

Dear Anson County Arts Council Friends and Family,

As you know, we are in strange times - something that none of us have ever seen in our lifetime. The thing is, we are not in this alone! Although things seem chaotic, there have been acts of kindness and the community coming together like never before, even with social distancing.

This has given us all a chance to be still and give things a long, hard look, to think about where we are going, where we have been, and what is really important to us. When this is over, we will emerge with not only a renewed spirit to come together and enjoy each other's company, but with a renewed interest in our community, the arts, and sports. Hopefully we will be a little more patient and tolerant of others, focusing more on what really matters.

We have so much love and respect for those on the "front lines," taking care of us every day and all those who work in the "essential" jobs. To you all, a big THANK YOU. You are real heroes. The rest of us need to remember to stay home, and follow the guidelines set forth by our governor. Truthfully, we really are all in this together - to stay home, to take care of ourselves and our families, and try not to worry. We will continue to keep the Arts Council, Drake Gallery and Ansonia Theatre closed until the stay at home order is lifted.

At this time, like everyone, we do not know what to expect and are unable to plan for the immediate future. Thank you for being patient and understanding. We can say Bach's Lunches and our summer camps are still on schedule and we are still planning the Reveal Party for June the 5th. We can't wait to see you all again, and until then, stay tuned to your email and check back with us on the website for news.

Please stay safe and well, take care of yourselves and each other, we want to see ALL of you when this is over!!

We love & miss you!!! Hope to see you soon.

Beth, Tommy & the ACAC Board

Please remember that we are in the same boat...and any donation helps us stay afloat. Please call 704-694-4950 to find out how you can help. Thank You!

## Record Visitation Seen at Public Lands During COVID-19 Pandemic

Public reminded to maintain social distance

Visitation at many state forests in North Carolina is two and three times greater than what is typical for this time of year, which is stretching the resources of the sites and making it harder for people to practice proper social distancing. Visitors are asked to strictly follow social distancing guidelines to help keep public lands safe, available and open to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Public lands, including state forests and parks, and national forests are experiencing record-high attendance, making social distancing difficult to achieve," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "While public lands are a great natural resource, we are urging visitors to observe the CDC and public health's recommendations of 6 feet of spacing between each other, frequent and thorough handwashing and staying home if you do not feel well."

Many public lands have temporarily closed, restricting public access until further notice due to heavy visitation. N.C. Forest Service officials note that some visitors are following social distancing guidelines while others are not. Many state parks, state forests and national forests are experiencing large congregations of visitors in parking areas.

For anyone planning to visit public lands during the COVID-19 pandemic, here are some helpful social distancing guidelines to help you recreate responsibly:

- Stay close to home. Enjoy outdoor recreation in your neighborhood. Faraway places are wonderful but traveling long distances can increase your potential to spread illness.
  - Pay close attention to guidance in your community before heading outside. Acknowledge any guidelines, restrictions or closures mandated by your local or state government.
  - Expect closures. Use the restroom before leaving home.
  - Avoid times and places of high use. Visit early in the day or in the middle of the week.
  - Keep hiking groups to three people or less.
  - Wash your hands and follow CDC guidelines carefully.
  - Be a good steward for nature and the people around you.
- To download Social Distancing Guidelines for North Carolina State Forests and for updated information about public access to state forests during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [ncforestservice.gov/COVID19.htm](http://ncforestservice.gov/COVID19.htm). For status of North Carolina State Parks, visit the state parks website [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov). For a complete list of closures across the National Forests in North Carolina, please visit [www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov).

## The 2020 Census is Here and the Time to Count is Now

Governor Roy Cooper declared April 1, 2020, as National Census Day, to encourage all North Carolinians to participate in the census and be counted. The 2020 Census will determine how much federal funding flows to North Carolina communities and how much representation our state gets in Congress. North Carolina residents began receiving invitations on March 12 and will be able to take the brief questionnaire online for the next few months.

"The 2020 Census is North Carolina's opportunity to ensure everyone has a voice and is counted," said NC Dept. of Administration Secretary Machel Sanders, Chair of the NC Complete Count Commission. "This is our chance to bring tax dollars already paid - an estimated \$16 billion for our state - back to local communities to support vital infrastructure including roads, public transportation, housing and schools, and also impacts college loans and scholarships, healthcare and food assistance, among other critical social programs."

The 2020 Census is the first in history to be available online using a computer or mobile device such as a cell phone or tablet; however, the Census survey also can be taken by phone or submitted by mail. Census support is provided in more than 60 languages.

A complete and accurate population count in the 2020 Census is critical to shaping our state's future for the next decade. The information is used to distribute federal funding, decide how many seats North Carolina gets in the U.S. House of Representatives, and make planning decisions at the state and local level.

The NC Complete Count Commission has worked with partners across the state to increase the participation rate from the prior Census. An undercount of our population means a significant loss of funding. According to 2010 Census data, 24 percent of North Carolina households did not respond to the Census - which risked millions of dollars lost in funding over the last decade.

As a precaution and for the safety and health of staff and the public, the U.S. Census Bureau recently modified its operations, including changing deadlines to respond, due to recent developments of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). However, residents can complete the census without ever leaving their homes. "The Census is safer and easier to take than ever," said Bob Coats, North Carolina's Census Liaison. "North Carolina residents can submit their questionnaire online, by phone or mail, without ever leaving home or having to talk with someone face-to-face."

The mobilization of Census enumerators to knock on doors in low-response areas has been delayed, but the Bureau remains on track to deliver a complete population count, and apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives to each state, to the President by December 31, 2020.

"It is not too late to help Census efforts in your community, to support the efforts of your local Complete Count Committee," said Secretary Sanders. "Everyone must count for our state - regardless of age, race, citizenship, voter registration, religion, place of residence or family status.

All people living in our state count, and we need everyone's help to make sure North Carolina counts."

For additional information on the 2020 Census or to learn how you can help raise awareness, visit [census.nc.gov](http://census.nc.gov).

# Church News

\* All events are subject to change because of the COVID-19 situation. You may want to seek confirmation of events.

### APRIL 19

#### Annual Usher Day

At East Rock Ford MBC, 2:30pm with Rev David Gaddy, Pastor of East Macedonia Church. Dinner served after morning service

### APRIL 26

#### Men's Day Program

At New Life Trinity Church, 3pm

### MAY 31

#### 100 Women in Hats Fundraiser

at New Life Trinity Church, 2:30pm for Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition with Min Peggy Hubbard of West Rocky Ford Baptist Church in Wadesboro

### JUNE 14

#### Family & Friends Day

At New Life Trinity Church, 2:30pm. Theme "Value Your Family & Friends"

### ONGOING

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#### Bible Class

Every Wednesday at 6:10-8pm at West Rocky Ford MBC. Classes for both adults and youth

#### Sunday Night Service

At Lambs Ark of Refuge, 6pm. Located at 121-C Wortham St in Wadesboro (turn at Dollar General)

#### In Home Prayer Meetings Offered

by New Life Ministries Pentecostal. Call Pastor Randy Brooks 704-690-4900 or Sister Linda Mitchell 704-270-4071

#### Bible Study

At Christ Chapel of Truth on Hwy 74E in Wades

#### Bible Study

Every Wednesday at Poplar Springs MBC, 6-7pm

#### Bible Class

At Lindsey Chapel FCOG every Wednesday, 7pm. Genesis to Revelations. Everyone invited

#### Power Hour

Every Wednesday, 7pm at Tabernacle House of Praise

#### Bible Study

Each Wednesday, 7pm at Madison Grove MBC. Everyone invited

#### Men's Prayer Breakfast

Every second Saturday at 9am at Garis Grove MBC

#### Prayer Line

Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm at Expected End Ministries, 704-695-1842

#### GED Program

At New Parkers Grove MBC Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-7pm, 704-994-9182

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# Events

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**APRIL 23**  
**Board of Education Budget Development Workshop** in Administrative Office Board Meeting Rm, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. 10am

**JUNE 5**  
**Reveal Party**  
For the new season at the Ansonia Theatre. Invitation only for sponsors to have first dibs on seats, performance dates & the reveal of the 2020-21 season. To become a sponsor or for info, call 704-694-4950 or visit [ansoniatheatre.com](http://ansoniatheatre.com)

**ONGOING EVENTS**  
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**Food Pantry**  
Free food every Wed, 9-11am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr. 704-826-8182  
**Free Food Distributed by Anson Crisis Ministries**  
Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8am-1pm. It is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. Telephone is 704-694-2445  
**Food Commodities Food Distributed Free** every Wednesday at 9am & 2nd Saturday of each month at 9am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr, Hwy 742N across from Burnsville Fire Dept.

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