

Star Press

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF STARMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



MAY 2026

It is an Easter season and we are an Easter people! It has been several weeks since our Holy Week and Easter celebrations, but I would be remiss if I did not begin by expressing my gratitude to everyone who made those celebrations, activities, and services possible. Whenever we wave palm branches, hear children sing, share a meal at the Lord's Table, or gather for special worship services, we are reminded of the many hands that made those opportunities possible for us. Thank you to the volunteers who set up our rooms, prepared communion, flowered our cross, and did so many often unseen things to enable the worship of the congregation. I also wish to thank the wonderful staff at SPC who work so diligently all year round, but put in extra time and energy to make our ministries possible during special seasons.

We carry the blessings of Holy Week and Easter into the season of Easter, a time that extends until the celebration of Pentecost on May 24th. This past Sunday we were reminded of the refrain we hear from these post-resurrection scriptures; that we as Easter people should go and tell of the good news of Jesus Christ in all that we say and do. We explored the results of those who were faithful to that Easter calling as we read Acts 2:42-47 which describes the common life of the early church.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

We are inspired by the unity and devotion of this description of the early believers. As we long for a sense of unity in our congregation and in our society, we would do well to follow their example. For as we were reminded in the Gospel story of Cleopas and his friend who encountered the risen Christ on that Emmaus road; it is in community, it is at table with friends and strangers alike that our eyes are opened and we see Christ in our midst and in our neighbor. I wonder what might change within each of us if we held that expectation and looked for the Christ in one another before even saying a word?

Finally, I want to invite and remind everyone to join us at 10am on Sunday, May 24th for our outdoor combined worship service. Bring a chair and pray for beautiful weather!

In Christ, Charlie Lee

Inspiring Faith in God

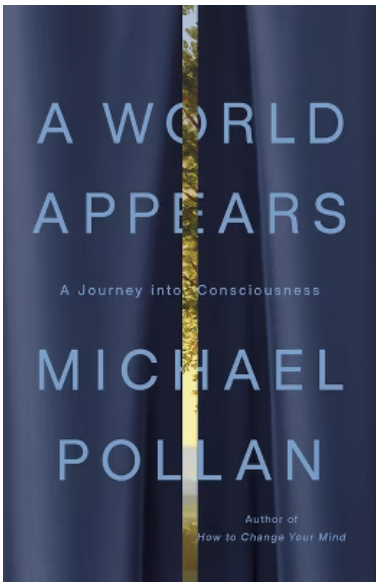


Prayground is also scheduled on May 24th!



Thursday Morning Faith Study
7:30am in the Parlor.
We began a new book study.
This book is titled,
"A World Appears
A Journey into Consciousness"
by Michael Pollan.
Everyone is Welcome!







Beautiful Easter Sunrise Service
April 5, 2026



Sharing Hope Through Service

GREENSBORO URBAN MINISTRY

DINE IN. TAKE OUT. HELP LOCALLY.
DINE OUT MAY 6
SERVING GREENSBORO TOGETHER
for Greensboro Urban Ministry
MAKE HUNGER HISTORY

Serving Greensboro Together
Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Serving Greensboro Together is an annual dining fundraiser event that raises money to help our neighbors dealing with food insecurity.

How does it work? Participating restaurants sign up to participate & agree to donate a portion of their total sales on a specific day in May to support GUM's Potter's House Community Kitchen. Each year, over 75 restaurants across Guilford County participate in this event! Some restaurants have been partnering with GUM for this event each year for over ten years!

Click **HERE** for a list of participating restaurants!

Green Bag Food Donor Program

Donate food easily from your doorstep with just one green bag, You can help stock local food pantries, support families in need, and be part of a community-driven solution to hunger. Whether you donate monthly or every two months, your contribution makes a lasting impact—one bag at a time.

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

CANS
Tuna
Chicken
Chef Boyardee
Veggies
Fruit
Soup
Chili
Juices
Tomato Sauce

BAGS
Rice
Beans

SNACKS
Granola Bars
Cheese Crackers
Unsweetened Applesauce
100% Juice Boxes

BOXES
Cereal
Oatmeal
Mac & Cheese
Pasta

BABY
Stage 2 Baby Formula
Baby Food Pouches

JARS
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Pasta Sauce

NO GLASS JARS PLEASE

How it works

1. *Sign Up* – Click **HERE** to sign up online and receive your green bag and select your donation frequency (monthly or bi-monthly).
OR visit our **Gathering Space** to complete a simple registration card and pick up a green bag from here.
2. *Fill Your Bag* – Add non-perishable items from our most-needed list.
3. *Leave It On Your Doorstep* – Set your bag outside on your collection day. Volunteers will pick it up, drop off a new bag, and deliver your donation to a local pantry partner.



A Simple Gesture





Habitat for Humanity® Greater Greensboro

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity!

It's that time of year again to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity! Our volunteer date is **Saturday, June 13th 8am-11:30am**. A few days prior to that date, Habitat will notify us of the location and assignment. Look for more details to follow! To register email Mary: murquad@gmail.com.

Sharing Hope Through Service

GUM Spring Food Drive

Saturday, April 18th

We collected 1681 lbs of non-perishable food and $142 cash for GUM Spring Food Drive.
Thank you for your donations and to our volunteers!















Scholarships!

The Children and Youth Ministry has two exciting opportunities to help college and graduate students in the Starmount community. Requirements for the Youth Fund Grant and the Bob and Irene Hood Scholarship are outlined in the application. The deadline for applications is **May 25th**. Applications can be submitted to Laura Roberson Hadas by email (laura@starmountpres.org) and will be discussed at the ministry meeting in early June with a decision being presented to applicants later in the month. Scholarship requirements can be found **HERE** and on the website under the Connect tab, on the Youth page.

Our church offices will be closed Monday, May 25th in honor of the Memorial Day Holiday. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.



CONNECT WITH STARMOUNT ONLINE:

Facebook

Instagram

starmountpres.org

Building Loving Connections



Do You Know How to LISTEN?

Be honest with yourself. When someone is telling you their story, what is going on in your mind? Are you focused on the words they are saying and trying to put yourself in their position to understand how they feel? Or is your mind flitting from thought to thought and simply waiting for a break in the words so you can respond appropriately?

We share differently in different situations. Perhaps your conversation partner is someone with whom you have "history", and you have already listened to this person saying the same things to you many times in the past. In that case you can be forgiven for simply giving that person space to vent. Being patient and allowing that person the opportunity to work through their need to have you listen may be the most caring thing you can do.

Other conversations may require more input from you as your conversation partner is asking for your opinion or help to solve a problem. Unfortunately, that doesn't mean they will always welcome your advice. Many times a person with a problem simply needs to talk through their issue to discover their own solutions. That puts the burden on you, the listener, to "stay tuned" but not interrupt with your solutions.

The most difficult thing for a listener to do is to be patient and not jump into the conversation until the speaker indicates they want your input. Giving space for your friends to complete their thoughts is both a skill and a gift.

Some skills to develop for effective listening would include paying attention (no checking your phone or being distracted by squirrels), showing engagement by nodding, facial expressions, and other verbal or non-verbal short responses, suspending your judgment as you listen, and eventually asking open-ended questions to deepen your understanding. The Golden Rule of Listening is to listen to other people the way you want to be listened to.

For more information about yoga classes at Starmount, contact Jennifer Dowler at jennifer@drachrom.com or call or text my cell at 336-312-9589 to learn more.

Calling all 2026 Graduates

If you or a family member are graduating this spring, or graduated this past December, please send your information to Laura Roberson Hadas, laura@starmountpres.org, before Monday, May 25th. Information should include school and degree names, next steps, future plans and any awards you wish to celebrate.

Building Loving Connections



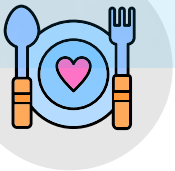
Pizza & Bingo Night
May 8th
5:30pm



Come and join the Connections Ministry Team for an exciting evening of pizza and Bingo, Friday May 8th at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Rumor has it that last year's event even had cash prizes.



Join us following worship on Sunday, May 17, for lunch at Jason's Deli. Visitors are welcome as our guest.





A Letter from Pastor Laura

Church Family,

About halfway through this month, I will finish up my CPE program. Thank you all for your support during this time. It has been a difficult but fruitful adventure, and I will share more about it as time passes. I will be taking 2 Sundays off during May to rest after this experience, but I look forward to returning renewed! This church has supported me through many changes during the last almost 9 years I have worked with you all. Through job changes, seminary degrees, and my and Cody's wedding, you all have been in our corner. I must thank you also for your support and prayers after our pregnancy loss last year. The check-ins and sharing of your own stories helped me personally more than you know. Because of all your support and love it's with GREAT joy that Cody and I share with you all that we are expecting a baby this fall. We have many more milestones and big appointments ahead, so we ask that your prayers don't cease for us!

We look forward to celebrating with you all soon,

Laura Roberson Hadas



Birthdays

5/1 Joel Dobson
5/2 Joel Carmichael
5/5 Scott Valle
5/7 Dot Binkley
5/9 Musu Ayuel
5/10 Kathy Griffin
5/11 Mary Jane Conger
Paul Tiedeman
5/12 George Brown
5/13 Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee
Madie Vachon
5/14 Robin Hardy
5/15 Keith Dawson
5/16 Mitchell Hunt
Patty Ritter
Sandy Yarborough
5/19 Dana Nelson
Joseph Newingham
5/20 Lynne Crye
5/24 Nancy Sands
Peggy Holshouser
5/25 Cindy Dixon
Y Mem
5/27 Kaye Brassfield
5/28 Betty Wade
5/29 Olivia Smith
5/30 Samuel Adjetey



Youth SPY Calendar

YOUTH YOUTH YOUTH YOUTH YOUTH YOUTH

SPY upcoming events

MAY

3 — ***Youth Lunch***
after 10am service
Come eat lunch on us!

11 — ***Burrito Buddies***
6:30 -7:30pm
Meet for dinner at the Moe's on Battleground

31 — ***The Gathering!***
Following the 10am service we will have concurrent events that welcome both children and youth. We will have lunch, games, and a program!

Contact laura@starmountpres.org







Art & Bible Camp

August 3 - 6

9am-12pm

Register HERE!

or Sign up sheets in Narthex and Chapel.

questions contact cindy @starmountpres.org

$20 per student
completed pre-k thru 5th grade

Starmount Presbyterian Church



VBS 2026!

July 20th-23rd

9am-12pm

Cost: $10

TRUE NORTH
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

3 years old (potty trained) - completed 5th grade

Click HERE to register online or call the church office.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers needed for VBS and Art & Bible! Sign up on Realm!



Starmount Preschool SUMMER STARS



5 Weeks of Theme Based Summer Fun!
Ages: 11 Months - Completed Kindergarten!!
All Camps are Monday- Thursday (9am-1pm)

This Years Themes:

- June 8-11 (week 1) — Mad Science
- June 15-18 (week 2) — Let's Create
- June 22-25 (week 3) — Wild West Junction
- June 29-July 2 (week 4) — Let's Get Cooking
- July 6-9 (week 5) — Splish Splash

$135 Per Week

Early Bird Deal* $125 Per Week

*Early Bird Deal Ends May 15th

Questions? Contact Cindy Lee (336)299-3564 cindy@starmountpres.org

Church Staff

Pastor and Head of Staff
Reverend Dr. Charlie Lee
Ext. 116 charlie@starmountpres.org

Pastoral Associate
Laura Roberson Hadas
Ext. 115 laura@starmountpres.org

Director of Music
Sarah Downey
Ext. 120 sarah@starmountpres.org

Pianist/Organist
Michael Parker
mparker.piano@gmail.com

Contemporary Worship Leader
Rhett McAllister
rhett@starmountpres.org

Preschool Director & Director of Children's Ministry
Cindy Lee
Ext. 124 cindy@starmountpres.org

Administration & Operations Manager
Wanda Krystyn
Ext.110 wanda@starmountpres.org

Church Business Administrator
Lynne Kirsch
Ext. 111 lynne@starmountpres.org

Administrative Assistant
Annette Black
Ext. 117 annette@starmountpres.org

Volunteer Church Librarian & Historian
Mary Jane Conger
mjcreading@hotmail.com

Custodian
Y' Mem



Monthly Session and Ministry Minutes

If you are interested in viewing the monthly Session minutes or monthly ministry minutes you can call the church office to request a copy.

Starmount Presbyterian Church
3501 West Market Street
Gso, NC 27403
336-299-8131

2026 Ministry Chairs & Leadership

Children & Youth -
Debbie Stubbs & **Leslie Webb,** co-chairs

Congregational Engagement & Growth -
Evelyn Nadler, Chair, **Evelyn Garrison**

Connections -
Art Fitchett, Chair - **Elvice Kotangonda**, Karen Smith

Finance -
Kris Kattmann, Chair - **Frances Kallam**

Inspire Faith -
Frank Burton, Chair - **Leslie Webb**

Mission -
Mary Cuadras & **Greg Rechtin**, co-chairs

Personnel -
Kaye Brassfield, Chair

Property -
Gary Anderson, Chair - **Haywood Ingram**

Names in bold are current Session members

Starmount Financials

2026 GENERAL FUND PLEDGES
BUDGET vs RECEIVED

Month	Budgeted Pledges	Pledges Received*	Difference Over/(Under)
January	$ 42,000	$ 41,231	$ (769)
February	$ 37,000	$ 36,048	$ (952)
March	$ 36,000	$ 35,376	$ (624)
2026 Total	**$ 115,000**	**$ 112,655**	**$ (2,345)**

*Includes PY pledge received in current year

For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.
Luke 12:34

