

Life Lessons From the Master



Many years ago, I received a lovely hen and chicks plant as a gift. It was a cutting taken from one of my member's plants, itself originally a cutting from a plant belonging to her mother, who was also a member of my church. The plant was lovely, and I kept it alive for many years, although it did not appear to thrive greatly under my care. When we moved to a new parsonage, I plunked the pot containing the hen and chicks onto the back steps, and other than watering it, did very little to help it grow. Thankfully, the sturdy plant did not need much help and soon began to outgrow the small pot in which it was planted. I moved the cutting to a larger pot and that summer it thrived, quickly outgrowing that container as well.

Suddenly one day, I noticed that the plant was turning brown. Suspecting that this was due to the surprising heat of late June, I took my watering can and began pouring water onto the plant, all the while inspecting it closely to see what might be wrong. Imagine my astonishment when a very wet, angry, mama bird flew right into my face, scolding me with a loud chatter! Once she was out of the way, I peered closely and discovered a nest with several small eggs.

From then on I gave the plant a wide berth as I did not want to do anything to interfere with a mother's work. Stepping out the back door one day I heard some pitiful chirps and looked inside the nest where four baby birds were snuggled. From her perch on the roof above, the mother bird scolded me loudly for getting too close! For two weeks or so, it was fascinating to watch as she cared for her babies. Eventually the birds developed dark, fuzzy feathers and their chirping became louder than ever.

I wish that I could say that I observed the moment when the birds left the

Ways We Serve

Greeters

- 4 Steve & Jane Morton
- 11 Charles Stevens & Michael Powers
- 18 Carl Henline & Rosalind Welder
- 25 Keith & Kathy Dedmond

Acolytes

- 4 Brooks Hardin
- 11 Owen Krech
- 18 Helen Claire Hames
- 25 Noah Hardin

Time For All God's Children

- 4 Beverly Beal
- 11 Robbie Combs
- 18 Cale Thornburg
- 25 Mike Owen

Liturgists

- 4 Ash Wirth
- 11 Mike Owen
- 18 Calvin Thornburg
- 25 Katie Hardin

Pew Keepers

- 4 Ernie & Betty Parker
- 11 Dianne Putnam
- 18 Joe & Susan Wigley
- 25 Jason & Jennifer Ellis

Parking Valets

- 4 Cale Thornburg
- 11 Keith Dedmond
- 18 Carl Henline
- 25 Jerry Park

Safe Sanctuary Rovers

- 4 Carol King
- 11 Rosemary Leonard
- 18 Pam Metzger
- 25 Carl Henline

Communion Assistants

- May 4 - Keith & Kathy Dedmond; Wanda Lutz

Altar Guild

- Steve & Jane Morton



Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
- Mark 11:24

In Your Daily Prayers, Please Pray for:

NEW: Steve Peeler

CONTINUING: Thomas Allen, Deanie Auton, Joey Barrier, Jennifer Belk, Laurie Anne Beyer, Caylor Brinkley, Jeremiah Buff, Ed & Lyn Campbell, Les Canipe, Greg Clarke, Rob Coles (son of Lyn Campbell), Shirley Combs, Elvie Cranford, Kathy Douglas, Greg Eldridge, Jane Finger, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Kim Fitzpatrick, Jim Fortenberry, Rev. Keiko Foster, Chloe Gibson, Billy Harkey, Donald Hartsell, Ed Hatley, Jayce Heff, Susan Henthorn, Denise Hobbs, Lois-Mary Hoehne, Dolly Jones, Jack Jones, Isla Keener Danny Kirkpatrick, Randi Kolseth, Pat Lawing, Jim Love, Ginger Lowe, Judy Lowe, Mark Ludwig, Jerry McClure, Pat Maddux, Danny Nicholson, Patsy Nicholson, Suzy Otterman, Rob Owen, Joann Parker, Judy Payseur, Randy Ramsey, Linda Rudisill, Gracie Scèascea, Artie & Linda Shields, Randolph & Teresa Shives, Kenny Shrum, Laura Smallwood, Rhonda Swafford, Kevin Turner, Rev. Sarah Underwood, Jamie VanDohlen, Robin Wooten Wood, Rev. David Wyant

NURSING FACILITIES: Jo Huss (Foley Center at Chestnut Ridge) Judy Komars (Terra Bella)

HOMEBOUND: Lou Beal, Winnon Cashion, Donna Connor Morris, Mary Robinson

Birthdays

- 1 Jane Morton & Klay Shrum
- 2 Ed Lynn
- 3 Patsy Herman
- 6 Brittany Beeker & Steve Kirksey
- 7 Brian Blackwell & Guy Howell
- 8 Roy Lightfoot
- 9 Sally Brookins
- 10 Jo Huss & Mary Rudisill
- 11 Banks Dedmond & Connor Dedmond
- 16 Jane Lawing
- 18 Kallie Dedmond, Shirley Drum, & Chris Wilt
- 20 Trey Gazdek & Letha Owen
- 21 Patty Blackwell
- 22 Kerry Blackwell
- 23 Cale Thornburg & Marie Nichols
- 24 Gabe Ellis & Thurman Melton
- 26 Emily Morton
- 27 Spencer Sibert
- 28 Michael Wirth
- 30 Charlie King
- 31 Rev. David Wyant

Anniversaries

- 4 Nick & Judy Komars
- 14 Michael & Letha Owen
- 16 Steve & Suzanne Peeler
- 17 Scotty & Susie Bradshaw
- 17 Phillip & Cheryl Cole
- 24 Joey & Amy Lockman
- 26 Jeff & Jamie Strom

thank you

I cannot thank you enough for your help in the fundraising for my [Eagle] project. It allowed me to better connect with the community and prove the legitimacy and importance of my project. None of this could've been possible with the assistance of the church. Thank you so much!

Marcus Coffie II (BSA Troop 75)

FUMC News & Updates

Graduate Sunday

On Sunday, May 18th, we will recognize our high school and college graduates. If you have a student graduating this year from high school or college, please contact the church office.

United Methodist Women

The UMW of First UMC will meet on Sunday, May 11 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us to help plan and implement several projects for our church. Coffee, juice and breakfast foods will be available. All ladies of the church are welcome!



CLC Nominations

Our Church Leadership Council is composed of eight members, divided into three rotating classes. In addition to the Lay Leader, who is the Convener of the CLC, seven work areas are represented: Staff Parish, Trustees, Finance, Nurture, Outreach, Witness, and Worship. As three members of our team rotate

off this year we have openings in the following areas:

- Nurture – This work area is responsible for membership care through lay visitation, education, and discipleship opportunities
- Outreach – This work area is responsible for the coordination of mission outreach to our community
- Trustees – This work area is responsible for the supervision and care of a local church's property and equipment, acting as Christian stewards of the property entrusted to the congregation.

If one of these areas sparks an interest in you, or if you wish to receive further information, please see Pastor Sarah.

United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers, Revised Edition: Exploring Christian Faith

With its question-and-answer format, and clear, jargon-free writing, this volume is an excellent resource for learning about the United Methodist Church. F. Belton Joyner Jr., a veteran pastor and popular author, introduces the reader to key United Methodist beliefs and practices through topical chapters relating to theology, heritage, and polity. From new members to lifelong United Methodists, readers will gain a lively sense of what is special and im-

portant about their denominational home.

This 4-week class will be offered on Thursday evenings from 6 - 7:30 p.m. beginning May 1st. We will meet in the Annex. Please call the church office 704-735-7489 to register. Books will be \$14.00

Child Advocacy Council Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Jane Finger for receiving the Sally Dellinger Lifetime Achievement Award. Jane has spent the better part of her life dedicated to the children of Lincoln County. She was a kindergarten teacher and elementary school counselor for Lincoln County Schools for 30 plus years. She started a preschool program at Boger City United Methodist Church which is still up and running. She has volunteered countless hours helping children through mentoring, CIS, and after school programs. And, for the last many years, she has been a proud supporter and volunteer for the Lincoln County Child Advocacy Center...an amazing organization that is very near and dear to her heart. Again, Congratulations, Jane!!

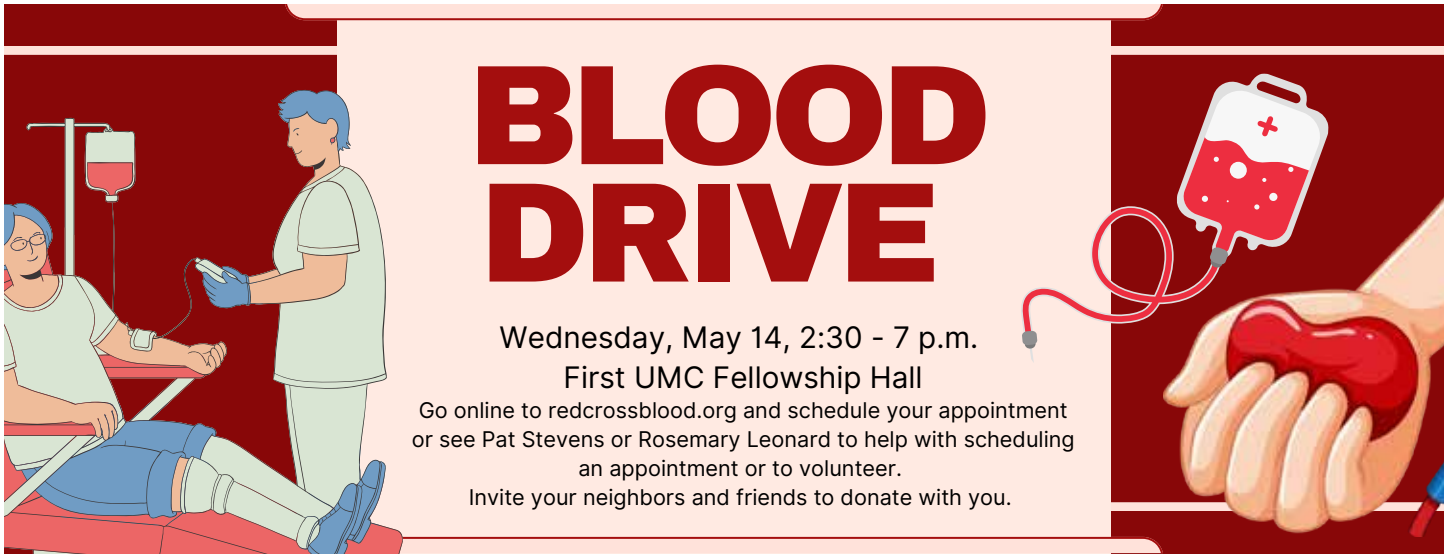


Good News Sunday School Class

Each quarter, the Good News Sunday School class takes dinner (and breakfast for the following day) to the residents at Hesus House. On Monday, March 31, class members prepared food and served the meal that evening. It is a good outreach project for the class. Anyone interested, please visit at 10:00 AM on Sunday. The classroom is the second door on the left as one enters the Education Building. Hope to see you there Sunday.

“Let’s Go Out To The Ballgame”

United Methodist Night at the Hickory Crawdads will be Friday, May 23 at 7 p.m. Ticket cost for this event is \$9 each, and the church will be ordering a block of 20 tickets. Come out and join other UM Church groups from our district for a fun night at the ballpark!! If interested, contact the church office.



BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, May 14, 2:30 - 7 p.m.
 First UMC Fellowship Hall

Go online to redcrossblood.org and schedule your appointment or see Pat Stevens or Rosemary Leonard to help with scheduling an appointment or to volunteer.

Invite your neighbors and friends to donate with you.



What a blessed Easter we had at First UMC this year! And it was made so much more special with the presentation of our Living Last Supper Drama – “Is It I?”. The drama, which focused on the last days of Jesus as seen through the eyes of the disciples truly brought the classic Da Vinci depiction of the Last Supper to life! Thank you to all the performers, musicians, costumers, stage crew, sound and light crew and coordinators for all you did to put this performance together.



**FIRST UMC is a
 Lighthouse Congregation
 of the
 Western North Carolina
 Conference of the
 United Methodist Church.**



Memorials & Honorariums

Verna Rufini

Bo & Carol King for the Grounds Fund
Mike & Letha Owen
Charles & Wanda Lutz for the Kay Waters SS Fund

Brenda Ballard

Charles & Pat Stevens

Sam Wilson

Charles & Wanda Lutz for the Kay Waters SS Class

Lula Strachan

Charles & Pat Stevens

Mary Heavner

Rosalind Welder & Carl Henline
Jerry & Gayle Park
Bo & Carol King for Campus Technology Fund
Charles & Wanda Lutz for Backpack Ministry
Sally Brookins
Louise Shuford
Joel & Donna Flowers
Judy Price
John & Beth Gilleland
Donald & Mallie Heavner
Jody Cronland
Tim Carswell
Patsy & Steve Herman for Backpack Ministry
Scotty & Susie Bradshaw
Stan & Rita Cronland
Shelley Roper Early
Caroline Early Reid
Mike & Letha Owen
Ed & Lyn Campbell

Betty Howell

Bo & Carol King for the Grounds Fund
Mike & Letha Owen
Ernie & Betty Parker
Rosalind Welder & Carl Henline

7

Joe Costner

Charles & Wanda Lutz for the Kay Waters SS Class

Larry Parker

Jerry & Gayle Park
Bo & Carol King for Campus Technology Fund
Charles & Wanda Lutz for Backpack Ministry
Mike & Letha Owen
Ed & Lyn Campbell

Hal Parker

Charles & Wanda Lutz for Backpack Ministry
Steve & Patsy Herman for Backpack Ministry
Jerry & Gayle Park for Columbarium Fund
Ernie & Betty Parker
Rosalind Welder & Carl Henline
Linda Gambrell
Stan & Rita Cronland
Elizabeth Summitt
Delores Bolen
Tracy Roberts
Wanda Cornwell
Lou Beal
Bo & Carol King for the Grounds Fund
Tim & Rosemary Leonard
Jim & Kay Hermann for the Backpack Ministry
Tim Carswell
Mike & Letha Owen for the Girl Scouts
Ed & Lyn Campbell
Roger & Joyce Cloninger

Beulah Cannon

Dianne Putnam
Richard & Sheila Beeker
Jerry & Gayle Park
Ernie & Betty Parker
Patricia Underwood Wynne for the Parsonage Fund
Bo & Carol King for Campus Technology Fund
Jim & Kay Hermann
United Methodist Men for the Parsonage Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Warren for the Parsonage Fund

Ann Davis Ford

Bo & Carol King for Campus Technology Fund
Charles & Wanda Lutz for the Kay Waters SS Class
Jerry & Gayle Park for the Columbarium Fund
Shelley Roper Early

A Gift to the Backpack Ministry in honor of Doug Ballard – By Billy & Carole Howell

New Music Ministry

The CLC has approved a new ministry at FUMC. Beverly Beal and Wanda Lutz learned of a need for musical outreach at Terra Bella (formerly Carillon) on Salem Church Rd. Beverly contacted Levi Stroud and he immediately agreed to share his talent. He sang with the residents in assisted living and also the memory care unit. The groups enjoyed the afternoon. If there are others in the congregation who would share their musical talents, please contact Beverly or the church office.



Financial Update

Mar. 2025 YTD Revenue	\$113,337
Mar. 2025 YTD Expense	\$116,302
Mar. 2025 YTD Surplus	\$ (2,965)

Tuesday Morning Breakfast Group

Join our Tuesday Morning Breakfast Group each Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m. at Aspen Grill. It's always a great time of friends and fellowship!



May the Fourth be With You! LYNC Launch and Early Summer Schedule



Our LYNC launch party will be held next Sunday, May 4th, from 4 to 6 p.m. This Star Wars themed event will feature food, crafts, and games. Youth and children participants will have a chance to create a light saber sword, visit a photo booth, undergo Jedi training, receive a graduation certificate, and more!

LYNC Early Summer Schedule

May 18: LYNC program located at St Luke's Parish House
 5 p.m.: Middle School Spiritual Formation (Grades 6-9)
 6 p.m.: Supper
 6:30 p.m.: High School Spiritual Formation (Grades 10-12)

May 21: LYNC program located at St Luke's Parish House
 5:30 p.m.: Children's Spiritual Formation (K-5)
 5:30 p.m.: Supper
 6 p.m.: Spiritual Formation

June 1: 8 p.m. LYNC Youth Outdoor Movie Night (weather permitting) hosted by 1st United Methodist Church (Popcorn, drinks, candy, etc. will be provided)

June 4: 8 p.m. LYNC Youth Outdoor Children's Movie Night (weather permitting) hosted by 1st United Methodist Church. Popcorn, drinks, snacks will be provided.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you would like to help as a LYNC volunteer, please see Robbie or Pastor Sarah.

April CLC Recap

The following is a recap of the highlights of the April 7th meeting of the Church Leadership Council. All members are invited to attend regular CLC meetings. If a Staff/Parish or Executive session is needed following the regular business session, those are for CLC voting members only.

We had a presentation from Griefshare group. The Griefshare group meets roughly twice a year, for a 13-week series of sessions and are currently meeting in the Annex, but they are outgrowing the space, having up to 21-22 persons attending the weekly sessions. They are asking to use the space now known as the “OD” building (formerly the Odd Duck) as a permanent location for their group to meet. A “work day” will be planned to refurbish the space, and add some additional seating, with a tentative start date to use the space with the Fall 2025 session. This request was approved.

We received word that Yulia Ivanenko and her husband would be returning to Ukraine to be with the rest of their family. The eldest son, Alex, will be staying in the US and continuing to work with the Ukrainian builders here in town. Given that all but one of the family has returned to Ukraine, the question arose related to the Ukraine Family fund that still exists. The amount in that fund is a little over \$6600. The sponsors for the Ivanenko family asked if a portion of that money could be donated to our LYNC initiative, with the remainder staying in the fund. It was approved.

Other highlights:

- We held an Easter Party for the UMAR residents on April 15, and a regional UMAR event will take place on April 23 at Providence UMC in Charlotte. It was attended by Dianne Putnam and Wanda Lutz.

- The Lay Visitation Team is starting a new outreach to our nursing homes, with the help of Levi Stroud, who is visiting and providing music for the residents to “sing-a-long.” The first outing was to the residents at Terra Bella in April.

- Christian Ministries of Lincoln County will be using our Fellowship Hall for two events at the end of April: The Volunteer Appreciation Gathering will be on April 29th and The LINC Meal “The Amazing Race” fundraiser will be on Saturday May 3, with doors opening at 5:00 pm.

- New floor mats for our church campus have been ordered and should arrive by the end of April.

- An idea for a future “blessing of the animals” service was brought up, and will be discussed for later this year.

- Our February financial report showed that we had a surplus in the budget. This can be attributed to early year stock contributions, and some prefunding for the new LYNC program director to go toward her future salary.

- As our First Church Cohort lead, Bryan Beal reported that the team attended a meeting in March with the Wesley

Church Development. The purpose of the meeting was to learn ways to optimize church spaces and buildings, and to maximize use of property. ryan asked for approval to start the discussion with Wesley CDC to help our church with this initiative. The CLC gave a consensus approval of his request.

- Regular parsonage maintenance is being continued, with new pine straw to be put out around the house. We are also continuing to monitor for any pest infestation following the encapsulation of the basement. There is still evidence of pest and bug infestation at the parsonage. The monthly pest maintenance has helped, but it was requested that they continue with monthly visits for the foreseeable future.

- The OD building, located at 204 N Academy St, has been added to the church liability insurance policy.

- The masonry project taking place at the church is nearing completion. CG Hardy is also going to repair some loose bricks on the top floor of the Annex.

- There was a good turnout for the Easter Egg Hunt/Scavenger Hunt that took place on April 6th during the Sunday School time, with 9 young people attending.

- Our next blood drive will be May 15. You may register online or see Pat Stevens or Rosemary to schedule a time.

- Following her attendance at the District Committee on Ministries in Early April, Pastor Sarah announced that Robbie Combs was approved as a certified candidate for ministry, and Gordon Hubbell was continued as a Certified Lay Minister for the district.

- The locks on the front doors of the sanctuary have been repaired and now open and lock easier. Also, brass kick down props have been installed on the sanctuary doors. Additional work needs to take place on the doors to help refurbish them.

- A new AC window unit has been installed in the pastor’s office, with the old unit moved into what will be the LYNC program director’s office.

- New security lights have been installed outside the Girl Scout room on the back of the education building, as well as the outside of the pastor’s office.

- LYNC Update – the UMW will be working to help with Launch Party on May 4th.

- Nominations – We have received some responses for 2 positions, with one position still left to be filled.



April Activities!

The Kaye Waters Sunday School Class was very busy in April with three outreach projects.

First, the staff at GEM was treated to Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

Next, the clients of UMAR were treated to an Easter party and served pizza and cupcakes. The clients enjoyed the Bunny Hop and Easter Parade led by the Easter Bunny. They especially liked playing Bingo!

The third event was helping selected students at GEM choose a book from the book fair. This had also been done in the fall.

If you want to participate in future outreach, please ask any class member.





Life Lessons from the Master, continued from page one

nest, or their first feeble attempts at flying. I did not. But a few days later, it dawned on me that I had not heard the birds in a couple of days. Looking around the backyard, I saw some tiny birds flitting back and forth in the trees. The next day, I saw two adult birds and four small ones perched on the edge of the metal tub of water that sat in our back yard. All of a sudden, all six of them leaned over and took a drink of water. It was fascinating! The adults were teaching the young ones how to find a drink! Over the next few days, the birds continued to perch on the tub's edge. And yet, never again did I catch that precious moment of seeing them all take a drink at the same time.

Nonetheless, the memory of that teaching moment reminded me of one of our most important jobs as a church. You guessed it! It is teaching! As we look forward to Graduation Sunday on May 18th, this newsletter is dedicated to all those teachers among us, who ensure that the story of faith is handed down from one person to another and from one generation to another. What a joy and privilege that is! While we know our graduates are well prepared for entering college or their chosen professions, we also hope that the Bible stories, values, prayers and songs they learned here will live on in their memories for years to come, preparing them for lifelong discipleship.

Miss Virginia, the original owner of the hen and chicks plant from which my plant comes, was a tiny, yet powerful lady. At first, she was in church every Sunday. Later, her health faltered and I would go and visit her at home. I learned a lot on those visits about rural life in Lincoln County, growing up in a log cabin along Indian Creek and where the best place still was to find watercress in the spring.

A visit with Miss Virginia meant at least an hour or hour and a half, because she always toted out lots of pictures and we looked at them over and over again. Her daughter Ann, who lived with and cared for her mother, would check in occasionally to offer something to drink, or to contribute her own memories to the stories that her mother was telling. It was a perfect way to spend a rainy afternoon. I always left enriched by their faith stories about our church and community.

Both of them have gone to glory now, but what I learned from them lives on, handed down from generation to another. I think of that every time I see my hen and chicks plant and, like those little birds who found a home in the shelter of that plant, we too need someone to show us where to find a drink.

Thanks be to God for teachers who can show us!

Proverbs 4:13 "Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life."

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

From one student to another,

Pastor Sarah



201 East Main Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Sunday School at 10 am

Service at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.: Mon.-Thur.

Office: 704.735.7489

NEW Email: firstumclinc@gmail.com

Website: fumclincolnton.com



Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

Events this coming month

May 1: Education First Trip Meeting led by Cale Thornburg in the Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.

Pastor's Study: UM Questions, UM Answers, in the Annex, 6 p.m.

May 3: LINC Meals Fundraiser featuring Bingo, meal, and live entertainment, in the Fellowship Hall 5 - 7:30 p.m. See Rosalind Welder for tickets

May 4: Blood Pressure Checks following Sunday School and Morning Worship in the Breezeway
Morning worship with Holy Communion, 11 a.m.

LYNC Launch Party, Fellowship Hall 4 - 6 p.m.

May 8: Pastor's Study: UM Questions, UM Answers, in the Annex, 6 p.m.

May 11: United Methodist Women meet in Fellowship Hall 9 a.m.

MOTHER'S DAY. We will be honoring the women of our church during morning worship

May 12: Church Leadership Council - In the Annex (CLC general meetings are open to all church members, and you are welcome to attend. If there is a need for a Staff/Parish session, they are held following the main business meeting and they are for CLC members ONLY)

May 14: BLOOD DRIVE in the Fellowship Hall. 2:30 - 7 p.m.

May 15: Preschool End of Year Program in the Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.

Pastor's Study: UM Questions, UM Answers, in the Annex, 6 p.m.

May 18: GRADUATE SUNDAY - We will recognize our graduates during the morning worship service. Special music provided by the 4-year-olds of our Preschool

May 22: Pastor's Study: UM Questions, UM Answers, in the Annex, 6 p.m.

May 23: United Methodists Night at Hickory Crawdads baseball game

May 26: MEMORIAL DAY - Church Office will be closed.