



## A note from the pastor:

With the arrival of April flowers, butterflies, and newly hatched chicks comes the infinitely greater sign of new life: the Resurrection! But what difference does the resurrection actually make in your life? Has your life changed in any way since coming to a saving knowledge of the risen Jesus Christ?

When we make our way through the Gospel accounts and on to the Acts of the Apostles, we see proof after proof that the resurrection power at work on Easter morning is also found in Jesus' followers. One of those places is after intense persecution begins in Jerusalem, forcing most of the believers to run for their lives. In Acts 8:4-8, we are told that, rather than be scared into silence, the persecuted believers "...went from place to place proclaiming the word." Are we willing to do the same thing, or do we need the cattle prod of persecution to get us going? Do we believe that the same resurrection power is at work in us today?

Does the Holy Spirit of God always make sense to us? From our limited point of view, often the answer is "no". But we are obedient, which is only possible when we stay close to God and listen. What does God say to you? Where is he sending you? Whom are we sent to talk to? In Acts 8:26-40, Phillip, the deacon from Acts 6:5 is sent to various places. At the time, I speculate it

often didn't make sense to him. My guess is at that he looked back on these times, he was able to see how he had been used by God in a new light.

And when a person is vehemently working against God, how does God get his or her attention? In total blindness, what could have been going through Saul's mind...and heart...while he neither ate nor drank for three days? God had big plans for Saul. At first, it didn't make sense, until he began to place this Jesus at the center of the Scriptures he knew so well. God dramatically gets Saul's attention in Acts 9: 1-9, and he is never the same again. Have the Scriptures had this same effect on you?

What happens when God takes one of the most intelligent men of his time, completely changes his perspective of life and the Scriptures, and sets him loose? In Acts 9:19b-22, we hear the beginnings of Saul's ministry work: "...he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God'...Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah." Everyone on both sides of the "Jesus issue", also known as "the Way", was confused about Saul. For Saul, it all suddenly made sense. Jesus is exactly who he says he is, the Messiah.

### Session Members & Committees

Building & Grounds:  
 Elder: Quinton Richardson  
 Chair: Russell Mosley

Christian Education:  
 Elder: Ann Rose  
 Chair: Jessica Johnston

Congregational Care:  
 Elder: Eric Johnston  
 Chair:

Mission & Outreach:  
 Elder: Gretchen Presson  
 Chair: Gretchen Presson

Finance:  
 Elder: Eric Johnston  
 Chair: Fran Griffin

Worship:  
 Elder: Ann Rose  
 Chair: Frances Gamble

Fellowship:  
 Elder: Rick Gay  
 Chair: Debbie Robinson

### Sermon Passages

- 4/5: Easter Sunday  
 Acts 8: 4-8
- 4/12: Acts 8: 26-40
- 4/19: Acts 9: 1-9
- 4/26: Acts 9: 19b - 22

## Ministry Spotlight: Turning Point



### Who We Are

Turning Point stands as Union County's only comprehensive survivor services organization, with a legacy of compassion spanning nearly four decades. Founded in 1985 by concerned citizens, we began with a simple mission: providing a crisis line for domestic violence survivors. What started as a phone lifeline has grown into a full-service organization offering shelter, counseling, advocacy, and specialized support.

### Our Journey

From our humble beginnings in a temporary space to our current 42-bed facility opened in 2001, Turning Point has continuously expanded to meet growing needs. In 2015, we broadened our reach by acquiring the Sexual Assault Resource Center and Tree House Children's Advocacy Center, allowing us to serve survivors of sexual assault and abused children with specialized, trauma-informed care.

- **Volunteer** your time and skills to provide essential services and emotional support.
- **Donate** gently used items to our stores or contribute basic necessities for our clients.
- **Give financially** to fund critical programs and services.
- **Attend our events** to connect with like-minded supporters while raising vital funds.

Every contribution - whether time, goods, or donations - helps us continue our mission providing safety, healing, and hope to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse.

### WEPC Collections:

For the month of April we will collect the following items in the Mary Ann room for Turning Point:

- Kids Snacks
- Kids Body Wash, Lotion, and Toothpaste
- 2 Quart Juices: Apple, Grape, Berry (not individual)



**COMMUNITY YARD SALE**

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Walkersville EPC  
6204 Brady Rd  
Waxhaw NC 28173

**Reserve a table for a \$10 donation -  
(all donations will support local missions)**

For more information & to reserve your table contact:  
Gretchen @ 704-807-5116 or nickpresson@yahoo.com

# Holy Week

Services and Prayer Vigil Schedule

 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE</b> 6:30 PM New Hope 5221 Plyer Mill Rd.	 <b>Easter Sunrise Service</b> 7 AM, Breakfast to follow
 <b>GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL</b> 9 AM - 5 PM	 <b>SUNRISE SERVICE</b> 10 AM at Cemetary Cross
 <b>TENEBRAE SERVICE</b> 7 PM at Walkersville	 <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10 AM, Holy Communion

## The Outsiders Youth

### **\*\*How to Study the Bible\*\***

Our youth group is excited to announce the launch of an engaging new series exploring 40 different methods for studying the Bible. This dynamic program will equip young people with practical tools and techniques to enhance their personal faith journey and deepen their understanding of Scripture. From inductive study and topical exploration to creative journaling and group discussion, participants will discover diverse approaches that work best for their learning style. Whether you're new to Bible study or looking to strengthen your existing practice, this series offers something for everyone. Join us as we explore fresh ways to engage with God's Word and grow together in faith!

### **April Youth SCHEDULE:**

**\*\*Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> | \*\***

No Youth Group

**\*\*Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM\*\***

The Joy of Bible Study & Tips for Profitable Bible Study

**\*\*Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> | 6:00 PM - 7:00 pm\*\***

Observations & Interpretation

**\*\*Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM\*\***

MaryVille Youth at Mary Elizabeth - Pizza Dinner

**\*\*Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM\*\***

Dinner with Little Angels

Application & How to Have Daily Devotions

Questions? Contact Caitlin (704-726-1045) or Quinton (980-210-6535)

### **\*\*Children's Bible Study: Lenten Journey!\*\***

Our children's Bible study group is wrapping up their meaningful Lenten series and preparing to return to their regular curriculum focused on learning about the Bible. This transition marks an exciting opportunity for our young learners to continue building a strong foundation in Scripture and biblical knowledge. We're grateful for the spiritual growth our children experienced during Lent, and we look forward to continuing their faith journey through our ongoing Bible study program.

What's Coming Up:

**\*\*Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM\*\***

Resurrection - New Life! (Hope & Celebration)

**\*\*Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM\*\***

One Interpreter (Holy Spirit)

**\*\*Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM\*\***

One Story (Jesus)

**\*\*Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM\*\***

Bible Translations (Missions)

**\*\*Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> | 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM\*\***

I Can Read the Bible & The Bible: God's Message of Love



Join Us For a  
Blessing Cart  
**EASTER  
EGGSTRAVAGANZA!**

**DRONE EGG DROP!**  
Find the special GOLDEN EGGS to win prizes!

Easter Photo Booth - Free Lunch! Games & Prizes!  
Vendors On Site for Purchases! Live Music!

**Saturday, April 4th | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**Bethlehem UMC**  
5018 Nesbit Rd • Waxhaw, NC 27773

# Walkersville EPC Session Meeting Review March 19, 2026

## I. Prayer and Devotions

-How do you answer a person who says there isn't a God? (Especially for the reason of suffering)

**II. To be Approved:** February 19, 2026 minutes—to be approved at the April meeting with the March 2026 minutes

**III. Baptisms, new members, and visitors**

**IV. Committee Reports:** "How is each committee fulfilling the Great Commission?"

April 2026 Committee of the Month: *Mission & Outreach*

April 2026 Elder of the Month (from the Committee of the Month): *Gretchen Presson*

\*\*\*Encouraging all committees to look ahead 12 months at each meeting

\*\*\*Committee members needed!!!

A. Building & Grounds: (*Quinton Richardson*)

-Faucet by Memorial Garden

-Railings for sanctuary chancel area—in process

-let Church Mutual know about new playground

B. Christian Education: (*Ann Rose*)

-next meeting:

-Nursery Sunday School teacher needed

-Easter Egg Hunt: March 28, 2026. All goody bags were packed and are ready to go.

-VBS 2026 preparations, July 12-15, 2026

C. Congregational Care: (*Eric Johnston*)

-Next meeting:

-Easter care bags were packed and distributed.

-Chairperson needed?

-Nursery Schedule:

-For Prayer: James Gordon, Rick Moser, Ron Teitjen, Fran Griffin, Larry Schott

Mission & Outreach: (*Gretchen Presson*)

D.

-next meeting:

-April Mission of the Month: *Turning Point*

-2026 Chicken & Dumplings dates (tentative): October 17, 2026

-Looking ahead at having "Walkersville Days" to visit & work at local missions and ministries we support

-May 30, 2026 Community Yard Sale. Initial plans and preparations are going very well.

-Tom Salisbury agreed to help deliver items to the various missions and ministries as they are collected.

Worship: (*Ann Rose*)

E. -Next meeting: March 22, 2026

-2026 tentative Communion Dates: Apr. 5(Easter), May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6,

Dec. 24

-Preparations for the Lenten season:

Maundy Thursday at New Hope Methodist (6:30)

Good Friday Tenebrae here. (7pm)

Sunrise Service, 7am followed by breakfast

Easter Worship Service, 10am

F. Finance: (*Eric Johnston*)

-Next Meeting: October 8, 2026 at 6:30pm

-Approved: February 2026 Financial Report

-Should we begin 2026 with: \$50,000. (It would mean distributing: \$16,000)

G. Fellowship: (*Rick Gay*)

I. -Next meeting: April 23, 2026 at 10am (Revival planning—May 31-June 2)

J. Nominating Committee Report (*Rick Gay, Ann Rose*)

Pastor Search Committee Report

Session will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month for preliminary work.

H. UC-EPC Women: (*Caitlin Richardson*)

-April Women's Conference, 4/18/2026 in Florence, SC

## V. Old Business

A. Presbytery Report: Next meeting: April 24-25, 2026 Location: Overbrook EPC, Gaffney, SC

-Representing Walkersville:

B. Who to call in an emergency:

Ken Thomas (980) 328-8702; Michael Krauter (Siler) (330) 309-2311.

C. Continued discussion about the bus. Keep it or sell it: What is your opinion?

D. Sound & Video people for Sunday morning: people who can *learn* to do this (create a team)

E. Congregational Meeting (election of elders): May 17, 2026

## VI. New Business

A. Raise Pulpit Supply pay? Presently \$150 (to include revival speakers from outside the church)

-The Fellowship Committee will review amounts to be paid to revival speakers.

B. Updating the church's membership rolls

## VII. Dates for use of the Fellowship Hall:

A. Nicole Gill: 3/21/2026

B. Gretchen Presson: May 17, 2026

## VIII. Close with prayer

Next stated Session meeting: **April 16, 2026, 7pm in the Library**

# 🤔 Spring Into Faith!

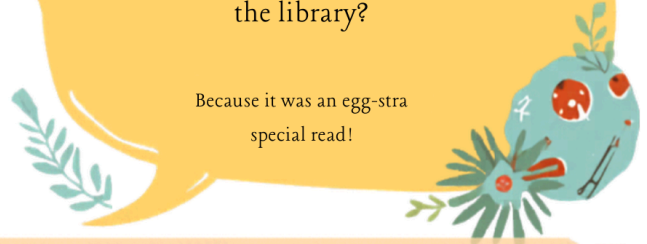
As the flowers bloom and the weather warms, April reminds us that new beginnings are always possible. Whether it's spring cleaning your home or refreshing your spiritual life, this is the perfect time to plant seeds of faith!



## A Little Laughter for Your Day!

Why did the Easter Egg hide in the library?

Because it was an egg-stra special read!



## Memory Verse:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Just as nature shows us renewal this spring, we too can experience transformation through our faith. What old habits might you be ready to leave behind this April?



- Lee Norwood - 1
- Rick & Sherri Simpson - 2
- Frances Gamble - 3
- Brody Batson - 4
- Nick & Gretchen Presson - 8
- Paul Warner - 11
- Jesse Parr - 12
- Riley Campbell - 18
- Eric & Jessica Johnston - 19
- Robbie Griffin - 20
- Jayden Stirton - 21
- Mitzie Broome - 23
- Tommy & Phyllis Norwood - 28

- 4/5: Phyllis Norwood & Wilson Johnston
- 4/12: Sherri Simpson & Brooklyn Hardy
- 4/19: Debbie Norwood & Lexi Langley
- 4/26: Tammy Mosley & Lily Presson



# EMERALD CROSSING

*An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23*

**JULY 12-15**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

APRIL 2026

COM: Mission & Outreach

MOM: Turning Point

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Youth, 6pm	Maundy(Holy) Thursday Service, 6:30pm NewHope	Good Friday Prayer Vigil, 9-3 Service, 7pm	Easter Eggstravaganza, 11-2, Blessing Cart
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter Sunrise Service, 7am Breakfast, 7:30am Worship 10am		Square Dancing 7-9pm	Oper. Reach-Out Meal, 12pm Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Youth 6pm	Choir 7pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	Men's & Women's Monthly Bible Study	Session, 7pm Square Dancing 7-9pm	Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Youth, 6pm	Session 7pm		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Memorial, Clay Murray, 3pm	Newsletter Submissions Due	Square Dancing 7-9pm	Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Mary Ville Youth, 6:30pm, Mary Elizabeth	Choir 7pm	Presbytery	Presbytery
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Sunday School 9am Worship 10am		Senior Covered Dish Lunch 11:30am Session, 7pm Square Dancing 7-9pm	Bible Study 3pm Prayer Time 4pm Little Angels & Outsiders 5:30pm	Choir 7pm		



**Baby Shower**  
**TIFFANY PRESSON**  
 MAY 17, 2PM-4PM  
 WEPC  
 Baby boy expected in August  
 Registered at Target & Amazon

*Celebration of Life*  
**Clay Murray**



3 PM on April 19th  
 Fellowship Hall at  
 Walkersville EPC

Fellowship and  
 Refreshments to follow

6204 Brady Rd

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## EXTENDED PRAYER LIST:

### Battling Cancer:

- Larry Medlin, Sr. - Stage 3 lung cancer (Father of Pete & Tiffany Medlin)
- Bricelyn Dorman (Daughter of Joey McCombs co-worker)
- John Cavallaro (Friend of Bob Stirton)
- Sandy Rea (Sister of Billy Thompson)
- Larry Norwood
- C.B. Griffin - Bone Cancer
- Tammy Huber - Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (Mother of one of Riley Campbell's clients)
- Paul Smith - (Friend of Nick & Gretchen Presson)
- Howard Moser - Kidney Cancer (Rick Moser's Brother)
- Ann King (Friend of Sue Thornton)
- Alan Mears - Rectal Cancer (Pastor at Mineral Springs UMC)
- Eric Munoz - Multiple Myeloma (Friend of Bob Stirton)
- Mark Mull - Brain Tumor (Friend of Nick & Gretchen Presson)

### Various Concerns:

- Rick Moser
- Phil Keyes
- Fran Griffin - Pain Management
- Layne & Lynn Dewlen - Various health concerns
- Tanner Hasty - 10 year old with migraines & coned vision (Client of Riley Campbell)
- Jerry Griffin - (Community friends)
- Frankie Norwood - Dementia (Brother of Hazel Norwood)
- Monty Brady - (Relative of Rhonda McManus & Sue Thornton)
- Bart & Pat Jackson - Declining health (Cousins of Fran Griffin)

### Assisted Living:

- Robby Griffin:  
Lee Forest Group Home  
1209 Pelham Dr  
Laurinburg, NC 28352
- Nancy Thomas  
Lake Park Rehabilitation

### Active Military:

- Jesse Par (PV2) - 2-47 IN BN B CO 9240 Treadwen DR BLD 3405, Fort Benning, GA, 31905
- Matthew Luke - Gretchen Presson's co-worker's son. Deploying to the Middle East.
- Chad Clonch - Lieutenant in the US Navy, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek. Chad is Scarlett Clonch's husband and son-in-law of Bob & Marsha Stirton. 4628 Larkwood Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464
- Luke Mault - Staff Sergeant in the US Army Reserve, A. CO 404th Civil Affairs Battalion Africa. Family friend of Ron & Lisa Tietjen.
- Garret Melton - US Marine stationed Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC. Grandson of Danny & Marlene Little, Grandson-in-law of Larry & Audrey Schott.
- Devin Moser - Senior Chief, US Navy. Out on a mission for at least a year. Son of Rick Moser.
- Peyton Maguffey - Serving on the Donald Cook war ship at the rank of E5 as a CTR (cryptologiv technician collection). Great nephew of Bob & Marsha Stirton.
- Chris Rankin - Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army stationed in Ft. Drum, NY. Paul Rankin's nephew. 10266 Glass St, JBLM, WA 98433
- Jarrett Setliff - US Air Force stationed in Florida. Friend of Nick & Gretchen Presson; Hazel & Gloria Norwood. 624 B W. Pine St., Mary Esther, FL 32569

## Walkersville EPC Contact Information & Office Hours

**Pastor Paul Rankin:**  
**814-279-5055**  
**walkersvilleepcpastor@gmail.com**  
**Mon-Thurs: 8:30-5:00 or by appt.**

**Caitlin Richardson (Administrative Asst):**  
**704-726-1045**  
**walkersvilleepc@gmail.com**  
**M-W-F 9 am - 3 pm**