



The Chapel Herald

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Rev. Dr. Ashley Smith, Senior Pastor

Why is Easter Not Celebrated at the Same Time Every Year?

date of Easter is currently determined by the date of Passover, and so they are surprised when Western Christians sometimes celebrate Easter before the Jewish celebration of Passover.[2]

Christ coming into the world, and it also speaks to the idea that Christ was born to die—the Passover lamb who takes away the sins of the world.

Furthermore – not to make things more complicated – the Jewish observance of Passover isn't always on a Thursday! In fact, it is actually a week-long celebration. And remember, Jewish holidays (holy days) begin at sundown, not in the morning as our holy days do. 14 of Nissan is the first night of the full after the Spring Equinox. The observance of Passover is 15 of Nissan. The 14th was the sacrifice, and 15th was the actual meal, or so I read. Perhaps, the lamb was slaughtered during the day and eaten that night. For us, that would be the same day; for the Jews, a new day started at sundown.



If you see the Paschal Candle lit on Easter, and perhaps during Eastertide as well, you now know its connection with Passover.

However, the first Easter Sunday was after the Passover, or Last Supper, Jesus had with His disciples. Today, we echo the Biblical account of Passover in our Holy Week observance of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday.

Whenever Easter is observed, the one constant that never changes is, Jesus is alive, and the tomb is empty! He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Aramaic word "paschal" means "Passover." So when we say "Paschal moon" or "Paschal Lamb," we are referring to The Passover.

In Lent looking toward Easter,

Pastor Ashley 

We actually have a Paschal Candle at the base of our Chancel. We use it for baptisms and funerals. It represents the light of Christ coming into the world, for the newly baptized. It reminds us that the baptismal covenant (our relationship with Christ) supersedes death into eternal life, for the newly departed.

[1] Bede 1999, p. xviii.

[2] <https://www.learnreligions.com/how-date-of-easter-is-calculated-542413>

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and much more!

In many churches that use a Paschal Candle, it is lit for the Easter Vigil, and is lit during Eastertide to remind the congregation of Christ our Passover. For what it's worth, the Christ Candle we light on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, is also referred to as the Paschal Candle. It again represents the light of



Have you ever wondered why Easter can be observed as early as March 22 and as late as April 25? Easter Sunday, or "Resurrection Sunday" as we also say, is a "movable" observance. The date is determined each year through a calculation known as computus paschalis (Latin for 'Easter computation') [1]

The "Easter Computation" is this: Easter is the first Sunday, after the first full moon (also referred to as the "Paschal" moon), after the Spring Equinox. This was the formula determined by the Council of Nicaea in 325 –as in the "Nicene Creed."

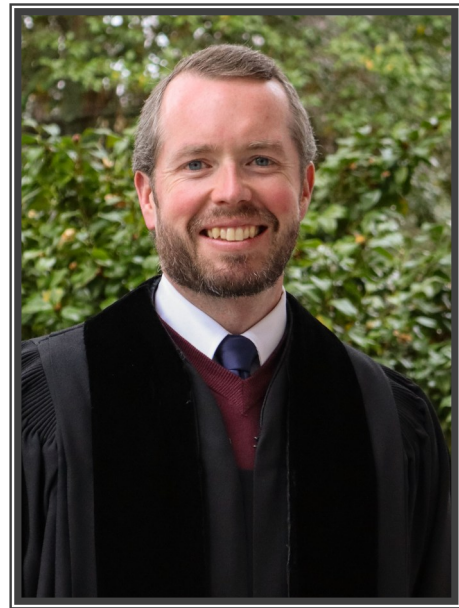
This is the way we determine Easter in the West, using the Gregorian Calendar. The Eastern Orthodox Church uses the same formula, but with a different calendar; they use the Julian Calendar, as in "Julius Caesar."

It is not always the Sunday after Passover –in fact, that's a rare occurrence. Passover is the 14th day of Nissan, which is the Jewish calendar. Passover falls on the date of the paschal full moon on the Jewish calendar. Thus, with Jesus being Jewish, His Last Supper with his disciples was a Passover Seder. It is now called Holy Thursday by Christians and is the Thursday immediately before Easter Sunday. Therefore, the very first Easter Sunday was the Sunday after Passover.

Many Christians erroneously believe that the

Rev. Trey Majure, Associate Pastor

“Eyes of Faith”



This past Lent I preached a message on repentance, and how my views on apologetics had changed over the years. The main theme of the sermon was that the end of the Christian life is to produce fruit (i.e. love, joy, peace) and that we often get hung up on the means of the Christian life. For me, one of those means was apologetics

or “Defending” the Faith. When I was younger, I wanted to debate anyone and everyone I could in order to prove to them that the Christian faith was right, and whatever they believed was of course wrong. If my argument was strong enough, and if I could win the debate, then I felt they would believe. Ultimately, I did all this more out of pride than actual care for the lives of those who had lost their way.

One man that drastically changed my perspective was Dr. Cornelius Van Til. He was a theologian who specialized in apologetics, but he believed that disbelief was not due to a lack of evidence, but to a lack of faith. I see this often in my day-to-day life, those who have faith see evidence for God all around them. They see it in the stars, they see it in coincidence and luck, they see it in the love they share with friends and family. Likewise, those who do not have faith, fail to see evidence for God in anything. One can present them with as many facts, data, and anecdotes as humanly possible, yet the unbelieving person will deny, make excuses, and shrug off every effort. They are not antagonistic to Christ because the evidence is not there, they are antagonistic because they have eyes that cannot see.

When I speak with people who are struggling with faith, they generally fall into one of two camps. The first are inquisitively

asking questions because they are struggling with faith and the divine, and they genuinely want to know the answers. In this instance, I think having a firm grasp on your own faith is very beneficial in that you can answer these questions and water the seed of the Gospel. However, in the other camp are those who ask questions in order to trap someone or prove to themselves and everyone else that their way is best. In this instance, I think our

Arguing about God’s existence, I hold, is like arguing about air. You may affirm that air exists, and I that it does not. But as we debate the point, we are both breathing air all the time.

Cornelius Van Til

greatest opportunity as followers of Christ is to show them love. Not to argue or debate but take them out to lunch, get to know them and their family, and show them the grace and love of God by the grace and love you extend to them.

I may be naïve, but I believe when people see Christ in and through us, they not only hear the Gospel, but they feel it. Christ opened the eyes of the blind, He caused the deaf to hear, and He called dead men from their tombs. When the love of God is displayed through us, Christ calls the blind, deaf, and dead to His light. May we all remember, apologetics is defending our Faith, and that Faith is Christ. God bless you this Easter season, and may we all praise the resurrected Lord.

In Christ,

-Trey



To better meet the needs of our growing TVC family, we have made the decision to upgrade our Church Management software with Realm!

Realm Connect is now LIVE at The Village Chapel! An email has been sent out with a sign up link to get your login for your Realm account. You can find the Realm Connect app in the Appstore of your mobile device. This new app will replace our old “ChurchLife” app. You can also sign up on the “Member Log-In” tab on our website. Please get logged in and familiarize yourself with the many offerings available through our new system. You can view your pledges and contributions, view and register for events, get connected to Bible studies and small groups, and more! Please feel free to reach out to Heather at heather@tvcpinehurst.com if you have any questions.

Meet the Congregation– John Rowerdink



John and Kathy met when she was 15 years old and he was 17. John notes that they met at a roller-skating rink and dated regularly for the next 3 years. Their relationship led to marriage. Counting the 3 years of dating plus the number of years they were married; they were together 61 years. It was jolting to John when Kathy developed cancer in the later years of their marriage. This seemed to be managed and controlled with treatment for a number of years and John says that Kathy handled this with strength and grace. It was with great sadness for John, his family and friends as well as The Village Chapel congregation when Kathy passed away in July of 2022.

found a Baptist church that suited them quite well. After arriving here, they visited churches and settled on Sandhills Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines. They were happy worshipping there for about 10 years, but then decided to look for another congregation. They found that The Village Chapel provided what they wanted and needed and they became members around 2012.

I asked John if there have been areas or programs of special interest at The Village Chapel where he felt he had a major impact in developing or strengthening. He has been a faithful member of the choir and served on the Board of Trustees both as secretary and chairman. He served on the Search Committee that hired Pastor Trey which he felt was a wonderful experience. He has served on the Foundation Committee as president for 3 years. He has devoted time to serve on quite a few nominating committees and has also led a number of Bible studies. The list could go on, but this gives members an idea of the impact he has had on The Village Chapel.

The Village Chapel has been fortunate to have John's leadership over the last 12 years and thank him for his time, dedication, wisdom and service. ✚

~Contributed by Gerri Crutchfield

Many people here at The Village Chapel would say "We all know John Rowerdink!" He has been a driving force for The Village Chapel since he has been a member and most people know him or know who he is. For some of the newcomers, perhaps this story will be more relevant.

John is from North Dakota as was his wife, Kathy. They both grew up on farms with John living on a farm near a little town called Strasburg (pop. 379 per the 2020 Census). After high school, John attended and graduated from Dickinson State College (now University). This led to a position with Mobile Oil Corp which later merged with Exxon. John enjoyed a thirty-five career with Exxon.

John has a son, Neil, who lives in Raleigh and a granddaughter, Hannah, age 27. Neil is a realtor in the Raleigh area. John and Kathy bought a home in Pinehurst in 2001 before he had fully retired from Exxon. At the time they were living in Kansas City. Golf attracted them to this area, but Neil also lived in Raleigh. They knew they would get to see him and Hannah more often. John also notes that "Pinehurst has interesting people from everywhere!"

John said that anytime they moved to a new city their first order of business was to find a church. To John the denomination does not matter a great deal, because the fundamentals are essentially the same. When Exxon transferred him to England, they

Flower Sponsors

Did you know that flower sponsorships are available each Sunday during the year? We offer arrangements on the altar, a pedestal by the pulpit, and the hymn board (hymn board not available during Advent/Christmas).

Flowers can be sponsored in memory or honor of a family member, friend, or a special occasion.

Sponsorship Costs

Altar arrangements (2): \$80 Hymn Board (1): \$50 Pedestal: \$50

All interested parties may contact Judith Krall, Flower Chair at judithkrall@nc.rr.com

From the Director of Music

Last month, I shared a few thoughts on liturgical music during the season of Lent, and this month I'd like to continue that train of thought and transition from Palm Sunday through the high feast of Easter. I also spoke about the importance of the linear journey of Lent to Palm Sunday and Holy Week to the celebration of the resurrection, our destination, if you will.

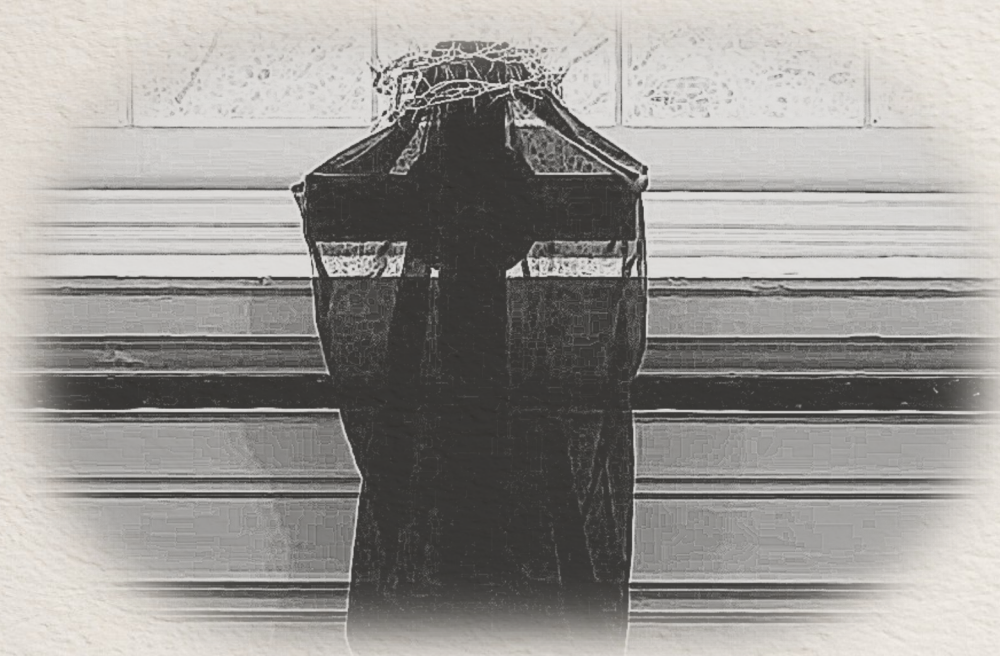
As the Lenten season draws to a close, you will notice an emphasis on overtly penitential hymns as well as hymns with the cross as focal point. This is intentional and meant to heighten our awareness of the impending events of Holy Week. The last several years we have expanded our Maundy Thursday service, which is a commemoration of the last supper and concludes with the ceremonial stripping of the altar. This is symbolic of the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples as well as the soldiers stripping of Jesus before his crucifixion. The liturgy of Good Friday includes a homily and appropriate scriptures, highlighted by the full passion narrative from John's Gospel, which is dramatized by members of the laity. Holy communion is administered, although with consecrated elements from Maundy Thursday. These two services are not joyful, and may even evoke feelings of guilt and shame, but are crucial to our journey to Easter which began with Palm Sunday.

The Village Chapel Music Series

Our Chapel Music series concludes its tenth season with a celebratory concert on Friday, May 9 at 7:00 PM featuring musicians who have played a role in the musical life of The Village Chapel over the past ten years (and even beyond). The Village Chapel Music Series has hosted dozens of concerts each season since 2014 and has been generously supported by church leadership, congregation members, and visitors. This is our opportunity to come together and celebrate these talented musicians and to give thanks to our generous audience. Performers will include The Village Chapel Choir, Moore Brass, Barron Maness (vocalist), Ed Martel (pianist), Kelly Shea (flutist), Paul Kirkpatrick (cellist), and Homer and Amanda Ferguson. The concert will also include the premiere of a new composition by the Reverend Dr. Paul Murphy. Dr. Murphy is Pastor of Trinity AME Zion Church in Southern Pines, and a good friend to our Chapel and community.

This concert, like nearly all concerts here, is free of charge to the public, a gift we are honored to present to the community. Contributions are accepted to assist with concert costs.

Stephen



THE VILLAGE CHAPEL MUSIC SERIES



Friday, May 9
7:00PM

TEN YEAR CELEBRATION CONCERT



The Village Chapel Choir	Barron Maness, vocalist
Moore Brass	Paul Kirkpatrick, cellist
Ed Martel, pianist	A new composition by Paul Murphy
	and more



**THE VILLAGE CHAPEL
10 AZALEA ROAD, PINEHURST**

Lots of fun coming up for Children and Youth this **SPRING AND SUMMER!** Our annual **EGG HUNT** and **VBS** are just around the corner.

We **NEED VOLUNTEERS** and **LOTS OF CANDY** (see the **BIN** in the Atrium)!

Please call Pastor Vickie at (910) 295-6003 ext. 102 to sign up!



SATURDAY, APRIL 19 • 1:00PM
JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY
EASTER EGG HUNT

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
 Sunday, May 11 is
GRADUATION SUNDAY!

VBS - COMING THIS SUMMER!!

Save-the-Date
June 16-20, 2025

Marvel at Jesus, Live for His Glory

Children and Youth



Recently, the Youth had a great time of fellowship, bowling together at the Sandhills Bowling Center



WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.



April 6, 2025

MOORE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Local Charity for Sandhills CROP Walk: Sandhills Coalition



<https://sandhillcoalition.org/>

25% of all donations raised stay local
"Feed the Sole"



Shoes for Students and Seniors at the Sandhills Coalition

Individuals in need receive voucher to shop for shoes at Shoe Carnival
Dealing with hunger due to poverty is broader than just providing food to those in need; those who can't afford food often can't afford shoes and other necessities. Shoes bring dignity and safety that empowers those in need.

Together, we can walk towards a world where no one goes hungry.



Event held at Union Pines High School

1981 Union Church Road, Cameron, NC 28326

Walk begins at 3PM, Check - In 2PM

Questions? Message Austin at andhillscropwalk@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sandhills Habitat's 2025 Apostles Build will have their Pastors' Build Day April 24, 8 am in BRIGHT MEADOWS, a subdivision in Addor (Pine Bluff area).

SAVE THE DATE: The Village Chapel build weekend will be May 15-17, partnering with Emmanuel Episcopal church. Please visit the habitat volunteer login page to sign up for your desired day (8am-1 pm): <https://sandhillshabitat.org/volunteer>.



FAMILY CAMP- April 25-27, 2025

Family Camp is full! If you are interested in attending, please contact Greg Noble at Nobleyl@yahoo.com



Start Time: 6:00pm EDT

End Time: 9:00pm EDT

Price: \$35.00 Race Fee + \$3.10 Sign-Up Fee

Registration: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/SouthernPines/FriendtoFriendRock-NRun5K>

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE VILLAGE CHAPEL: As an independent, interdenominational Church, we unify all Christians through the Word of God, worship God in spirit and truth; teach and encourage the Christian faith; support the spiritual needs of our congregation, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through community outreach.

MISSION STATEMENT OF YOUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE: "Prayerfully and earnestly distribute budgeted funds of The Village Chapel to vetted entities through rational giving, while encouraging congregational participation with organizations we support."

Women of the Chapel

15th Annual Spring Tea
"My Fair Lady"
hosted by Women of the Chapel



Tuesday, April 15th 2pm - 4pm Chapel Hall

Special Guest Speaker Georgina Verzal

*Please complete and return this form **The Reservation Deadline is April 8***

Payment must accompany your registration form \$30 per person

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to The Village Chapel and note in memo "WOC Spring Tea".

Guest Names: _____

Please contact Lyla Elliott 910-773-0256 or Sally Brown 910-639-3874 if you have any questions!

New Women's Bible Study

New Women's Bible Study:

Our next Bible study will be "Share Jesus Without Fear" - Discover ways to guide a witnessing conversation without fear of failure or rejection. This easy-to-use, relational approach to witnessing teaches that you cannot fail in sharing your faith if you depend on the power of God for the results. Jennifer Imperial and Christy Forrest will facilitate this 4-week study which begins on Monday, April 14 at 10:00 am at the Care Cottage. Contact Christy Forrest at ct4est@gmail.com for details. The study guide is available at www.lifeway.com/sharejesus and can also be purchased on Amazon. Be sure to order the blue copy of the study guide.

CRYPTOGRAM

A Cryptogram is a coded message, where we mixed up the alphabet to hide the meaning of a popular quote. Your job is to crack the cipher and decode the message. This cryptogram is a bible verse from the Gospel of John. Answer is on page 5.

O AOIC HEZ M YCK GEDDMYDCYS: VEIC EYC MYESRCU MJ O RMIC VEICT HEZ.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Anniversaries

1 Shirley Nelson	Susan Shank	Maureen
Zander Torok	10 Barnes Utley	Buckley
2 John Spangler	11 Jim Walker	Robin Heuskes
Margret Brown	Nancy Dennis	Roger Simmons
3 Judi Wood	Kathie Parson	21 Craig Dozois
Rene White	12 Sophie Wood	Bryan Von Dohlen
John Lindahl	14 Ray Barnes	22 Ned Stromme
Jim Buck	Laurie Wiles	23 Sigrid Gross
Colson Brosch	Ann Lindahl	Mackenzie
4 Richard Pabst	Ambrose Tew	Bowen
5 Catherine Smith	15 Philip Smith	Dylan Macrae
Mike Matthies	Steven Ziegler	25 Holly Ingham
Jan Jeffress	Kathy Spangler	Vickie Taylor
John O'Malley	Bill Lindenberger	27 Kinsey Majure
7 Mary Callow	17 Bill Tomasetti	Sue King
Shane Medlin	18 Nathalie Thomas	Judie Wiggins
Barbara Lannom	19 Shirley Lindmark	28 Marjorie Ludwig
8 Debbie Fasulo	Lois Holt	Collin Bowen
9 Kay Lund	Kathy Fish	Reid Bowen
Don Delauter	Daisy Edmonds	Ann Torok
Alan Mimms	20 Jane Wellard	29 Marianne Terry
Laurie Walker	Kelly Walsh	Brian Burgess
Elton Trent	Rand Smith	30 Carole Southon
Noelle Wolfe	Dana Bowen	Yvonne Milakovic

4 Barbara & Phil Fulghum
Jonathan & Janis Nestor
8 Jeff & Kay Beran
Jim & Stephanie Raine
9 Keith and Betts Turner
Jon & Martha DeVault
10 Matt & Ginn Utley
15 Jim & Julie Huggins
17 Paul & Debbie Toms
19 Steven & Rae-Lynn Ziegler
20 Bill & Stephanie Edwards
21 Jeff & Shannon Fox
Aaron & Mary Wilkison
28 Carty & Holly Davis
Larry & Diane Magruder
29 Ralph & Ann-Boyd Newman

Members of The Village Chapel
 Adults 726 • Children 125

Friends of the Chapel
 Adults 116 • Children 7

Please contact the office (910) 295-6003 if your birthday or anniversary information is incorrect, or if you need to be added to the list.

Guardian Angels

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



We will observe the National Day of Prayer at our First Wednesday Fellowship Dinner on May 7th, 6:00pm in Chapel Hall

Meet Our New Members



Jeanie and Bill Eastman



Cynthia and Larry Weeks



TVC EDUCATION GRANT

It is our earnest desire to support our members who are seeking higher education, and to promote Christian leadership and service in all spheres of life. We feel privileged to help fellow brothers & sisters in Christ to make a powerful impact for God's Kingdom in our world today.

The scholarship application will be due April 30, 2025 and the recipient(s) will be announced at a subsequent Sunday worship service following approval. We request that all scholarship recipients be able to attend the worship service on that Sunday.



We Need Graduation Guardian Angels

This year we remain extremely thankful for all the "blessings God has provided us" and especially our wonderful growing Christian family. Unfortunately, not all the youth of Moore County are sharing in these blessings.

Moore County High School Seniors will graduate in June 2025 and this year we have twelve (12) unaccompanied /homeless youth we would like to help "jumpstart" their career path. In addition to these twelve (12) we would like to assist two attendees of the Boys and Girls Club.

As in years past, we would like to help these children of God. We will furnish them each a \$500.00 VISA gift card to purchase clothing for graduation, defray enrollment costs for college, etc.

Through May 4th, we are inviting you to become a "Graduation Guardian Angel." You can visit "Giving" page on the Chapel's website or make your check out to the Chapel and in the MEMO mark it "graduation" Bless you and thank you for your consideration.

Pastors Ashley, Trey, and Vickie

Holy Week Services



Maundy Thursday, April 17

Meditative Music-1 1:30am, Service- noon

Good Friday, April 18

Meditative Music-1 1:30am, Service- noon

Easter Services

8:00 am- Holy Communion Service

9:30 am- Family Service

11:00 am- Traditional Service

The *Chapel Herald* is a publication of The Village Chapel, 10 Azalea Rd., Village of Pinehurst, NC 28374; www.TVCPinehurst.com

The Village Chapel

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