

Important Dates for NCLC This Month

- Sunday School each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
- Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. – Bible Study via Zoom on II Timothy
- Each Thursday beginning at 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study and Prayer
- Friday, April 3 – *The Great Awakening* shown at Hickory AMC theater
- Tuesday, April 7 – Old Men’s Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at Timberwoods
- Sunday, April 5 – Easter Celebration
 - Food Collection Sunday
- Wednesday, April 8 – Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 14 – Quilting for Disaster Response at 1:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 18 – Men’s Ministry 9:00 a.m. at church
- Sunday, April 19 – Foothills Festival Singers Spring Concert, 5:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Morganton
- Wednesday, April 22 – NCLC Women's meeting at 1:00 p.m.
 - Church and Community Commission at 2:00 p.m.

Birthday Celebrations

- Kevin Watts – 12th
- Joyce Moeller – 24th
- Michelle Raymond – 27th



If we missed your birthday, please let Beverly or Dianne know.



*Watch your thoughts, they become words.
Watch your words, they become actions.
Watch your actions, they become habits.
Watch your habits, they become character.
Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.*

	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Flowers</u>
April 5	Mary Dawn Steunkel	Nora & Conrad Raymond	Easter Lilies
April 12	Karen Duncan	Angela & David Williams	Easter Lilies
April 19	Janet Tweedy	Jim Tweedy and	Pam Henderson
April 26	Dianne Hermanson	Ed Williams	Beverly Watts



New Covenant News

Volume 7, Number 12 April 2026

A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of
New Covenant Lutheran Church in Morganton, NC



MISSION STATEMENT: New Covenant Welcomes God's People
Founded in Faith, United by Love, and Gifted to Serve

Thoughts from Pastor Weisner...

Since our Newsletter will be published while it is still Lent, I include this final Lenten encouragement. The author, Tito Colliander (d. 1989), grew up and lived most of his life in Lutheran Finland.

The greatest offering we can present to the Lord is our self. We cannot do this without giving up our own will. We learn to do this through obedience, and obedience we learn through practice....
Besides fasting we have other teachers to whom we can show obedience. They meet us at every step in our daily life, if we only recognize their voices. Your wife wants you to take your raincoat with you: do as she wishes, to practice obedience. Your fellow-worker asks you to walk with her a little way: go with her to practice obedience. Wordlessly the infant asks for care and companionship: do as it wishes as far as you can, and thus practice obedience. A novice in a monastic cloister could not find more opportunity for obedience than you in your own home. And likewise at your job and in your dealings with your neighbor.
—Tito Colliander, *Way of the Ascetics*



- March 29 – Palm Sunday- Procession with palms
- April 2 – Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion at 6:00 p.m.
- April 3 – Good Friday service at 6:00 p.m.
- April 5 – Easter Celebration at 10:00 a.m.



All I Need to Know About Life I Learned from the Easter Bunny

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
There's no such thing as too much candy.
All work and no play can make you a basket case.
Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits,
Some body parts should be floppy.
Keep your paws off other people's jelly beans.
Good things come in small sugar coated packages.
The grass is always greener in someone else's basket.
An Easter bonnet can tame even the wildest hare.
To show your true colors,
you have to come out of your shell.
The best things in life are still sweet and gooey

HAPPY EASTER!

Mission and Ministry Update



New Covenant donated 131 pounds of food to the Glen Alpine Food Pantry in March and MANY doubled grocery bags! Thanks so much for your continued support! We also raised \$660.75 for the food pantry with our Souper Bowl luncheon and fundraiser in February! This was so very appreciated when presented to the GAFP Treasurer!



Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Burke County Day for Life Event put on by the Pregnancy Care Center of Burke. October 10th - 5K run at 9:00 a.m. Games, food, and music will begin at 10:00 at Burkemont Baptist Church and run through 2:00 p.m. New Covenant is considering doing a game booth for children for this event. Items valued at \$50 or more will also be collected for the fundraising raffle.

Suggested items are a gift certificate, a basket of items, a piece of jewelry, etc. If anyone has something they would like to make or donate, please let Angela Williams know. Last year's raffle was great, with beautiful hand-carved items, a rocking chair, a weekend cabin, gift baskets, a quilt, and many other beautiful items. Raffle tickets are sold for the items. More information will be available in coming months!

New Covenant Lutheran Women News

New Covenant Ladies will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22. All ladies and their friends are invited and welcomed. This is a short business meeting including fellowship and a short program or devotion. The NCLC Ladies will be followed by the Church and Community Life Commission meeting at 2:00 p.m.

WNALC Community Zoom - April 21 at 7:00 p.m. ET. All ladies are welcome to join with free discussion on topics relating to women's ministries at any level (congregational, regional, national) or Disaster Response. Hosts will be Sandra Liska, WNALC Vice Chair, Amy Werner, past Chair, and Mary Bates Disaster Response Chair. Angela will send the Zoom link to anyone who lets her know they are interested in participating. More information is available in the March/April WNALC Newsletter

NCLC Ladies Spring Luncheon - Please make plans to join us for our first Spring Luncheon on Tuesday May 26th. Plans will be finalized at the April meeting of the NCLC Ladies. The plan is to meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. for those who would like carpool to Countryside BBQ in Marion. More information in next month's newsletter.

The Folded Napkin

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after his resurrection? The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin that was placed over the face of Jesus was not just thrown aside like the grave cloths. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded and placed at the head of that stony coffin. Is that important? You'd better believe it! Is that significant? Absolutely!

To understand the significance of this, you need to understand a little about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted. After furnishing the table perfectly, the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master finished eating. The servant would not touch that table until the master was finished.

Now, if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers and mouth, clean his beard and wad up the napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. In those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm done." If the master got up from the table and folded his napkin beside his plate, the servant knew that the folded napkin meant, "I'm not finished yet." The folded napkin in the empty tomb meant, "I'm coming back!" Jesus is coming back!

Budget Activity Through February

Donations received	23,122.32
Expenses	<u>-21,711.60</u>
Net	1,410.72



Who’s Who at New Covenant?

Pastor – Rev. Andrew Weisner

Council

President – Beverly Watts Vice President – Eric Stuenkel
Members – Pam Henderson, Daniel Keller, Nora Raymond, Helen Wallace

Finance

Treasurer – Quez Little Financial Secretary – Howy Copenhaver

Commissions

	<u>Facilitator</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
Church & Community Life Communication	Angela Williams Beverly Watts	Pam Henderson / Danielle Keller
Parish Management Church Improvement	David Williams Ingrid Farrar / Kristen Keller Debbie Little / Ed Williams	Helen Wallace / Eric Stuenkel Eric Stuenkel / Beverly Watts Pastor Weisner
Kitchen Team	Helen Wallace / Janet Tweedy Dianne Hermanson	
Spiritual Development Youth Ministry	Beverly Watts Beverly Watts	

NCLC Ladies – Kamara Reade / Angela Williams

Men’s Ministry – Al Hermanson

These are the individuals who lead, encourage and support us in the mission, ministry and activities of our congregation. Please feel free to share your ideas, concerns, suggestions with them.

Council meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend. It is not a closed meeting, and your suggestions or concerns are welcomed.



Psalm 121 (ESV)

My Help Comes from the LORD

A Song of Ascents.

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴ Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

Prayer

"Heavenly Father, we lift our eyes to You, for we know our help comes from You alone—the Maker of heaven and earth. Thank You that You are our faithful keeper, never slumbering or sleeping. Lord, we ask that You do not allow our feet to slip. Be the shade at our right hands, protecting us from the sun by day and the moon by night. Please preserve our lives, keeping us from all harm, both now and forevermore. As we go out and come in, we trust in Your constant, unwavering care. When we are anxious or afraid, we will remember that You are watching over our souls and our lives. Guide us as we move forward in this space as you would have us to. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen".

A Devotion on Psalm 121 from Eric Stuenkel
(with a little help from AI)

Psalm 121 is a powerful song of trust and assurance, often called the "Pilgrim's Psalm" or "Traveler's Psalm," emphasizing that God is an ever-present, sleepless guardian (the "Keeper") who protects believers from all evil, day and night, in every aspect of life's journey. It directs focus away from worldly help toward the Creator, promising sustaining strength to endure adversity.

Key Themes and Reflections:

- **God as the "Keeper":** The Hebrew word *shamar* (guard, keeper, watch over) appears six times, highlighting God’s role in active protection.
- **Unceasing Vigilance:** Unlike human helpers, God "neither slumbers nor sleeps" He is available 24/7/365, offering constant, active, and personal care
- **Source of True Help:** The psalm asks where help comes from, pointing directly to the Creator of heaven and earth, not the surrounding hills (which could hold dangers or false idols).
- **Protection in Life's Journey:** The phrase "going out and coming in" signifies that God watches over all of life's activities, from daily routines to significant life milestones. *I believe we are at a significant milestone in the life of our church!*
- **"Not Slipping":** Verse 3 ("He will not let your foot be moved") promises that in the midst of adversity, the believer will be kept from falling, focusing on spiritual endurance rather than the absolute absence of trouble.
- **All-Day Protection:** The promise of protection from the sun (day) and moon (night) signifies total, 24-hour protection, covering all dangers, both known and unknown.

Application for Today:

- **Overcoming Fear:** The Psalm is often used in times of crisis to provide comfort against hopelessness.
- **Shifting Perspective:** It encourages trusting in divine power over self-reliance or earthly, temporary solutions. This is comforting in our current transition.
- **Daily Devotion:** It is a perfect prayer for journeys, new beginnings, or simply navigating the daily challenges of life.