



M O N T H L Y

May 2026

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From the Pastor

Dear ones,

I do not remember learning to talk. I do not even know what my first word was. Do you? Samantha has often told me that her first word was “egg.”

I would like to think that mine was something important. More likely it was some simple expression of a desire— or a word that someone kept repeating me until I finally said it. However it began, there was some magic moment when I spoke a coherent word for the very first time. From then on I was formed by language that I might participate in family, school, peer groups, clubs, sports, marriages, worship, and every other important part of human life.

But language does more than bind us together. It also give us the ability to resist.

Eventually we begin to desire the freedom to speak our own minds, even if that means telling our parents “No!” I think parents regret that word more than any other and feel its weight immediately. The same mouth that can confess love, offer worship, praise, and joy can also refuse, wound, and deceive. Words also equip us for disobedience and doing harm. None of us are immune from verbal slip-ups that inflict pain or cause someone to doubt our intentions. Our words sometimes flash like a hot spark on gasoline. Eventually, we go from learning our first word to our first full-scale temper tantrum.

There is a moment like this in the life of the prophet Jeremiah. You may remember that Jeremiah was called when he was a child. The word of God “happened” to him— this is the literal meaning of the Hebrew word translated as “came.” God said to Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” If you have heard this before then you know that Jeremiah objected because he was a boy who did not know how to speak as a prophet. But the LORD God replied to him, “... you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.”

God told Jeremiah to warn the people of Israel that their persistent unfaithfulness—especially their idolatry and injustice—would bring judgment in the form of invasion and exile. Yet even in judgment, God’s purpose was not destruction but correction, calling the people to repent and return to God. At one point, in chapter 20, Jeremiah has grown weary of being mocked by the unfaithful people to whom he has been relaying God’s call to repent and return to keeping covenant with God. So, he accuses God of enticing him and turning him into a laughingstock. Then he says something remarkable.

In the midst of his fear that his life was going to continue to be hard because he was doing his best to be faithful to the God of Israel, Jeremiah realized that his purpose for being was to speak the words that had been impressed upon him by God. In the moment that he was very much like the little girl in the picture above, wanting to say her own words rather than conforming to the desires of her mother, Jeremiah wanted to be known for something other than warning the people that their disobedience was going to result in being overthrown or taken out of the promised land.



Then, Jeremiah has a fit of clarity. Perhaps he had become faint from his tantrum, who knows? But he said this in Jeremiah 20:9, "If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot."

When I read that, I think of the chest pressure and sore cheeks that come with attempting to hold your breath until you get your way. That pressure and burning caused him to realize that the better choice was to speak as God called him to speak. When I think of the wonderful news that we have been proclaiming this Easter season, I wonder if we would feel a little like Jeremiah if we decided we were tired of talking about all this death and resurrection stuff. How would we feel if we decided that we would no longer proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Would we find our cheeks sore, our chest filled with a great pressure, or feel as if a burning fire was shut up in our bones? Would we become weary of holding this wonderful news in? It was Jesus, after all, who said that we would be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. If we truly love him, can we be happy if we never speak of him to any one else?

From the beginning of our new life in Christ, the church has been working to form in us the language of the Gospel. It teaches us the creed. It proclaims Christ' coming, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension, and sure return. It gives us language to describe the wonderful news that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that he is delivering us from our captivity to sin and death. We learn those words from scripture and the singing of hymns until the Word of God happens to us as well. So that we might be sent to proclaim the swift judgment, restoration, goodness, truth, love, and beauty of the Living God.

What would happen if you decided to never speak of Christ again? Would the inward pressure cause you to pop? That may seem silly. But I truly hope you feel that way.

This morning, one of you asked me how much longer I will continue to preach. I told him that, at minimum, I have to continue until I am 62. At 72, I will be forced to retire. Then it occurred to me that I do not think I could ever be comfortable with not having the opportunity to proclaim the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. So, I said, "I don't think I will ever stop preaching." Preaching is just sharing the word that "happened" to me as generations of servants of Christ taught me that, in Christ, God was reconciling us all to Godself and then gave me words to sing and speak.

Like Jeremiah, we too will sometimes be called to hold one another accountable to how it is that God expects those in covenant with God to live. At the same time, we have the privilege of inviting one another to confess our shortcomings, to trust Christ to deliver us from sin and death, and then to pronounce that, through Christ, our sins are indeed forgiven; that our hearts are being transformed such that we will no longer have enmity toward God or be separated from God. How could we not speak of such a beautiful thing?

Remember Christ!

FRANK DAVID

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CIA helping with the Color Our World Soirée ladies banner.



Easter



Egg Hunt



Friday		Saturday
1	8-12 MUMC Day School	2 Myrtle Strange Circle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth	4 8-12 MUMC Day School	5 8-12 MUMC Day School	6 8-12 MUMC Day School	7 National Day of Prayer Breakfast 8-12 MUMC Day School	8 8-12 MUMC Day School Day School Graduation	9
10 Mother's Day 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth 7:30 pm Young Adult	11 8-12 MUMC Day School 6:30 pm United Meth. Men's Supper	12 8-12 MUMC Day School	13 8-12 MUMC Day School 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting	14 8-12 MUMC Day School 2:00 pm Jane Craft Circle Last Day	15 8-12 MUMC Day School	16
17 Graduation Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Graduation Lunch 4:30 pm Youth 7:30 pm Young Adult	18 Myrtle Strange Circle	19 10:30 am Plant Bingo	20 6:00 pm Finance Com. 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	21	22	23
24 Confirmation 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth 7:30 pm Young Adult	25 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	26	27 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	28	29	30 Youth Eudora Farm Trip
31 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth 7:30 pm Young Adult	<p>Save the Dates</p> <p><u>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2- Myrtle Strange Circle Retreat 15- Plant Bingo 10:30 am 17-Graduates Sunday Worship and Covered Dish meal 30-Middle School Youth Trip to Eudora Farms 9 am <p><u>June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-4 Vacation Bible School 11- Circle Meeting 14- Farewell Barbeque 27-Art & Appetizers 					



May Anniversary's

- 5/18-Shannon & Jackie Barwick
- 5/22-Mark & Michelle Lee
- 5/27-Harvin & Mary Brock
- 5/29-Gary & Katharine Fickling

Happy Birthday

- 5/2- Monika King
- 5/3- Robert Clark
- 5/5-Donnie Mahoney, Anders Taylor
- 5/9- Travis Brown
- 5/14-Michael Burns, Jr.
- 5/15-Margaret Robertson
- 5/21- Edna Ellis
- 5/23-Sara Wells, Susan Drose
- 5/25-Rock Ouzts
- 5/27-Dawn Griffith
- 5/28-Cathy Gardner

2026 Tithes & Offering	
Needed Year to Date	\$ 133,298.40
Total Received YTD	\$ 122,377.37
Overage or (Deficit)	\$ (10,921.03)

Date	Worship Attendance
March 29	9:30 am Sunday School— 50 Worship 10:30 am — 114
April 5 Easter Sunday	6:30 am Sunrise — 77 9:30 am Sunday School— 41 Worship 10:30 am — 133
April 12	9:30 am Sunday School—43 Worship 10:30 am — 97
April 19	9:30 am Sunday School— 47 Worship 10:30 am — 109
April 26	9:30 am Sunday School— 53 Worship 10:30 am — 112

Flower Calendar for 2026!
 The yellow days are available for Sign-up!
 Please add your name to the poster on the church bulletin board outside the church office.

May	3	10	17	24	31
June	7	14	21	28	
July	5	12	19	26	
August	2	9	16	23	30
September	6	13	20	27	
October	4	11	18	25	
November	1	8	15	22	29
December	6	13	20	27	

Our Prayer List Please remember the people below in your prayers. **This list is in continuous rotation, if you do not see your loved one on this list please call the church office and update us on their health.**

Michele Bastin	Ann Cutter	Brandon Herlong	Jeffrey Kemp	Jim Moore	Linda Rogers
Pauline Brewer	Lynn Daniel	Family of Lou Holladay	Family of Marilyn Knowland	Sandra Murdaugh	Adam Salisbury
Horace Browder, Jr.	Alta Emmert	Family of Mary Hownten	Ken Lovorn	Karen Myers	Earl Swinney
Jackie Chalfant	Ed Gamble	Family of Weston Jolly	Wally Maynard	Chris Polis	Michael Varn
Larry Cramer	Steve Gardner	Laura Kelley	Sherry McDonald	Tyler Roberts	Sally Wilson
					Kimberly Wyatt

Please remember to Pray for our members who are living away from home, in the **military, or who have limited mobility:**

Betty Black	Cameron Dodge	Margaret Lee
Isabelle Brown	William (Artie) Gamble	Neal Mahoney
George Clark	Woody Haynes	Joan Odom
June Davis	Bo King	Helene Patnode
Liz Denny	Wilson Lepp	Margaret Robertson

Memorial Gifts:

Lou Holladay given by: Tommy & Jane Benton, Susan Elmore, Cora & Venson Norris, Shelia Vanscoy, Charlotte Haygreen, Annette Browder, Billy & Betty Coffey, Cona Tyson, Rock & Vicki Ouzts, Carol & Charlie Gavin, Mary Jo Gamble, Sharon Cramer, Elaine Buddin, Alfred Breedin, Jimmy & Harriet Holladay

Mary Hownten given by: Susan Elmore, Rock & Vicki Ouzts, Mary Jo Gamble, Kathy, Glenn, Emily & Katie Carswell

Terry Younts given by: Carol & Charlie Gavin, Mary Jo Gamble, Sandra Brewer

Rev. Carlos Gardener given by: Carol & Charlie Gavin, Mary Jo Gamble

Cliff Toner given by: Carol & Chalie Gavin, Elaine Buddin, Mary Jo Gamble, Rock & Vicki Ouzts, Sandra Brewer, Deanna Carter, Rachel Patterson, Julie Griffin, Thomasine Ragas, Ann Alderman.

Jake Buddin given by: Sonny & Ann Sanders

Ben Osborne given by: Mary Jo Gamble

Bud Johnson given by: Brenda Thompson

Honorarium Gifts:

Rev. David McManus & Samantha given by: Alfred Breedin

Carolyn Chilton Happy Birthday from Jane & Tommy Benton

Kelly Gottheiner Happy Birthday from Stan & Lu Nickell

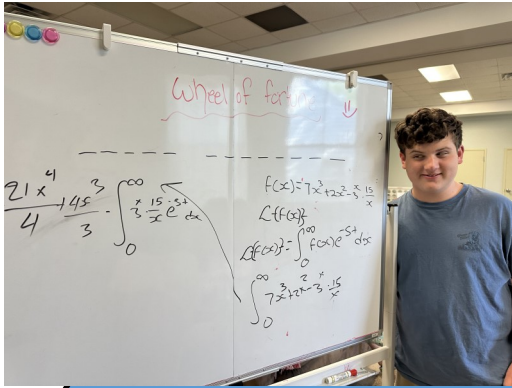
Czarina Asha C. Calicdan Happy Birthday from Cona Tyson

Epworth
Serving Children & Families

EPWORTH IS OUR MINISTRY! Because of our support last year Epworth served 2,230 children and families through its statewide programs in 2025. On Sunday, May 10th, 2026, we will participate in the annual Mother's Day Offering to benefit the children who call Epworth home, as well as each child and family touched by Epworth's ministries. Please be in prayerful consideration of what God is calling you to give to help Epworth make a difference in the lives of children and families every day. **NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 10TH IS OUR MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING FOR EPWORTH.** Members of Manning UMC have been generous in this offering in the past and Epworth is very appreciative of this support. For more information about Epworth, visit online at www.epworthsc.org.



The Back Page May 2026



Thank you Garek for leading Worship a few weeks ago. You did a great job, we are so proud of you!



Graduates Service & covered dish meal

May 17th

Hope you ALL will join us!



Thank you to all who helped Abby by letting her practice her phlebotomy skills trying to get her certification!