The COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Church of Oak Orchard Millsboro, Delaware 19966 May 2025 Volume 3—Issue 5

A Message from Pastor Ed

May: A Month of Blossoming Hope and God's Faithfulness

As spring matures and the world bursts into full bloom, the month of May reminds us of the beauty and faithfulness of our Creator. Nature sings its praises — vibrant colors return, birds build their nests, and the warm sun coaxes life from the soil. For the Christian, May is more than a transition in seasons; it's a time to reflect on spiritual renewal and the ever-present grace of God.

In Scripture, we often see imagery tied to growth and flourishing. Psalm 1:3 says of the righteous person, "He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither — whatever he does prospers." May mirrors this promise. As the earth awakens, we are reminded that God is constantly at work beneath the surface — both in nature and in our lives.

This month also holds special significance for many families — a time of graduations, new beginnings, and celebrating mothers. It's a season that reminds us of God's provision through every phase of life. In moments of transition, like those so common in May, we're invited to trust the One who knows the end from the beginning. Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Let May be a spiritual reminder that God is not only the Creator of the seasons but the Redeemer of every moment. Just as seeds sown in winter rise in spring, so our prayers, faith, and obedience — though at times hidden — will bear fruit in God's perfect timing.

So, take time this month to pause and breathe in the goodness of the Lord. Walk outside and marvel at His handiwork. Praise Him for new opportunities. And like the flowers that lift their faces to the sun, lift your heart to Heaven, knowing that the same God who clothes the lilies with splendor cares infinitely more for you.

May is not just about blooming gardens — it's about blossoming souls.





Mav 11

Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.

- Author Unknown

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Faith, Food, Tellowship





















ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

The Miracle

By Art Schmidt

For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. Romans 11:36 NIV

Mom often told me that her greatest fear was getting Alzheimer's, so she must have been terrified once the signs of the disease began to plague her. She kept her changes closely guarded and hidden from me and the family until finally they became too serious to ignore. One Sunday in the spring of 2004, less than a year before she was diagnosed with advanced dementia and

suffered a stroke, Mom seemed anxious and said there was something important I had to know just in case something happened to her. She told me her savings bonds were hidden in a tissue box on her nightstand and, of course, I was surprised. I suggested we open a safe deposit box at her bank for the bonds and she agreed. Mom made a list of the bonds and she had over 60 bonds in that tissue box.

The dementia continued to advance and the following January Mom suffered a stroke that paralyzed her left side. I moved Mom to my home and provided private duty homecare for her. But by June, I had gone though the cash and was struggling, so I started to liquidate some of Mom's assets to pay the homecare bills. Mom was still coherent but her periods of consciousness (when she was rational and aware) came and went in fleeting sudden moments I called "pearls of consciousness". Mom's home wasn't ready to put on the market, so I had to take drastic action to maintain her homecare. I had already cashed the bonds in both our names, but several were in Mom's name only and needed her signature to cash them. Mom was lefthanded and paralyzed on the left side but I knew she often wrote with her right hand, so I prayed to God for help, "Lord, I have to cash these bonds to cover the homecare expenses. Please help me."

When I called the branch manager at the bank and explained the situation, she was eager to help me. On the day of the bank appointment, Diana (the day nurse) dressed Mom nicely and helped me get her into the wheelchair and then into the car. I was concerned about taking Mom out and apprehensive over what would happen once we got to the bank. The bank manager greeted my mom as I wheeled her into the bank and gave her a hug. I'm not sure if Mom recognized her but she seemed glad to be greeted warmly. We sat down at the desk, I held Mom's hand, and explained why we were at the bank. Mom's face had a blank expression, but then suddenly her eyes brightened and she smiled—the mom I knew emerged and she said, "Oh Arthur." The bonds and a pen were positioned on the desk in front of Mom and she asked me to give her each bond one at a time. To our amazement, Mom signed the back of each one perfectly with her right hand. After she signed the last one, Mom thanked the manager and then turned to me and smiled. Then her face lost all expression and the mom I knew retreated once again. Given her condition and paralysis, Mom's brief period of awareness and agile ability to sign her name multiple times was without a doubt a miracle made possible by God. Hope and faith go hand-in-hand. When we begin to lose hope, we also begin to lose faith. Our heart sees better than our eyes and when we experience the presence and grace of God in our midst, our faith is strengthened and our soul is at peace. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

Reliable—"re" means over and over again; "liable" means responsible. Oh Lord, thank you for being our reliable source of grace and strength even when our journey puts us in difficult situations that seem impossible. With you God, all things are possible...even miracles! Amen



MOTHER'S DAY SONG

I gave you heartburn and I made you sick Long before I even took my first breath. And you barely slept for two years after you brought me home.

I ruined your carpet and colored your walls Then did it again after you scrubbed it off. And if you were lucky, I'd give you the bathroom alone But still, you look back on it all and you smile. So, here's to you Mom from the heart of your child.

Thank you for loving me tenderly
And showing me how to be strong.
The least I can do after all you have done
Is thank you for being my mom.
I thank you for being my mom.

For listening to me when that girl stole my heart And letting me practice with your brand-new car. For teaching me how to make Jesus my everything. For being right there every time that I fall And praying for me faithfully through it all. I am convinced I'm still here 'cause you stayed on your knees.

I don't tell you enough just how special you are But I'm grateful, so know from the depths of my heart.

Thank you for loving me tenderly
And showing me how to be strong
The least I can do after all you have done
Is thank you for being my mom
I thank you for being my mom

Someday, I'll be the one with blue marks on my walls And staying awake all night long As hard as I try, I can honestly say That we all would be lost without more

So, thank you for loving me tenderly And showing me how to be strong. The least I can do after all you have done Is thank you for being my mom. I thank you for being my mom.



Songwriter: Craig Aven; Recorded By; Heath Brothers (2019)

Resurrection Blooms Bright

The tulips dance in radiant hues, Beneath the skies of brilliant blues. Each bloom declares the Savior's name, A glorious sign of love's great claim.

The earth adorned with petals bright, Proclaims the truth in every sight. From ashes we rise, in faith be strong, In spring's embrace, we all belong.

The Garden of Grace

In gardens lush where blessings grow, Upon the earth, His love we sow. Each seed of faith in fruitful soil, Brings forth the joys from loving toil.

As blossoms scent the tranquil air, In nature's lap, we find His care. Our hearts, attuned to springtime's song, In grace we flourish, forever strong.



Blossoms of Belief

In every bloom, a tale is spun, Of faith and love that's just begun. Each petal soft, each color bold, A story of grace that must be told.

As flowers rise from earth's embrace, They sing of hope, they sing of grace. In every heart, where faith takes flight, A springtime dawn dispels the night.

Green Fields of Grace

Fields of green where shadows flee, Invite us in to kneel and see. With every blade, a prayer takes flight, And sways beneath the morning light.

In nature's hymn, our souls align, With melodies of love divine. With each heartbeat, the world ignites, In gentle whispers, our spirit ignites.

CONTAGIOUS FAITH

This month's contagious faith person is Jan Malone. My wife and my mom always say, "what a pretty woman she is." I agree!

I actually got to know Jan initially from meeting her in the hospital quite often. I would go in to visit her as she has been undergoing cancer treatment with its many complications. What an incredible woman. A woman of strength, a woman of passion, and most importantly, a woman of great faith.

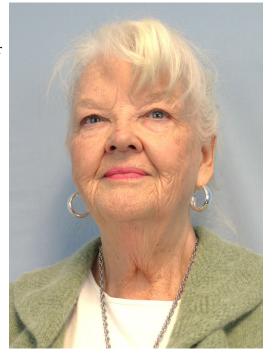


She recently shared a story with me about another woman who had gotten some bad news from her doctor. The doctor said there is nothing more that can be done, and Jan immediately spoke up and reminded her that God is God and a doctor is not. Jan, of course, is living that out herself remaining strong and full of faith. Saying when the Lord is ready, I will go home and I will be ready, but in the meantime, I am going to fight the good fight. To that I would say "you go girl."

What a clear example of contagious faith! Battling cancer yourself and sharing the love of Jesus and the faith that we should hold onto when we receive bad news whether it be from the doctor or other situations in life. God has used Jan and used her willingly to share the love of Christ with someone in great need. One of Jan's favorite verses is Mark 11:24. "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Jan is sharing a lesson that we all need to be attentive to. To have complete and unconditional faith in knowing that the Lord is ultimately in control. That he loves us so much that he died on the cross for each and every one of us and like him, there will come a time when we will rise with new bodies, living out a wonderful eternity with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Jan, for being such an inspiration and keep living that contagious Faith!



Every day of our lives, we need to be *intentional* and *prepared* for the opportunity to share about the love of Jesus. With practice and time it will become second nature to be able to do this. You will grow in *intimacy with Jesus* and with those around us!

In Christ, Ed Vidzicki

Ministry in Motion!

Ministry NECCESSITIES & Updates

Our Church is growing. PRAISE THE LORD! As this is happening, we need help! I could sugarcoat this request, but I won't! The Lord says there is a COST of discipleship and ministry work, but the rewards are out of this world!!!

<u>Maintenance</u>- we need volunteers to help with church building and grounds maintenance. No experience necessary. Contact Ted Brown 302-549-1450

<u>Home Care Ministry-</u> We need more volunteers who are willing to bring a little cheer to those who are temporarily or permanently homebound. We love each other too much to let anyone be lonely!

Contact Bonnie Shaw 724-689-3894 or Diane Long 302-945-7627.

Teaching a Bible Study or Sunday Elective Class

Contact Pastor Ed ezicki@gmx.com 717-940-7433

Women's Ministry—we are starting a much needed women's ministry that will be meeting on Thursdays at 6pm starting May 8. Contact Michele Quirk 302-396-1992

Men's Ministry- those interested in participating as well as leading the ministry at church.

Contact Pastor Ed ezicki@gmx.com 717-940-7433

<u>Community Evangelism</u>- We need ideas that will draw our community to church.

Contact Elder Steve Miller and _you_thought_my_last_e-mail_was_long@protonmail.com
302-258-7499

<u>Kids Sunday Ministry</u>- We are in desperate need of class teachers and helpers for different age groups from infants- 14 yrs old on Sundays from 11am-12:15pm

Contact Mike Koly dmkoly@verizon.net 610-350-8025

Or contact Pastor Ed ezicki@gmx.com 717-940-7433

Youth Group Ministry- we are looking to create a team who is willing to participate in youth activities on a regular basis.

Contact Pastor Ed ezicki@gmx.com 717-940-7433

Thank you in advance, because I have FAITH that you are more than a pew sitter! If you are not physically able to volunteer then it is your duty to now assume the higher calling of prayer warrior. Love in Christ, Pastor Ed



Elder Responsibilities
-oversee all areas of the church's functions and report on assigned

Church's Functions

| advocate positions monthly in partnership with overseeing pastor. | Pastor Ed Steve Miller | Community Evangelism | -Visitor/ attendee engagement -Community engagement & advertising campaigns |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Pastor Ed Mike Koly | Childrens Education & Programs | -Sunday Jr. church classes -Nursery -Peewee -Jr. Church -Teens -Youth Group -Youth Outreach |
| | Pastor Ed | Adult Education & Programs | -Sunday Elective -Men's Ministry -Women's Ministry -Small Group Studies |
| | Pastor Allen Ted B. & Art S. | Property Maintenance | -Repairs -Church upkeep -Grounds upkeep -Preventative Maintenance Schedule |
| | Pastor Allen Dave Hammer | Church Family Care | -Home Care Ministry -visitation -meeting the needs of our unwell, isolated or homebound |
| | Pastor Allen dvocate | Church Administration | Manage Day-to-day. Operations -Answer Phone Line -Answer emails -Financial Management & Reporting -Record keeping -Calendar Management -Event Management -Order supplies -Oversee the production & distribution of paper & digital content -Assist Pastors and Elders in |
| | Overseeing Pastor 9 Current Elder Advocate | Pastoral Duties | Manage Spiritual Needs of Church -Sermons -Worship -Weddings -Funerals -Sacraments -Baptism -Biblical Counseling -Members engagement |

NATIONAL NEWS

Washington Examiner

America is experiencing a Christian awakening

By Tudor Dixon

Christianity in America is suddenly holding strong. After decades of decline, the number of people leaving the faith has leveled off, leaving many looking for ways to increase the number of self-identified Christians in the United States.

This is by no means a major resurgence in Christianity, but faith content is increasing in popularity which could eventually lead to a rise in Christian adherents. Many were shocked recently when a Christian podcast, The Rosary in a Year, surpassed The Joe Rogan Experience on Apple podcasts. Demand for faith-based content is hot right now, and distributors are looking for more. Amazon Prime Video released House of David on its streaming platform at the end of February, and the series ranks No. 3 globally. David's inspirational underdog story resonates with young people looking for something bigger than themselves.

Let's not forget the success of the film Jesus Revolution, based on the true story of the greatest spiritual awakening in American history. The film was released in February 2023 and quickly became the highest-grossing Lionsgate film since 2019.

As content creators move toward God, the younger generation becomes more engaged with faith. Asbury University President Kevin Brown told Christianity Today that Generation Z is searching for authenticity. "There's a sweeping desperation across the United States and our world that I think is most acutely felt by younger generations," he said, adding, "This is the most marketed-to generation in history, so opinions and propositions are often just dead on arrival. Gen Z elevates and prioritizes authenticity."

There are few things more authentic than prayer. The Catholic prayer app Hallow took off when it aired its first Super Bowl commercial in 2024, featuring actor Mark Wahlberg. The CEO said Hallow's largest spike in downloads came immediately following the commercial. Today, Hallow is the most popular prayer app in the world with 10 million downloads and more than 225 million prayers recorded. It was the first religious app to hit No. 1 on Apple's store.

Content has grown in the faith space since the barriers were broken by films such as Jesus Revolution. Just like Amazon is exploring stories that are directly from the pages of the Bible, Pinnacle Peak Pictures is also bringing God's word to the big screen. Pinnacle Peak will release The Last Supper, an up -close and personal view of the events leading up to, during, and just after the Last Supper, on Friday.

Michael Scott and Christian music superstar Chris Tomlin team up to produce this story of the true human struggle of those closest to Jesus. Tomlin told me that Scott says 30%-40% of people who see Christian films in the theater are not believers.

As they say, content is king, or in this case, content leads to the King. The time has come for conservatives to take back entertainment instead of hoping politicians stand as a barrier to progressive influence. Too many conservative activists have been asking to stop the content coming from the other side through legal channels instead of offering an alternative.



The Most Influential Women of the Bible

Story by Stars Insider

How women are portrayed in the Bible has been debated for many years. Indeed, there are quite a few passages that make us cringe, but this gallery is not about that. Instead, we look at the women of the Bible who, for better or worse, actually made an impact and shaped the holy book itself. Some of these women are so important that they are venerated to this day, and are even considered religious pillars to many.

Virgin Mary

Mary was visited by angel Gabriel, who told her she would become the mother of Jesus. Mary was a virgin and Jesus was conceived through the Holy Spirit. The Virgin Mary is one of the holiest, and indeed one of the most important figures in Christianity. Mary is venerated by millions of people around the world.

Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene is sometimes misunderstood, but she is one of the most influential women in the Bible. She became a faithful follower of Jesus after he healed her. Mary Magdalene is present in numerous key moments of the New Testament, including Jesus' crucifixion. And she's the one who finds the empty tomb of Jesus: it was Mary Magdalene who, together with other women, announced the resurrection of Christ.

Ruth

Ruth the Moabite became the widow of her Israelite husband, but she remained faithful to her mother-in -law, Naomi, with whom she moves to Judea. Ruth is an example of loyalty, love, and kindness. She went on to become the great-grandmother of King David.

Rachel

Rachel is a symbol of patience and perseverance. She waited to marry Jacob, whom her father tricked into marrying Rachel's sister, Leah. Rachel gave birth to Joseph and Benjamin: two of the 12 founders of the tribes of Israel. Rachel's tomb can be visited on the road at the entrance of Bethlehem. The site is

considered a place of interest for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Martha

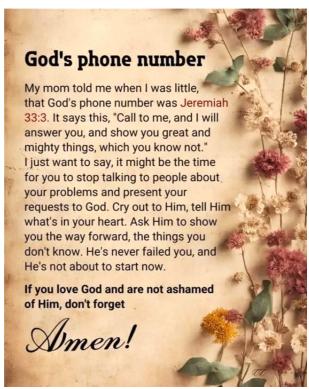
Mary's sister, Martha, put her hosting duties above what Jesus had to say. Though in the end both sisters were faithful followers—they just had different priorities.

Sarah

Sarah was Abraham's wife. God promised Abraham that Sarah would bear his son and she did so at the age of 90. Sarah is a major matriarch figure in the Bible.

Elizabeth

Like Sarah, God blessed Elizabeth with motherhood at an older age. Elizabeth gave birth to John the Baptist, the preacher who baptized Jesus himself.



MOTHER'S DAY-MAY 11

Mother's Day is an annual holiday celebrated in the United States on the second Sunday in May. Mother's Day recognizes mothers, motherhood and maternal bonds in general, as well as their positive contributions to their families and society. It was established by Anna Jarvis, with the first Mother's Day celebrated through a service of worship at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, on May 10, 1908.

Popular observances include holiday cards and gift giving, churchgoing often accompanied by the distribution of carnations, and family dinners. In the United States, Mother's Day complements similar celebrations honoring family members, such as Father's Day, Siblings Day and Grandparents Day.



What does the Bible say about Mothers Day? The Bible consistently asks followers to honor and love their mothers. Examples of this can be seen in Exodus 20:12, "Honor your father and your mother,"

and Leviticus 19:3, "Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father." God promises in Isaiah 16:13 - "As a mother comforts her child, I shall comfort you." Jesus even compares his love and care to a mother hen, as he grieves before Jerusalem in Luke 13:34. As children, some of us have learned to depend solely on our mothers. We celebrate Mother's Day to honor and appreciate our mothers, grandmothers, and maternal figures, recognizing their important contributions to families and communities.







A Mother's Love

By Ruth Norbeck

The comfort of a Mother's Love is given through her touch... It mirrors that of God's pure love, when in her womb we're made. She'll always be my mother, my teacher, and my best friend... a helping hand and guide when asked to the very end of time. She's there with strength and wisdom too...her beacon of light shines through. She may be gone from her earthly form but her presence warms my heart... with all the cherished memories, her love whispers in my ear, "I have not gone, I am still here, is embedded in my heart... I walk with you, as Jesus does from the very start. The solace that is given, in disappointments and in grief... come falling down from heaven, as the tears flow down my face. A person once said, a mother holds a child's hand for just a little while, and they're forever in their hearts. The same things go for a child longing for their mother. MOM, a loving memory who's always on my mind... She's the LOVE that only God could ever find. Proverbs 22:6 paraphrased: Train up a child in the way he/she go and even when he/she is older, they will not turn from it. LOVE is God and from God. So are mothers—Faith, Hope and Love abide, but the greatest of these is LOVE!! Love you Mom!!











All Kids come up front forashort lesson!

Ok kids, tell me what Easter means to you. I'm all ears...



Boys & Girls Club Staff Spotlight: Ms. Tara

By Ms. Bobbi Mooers, Director.
Posted on the B&GC Facebook page 4/2/25

Some people are simply born to work with children — and Ms. Tara is one of them.

A graduate of Sussex Tech High School, Ms. Tara has spent over 20 years pouring her heart into the childcare field. From the very beginning, her dream was to become a teacher — a dream sparked by a special teacher in her own childhood who saw her, believed in her, and left a mark that never faded.

Today, Ms. Tara carries that same spark into her work every day. Though she may be quiet at first, those who take the time to know her quickly discover a warm, caring, and truly joyful spirit. Her love for children and her passion for what she does is felt in every classroom, every activity, and every smile she helps create.

When asked what superpower she would choose, her answer is simple but profound — to visit heaven for just one day and talk with her parents again. That answer speaks volumes about her heart, her values, and the kind of love she brings into her work and life.

Her favorite quote, "If you never have a dream, you'll never have a dream come true," is more than just words — it's the way she lives.

In her quiet moments, Ms. Tara finds joy in reading and taking peaceful walks — little things that bring her calm and reflection after giving so much to those around her.

We are beyond grateful to have Ms. Tara as part of our Club family. The love, patience, and kindness she shares makes our community stronger and our children's days brighter.

Thank you, Ms. Tara — for being you.





Yard Sale Fundraiser, Saturday May 17th

7am-2pm. Baked goods & grilled lunch items available (10am-2pm) at the Community Church of Oak Orchard Community Center (across from the fire hall). We accept gently used items for the yard sale. The proceeds will go towards our church bus project.



Call 302-945-0633 to schedule drop off or for more information.





Easter Egg Hunt April 12

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

























This bunny has attitude!



IT TAKES TWO MOMS TO RAISE ONE AMELIA

As folks may know, especially those at the 11am service, Amelia is full of pleasant energy and has frequent opinions and answers to any question. She has a strong faith and shares it. She enjoys church and children's sermon along with Sunday school. She prays regularly and enjoys reading Bible stories. She even develops her own prayers at times like when she had a splinter or pierced her ears—she prayed for it not to hurt. She's a role model for children and adults telling them when and how to pray.

She brings tons of joy and challenges to our family, and we'd be lost without her smile, comments, fun and energy. God blessed us with this gift when she was born.



There are 74 inspirational children Bible verses. One we try to live by is Proverbs 22: "Start children off in the way they should go and even when they are old, they will not turn from it."

— Pat Conley











MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 12 Jessica Murray
- 15 Barbara Sapp
- 15 Kendall Baker
- 15 Selma Bloodwell
- 19 Joshua Miller
- 24 Connie Miller







Where Friends Become Family! 32615 Oak Orchard Road, Millsboro, DE 19966



NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Kayla McDonald Advisors: Pastor Allen, Pastor Ed, Ted Brown Design: Art Schmidt



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oakorchardchurch.com

Scroll down to the bottom and click on the "GIVE" button.

Thank you for supporting our mission and for your faithfulness in giving!

Scan the QR Code below to visit our website.



UPCOMING EVENTS

5/4 Fellowship Luncheon
Following the 11am service

5/6 Church Friends Night Out 6:30pm Crab Barn, Long Neck

5/8 1st Women's Ministry Group Meeting 6pm

5/11 Mother's Day

5/11 IRVFC Breakfast 7:30-11am \$14 5/12 Board Meeting 5:30pm

5/17 Yard Sale
7am-2pm at CCOO

5/19 *Dinner & Discussion*5:45pm Countering the Culture

5/26 Memorial Day Holiday

5/30 Ladies Banquet 5:30pm

5/31 Men's Ministry Meeting 7:30am Movie: "The Forge" and a lite breakfast.



CHURCH BOARD of ELDERS

Pastor: Allen Miller Chair: Ted Brown V/Chair: Steve Miller Assoc. Pastor: Ed Vidzicki Treasurer: Art Schmidt Dave Hammer Mike Koly



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 or 11:00 AM in person or online. Sunday Elective 9:30 AM Sunday Prayer 6 PM

Watch our services on: Facebook— @oakorchardchurch

YouTube— @CCOakOrchard/streams

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays 6:30 PM Zoom Bible Study

Wednesdays 9:30-11 AM
AGAPE Bible Study
Thursdays 6 PM
Women's Ministry

ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays 10:00 AM T.O.P.S. Meeting

Wednesdays 8:00 pm C.D.A.

Thursdays 3:00 pm Kingdom Prayer Meeting

Fellowship Luncheon 1st Sunday of the Month at 12:30