15000 York Road Charlotte, NC 28278 704-588-1290

Working together to follow Christ in joyfully serving our neighbors as compassionate, connected, contributing, everyday disciples.

Your yearly Bible reading plan:

Reading the Bible in order: By next Friday finish the books Ezra and Nehemiah.

Reading the Bible in chronological order: By next Friday finish plan - see page 4.

Next week look for the following week's plan.

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Upcoming Worship

SPEAKER:

JEFF PINKSTON

SCRIPTURE:

JOHN 16:4-15

MESSAGE:

OUR RELIABLE GUIDE

Elder Greeters	MICHAEL FAIRCLOTH, JARED MCCALL		
DEACON USHERS	BILL FERGUSON, JENNIFER IRMIES, SKYLAR MORGAN, BECKY NEELY, DAVID GILES		
Counters	Leighton Brown, DeWitt Lauerman		
SIGNERS	BARRY SMALL, DAVID THOMPSON		

THE FLOWERS THIS WEEK ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY ZIZA EPPS IN MEMORY OF HER LATE HUSBAND, KEITH EPPS, FOR HIS BIRTHDAY ON MAY 16TH.



THE 2024 FLOWER SIGN-UP POSTER IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD TO THE RIGHT OF THE CHURCH OFFICE. IT IS AS EASY AS WRITING YOUR NAME IN A BLANK. THE CHURCH WILL CALL YOU FOR DETAILS AND PAYMENT. COST IS \$50.

LAST WEEK'S MORNING WORSHIP:

Inhouse 238	Children 37	Nursery 4	YouTube Views 74	FACEBOOK VIEWS	Total 327
	·				,

Odds and Ends



Poppies

For almost a century, The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program has provided a way for all Americans to honor and assist past and present members of the military. The poppy was adopted as a symbol of freedom and blood sacrificed by troops in wartimes after a teacher read the poem "In Flanders Field".

The poppies are handmade by veterans and some auxiliary members. ONE HUNDRED PERCENT of all monies collected is used to assist veterans or activeduty military personnel and their families when financial and/or medical needs are evident.

Members of the Post 221 Auxiliary, which meets here, plan to use money collected on Sunday, May 26th, to help a veteran with travel and training expenses incurred when receiving a free service dog, provide welcome household baskets for veterans entering transitional housing and/or purchase items for the Charlotte USO.

As we celebrate Memorial Day, please consider making a donation in exchange for a poppy after our church service on 05/26/24.

Pentecost Sunday

Wear your reds, oranges and yellows this Sunday.



You are invited to a tea party at Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church with entertainment by "Grandma Lou", a local comedian.

May 18, 2-4 pm, \$20 per ticket, Mt. Olive **Presbyterian Church**

Two Volunteers Are Needed – after the Sunday Service to clear off the coffee/donut table. Please call the church office if you can help, even if it is for one Sunday, so this program can continue. Thank you for considering this.

Recipe

South African Chakalaka

3 tbsp oil

toes

1 onion finely chopped

2 cloves garlic crushed

1.76 oz ginger finely grated

2 tbsp mild curry powder

1 red pepper finely chopped

1 yellow pepper finely chopped

5 large carrots (unpeeled

but scrubbed and topped and tailed) grated

2 tbsp tomato purée 14.11 oz can chopped toma-

2 sprigs fresh thyme leaves 14.11 oz can baked beans Salt and pepper to taste.

Heat oil over medium heat.

and translucent. Add curry powder, ginger, garlic and stir.

Add diced pepper and grated carrots. Give it a good stir.

Combine tomato paste and fresh tomatoes. Then add to

Simmer five to ten minutes. The mixture has to be thoroughly mixed and somewhat thickened.

Add fresh thyme and beans. Keep at a low boil for 5 minutes. Turn off the stove. Serve either warm or cold.

Add onion. Cook until soft South African Chakalaka Recipe (ourbigescape.com)

Calendar and Events

UPCOMING WEEK OF EVENTS

Friday - Sunday - Women's Retreat	Tuesday	
Sunday - Pentecost and Communion	11:30 am - Staff Meeting	
09:30 am – Sunday School, Donuts & Coffee	6:30 pm Men's Fellowship Gathering-John's Restaurant	
10:30 am - Worship	Wednesday	
12 pm - BASIC Training Pool Party!	6:15 pm - Praise Team	
5 pm - Youth Group	7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	
8 pm - AA meeting	8 pm - AA meeting	
Monday	Thursday	
11 am - Intercessory Prayer Team	10 am - Beyond the Word (Last class until Fall)	
11:30 am - Grief Journey	7 pm - Handbells	

Raptor Security System

We have a new visitor management system known as Raptor. If you have school-aged children, you are more than likely familiar with this system. Used by more than 5,300 (40%) U.S. school districts, this technology has become a quick and easy way to assist staff in recognizing who should or should not be on campus, in a building, or around children.

When coming to the campus Monday – Friday, 9-3:30 pm, you will use the main office doors and let the staff know you are here. If you are to enter the preschool building anytime during preschool hours, Monday – Friday, 9-1pm, you must have a badge issued to you by the main office or the preschool office and conspicuously wear it. If you are on the cooking team or any other group that accesses the big kitchen, you must come to the church office, check-in, and wear your printed badge. Please, do not enter any side door to bypass this check-in. If you are not entering the preschool building but on campus, please check-in at the main office; you do not have to have a printed badge.

This system does require a driver's license or state issued I.D. card. You will present your I.D. during your first check-in. Your image, name, and date of birth are collected from the scanner. A search is completed on publicly found offender databases. The Raptor system does not collect social security numbers. All data is contained in-house. This system will not be used on weekends or in the evenings.

This system is in place on our campus for everyone's safety - especially to protect the preschool's children. This visitor management system will allow the church staff, preschool staff and teachers to know if someone is on the campus, and if they should or should not be in certain areas. Thank you for your support and faith in allowing the two staffs to work together creating a safer environment for all who work here and attend school here.

Select dates for the next four weeks and beyond:

May

- 26 10 Cents a Meal Sunday
- 27 Memorial Day
- 27 Church Office Closed
- 27 Intercessory Prayer Team 11:00am 12:00pm
- 28 Session Meeting 7:00pm 9:00pm

<u>June</u>

- 03 Intercessory Prayer Team 11:00am
- 03 Admin. and Personnel Meeting 6:00pm
- 04 Christian Growth 6:45pm 8:15pm
- 07 Meal 11:15 am at Capt Steve's Restaurant ALL INVITED
- 09 Deacon Meeting 11:45am 12:15pm
- 10 Intercessory Prayer Team 11:00am 12:00pm
- 10 Missions Ministry Team Meeting 6:30pm 7:30pm
- 13 Congregational Care Meeting 6:30pm 7:30pm
- 17 Intercessory Prayer Team 11:00am 12:00pm
- 18 Men's Fellowship Group Gathering 6:30pm 7:30pm
- 24 Intercessory Prayer Team 11:00am 12:00pm
- 25 Session 2024: Session Meeting 7:00pm 9:00pm
- 30 10 Cents a Meal Sunday

<u>July</u>

- 01 Intercessory Prayer Team
- 01 Admin. and Personnel Meeting
- 02 Christian Growth
- 05 Fellowship Trip Billy Graham Library ALL INVITED
- 08 Intercessory Prayer Team
- 08 Missions Ministry Meetings
- 11 Congregational Care Meeting

July 7-11 Vacation Bible School

October 12 Scottish Heritage Golf Tournament

Pictures from South Africa

Dexter and the team would like everyone to know they are doing well and have sent pictures of their first project at Door of Hope.

The team includes:

Pastor Dexter Greene

Tom Burns

Bruce Doane

Donna Moody

Jim Weeden

Christi Owens (Dexter's daughter)

Amy Hazewindus (Dexter's grand-

daughter)

Alex Gordy (Amy's friend)



In addition to work, they have enjoyed a tour of Kruger National Park.

All photos by Dexter Greene.

Vacation Bible School REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Adult VBS

The adult VBS program will begin at 6:30 pm Sunday, July 7 and last about 60 to 75 minutes each evening through Thursday, July 11. A meal is available from 5:15 - 6pm with the younger VBS'ers.

The hard cover book (pictured right) can be purchased for \$21 when you register for the adult VBS via Church Center - purchasing the book is optional. It is not necessary for this class. You may also order an e-book online for yourself.

Pastor Jeff Pinkston will lead the DVD format class. Save your space today by registering here or calling the church office to save your spot.

Optional meal sign-up is included with unworthy until we are safely at home." online registration. Price per Meal: \$4 per adult, \$3 per child and free for under 5 with a \$15 cap per family per day.

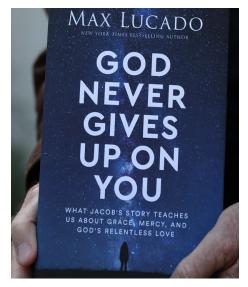
Adult VBS Curriculum

God Never Gives Up on You

What Jacob's story teach us about Grace, Mercy, and God's Relentless Love

"God's Grace Is Greater Than Your Biggest Setback. God enacts his perfect plan through imperfect people—including you and me!

In this five-session Bible study, you will see how God used Jacob—the misbehaving patriarch who was strong on savvy but weak on conscience—simply because God chose to use Jacob. His story invites us to believe in a God who sticks with the unworthy until we are safely at home."





Scan or tap QR Code above to be taken to VBS registration.

Children's VBS

VBS will be Sunday, July 7 through Thursday, July 11. Meals start at 5:15 and is an optional add-on. VBS starts at 6pm each evening. This program is for preschoolers who are fully potty trained through children who are in or have just completed 5th grade.



Your Yearly Bible Reading Plan (cont.)

May 17: Psalm 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64

May 18: 2 Samuel 19-21

May 19: Psalm 5, 41-42

May 20: 2 Samuel 22-23; Psalm 57

May 21: Psalm 95, 97-99

May 22: 2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21-22;

Psalm 30

May 23: Psalm 108-110

Ministries

Fellowship Opportunities

You have the opportunity to join a new fellowship group! On the first Friday of each month, starting in June, the church will sponsor a variety of activities like traveling to a restaurant for lunch, going to local area attractions, and occasionally taking a day trip, all while enjoying your church family. This opportunity is open to everyone in the church.

On June 7th at noon, we will meet at Captain Steve's Family Seafood Restaurant in Fort Mill, S.C. You can drive yourself or come to the church at 10:30 am to carpool. You will need to be at the restaurant no later than 11:15 am so you can be seated with our group.

On our second field trip, July 5th, we will visit the Billy Graham Library. Other fun trips, some out of town, are being planned, so stay tuned!

Men's Fellowship Group

We have people in our church family and Men's Fellowship group who've honed their home maintenance skills over the years. We know from experience if you call a repairman, you'll pay a service charge around \$100 or more, then have to pay for the repairs.

Our men are ready and eager to help you avoid that expense on small maintenance and repairs by sharing their skills. Now, we're not talking about building a deck or roofing your house or repairs that require city/county permits. We are talking about things like:

- · An electrical outlet that doesn't work
- A leaky faucet
- A commode that runs too much
- Changing filters in the a/c or furnace
- Changing batteries in the smoke detectors
- Installing battery operated smoke detectors
- · Mounting a ceiling fan

Other maintenance that you may identify.

If you can make use of this service, please feel free to phone Barry Small (704)351-8575 or call the church office at 704-588-1290. We're ready to serve when you need us!



Welcome to Stepping Stones, a ministry to meet, lift up and wrap our arms around foster families, new and seasoned, wherever they are in their journey.

If you missed last week's announcement of Stepping Stones, please refer to that newsletter on the website.

The Stepping Stones ministry is a subgroup of the Missions Ministry team. Stepping Stones is initially seeking 8 people to become a "care community" to one fostering family. If you are interested, please plan to stay after church on June 9 for a luncheon and program "Foster Family Care Support Awareness". **Continued next page**

WEST BLVD MINISTRY FENCE STAINING DAY

Thank you to all the people who came out May 3 and helped stain West Blvd Ministry's 500 linear feet of fencing. This team was rained out on Saturday, May 4, but got all the necessary work done in one day. Awesome job!



Not pictured: Clinton Corbett and DeWitt Lauerman

Summer Sunday School for Adults

An adult Sunday School class will meet during the summer months. We will have our first class on June 9th and will conclude on August 25th. We will meet in the choir room. We will be studying the Gospel of Mark.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

So many ways to serve.

Drivers Needed

The third Thursday of each month our Shut-Ins and two volun-



teer fire departments are delivered hot meals that are made on site by Bill Harraman and his crew.

This crew needs additional drivers to help deliver and visit with our shut-ins. Deliveries start at 11:30a.m. You may have to go as far as Gastonia. If you are available one Thursday a month around lunch time, please reach out to Marion Briggs through Church Center or call the church office to sign-up.

Nursery Worker Needed

The church is looking to fill one position in the nursery. This is a paid position. Your hours would be each Sunday from 9am - 12pm. You must pass a background check. If you would be interested, please contact Lindsey Lucariello through the church office.

Congregational Care Ministry Team

The Congregational Care Ministry Team is updating its list of church members who are willing to provide transportation to our members. From time to time there are needs for rides to doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, rides to church on Sunday or events during the week. This isn't an everyday thing, but it's something that is greatly needed. If you are willing to help with this mission, please



Stepping Stones (cont.)

Foster families take

on a large responsibility when caring for children who have been removed from their familiar surroundings and put into a stranger's home. This transition is stressful for all involved. More than 50% of foster families quit after the first year or first placement. It has been found that with a support group, 80% continue as foster families. We will become a support group.

Fostering the Family (FTF) works with Department of Social Services for South Carolina to find families in the area who would like support. FTF then connects the family with a care community near them.

Other churches in this area also work with FTF as care communities. Lake Wylie Christian Assembly works with FTF to prepare future foster families so that they understand what fostering entails. Stepping Stones (SS) of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Hill will work with FTF to be a support group, aka care community, for one family.

The volunteers of this group will commit to serving up to 24 months with encouragement and prayer, meals, celebrations, family experiences, bi-monthly supplemental groceries, house and yard work, etc.

Next week we will visit the sub-teams of SS-SCPCPH.

let the church office know. You will be included on a list of available folks who can help. Your willingness will mean a great deal to those in need and to all church members. Thanks for your consideration. Also, if you are aware of anyone who needs this kind of assistance, please let the office know as well. We can't help folks if we don't know they need us. Office phone is 704-588-1290.

Children and Youths

Parents of 3rd - 5th graders, we are quickly coming to the end of our Sunday school year (which seems to have flown by). Our last 2 classes (5/19 & 5/26) will be a great time of painting our memories of the year. This is a fun time, and we're hoping all "our" kids will be able to be there for at least one of the days!

Have you signed a photo release for your minor?

If not, please reach out to your child's/ youth's leader.

All minors should have one before being on our social media accounts and/or website.

Our wonderful Acolytes will take a break over the summer months. Many of you have ex-

pressed how glad you are to have them back so look for



them again when school starts again. A huge thanks to all the kids for their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in this part of our worship service.



BASIC Training
POOL PARTY!
Sunday, May 19
See your leader for details.

We still have a host of unclaimed items in the lost and found bin at the front of the church. Check the page----> to see what items

are there.

Lost & Found



Tap or scan QR code to go to Church Center for pictures of items. New items added as needed. Please see if your lost items are here. Claim in the office lobby. This was run in the newsletter weeks ago. We will announce those who succeeded soon!

Our 4th and 5th graders have been challenged by their teachers to memorize the books of the New Testament.

Parents - please encourage and help them with this challenge! They will be recognized in the newsletter once the challenge has been completed. (Might be a little something extra for them, too!)

Prayer Concerns

Please be in prayer for the following that they receive peace, comfort, support, healing, strength, and the love of Christ as He knows all the needs of all people. For more details on each, please see Church Center's Prayer List.

Praise

- Penni Cooke, a coworker of Kate Lemond 's cancer scan has shown her cancer to be in remission.
- Teresa Hartman, a friend of Angie Neel's has learned her cancer is in remission.

Condolences

 Jack Farrell, Louise Freeman's brother, passed last Monday night. Please pray for the family and friends of the family.

Surgery

- Jeff Lemond will have knee surgery on May 16th.
- Ken Wilkerson, brother of Terry Gillette, has been diagnosed with cancer and is scheduled for surgery May 17th.
- Gerry Roberts is scheduled for gall bladder surgery May 20th.
- Rachel Holzhauer is having cardiac surgery on May 22nd at the Mayo Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota. She would greatly appreciate prayers for a smooth surgery and recovery.
- Bo Lane, Clinton Corbett's neighbor is scheduled for hernia surgery on May 22nd.
- Leon Daniels is scheduled for surgery May 30.
- Jerry Powell, a very good friend of Bill Ferguson's is having serious abdominal surgery. Please pray for God's grace for Jerry and his family.

Special, Congregational, and Community Concerns

 Bryson Barrett, the son of Kelly and Matt Barrett who are close friends with the Gilleland and Bolender families, is on a trip to Kenya as part of his studies at The

- Citadel. He will be serving with the medical community while in Kenya. His parents, Kelly and Mat, would appreciate our prayers for Bryson to have a great learning experience & safe return home.
- Pray for our mission team as they work in South Africa and serve with the Door of Hope.
- Prayer for our mission team leaving for Honduras on May 27th.
- Paul Kuto will be on a mission trip in Kenya from 3/15/2024 -7/30/2024 to work with 2 volunteer teams from Portland, Oregon. He will also work with local teams to expand a water project in his village.
- Lexie Simerly is scheduled for deployment to Korea in August.
- Pray for the country of Ukraine and its people.
- Pray for the country of Israel and its people.
- Pray for the hunger being experienced in Sudan due to war like conditions.
- For Christians who are persecuted around the world.
- Pray for the current foster parents and pray that more foster parents come forward. There is a drastic shortage and such a strong need.
- For teachers.
- Kairos Prison Ministry: For the inmates and those serving in the ministry, that they would know Jesus as their Savior.

General Health Concerns

- Kathy Cuff, John and Annette Freeman's daughter has severely impaired vision in one eye.
- Wayne Whiteside is in Asbury Aldersgate Rehab Facility as his cracked pelvis heals. His stay can last for possibly 4 to 6 weeks.
- Drew Martin is the baby of a

- friend of the Tuccillo Family. Baby Drew has heart defects and will need open heart surgery once he gains enough weight.
- Beth Spratt is doing well. She is able to walk gingerly but without assistance. She hopes to be able to get out of the brace and boot she's wearing this week.
- Marcia Henderson is recovering very well from knee replacement surgery.
- Dot Earp continues to deal with hip pain with her chiropractor.
- Johnny Simms, the brother of Gloria Smith is doing better. He's able to go to rehab.
- Felicia Clark Peaseley has returned home following rehab.
 She is still recovering from her surgery and needs prayer.

Cancer

- Patty, Clinton Corbett's sister-inlaw, is being tested for endometrial cancer. Please pray for her.
- Raquel Mercer, Ragan Haston's sister and Tom & Regina Settlemyre's daughter has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Anita, Allison Beach's friend's mother, has been diagnosed with aggressive Lymphoma. Hospice has been called in.
- Ray Wilson, Toni McCall's brotherin-law, was diagnosed with aggressive cancer. He has had surgery, and they feel they have removed the cancer.
- Ken Wilkerson, brother of Terry Gillette, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Carol Pridgen, sister of Betty Small, has completed her treatment at Duke. They are reassessing her condition to determine what further steps to take. This gives her time to regain some strength.

- Yvette Suarez-Navis has had surgery for cancer. She will now undergo radiation treatments. Yvette works in our church nursery.
- Allyson Spratt daughter-in-law of Mike Spratt is undergoing chemotherapy. She is doing well except for being tired all the time.
- Darryl and Jan Emory (Wilson Byrum's cancer.
- Andy Griffith, neighbor of Cheryl Simerly, has had cancer return and has other medical issues.
- Ruth McGaha met with her doctor regarding her scan and nothing much . Fostering the Family asks for prayers has changed.
- Jim Conner, Beckie Ennis' father, has finished chemo. He is on a schedule to have a scan every three months. One . Todd, son of Kim who works with FTF, cancer spot has shrunk which is a praise.
- Elaine Scarborough, friend of Becky Neely, diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer had scans. The scans have • The father-in-law of Susie Boyle and them, by lighting a candle, until shown improvement.
- Fletcher Wilson, Ashley Rawls father, had surgery on his left leg that went • Sammi, niece of Susan Boyle, and the well. He had a wash done of his lungs but still may have to have a biopsy done on some spots.
- Johnny Bethea, cousin of Anne Moore, has been diagnosed with liver cancer in addition to pancreatic cancer. He is continuing chemo treatments.
- Larry Aaron, a friend of Kate Lemond, is feeling better and has started his chemo treatments.
- Dave Prouty, a friend of the Morgan's, had a recent cancer scan that reveals his cancer has advanced. Please pray for him, his wife and twin daughters.

Ongoing Illness

- John Williams, Mary Beth Monroe's brother-in-law, has been put on the kidney transplant list. Please pray for this to happen timely and for a donor match to be found.
- Becky Beck, the grandmother of Spencer and Gavin Beck, is suffering from a number of different health issues and appreciates all prayers.

- ening situation. They have put in a port to start dialysis immediately. She and her husband appreciate all the prayers lifted up for them.
- Daniel Morris, friend of Bruce Doane, diagnosed with Wegener's disease is off steroids. They are continuing his infusion treatments and seeing how he progresses.
- daughter and son-in-law) both have ◆ Cooper Freeman III is home from the ◆ hospital and seems to be doing well following his procedure. He has multiple medical visits scheduled.

Fostering the Family (FTF)

- for all of our support churches and care communities that are wrapping around these vulnerable families.
- was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Pray that it is treatable and for the support and love of his family to **When we have someone serving surround him.
- his wife want continued prayers as they return. Please be in prayer for they face his medical difficulties.
- triplets: the triplets are doing well and continue to gain weight.
- Please pray for the organization Fostering the Family and the following children that are looking to be adopted:
- *Laila: found a permanent home but with all she's been through she's trying to disrupt her adoption. The family is a good family and is willing to work
 - through her issues with her following some training for trauma. This training is available through Fostering the Family.
- *Jenifire: still waiting for a permanent home. Jenifire has been in foster care for four years.
- *Princeton, Desiyah, Destiny: please continue to pray for these children. Desiyah is still missing. Princeton needs appropriate services to come through to help him. Destiny doesn't have a foster home and may be living in the office.

 Mrs. Darrell Bonapart is in a life threat- *Brittany: case has been continued. It could be another 3 to 6 months before another hearing to have parental rights terminated.

Students

- Clay Ferguson
- Kelly Ferguson
- Donald Horack
- Melinda Moore
- Ben Shanti
- Casey Snyder
- Regan Snyder
- Sydney Snyder
- **Andrew Tanner**
- Charlie Warnke

Military

outside of the U.S., we remember them.

- **Brian Cox, US Air Force, Italy
- Olivia Hommes, US Air Force Academy, Colorado
- Bradley Lauerman, US Navy, Virginia
- Lexie Simerly, US Army, Washing-
- Will Warsaw, US Navy, Virginia

Homebound

Joan Brown	Sarah Middleton		
Linda Clark	Margaret Niell		
Joyce Carpenter	Forrest Nunnally		
Dot Earp	Gerry Roberts		
Katharine Freeman	Mike Spratt		
Louise Freeman	Margaret Wert		
Elaine Kotraba	Wayne Whiteside		
Hannah Maurer	Lois Yandle		
Pat McCorkle			