. Requested items include shampoo, deodorant, combs, toothbrushes (individually wrapped), toothpaste, dental floss, disposable razors (individually wrapped), shaving cream, acetaminophen (Tylenol), Lidocaine cream (Bengay, Icy Hot), insect repellent, sunscreen, hand towels, washcloths, men's work pants (sizes 30-34), long sleeve, light colored shirts, preferably cotton, shoes or work boots sizes 7-10, and socks. EFWM is also looking for regular clothes sizes S, M, and L for women and men, children's clothes, and baby clothes. Please bring your donations to church by March 17 and put them in the marked black cart at the parking lot entrance or in Room 127. Deb Norton will drive them to Dunn on the 18th. Many thanks!

*- Pat Long*

## **Calling for Usher Volunteers!**

We are looking for dedicated individuals to join our usher community and play a vital role in creating a warm and welcoming environment during our worship services. If you would like to contribute to our church family, we'd love to have you on board!

Ushers assist in welcoming attendees, distributing materials, and ensuring a smooth flow during services. Your friendly presence will make a meaningful difference!

If interested, please contact Dave Laboy. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

*-Dave Laboy*

## **Update from Building and Grounds**

Hello, fellow Pullenites. Our committee has been getting a lot of attention lately, particularly during discussions about our budget. We thought it would be good to keep you up to date with some of the work needed to keep our building in shape. To start, we are sharing the work items that were completed in 2023. Note that much of this work was actually performed by either outside contractors or our own Handy Corps.

- Multiple sections of tile roof and gutter repaired/replaced
- Repaired flashing on East tower
- White Flag facility implementation and support by Pullen staff
- Implemented treatment to address termites discovered during heating system repair
- Revised the Pullen Facility usage policy
- New chiller installation
- Cox Avenue Building parking lot sinkhole repair
- Pullen Chapel (plus walkway) solar panels installed and operational
- Pullen Boiler steam traps repaired
- Cox Avenue boiler is operational
- Pullen roof security system inspected and repaired
- SmartChurch/Pullen facilities assessment inspection, report, and subsequent entry into eSpace
- Addressed the west-side door security concern
- Repaired the glass for the window on the third floor, west-side
- GEMS accounting verified, B&G funding from GEMS confirmed and reserved
- Submitted a reasonable B&G Maintenance and Capital Reserve budget request

Many thanks to Jeff Bond for putting this list together. In a few weeks, we will provide more

information about new work that is going on this year.

*-[Ted Buckner](#), Building and Grounds Chair*

## Pullen Youth Ministry

### Wednesday Night

*Wednesday Night, February 7*

We will continue our Citizen Redefined series exploring what it means "to citizen" beyond the ballot box.

### Sunday Group

*9:30-10:30 am in 130-H*

We're continuing our study on the life and teachings of Jesus during Lent as a way to understand why we get baptized and what it might mean for us. If you have a youth that is considering baptism, let us know or encourage them to talk to one of the youth staff.

*-[Allie Pruden](#), Youth Ministry Coordinator*

## Kids Ministry

### On-Call Infant Care Volunteers Needed!

Beginning in February, volunteers will be welcoming infants and toddlers into the nursery at Pullen during Sunday Group and Worship. When care is needed for Sundays at Pullen, we are looking for more volunteers to be available (on call). If you are interested in holding, rocking, and caring for babies and toddlers during Sunday Groups and worship, please contact [Serena Buckner](#) for more information!

*-[Tommy Cook](#), Minister with Children and Their Families*



### Pullen Kids Annual Indoor Easter Egg Hunt:

*March 24 at 12:15 pm in Finlator Hall*

Hop on over to our annual Pullen Kids Easter Egg Hunt! ☐☐ Join us on March 24th at 12:15 pm for a delicious meal and a cracking good time searching for those eggs! Bring the whole family, and let's make some egg-cellent memories together!

*-[Tommy Cook](#), Minister with Children and Their Families*



### Camp Pullen:

*July 8-12 at 9:00 am-5:00 pm M-T, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm F*

Camp Pullen is hosting another awesome children's day camp this summer! It's a whole week of fun for kids who have finished Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. Our theme this year is all about "What Every Living Thing Needs." We'll be diving into how important it is to take care of our planet and all the living creatures on it. Humans are a part of this amazing creation, but we want to focus on understanding the needs of every living thing - like shelter, food, water, air, and community. And of course, we'll explore how humans can show compassion towards the more-than-human world when it comes to meeting those needs.

Now, for the logistics. The times for Camp Pullen this summer are 9:00 am - 5:00 pm on Monday - Thursday and 9:00 am to Noon on Friday. Drop-off begins at 8:30 am, and pick-up is by 5:20 pm. Families may pick up children at noon if this works best for their family.

Exciting, right? We can't wait to have a blast with your kids this summer!

**[Register for Camp Pullen here by June 1!](#)**

*-[Tommy Cook](#), Minister with Children and Their Families*

# Around the Pullen Community

Find More information about these opportunities at [pullen.org/connect](https://pullen.org/connect).

## IAR Mosque Open House:

March 2 at 11:00 am at 808 Atwater Steet

[Learn More](#)

## Party at the Polls- Wake County:

March 2 10:00 am - 3:00 pm [John Chavis Memorial Park 505 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Raleigh, NC, 27610](#)

[Learn More](#)

## ONE Wake Annual Meeting:

March 7 at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church (813 Darby St, Raleigh)

[Learn More](#)

## CERT - Community Emergency Response Team Basic Training Class:

March 15-17 at the Keeter Training Center (105 Keeter Center Drive)

[Learn More](#)

## Love One Another: A Regional Faith Symposium on LGBTQ Inclusivity:

March 16 at 11 am at the ECU Main Campus Student Center (501 E 10th St, Greenville, NC 27858)

[Learn More](#)

## 2024 NC Farmworker Institute: Harvesting Justice: Farmworker Health and the Climate Crisis:

Thursday, March 21, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. United Church of Chapel Hill ([1321 M.L.K. Jr Blvd., Chapel Hill](#))

[Learn More](#)

## Support Habitat for Humanity with a Specialty License Plate

[Learn More](#)

## Community of the Cross of Nails: Litany of Reconciliation via Zoom

Third Tuesdays at 12:00–12:30 pm

[Learn More](#)

## LGBT Center Care Packages

[Learn More](#)



### March HOST Update

Two years ago, on February 28, I unlocked the door to one of the small offices near the Music Space on Pullen's first floor. I was the first employee for HOST, a new non-profit working to prevent homelessness for college students in Raleigh, and Pullen was supporting this vital program by providing free office space.

Since that day, HOST has supported 40 college students, helping them maintain or obtain permanent housing so they can continue their education. All students received financial assistance for needs such as rent, utilities, transportation, and food. Ten of those students have been hosted by community members for anywhere from a few days up to eight months (three of our host homes are Pullen families).

In April 2022, HOST moved to the large mission space near Finlator Hall. We now have a second staff member, the HOST Student Advocate, who provides case management support for the students in our

program, and we are working with Pullen's Missions and Outreach Council to host students in the church's guest space.

As HOST celebrates this milestone, we thank Pullen Church for their support over the past two years. HOST is looking forward to many more years of partnership with Pullen Church. To learn more about HOST, visit our website at [www.hostnc.org](http://www.hostnc.org).

*-Libby Stephens, HOST Program Coordinator*



### March Hope Center Update

- Thank you to Pullen Memorial Baptist Church for the use of the Finlator Auditorium to host our Self-Care Wellness Fair on 2/24! Generous community members and businesses came through to offer complimentary services like chair massages, manicures, facials, and catering for our clients. This day was intended to encourage our young adults to incorporate self-care into their lives and it was a huge success.
- We are excited to announce our 14th Annual Raising Hope event, taking place on Thursday, May 2 at The Woman's Club of Raleigh. For details and how to attend, visit [hopecenteratpullen.org](http://hopecenteratpullen.org) and go under the Get Involved tab.
- We are prepping for Easter! If you would like to donate Easter baskets and the fillings, please reach out to Brittney at [bsherley@hopecenteratpullen.org](mailto:bsherley@hopecenteratpullen.org). These items will be used at our Easter family fun day for parents and their little ones.
- The Hope Center is the round up beneficiary at Eastcut Sandwich Bar during March, so round up those friends and family to grab some good eats! For every purchase made at their Raleigh store at 1101 E Whitaker Mill Rd Suite 126, you will have the option to round up to the next dollar. Those round up proceeds will be donated to us and will go toward funding our programs to help foster youth!

*-Brittney Sherley, Hope Center Director of Development and Communications*



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