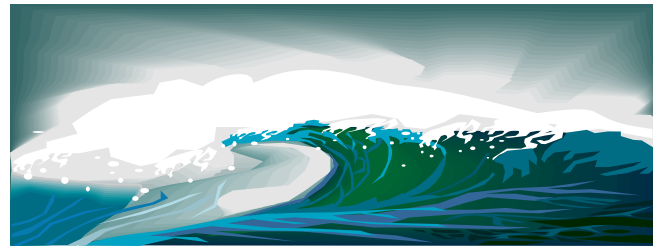




The *May 2018* Anchor

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a



**First Baptist Church , 215 Ann Street, Ravenswood, WV 26164 ~
1-304-273-9910 ~ www.fbcraenswood.org**

As we enter the month of May, we think of both Mother's Day and Memorial Day. It's a month set aside for remembering.

We honor our mothers and what they have meant to us over the years. We can reflect on how women are role models for their children. They are role models in our church. They teach us how to love unconditionally and how to see beyond flaws. I'm always keenly aware that not all women were able to have biological children and have helped with foster care and adoption or even as serving as mother figures to those in our families such as our nieces and nephews and neighborhood children. Some have been moms to their pets ensuring they had what they needed and providing love to them as their own children.

Regardless, women I believe, were created to love... It's innate in their genes.

Proverbs 31 talks about the character of women and how their children will call her blessed. If you are a mother, this month we honor you.

Additionally, this month we remember those who served our nation in uniform in the military and died while doing so. These brave men and women fought and died to protect the freedoms that have been bestowed on us. Let us remember those who sacrificed for us, for our children and for our grandchildren. May we remember the families of those who lost loved ones in Service, as they remember that ultimate sacrifice. May we also keep the men and women in uniform today in our prayers as they are in the trenches putting their lives on the line even today.

I'd like to close this month in paying tribute to Pastor Mark Gerstell and his wife Susan. I've enjoyed serving alongside of Mark being his wingman for nearly four years. He has been a true inspiration and mentor to me. He has led our church gracefully, professionally, and with care and compassion. He has been a leader locally and regionally for our church and association.

We were really saddened when his resignation was read. But, we all understand the need for him to focus on his health.

Mark has shown me the importance of loving people for who they are, and celebrating their uniqueness that God has given them in the personalities and talents. Above all else, he has shown me how to love the Lord even through the trials of recent health challenges. Mark never gave up on us, and we've never given up on him.

The Gerstells are a part of us, and wonderful members of the church. Seeing and visiting them each week is a blessing to all of us. We celebrate with you as you recover.

(Continued)



(continued)

Mark's ministry has impacted so many of our lives that every time I see him, I see love for me and our church. I hope I can be half the man of God he is. I believe we can be the church that Mark cast a vision for.

Let us continue to lift Mark, Susan, and Holly up in our prayers. I do believe God's healing will come. I've always believed that. But I've come to realize it's not on my time or the Church's time, but, it will have to come in God's perfect timing.

I would ask you to be in prayer for the church leadership as our church moves into a transition period. We must all believe that God has a perfect plan waiting for us, which will fulfill his mission for the church.

Meanwhile, if you have any special needs, or are in need of a visit, prayer, or call, please contact your Deacon or let Susan in the church office know.

May God continue to be honored and glorified by the work we are doing at First Baptist Church. Happy Mother's Day and Happy Memorial Day!

Love to you all.

Pastor Toby





Camp Cowen applications are now available in the church office. Again this year, Captivate has provided the opportunity for High Schoolers to attend Camp Cowan at no charge this summer. *If you would like to help sponsor a youth, please let Pastor Toby know.*

Four high schoolers are signed up for Brotherø Keeper this year. If you are an adult male and willing to help chaperone this group, please contact Susan West. **Zack Graham, Nikki Nicholson, John Wagoner and Aaron Wagoner** have signed up to participate. Church scholarships have provided these young men opportunities to serve without a cost.

On another note, as far as recognition, the church wants to congratulate **Zack Graham** one of our Captivators for his performance in the play "To Kill a Mockingbird." *He did a wonderful job.* This full scale community production was held in Parkersburg and was packed about each performance.

Another Captivator we would like to recognize is **Nikki Nicholson**. *Nikki took part in the Civil War reenactment in Ravenswood in April.*

I want to say congratulations to the graduating seniors that are from our church: **Nathan Hall, Josh Ritchie, Riley Stewart, Katie Mellinger, Blake Bennett, and Cody Williams**. *May God always bless you as you move into the next phase of your lives.* Remember to find an active college ministry group. Know that your church family is here for you. Please stay in touch. Make sure your senior profiles have been submitted as you will be featured this month in the bulletin.

We also congratulate **Sami Wagoner** for ending her reign as Queen of the Ravenswood Ohio River Festival last month. Sami fills in as an occasional Captivate substitute leader and chaperone when needed.

Lastly, we would like to thank **Rhonda Ritchie** for organizing family bowling. There were several youth involved. It was a great night for everyone.

Stay tuned for more exciting youth events coming up.

Monthly Meetings & Activities

May 1-3 Revolving Revival
May 6- One Great Hour of Sharing begins
May 7- Trustee Meeting @ 7 pm
May 8- Men's Fellowship @ 6:30
Paint Class @ 6pm
May 12-Clean Up Day
May 13-Mother's Day *No Evening Service*
May 14- BOCE @ 7 pm
Deacon Meeting @ 8 pm
May 15- Painting Class @ 6 pm
May 17- CIRCLE @ 7 pm
May 18- Camp Cowen Registrations Due
May 18-19 Youth Work Party at Cowen
May 20- Pentecost Sunday
Graduation Sunday
May 23- Anchor Articles Due
May 25- Ravenswood High Graduation
May 27- Memorial Sunday
No Evening Service
May 28- Memorial Day - Office Closed

Nursery Workers

May 6 - Jessica Morgan
May 13- Connie Staats
May 20- Deb Lyons
May 27- Leigh Ann Kerns

Children's Church

May 6 - Bill Stewart
May 13- Jen Wagoner
May 20- Leanne Thompson
May 27- Susan Gerstell

CommUnity Kitchen

May 5 - Susan West and crew
May 12 - Burt Lyons
May 19 - Lion's Club
May 26 - No Community Kitchen

Deaconess for Communion

Andrea Crow



Focus on Sunday School:



This month in the Women of God Sunday School Class we will begin our journey in ***The Broken Way*** study by Ann Voskamp. The study books and DVD are in.

Thanks to Kathy Hudson for finding this study as we find our way to the "*Daring Path to Abundant Life*".

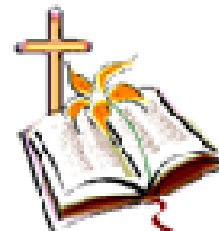
The Omega Class said goodbye to their teacher Larry Bailes as he and wife Jackie re-located to Marietta to live with their son. Thank you Larry and Jackie for your dedication to God's work in our church and your dedication to the Sunday School here. May you be richly blessed in your new life.

Marie DeLong has graciously accepted the position of teacher for the Omegas with Larry's departure. We welcome her with open hearts.

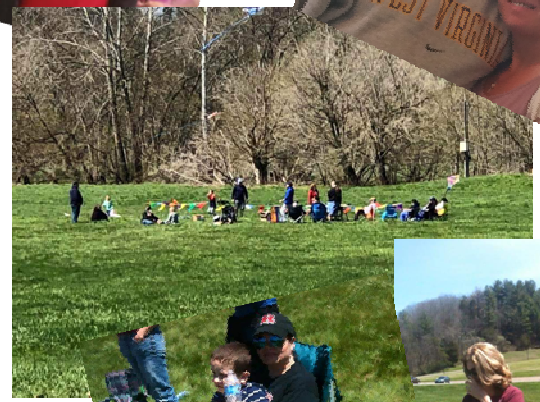
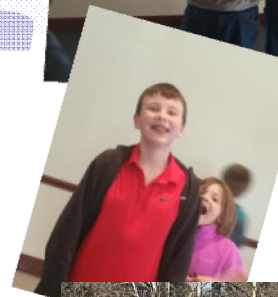
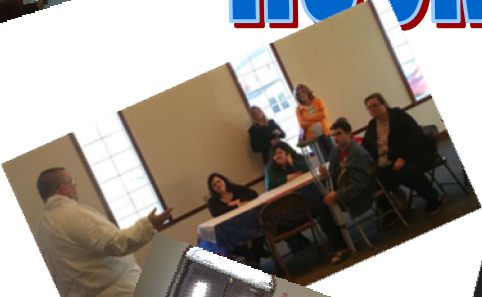
Sunday School attendance has been down the past couple Sundays. It is so important to keep the habit going. ***If you have been absent, we have missed you!***

Moms and Dads - bring your family. Kids - bring your friends. Sunday School is the place to be. Hope to see you there soon!

Attend Sunday School!



Rockets & Kites!





Are All The Children In?

**I think ofttimes as the night draws nigh of an old house on the hill,
Of a yard all wide and blossoming-starred, where the children played at will.**

**And when the night at last came down, hushing the merry din,
Mother would look around and ask, "Are all the children in?"**

**'Tis many and many a year since then, and the old house on the hill
No longer echoes to childish feet, and the yard is still, so still.**

**But I see it all, as the shadows creep, and though many the years have been,
I still can hear my mother ask, "Are all the children in?"**

**When we step into the Other Land, where Mother so long has been,
Will we hear her ask, just as of old, "Are all the children in?"**

- Author Unknown

What Happens Now?

Many may be wondering what will happen now that Pastor Mark has resigned as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church.

This is, indeed, a sad and difficult time as we say goodbye to the shepherd that God sent to lead our church for the past years.

But as God led Pastor Mark to us, He also has someone chosen to take his place. We just need to find him.

And so begins the journey of searching for a new pastor.

Our constitution states in Article V, Section 2, paragraph a:

A Pastoral Search Committee shall be organized when the church has need of a pastor. This committee, elected by secret ballot, shall consist of active members of each of the following organizations: one deacon, one trustee, one deaconess, one member of Board of Christian Education, and one member of the church at large. No two members of any immediate family shall serve on this committee. The committee is expected to organize itself by the selection of a chairman and a secretary for the consideration of and the hearing of candidates for the pulpit. When agreement is reached, they shall present the name of one candidate to the church for its approval or rejection. This committee, as originally elected, shall serve until the candidate is elected and installed.

What can the church be doing while this process is taking place? Pray!

Pray for Pastor Toby as he fills the pulpit delivering God's message to His people and as he continues to lead our youth.

Pray for the leadership - the deacons, deaconesses, trustees, Board of Christian Education, teachers - as they follow the will of God and serve our church.

Pray for our church as a whole as we continue to do the Lord's work; to reach out, bring in and grow in Christ together.

Pray for those who will be chosen for the Search Committee that they may be led to find the right pastor who will accept us as his church.

What else can the church do? Be the hands and feet of Christ. If there is a need that you see or hear about, be willing to help. If you are unable to help, contact a deacon for guidance.

We are His people. He will hold us in the palm of His hand.

For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.
Isaiah 41:13

We Remember With Love

May is a month of remembrance when, on Memorial Day, we remember and celebrate those who have gone on to be with the Lord. During the last twelve months, we have lost 3 beloved church members. We take this time to celebrate their lives and honor them.



Lance Peter Ritchie
April 26, 1958 to December 12, 2017



Darylne Virginia Dow
August 6, 1931 to January 17, 2018



Franklin H. Moore, Jr
July 22, 1930 to February 10, 2018

DEVOTION TO THE LORD

Our world is in a dark period. There are so many forces trying to push God out of our society. It is said at the end times, the devil will reign. Is he? For us Christians, it's just the beginning.

I'd like to talk about what we can do. To whole heartedly surrender to the LORD. I've listed seven reasons to ponder.

1. He already owns you: He made you and bought you with a price; the Cross
2. You owe Him a debt of love: For forgiving your sins and dying for them
3. You can't handle life on your own: Every one of our sins proves that we need His help to make right decisions
4. He can make you happier than you can make yourself: Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4)
5. He has your entire life planned out: His plans for your life are better than anything you could come up with in a million years
6. You will be judged by Him one day: Even though our sins are forgiven and we are saved by grace. Through faith we will all stand before the judgment seat of God
7. He deserves you: We don't bow down to Him merely because He is asking, but because He has earned it

With these seven things in mind, you need to ask yourself is there any reason not to surrender to the Lord. I realize people will misunderstand you for doing this. They will mock and marginalize you. They may even attack and persecute you for the name of Christ. But, remember that doesn't matter because it's not about you..if you are in Christ you are hidden in God.

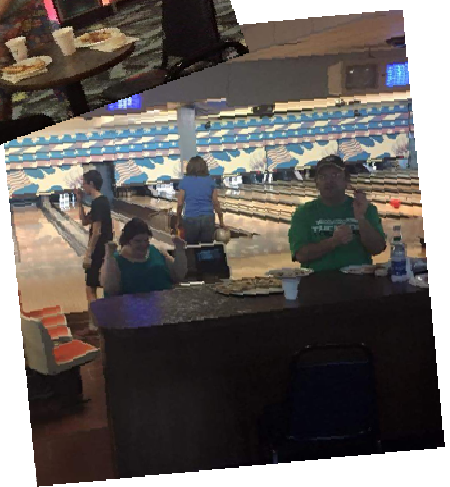
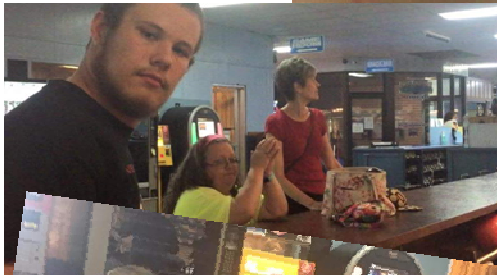
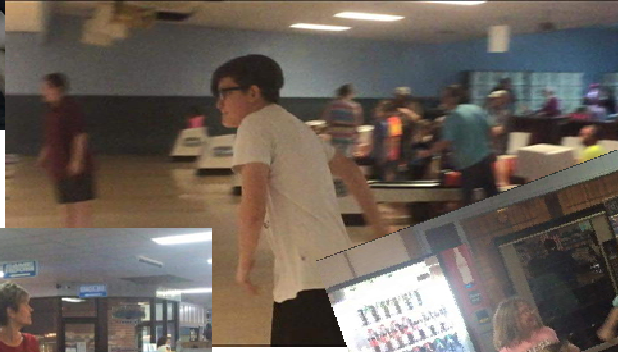
You represent your Lord, not yourself. If they reject you because they rejected Him, then you don't have to take it personally. Jesus said to rejoice if that happens, celebrate it because great is your reward in Heaven. (Matthew 5:12). So whether anybody else supports you or not, surrender your life COMPLETELY to Him.

God's eyes are looking across the earth at this very hour, looking for people who will surrender their all to the One who paid it all. We need a generation of people who will say I'm not afraid of this world, I'm standing firm in the name of the Lord knowing the battle belongs to the Lord. We need an army of people who will see the desperate needs of the nation and call the people of God to rise up and fight for their marriages, their children, and the next generation. People who will not only fight injustice and the status quo, but will actively rebuild our families, our churches, and our nation for the glory of GOD.

We need people who are beaten and persecuted, cling to God with powerful faith and endurance. People who when the church needs leadership, will stand up. Life has always been, and still is today and always will be about Him. We need to aim our passion and the rest of our days at living to bring Him honor. The finale of all things is the GLORY OF GOD. Our goal should always be to show Him respect.

Submitted by Burt Lyons

FBC Goes Bowling!!!





I am very excited about our new 12-Step Addiction Ministry to launch at LifeSpring Jackson Community in Ravenswood, WV on May 10th. We will meet on Thursdays at 6:00 PM. The ministry, conceived by Pastor Bill and Liz Stewart "Broken Chains," will utilize the addiction program resources of Christian 12-Step Ministry Inc. From the work of Ray Geisel and Rick Warren. There is tremendous healing and freedom folks across the nation are experiencing from this program.

While our 12-Step Program is designed for those suffering with addictions, most automatically come under the assumption this is just for drug addicts or alcoholics while we address those as well it is not our primary focus.

Addictions run the gamut of several things, for example:

33 Common Addictions

Alcohol, Fights, Sex, Caffeine, Gambling, Sexual Abuse, The Chase, Love, Shopping, Chronic Illness, Male Dependency, Soap Operas, Compulsive Lying, Money, Sugar, Church, Nicotine, Talking, Credit Card Spending, Over Eating, Telephone, Drugs, Pain, Television, Emotional Abuse, Physical Abuse, Video Games, Female Dependency, Prescription Medication, Work, Internet Use, Facebook, Codependency

Participants will utilize a study guide, "Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus Christ," This consist of 12 Steps that have been divided into 36 lessons. The 12 Step Session Breakdown gives you the order in which we will cover the material, however it is difficult to say exactly how many weeks it will take us to complete this study because we will have group discussion and sharing. We feel that is very important because sharing our stories empowers everyone and gives us hope and strength.

Meditations are noted in the breakdown. These are short writings based on Scripture to encourage and increase participants faith in God so that they might receive the healing God desires for them. They are easy to relate to.

Our main focus is on God's Word for the purpose of receiving emotional healing and building and maintaining healthy relationships with others. The degree of benefits participants receive over the course of this program are only to the degree they truly participate and move into a deeper relationship with God.

Mission to Japan

Dear Friends,

I am working with my adult children Ben and Sarah McCloy to help them raise support for their mission work this summer. Last year, my son Benjamin went to Japan by himself to explore a call to missions. The trip was both a success and a confirmation to him that this was his calling. This year, he is leading a group of four other young adults, including my daughter Sarah, on a mission trip to Japan. He will be working with our American Baptist missionaries to minister to young adults and children there. Our missionaries have expressed how this is an answered prayer for them, as they have desired some of our young adults to come and work with the young adults they minister to. Please pray for the group as they travel this summer, and any support you or your church could offer would be appreciated. I am certain that Ben and Sarah would be open to coming and sharing about their experiences with your church after they return. Attached is their letter telling more about their trip.

Blessing as you continue to serve our Lord! Mark McCloy (Area Minister to First Baptist Church)

Greetings from Ben and Sarah McCloy. We are excited to share with you that we will be going on a



mission trip this summer to Japan through International Ministries with the help of Leslie Turley and other partners in ministries. We will be hosted by IM missionaries Gordon and LeeAnn Hwang in Yokohama. During our first week, we will be working at Soshin



University--a Christian university in Yokohama. We will be doing personal evangelism among the students and partnering with the ESL (English as a Second Language) program there. We will be helping Pastor Tanno at Taira Church (in Fukushima) with their kindergarten program throughout the second week, who will be in their summer session. While there, we will be staying at the Global Mission Center, which is about 5 minutes from the church and is directed by Pastor Mori.

This trip is an exciting opportunity for both of us. Ben will have an opportunity to deepen relationships he built last year and further explore his call to full-time missions in Japan. Sarah also feels called to full-time missions and is exploring where God is calling her to go. This will be a great chance to make connections with pastors and missionaries in Japan as well as learn about their culture and how we can reach them with the gospel. Please pray for us as we prepare for this trip and explore our call to missions! In addition to prayer support, we also need financial support. Our end goal is to raise \$5,400 (\$2,700 each) in order to pay for airfare, meals, lodging, and other transportation for three weeks (from June 9th to June 28th). We are hoping that you would consider giving \$20 or \$100 to help us reach part of our goal. If you wish to send support via check, make the check out to either Benjamin or Sarah McCloy (we will share whatever funds are raised). Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 640 Elizabeth, WV 26143

FBC People Happenings

Phillip Lyons was recently inducted into *The Order of the Arrow* for his outstanding work in the Boys Scouts of America.

Way to go, **Phillip!!**



Congratulations Graduates!

FBC is celebrating our High School and College graduates this month. You will be seeing a focus on each one during the month of May.

Ravenswood High School graduate on May 25. Our Senior Sunday is May 20.

- **Blake Bennett**
- **Nathan Hall**
- **Katie Mellinger**
- **Josh Ritchie**
- **Riley Stewart**
- **Cody Williams**

Our College graduates are:

- **Andrea Donahue**
- **Talia Martinez**
- **Kindsey Torris**

Congratulation to all of you! *May the Lord bless you in all you do.*

Clean Up Day at FBC

On Saturday, May 12 we will have a volunteer clean up day at the church. Anyone who is willing to help, please come join us in a fellowship of cleaning the Lord's house.

What will be done? Outside work, inside work, windows, rooms, sanctuary wherever it is needed. The trustees will have a list.

The time for clean up day will be announced soon.

Please come help out. There's a job waiting for everyone.

REVIVAL HAS BEGUN!

April 29 began the Good Hope Association Revolving Revival at Spencer.

FBC Ravenswood Choir under the direction of Abbi Woods, performed 2 songs uplifting the Lord.

The revival continues on Monday. We will be the host church on Tuesday, May 1. Our dinner will begin at 6:00 with the service to begin at 7:00.

Invite a friend and come join us!



Here Today..Gone Tomorrow

The trustees are in the process of doing some landscaping around the church. The shrubbery will be removed and replaced with some plants similar to those at the front of the church.

Trustee Richard Massey checked out one bush and with a great help from Tom Lookabaugh, removed it.



Did you notice??

What a change! The area is open and neater.

Thanks, Tom and Richard!



WV AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
June 1 - 3, 2018
Parchment Valley Conference Center

"Hand of the Man"



*Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water;
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea;
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently.
Put your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee.*

*Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said.
"Why did you doubt me?" Matthew 14:31*



Keynote Speaker - Rev. Ron Stoner

Pastor Ron Stoner is a WV native and a graduate of Marshall University. After his marriage to Janice Dolin, they moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where he graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife then returned to WV where he began his pastorate at the First Baptist Church of Ravenswood. He was ordained in 1973 by the 20th Street Baptist Church, Huntington. In 1977, they adopted their two children, Rhonda and Shane, and they now have four grandsons. In 1984, he began as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Charleston. He is a past president of the WV Baptist Convention and has served both the Parchment Valley and Camp Cowen Boards. He is currently Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church of Hurricane.

Kim Mack
Conference Coordinator
1009 Elm Drive
Hurricane, WV 25526
Phone: 304.562.9209

E-mail: kmack@cyclopswv.com





SAMANTHA JO WAGONER, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Sammi is entering her junior year at Marshall University where she is majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. Her career goal is pediatric dentistry. She is a past and current year scholarship girl and her hobbies include walking, yoga and reading. She is a member of First Baptist Church of Ravenswood.

LOIS CASTO, PIANIST

WV ABWM Board Member
Project Good Samaritan Coordinator



BOOK SALE

We solicit your used books! All sales are based on donations and proceeds benefit the American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV. All unsold books are donated to the Parkersburg Episcopal Church for their annual book sale to benefit several charities.

LIKE-NEW FLEA MARKET

Fun! Fun! Fun! We solicit like-new items for our flea market. All sales are based on donations and all proceeds benefit the American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV. No clothing or furniture, please.



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Session #9 - "Resourcing"
Saturday, June 2nd



COLORING CONTEST

2018 Mission Outreach Project
Trees from Zechariah 3

BIBLE STUDY

*Turning Others On to God - or Off
Sue Hamric



WORKSHOPS

Adults and Children
Greeting Cards
Crafts and Others



WOMEN'S OPEN CHOIR HYMN SING

OFFERING INFORMATION

1/2 of Saturday's Offering will go toward the 2018 Special Project
Lodge Roofing for Parchment Valley



SUNDAY MORNING

Personal Spiritual Growth - Lisa Simmons
Communion

ABWM Spring Rally!!

The Brunch Served by
Men's Fellowship



*Decorations by
Gusta*

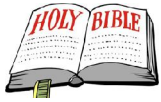


The Meeting Begins



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bible Book of the
Month
May 2018**



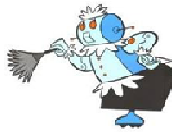
Do you
know where
this
is in the
church?



One Great Hour of Sharing

*Offering will be collected
in the month of May*

CHURCH WIDE CLEAN UP DAY
May 12



AP Testing will be in the Fellowship Hall
on May 7, 8, 9 and May 14-17

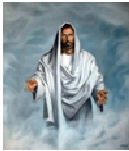
Camp Cowen
June
Registrations
And
Health Forms
Due
May 18

May Birthdays

Ann Johnson—5/2
Nick Williams—5/10
Kenley Hickman—5/14
Hannah Wagoner—5/21
Venisa Flesher—5/25
Josh Mize—5/27
Susan West—5/27
John Wagoner—5/30



Pentecost Sunday



May 20

May 7 Meeting
Trusteesô 7:00

May 14 Meetings
BOCEô 7:00
Deaconsô 8:00



**Graduate
Breakfast
Sunday, May 20**

College and High School
Graduate recognition

May 20 during morning worship



Men's Fellowship
May 8
At 6:30

Women's CIRCLE at
Abbi Woods's home
May 17 at 7:00.



Memorial Sunday May 27
No Evening Services
Church Office Closed May 28



Mother's Day May 13
No Evening Service

Take Mom out to dinner!!



Have you checked out the prayer calendar today?

CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



May 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Rhonda Hall Nathan & Libby	2 Mike Hall	3 Jo Hendricks	4 Kyle Hickman	5 Crystal Hickman, Destinijane, Tara
6 Kathy Hudson	7 Mark & Rhonda Hunt	8 Margaret Johns	9 Bob & Helen Johnson	10 Ann Johnson	11 Torren Johnson	12 Jason & Leigh Ann Kerns, Mason, Logan
13 Phyllis King	14 David Lehw	15 Emily Lehw	16 Debbie Legg	17 Wayne & Pam Legg, Victoria, Samantha, Josh	18 Tom & Susan Lookabaugh	19 Burt & Debbie Lyons, Philip
20 Peg Lyons	21 Bob Martin	22 Talia Martinez	23 Richard & Phyllis Massey	24 Robert McCauley	25 Fred & Robin McGoskey	26 Adam McGoskey, Taylor
27 Theresa McKown	28 Cassandra McKown	29 Carolyn Mellinger	30 Ross & April Mellinger, Katie, Logan, Peyton	31 Ben & Christie Mize		

....A woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

Proverbs 31:30

