



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

“Make Space for What You Feel”

May Edition

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

Office Details

Hours: 8:00-1:00

(Emails answered throughout the day)

Aldersgate@ftc-i.net

(803) 775-1602

211 Alice Drive

Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Laura Whitt

(Ext. 101)

Office Manager:

Brooke Staniec

(Ext. 100)

Custodian: Shpendi Dani

Mother’s Day once seemed simple for me when I was little. Dad took us to pick out cards and a gift. Mom made sure we wore the correct color of flower – pink or red if your mother was living, white if your mother was deceased. At the time, the oldest mother, the youngest mother, the mother with the most children or other superlatives were honored before recognizing all mothers.

I never thought about how one of the most nurturing people I have ever known felt during all this celebration. She chose to continue teaching rather than ever getting married (in an era when you could not do both). She taught first graders for over forty years. She drove around the community to pick up children and take them to church. All the young school children sat with her on the front pew during church. I was in the final round of her teaching Sunday school and teaching the children to sing. Everyone called her “Aunt” Veva, young and old, related or not. Now, I wonder if she ever realized the irony as she made sure there was something for all the “mothers” in church. She “mothered” every one of us for several generations.

I experienced more of that nurturing than most. Aunt Veva was my biological great aunt. She lived with her two sisters that never married. We often spent teacher workdays with them. They included a trip to get fried chicken for lunch. Lunch was followed by a trip to the 5 & 10 cent store. When I was going to Clemson, she gave me instructions to call her – collect – every week. Aunt Veva nurtured me, too.

Now that I am aware of all the people who find Mother’s Day more complicated, I wonder how she experienced Mother’s Day. Mother’s Day isn’t so simple when a politician tells someone they weren’t a mother because they didn’t bear a biological child. Another politician responds with thanksgiving for his adoptive mother. The woman who has never been able to have children looks on longingly. The person who had an abusive mother may question what to do. For other people, Mother’s Day stirs up not just memories but raw grief.

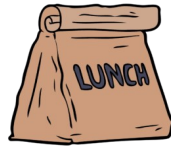
This year, I’m taking my cousin to see her mom while she is in my hometown. The road has been rocky for them at times so there is a mix of nerves and excitement. There is a longing for and hope for reconciliation, appreciation, and tenderness.

Whatever emotions you feel this year on Mother’s Day, please keep in mind that we all have different experiences and are in different places on our journeys. Make a space for what you feel and for what others feel. Check out the prayer included in the newsletter that includes a wide range of situations.

Remember, there is only one perfect parent – God! God calls you beloved child.

Peace,

Pastor Laura



Salad lunch fundraiser will be Wednesday, May 17th. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for members, and we have tickets available in the office. Salad lunches are \$10. We need your help with deviled eggs again this year, if you can help in any way please let Brooke know ASAP!



There are many committee meetings this month in preparation for Church Council on the 15th. If you are on a committee please try to make your scheduled meetings, there are many important things to be discussed.



Epworth's Children's Home annual Mother's day offering is to promote children's ministry through Epworth, and take a special offering for God's work through Epworth. Epworth is not an apportioned item and relies heavily on these offerings to provide quality care for those in need. Envelopes for the offering will be in the bulletin on 5/7/23.



Our next blood drive will be Thursday, May 18th from 2PM-7PM, come out and give if you are able. If you want to volunteer please get in touch with Dave Gohn.



We want to recognize and thank those who came out to be certified in First Aid/CPR: Pastor Laura, Sphendi Dani, Dave Gohn, Jim Jennings, Beth Morris, Kathy Goldstein, Mike Hodge, and Brooke Staniec.

OUR PRAYERS:

- Lynn Boan
- Family of Pat Boozer
- Family of Connie Snow
- Griffin Family
- Scott/Stephanie Smith
- Betty Hodges
- Betty Heacker
- Larry & Garland Nettles
- Allen Prescott
- Gene Hunter
- Ed & Carolyn Hudson
- Everett Burroughs
- Bill Brattain
(Marsha Witbeck's cousin)
- Bill Fleury
- Rex Riddle
- Sandy Richardson
- Christy Richardson
- Arawana
- Bill Reither
- Sam Crawford
- Sarah Sari
- All Homebound Members

Please let us know when we need to remove someone from this list.



Our 2023 Basket Auction was a great success. With your support, we were able to raise \$2,550.00 for our Backpack Ministry. Thank you to all who came out to support this mission.



God of Love, On this Mother's Day,
 We ask that your presence be made known
 By all those who mother
 Whether they are called by that title or not.
 Envelop in your warm embrace
 Each person who has nurtured us,
 Each one who has provided for us,
 Each one who has protected us
 Who has cuddled us and cradled us
 And kissed away our tears.
 And surround those who long to mother:
 Who await a child to call their own,
 Who mourn a child they once held,
 Or once carried,
 Who sit by the phone waiting for a call
 Or in the chair waiting for a visit.
 Fill their sorrows with your presence.
 And encourage the mothers who struggle:
 The ones who haven't slept
 The ones who wait for healing
 For themselves or their child
 The ones with mental illness
 The ones who fight addiction
 The ones who can't find
 affordable housing or childcare
 The ones stretched thin between caring
 For their children and their parents
 The ones who carry the burden of
 nurturing alone.
 And bind up the wounds we carry from our
 childhoods:
 Those of us who are disappointed.
 Those of us who are estranged.
 Those of us who experienced abuse.
 Heal all of us.
 Through the mothering love of your
 Holy Spirit
 And the hands and hearts you send
 to nurture us now
 and who journey with us in this
 community.
 In your holy name, we pray.
 Amen.

By Chris Geenen Jorgensen. Used with permission.



**SENIOR
TRIP**



Keep an eye out for an announcement on
 where the next 4th Friday lunch will be and
 get signed up ASAP!



The UMM want to invite all members of the
 congregation out for bowling on Thursday,
 May 11th at 6:30PM.



Collection for Christian Charities is an ongoing
 mission for Aldersgate. You can drop off
 non-perishable food items any time through-
 out the year in a basket across from the office.



VBS is quickly approaching. Please get in touch
 with Brooke if you are able to volunteer or
 help in any way.

Stewardship Report			
Year to date - through April 2023			
<i>Actual revenue</i>	<i>Actual Expenses</i>	<i>Budgeted revenue</i>	<i>Budgeted expenses</i>
\$ 128,000.00	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 177,000.00	\$ 177,000.00



MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 WOW 5:30P	2 EVANGELSIM 5:30P UWF SALAD SUPPER 6P	3 UMM 1P	4 MISSIONS 5:30P FINANCE 6:30P	5	6
7	8 WOW 5:30P TRUSTEES 6P	9 FAMILY MINISTRIES 6:30P	10 UMM 7A DISCIPLESHIP 9:30 A 5:30P	11 KNITTERS 10:30A BOWLING 6:30P	12	13
14 HAPPY MOTHERS DAY	15 WOW 5:30P CHUCH COUNCIL 6:30P	16 UWF BOARD 6:30P	17 SALAD LUNCH 11A-1P	18 BLOOD DRIVE 2P-7P	19	20
21	22 WOW 5:30P	23	24 UMM 7A DISCIPLESHIP 9:30 A 5:30P	25 KNITTERS 10:30A	26 4TH FRIDAY LUNCH 12P	27
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30	31 UMM 7A DISCIPLESHIP 9:30 A 5:30P			

MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Kathy Hunter	12 Roberta Vannoy	21 Bill Witbeck
4 Betty Davis	13 Emily Becker	23 Lynn Quinlan
8 Doug Hammond	16 Jane Collins	24 Mark Goldstein
12 Sue Towery	19 Rita Davis	