

# The Lamplighter

May 2024 • Volume XVII • Issue V

"An Expression of Gratitude"  
II Timothy 1:5

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you." (RSV)

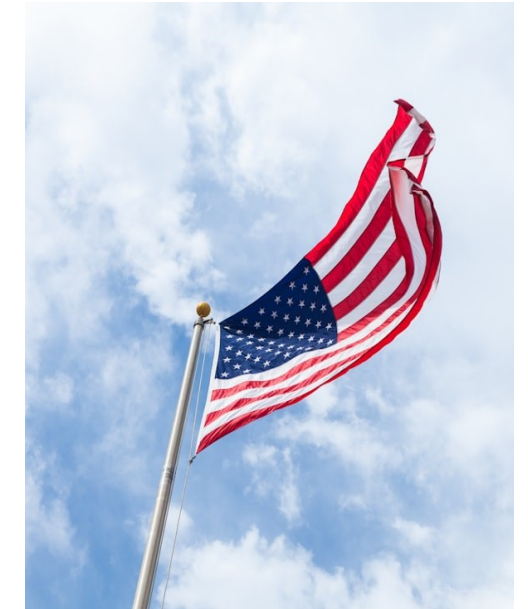
The second Sunday of May is Mother's Day (*incidentally, this special day was founded by a Methodist laywoman*). The experts tell us that this is the busiest day of the year for the phone company, as people reach out to talk to their mothers. Mothers will receive flowers, cards, candy, be taken out to lunch and generally shown appreciation for all they have done and continue to do for their children. All of us would agree that this is a most appropriate thing for children to do.

Mothers do indeed perform a myriad of tasks; they give of themselves, they make sacrifices, all for the love of their children. All of us can recall times when our mothers went the extra mile for us, when they did without, in order for us to have something. I know I can remember those times in my own life, and I thank God for my mother and her love for me.

But, of all the things that my mother gave me, of all the things my mother did for me, most of all, I am grateful for her efforts in helping me to grow and mature in my knowledge and love of God. This, above all else, is the greatest gift any mother can give her child. Paul reminded his young protégé, Timothy, of this gift, which came to him, not only through his mother, but also through his grandmother. It was this training which had led Timothy to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior, and eventually led him to accept the call to ministry. *How many of us have come to Jesus as a result of sitting on our mother's lap, or at her feet, hearing the word of God read, and praying with each other? How many of us were humbled and inspired by the godly example of our mothers and grandmothers?* The world is in great need today of more grandmothers and mothers like Lois and Eunice, like your mothers and grandmothers, like mine.

Remember to call your mother on May 12. She's done a lot for you. If she has gone on to join the church triumphant, spend a little time in prayer, thanking God for her continued presence in your life, through the love and nurture she bestowed on you. If you will allow me a moment of personal privilege: *Mama, I thank God for you, and I love you!* Happy Mother's Day to all of you! See you in church Sunday!

Ken



Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the US military.

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Church Family Picnic



Easter Cross and Easter Egg Hunt

First Methodist Church Washington, Inc  
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PO Box 715  
Washington NC 27889  
Phone: 252-946-3311  
Email: admin@fmcwashington.com  
WebPage: www.fmcwashington.com  
Return Services Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Washington, North Carolina 27889  
Permit #95

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



First Methodist Church Washington (established 1784)



# Letters

Thank you to the First Methodist Church for the generous donation to Darwin Woolard's class for a refrigerator and stove. This addition to the class will allow students to learn independent skills related to cooking and preparing meals. Your contribution will directly impact the lives of our students and provide skills for future careers.

Thank you once again for your kindness and support. We look forward to keeping you updated on the progress and positive impact your donation has made.

Many blessings,  
Penelope Radcliffe  
Beaufort County Community College

To the Caring Christian Carpenters,  
Thanks, you guys, for building our ramp.  
God Bless You All.  
Cheryl Sykes

*Eagle's Wings  
"Christian Love in Action"*

*Acknowledges with appreciation  
your donation to our ministry.*

Dear BCCC Friends:

Thank you so much for your donation for the BCCC Foundation for The Oak appliances. This donation will provide hands-on equipment that is an essential part of the continuing education of these wonderful students. This will impact their education far beyond the classes and give them a sense of pride.

Your generosity helps us to continue our mission in serving all students, the college and our community. BCCC provides the programs needed to build the local economy by preparing students to become productive citizens, prospective employees and consumers of local business products and services. Without your support, education would not be attainable for these students.

Kindest regards,  
Sheri Powell  
Foundation Coordinator

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the June Lamplighter is May 13, 2024, the **second** Monday of the month.

Richard and the men of First Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for constructing the ramp for our dad so quickly. Knowing that he can get in and out more easily gives us peace of mind.

We are thankful for your ministry and look forward to sharing with others how you all share God's love with others.

Ronnie, Brenda, and Stacy Dail

Dear First Methodist Church,

Throughout Washington, organizations that distribute food are finding that there are increased requests. At Zion Kitchen the noonday meal preparers are also finding that the lines are getting longer and will not be surprised as they edge toward 100. That demands a lot of food. Fortunately, Eagle's Wings has been able to supply meals and your donations enable the Kitchen to purchase the large cans of vegetables and to meet other needs.

Two things of note: First, now both sets of doors have been installed by the team from Ware's Chapel United Methodist Church and that should be a big help in controlling loss of heat and a reduction in utility cost. Secondly, the Kitchen has found a new source for take-away trays that cost less and that are bio-degradable. That is doubly good news.

The shelter is at capacity. A warm bed and the ability to wash clothes and take a shower can bring a certain lift to a life. And safety is a plus factor.

Your giving is a life saver for the continuing existence of our mission. All non-profits are looking for funds. Meeting the demands of ever-changing technology and the need for security is expensive. Here at Zion our needs are to meet the demands of everyday life so your dollars directly help aid that cause to feed, offer a place to sleep and get clean, and feel secure. We are so appreciative of your donations and we thank you.

Sincerely,  
The Zion Board

## Vacation Bible School

Registration is Now Open! Join us on our **Great Jungle Journey Vacation Bible School** as we set out to explore biblical answers to questions on an epic adventure from Genesis to Revelation. VBS is for children that are starting Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade and will be from 9 am to 12 noon, Monday, June 17, to Thursday, June 20. Use the QR code or the link below to sign up <https://forms.gle/avyFXTW8c2j1bsD9>



## Celebrating the gift of life during the month of May:

- 1st Bailey Gerard, James Murphy
- 2nd Cathy Oestreich, Donna Neuhaus
- 3rd Steven Harris, Lewis Sloan, Jr.
- 4th Janelle Edwards
- 5th Ray Peede, Leigh Stanley, Ken Hall, Jennifer Swanner, Meg Howdy
- 7th Steve Spaanbroek, Megan Corey
- 8th Gray Deans, Teresa Singleton
- 9th Kevin O'Kane, Mike Lobos, Kevin Rawls, Allison Schaefer
- 10th Keith Travis, Savannah O'Brien
- 11th Dale Peele
- 12th Missy Woolard
- 13th Steve Griffin, Rob Baxter
- 14th Madison Wordsworth
- 15th Bill Mann, William Carter III
- 16th Summer Howdy, Avery Thomas, Austin Thomas
- 17th Betsy Dilley, Larry Beeman
- 18th Robbie Moore
- 19th Nancy Sager, Hope Wood, Ali Woolard, Kelly Taylor, Ethan Rish
- 20th John Gunnels
- 27th Rachel Lang
- 30th Jack Campbell
- 31st Alyssa Coburn, George Freeman

*Christian sympathy is  
expressed to the family of:*

*Imogene Ash*

## Family Ministries

The month of May brings so many things to our modern world, and some of the things that we choose to celebrate are downright funny! In the month of May, there are days to celebrate "World Tuna Day" on May 2, "No Socks Day" on May 8, and here is one that I am sure will be a favorite, "Dance Like a Chicken Day" on May 14. But for me, the most important celebration in May is that of Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12.

The idea of Mother's Day was thought up in 1858 when a young Appalachian homemaker Ann Jarvis organized "Mothers Work Day" to advocate for better working conditions. The first Mother's Day was held in May of 1907 at the Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. It would be several years later in 1914 that the Congressional Resolution would be signed. Why this history of Mother's Day? Because, as I said, it is one of my favorites as we show respect for our mothers and those that God has placed in our lives to fill that space as mothers.

In Exodus 20:12, when God was giving the Ten Commandments to Moses, He said, "Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you." Notice it wasn't just the fathers that He said but our mothers, too, which I have always found important as women were normally not given a voice in those times. And in John 19:26-27, Jesus appointed the Apostle John to take care of His mother, Mary, when He was no longer here. Notice how He cared for her and used some of His last words to make sure that she would be okay.

Our mothers play such an important part in our lives, and a lot of what they do can go unnoticed. It was not until I was in college that I really started to see all the times that my mom stressed upon us being in church, learning about God and studying scripture, and that I appreciated it all. I am so thankful for all the prayers and other ways that she supported my brother and me and how she continues to encourage us even though we are "all grown up." But there were others, too!

There are several women who have stood beside my mom, who were able to share with me when I needed a different voice. I can think of my aunts, older cousins, Sunday School teachers, fellow youth workers, all who were able to share in that mothering that I needed. Most of us can think of someone who has been there with us to share a hug, shed a tear, send a note of encouragement, or spend time in prayer with us or for us for which we can thank the Lord and celebrate this May.

Blessings,

*Sarah Beth*

Director of Family Ministries  
252-946-3311 Ext. 204  
[dfm@fmcwashington.com](mailto:dfm@fmcwashington.com)

## Youth News

Youth Sunday School will be starting a Right Now Media study on the book of Joshua, the study is an eight-session series, led by pastor Louie Giglio. The study shows us that our story today is not too far removed from Joshua and the Israelites—we need the same strength, courage, and faith to face the challenges in our lives.

Opportunities for youth to help:

- 1) Rise Against Hunger is a fun afternoon where youth and adults can come together to fill bags of food to send to people in need all over the world. If youth are in town on Sunday, May 26, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., please come help fill bags. Afterward, we will head over to Scoops for ice cream.
- 2) Vacation Bible School is being held from June 17 to June 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Youth helpers will be assigned to help walk groups around or help in a particular activity group (like games or arts and crafts) and will be such a tremendous help! Plus, the younger children really love getting to spend time with "the big kids." Please contact Sarah Beth if your youth can help out!

Parents, as we approach graduation season, Sarah Beth needs to hear from you if your child is graduating from high school or college. Please send their name (as you would like it printed in the bulletin and newsletter), the school from which they will be graduating, and what their next steps will be. Please get this information in ASAP. We will be celebrating Graduation on Sunday, June 9, at both services.

*Sarah Beth*

### Methodist Women Circle News

Monday, May 6, 2024

MW Executive Board Meeting  
9:30 AM, Asbury Conference Room

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

MW Memorial Service  
6:00 PM, Sanctuary  
MW Dinner and General Meeting  
6:30 PM, Wesley Hall

Circle Meetings:

Agape Circle

9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall—Backpack Pals  
and Child Care Snacks  
4:00 PM, Wesley Hall Kitchen

Circle of Joy

5:00 PM, Parlor

Circle of Kind Blessings

5:00 PM, Choir Room

Circle of Mary and Martha

9:00 PM, Fellowship Hall—Backpack Pals  
10:00 AM, Asbury Conference Room—Meeting

SONshine Circle

5:30 PM, Ruble Conference Room

## Online Church Directory

To access the online directory, scan the QR code, or go to [members.instantChurchDirectory.com](https://members.instantChurchDirectory.com). You will need to use an email address that is listed in our directory to sign up for access. The Online Church Directory is secure and may only be accessed by Church members who are listed in the directory. Your email address must also be validated by receiving and clicking on a validation link before you can access the directory for the first time. **Accessing the directory is free of charge - you only need to provide your email address and set up a password.**



**If you are a member of the Church, you are automatically listed in the directory. If you would like to be removed from the directory, please contact Rachel Cessna at [pkssoccer516@hotmail.com](mailto:pkssoccer516@hotmail.com) or call the Church Office by June 1.**

Once you log into the directory, you will be able to see contact information for the members of our Church. You can also update your family's information and upload your own photo to the directory. To update your information, click on "Edit My Family" at the top right of the screen. On the edit screen, you can update your family's address, phone numbers, and email addresses. To update contact information for a specific family member, click on the edit button next to their name. To upload a family photo, click on "Choose File" in the photo section and select a file to upload. Once you have made your edits and/or uploaded your photo, click "Submit Edits" at the bottom of the screen to save your changes. Please take a moment to log into the directory and make sure your information is up-to-date. **Need help or have questions? Contact Rachel Cessna at [pkssoccer516@hotmail.com](mailto:pkssoccer516@hotmail.com).**

# Missions

## UPDATE FROM YOUR MISSIONS COMMITTEE

We would like to invite our church family to an exciting Mission project called

### RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Sunday, May 26, 2024

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

We will be packaging meals for the less fortunate. It will be an enjoyable time of work, fun and fellowship. We encourage families to come and share the excitement of serving with your children ages 5 and up.

### **RISE AGAINST HUNGER 2023 IMPACT REPORT**

**57.4 Million Meals Were Packaged**

**3.6 Million Lives Were Impacted**

**78.9 Million Meals Were Distributed World Wide**

*Rise Against Hunger is growing a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies. Targeting remote, last-mile communities within hunger pockets designated serious or higher by the Global Hunger Index, we work with local leaders to harness the strengths of their communities and tackle their own food and nutrition security challenges with agency, dignity and resilience.*

## Matthew 25

The Matthew 25 fellowship meal on April 13 was provided by Judy Griffin and Radell Rasmussen. Barbecue, slaw, hush puppies, and fruit cups were greatly appreciated by our 69 guests.

Ladies from First Christian Church provided homemade desserts.

The Rev. Jim Reed of Asbury Methodist Church brought a powerful message based on the Walk to Emmaus.

Kim Copeland offered a story time for the children.

Diana Tew, Missy Deaner, Gale Champion, Jane Weaver, and Barbara Smith delivered 20 meals to our homebound church members.

A total of 89 meals were served.

Our tireless and faithful volunteers always bring their best each month. It is a joy and blessing to share the love of Christ.

Our volunteers for April were: Emma Rasmussen, Bruce and Anne Mears, Cathy Oestreich, Kim Copeland, Beth Litchfield, Susan Zachary, Robert and Kay Smithwick, Hazy Murphy, Krickett Sutton, John Gunnels, Sally Brodie, Kathleen Taylor, Lorre Bowen, Evelyn Maqueda, and Yetase DeLa Cruz.

\*\*\*We want to offer a special thank you to our Pastor Stephen Bazan for sharing a beautiful Lenten message at our March meal.

Submitted by

*Lorre Bowen*

# Preschool

I cannot believe that May is already here and that our preschool year is almost over! We have had so much going on and the time has flown by! We still have many things to look forward to in the coming month, including a trip to the new Police Department. As our school year winds down, our students will be learning about prayer during our chapel times and the greatest prayer our Lord ever taught us. This is in hopes that our students realize they can and should go to God in prayer for all things and that He is always with them wherever they go.

It is always a bittersweet time as we say goodbye to some of our students who are heading to kindergarten. We know that the Lord has great plans for them and pray they face all of their adventures ahead with their eyes focused on Him! Our Graduation will be Wednesday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall. We would love to have congregation members from the church come and watch if they are able to!

Preschool Registration for the 2024-25 school year is still going on. We still have a few spots left in our Pre-K and Little Bits classes, with waiting lists beginning for our other two classes. If you would like more information or know anyone interested, please have them contact me! An online registration form can be found on the church's website at [fmcwashington.com](http://fmcwashington.com) under the Children and Youth tab.

*Amanda Bazan*

Preschool Director

Cell: 252-532-7604

[fmcwpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:fmcwpreschool@gmail.com)

## Child Care

In April, our 3-5's made many colorful art projects to decorate their class as they learned about nature coming to life each Spring. They also learned about what a community helper is, who the important community helpers are in the community they each live in, and what each community helper wears as a uniform to do their job. They also learned what type of weather is typical in our area during the Spring. Earth Day was special and we used that week to explore ways to protect our planet for the future.

One of the most special developments for these children over the last couple of months is learning about prayer and growing in their own prayer life. The blessing spoken at lunch now is not just "God Our Father" in the PreK room but that followed by many personal prayers prayed out loud for precious things in the children's lives. What an honor to listen in and pray along as they grow in their faith and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

*Diane Van Staaldin*

Child Care Director

Director's Cell: 252-947-2836

## Library News

Finding purpose and meaning in your life can sometimes be a struggle, especially as a Christian hungering to know and live out God's purpose for us.

"Which Way Lord?" by Rob Fuquay answers many of these questions by, "Exploring Your Life's Purpose in the Journals of Paul."

Visit your church library to find books to help your journey.

Read EVERY Day!!

*Delane Fuquay*

Church Librarian

## Children's Ministry

But as for what is sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields...Matthew 13:23

I am continually impressed with our children's eagerness to learn more and more about God and God's kingdom. The verse above comes from the Parable of the Sower and reminds us that we are called to be the "good soil" in which God's words can take root and grow. It also reminds me that in order for anything to take root, we must first be willing to plant the seed. This congregation is constantly planting seeds in our young people by their kindness, Christ-like examples, and teachings. We continuously pray that these seeds will take root and grow and I feel very blessed that I get to see the fruits being produced in our children.

The Children's Ministry continued strong on Wednesday nights, focusing on Jesus' teachings through the parables, such as the one above, to explain the "how's" of God's Kingdom. We will continue this study focus until May 15. At that time, we will take a break from weekly events to focus on VBS and other summer activities. Be on the lookout for those upcoming dates!

VBS planning is now in full swing! We appreciate all of the individuals who have agreed to help with this amazing time of fun, fellowship, and faith building. We trust that the children who come to our VBS will leave with a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ and will be excited to share that knowledge with others. As a reminder, our VBS dates are June 17-20 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Registration is still open. The last day to register will be May 20 (or before then if we fill to capacity). Check our upcoming events below to note our next meeting date.

Opportunities to plant seeds:

- 1) Sunday School - We are still in need of one or two more individuals to help teach our Pre-k group. Please reach out to me if you are interested.
- 2) VBS - A donation board is now available in the welcome center area of Wesley Hall. Please consider donating to this event to help us "cruise" into a successful VBS!  
Contact Information: Amanda Bazan, [cmc@fmcwashington.com](mailto:cmc@fmcwashington.com), 252-532-7604

Upcoming Events:

May 1, 8, and 15 - Wednesday Night Program - 6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

May 14 - VBS Meeting - Child Protection Plan (All volunteers need to attend) - Wesley Hall 6:30 p.m.

June 2 - Final VBS Details Meeting - Wesley Hall (All volunteers need to attend) - 4:00 p.m.

*Amanda Bazan*

Children's Ministry, Coordinator  
Cell: 252-532-7604  
Email: [cmc@fmcwashington.com](mailto:cmc@fmcwashington.com)

### Wednesday Night Supper Menus

5/1/24	Marinated Pork Tenderloins, Steamed Broccoli, Corn, Rolls, and Dessert
5/8/24	Baked Ham, Mac 'n' Cheese, Green Vegetable, Rolls, and Dessert
5/15/24	Special Meal Followed by Capital Reserve Campaign Q & A

**Please sign up each week or call the church office by noon on Monday.**

## "My Father's House"

Dear Church Family,

Beginning in May and culminating in mid-June, we will be bringing your attention to the Capital Reserve Fund campaign. This campaign with the theme, "My Father's House" is solely focused on building a reserve fund to provide for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of large expense items necessary in sustaining our Church home and campus. This will be a three-year pledged campaign.

We have been blessed with an historic, large Church home that is the "home-base" for a tremendous number of activities, missions, opportunities, and worship services. Please reflect on how many lives have been changed from something or someone showing them Jesus at FMC Washington.

As we have been blessed, it is our responsibility to be good stewards of "My Father's House" to continue providing for the needs of our community and beyond into the future. Unfortunately, larger, older buildings require larger budgets to maintain them! Your Board of Trustees and Facility Manager have over the last year endeavored to estimate what the costs for these larger facility systems would cost and when these would potentially need to be addressed. These larger cost systems include things such as HVAC units, slate roof maintenance, stained glass window repair, organ refurbishments, carpet and flooring, and technology issues. Think about all the areas that need care and maintenance in your own home! The estimate for costs in just the next 2-5 years could surpass 1.5 million dollars! The replacement for the HVAC system in the Old Education Building and Sanctuary alone is estimated to cost over \$700,000 and is likely needed sometime in the next two years. It is our goal and hope to provide funds for these needs now and in reserve. Our minimum campaign goal is \$ 1,500,000.

It is important to realize that these pledged gifts represent sacrificial, "second mile" giving that should not diminish your regular tithes and gifts to the operational budget.

During the initial aspect of this Capital Reserve Fund campaign, you will receive several letters and informational materials. We also plan at least two Q&A sessions to address any concerns or information you would like to have presented. The final letter will contain your pledge card. We will attempt to provide information to you in a few ways including from the FMCW website.

Finally, and foremost, please be in prayer for our Church, this campaign, and what the Lord will accomplish from our home at FMCW. We are asking for specific prayers for this daily, at 12:00 noon, during May to mid-June.

Thank you.

Rick Howdy  
Trustees and Capital Reserve Fund Chairman

## Bricks and Mortar

FMCW has automated external defibrillators (AED) installed at the northwest wall of Wesley Hall Welcome Center and north wall interior entrance to the Sanctuary.

These devices can help save lives in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest. They are user friendly and provide automated audio instructions for use.

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) occurs when an electrical malfunction of the heart causes it to suddenly stop beating properly, ceasing blood flow to the victim's brain, lungs, and other organs. The signs of sudden cardiac arrest can include:

- Heart palpitations
- Sudden collapse
- No pulse
- No breathing
- Loss of consciousness

The Chain of Survival in a SCA event is:

- Call 911
- CPR (chest compressions only; no ventilation)
- Defibrillation (only if victim has no pulse and is not conscious)
- EMS
- Medical Care