

Mineral Springs
Methodist Church
P.O. Box 67
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(704) 843-5905

Email:

Mineralspringsmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Keith Lowder
Sr. Pastor

Josh Hammerstone
Next Gen Director

Christa Lemmonds
Choir Director

Chris Hartis
Worship Leader

Rodney Little
Congregational Wellness
Coordinator

John Kalis
Accompanist

Miranda Young
Spring Kids Director

Pam Brenwald
Administrator

Check us out on the web...
www.mineralspringsmethodistchurch.com

From the Pastor's Desk

On Thursday, January 15, 2009, US Airways Flight 1549 made an emergency landing in the Hudson River. Miraculously, no one was killed. The plane struck a flock of Canadian geese shortly after takeoff, taking out both engines. The jet had only climbed 2,818 feet, giving the pilots seconds to make the life-or-death decision of where to fly the disabled aircraft. In fact, it took the pilots 35 seconds to realize both engines were dead, confirm the damage, attempt a re-start, and realize a return to the airport was impossible. While those four activities took less than a minute, they eliminated all possibilities except for ditching in the river—the only choice that could save their lives.

Hopefully, none of us will ever be in an emergency with life in the balance and less than a minute to respond. In the off chance we are within a short window of time for deciding, it is good to have a simple plan. The two pilots had a Quick Reference Handbook three pages long meant to help pilots identify problems at 30,000 feet. The captain realized there was not enough time for the handbook at their low altitude, so they had to rely on the basics of aviation. These basics are:

- **Aviate:** This requires keeping the main thing the main thing. Pilots must continue to fly the aircraft regardless of the cause of the emergency. Failure to do so would guarantee a catastrophic crash.
- **Navigate:** This step involves deciding where to fly, which would be the closest landing spot for a plane with two failed engines.
- **Communicate:** This final step involves talking to one's fellow pilot or air traffic control once the plane is under control.

Following the three steps in the exact order is absolutely necessary when flying a plane because they are the fundamentals.

Only God knows the future; we cannot foresee it, but we can be sure that we will hit some turbulence from time to time. There will be bumps and there will be crises. During these times we can follow the example of the pilots of Flight 1549: get back to the basics. We are best served during these challenging times when we go back to the fundamentals of living for Jesus:

- **Aviate==>Recommit to live by faith in Christ:** Without thinking about it, we can default to living as if life depends on our own actions. We must walk in trust that Christ is the Captain who will shepherd us; our beliefs must translate into faithful action.
- **Navigate==>Recommit to public worship:** there is no concept in the Bible of someone being part of the family of God and being absent from the worshiping community. Get back in worship with your fellow Christians to help you get your bearings.
- **Communicate==>Recommit to prayer:** prayer is the mechanism that fosters intimacy with the Father and is an expression of our faith. Failing to pray is like a pilot failing to maintain contact with air traffic control.

While there are other important activities that can help us handle the long-range challenges in life that include reading Scripture, serving others, and seeking godly counsel, the above three points are critical for spiritual survival and can keep us from crashing in life. Pastor Keith



The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalms 145:18

Thank you for everyone's help and understanding with using only the double glass doors and the side door for entering and exiting the building. It has been very smooth and helpful. I really appreciate it.

Our Memory Verses for this month are:

May 3rd Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

May 10th And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward.

Matthew 10:42

May 17th God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalms 46:1

May 24th Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord. Psalms 33:12

May 31st Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Psalms 148:1-2

Lastly, if you are interested in helping teach our wonderful spring kids, please let me know. The more people we have help, the less often everyone needs to be in rotation. Thank you in advance.

I hope everyone has a great May! See you on Sunday.

Love and Prayers always,

Miranda

PRAYER CONCERNS



Pastor Alan Mears, Benji Rogers, Robert Addington, Anne King, Marshall Enwright, Benny Neal, Pat Harris, Leah VanNetta, Shelley, Rich & Tyler Catalano, Violet Cook, Wayne King, Jerry Griffin, Denny Bryson, Kristin Keener, Kelly Smith, Jerry & Dot Hartis, Holland Walker, Veronica Bachtel, Mark Cheatham, Mo Stewart, Raymond Helms, Alex Hudson, Charles Fowler, Don & Kathy McGinnis, Wayne & Leila Maske, Tom Pope, Sandy Strawn, Doris Carpenter, James Helms, Lisa Cox, Debbie Watkins, Lana Lamkin, Barry Roberson, Sue Thornton, Elizabeth & Cramer Phillips, Nell Starnes, Melanie Brennan, Myckle Griffin, Greg Horton, Ruby King, Madi Young, Cindy & Kate Zidanic, Chris Lemmond, Darlene Blackburn, Dale Watts, Erika Perez, Tom Ross, Craig Plummer, Teresa McGowan, Fred Artibee, Jeff Lander, Dave Pandoli, Frank Buchannon, Venn Helms, Tammy Little, Melinda Fisher, Wilburn (Bud) Cutshaw, David Broome, Kaylee Moscuza, Father Brad Smith, Kent & Nancy Shoe, Dale Hopkins, Elizabeth Brooks, Joyce Starnes, Toby Holland, Shannon Gray, Jeff Gross, Cooper Knowles, Evelyn Wilson, Johnny Penegar, William Miles, Brandon Carver, Mark McSheehan, Claire Howell, Martha Robinson Kiker, Donald Combs, Danny Sanders, Marlene Reeck, Jennifer Ross, Anne Carson, Larry Bell, David Gordon, Weston Gamble, Mary Engler, Annette Fox, Sara Porter, Wyatt Cartertary, Gary Lane, Barbara McKim, Kathy Dublin, Kathy Knight, Marie Harwood, Rusty Miller, Nancy Tawney, Terry Fallick, John Larry Fite, Doris King, Loretta O'Neal, Melvin Glass, Linda Mosley-Hess, Robin Boehler, Cathy Kalista, Peggy Bradley, Lynn Stickleather, Betsy Huneycutt, Kevin Smith, Kathy Newman, Donna Flanders, June Hornberger.

*Please help us keep the prayer list current and updated.
Contact the church office to remove or add to the prayer list.
Phone 704-843-5905.
Email: mineralspringsmethodistchurch@gmail.com*

METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 4, 2026 meeting at the church office. We will carpool together to the Jaars Center. Please be here at 9:45.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NOT HAVE A MAY MEETING.

It is not too late to join us at our May luncheon. Join us for a delicious lunch, fellowship and speaker. Wanda Griffin will be our speaker. May 2, 2026, Christian Life Center, 11:30, If you can attend, please inform one of the Methodist Women.

May continues to be a busy month: Red Cross Blood Drive, May 11, 2026, CLC, 1:30-6:30. Please plan to donate.

The Methodist Women will be serving lunch on June 12, 2026 at Operation Reachout in Monroe. A delicious meal has been planned. Contact Becky for a reminder of your contribution to the meal.

What an exciting meeting coming up in June! We will have an off-campus gathering at the Jaars Center. We will be learning about the Jaars organization, enjoying lunch at the Café, followed by a tour of the Alphabet Museum. We will meet at the church at 9:45 to carpool together.

Donate to the Back Pack Ministry in the FLC or the Sanctuary breezeway. No glass jars, please. We support Parkwood Middle School.

The sale of flavoring and the best knives in the world help support our ministry. BIG announcement: Danny Duzits are back!!!! Don't know what a Danny Duzit is? Ask any hard working housewife!

Thank you for your support.

LADIES SPRING LUNCHEON MAY 2, 2026

11:30am in the Christian Life Center
All ladies of the church are invited.
Guest Speaker, Rhonda Griffin from
A Cause for Tea.

RSVP: Link in below or email:
mineralspringsmethodistchurch@gmail.com
or phone 704-843-5905.

For planning purposes please RSVP by
April 27th.



NOTE FROM CHRIS

HELLO ALL! HOPE EVERYONE HAD A GREAT SPRING BREAK.
WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF TECH HELP. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF
YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED. ALL TRAINING IS INCLUDED!!
INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY.
LET'S SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL CHURCH
AND BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST.



We need



Share & Develop your gifts to serve during worship.

We need volunteers for our Tech Team. Contact Chris Hartis for more information.

Springer's

Springers meet the 4th Sunday of every month at 5:00 p.m. in the CLC. If you are 55 and older, please join us for Springers.

Congratulations Class of 2026

5/31 Graduation Sunday



High School Grads



Julia Ballard
Benjamin Dyer
Logan Franiak
Hannah Metz
Tyler Parker

College Grads



McKenzie Eller
Emily Parker
Halle Summers



For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

AIR FORCE

Jay Connelley
Bradley Little

Cpl, McCann, Patrick N
7680 W Highway 98, Apt 73,
Pensacola, FL 325061

ARMY

Cody Guion
Marshall Little
Zack Wolfe

SGT Lavoie, Averl P
814 Radford Blvd
P.O. Box 20179
Albany, GA 31704

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Staff Sergeant Ryan Toth

CPL McCann, Connor L
6423 McWhorter Rd
Waxhaw, NC 28173
Temporary

COAST GUARD

Jaylen Sullivan

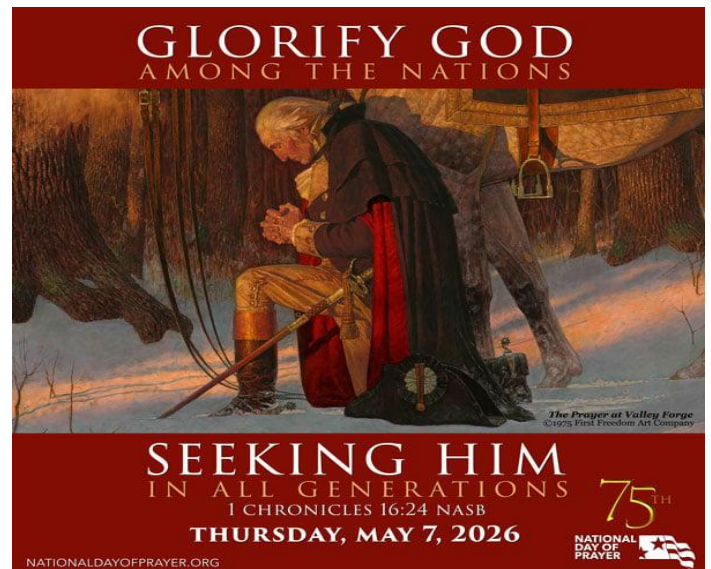
Cpl Simpson, Caleb M
5602 Lancaster hwy,
Monroe NC, 28112

MARINES

Ethaen Franiak
Juan Hidalgo
Averi Lavoie
Connor McCann
Patrick McCann
Caleb Simpson
Sean Summers

Cpl Hidalgo-Vega, Juan P
1218 17th Ave, Unit B2
Honolulu, HI 96816
United States

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



Thursday, May 7th is the 75th National Day of Prayer. Our sanctuary will be open during the day with suggestions for individual prayers. We will have a special service at 7pm in the sanctuary to lift up our nation in prayer. Make plans for you and your family to attend.



Below is an article that I wanted to share with everyone this month. As grief is so much a part of my work here at Mineral Springs, this article just seemed to say all the right things, and I felt it deserved to be shared. Some of you may be able to directly relate to her words, while for many of us, we can learn from her how to better care for those we love who are grieving.

I knew for two years from the moment I saw images from his colonoscopy scans that my husband Rich was going to die. So, 10 months after we buried him, it's the silence that has surprised me more than the loss.

I expected the house to be quiet. I knew I would no longer hear him shuffle into the kitchen to make his tea in the morning or keep me company with stories about the latest book he was reading. That silence, I had prepared for. The silence I didn't expect was from other people.

I can count on two hands the number of phone calls I've received in the past year roughly one a month. That level of loneliness is unbearable. To be fair, I've received hundreds of texts over the last 2 years and 10 months, from Rich's initial diagnosis to his death. But when I receive a text message asking, "How are you?" I never know how to answer.

It is an impossible question when your person has died. How could I possibly express my broken heart and loneliness with my texting thumbs?

I regularly hear the ding of a text that says, "Thinking of you." And then... nothing. No way to hear the care or concern in someone's voice. No space to feel accompanied.

I try to respond politely: "Thank you, it's been so hard." Sometimes I send a heart emoji. Sometimes I send my favorite grief emoji: tears in the eyes.

Over time, I've realized that we have replaced the most human form of care voice with the safest and most distant one text. And when someone is grieving, that shift matters more than we want to admit.

The problem with the "How are you?" text is this: What does the sender expect a grieving person to type back? *"I'm shattered". "I'm crying in the frozen pizza aisle". "I miss driving together, holding hands, and singing along to the Beatles station". "I eat 90% of my meals alone now."*

Instead, we default to performance: *"I'm hanging in there". "Doing OK, all things considered."* *"Taking it day by day."*

Continued – Wellness Circle

Texting offers no space for long pauses before the truth emerges. No way to hear when a voice cracks. No room for tears. No space for the sacred

awkwardness that often precedes real connection.

Texting doesn't just limit expression it actively encourages emotional containment. And in grief, containment is the opposite of what heals.

Texting protects the sender, not the grieving. I say this with compassion, because I've been on both sides. But the uncomfortable truth is that the choice to send a text is often less about caring for the grieving person and more about managing the discomfort of the person who is reaching out. Sending a text message requires no vulnerability, no emotional risk.

To the grieving person, texting can send a message of: "I want to show I care. But I'm afraid of saying the wrong thing. I don't know how to handle your pain. I don't want to hear you cry."

But grief doesn't need perfection or protection. Grief needs presence. Grief needs to be witnessed.

There is something sacred about hearing someone's voice. When someone calls after a loss, something different happens. You hear care and concern in their tone. You hear sincerity. You hear love. And they hear you. They hear when your voice trembles. They hear when you go quiet. They hear when the brave façade slips. They hear you mention your loved one's name.

Even when we say, "I'm OK," our voices tell the truth our words cannot. This allows for healing. Text allows for avoidance.

Boomers and Gen Xers remember a time when we picked up the phone. We sat on the couch with the cord stretched across the room, talking to people who mattered. Bad news traveled through our voices, not screens. Grief was met with conversation, not three dots and a heart emoji.

I'm not saying texting is bad. It's just not enough. Not for grief.

If you care about someone who is grieving, just make the call. And not just once. Not only in the first few weeks. Grief lasts far longer than most people's attention spans.

One of the most meaningful things my sister-in-law Ellen asks when she and my brother call is, "How are you doing right now today?" Other questions you might ask include: *"What's been hardest this week?" "Do you want to talk about him?" "Do you want distraction or company?"* Let the grieving person lead.

People mean well, but some phrases unintentionally wound: *"He's in a better place."* *"At least you had time to say goodbye."* *"You're so strong."*

Continued – Wellness Circle

When people tell me I'm strong, I feel pressure to perform strength instead of honesty.

Better to say:

"This is unfair."

"I'm so sorry."

"I miss him too."

"I can't imagine how hard this is."

"I'm not going anywhere."

"Tell me more about the time you and Rich..."

Early in grief, curiosity can feel like intrusion:

"What are you going to do with your finances or taxes?" "Will you get a job, sell the house, move?"

"Did you get a mortgage or pay it off?" "Do you think you'll remarry someday?"

Be mindful of the difference between questions that open the door and questions that put one foot in the door when you haven't been invited in.

Accept that discomfort is part of love. Calling someone who is grieving will feel awkward. You may sit in silence. You might hear tears and not know what to do. That discomfort is not failure. It is the cost of caring.

If someone is in your inner circle, call them.

Keep calling or schedule a call. If someone is a close acquaintance, text but consider leaving a voice message too. If the grieving person has ever shown you kindness, return that kindness during the worst season of their life. Let them hear your voice. Let them know they are not alone.

Most of us were never taught how to show up for grief. But we can choose differently. We can choose to call. We can choose to listen. We can choose to risk awkwardness.

Because years from now, the grieving person will not remember the texts. But they will remember who called. They will remember who showed up. They will remember who stayed. And sometimes, when we feel alone in our grief, the sound of another human being saying, "I'm here," is the only thing that still connects our hearts.

Kim Brandt is a writer, yoga therapist and Pilates instructor whose work explores grief, healing and human connection. After losing her husband to colorectal cancer in April of 2025, she began writing about caregiving, love, and life after loss. She lives in Illinois, where she is building a wellness community focused on resilience and repurposing life's transitions.

Blessings, Rodney - Congregational Wellness

Youth events for May 2026.

NO YOUTH May 10th (Mothers Day)

Open Gym- Wednesdays:

May 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th from 6-8 PM

Sunday Night Youth Group- Sermon, Games

3rd, 17th, 24th, 31st from 6-8pm

Youth dinner out is May 3rd Dinner location TBD



Camp Tekoa

Last month 17 Youth and 4 Youth leaders went to Camp Tekoa in Hendersonville NC for some much-needed time spent getting closer with one another and our Lord and Savior. After this quick yet exciting trip I believe our youth are feeling spiritually refreshed, confident in their identity in Christ, and equipped with a stronger faith, having learned to deepen their prayer life, trust God's guidance, and build meaningful community/ relationships outside Mineral Springs.

Youth Dinner

Currently all 6th-12th graders are invited to an evening out every other month for dinner with their peers. We will meet at the church at 5:45pm and plan to return by 8:30pm. Plan to bring money for your food, drink and tip. This is a great time to get together as like-minded young people, to fellowship and share around the table.

Open Gym- Wednesdays,

May 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th from 6-8 PM

Join us on Wednesday night for open gym, this is a time where we simply play games and fellowship with one another. During this time, we play an organized game for half of the time (volleyball, kickball, dodgeball, etc.) and the remaining time is your choice. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to come check us out! This is open to ALL 6th-12th graders.

Sunday Night Youth Group

May 3rd, 17th, 24th, 31st from 6-8pm

Join us Sunday nights from 6-8pm in the FLC for a time of games, Bible study, occasional meals and games. This is the perfect setting to challenge yourself spiritually and get uplifted in your walk with God. This is open to ALL 6th-12th graders.

Rising 6th Graders!!!

If you, family members or friends are graduating 5th grade this year then we want to formally invite you to all the aforementioned events as soon as school ends. Parents, you are welcome to bring the little ones and hang out, meet our current youth and feel comfortable that you are sending your kids off to a group of kids who value our Lord and doing life together as Christians. Our Youth group motto is Stronger Together, we are stronger as individuals when we are walking with Christ by our side and stronger when we have a group of like minded people who will hold and keep us accountable to the teachings of Christ.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Melissa Reed
- 2 Holden Connelley
- 3 Cooper Brooks, Tyler Parker
- 4 Sara Clark, Austin Kohler
- 5 Tabatha Brooks
- 6 Mike Desmond, Micah Wilson
- 7 Evan Mothershed
- 8 Susan Fowler
- 9 David Boyce
- 11 Beth VanDenabeele
- 12 Braylan Mears
- 14 Ethel McLain
- 15 Kate Zidanic
- 16 Josh Hammerstone
- 17 Joyce Fowler, Janet Little
- 18 Chad Carter, Kim Detommaso, Jesse Hartis, Jensen Ingle
- 19 Meleah Sanchez
- 21 Preston Parker, Colton Salyer
- 22 Dawn Roberson
- 23 Frances Baza, Jake Penegar
- 26 Kevin Stephens
- 29 Tanner Helms, Rhonda McKenzie, Declan Toth
- 30 Chloe Reed
- 31 John McKenzie



Happy Birthday!

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Mike & Kim Detommaso
Brian & Whitney Ballard
- 18 Perry & Beth Blythe
John & Tammy Case
- 22 Chris & Tabatha Brooks
Josh & Cecily Harrington
- 26 Ryan & Sara Clark
Mike & Becky McAuley
Greg & Tracey McDanel
- 30 Brad & Christy Hartis

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

If your birthday or anniversary has been overlooked or you know someone whose name needs to be added, please call church office 704-843-5905, or email: mineralspringsmethodistchurch@gmail.com
Thank you.

Grief Group

A safe space to journey through loss together.
You don't have to walk this path alone.

Meet 4th Monday
monthly, 6:30pm in
the Asbury Room.



Grief Group will meet on Monday, May 18th.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

10am Wednesday|Wesley Room
6:30pm Thursdays| Wesley Room



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30pm Thursdays|CLC



**DATES: JUNE 9-12
TIME: 6-8:30PM**

Missions Pipeline May 2026

Operation ReachOut

Our meal on April 10 was prepared by the Handbell Ringers and served by **Tracey and Greg McDanel**. Some of the handbell ringers, **Susan Fowler, Lisa Parker, Marilyn Wooten, Tracey McDanel, Ann Wlodkowski and Carolyn Smith**, prepared green beans, tater tots, rolls, tea, chicken casseroles, pound cake and cobblers. Thank you all!

Kristie Metz and Kristen Mothershed have volunteered to serve the next meal on May 8. Way to step up!

We only need 3 more teams of servers to complete our schedule. Can you help on September 11, January 8, 2027, or February 12, 2027?

In Matthew 25:40, he tells us, “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’”.

Contact Missions at worleyjmba@aol.com if you would like to learn more.



***Attention Volunteers for the next Food Pantry** Our next **Common Heart Food Pantry** has been rescheduled **from June 9 to June 16**. Hope you can make plans to meet at the picnic shelter 8:00 – 12:00. Please park on the hill using the Potter Road entrance.

As we come to the close of another wonderful school year, Mineral Springs Preschool is celebrating a meaningful milestone—our 28th year of serving families in our community. Over nearly three decades, we have been blessed to welcome countless children through our doors, sharing in laughter, learning, crafts, and cherished daily moments. Each year has been made possible through the faithful support and prayers of our church, and we are deeply grateful for that continued encouragement.

Throughout this past year, our Chapel lessons have centered on the Fruit of the Spirit, guiding our students as they learn how to reflect these values in their everyday lives. In May, we conclude this journey by focusing on self-control—an important and sometimes challenging lesson for young hearts and minds. Through Bible stories and hands-on activities, the children have been discovering what it means to show kindness, patience, love, and more to those around them. It has been a joy to watch them grow in both understanding and practice.

Our four-year-old classes are especially excited as they prepare for their upcoming graduation on May 21st in the Sanctuary. This special occasion marks an important step as they get ready to move on to kindergarten. Later that same day, we will celebrate the end of the school year together with a Family Picnic under the picnic shelter and on the playground—a time for fellowship, fun, and reflecting on all that has been accomplished.

As we wrap up this school year, we give thanks for every child, every family, and every moment that has made this year so special. We look forward with anticipation to what the next year will bring!



Tammy Boyce
Director
Mineral Springs Preschool
5915 Old Waxhaw Monroe Rd
Monroeville, NC 28110
(704)243-2469

Memorial Gifts

ALICE GRIFFIN

Nancy Helms
Greg & Julie Eudy
Diane White
Mike & Patti Goodwin
David & Tammy Boyce
Perry & Beth Blythe
Jane Cooper
Jeremiah & Connie Gaddy
Carolyn Helms
Cara Steele
Wayne & Kay King
Elaine Marker
Stephen & Sandra Moon
Anne Peninger
George & Lynn Stone
Barbara Strickland
Mike Tyson
Mary Alice Wilson
Patricia Burt
Ladies Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Don & Kathy McGinnis

LENORIA HELMS

Perry & Beth Blythe

SYDNEY FEDDERSEN

David & Tammy Boyce

WORTH WHITAKER

Perry & Beth Blythe

MEG GIDDINGS

Upper Room Sunday School Class
Jerome & Hilma Schakel



We express our sympathy to:

Sarah & Nic Franiak & family in the death of
Sarah's father, Richard Lee Ford.

Todd & Debra Twitty in the death of
Todd's father, Boyt Twitty.

Friends of Meg Giddings

Rhonda & John McKenzie in the death of
Rhonda's father, T.O. Stokes Jr.



This has been a season of building for me...or more for the family. I have watched a transformation take place on the farm and am looking forward to the move in date. As I was listening to the restorative issues with the parsonage and the appreciation for the new van I thought of all the improvements and repairs that I needed to do; paint the fence, repair the gate and the front door, etc. etc. It seems it is a never ending task and it is all things are wearing out! We have developed a huge culture, almost a pastime of protecting and improving on what we have. Please don't misunderstand, I am a huge fan of the DIY solution and when necessary I can turn an ugly old worn out dilapidated dresser into a Smithsonian worthy one! But sometimes paint is just paint and there is not enough sandpaper and wood glue and nails to get the job done. Sort of like the Pharisees that appeared to be the real deal but their holiness was only on the surface. Jesus came and taught us the uselessness of self-improvement and clothed us with HIS righteousness instead!

Matthew 9: 16-17 talks about fixing a patch on a piece of cloth with unshrunk material and how it of course would ruin the garment and make it worse than before. But unlike the repair jobs on our homes and property Christ makes us NEW not better. We can't go to church and add a little "gospel" rub n buff to our sinful lives and be transformed. Like a faux marble or granite piece shows what it is really made of when trials penetrate its glossy exterior. Jesus does not offer us any shortcuts or coverups, no temporary fixes or alternatives to true freedom in Christ. There is only one way and that is true surrender of the old and gratefully receiving the new. Jesus offers total replacement and he covered the cost.

Wreaths Across America Update

Our webpage has been updated with new photos of our local church and cemetery. We are actively trying to partner with two additional churches in Mineral Springs to support their efforts in honoring the veterans laid to rest in their cemeteries.

Please mark your calendars for this year's Wreaths Across America ceremony on **December 19th at 10:00 a.m.** More details will be shared as we get closer to the event.

Below is our direct QR code linking to our website, where you can sponsor a wreath or sign up to volunteer. It has been requested that all wreath sponsorships be submitted through the QR code.

If you prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to **Troop 18**.

Please note that Wreaths Across America is a **501(c) (3) nonprofit organization**



As we approach **Memorial Day**, let's take a moment to remember the veterans we honored at last year's ceremony and reflect on their service and sacrifice.

Donald Lloyd Carter Harold L. Carter William Cameron Coan Warren S. Coan Wilson Alexander Coan Charles Patrick "Pat" Connelley Wilbur E. Downing Warren Earl Dover Thomas Roland Doster M.R. Finley George Geddes William Donald Glenn Donald Wayne Hagler Sr. Drew Harris Billy "Bill" Howie S.G. Howie	William Houstain William Horace Helms Membry Helms Alex Haywood Jackson Callie Franklin King Henry A. Linker Jr. Mark Leon McDonald Robert Lee McGinn Jr. Henry Kelly McManus Jr. Isaac McGuirt Jr. John A. Mohor John Will Newell Ray Calvin O'Shields Ira Penegar Ware H. Penegar Jr. Thomas Lawson Price Peter Rape Sr.	Johnnie Hall Roberson Dewey Nall Robinson Raymond E. Robinson Jerry A. Rodgers Carl Edwin "Eddie" Rodgers Samuel S. Starnes Thomas Drake Starnes Robert Lee Steele Jr. Archie A. Tyson E.B. Wallace Michael Hilton White Ben B. Winchester John H. Winchester James Oscar Wooten W.T. Wolfe
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GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

We want everyone to be a part of the NC GMC connection!

Please invite others to subscribe to our Newsletter

Website: <https://ncglobalmethodistchurch.org>

The 2026 Annual Conference is less than 8 weeks away! Over 420 Churches from all over NC are invited to come and worship together! This means you do not have to be clergy or the lay member from your church to attend.

Pre-registration is NOT required.

Please check the latest NC Annual Conference updates by visiting the 2026 Annual Conference page. We hope to see you June 17-20 in Winston Salem !

Disaster Response Update

Over the past several months, God has continued to move powerfully through disaster recovery efforts across Western North Carolina. What began as an overwhelming need has become a testimony of faith, perseverance, and the hands and feet of Christ at work in our communities.

Signs of Hope and Progress Just in the past 90 days:

- 50+ new cases identified for families not previously served
 - 65 projects completed restoring safe, functional homes
 - 23 mission teams hosted during February and March
- Recently, two families were placed into new homes after living in storage buildings with their families for the past 18 months.

These moments remind us why this work matters.

Ongoing Need and Opportunity

Assessments are ongoing, and volunteer opportunities remain available for individuals and teams. While multiple teams are scheduled throughout the year, the need still exceeds available labor. Teams coming will be working on remediation, rebuild, and new builds. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Volunteer Information

To serve, contact Nathalie Dendy at Long's Chapel Church at DisasterResponse@longschapel.com or Jeff Brotherton

at jeff.brotherton@ncglobalmethodist.org

Plains Methodist Church in Canton and Long's Chapel Church Waynesville are GMC churches hosting mission teams. Other local churches and organizations are providing space too.

Financial Update

Total monetary donations received in 2026, \$10,342.38.

Disaster Response Teams are managing resources well by using designated gifts first and partnership material donations when available. We expect a much higher use of donated disaster funds in the next 3 months since nearly 50 teams and 140 jobs are planned from April to August, with some teams having as many as 85 people.

Donations for long-term disaster relief are still being accepted and can be made to the NC Global Methodist Church and mailed to the following address:

c/o Carolyn Hindel

PO Box 667

Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Funds support building materials, case management, volunteer coordination, and direct assistance for families in need.

Moving Forward Together

We are grateful for the partnership of local churches, volunteers, and leaders who continue to serve. Lives are being rebuilt—physically and spiritually—but, there is still more to do.

Young Adult Ministry

If your church has a young adult group or is working to form one, please let Sarah Beth know! You may email Sarah Beth at

sarah.beth.wood@ncglobalmethodist.org

Please include the name of your District, Church, Young Adult contact, along with their email address and phone number. Also, please include how many Young Adults are in your local church young adult group.

We want to build relationships between the local church young adult groups across the NC Conference and are working on ideas to do so!



Our NC GMC Africa Partnerships

The North Carolina GMC is in missional partnerships with the Uganda GMC and West Congo GMC. In these partnerships we are walking alongside of our African sisters and brothers in areas such as:

Clergy Training

Church Planting

Children/Youth Ministry

Economic Empowerment

All are invited to join the Rev. Greg Jenks for an update on this amazing work. Choose from one of the four dates to visit with Greg online and learn more about how the NCGMC is embracing the vision to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and Spread Scriptural Holiness Across the Globe."

The Rev. Greg Jenks

Conference Coordinator of Global Partnerships

greg.jenks@ncglobalmethodist.org

(919) 333-4670

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTRY

Classes Begin May 3, 2026

CLM 104: Congregational Care and Ethics

Course Description This course will equip you with basic tools to assist you in caring for the needs of the congregation and those the congregation touches, generally under the direction of the pastor. It will include specific instruction about communicating, listening, praying aloud, using scripture in spiritual conversations, 'pastoral' care in and through crises, hospital and home visitation, care for the elderly, funerals, and also celebrating major events in the lives of parishioners. Some attention will be given to the organization of such caring ministries in the local church, as well as to basic protection of the care-giver through self-care, establishing appropriate boundaries, recognizing the limits of appropriate care, knowing when to seek help in the ministry of caring, and practicing professional ethics in your caregiving.

Required Course Materials **Christian Caregiving—a Way of Life (\$14.95 + shipping) by Kenneth C. Hauck.**

This book is a core text for the Stephen Ministry program. The author describes his purpose as being to define and describe distinctly Christian caring and to explain how such caring can become a way of life for the followers of Christ. It will provide a theological and philosophical foundation for the course. It is available through the Stephen Ministry website.

(www.stephenministries.org/books/). [NOTE: If you order it from Amazon, it is almost 3 times the price!]

Lay Pastoral Care Giving: Farabaugh, Tim M.:

9780881775549: Amazon.com: Books (\$16.21)

This book has some overlap with the other two, but offers a richer and deeper approach to caring across the lifespan, including considerations for offering care to children and teens, as well as the unique challenges of caring for the elderly. It emphasizes the partnership between clergy and laity to extend deeper care than the pastor alone is able to provide. It also provides pointers for ongoing training and accountability for local church lay ministry programs and is rich in "resources lists" for various ministries.

The Caring Congregation Ministry Care Minister's Manual: Lampe: 9781791013400: Amazon.com:Books (\$10.99)

This book is basically a toolbox for caregiving ministry. It is loaded with practical material for caregiving and for developing and organizing a caregiving ministry. It is a 'hands on' approach to caregiving that will put practical resources directly into your hands, with bulleted lists for caregiving in a variety of circumstances, sample prayers, scripture references appropriate to different care situations, and rich resource lists for further exploration. Its last four chapters include unique material about Caring for People in Crisis and Trauma, Mental Health Ministry, Addiction Care, and Critical Communal Trauma (like pandemics, mass shootings, natural disasters, etc).

Meeting Times and Dates: 4 weekly sessions online
Class Format via ZOOM Sunday Evenings: May 3rd, 10th, 17th & 31st, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

MONTHLY CHURCH REPORT

Weekly Need \$ 10,198

Thank you for your gifts and your presence



DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
March 22	244	\$11,337
March 29	233	\$15,698
April 5	315	\$12,113
April 12	244	\$6,237
April 19	187	\$8,692

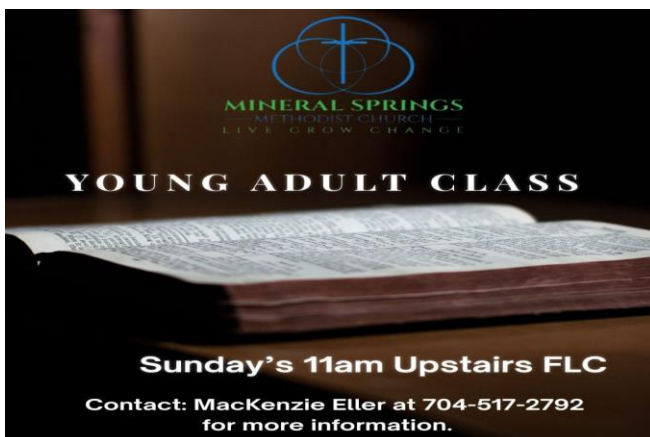
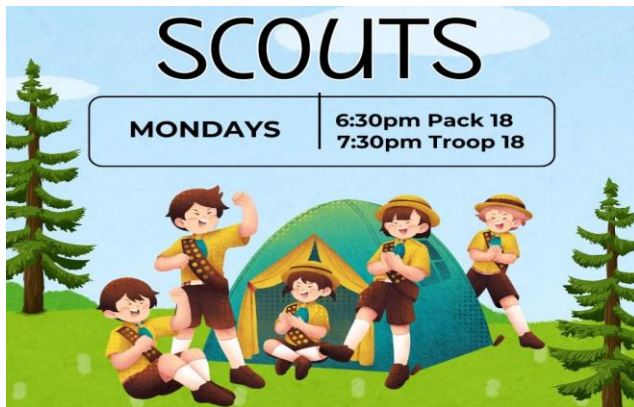
Meetings, May 17th

11am Trustees|CLC

6pm SPRC|CLC

6pm Finance|Asbury

7pm Administrative Council|CLC



Sunday's 11am Upstairs FLC

Contact: MacKenzie Eller at 704-517-2792 for more information.

Mineral Springs Women's Ministry

"On the day I called, you answered me; and you made me bold and confident with (renewed) strength in my life." Psalm 138:3

On March 24th, all women from this church were invited to a meeting with a goal in mind to bring forth ideas for activities or gatherings that would provide a diverse selection of small groups to enhance what the church already offers, but would provide more safe places for connection and sharing.

In the coming months, events that were discussed will be listed in this column. Anyone wanting to add their future event is gladly asked to do so. The person listing the event is responsible for getting the word out. Christina Salyer can help with getting it on Facebook. Pam, in the church office will help get it in the newsletter, make slides for the church services and add the event to this column. Please keep in mind that these events will be in addition to what is already offered in our church for the women. If the event is already listed in the newsletter elsewhere, in the future it will not be listed here unless the person handling the event requests Pam to do so. The following is a start for the New Year:

May 2, 2026 -- Ladies Spring Luncheon --

see the Methodist Women's Fellowship Column

May 9, 2026 -- 10A - 12P Plant Exchange, Located at the picnic shelter area of the church/ Bring plants to exchange, \$3 tickets will be available for the purchase of plants. All proceeds go to the prayer garden.

See Eventbrite or Facebook for more details.



2026 CAMP TEKOA



MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7p AA Mtg	2 9:30a Yoga 11:30a Ladies Spring Luncheon
3 Communion Sunday 9a Traditional Worship 10:20a Modern Worship 11a Bible Study 6p Youth	4 9a Staff Meeting 6:30p Pack 18GCLC	5 5p Men's BB 7p AA Mtg	6 9a Sew Blessed 10a Ladies Bible Study 1:30p Crafts for Christ 6:30p Adult Choir 6:30p Pack L Parent mtg	7 9:30a MSMW 6p Band Practice 7pm National Day of Prayer	8 7p AA Mtg	9 9:30a Yoga 10a-noon Plant Xchange
10 Mother's Day 9a Traditional Worship 10:20a Modern Worship 11a Bible Study	11 9ap Staff Meeting 1:30p Blood Drive 6:30p Pack 18GCLC	12 5p Men's BB 7p AA Mtg	13 9a Sew Blessed 10a Ladies Bible Study 1:30p Crafts for Christ 6:30p Adult Choir	14 6p Band Practice 6:30p Men & Ladies Bible Study	15 7p AA Mtg June Pipeline Deadline	16 9:30a Yoga
17 Pentecost 9a Traditional Worship 10:20a Modern Worship 11a Bible Study 6p Youth 6p Committee mtgs 7p Admin Council	18 9a Staff Meeting 6:30p Pack 18GCLC 6:30pm Grief Group	19 5p Men's BB 7p AA Mtg Illumination Small Group	20 9a Sew Blessed 10a Ladies Bible Study 1:30p Crafts for Christ 6:30p Adult Choir	21 6p Band Practice 6:30p Men & Ladies Bible Study	22 7p AA Mtg	23 9:30a Yoga 9a FLC reserved
24 9a Traditional Worship 10:20a Modern Worship 11a Bible Study 6p Youth	25 Memorial Day <i>Church office closed</i>	26 5p Men's BB 7p AA Mtg	27 9a Sew Blessed 10a Ladies Bible Study 1:30p Crafts for Christ 6:30p Adult Choir	28 6p Band Practice 6:30p Men & Ladies Bible Study	29 7p AA Mtg	30 9:30a Yoga
31 Graduation Sunday 9a Traditional Worship 10:20a Modern Worship 11a Bible Study 6p Youth						

The Church office will be closed on May 25th observance of Memorial Day.

May 15th is the deadline for the June Pipeline.
Please send information to share to:
mineralspringsmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Thank you!



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Mineral Springs Methodist Church
P.O. Box 67
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