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MAY 2026



A Letter From the Pastor

David was anointed king but instead of stepping into comfort and ease, he stepped into hardship. Soon after, his life was threatened by King Saul. He fled for his life, hid in caves, and wandered in the wilderness for years.

It is an important lesson about God's work in our lives, which is that being chosen by God does not guarantee a smooth path. In fact, more often than not, God's calling leads us through seasons of difficulty rather than comfort.

This pattern is evident throughout the Bible. Moses spent forty years in the wilderness before leading God's people out of Egypt. The Israelites wandered for forty years before entering the Promised Land. Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness before beginning His public ministry. The clear lesson of God's Word is that the wilderness is not a detour from God's plan. Instead, it is often the very place where His preparing and transforming work on us is accomplished. It is the training ground. It is a refining furnace.

Peter reminds us of this truth in 1 Peter 1:6-7, "In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

David was called by God for a specific purpose: to serve as a righteous king. But before he could lead a nation, his heart had to be formed. In the wilderness, David humility, courage, faith, and learned dependence on God. In the upcoming sermon series titled: A Heart in the Making, we will explore how the caves and deserts became classrooms where God shaped David's character and prepared him to fulfill his calling. We will also explore how we also go through seasons of wilderness meant to shape us and prepare us.

You are called by God to serve His purposes. That calling may not lead you into comfort. It may lead you into a season that feels uncertain, difficult, or even isolating. But take heart. God does some of His most important work in those very places.

Can you identify a past "wilderness" experience that God used for your growth? What did you learn from it?

What would it look like for you to view seasons of wilderness not as a setback, but as God's shaping and preparing?

Blessings,
Pastor Graham



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Sermons

Date	Scripture	Sermon
May 3	1 John 4:7-21	What is a Methodist? Holy Love
May 10	1 Samuel 16	A Heart in the Making: A Shepherd's Heart
May 17	1 Samuel 17	A Heart in the Making: Courageous Faith
May 24		Guest Preacher Jackson Pannell
May 31	1 Samuel 18	A Heart in the Making: Jealous Heart vs Humble Heart



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 29 Midweek Kids Mad Science
- May 3 Wedding Shower
- May 3 Youth Lunch Ft. Mountain
- May 10 Mother's Day Cookies
- May 10 Recognize College Graduate
- May 12 Methodist Women Meeting
- May 13 Peschool Graduation
- May 17 Methodist Men Meeting
- May 17 Adult Bible Study Romans Begins
- May 19 Roadrunners Picnic at Carter's Lake
- May 20 The Academy Last Day of School
- May 25 Memorial Day
- June 4-6 GMC Annual Conference
- June 7-28 Lemonade & Cookies on the Lawn
- June 21 Father's Day Cookies
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 12-16 VBS



Registered online at Target and Amazon



MINISTRIES

May 3



UNITED YOUTH OUTING
TO FORT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

12:00 - 4:00 PM

BBQ LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE SCHMIDTS



HIKING

Midweek Kids

Wednesday Night, April 29th

6:30 - 7:30 PM

THIS WEEK
MAD SCIENCE

Jonah 1-3

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Church Family,
Join us in Celebrating

THE COLLEGE GRADUATION OF

Hannah Schmidt!

Honoring Hannah in our Morning Service
May 10, 2026

**No 2026 High School Graduates*

SAVE THE DATE!

VBS

JULY 12TH-16TH
6:00-8:15PM

RAINFORREST FALLS

Exploring The Nature of God

LEMONADE & COOKIES

On the Lawn

June 7, 14, 21, 28
Following the
11:00 Service.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Study on Romans
Sunday Afternoons @ 2:30 PM
Beginning May 17

Contact the Church Office or Dale Lowman for details



MINISTRIES

Roadrunners Trip

Join us for a fun day out!

Tuesday, May 19th

10:30 AM

Carter's Lake

Enjoy a relaxing picnic lunch with great company and beautiful views. Don't forget to bring your appetite and a smile!

RSVP: Text or call Deborah Yarbrough at 706-671-7169

FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 21

ALL MEN IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES WILL RECEIVE A GIFT BOX OF ASSORTED COOKIES.

CHATSWORTH
First Methodist Church

The Roadrunners bus will leave the church at 10:30 am on Tuesday, May 19th with Carter's Lake being our destination. Our group will have a picnic at the lake. The group will provide a chicken platter from Zaxby's and everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share with others. There is a paved walkway around the park area, as well as interesting displays at the visitor's center. Who knows, a card game may break out after lunch! We plan to return to the church around 4:00pm.

Cost for this trip will be \$5.00 for the picnic chicken, a covered dish, and gas to refill the bus. Please text or call Deborah Yarbrough at 706-671-7169 by Sunday, May 17 if you plan to go. Remember, everyone is a Roadrunner and all are welcome to participate if there is room on the bus. To keep the trips as economical as possible, we will cancel any 2026 trip if there are less than 10 bus riders signed up by the reservation deadline.



MEMORIALS

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>In Memory</u>
Tammie & Ronnie Henderson	Memorial Fund	Robert Gary Ridley
Preschool	Belize Children/Pastor Mulemena	Emma Lou Grant
Rhett & Sandy Griffin	Academy	Keith Franklin
Ronnie & Tammie Henderson	Honor/Memorial	Keith Franklin
Bill & Mary Ann Black	Academy	Keith Franklin
Bill & Mary Ann Black	Academy	Filbert Lewis
Bill & Mary Ann Black	Academy	Wendy Hunt



PRAYER REQUESTS

Barbara Benford- fell on April 20 on her deck due to a rotten board breaking when she stepped on it. She broke her left leg and right shoulder. She had surgery that night. She is recovering at Hamilton Hospital.

Lacey Burger (Melodie Burger)- has finished chemo treatments.

Sheila Butler- is having knee replacement surgery on April 23. Please pray for the surgery and the recovery to follow.

Ms. Irene Carter (Dave Robinson) - COPD

Michael Chaffe (Shannon and Hugh Eighmie's brother-in-law) - had successful surgery for liver cancer. He will undergo more treatments and likely more surgery.

Jace Chastain (Mary Ann Black) - cancer treatments.

Joyce Craft (Mary Nathan Kendrick)- recovery from a fractured a vertebra. She is staying with her son in Watkinsville.

Jeff Davis (Shawn Davis)- is doing well after surgery for an implant for Parkinson's. Continued Prayers.

Rachel McCall (Wesley Herndon)- Wesley's sister was hospitalized due to a kidney infection that turned septic. Her kidney function is still low and she is having to do dialysis.

Donna Liesenfeld (Lynn Lowman's step-sister)- continued prayers for battle with cancer.

Lynn Lowman- Continued prayers for back.

Lisa Peeples (Lynn Lowman's Sister-in-law)- has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Please pray for her.

Pray for Christians who are persecuted, especially Christians in Nigeria where persecution is severe.

Eileen Simmons (Melissa Sneads)- Eileen is home on Hospice. Husband Bob passed away.

Rich Sorge (Graham Arp)- has completed radiation treatments for prostate cancer.

Malissa Steel- recovering from hip replacement surgery

Virginia Summey (Dave Robinson) - Hip Replacement, in a nursing home.

Nicole Thomas- was in a recent car wreck that caused multiple broken bones. Please pray for her recovery as well as for financial needs to be met while she is out of work.

Donna Walden- has cirrhosis of the liver.

Tanis Watlington (David Robinson) - Bone Marrow Cancer.

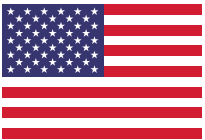
Jimmie Witherow (Melissa Sneads)- needs hip replacement surgery but has to gain some wait first.

Floyd Woods (Dave Robinson) - has ALS.

Christian Sympathy is Extended to the Family of:

Wendy Hunt - please pray for the family and all of the Seniors she cared for so well.

Janice Long Bramblett- Dale and Gina Plemmons' friend Janice died unexpectedly on April 12. She was 48 years old.



Please remember all of our active military members.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers for the Sanctuary

May 3 Barbara Grider
 May 10 James Greeson
 May 17 Ophelia Hall
 May 24 Dave Robinson
 May 31 Frank Ward

Stewardship Operations (As of 4/19/2026)

MTD - 22,620.63
YTD - 104,225.33

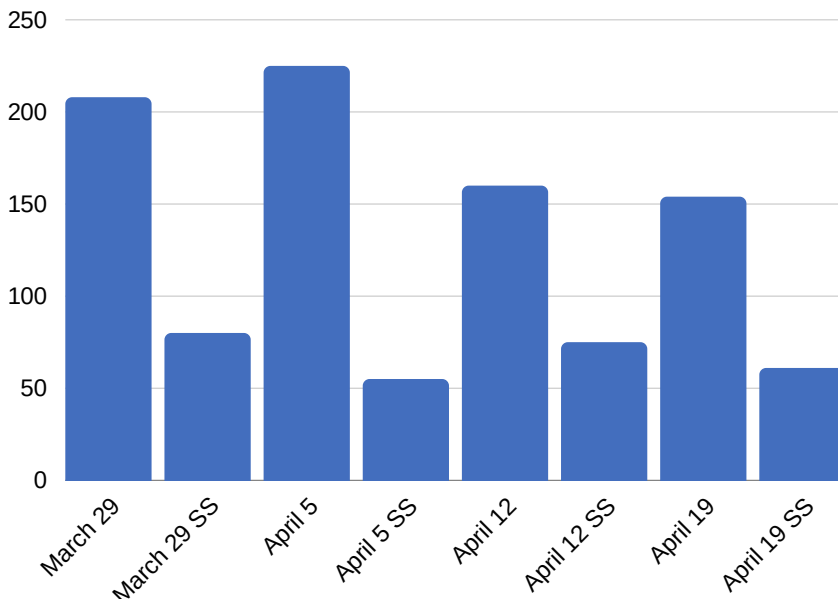
Nursery Schedule

Date	9AM	10AM	11AM
May 3	Shawn Davis	Lisa Loughridge	Anna Holcomb
May 10	HELP NEEDED	Julie Arp	Nancy Long
May 17	Paula Catoe	Sandy Griffin	Mary Ann Black
May 24	Laura Sparks	Christie Rainey	Jaimey Mohler
May 31	HELP NEEDED	Kathy Ballew	Rhonda Kilgore

Giving Opportunities

Saturday Sacks
Murray County Next Step
Belize School Children Lunches
Good Samaritan Fund

Attendance



BIRTHDAYS

May 2 Jolynn Green
 May 5 Davis Powell
 May 8 Brenda Chapman
 May 8 Ken Vance
 May 14 Mary Holcomb
 May 20 James Greeson
 May 21 Ross Burger
 May 23 Harper Holcomb
 May 25 Calvin Burger
 May 25 Ronnie Henderson
 May 28 Terry Walls
 May 30 Malissa Steele