

# *The Methodist Messenger*

MAY 2021

Whiteville United Methodist Church

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Holy Communion Service/Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

## Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church

As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ's name.



## **Pentecostal Power**

When the day of Pentecost arrives the disciples of Jesus have been waiting and praying some days for the Spirit to come, just as Jesus commanded them before he ascended into heaven. They waited and they prayed, but nothing could have prepared them for this. The Holy Spirit bursts forth unbridled in power like a rushing wind

turning these reflective, waiting disciples outward to their new mission: to be joined to their neighbors and their enemies through the common goods of food, prayer, language, and mutual respect and submission to one another.

On Pentecost Jesus's disciples become preachers in "other tongues" among a diverse people that think the disciples are drunk. People hear the gospel in their own languages. They're caught up in the intimate union of God the Spirit with human flesh. And out of this ecstatic moment comes much fruit. Peter, for example, goes against his better judgment at the behest of the Spirit to meet the presence of Jesus in a Roman, Gentile family and baptizes them. Philip gets pulled away from the work he's doing in Samaria to encounter an Ethiopian eunuch on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Stephen, new to the faith, finds himself on trial before the Sanhedrin, and preaches a sermon that gets him stoned to death. Paul goes from being a murderous, rampaging Pharisee to Jesus's primary messenger to the nations. Lydia is pressed to use her business acumen to lead and fund the ministry that establishes the church in Philippi. The Holy Spirit of Pentecost — the same Spirit that fills us with Jesus today — is wild, blustery, and pushy, knitting people of all kinds together as the community of Jesus.

Pentecost is a miracle that employs mouths and bodies, God joining strangers in an experience of togetherness that for a moment expresses his peace in the bonds of love and justice. Estranged peoples understand one another, hear one another, touch one another. Jew to Jew, Jew to Gentile, Church to World.

One of my favorite professors at Asbury explained what's going on in Acts by observing that in the course of the narrative almost no one is doing what they want to do. In fact, everyone is being led by the Spirit to do exactly what they don't want to do and to desire the very people they want to despise. And it all begins with the revolution of intimacy that erupts on Pentecost.

The Spirit doesn't come as a whisperer asking for permission to act on you, "Are you ready, Peter?" "Does this work for you, Mary?" No. "A sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting." There's no permission, no checking readiness, no consideration of comfort, only the rushing, the pressing, and most importantly, the empowering. The same Spirit calls and presses and draws on us the same as with the first apostles: toward the future that God desires, a future in which we the body of Jesus are turned out to the world.

The wind of the Spirit turns us out into the uncomfortable, the unknown, the unimaginable, yes. But the good news is that it's the Holy Spirit who turns us out: God's powerful, abiding presence with us, upon us, in us. When that happens, walls of segregation can become tables of grace where people gather to share in the greater gift of life in Christ. Where is the Spirit-wind of Pentecostal Revival blowing you?

*Pastor Terry*

*"Reaching People, to Teach People, to reach People"*

OUTREACH TEAM - Saying *Happy Mothers Day* in May

Mission of Hope in Sierra Leone is centered in the city of Rotifunk, population about 6 million people. The work is with the local hospital and improvements that will save and change the lives of mothers and children.

The downward cycle of extreme poverty and the lack of professional health care has created desperate conditions in the village of Rotifunk and the Moyamba District of Sierra Leone. This is one of the poorest places in the world.

Mothers and children face overwhelming health challenges from infectious diseases — like malaria, diarrhea, and respiratory infections — due to impoverished living conditions that include scarcity of clean water, malnutrition, poor housing, and near non-existent sanitation and medical care systems. There’s an estimated 150 medical doctors serving a population of 7.4 million people in Sierra Leone. That’s one medical doctor per 50,000 citizens, as compared to one medical doctor per 392 citizens in the United States.

Now a project supported by the NCConference UMC, it was initiated in 2013 by the Wrightsville Beach congregation after the Bishop of Sierra Leone visited their church. The Board of Directors is still located in Wilmington. This will enable us to have more personal interaction and learn about the work of transformation being done.

Our church will contribute \$1,800 this year toward fulfilling the efforts of Mission of Hope. In May, we can join in saying “*Happy Mothers Day.*”

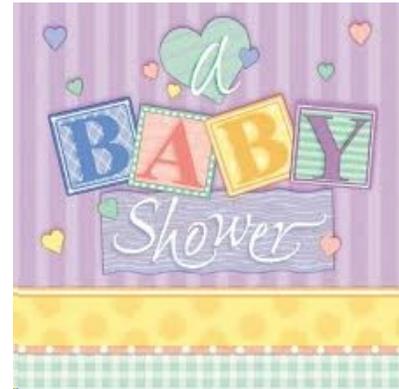


UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Janet McPherson will speak about Living Hope Pregnancy Center. Since 1990, Living Hope has been serving the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of women, men and families who are making decisions about their pregnancies and relationships. The WUMW will have a “baby shower” for Living Hope clients at their May 3 meeting. Below is a list of suggested “gifts”. Monetary donations are also accepted and appreciated. Please make your check out to “Living Hope”.

- |                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Packages of NB or size 1 diapers | Burp Cloths       |
| Large package of wipes           | Hooded Towels     |
| Baby lotion and baby wash        | Wash Cloths       |
| Receiving blankets               | Sleepers or Gowns |
| Bibs                             | Outfits           |
| Onesies                          | Socks             |

Items may be brought to the meeting or to the Church Office. Thank you!



*Just think,*

you’re here not by chance,  
but by God’s choosing.  
His hand formed you  
and made you  
The person you are.  
He compares you to no one else –  
you are one of a kind.  
You lack nothing  
that His grace can’t give you.  
He has allowed you to be here  
at this time in history  
to fulfill His special purpose  
for this generation.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

## PARISH NURSE

Welcoming spring and celebrating Christ's resurrection throughout the Easter season brings us to a special time in our lives. With our hearts renewed with His love and grace, let us all pray that we can re-imagine countless ways to reach out to others in gratitude, love and hope.

God gives us countless positive ideas to touch the lives of others as we worship and study his word together and alone. Messages of hope and love can be rendered in a simple smile, even though it may be covered by a mask : -). Laughter, a kind word spoken or written. Gifts of music, flowers, painting, poetry, our presence, sharing a meal or a snack, listening and telling stories, reading, elbow bumps, doing errands for others, walking together, a telephone call, and on and on.

We are sometimes reminded that Christ's resurrection is not a one-time event and does not stop when Eastertide ends, but rather resurrection is a continuous process in our life journeys. If we seek to be instruments of God's peace and love, we can serve more fully in His spirit and for His glory.

May is a perfect month to remember and celebrate boundless love and resurrection with one another! We have Mother's Day, Nurses Day, graduations of all kinds, birthdays, births. And of course Memorial Day when we honor and mourn for military personnel who have died in the performance of military duties while serving in the United States Armed Services.

In the 2020 copy of the Upper Room volume of *Disciplines*, a year-long book of daily devotions, Mark S. Burrows writes a thoughtful week of devotions on Practicing Resurrection. In one of the devotions, Burrows offers a closing prayer "Living Christ, today I seek to love you whom I cannot see and to trust in your promise that you are with me, whatever comes." How appropriate this prayer is for all of us as we end more than a year of living in the throes of the coronavirus pandemic!

Be well and spread joy,  
Patricia Ray

*Acts 2: 25 ~ For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope."*

NRSV

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Temperatures are rising, the spring sun is shining, and green leaves are popping up everywhere, and on behalf of the Worship Committee and WUMC, I would be remiss without thanking those who have helped to make our worship services so meaningful and inspirational. During the Easter Season, it was wonderful to have both our Chancel Choir and the Jane Wyche Schulken Handbell Choir and other musicians from around Columbus County in the sanctuary sharing their musical talents with us. Special selections have also been provided recently by Mrs. Wanda Diefes, Dr. Darryl Diefes, Mr. Chalmers Waddell, and Mr. Gus Cothorn.

We continue to be blessed, Sunday after Sunday, with dedicated ushers, acolytes, and those who operate the soundboard, as well as for the Altar Committee and those who provide flowers for our sanctuary throughout the year. Dedication, such as this, helps make our church healthy and strong.

The Worship Committee will meet Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Betty Gray, Chair

## CHRISTIANS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

At the request of class members, beginning on May 16, Christians Under Construction will start a six-unit study on death/separation/change and the impact these things have on our lives. We will explore some of the resources that are available to us as we experience these things in our individual lives. If you would like to join us for this particular study and can Zoom, please let Carolyn know so she can issue an invitation to you. If you don't Zoom, please note the information in a following paragraph.

Before May 16, we have a special event planned for the class – a special guest has been invited to lead us in our study on May 9. Our guest will be sharing some information about John and Charles Wesley and their impact on the people who came to be called "Methodists." Since our guest knew both of them very well, it should make for an interesting time of sharing.

Please know that Christians Under Construction is open to all. We only ask that we come together with an open mind and a willingness to respect the views of those who may differ from us. If you are a "Zoomer", please let us know so that we can issue a weekly invitation to you to join the class. If you do not "Zoom" but would like to be part of the class, simply come to the church parlor on Sunday morning by 8:45. As long as we can follow safety guidelines that are in effect at the time, we will be glad to have you sharing with us. We are trying to serve the needs of a broad spectrum of people in this unusual time in which we are living.

Bob Hankins, for Christians Under Construction

### SERVING IN MAY

	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Soundboard</u>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Emily Sauls	Lynne Inman
9 <sup>th</sup>	Grace High	Suzanne Hall
16 <sup>th</sup>	Emily McLam	Terry Simmons
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Anna & Sophie Bivens	Robert Page
30 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Bullard	Suzanne Hall

# MAY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	3 6:30 p.m. UMW/Parlor 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	4 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	5 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor  5:00 p.m. Worship Meeting/ Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	10  7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	11  7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	12 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor  6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	17 6:30 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	18  7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	19 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor  6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	24  7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	25  7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts/ Fellowship Hall	26 9:30 a.m. Bible Study/Parlor  6:00 p.m. Holy Communion/ Bible Study	27  6:00 p.m. Nominations Meeting/Fellowship Hall	28	29
30 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	31  7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts/ Fellowship Hall					