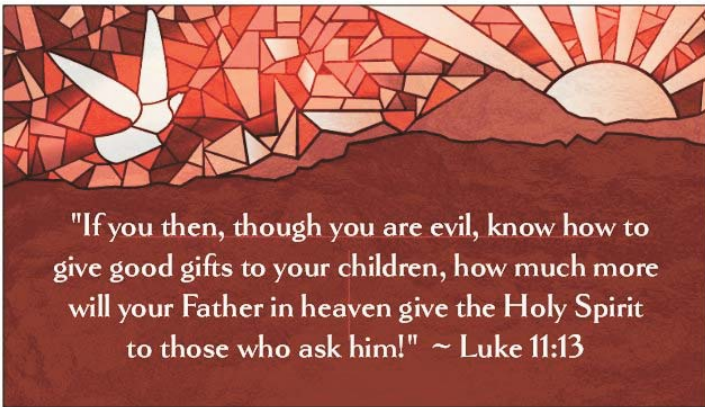




# CHRIST COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN COLLINSVILLE  
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

VOLUME 6 #5  
May 2024



"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" ~ Luke 11:13

### WELCOME TO THE CHRIST COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER!

Here you will find news of events inside and outside of the church, articles, opinions, testimonies and other interesting tidbits to inspire and amuse.

If you would like to contribute a short article, testimony, encouraging word or quote, or an interesting or funny church sign, please speak to or send to Rose Beaudry. Submissions due at least 3 days before the end of the month for next newsletter. Contact info on back page of newsletter.

### From the Pastor . . .

The month of May starts off with the National Day of Prayer which was instituted in 1952 by then President Harry Truman. It's a day where the country is encouraged to take a day and pray for the needs of the day, and as a church, we have participated in it for many years. For the church at large though, every day is a day of prayer. Every day we should be beseeching God on behalf of our country in terms of leadership, social needs, educational needs, threats to the family structure, and for the church that lives in this country.



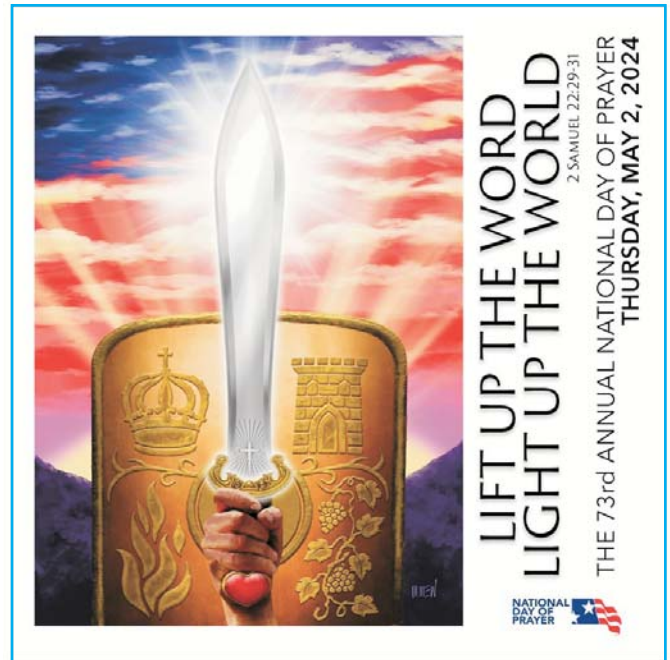
We should also be praying on behalf of those in our own context that have needs, whether they be for medical needs, financial needs, or family issues. Above all of that our prayers should be that the lost would come to Christ; that the gospel would speak into the hearts of those who do not know Him; that the mercy of Christ would lead them into everlasting life.

Proverbs 15:8 says, "The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases Him." James writes, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16b). Paul tells us to pray continually. And in Revelation 5 and 8 we're told that the prayers of the saints—the church—are as incense in golden bowls presented to God.

Prayer is vital to the Christian walk. The great preacher Charles Spurgeon said, "He who lives without prayer, he

who lives with little prayer, he who seldom reads the Word, and he who seldom looks up to heaven for a fresh influence from on high—he will be the man whose heart will become dry and barren." So let the National Day of Prayer stand as a reminder that every day is a day of prayer for the believer and to discipline yourself to indeed pray without ceasing.

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### 2024 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THEME LIFT UP THE WORD - LIGHT UP THE WORLD

For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him. ~ 2 Samuel 22:29-31

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### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AT CCC

Join us here to pray for our nation on Thursday, May 2 at 4:00 PM in front of the schoolhouse (or in the schoolhouse if weather isn't nice.)

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### PRAYER CAN CHANGE LEADERS' HEARTS

In July 2022, Britain's Prime Minister was forced to step down after what many felt were lapses in integrity. (The newly appointed Prime Minister stepped down just months later!) The event was triggered when the country's health minister attended an annual parliamentary prayer breakfast, felt convicted about the need for integrity in public life, and resigned. When other ministers resigned too, the Prime Minister realized he had to leave. It was a remarkable moment, originating from a peaceful prayer meeting.

**PASTOR'S ROUNDTABLE RECAP - 4/28**

*(Some items covered separately in this newsletter.)*

- ♦ **FINANCIAL** - March income \$17,231; expenses \$23,755 (including \$1,000 transfer to Missions Fund and \$5,000 return to savings investment account.)  
- Checking account balance is currently \$41,085.
- ♦ **MID-WEEK DEVOTIONS & SERMON INTROS**  
- Videos are now accessible online via Facebook and CCC website (click on DEVOTIONS on top of banner), or directly on YouTube channel @ccccollinsville. Links are also being emailed each week. Thank you, Pastor Chris and Patty!
- ♦ **GARDENING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** - Contact Linda Papertsian.
- ♦ **PALM CROSSES** - Were sent to our Sunday online viewers. Thanks to Linda Papertsian for making them!
- ♦ **RECONSTITUTING OUR CCC CONSTITUTION**  
- Our CCC constitution needs updating! Any CCC members interested in being part of the committee may contact Pastor Chris.
- ♦ **UPCOMING EVENTS** -  
- 5/11 - **Ladies' Luncheon** - see pg. 2.  
- 5/12 - **Teen Challenge** will participate in the Sunday service with songs and testimonies. A luncheon will follow the service, so we can have fellowship with them!  
- 5/18 @ 9:30 AM. **Monthly Prayer Meeting.**  
- 5/26 after the service - **Pastor's Roundtable.**  
- 5/27 - **CCC is IN the Memorial Day Parade!** Pastor Chris's truck with a banner will carry our Worship Team doing what they do best. Other CCC volunteers will pass out water bottles. (We need donations of the smallest size water bottles!) See CCC emails and Sunday bulletins for updated information.
- ♦ **EXALT TEAM**- Robb said the Easter service went well.
- ♦ **PROCLAIM TEAM** - Dan said the Family Gaming Day event went very well and we'll do it again. Any suggestions to improve are welcome.  
- 5/11 Ladies Luncheon setup will be at 9:30 AM.  
- 5/12 Teen Challenge  
- 6/8 **CCC Tea**. All welcome. (Yes, men too!) Stay tuned for details!  
- Discussing possibility of a campout.  
- Discussing possibility of an outdoor service.
- ♦ **MAKE DISCIPLES TEAM** - Bob DuBois said the next meeting will be on 5/5 due to other events on 5/12.  
- Got stands/holders for tracts, to put in Narthex.  
- Involved in the Memorial Day Parade water outreach.
- ♦ **DEACONS** - Victoria Dubois said the deacons are continuing with visitations and checking on people. It's important to touch base even after the first month of loss with those who have had a death in the family.  
- If someone has a financial problem, please contact a Deacon!  
- Next meeting on 5/5 due to other events on 5/12.
- ♦ **MISSIONS** - Rachel Salch said the next meeting is on Thursday May 9 at 7:00 PM (via Zoom?) They will consider guidelines for choosing a mission to support.



**MEN'S DINNER FELLOWSHIP**

**NEW LOCATION!** At Good Friends Restaurant on Main Street (Rt. 44) New Hartford, CT 06057. (Near the mini mall; formerly Portobello's.) We usually meet the last Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. All are welcome!



**NEW - SCRIPTURE JOURNALING GROUP**

Gabby Orcutt's scripture journaling group will start meeting at CCC in Collins Hall on the first Saturday of each month, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. All are welcome.



**MORE THAN WEEDS!  
A CLASS ON HERBALISM**

The classes are **cancelled until further notice** due to unforeseen illness. ~ Debbie Laws

**HEALING PRAYER MEETINGS**

Healing Prayer meetings will take place in the CCC Prayer Room on Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30 PM until further notice. Check Sunday bulletins for future location updates.



**"WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT?"**

The sermon discussion group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Room 4. If you cannot make it to the church, we can set up a Zoom Meeting for you to call in and join us! Just contact the church office to let us know by noon on Wednesday. All are very welcome!



**TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

We are slowly transitioning over to Churchtrac for our software and management needs.

Within the next month or two there will be more information coming about text messaging, the member portal and how to check things out.

If there is enough people that want to learn about things, Patty is more than willing to set up time to do some training and show people what Churchtrac can do. **STAY TUNED!!** ~ Patty Bauer



Please join us for a ladies' potluck luncheon with speaker Karen Adajian. Plan to attend and bring family and friends! Drinks and desserts provided. **PLEASE sign up in Collins Hall or RSVP via email to Patty Bauer or Victoria Dubois by Wednesday, May 1 if possible.**

### COFFEE VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all who volunteer to do the coffee service on Sunday mornings. We love you lots! **And we need more of you!!!** (Sign up sheet is in Collins Hall near the kitchen. Men can do this too! Ask and someone will show you how!)



### MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

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Saturday, May 18  
at 9:30 AM in Collins Hall  
CCC has a Monthly Prayer Meeting on the third Saturday of each month. All are welcome!

### DEACONS & GREETERS

*(Thank you for your faithful service!)*  
For the month of May, these Deacons will set up Communion:

- Sunday May 5: Pat & Dorene Grace
- Sunday May 12: Victoria DuBois
- Sunday May 19: Caryn Turek
- Sunday May 26: Buddy & Debbie Laws



- Greeter Schedule for May:
- Sunday May 5: Buddy & Debbie Laws
  - Sunday May 12: Rev. Chuck and Nan Schleich
  - Sunday May 19: Robin Cmiel
  - Sunday May 26: Sepp Markkanen



Think of yourself just as a seed patiently waiting in the earth: waiting to come up a flower in the Gardener's good time, up into the real world, the real waking. I suppose that our whole present life, looked back on from there, will seem only a drowsy half-waking. We are here in the land of dreams. But cock-crow is coming.  
~ C. S. Lewis, *Words to Live By*

### GRADUATED TO GLORY

It is with both sadness and joy that I tell you all that our dear friend and sister Linda Holbrook passed peacefully at 11:55 PM on Saturday night, April 7th. She is now victorious in the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



A memorial service for Linda has been scheduled for 2:00 PM on Sunday May 5th at Rose Hill Presbyterian Church, 12202 NE 90th Street, Kirkland, WA 98033. Linda and her family request that, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to Rose Hill Presbyterian Church for the Capital Building Fund.  
~ Jim Peterson via *Caring Bridge*

### LINDA HOLBROOK MEMORIAL

Before I got to know her, Linda was a licensed Christian counselor with an office here at CCC, in what is now our Storage Room across from the Prayer Room. I knew she was in session by the little white noise machine she put out in the hallway by her office door to keep her sessions confidential. At that time, she was a long-time member of Covenant Presbyterian in Simsbury. When she decided to become a member at CCC, she lived in the Valley House on the ground floor, Unit D, and she had the entire length of the Green to walk to church.



Once she was here, she invited people to join her for intercessory prayer in her home, and I was one of the lucky few who took her up on it. We began meeting weekly, and she discovered right away that she was going to have to help me grow up a lot before I was going to be useful as a prayer warrior. She kindly took me on as a prayer partner, part time counselee (for free, mind you!), and fellow disciple. If you appreciate any part of my ministry now, you can thank Linda, at least partially, for allowing God to use her to bring me to maturity. It wasn't quick or easy. She was fearless when it came to addressing the things which scared me most. Once she perceived that God had me on His hook about some issue, I was never going to wriggle off it if she had anything to do with it. But she also knew that a one-sided relationship is no relationship at all, so she allowed me to contribute whatever I could. I learned and absorbed more from her than I can possibly reckon.

Linda was well-traveled and enjoyed hiking and music. Her depth of knowledge and wisdom made her valuable wherever she went, whether it was in Christian circles, in the world of music where she was professionally trained in voice production, or in her part-time job as a proofreader at the Hartford Courant (I think), where she was death to typographical errors. But her love for God and His Word was paramount. When she became ill with throat cancer several years ago, she didn't really ask for healing prayer, even though she believed in it and welcomed it. She knew the odds of complete recovery were slim. But she also accepted totally that God was in control of her life and of the exact time of her death, and she never seemed to fall into despair even when she lost the faculties she was known for: her singing voice, and her ability to speak to teach and counsel. Her calm in the face of death was no surprise to those of us who knew her well, but it was no less edifying for that. When news of her death reached me, I felt a wave of joy which I knew was now hers: the final realization of all her hopes and dreams, her victory in Jesus. Thank you, Linda, my dear friend, for your final gift to us. Amazing.

I am so glad that her church out in Seattle knew what a treasure Linda was, and I am very grateful for the way they loved and supported her to the end. They are asking for donations to the church building fund in lieu of flowers. I would like to get a Gideon Card together and encourage people from our church to give to that as well.



~ Laura Salch

## HOW TO INTERCEDE FOR LEADERS & OTHERS YOU DON'T LIKE

...But you don't have to pray the same way for the ungodly as you do for the righteous—and that's a big key to effective prayer.

When you're praying for the righteous, you can and should pray for all the blessings to come into their lives that God promises to the righteous! After all, they meet the conditions! Anyone who is obeying God has the right by covenant to receive all of God's blessings! But people who are not obeying God do not meet the conditions to receive His blessings. For those people, therefore, we must pray differently.



We pray for them to be saved and give their lives to Jesus, for it is not God's will that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

We ask the Lord to change their hearts and make them aware of their need for Him.

We ask Him to convict them of their sin; to show them Jesus, so they will know what righteousness looks like; and to convict them of judgment, showing them that there is no hope or future in their sin.

We ask God to loose Heaven into their lives and that He would change their hearts so that such a blessing is even possible.

We pray that the Lord would bind them and prevent them from doing evil.

John 16:7-11 says this: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

The Holy Spirit's job on the earth is to convict the world—to convict both sinners and the righteous—of their sin; of what righteousness looks like and why they need to be righteous; and to convict them of judgment. Therefore, our prayers along these three points release Him and give Him permission to work in this way among the wicked.

Additionally, however, we also need to pray to bind evil. As an intercessor for the great nation of America, this means:

We ask the Lord to give us righteous leaders.

We ask the Lord to remove any leader who is not leading the country into the ways of God.

We ask the Lord to restore the great Restrainer of evil—the Holy Spirit Himself—into our governments at every level (including at the local level), so that evil will be restrained and prevented.

We ask the Lord to compel our leaders to walk in the ways of God and speak the words of God, even if they have zero intention of doing so.

Remember the story of Balaam in Numbers 22? Balaam was paid by a wicked ruler to speak curses over Israel. However, the Angel of the Lord—whom the Bible indicates is the preincarnate Christ—came personally to stand against Balaam, saying: "Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me" (Numbers 22:32b). In this passage, someone who claimed to be from God was exposed by the Lord Himself as walking in perversity, and God Himself came to stand against him!

However, the story didn't stop there. The next day, even though Balaam's way was perverse, God placed His own words in Balaam's mouth and he spoke a major blessing over the people of Israel—despite that fact that he had begun

his journey and been paid to do harm to God's people!

Wow! What a story!

We actually see scenarios repeated over and over like this in the New Testament. One after the other, pagan kings rise up in the nations around Israel—but God uses them to accomplish His own purposes toward Israel. Yes, sometimes those purposes are for discipline. Sometimes, however, God uses the pagan kings for the preservation of His people ... and sometimes He converts them.

The ways of God are perfect, and they are past finding out.

This doesn't mean we should ever agree with lies or injustice.

We should never turn a blind eye to evil. We should never "look the other way" and ignore anything that goes against the Word of God.

As it says in Isaiah 8:20: "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

We have to remember this: our convictions, prayers, and conversations must remain 100% aligned with the entirety of God's inerrant, infallible Word—the Bible.

But it does mean that we must pray for our leaders, for our family and friends, and for everyone else—whether we like them or not.

We must ask the Lord to accomplish His purposes in them and through them. We must remember:

That God loves sinners as much as He loves His children;

That the heart of God breaks whenever He sees anyone caught up in sin; therefore, we must pray in sympathy with His heart so that His plans can come forth.

When we see things from God's perspective, it suddenly becomes easier to pray that His Kingdom would come and His will would be done on earth—even in the lives of people we don't like—just like His will is done in Heaven. When we are willing to admit that God can work even the plots of men out for the good of His people and His Kingdom, then it becomes easier to pray along those lines.

Again, the people we are praying for don't have to have any intention of honoring God in order for God to use them. God is able to use people, nations, and kingdoms for His purposes even when the people are completely unaware that He is doing so.

So beloved, in these trying times, I encourage you: Don't fall into sin by refusing to pray for those who hate you. Let's respond rightly, in accordance with God's Word, whether you are faced with a neighbor you don't like, a friend who mistreats you, or a national situation or leader you'd rather not pray for.

Anything less is rebelling against God.

The truth is that we, as intercessors are not accountable for the actions of people for whom we pray. However, we are accountable for responding rightly, and for obeying God in personal holiness by yielding to His command to pray.

Therefore, beloved, if you are dealing with someone who hates you, please understand that God loves them too. Pray that righteousness and justice, which are the foundations of God's throne, would be established in your life and in the lives of every person around you. Pray for every person and situation in sympathy with the heart of Jesus, that Jesus would no longer be grieved.

And as we pray, let's believe God together that He really meant it when He said:

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

~ Jamie Rohrbaugh



Now may the (lord of peace) Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance! 2 Thessalonians 3:16

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**LIVESTREAM COMMENTS VIA PATTY**

Here are some quotes we have received (spelling/punctuation as they appeared):

**4/21:**

- ♦ What a blessing she (Donna) is to share the wonderful voice God gave her.
- ♦ Beautiful Donna
- ♦ Thank you Donna
- ♦ Family Resemblance is a good analogy. I pray that if I am ever on trial for being a Christian, there will be adequate evidence to convict me.

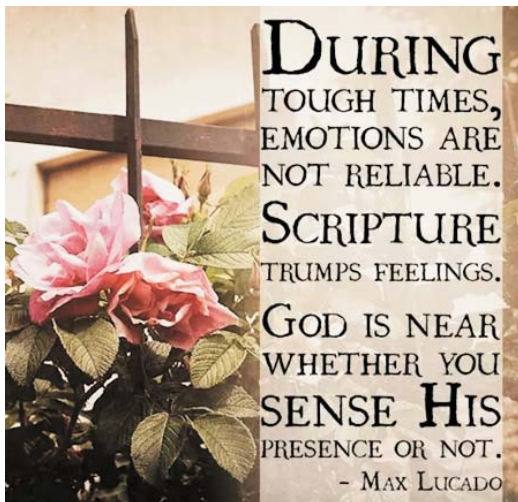
**4/14:**

- ♦ Good mornings and greetings from Colorado. I am so grateful you are on line. I feel like I'm back home.
- ♦ God is Amazing!
- ♦ Pray for the healing of our nation and protection of Israel and the Christian communities in that country.
- ♦ Yes, amen! Blessed be He who comes in the name of the Lord
- ♦ The meal that heals. Love that
- ♦ Thank you Rob a great sermon, for your endless wisdom!!!

**4/7:**

- ♦ (Confession) AMEN
- ♦ Everyone thanked us for the palm crosses - Thank you Linda P for making them!!
- ♦ Thank God He is patient with us!!
- ♦ Ain't that the truth! I would be undone if God ever drew a line in the sand.
- ♦ After video - AMEN

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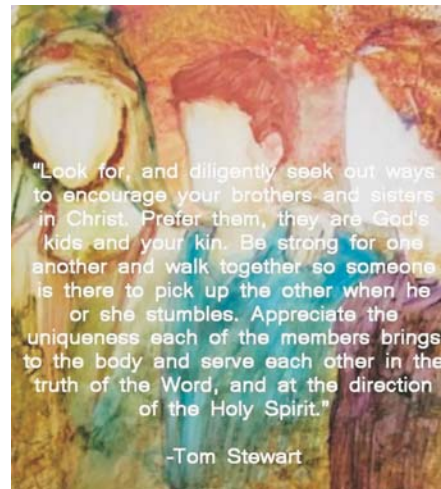
**May 19 is Pentecost Sunday.**

Be open to the Holy Spirit and all that He wants to accomplish through you.



*"... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses..."*  
~ Jesus Christ, in Acts 1:8

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. ~1 Corinthians 12:4-11



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**CANTON FOOD BANK NEEDS**

*"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*  
~ 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)



Please bring your donations to church, and we will pray over the food and deliver it to the food bank.

The need is for nutritious, non-perishable food items such as:

- Breakfast cereal ♦ Peanut butter ♦ Jelly
- Canned fruit ♦ Bottled juice
- Small boxes of sugar ♦ Coffee & tea
- Canned tuna ♦ Macaroni & cheese
- Soup ♦ Canned vegetables
- Pasta sauce ♦ Canned pasta (ex., Chef Boyardee)
- Canned meat (ex., Beef stew)
- Low salt and sugar free items

We cannot accept any food item that is past its expiration or "best by" date. Thank you!

**EVENTS**

*(NOTE: Please see weekly bulletins and church emails for cancellations or updates to date, time, and/or location.)*

**HEALING PRAYER WEEKLY MEETING**

Tuesdays, 7:00 PM in CCC Prayer Room until further notice. See pg. 2.

**“WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT?”**

Sermon discussion meeting - At CCC or via ZOOM Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. See pg. 2.

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**SCRIPTURE JOURNALING GROUP**

Saturday, May 4, in Collins Hall. See pg. 2.

**EXALT TEAM MEETING**

Sunday, May 5, after the service, in Conf. Room.

**DEACONS MEETING**

Sunday, May 5, after the service.

**MAKE DISCIPLES TEAM MEETING**

Sunday, May 5, after the service, in Room 4.

**MISSIONS TEAM MEETING**

Thursday, May 9, 7:00 PM via Zoom. See Rachel Salch.

**LADIES’ LUNCHEON**



Saturday, May 11, in Collins Hall. Setup at 9:30 AM. See pg. 2.

**MOTHERS’ DAY**



Sunday, May 12. God bless all moms!

**TEEN CHALLENGE SERVICE**

Sunday, May 12. Luncheon in Collins Hall after service. See pg. 2.



**MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING**

Saturday, May 18 9:30 AM in Collins Hall. See pg. 3.

**PROCLAIM TEAM MEETING**

Sunday, May 19, after the service, in Room 4.



**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Sunday, May 19, all day! Come, Holy Spirit!



**PASTOR’S ROUNDTABLE**



Sunday, May 26, after the service, in Collins Hall.

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE OUTREACH**



Monday, May 27, See pg. 2. Check bulletin for times.

**MEN’S DINNER FELLOWSHIP**

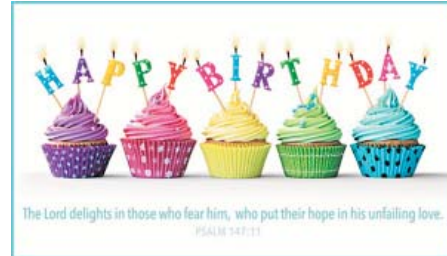


Thursday, May 30, 6:00 PM. See pg. 2.

*Celebrating the day God blessed the world with YOU!*

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- Shirley Zimmerman, May 1
- Buddy Laws, May 2
- Laurie Crowley, May 5
- Marylou Dickinson, May 6
- Victoria Dubois, May 16
- Bob Dubois, May 19
- Diana Appleton, May 23



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- Robb Storm June 2
- Jay North June 4
- Ryan Lindemayer, June 16
- Dan Dickinson June 23

Hilda Sand June 27 Birthday blessings to everyone! Please let me know if your birthday is not on this list or is incorrect and I'll fix it. You don't need to be a CCC member to be celebrated! ~Rose

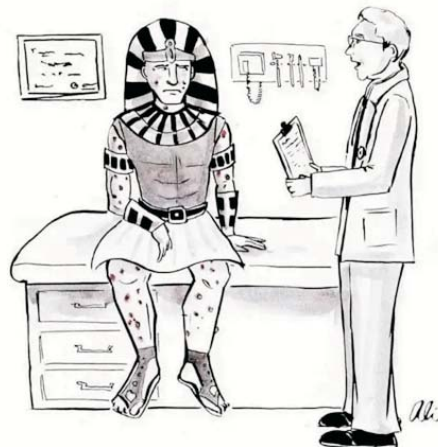
*This newsletter is for the express purpose informing and edifying the church body. We reserve the right to edit submissions.*



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*“Have you tried letting his people go?”*