

WELCOME BACK!

Church ReEntry: May 16 Here's How It Will Happen:

ALLELUIA!! Our Vestry has voted unanimously that on Sunday, May 16, ECHS will begin offering in-person Sunday worship services with Holy Eucharist. There will be two in-person worship services: 9:00am and 11:00am. A live, virtual streaming option will also be available from the 11:00am service for those who prefer to join the worship service from home (or wherever).

Registration—Due Each Prior Thursday

Forty-five (45) reservations for in-person attendance will be available for each Sunday service. Reservations must be made by 9:00pm each Thursday prior to the following Sunday. An email will go out with links for making the reservations.

**First Sunday Offerings—
They all add up to a lot of
help for worthy ministries,
so keep 'em coming!
See page 3 for May's recipient.
Page 4 will list
future 2021 months' recipients.**

PERSPECTIVE

**Mother Teresa on this
life's suffering.
(See Page 4)**

Rules for Attending

1. Keep six feet of social distancing at all times.
2. Wear a face mask at all times.
3. Singing will not be permitted inside, but humming is allowed.
4. Hugging, alas, is also not allowed. But we encourage "virtual hugs," such as bowing to one another. We encourage any creative and affectionate greetings that can be performed at a six-foot distance!
5. A brief health screening and a temperature check will take place upon entry to the church building each Sunday.

The services will be shorter. And in order to maintain safe spacing, chairs in the sanctuary will be spaced in pods six feet apart from one another.

Our ECHS Regathering Team has worked diligently in planning this first step in a safe return to in-person worship. It's been important to observe CDC, North Carolina, and diocesan safety guidelines. Want to know who has composed the ECHS Regathering Team? (See page 4.)

The One-Column May Calendar

Tuesdays through May 18 ~

Easter Liberation Bible Study:
5:30-7:30pm

Other:

- 1** ~ Workday at church: 9:00am to 12noon
(*recheduled from April 24*)
- 2** ~ The Fifth Sunday of Easter
- 6** ~ Living Gifts Fund Subcommittee
Meeting: 10:30am at ECHS
- 9** ~ The Sixth Sunday of Easter:
Happy Mother's Day!
- 12** ~ The Black Jesus Book Group meets
via Zoom at 4:00pm
- 13** ~ Finance Committee meeting via
Zoom at 9:00am
- 15** ~ ECHS Women's Group: 10:30am
- 16** ~ The Seventh Sunday of Easter
with In-Person services at 9:00am and
11:00am
- 18** ~ Vestry meeting via Zoom at
5:30pm
- 23** ~ **The Day of Pentecost:**
Happy Birthday ECHS!
- 25** ~ Outreach Committee meeting via
Zoom at 10:00am
- 27** ~ Living Gifts Fund Board Meeting
11:00am via Zoom
- 30** ~ Trinity Sunday

May Calendar "Every's"

Every Tuesday ~ Evening

Prayer via Zoom: 7:00pm

Every Wednesday ~ Centering

Prayer via Zoom: 10:00am

Every Thursday ~ Evening

Prayer via Zoom: 7:00pm

Every Sunday ~ Morning

Prayer via Zoom: 10:30am

The Black Jesus Book Group
(May 12) will discuss ***The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration.***

Reservations are required for attendance at the In-Person services on May 16. See details on page 1. The service at 11:00 will also be offered virtually.

The Women's Group will meet Saturday, May 15. Pam McNally will lead the meeting, planning to explore gratitude: as thankfulness, feeling blessed—however you feel grateful for the moment you find yourself in! Join the group at 10:00am via Zoom for chat with the women over coffee (or tea or your favorite morning drink). The meeting itself starts at 10:30am.

MAY'S FIRST SUNDAY OFFERING

LA ESPERANZA — A Vibrant Ministry

La Esperanza is an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Marshall, North Carolina. This ministry currently serves over fifty Latina families in the Madison, Yancey, and North Buncombe area. That's over 200 people! The majority of the families are first and second generation immigrants from Mexico and Guatemala.

La Esperanza outreach includes....

- Las Mujeres Unidas en Fe group:** Social and educational activities for women, as well as local food sales to help them support their families and community financially.
- La Esperanza Youth group:** activities for ages 6-16, including a partnership with Mars Hill Retirement Center.
- Community partnerships and relations building:** ongoing projects, luncheons, and activities with Marshall Presbyterian, Madison County Schools, Mars Hill University/Latinx Student Association, Madison County Law Enforcement and other community entities.

- Free interpreting/translating services** provided to the families and to Madison County Schools.
- Humanitarian Fund:** we provide financial assistance to immigrant families struggling with financial hardship. This fund has been expanded during the Covid crisis due to increased financial hardships within the immigrant community. Funds for this are provided through personal donations and grants.

The mission of La Esperanza is to foster friendships and to build a network of community support among people of differing linguistic, cultural and economic backgrounds, celebrating both our differences and our commonalities. La Esperanza is the word for "hope."

Outreach Director: Rebecca Sharp
828-329-0675 (talk or text)
Assistant Director: Paula Velazquez
White 828-206-4027
lalaesperanza20@gmail.com

(See photo of recent youth event on page 5.)

HEY, DID YOU KNOW?

... that ECHS matches each first Sunday total offering up to \$350? That's a lot of bang to the buck! If you give \$20 on the first Sunday, it turns into \$40 going to that month's designated ministry!

Regathering Team

(continued from page 1)

The great people composing the ECHS Regathering Team are Jim Haaga (retired physician), Ann Smith (practicing physician), Linda Tull (public health professional), Lynda Miller (Senior Warden), Pam McNally (Vestry member), and our rector David McNair. We are deeply grateful for their faithful and knowledgeable service this past year. Their efforts will make possible a safe return to our in-person church services.

And the Team wants to send their thanks to ECHS folk for their patience and grace while work was done towards this significant step of communal regathering.

Thanks be to God that we will soon be able to join together in-person! Stay tuned for more information coming soon about our regathering.

Ministry Schedule Prior to Re-Gathering Sunday

Date:	May 2	May 9
FIRST READER	Dick Jordan	Colleen Boll
SECOND READER	Barbara Schauer	Lynda Miller
PRAYER LEADER	Gail Kase	Pam McNally
PRELUDE MUSICIAN	Rebekah Wilson	Jan Mallindine
MUSIC AFTER THE REFLECTION	Debra Alexander	The Haagas
VESTRY REP	Debra Alexander	Pam McNally

1st Sunday Offering Recipients for Remainder of 2021

- May** La Esperanza Immigrant Ministry
- June** Niños Creadores de Hisortia, Guatemala
- July** Beacon of Hope
- Aug** Church of the Advocate
- Sept** Homeward Bound
- Oct** Pisgah Legal Services
- Nov** Consider Haiti
- Dec** Outreach Commitee

PERSPECTIVE

IN LIGHT OF HEAVEN, the worst suffering on earth — a life full of the most atrocious tortures on earth — will be seen as no more serious than one night spent in an inconvenient hotel.

— Mother Teresa

Esperanza Youth Giving Flowers

The La Esperanza Youth group met at Mars Hill University early in April, hosted by the Latinx Student Association from MHU.

As part of the youth group's outreach, the flower pots were gifts given to all of the forty-six residents at Mars Hill Retirement Center.



MOUNTAIN SPIRIT is the monthly newsletter of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, near Mars Hill, NC, a parish in the Diocese of Western North Carolina. For more information, visit our website: www.holyspiritwnc.org

Editor: Lorrie Cooper

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Colleen Boll	2	Lena Usner	15	Sierra Hollister	24
Nancy Larkin	2	Travis Wilson	16	Katherine McCoy ...	25
Cindy Tucker	2	Donna Turnbaugh ...	17	Benjamin Willis	25
Sydney Larson	6	Mary Smith	23	Carolyn Dannals	26
Kitty Dixon	10	Simon McNair	23	Linda Tull	27
Ruth Van Sickle	13	Martie Carson	24		
Sherrie Hygon	14	Jane Edwards	24		