



COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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May 2026 Newsletter



From the Pen of Bro. Len:

Mother's Day is fast approaching, and I thought it might be helpful to take a "walk" through the Bible and look at a handful of thoughts about

Mothers.

Five Faithful Mothers in Scripture for Your Mother's Day Devotional

A strong Mother's Day sermon draws from real lives, not abstract ideals. These five women faced vastly different circumstances, yet each demonstrated a faith that shaped the course of history. As you read these stories, notice how God met each woman exactly where she was.

1. Hannah — The Mother Who Prayed Through Pain. Hannah's story in 1 Samuel begins with a wound that would not heal. Year after year she longed for a child while enduring the taunts of Peninnah and the well-meaning but tone-deaf comfort of her husband Elkanah. She did not hide her grief. She brought it straight to God — weeping, pleading, pouring out her soul in the temple so fervently that the priest Eli thought she was drunk. *"For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore, I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord."* — 1 Samuel 1:27–28 (ESV) When God answered, Hannah did something astonishing: she gave Samuel back. She dedicated her son to the Lord's service at Shiloh, visiting him each year with a little robe she had sewn by hand. Hannah teaches every mother that her children belong to God first — and that the bravest act of love is open hands.

2. Jochebed — The Mother Who Trusted When She Could Not See. Jochebed lived under Pharaoh's decree that every Hebrew baby boy be thrown into the Nile. When Moses was born, she hid him for three months, then waterproofed a basket and placed her infant son among the reeds, stationing his sister Miriam nearby to watch. *"Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months."* — Exodus 2:1–2 (ESV) Jochebed could not guarantee what would happen next. She could only obey the prompting she felt and release her son to the current — literally. God arranged for Pharaoh's own daughter to find Moses, and then for Jochebed herself to be hired as his nurse. The mother who let go was the one God brought back.

3. Ruth and Naomi — The Bond Between Mother and Daughter-in-Law. Not every mother-child bond is biological. Naomi lost her husband and both sons in Moab, and in her grief, she urged her daughters-in-law to return to their own families. Ruth refused. *"But Ruth said, 'Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go, I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.'"* — Ruth 1:16 (ESV). Ruth's loyalty to Naomi is one of the most beautiful pictures of chosen family in all of Scripture. Together they returned to Bethlehem, and through Ruth's marriage to Boaz, Naomi held a grandson in her arms — Obed, the grandfather of King David, and an ancestor of Jesus Christ. Naomi's influence as a spiritual mother shaped a lineage that would redeem the world.

4. Mary — The Mother Who Said Yes to the Impossible. Mary was young, unmarried, and living in a village the world had overlooked when the angel Gabriel appeared with a message that would change everything. She would conceive by the Holy Spirit and bear the Son of God. Her response remains one of the most courageous sentences in history. *“And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’”*— Luke 1:38 (ESV). Mary’s yes meant social scandal, a dangerous journey to Bethlehem, flight to Egypt as a refugee, and ultimately standing at the foot of a Roman cross watching her firstborn son die. She did not receive a comfortable calling. She received a faithful God. Mary teaches every mother that saying yes to God does not guarantee an easy road — but it does guarantee that you will never walk it alone.

5. Eunice and Lois — The Mothers Who Planted Seeds of Faith. We know very little about Timothy’s mother Eunice and grandmother Lois — just a single verse from Paul — and yet that verse tells us everything we need to know about their legacy. *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”*— 2 Timothy 1:5 (ESV). Eunice and Lois did not write epistles or lead churches. They raised a boy in the Scriptures. That boy became Paul’s most trusted coworker and the pastor of the church at Ephesus. The quiet, daily faithfulness of a mother reading Scripture with her children can shape a generation. Never underestimate what God can do through a mother who simply shows up.

6. Proverbs 31 Woman Really Teaches Us About Mothers. Few passages have been more quoted — and more misunderstood — on Mother’s Day than Proverbs 31. It is not a checklist. It is a Hebrew acrostic poem — a celebration of a woman’s strength, wisdom, and dignity. *“Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.”*— Proverbs 31:25–28 (ESV). Notice what this passage actually celebrates. Not perfection — strength. Not anxiety about the future — laughter. Not harsh discipline — the teaching of kindness. The Proverbs 31 woman is not a standard that condemns. She is a portrait of what happens

when a woman trusts God with her whole life. She is free to be strong because she knows who holds tomorrow. This beautiful memorial from a son to his Mother is a celebration. If I could condense to a sentence it says... *“This is who you already are — not because you have it all together, but because your strength comes from the Lord.”*

7 Ways the Bible Says a Mother’s Influence Shapes Generations

1. A mother’s prayers move the hand of God. Hannah prayed, and God gave Israel a prophet (1 Samuel 1:27). Monica prayed for decades, and her wayward son Augustine became one of the most influential Christians in history. Never stop praying.

2. A mother’s faith is transferable. Paul saw Eunice’s faith living inside Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5). What you believe, your children will carry.

3. A mother’s instruction has the weight of Scripture. “Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching” (Proverbs 1:8, ESV). God places a mother’s words alongside a father’s as authoritative guidance.

4. A mother’s comfort reflects God’s own heart. God compared His comfort to a mother’s embrace (Isaiah 66:13). When you hold your child through a hard night, you are being the hands of God.

5. A mother’s courage can save a nation. Jochebed’s basket changed the course of Israel’s history (Exodus 2:1–10). Small acts of obedience in the nursery can have enormous consequences in the kingdom.

6. A mother’s sacrifice is seen by God. The widow at Zarephath gave her last meal to the prophet Elijah, and God sustained her and her son through the entire famine (1 Kings 17:12–16). God sees every quiet sacrifice a mother makes.

7. A mother’s legacy outlasts her lifetime. Naomi’s influence reached through Ruth to Obed to Jesse to David to Jesus (Ruth 4:13–17). Your faithfulness today is writing a story that will be told long after you are gone.



Brothers and Sisters

A note of thanks to our Outreach Mission Team for a delicious Fish Fry meal. It was noted that the team was dedicated to the task and the fruits of the spirit were evident to all; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. What a blessing to our church and the community! Thank you, Mission team.

This year the National Day of Prayer is Thursday May 7th. **Our church will honor and observe the NDP in our worship service on Sunday, May 3rd.** Different members will read & pray aloud a prayer from each category while the rest of us will pray silently. Please pray deeply in your heart, not just today, but every day as His spirit leads. Use these scriptures for praying for our nation as His spirit leads you.

Praying for Our Country:

May 3rd - 9th: Stand in the gap for your country. Eze. 22:30-31

May 10th - 16th: Instructions for the church. 1 Tim. 2:1-4

May 17th - 23rd: Pray that God will remove the unrighteous according to His will. Ps. 5:10

May 24th - 30th: Pray for just leaders to rule in the fear of the Lord. 2 Sam. 23:3

The Key to Victory
God's mighty weapons:
Prayer, hope, love, God's Word,
and His Holy Spirit are powerful
and effective. Ep. 6:13-18
God's weapons can break down
Satan's strategies, but 'nothing'
can break down God's weapons.

Hello from Cornerstone. Welcome to May!

We wish all mothers a very HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! We are also looking forward to our annual Homecoming service to worship, fellowship and enjoy some delicious food! We would like to thank all who came out and helped with, worshipped, and joined us for our Spring Sidewalk Service. We also thank the youth and young adults for participating and sharing their time with us and Michael Roberts bringing the message.

We have talked a lot lately amongst the administrative council about teamwork. Our goal is for the different groups within the church to work together for the good of Coalville and God's work through us. We check in with each other and encourage all teams in what they are doing, events coming up, what they may need help with or donations for, etc. Everyone feels supported and strengthened. The bible shows us that we all have some form of gift to give to the ministry of the church. Our different parts come together to make the whole.

What is your gift? Are you using it?

1 Peter 4:10-11

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 11

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work...All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."

Homecoming

May 17th 10AM

Rev Russell Fletcher who served Coalville from 1967 to 1970, will be our guest preacher. Rev Fletcher is also now retired and attending Coalville regularly.

Come and join in the fellowship and bring a dish for potluck to follow!

Phone #s: (228) 392 – 5970 (office)
(601) 938 – 7967 (Bro. Len)

Office Hours: Tues. – Thur., 8 AM – 12 PM

Email: coalvilleumc@outlook.com

Web: www.coalvilleumc.org

The Gulf Pines District newsletter email gulfpines@mississippi-umc.org

The Circuit Rider newsletter website Mississippi news@mississippi-umc.org

CHANGE OF DATES for the new church directory! Portraits will be taken July 12 and 13. Please mark your calendars. The Portrait Café will be getting in touch with you all. Phyllis will also keep you informed. Thank you for your patience. Everyone that participates will get a free 8x10 and directory. Lots of members have grown their families since the last directory. There are also new faces in our congregation. We want everyone represented. Even if you are not a full member, but attend regularly.

****If you have any events to be placed on the 2026 church calendar, please e-mail or call the office. Coalvilleumc@outlook.com***

228-392-5970

~~~If you need to advertise anything in the church monthly newsletter. PLEASE notify the church secretary by the 3rd week of the month prior to the event. Also, bulletin announcements need to be received by Wednesday before the Sunday to be advertised. Thank you, this will help tremendously.~~~

Happy Mother's Day!

On Sunday, May 10th, Mother's Day, the Methodist Senior Services takes donations for the Sunday Fund. This is a Benevolence Fund for Older Adults . This tradition has been around for 60 years. The fund meets the financial burdens of elders in Mississippi.

-100% of money donated to Sunday Fund supports Elders in Mississippi.

-No one has ever had to leave their home because they ran out of money, thanks to The Sunday Fund.

-Elders from all denominations are served by The Sunday Fund.

-Elders often depend on the support of church families to meet basic needs.

-The level of assistance we can offer is directly related to the gift balance available in The Sunday Fund.

~~~~~YOUTH~~~~~

The youth car wash has been postponed until June 7th.

The youth have been busy working on VBS. This is a big outreach project for them. May is graduation and this year Coalville will celebrate 3 High School graduates: Draco Touche (Ocean Springs High) Matthew Hansen, and Mackynzie Slade (D'Iberville High). Please pray for them and decisions for their future.

May will be busy preparing for VBS. We will have many work nights. If you are interested in helping let Jan or Timothy know. This is the only time some of these children hear about Jesus so we try to do our best to make it an experience that will stay with them.

We are super excited about this year's theme: Stompers & Chompers, Building Dino sized Faith in God's big plan. There are many ways to help. Some examples are: help with decorations, donate money for supplies, provide meals and/or snacks for work nights, spread the word about VBS, and of course pray for VBS. Contact Jan or Timothy for more info.

VBS SAVE THE DATE
June 24th thru June 28th



The Missions Team would like to thank everyone who donated, showed up, or helped in any form to make our first FISH FRY a huge success. Total amount raised was a whopping \$10,268!!

Also, RADA KNIVES sales are in. Please see Ms Patricia Taylor or any Missions Team member to pick up your items.

CONGRATULATIONS to Emilee Ramsey on the birth of a baby boy, Waylon James Pietz, 6lbs 13oz.



Coalville's info and event text chain is up and running. If you would like to be a part of this text chain, please text Michael Roberts at 228-236-5496 and let him know!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

**Chuck and Carol Burdine
Jenny Park**

We are so happy to have you be a part of our church family.

Sadly, we have said goodbye to two long time members of Coalville.

**Ms Marie Moran
Terri Husley Crawford**

We hold their families in our hearts and prayers



Anniversaries

Birthdays

Monthly Events

Scheduled Meetings

Weekly Events

CLC – Christian Life Center

FH – Fellowship Hall

S – Sanctuary

W – Worship

AB – Administrative Board

BG – BUNCO Group

CB – Cornerstone Band

CC – Cemetery Committee

DT – Daisy Troop

FISH – Young Adults

JAM – Children’s Ministry

MT – Mission Team

SL – Senior Luncheon

UMYF - Youth

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 CLC reserved Private Party 7 PM, AA, FH	2 CLC reserved Private Party Kathy Yon, BD
3 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S National Day of Prayer during worship 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	4 Michael Roberts, BD	5 11:30 AM, SL, FH 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	6 Courtney Mitchell, BD Destinee Ray, BD Jan Gum, BD	7 National Day of Prayer	8 Leslie Bahm, BD 7 PM, AA, FH	9
10 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S Mother’s Day Sunday Fund Day Harold Mong, BD 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	11 6 PM, AB, FH	12 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6 PM, DT, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	13 FH reserved for Richards family funeral prep	14 12 – 3 PM, BG, FH In the CLC this day FH reserved for Richards family funeral meal	15 Steve Yon, BD 7 PM, AA, FH	16
17 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S Homecoming 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	18	19 Bro Len and Patty McRaney, Anniv Gavin Joiner, BD 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	20 Evelyn Moore, BD	21	22 7 PM, AA, FH	23
24 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	25 Memorial Day	26 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6 PM, DT, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	27	28	29 7 PM, AA, FH	30
31 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	Backpack Blessings: 05/03 Peanut Butter 05/10 Small Cereal 05/17 Chicken Noodle Soup 05/24 Oatmeal/Grits 05/31 Beanie Weanies					