



SUMMERVILLE Presbyterian Church

Share Christ, Serve Others, Grow Together in Faith

3RD CHRONICLES NEWSLETTER

May 2025 | Vol. XXIX | No. 5



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Joy Kids and Youth Pickleball Pandemonium—May 4
- Happy Mother's Day Muffins with Moms—May 11
- PW Birthday Luncheon—May 13
- Moving with Jesus Exercise Group Kickoff—May 17
- Youth and Senior Sunday—May 18
- Church Family Picnic—May 18
- Ladies Luncheon—May 22
- MMO Graduation—May 22
- Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)—May 26
- WCBD-TV Red Cross Blood Drive—May 30

FROM THE PASTOR



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At a recent continuing education event Ralph and I attended, we learned about a research project conducted to assess the degree of declining church attendance in our country. Unfortunately, the survey revealed that “dechurching” is happening at an alarming rate—40 million people have stopped attending church regularly (defined as less than once a year) over the past 25 years. This is the largest religious shift in the history of our country so far. The news is even worse for the PC(USA) - since 1990, our denomination has lost 58% of our members.

But as we proclaimed the resurrection this past month, there is reason for hope. And the hope is this—there is some indication that for now, the trend of people choosing “none” on census forms is stabilizing at around 30%. But even more significantly, the research showed that while some have stopped attending because they had issues with their church, denomination, or the Christian faith in general, many who have stopped attending did not initially intend to do so. The researchers call them the “casually dechurched,” and found the following contributing factors for why they had stopped attending: some

Sermon Series

In May, rather than one unifying theme, we have a variety of texts and topics that will be presented on Sundays. On May 4 we will reexamine the mission that Jesus leaves for his disciples prior to his ascension (Matthew 28:16-20) through the lens of SPC’s own mission statement. On May 11 we’ll take a look at a lesser known and somewhat humorous event that happens as the disciples begin to take on the mission of preaching and teaching the gospel. May 18 will be Youth Sunday, always a highly anticipated Sunday at SPC. On May 25, Memorial Day, we’ll have part one of a two-part series I’m entitling “The Power of a Memory.” That Sunday we’ll look at the Institution of the Passover, and on the first Sunday in June, we’ll examine the Institution of the Lord’s Supper.

Date	Special Day	Focus/Title	OT Scripture(s)	NT Scripture(s)	Themes/Ideas
May 4		On Mission	Isaiah 61:1-3	Matthew 28:16-20	SPC Mission Statement: Share Christ, Serve Others, Grow Together in Faith
May 11	Mother’s Day	A Room Upstairs	Psalms 23	Acts 9:36-43	
May 18		Youth Sunday			
May 25	Memorial Day	The Power of a Memory (part 1)	Exodus 12:1-14	Matthew 26:17-19	Institution of the Passover

moved to a new area; others had different priorities for their time and money; others felt they didn’t fit with the congregation; for others a change in a life situation or COVID had gotten them out of the habit.

The good news was that for those surveyed with the above reasons for not coming to church, many just need a nudge such as a friendship with a church attendee who invites them. The authors also suggest that they need to “see a gospel that isn’t just true but is also good and beautiful.” Friends, we are called to demonstrate that gospel in both word and deed. Prior to his departure, Jesus tasked his disciples to continue his mission in his physical absence. We find this in Matthew 28:18-20, which is expressed in just two words in our mission statement: “Share Christ.”

I look forward to sharing more thoughts with you and with Session in the future! Those interested may want to check out the research in the book “The Great Dechurching” by Jim Davis and Michael Graham (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2023).

In Christ’s service,
Pastor Anita

Contemporary Music

As we welcome the month of May, we’re reminded of the beauty of new beginnings and the power of community. Spring is in full bloom, and so is the spirit of fellowship in our church. We warmly invite you, your family and friends to join us in worship, prayer, and continued celebration of Jesus’ resurrection throughout the month. Come make a joyful noise with us at 10 am!

Julia Miller and Joe Swisher
Co-Directors of Contemporary Worship



WORSHIP



Here's what is happening in the world of music at SPC.

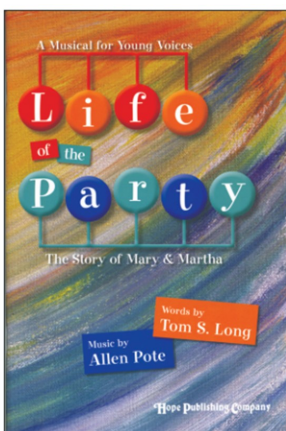
In April we celebrated Holy Week. This is one of the most profound, dramatic and important weeks for us in the church when we commemorate the death and resurrection of Christ. We hope that you were moved by the services and that we brought joy and beauty to the story of the resurrection of Christ.

As we enter May, the Jewel Tones will be featured on the first Sunday, and we will celebrate Mother's Day on May 11. The Chancel Choir will honor the fallen on Memorial Day weekend.

Looking ahead to summer, we have chosen "Life of the Party: The Story of Mary and Martha" for our Music & Drama Camp play this year. This musical for young voices from the writing team of Allen Pote and Tom Long is a humorous telling of the stories of Mary and Martha in the gospels. Family conflict, making time for Jesus in the midst of hectic lives, and trusting God when things get tough are the themes that are addressed with both lighthearted humor and poignant drama. Staging requirements are minimal. Performance time is 30 minutes. Camp will be held July 21-25, and auditions will be held June 23-24. Registration is now open through the church website, and we will need LOTS of volunteers to make this happen, as well! We hope to see you there.

As always, please reach out to me at summervillepresmusic@gmail.com if you are interested in getting involved in the music ministry at SPC.

William Bennett
Director of Music



MUSIC & DRAMA CAMP

**"Life of the Party:
The Story of Mary and Martha"**

July 21-25

Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-1:00 pm

Performance: July 25, 6:00 pm

Registration Deadline: June 21

Cost: \$50 per child

(Rising 1st graders-Rising 8th graders)

To register, go to the link
in your bulletin insert or eblast.



FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

What better way to celebrate the month of May and the beauty of spring in Summerville, SC, than to sing about the beauty of the earth on which we live.

The natural beauty in Bath, England, in the spring of 1864, inspired Folliott Sanford Pierpoint to write one of Christianity's most beloved hymns of gratitude. Violets and primroses dotted the rolling countryside as he sat atop a hill.

Born in Bath in 1835, Pierpoint showed early promise as a scholar and writer. The hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" was originally written for communion services.

Pierpoint crafted a beautiful progression from the physical beauty of creation to the spiritual beauty of the church. This hymn has seen numerous variations across denominations. These variations mean that the version our congregation knows and loves might be quite different from what's sung in a neighboring church. Yet somehow these differences only serve to make the hymn more accessible to a broader range of worshippers.

So, "Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise!"

(Compiled from internet sources.)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Mothers Morning Out Update

April was a fun month at MMO as we discussed everything "Spring Time."

In May our themes will center around farm animals, insects, and how our garden grows. May is also the month we recognize our teachers for Teacher Appreciation.



We are having our very first Graduation Celebration for eight children from our four-year-old class on May 22 at 10:00 am. We are well on our way to hitting our goal of 68 for Fall registration and we even have a waiting list for some of our classes!



We are in need of snacks as we wind down the school year. All snacks are appreciated and will be enjoyed by our students. If you are interested in volunteering to read a story once a month or in helping with chapel, please reach out to me.



May 22 is the last day of MMO for this term. This brings me to a question I received via email: "Are we going to have summer camps?" Answer: We wanted to have a summer camp program but were not able to staff the whole summer. So, unfortunately, we decided not to offer summer camps this year. Maybe next year! Please send your questions to me at—summervillepresmmo@gmail.com.



Thank you for your prayers and support as we grow this program, and **Happy Mother's Day** to all!

Blessings,
Rebecca Mills

Director of Children's Ministry and Mothers Morning Out



Me and my kids!



Joy Kids (Sundays 4:30 pm)

We recently went on a fun Joy Kids outing to see the movie "The King of Kings." We had a wonderful time riding the bus and seeing a movie together. In May we will be wrapping up our Joy Kids Spring Session with a **"Pickleball Pandemonium"** party on May 4. It should be a fun time! I will announce summer outings very soon.



Vacation Bible School (June 2-4, 9:00-1:00 pm)

Register or volunteer by using the QR code to the left. VBS is for four-year-olds through completed 5th graders. We can't wait to see everyone there!



Children's Sunday School (Sundays 10:00 am)

We will wrap up our **"Gardens of Grace"** Bible Series with the Garden of Restoration. We had a wonderful Palm Sunday lesson and enjoyed the procession with our palm fronds.

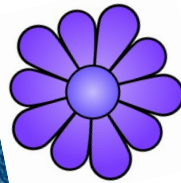


SPIRITUAL GROWTH & OUTREACH



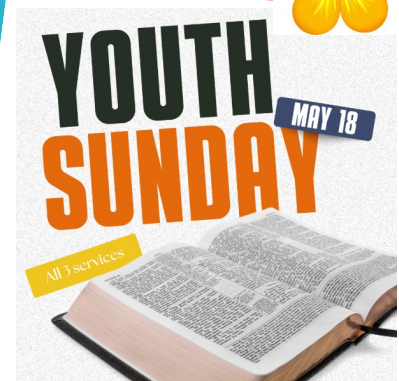
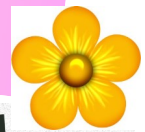
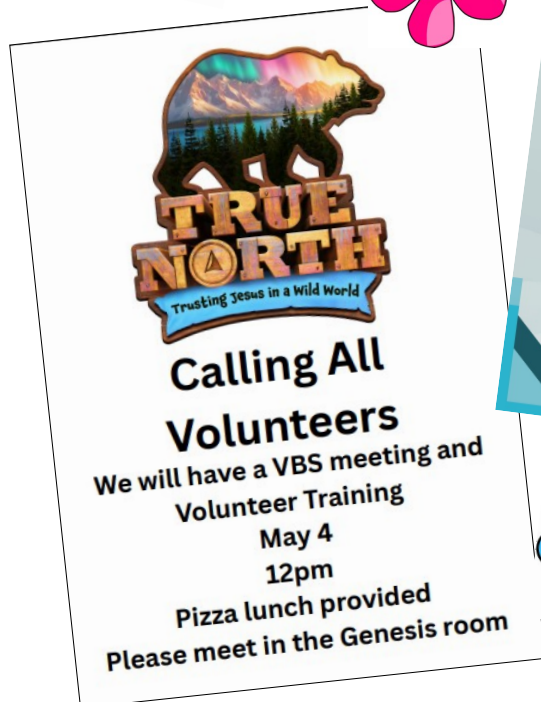
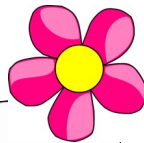
Jennifer Grainger

Director of Spiritual Growth & Outreach



SENIORS
2025

Do you have a Senior in high school or college that you would like to have recognized in our bulletin on Senior Sunday, May 18? Please call the church office and give us their information and we will include them on that day.

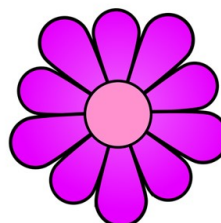
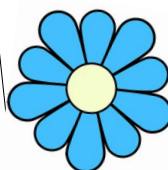


"Living Water"

When: May 18 at 8:45, 10:00 and 11 am services

Where: SPC Sanctuary and Gym

What: Youth Sunday is a long-standing tradition at SPC where our grades 6 through 12 Youth plan, create and present the entire worship service. Year after year, this proves to be a fantastic service full of inspiration from our young people.

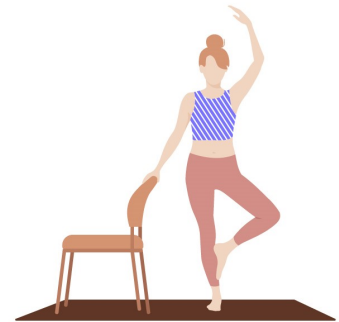


NURTURE



MOVING WITH JESUS EXERCISE GROUP!

Moving with Jesus gentle exercise classes are coming to SPC. Starting Saturday, May 17, 10:30 am-12:00 pm, we will begin weekly classes to keep us fit and able to enjoy the many things we attempt to accomplish every day. There will be a place for all to participate. Meet with us in Lanneau Hall for fun and fellowship. Chair exercise will start at 10:30 am, with full body movement starting at 11:00. Feel free to attend one or both classes. Please bring a mat and your water bottle. Contact Liz Demerest with questions.



COMMISSIONING & TRAINING

On April 27 we commissioned three new Stephen Ministers: Jane Stevens, Cindy Van Horn, and Kimberly (Kim) Robbins.

These ladies are completing 50 hours of specialized training in Christian caregiving and will join our current team of 10 Stephen Ministers who provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time. Stephen ministers meet weekly with their care receiver for around an hour to listen, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support. Caring relationships last for as long as the person's need persists.

Please lift up our new Stephen Ministers in your prayers, asking that God blesses their ministry and works through them to bring hope and healing to those they will serve.

Our Stephen Ministry congregation is one of more than 13,000 worldwide, representing 160 Christian denominations.



**GRIEF SHARE CONTINUES ITS
13-WEEK SESSION ON
THURSDAYS THROUGH
JULY 17, 7:00-8:30 PM IN THE
DORCHESTER ROOM.**

**CONTACT BILL DEMEREST OR
THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR INFORMATION.**



We hold a Prayer Meeting led by Rev. Dr. Ralph Herbert every Tuesday at 11:30 am in the Dorchester Room.

We also have a Prayer Gathering the second and fourth Tuesdays in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm that is facilitated by Fran Harbeson. If you would like more information, please contact the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE THANK-YOUS



Dear all Congregational Care Folks at SPC,
I send you my profound and huge thank you for the pretty flowers and card which was very special with the photo of our Presbyterian Church and the beautiful written words of comfort inside. I have no words to explain how I feel about the gorgeous prayer shawl—I shall treasure it always. Barbara, many thanks for your kind visit and delivery at this time of my getting through the grieving process. Hugs to all. Love, **Marie Peers**

Annette and I would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratefulness to everyone that tended to my medical incident following the third service this past Sunday. We are pleased to report, that following a thorough evaluation at Berkeley Roper, I am doing fine. We are humbled and blessed by your kindness and may God bless each of you. Many blessings, **Annette and John Crofts**

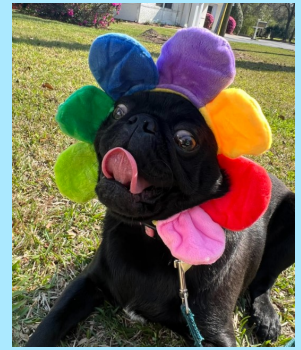
Dear Sharon,
I will cherish the lovely prayer shawl you delivered to me after my surgery. Express my thanks to the Made by Hand Fellowship Committee. It was so thoughtful of you to think of me. God bless your service! **Mendel Lyles**

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl you sent to my husband Mike during his recent stay in the hospital. It is such a lovely gift, and he felt truly blessed that you all would think of him at this difficult time. God bless you all and thank you again. **Melonea and Mike Marek** (friends of Shawn Blunt)

Dear Church Family,
You all are so special! Mere words cannot express how grateful and thankful we feel toward all of you. Your calls and cards have meant so much. The flowers and visits have been extra special. And never can we forget the delicious meals many of you prepared. We are blessed beyond measure to have you as our extended family. In addition, we have witnessed numerous times when only God could have been “in charge” of what happened or how things happened. We can only give praise and thanks to all of you as well as our Awesome God. Our thanks and blessings, **Butch and Suzanne Chastain**

Clarence's Corner

It's May, y'all! Can you believe how fast the year is going by? This month I want to share with you some easy ways in which you can help my canine friends at Dorchester Paws who won't have an air conditioned home to live in this summer. My friends are in need of the following items:



- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| *newspapers | *dry puppy and dog food |
| *fitted sheets | *cotton balls |
| *pillow cases | *nitrile gloves |
| *large comforters | *trash bags |
| *human clothes | |

If you can't take your donations to Dorchester Paws, feel free to bring them to my Mommy and she will deliver them for you.

With Puppy
Kisses,



Clarence

Congregational Care Dog



Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon

Our annual Birthday Luncheon will take place Tuesday, May 13, in Lanneau Hall. Our guest speaker will be Gray Thomas, Board Chair of HELP of Summerville.

All ladies of the church are invited, not just those belonging to PW. Lunch will begin at NOON, but we will have access to the hall beginning at 11:00 am to set up. As always, you are asked to bring a dish to share. So mark your calendars and plan to join us for a time of fellowship. Questions may be directed to Marylou Semones at 443-812-2673.

A note about logistics: Mothers Morning Out will be in session that day, and since child pick-up will begin at noon, please plan to arrive a few minutes early to avoid the traffic congestion. Also, please enter Lanneau Hall from the outside and not from the Education Building.



SERVICE & OUTREACH



Hands of Christ wants to extend a huge thank you for your many wonderful donations of socks and underwear over the past month. We are ahead of the game for our August giveaway and excited to see all the smiling faces your donations will bring!

We will continue collecting all items throughout May so that in June we will be ready to sort and bundle and make our final push for anything we lack. With adding 3-year-olds to our distribution, we are collecting gently-used and new school clothing in sizes 3T and up, all school supplies and small water bottles appropriate for 3 to 4 year olds. Our goal is to serve at least 300 children this year!

We appreciate those of you who are already signing up to volunteer. We could not do this without you!



Hearts for Summerville just wrapped up our five-year anniversary celebration—an egg-stravagant Easter gathering—and has received an extension on a grant that provides nutritious microwaveable meals for children and youth. A huge thank-you to Phillip for being our go-to driver and to Ellen for donating eggs for our Easter party. We are so grateful for your prayers, donations and support. The partnership between SPC and HFS is one we cherish!

We will continue to deliver meals and groceries on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30 pm and on the first and third Saturdays at 3:30 pm. Please let me know if you'd like to join!

Heather Kemble



NEEDS FOR ANCHOR HOUSE AND LIGHT HOUSE:

coffee, sugar, industrial mop
floor cleaner, paper plates, paper towels

MEAL DELIVERY

Sign up to provide meals for our guests. Home-cooked meals, pizza, sandwiches or other options are all welcome. Please call Anchor House at 843-469-8858 or Light House at 843-771-2094 to schedule your meal delivery.

We are in extreme need
of protein items
such as:
tuna packets
potted meats
soup in cups
and
small Dinty Moore dinners.



Please bring items to the church office if you can help.
Thank you!



With the huge response to help the Doty Park ministry from our Minute for Mission back in February, we are able to feed people at the park and also go out into the community with sack lunches! Thank you to those who showed interest. We are so appreciative and excited to help the community!

FELLOWSHIP & MORE



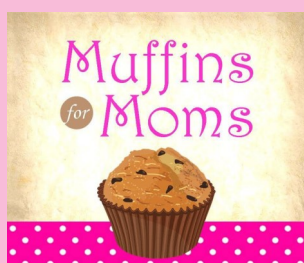
SUNDAY, MAY 18, at 12 PM
(open area by the SPC playground)

**Fellowship will provide fried chicken.
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.**

We will also have some fun games to play!
Tug of War
Three-Legged Race
Cornhole Tournament

**If your family, friends, Sunday School class or
Ministry Team would like to sign up to enter,
please contact Julie McCormick
at the church office.**

**Look for the sign-ups on the back of
Connection Cards or bulletin inserts.**



**MUFFINS FOR MOMS
DURING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
ON SUNDAY, MAY 11, IN
LANNEAU HALL.
SPONSORED BY
PW CIRCLE GROUPS**



Thursday, May 22, 11:30 am
Italian Bistro
625 N. Main Street, Summerville

**Please contact Claudette Young
at claudettemarieyoung@yahoo.com
or by phone at (843) 991-1057
to confirm your attendance.**

COMBINED GROUP EVENT



MAY 31 @ 7:00 PM
Tool Time Comedy: Laughs & Lagers
(for ages 55+)
BOLTS & BREWS BEER GARDEN
713 Old Trolley Road, Summerville



CONGRATS WE HAVE THREE NEW BABY GIRLS IN THE SPC FAMILY!

Clara June Bowers born March 9 to Ron & Alyssa Bowers
(grandparents are Jeff & Mary Bowers)
Avleen (Avi) Kaur Kochar born April 12
to Guneet & Brandi Kochar
(grandparents are Raymond & Mary Von Dohlen)
Elizabeth Palmer Northrop born April 19
to Parker & Jane Northrop
(grandparents are Hunter & Perry Harris)

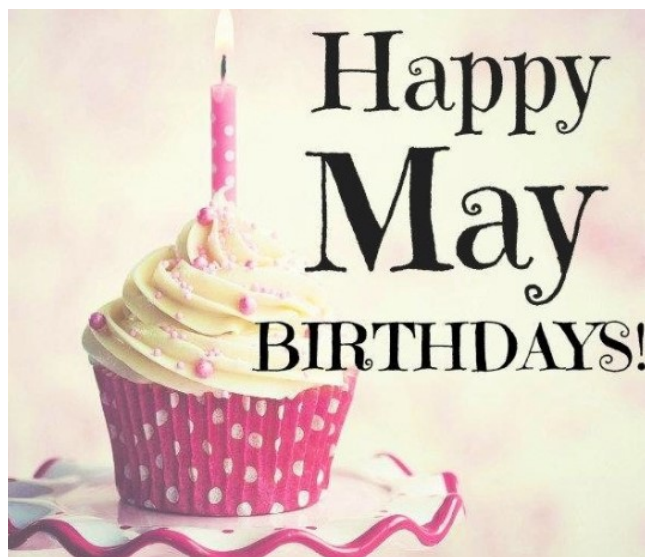
FINANCE & MISC



The offerings along with monies received for the use of facilities and the total expenses for the one month of March and year-to-date are as follows:

	Monthly	Year to Date
Receipts	\$ 105,481.00	\$326,332.00
Expenses	\$ 70,522.00	\$224,912.00
Excess (deficit)	\$ 34,959.00	\$101,420.00

Monthly Receipts and Expenses fluctuate, which has resulted in 2025 year-to-date excess revenues over expenses of \$101,420. January and February revenues reflect numerous IRA contributions which is consistent with the prior years; the result is a large excess which will be used throughout the year. The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for financially supporting our church.



Mitchell McDougal	2	Caroline Edwards	18
Barbara Hauschild	3	Harl Porter	18
Caitlin Christmas	4	David Martin	20
Chase Jasso	5	Ingrid Don	21
Carol Mayberry	5	Phillip Griffin	22
Ed Owens	9	Sue Harris	22
John Dumas	13	Bill Underwood	22
Brenna Heslop	13	Rosemary Ward	23
Gryffin Haton	14	Tony Young	24
Steve Hill	14	Gabriel Barkley	25
Betty Jones	14	Matthew Lorenz	25
Rosanne Feters	15	Connor Jasso	26
Colin Martin	16	Barbara Stewart	26
Janice Sharp	16	John Wilson	26
Seth Van Deventer		Kaitlyn Fuller	27
Williams	17	Dennis Utter	27
		Barb Powell	31



By
Ezekiel W. Mouse, Esq.
Special to 3rd
Chronicles

"I am so looking forward to the church picnic this month, Mary!"

"Why, Ezekiel, as if I couldn't guess?"

"Why, because of all the delicious food that will be eaten there, of course. I like where it is going to be held. Being on the green space at the church makes it easy to forage for scraps that night. It also is close to the gym if rain or wind is a problem."

"Don't forget that the children can play on the play-ground, people will not have to move their cars after church, and there will be no one lost trying to find where the picnic is being held."

"Those are many good reasons. Also, food can be stored in refrigerators at the church so no one becomes sick."

"I think that it is important that our church not only worships together, but enjoys doing fun things together. You can't get to know people just during the 'passing of the peace' segment in church."

"Getting to know people is part of what makes us 'Ye Friendly Church,' a mandate displayed above the door in the sanctuary. If we don't fulfill that task, we lose the opportunity to become a family in faith."



MILITARY LIST & SESSION UPDATE

Session



Greetings!

This month I thought I would change things up and review the typical items we cover at our meetings:

- Anita opens every meeting with a devotion and prayer.
- Session members take turns reviewing a chapter from the leadership book we are reading ("Sailboat Church" by Joan Gray). This book is driving us to continue to grow our spiritual faith and discern where God is leading and enabling us to seek and do the will of Christ.
- 2025 major goals for each Ministry Team are reviewed to ensure key items are on track, and a working calendar of upcoming significant events is also reviewed.
- Session approves minutes from the previous month, approves other motions as required (e.g., baptisms), and reviews any membership changes.
- Session reviews the report from each staff member, and Anita provides her update.
- Each Ministry Team provides a written report and update to Session on key items.

If you have any questions, please feel free to see me or contact me at summervillepresclerk@gmail.com.

Blessings,

Oden Semones

Clerk of Session



Military Prayer List

- ◆ Michael Arnold, Army, Hunter Air Field, Savannah, GA (Nancy Piscatella's grandson)
- ◆ Cade Carpenter, USAF, Honolulu, HI; Zoë Carpenter, USAF, Scotts AFB, San Antonio, TX (Kathy Whittle's nephew and niece)
- ◆ Derek Craver (son of Don and Patricia) Navy, Jacksonville, FL
- ◆ Quincy D'Antonio (Linda Wigfield's grandson) Health Clinic, Navy Base, BHC Diego Garcia, Indian Ocean
- ◆ Elijah Kellar (Robert and Sue Wearn's nephew), US Navy, Long Beach, MS
- ◆ Matt Kitchen (Merrilyn Long's nephew) Coast Guard, Schererville, IN
- ◆ Andre Maurice Moncrief (son of Sherry Roberts), Army Reserve, Modesto, CA
- ◆ Lt. Parker Northrop (son-in-law of Hunter and Perry Harris) Navy, Sicily
- ◆ Sebastian Silvers (son-in-law of Chris and Rebecca Mills) Army Flight Engineer, Fort Drum, New York
- ◆ Andrew Tuttle (Patty Taylor's great-nephew) Army, Fort Wainwright, AK
- ◆ Capt. Charles Young, USNR, NAVWAR, CYBER EAST (Tony and Claudette Young's grandson)
- ◆ HM2 (FMF) Nathan Herrington, Surface Force Independent Duty Corpsman School (Tony and Claudette Young's grandson)

Please let the church office know when changes occur. Thank you.

MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER AND HONOR

On Sunday, May 25, we will remember and honor our church members who have served with a special bulletin insert. Memorial Day is observed on Monday, May 26.

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Anita Herbert—Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ralph Herbert—Discipleship Pastor
Jennifer Grainger—Director of Spiritual Growth & Outreach
Rebecca Mills—Director of Children's Ministry/
Director of Mother's Morning Out
William Bennett—Director of Music
Jim Moore—Organist
Joe Swisher and Julia Miller—Co-Directors of Contemporary Worship
Cecelia Bond—Finance Manager
Julie McCormick—Administrative Office & Communications Coordinator
Shirley Gay—Sexton
Bob Hirsch—Sexton

SESSION

Fellowship—Sheri Page (Co-Chair), Zachary Storti (Co-Chair)
Nurture—Charlie Harris (Chair), Sharlene Douthitt-Schneidmuller
Service—Kristi Selander (Chair), Kelli Kemmerer
Spiritual Growth—Alicia Macomber (Chair), Hunter Harris
Property—Lauch Blue (Chair), Jade Hill
Finance—Jeff Bowers (Chair), Robert Pratt
Personnel—Jeff Bowers (Chair)
Worship—Walt Morgan (Chair), Mike Homola
Clerk of Session—Oden Semones

3RD CHRONICLES

Proofreaders: Frieda Hughey, Merrilyn Long, Carol Austin, Janice Sharp, Elaine Segelken, Diane Burden
Assemblers: Cecelia Bond, Barbara Grube, Gail Hyatt, Patsy Rose, Rose Warrell, Lynn Hawks
Send questions, comments and news to summervillepres@gmail.org
The 3rd Chronicles deadline is normally the second Friday of each month.



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www.summervillepres.org

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