

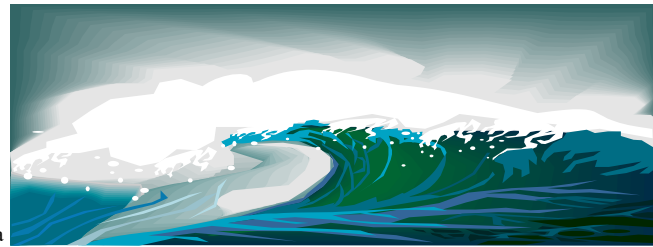


The

May 2024

# Anchor

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



Have you noticed that time seems to be flying by? We are already heading into the fifth month of the year and the official start to the summer season is not too far away. This is an extremely busy month for the church and for me. This month we will honor our mothers for Mother's Day, celebrate our high school and college graduates on Graduate Sunday, and then remember those members who have passed and those soldiers who sacrificed so much for our nation on our Memorial Day Sunday service. For this month's article, I want to focus on moms. Psalm 127:3 says, ***"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward."*** Someone once said, "A mother is your first friend, your best friend, your forever friend." I can relate.

I find it interesting that one month that celebrates Mom can contain so much joy and so much sadness. We celebrate those mothers who are still with us today, while at the same time, others will mourn the fact they miss their mom who has gone on to heaven. For some of us, this may be the first Mother's Day without our mom. If that's you, then it will be hard. I know people who still struggle every year with Mother's Day, and try to keep themselves busy, so they do not think about it. It's just too hard. If that's you, then know that God is there to help mend your heart. Psalm 147:3 tells us, ***"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."***

Moms are not just special, they are unique. They are some of the most resilient individuals I know. Proverbs 31:28 ESV beautifully captures this, ***"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."*** Despite their imperfections, we can honor our mothers for bringing us into this world and doing their best for us. Are they perfect? No. Did they make mistakes? Yes. Could they have done better? Maybe. But in all of that, they are still our moms, and that's what makes them special.

God gave us the precious gift of memories, that allow us to remember the impact of our mothers in our lives whether they are living today or are in heaven. We can remember their good traits, and contemplate the areas where they struggled. At the end of the day, they probably all strived to do the best could for each of us. And as we celebrate those mothers in our congregation for Mother's Day, let us remember, that their love and work in their families is without sacrifice. For many of us, it's the mom who is cooking, doing our laundry, maintaining the home, taking the kids to doctor appointments, and attending school functions and meet the teacher events. These women play the roles of mom, wife, nurse, maid, taxi driver, grocery shopper, bill payer, landscaper, friend, counselor, teacher, caterer, holiday celebration manager, and the list goes on and on. I'm fortunate to still have my mom with me today.

She's aging and she has cancer. She used to be able to go anywhere at any time, and now she is slowing down. Her memory is fading. While I recognize all of these changes in her, the one thing that has remained consistent is her love for me. Abraham Lincoln said, "All that I am, or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." My mom isn't perfect, but she loves me. She encourages me. She is one of my biggest cheerleaders in life, and I think she always has been. You know, that same kind of love my mom has for me, I see in my wife Jennifer who loves our children the very same way. Jennifer will sacrifice everything she has, to make sure our kids have what they need. She will fight for them as a mama bear who defends her cubs. She will call them often. She buys things that they may need, even if they don't ask. I know that all of the moms in our church are doing pretty much the same thing for their kids, too. While not all moms are

good moms, they are still our moms. If that was your case, I hope you cut her some slack and maybe even offer or extend forgiveness in your heart. Maybe your mom was too young, maybe she was too stressed, maybe her marriage was tougher than you remember, or maybe she had health issues or financial issues that no one knew about, but her. I know my mom carried the burden of delivering her first child as a full-term stillborn. I still can't imagine having to disassemble a nursery afterward. But, they had to. My mom still mourns the loss of "Toni" today, every March 7, on what should have been her birthday. It's hard for her today and every Mother's Day. Her situation makes me think of the mothers in our church who still carry the burden of losing their children, too. I have often heard that after a mom loses a child, Mother's Day is never quite the same, because they miss that particular child so much, because they are not there to say Happy Mother's Day. Some say, that when they lose a child, part of their heart is buried with them. We have to remember that despite what seems like super-human powers, moms struggle, too. Let us remember that moms are real people with real feelings.

Let me close this way. Being a mom isn't easy. She's on duty 24/7. In a time where we work ourselves to death about every day to have a nice life, moms never really seem to get a break. Sure they complain once in a while, but they don't quit. They keep going. They keep doing it. They love you. They were bonding with you, while you were in their belly. This month, let us remember our mom. Whether she is living here on earth, or enjoying all heaven affords, let us thank God for her inspiration, and may our lives be a reflection of all she is and all that she was. Let the moms in our church learn and apply those valuable lessons that were handed down over the years whether good or bad. Most of all, may our moms today, be the best mom they can be. I know they will because that is just what they do. I am proud to see our church honor moms every year. They deserve it.

We only have our mom for a little while. If you still have your mom today, let us take the time to wish her not only a Happy Mother's Day, but to spend some time with her on that special day. Maybe it's a phone call or a video call. But make some time for her. One day you will probably wish you had more time to spend with her. And, if her mind is failing or her health starting to deteriorate, just be there to say, I love you. One unknown person said this of their mother, "To the world, you are a mother, but to your family, you are the world." To our moms at First Baptist, Happy Mother's Day.

In His service,

*Pastor Toby*



# National Day of Prayer 2024



**Celebrating Mothers**  
**May 12**

MAY 12

Celebrating Mothers



**Graduate Sunday**  
**May 19**



**Memorial Sunday**  
**May 26**

# One Great Hour of Sharing



This month we are collecting for *The One Great Hour of Sharing*. Our goal is \$1800. Share the Light!

Matthew 5:14 “*You’re here to be light, to bring out the God-colors in the world.*”

Please consider giving to the offering. It is used to help with needs around the world.

- For the thirsty.
- For the hungry.
- For those with medical needs
- To show the love of Jesus
- To teach vocations

**One Great Hour of Sharing** supports disaster relief, ministries to displaced persons, and development projects of the American Baptist Churches and its partners. The fund is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA.

Throughout the year, there may be special appeals for particular disasters. To designate your OGHS gift, make sure to indicate to which appeal you are responding, for example “OGHS – Ukraine Relief” or “OGHS - Hurricane Relief”.

***Share the Light today!***



# 90th Annual Women's Conference

Sponsored by ABWM of WV

Parchment Valley Conference Ctr. Ripley, WV

## Pass the Torch!

**SPEAKER:** Kim Conrad **MUSIC:** New Creation

Friday, May 31st at 6:00pm is an optional event of fun, food, and fellowship

LOCATION: Whipperwill Covered Campfire COST: \$10.00, lodging is separate

Saturday, June 1st Registration at 8:30am and Conference at 9:00am

LOCATION: Greenlee Activities Center COST: \$25.00 includes lunch

Plan on shopping at  
Willie's Bible Bookstore.  
Too!

## 2024 Women's Conference

from \$25.00

Celebrating 90 years of Women's Conference events, our focus for 2024 will be Passing the Torch. Supported by scripture, Hebrews 12:1, we will look back at the "great cloud of witnesses surrounding us" to "lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us" today so we may "run the race with endurance that is set before us."

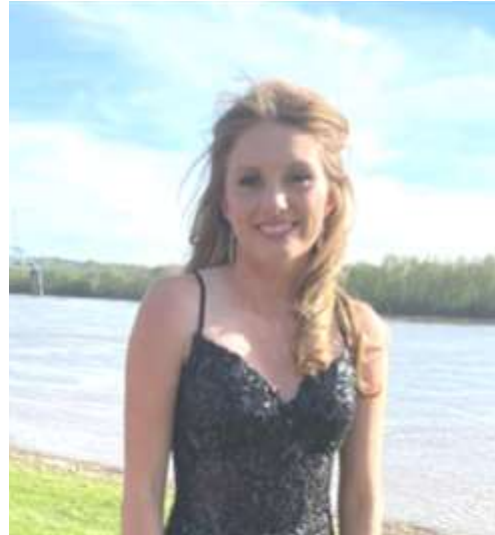
Please click the button below to download a printable form to get registered.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Heb 12:1 NKJV

# Congratulations 2024 Graduates!



Beau Bennett



Hadleigh McGoskey



Benjamin Crow



Staton Cooper



# Youth Games!



**Sundays at 6:00!**

# Eclipse Party!



Thanks to Glen & Rose Stevens for the chance to view one of the miracles of God's creation as some gathered to watch the eclipse that was visible in our area.



# Love is in the air!



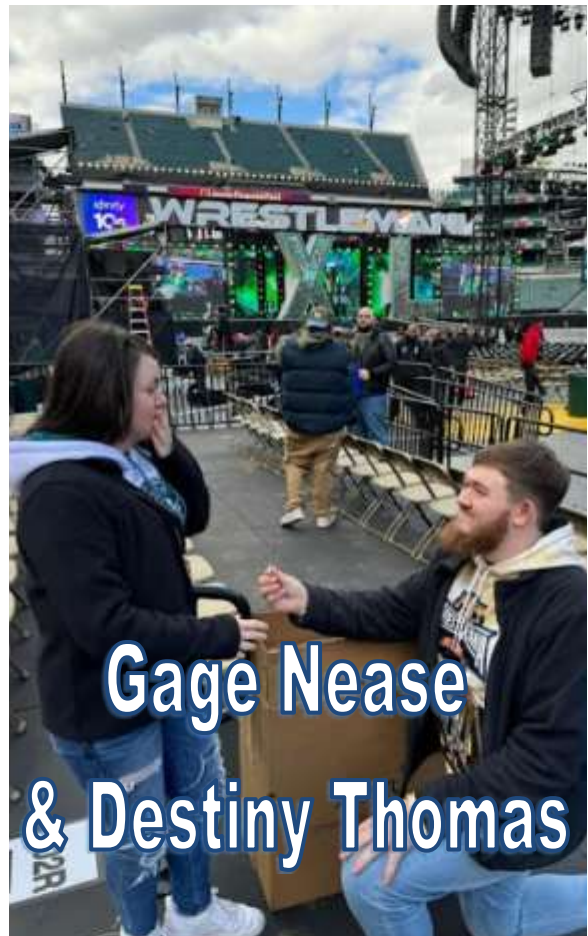
**Taylor Woods  
&  
Katie Ferrell**

Two young couples became engaged in March.

Taylor Woods (Abbi & Kevin's son) and Katie Ferrell both work in Charleston and are coming to enjoy the worship services with us.

Destiny Thomas (Kay Pursley's granddaughter) and Gage Nease are planning a wedding for next year.

We pray many blessings on both couples!



**Gage Nease  
& Destiny Thomas**



# Roving Revival!



# Feeding the Soul!



# We Remember



We have lost four beloved First Baptist members during the last year. On May 26, during our Memorial Sunday service, we will light candles for those service men and women who faithfully served our country as well as one for each member who has passed. A candle will also be lit for those in our congregation who have lost family and friends.

*We Remember with Love*



# Even the young can serve!



Emrie



Gabe



Beckett



Jaxson



Emrie



Willow &  
Emma



# Busy! Busy! Young Adults



Camps

Missions

& More



### Focus on Sunday School:



## ***This month is a month to remember!***

We need to remember the special people who have done a lot for us.

- ♦ We remember **moms** for Mother's Day for everything they do. God in Exodus tells us. *Honor your mothers.*
- ♦ We remember our **dads** because God in Exodus tells us that too. *Honor your fathers.*
- ♦ Honor the **soldiers** who gave their lives for our freedom. Romans says *a soldier keeps good and peace.*
- ♦ But we really need to remember **Jesus**. *He gave His life so we can live forever* John 3:16

**It's AMAZING** what you can learn in Sunday School!

### **May Birthdays**



Ann Johnson - 5/2  
Nick Williams - 5/10  
Kenley Hickman - 5/14  
Jon Moore - 5/20  
Hannah Wagoner - 5/21  
Juanita Raines - 5/21  
Venisa Flesher - 5/25  
Cole McGoskey - 5/27  
Josh Mize - 5/27  
Susan West - 5/27  
John Wagoner - 5/30  
Brittany Pistelli - 5/31

Is your birthday name missing? Tell Susan

### **Bible Book of the Month**

#### **Hebrews**



### **May Calendar**

May 1 Revival at Hopewell  
May 2 National Day of Prayer; Revival at FBC; dinner  
May 6 Trustee Meeting  
May 9 Deaconess Meeting  
May 12 Mother's Day  
May 13 BOCE Meeting  
May 14 Men's Fellowship  
May 15 Anchor Articles Due  
May 16 CIRCLE  
May 19 Graduate Sunday/Pentecost Sunday  
May 21 Finance Committee  
May 24 RvHS Graduation  
May 26 Memorial Sunday  
May 27 Memorial Day - Office closed  
May 28 Deacons Meeting  
May 29 VBS Meeting 5:45

\* Game Day every Tuesday 1:00-3:00 (not on holidays)

### **CommUnity Kitchen**

May 4 Burt Lyons  
May 11 Episcopal Church  
May 18 Grace & Talia  
May 25 Holiday - No CK

Sign up in the office for CK

**If you are willing to help deliver meals on Saturday to our shut-ins (may take about 1/2 of your time on Saturdays), please contact Susan in the office.**



## 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 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Heidi Farrell	2 Annabelle Flesher	3 Jeff & Venisa Flesher	4 Nathanael & Kaylin Flesher
5 Helen Frank	6 Jim & Kathy Frazier	7 Mark & Susan Gerstell	8 Mike & Angela Graham, Alli, Caralyn	9 Jacob Graham	10 Zack Graham	11 Terri Greenwood
12 Nathan & Lilly Hall	13 Libby Hall	14 Mike Hall	15 Bill & Tammy Harpold, Shane	16 Jo Hendricks	17 Kenley & Skyler Hickman	18 Crystal Hicks
19 Destijane Hicks	20 June Hicks	21 Kathy Hudson	22 Bobbi & Charolette Jeter	23 Christian Jeter	24 Margaret Johns	25 Bob & Helen Johnson
26 Ann Johnson	27 Torren & Shealyn Johnson, Emrie, Kacie	28 Jason & Leigh Ann Kerns, Mason, Logan	29 Matt & Kristi King, Landon, Nat	<b>30 Steve &amp; Rachelle Laing, Colt</b>	31 Randy & Sami Lawson, Jocelyn, Trey	



“All the ends of the world  
shall remember and turn  
unto the LORD: and all the  
kindreds of the nations  
shall worship before thee.”

*Psalm 22:27*