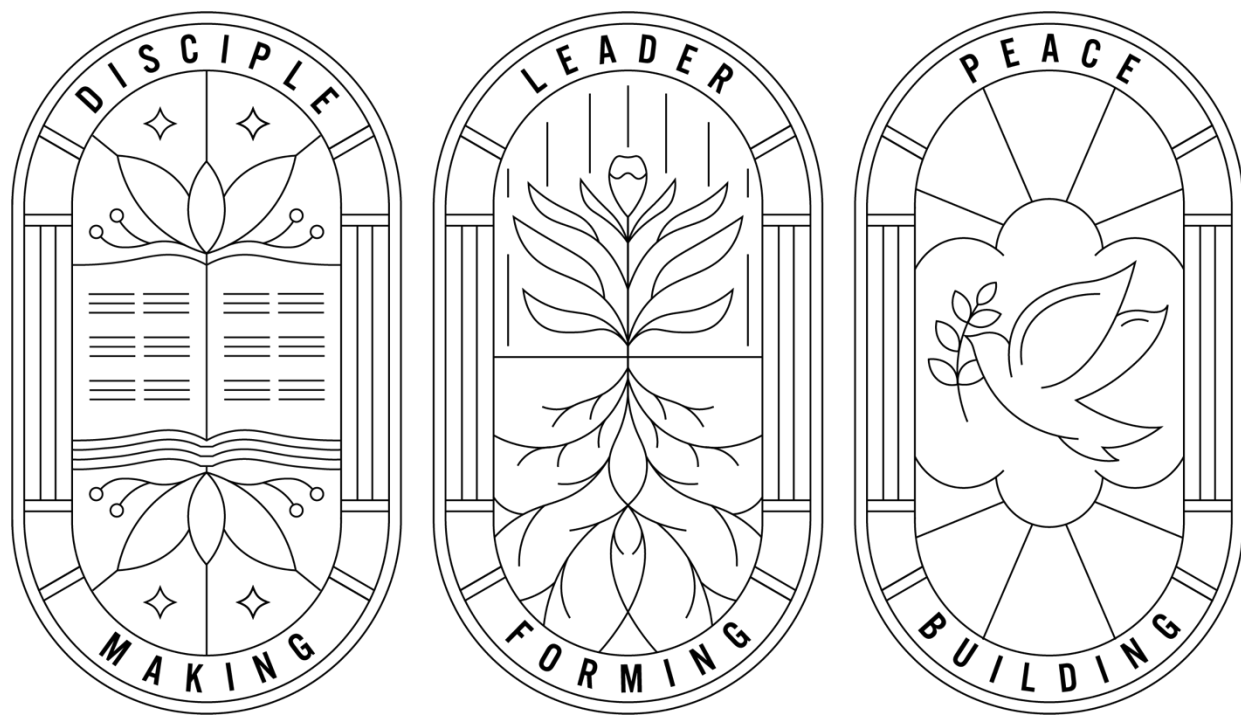


# *All Saints Celebration and Memorial Service*

The North Carolina Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church



Friday, June 14, 2024 • 11:00 am  
Greenville Convention Center  
Greenville, North Carolina

## All Saints Celebration and Memorial Service

Prelude.....*It Is Well With My Soul*.....Saik

\*Hymn of Praise .....*For All the Saints*.....UMH 711

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
thou Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

**\*Call to Worship**..... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

Leader: Members of the household of faith, we have come into this place and set aside this time to worship, to remember, to give thanks, and to praise God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.

**People: For all the saints, who from their labors rest. Alleluia!**

Leader: We are grateful for all those whose lives we will lift up today. We are grateful for their presence among us, for their work and ministry, for their witness in the world, and for the peace of your eternal rest.

**People: O blest communion, fellowship divine. Alleluia!**

Leader: O God, we are known before we are born, claimed at our baptism, guided during our lives, and carried home in our death to a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. We thank you for the gift of life and the promise of resurrection.

**People: All are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia!**

Leader: Bless this time of worship, and as our prayers and praises ascend, may our hearts be near to that great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, all those who gave their lives for the sake of the gospel. They have run their race and received their prize!

**People: For all the saints, who from their labors rest. Alleluia! Amen!**

**\*Opening Words**..... Leah Benn Miller

*“The Romero Prayer” – Bishop Ken Untener, Diocese of Saginaw*

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church’s mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything. This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD AND RESPONSE

Hymn..... *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* .....TFWS 2051

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

**Introduction of Preacher** ..... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

**Prayer for Illumination**.....Rev. Jay Minnick

**Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson** .....Romans 14:7-9 (NRSV).....Rev. Jay Minnick

**Sermon** ..... "We Belong to the Lord" .....Rev. Jon Strother

**\*Affirmation of Faith (UMH 883)** .....Rev. Jay Minnick

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church:**  
**to celebrate God’s presence,**  
**to love and serve others,**  
**to seek justice and resist evil,**  
**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**  
**our judge and our hope.**  
**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**  
**God is with us.**  
**We are not alone.**  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Act of Remembrance (Naming of the Honored Dead).....** Rev. Sylvia Collins-Ball  
 Rev. Jim Bell

We bless your name, O God,  
 for all your servants who, having finished their course,  
 now rest from their labors.  
 Give us grace to follow the example  
 of their steadfastness and faithfulness,  
 to your honor and glory;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(The name of each of the honored dead is read aloud, followed by the ringing of bells. Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer during the reading of the names of the deceased.)*

**CLERGY WHO HAVE DIED SINCE LAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

- Donald Martin Dawkins* ..... May 26, 2023
- William Eric Carson*..... July 4, 2023
- Warren Clark Barfield*..... August 20, 2023
- Gary Lee Gandy*.....September 10, 2023
- Douglas W. Billups*.....September 13, 2023
- James Roy Hines, Sr.* .....September 20, 2023
- Maurice L. Lancaster* .....September 28, 2023
- Emmett James Highsmith* .....November 6, 2023
- Berry Otha Barbour*.....November 26, 2023
- J. Peter Belec*.....November 29, 2023
- John Pendleton Upton* .....December 9, 2023
- Michael David Gira, Jr.*.....December 17, 2023
- Harvey Worth Pearce*.....December 30, 2023
- Robert Bruce Pate* ..... January 27, 2024
- Francis Gerald Peterson* ..... March 6, 2024
- Susan Clayton Lindblade* ..... March 10, 2024
- John Elliotte Harwood, Jr.* ..... April 3, 2024
- James Ivey Warren, Jr.* ..... April 18, 2024
- Carlton P. (CP) Minnick* ..... May 4, 2024

**SPOUSES OF CLERGY WHO HAVE DIED SINCE LAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

<i>Patricia Settle Dawkins</i> .....	January 3, 2023
<i>Fayette Bowman</i> .....	June 8, 2023
<i>Mary Ernestine Speight Taylor</i> .....	June 9, 2023
<i>Geraldine Bostic Edwards</i> .....	July 23, 2023
<i>Donald C. Willis</i> .....	July 25, 2023
<i>Betty Delight Hardt</i> .....	August 20, 2023
<i>Betty Christine Hooks Bryan</i> .....	August 29, 2023
<i>Patricia Bodnar Everett</i> .....	September 3, 2023
<i>Grace B. Melvin</i> .....	September 10, 2023
<i>Mary Savage Bone</i> .....	October 9, 2023
<i>Mary Katherine Billups</i> .....	November 3, 2023
<i>Sarah Margaret Walker White</i> .....	November 4, 2023
<i>Anna Susan Wooten Grissom</i> .....	December 2, 2023
<i>Roger A. Killian</i> .....	December 12, 2023
<i>Neva Ruth Fowler</i> .....	December 16, 2023
<i>Martha Carolyn Akers Hunter</i> .....	December 19, 2023
<i>Inez Gehring Bundy</i> .....	December 21, 2023
<i>Leoma Williams Barber</i> .....	December 22, 2023
<i>Gregg Winn Sullivan</i> .....	February 20, 2024
<i>Ruby Lee Knight</i> .....	February 28, 2024
<i>Patricia Millwood</i> .....	March 18, 2024
<i>Wilfred Francis Drake</i> .....	April 11, 2024
<i>Ruby A. Phillips</i> .....	April 12, 2024
<i>Audrey Cox Marsh</i> .....	April 27, 2024
<i>Sara Jones Porter</i> .....	May 14, 2024
<i>Gay Hay Elliott</i> .....	May 18, 2024

**\*Prayer for the Saints and Faithful Departed** ..... Rev. Bill Negron  
 Precious God, each person you have received in your eternal love, was a thread that has woven themselves into the garment of our lives. When you tug on it, the hole that it leaves shows their significance. The fabric of their character tells a story. The patchwork of their testimony tells a story. Their absence tells a story.

**You have taught us well. When you rose from an empty tomb, you showed us your hands and feet. You showed us how to live with holes in the body, your hands, your feet, your side, your love. We too can live with the holes in the body of Christ, knowing full well that out of the tomb is victory. You are weaving for all of us a coat of many colors, made up of the fabric of our loved ones, and one day it will be displayed by you, for all to see. Thank you God for weaving us all in together. Amen.**

**WE ARE SENT FORTH  
FOR MINISTRY IN THE WORLD**

**\*Closing Hymn** ..... *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* .....UMH 384

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**\*Dismissal with Blessing** ..... Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. And the blessing of God Almighty – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

**\*Postlude** ..... *When We All Get to Heaven* .....UMH 701

When we all (when we all) get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be  
When we all (when we all) see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory

Cuando estemos en gloria, en presencia de nuestro Redentor,  
A una voz la historia, diremos del gran Vencedor.

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton .....Resident Bishop, Raleigh Area  
The Reverend Jon Strother .....District Superintendent, Beacon & Sound Districts  
The Reverend Bill Negron .....Concord UMC, Supply  
The Reverend Jay Minnick .....Pleasant Grove UMC, Raleigh  
The Reverend Sylvia Collins-Ball .....City Road UMC & Grace UMC, Elizabeth City  
The Reverend Jim Bell .....First UMC, Wilson  
The Reverend Kathie Wilkinson ..... Mt. Sylvan UMC, Durham  
The Reverend Saul Gastelum Flores ..... Jonesboro UMC, Sanford and Fiesta Cristiana, Apex  
Mrs. Leah Benn Miller..... The Local Church: A United Methodist Congregation, Pittsboro  
Dr. Kylan C. Pew .....Atlanta, Georgia  
Mr. Paul Saik ..... Centenary UMC, New Bern  
Mr. Nicolas Petty.....Atlanta, Georgia

### *It Is Well With My Soul*

Music: Philip P. Bliss  
Arrangement: Paul Saik

### *For All the Saints*

Words: William Walsham How  
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Public Domain

### *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Words: Charles Wesley  
Music: John Zundel  
Public Domain

### *When We All Get to Heaven*

Words: Eliza E. Hewitt  
Music: Emily D. Wilson  
Public Domain

### *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

Words and Music: John Ylvisaker  
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