



Nolensville First United Methodist Church

Our mission is to be a neighborhood church, where people experience a life-changing relationship with Jesus, in a welcoming church family.



AN UNLIKELY LENT

Extraordinary People of the Easter Story

**SIMON OF CYRENE:
UNLIKELY COMPANIONSHIP**

March 15, 2026





Welcome to Nolensville First UMC!

Whether you are new to the Nolensville area, the United Methodist Church or new to being a Christian, there is something here for you. I am glad you have chosen to spend a few moments discovering and worshipping with us.

As I describe Nolensville First to people, I use words like home, heritage, family. We are a group of people devoted for over 175 years to showing radical hospitality, having passionate worship, becoming fully devoted followers, serving together in mission, and giving extravagantly.

That means we love people where they are, no questions asked. Our hope is that all people will feel loved, find a family and a place to belong. And once here, we pray that people will meet God and as a result of meeting God, give their lives and hearts to Jesus Christ and then go out empowered and equipped to serve the world around us. We want that for you. Come as you are. Come home.

In order to get to know you, please fill a Connection Card and leave it in the offering plate. Or contact me at all the info on the back cover and if you have children make sure to check out everything there available for them!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Jeremy

When you enter a Nolensville First UMC worship service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur. All of our worship services are live-streamed and recorded on our YouTube channel.

Ringing of the Bell

Announcements & Welcome

Please fill out a Blue Connection Card and place it in the offering plate as it goes by.

Call to Worship

see page 5

✝ **Songs of Praise**

The Wonderful Cross / Christ Be All Around Me

God Sightings & Celebrations

Prayers for One Another

Prayerful Reflection and the Lord's Prayer

see liturgy card or UMH 895

Our Offerings to the Work of God

For those who gave online, please pick an online giving card from the holders in the pew and place it in the offering plate as it goes by.

Offering of Music

Lead Me to the Cross

✝ **Doxology**

UMH 94

Prayer of Offering over Tithes & Gifts

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:26-31

Children's Church (No Message)

Pastor Shelby

Pre-K - 2nd: Children's Church takes place outside of the sanctuary, with kids returning before the end of the service.

Sermon

Simon of Cyrene: Unlikely Companionship

Pastor Jeremy

✝ **Song of Response**

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

✝ **Words of Encouragement & Reprise**

Ringing of the Bell

Announcements & Welcome

Please fill out a Blue Connection Card and place it in the offering plate as it goes by.

✝ **Gathering Anthem** *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* (verses 1 + 3) UMH 430

Call to Worship see page 5

✝ **Hymn of Praise** *I Stand Amazed in the Presence* UMH 371

✝ **Opening Prayer** see page 5

God Sightings & Celebrations

Prayers for One Another

Prayerful Reflection and the Lord's Prayer see liturgy card or UMH 895

✝ **Hymn of Preparation** *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone* UMH 424

Our Offerings to the Work of God

For those who gave online, please pick an online giving card from the holders in the pew and place it in the offering plate as it goes by.

Offering of Music *Beautiful Savior* NFUMC Choir

✝ **Doxology** UMH 94

Prayer of Offering over Tithes & Gifts

Scripture Reading **Luke 23:26–31**

Children's Message + Church Pastor Shelby

Pre-K – 2nd: Children's Church takes place outside of the sanctuary, with kids returning before the end of the service.

Sermon **Simon of Cyrene: Unlikely Companionship** Pastor Jeremy

✝ **Hymn of Commitment** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* UMH 474

✝ **Benediction /Postlude**

Call to Worship

Leader: As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, and laid the cross on him to carry it behind Jesus.

People: We are called to take up our own cross and follow Him.

Leader: A large crowd followed, including women who mourned and wailed for him. But Jesus turned and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

All: We gather to remember the heavy cost of our salvation, to honor the King who walked the road of suffering for us, and to worship the Lamb who was slain.

Opening Prayer

"Heavenly Father, as we turn our hearts to this passage, we ask that you open our eyes to the suffering of our Savior. Lord, help us to see Jesus clearly—His love, His sacrifice, and His strength on the road to Calvary. As we reflect on His words to the women of Jerusalem, soften our hearts where they have grown hard. Help us to take up our own crosses and follow Him, and to truly understand our need for Your grace and repentance. May this time prepare us to honor Your sacrifice. In Jesus' name, Amen."

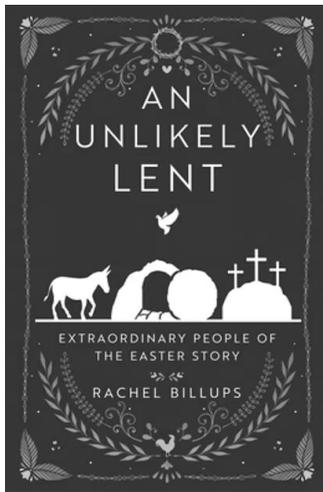
Scripture Reading

Luke 23:26–31 | On the way to the cross

26 As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from Cyrene, who was coming in from the countryside. They put the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus.

27 A huge crowd of people followed Jesus, including women, who were mourning and wailing for him. 28 Jesus turned to the women and said, " Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Rather, cry for yourselves and your children. 29 The time will come when they will say, 'Happy are those who are unable to become pregnant, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed a child.' 30 Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' 31 If they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

LENTEN SERMON SERIES



An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story *Notice the unexpected over the next 40 days as we journey toward Easter*

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the story of Easter. But the resurrection was not witnessed in isolation; it unfolded before a crowd. What might the stories of those women and men teach us today? How will they help us step into the story of Easter? Here, we can see what has been overlooked, not just in the grand moments but in the in-between: the silence, the side characters, and the questions.

See Pastor Jeremy if you would like a book!

March 22 | **The Women at the Cross: Unlikely Courage**
Matthew 27:55–56, Mark 15:40–41, Luke 23:48–49, John 19:25–27

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 29 | **Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus: Unlikely Allies** | John 19:31–42, John 3:1–2

April 5 | **Easter**

Things I want to live out from today's sermon:

Our vision is to be a neighborhood church...

Service and Mission Opportunities



Red Cross Blood Drive

April 9

1:15 – 7:15 pm

Please make an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org using the sponsor code "Nolensville" or by scanning the QR code.

UMW & GraceWorks Collections

The items being collected in **February** are **toothpaste, toothbrushes** and **Fuel Bag Items**.

Please leave them in the GraceWorks baskets in the breezeway or in the foyer.

Room in the Inn

2026 Winter Shelter

Room in the Inn – March 20 Winter Shelter

*last shelter of the 2025–2026 season

Our church will again host Room in the Inn on Friday, March 20th, providing warm shelter, food, and hospitality for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Room in the Inn partners with congregations across the city to offer safe, welcoming shelter during the winter months, ensuring that every guest is met with dignity, community, and care.

All donations may be dropped off in the Room in the Inn Donation Bucket located in the Sunday School Hall or ordered online and shipped directly to the church through our Amazon Wishlist.

Thank you for helping us offer warmth and hope to our March guests, and all of our guests this season!

SIGN UP:



AMAZON:



...where people experience a life-changing relationship with Jesus...

Congregational Care and Prayer Concerns

Long Term Care & Rehabilitation

Corrine Bowater, Ron Wint, Paul Duty, Laura Quick,
Christine May, Nancy Hatcher
Sandy Green, Carolyn Skinner

Hospice

Frances Nichols, Jamie Lewis, Jewell Jacques,
Eula Wilson. Pat Duggan, Sandi Squires

Community Concerns

Friends of Laura Barnes currently in Abu Dhabi

Celebrations

Birthdays: Janice Green, Jean Parisi, Katie Duty

Anniversaries: Eric & Kim Woodward

...in a welcoming church family.

Weekly Schedule | March 15-22

Sunday, March 15

8:30 am - Contemp. Worship
9:45 am - Second Sunday
Breakfast / Baby Shower
10:45 am - Classic Worship

Monday, March 16

10:30 am - Monday Bible Study
7 pm - Lions Club

Tuesday, March 17

12:30 pm - Tai Chi
6:30 pm - Boy Scouts

Wednesday, March 18

5:30 pm - GROW Dinner
6 pm - Student Worship Arts
6:15 pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm - WonderKids, Youth
recharge, Adult Bible Study
7:30 pm - Praise Band

Thursday, March 19

5:30 pm - Cub Scouts

Friday, March 20

2 pm - Tai Chi Class
4 pm - Room in the Inn

Saturday, March 21

8 am - Church Work Day

Sunday, March 22

8:30 am - Contemp. Worship
9:45 am - Sunday School
10:45 am - Classic Worship



Join us for dinner and discipleship each
week during the school year!



5:30 pm

GROW Dinner

6:15 pm

Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm

Praise Band Rehearsal

6:00 pm

Student Worship Arts

6:30 pm

WonderKids, Youth recharge,
Adult Bible Study

Worship and Discipleship



Nolensville First UMC

Kids!

NFUMC YOUTH

Pre-K through 5th Grade, led by Pastor Shelby

6th -12th Grade, led by Tonia Bush

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Sunday School wing

WonderKids!

6:30 PM

in the Journey room

Sunday School

9:45 am

In the Foundation

Youth reCharge

6:30 PM

in the Foundation

BATTLE SCHOLARSHIP



Lucien and Carolyn Battle have created a scholarship fund for the purpose of offering financial aid to members of Nolensville First United Methodist Church who have graduated from high school and are entering their first year of college.

QUALIFICATIONS

Application deadline: March 29,2026.

To apply for this scholarship the student must:

1. Be a confirmed or professing member of Nolensville First United Methodist Church
2. 2. Have been a member of Nolensville First United Methodist Church for at least one year
3. 3. Will graduate from high school in this calendar year.
4. 4. Have a cumulative high school grade point average not less than 2.5
5. 5. Be accepted into an accredited four-year college or university

To apply, scan the QR code to access the Forms page and download the application, or email Haley for a copy. haley@nolensvilleumc.org



2026 Operating / General Fund Giving and Expenses					
Week of Mar 8	Weekly	Actual YTD	Budget	Difference	
Operating Income	\$4,225.96	\$92,525.38	\$109,880.90	-\$17,355.52	Income under budget
Operating Expenses	-\$11,353.53	\$96,282.53	\$109,880.90	-\$13,598.37	Expenses under budget
Net	\$15,579.49	-\$3,757.15	\$0.00		

Weekly Worship Attendance			
Week of Mar 8	Onsite	Online	Totals
8:30	60	79	139
10:45	58	98	156
Total	118	177	295

LAUNDRY BASKETS OF LOVE

churchwide lenten discipline
laundry baskets of love
due april 12

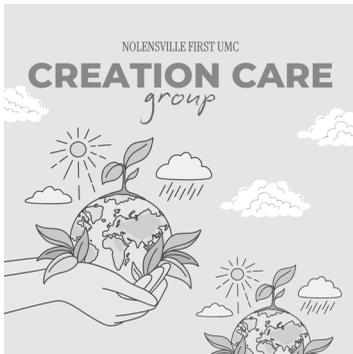
ITEMS DUE BY APRIL 12

This Lenten season, we are sponsoring five welcome baskets for Room In The Inn (RITI). These baskets include everyday household essentials to help individuals as they move into a new home. Items will be stored at the RITI office until they are needed and then given as a gift of care and support.

We invite you to join us in a churchwide Lenten discipline by helping collect items and praying over them, asking God to bless each recipient with hope, comfort, and a fresh start.



JOIN OUR CREATION CARE GROUP



Do you enjoy gardening or spending time outdoors? We'd love for you to be part of our new **Creation Care** group. We have two exciting projects coming up and would welcome your help: creating a small community garden & developing a walking path on the back lot behind the church. If either of these projects interests you, please get in touch with Pastor Shelby! pastorshelby@nolensvilleumc.org

For more info, we'll have an informal meeting at our **Church Work Day** on 3/21.

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS



Honor or remember a loved one this Easter with flowers that will be placed in the sanctuary this season, and dedications will be listed in the Easter bulletins.

You may donate by check or cash (marked for Easter flowers) or pay with your registration here. Plants will be available to take home on Easter Sunday.

Suggested Donation: \$12 per plant



UPCOMING EVENTS @ NFUMC



MARCH 21 | 8:00 AM

Put on your hard hat and work gloves – it's time to get to work! We'll be tackling a few projects around the church to freshen up our space before Easter. There will be something to do for all ages and abilities, and weather will not be a factor!

Want to lend a hand? Let Kevin Gavin know if you're willing to help!
totalcare@comcast.net



MARCH 22 | 12 PM

Join us for the ultimate show at our Youth Cake Auction! Start with a delicious taco bar, then grab a seat and get ready for the excitement of bidding on incredible homemade cakes. It's an afternoon of great food, friendly competition, and sweet treats – all supporting our amazing Youth ministry. You won't want to miss it!

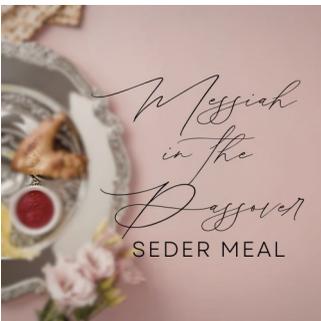


MARCH 28 | 2 PM

Calling all toddlers through fifth graders and their families! Join us for a fun-filled afternoon at our Annual Easter Egg Hunt – featuring plenty of eggs, exciting activities, and great fellowship. Don't forget to invite your family, neighbors, and friends!

Help Us Fill the Eggs!

Easter egg bags are available in the Narthex and in the Legacy Bridge. We'd love for you to grab a bag (or two!), fill the eggs with candy, and return them by **March 25** to help make this event a success. Directions are included in the bags.



MARCH 29 | 5 PM

Join us on Palm Sunday for a special Seder meal as we celebrate *Messiah in the Passover*. Pastor Jeremy and Rev. Dr. Rick Vance will lead us through this traditional meal, commemorating the Israelites' escape from Egypt and helping us better understand the Passover Jesus shared at the Last Supper. A regular dinner will be included as part of the evening.

Dinner is free (suggested donation \$10), but an RSVP is required so we can prepare food and symbolic elements. Elementary-age children and older are welcome if able to sit for about two hours. Nursery availability will be confirmed soon. RSVP using the QR code:



Welcome Guests with Children!

There are children's bulletins at each entrance to the Sanctuary for them to use during worship.

Children are always welcome in our Sanctuary but we do have a nursery for infants through age 3 located on the second floor of the Education Wing. From the Sanctuary, exit by the door on the left side of altar area, turn right, and follow the "Nursery" signs.

Our Staff



Pastor Jeremy Squires

Lead Pastor

pastorjeremy@nolensvilleumc.org

cell: (615) 283-0135



Pastor Shelby Bowles

Pastor of Children, Families, & Community

pastorshelby@nolensvilleumc.org

cell: (615) 267-3515



David Toledo

Director of Music

music@nolensvilleumc.org



Sharon Bowater

Finance Administrator

finance@nolensvilleumc.org

cell: (615) 283-0258



Sandi Zimmermann

Accompanist

Pastor Jeremy's Dedicated Office Hours

Wednesdays + Thursdays | 9 AM -1 PM

You're welcome to drop by, but we encourage you to call first to make sure the time is available. He is also available on other days, as needed!

To schedule a time, scan the QR code or call the church office.



Tonia Bush

Jacob's Ladder Dir. | Youth Dir.

youth@nolensvilleumc.org

cell: (615) 295-8687



Haley White

Office Administrator

numc@nolensvilleumc.org

cell: (615) 475-8108



Isabella Willis

Nursery Assistant

nursery@nolensvilleumc.org

Nolensville First United Methodist Church

7316 Nolensville Road | Nolensville, Tennessee 37135

www.NolensvilleUMC.org

Office: 615-776-2815

Jacob's Ladder: 615-776-7362

Please send important mail to:

PO Box 249 | Nolensville, TN 37135

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