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May 2026



MORROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morrow Presbyterian Herald

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THE PASTOR'S PEN



There is an episode of *The Big Bang Theory*, in which Sheldon Cooper comes up with an experiment using *Dungeons & Dragons* dice to make trivial decisions.¹ At dinner in a restaurant he rolls to see what he will eat, which is a side of corned succotash. The drink will be a pitcher of margaritas. What he really wants is a hamburger and lemonade, but he will follow the dice. He chooses this course of action for everything he does, and it places him in uncomfortable yet funny situations.

In the Old Testament, the high priest would use the Urim and Thummim to discern God's will. It is thought that they were precious stones or gemstones, but nobody really knows what they were made of. Urim could mean either *curse* or *lights*, while Thummim could mean *be whole* or *declaration/revelation of truth*.² In Exodus 28:30 we read that Aaron was supposed to keep these objects close to his heart, tucked away in a pouch under the breastplate of judgement (the high priest's ephod containing other precious stones), so that he may receive God's judgement over the people in certain matters. God would speak through him to let everyone know what they should do.

How do we discern God's will? Discernment is not analysis. I remember once hearing that analysis is a detailed examination of something in order to get a better understanding of it, while discernment is actively seeking God's will and getting a better understand of how to follow God. With discernment, we get a word from God, and then we know who we should be as God's disciples and children. But how do we do this? Should we just roll the dice and see what happens?

The author Leanne Payne wrote a book called *Listening Prayer*, and in Chapter 12 she discusses how God speaks to his children. One way that probably relates the most to us would be through the Bible. This is God's word to us that we can open and access at any moment. God tells us how he loves us, and then God tells us how to love him and others. Another way is through other people. When we seek advice from somebody trustworthy, God may use his or her voice to tell us exactly what we should do, or what not to do. A third is God's still, small voice. According to Payne, it "can be every whit as powerful in its effects as the seemingly more dramatic" ways of God using an audible voice or an angelic visitor.³ The prophet Elijah understood how powerful God's voice was as a whisper (1 Kings 19:11-18). A gentle word touches our hearts, filling our minds and gently nudging us to move in the right direction. Dreams are the last I will mention. You ever have a vivid dream that you cannot shake when you awake? Do not shake it – it just might be God talking through images and symbols that you need to pray about.

There are many more ways we may discern God's will. It isn't rocket science (or a D&D game), but it is a relationship. It is a constant communication between us and God, always keeping the lines open and growing in our faith. We receive wisdom from above, so that we may enjoy this abundant life that Jesus freely offers us.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Dr. John

¹Season 5, Episode 4, "The Wiggly Finger Catalyst."

²<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-urim-and-thummim>.

³Leanne Payne, *Listening Prayer: Learning to Hear God's Voice and Keep a Prayer Journal*, 182.

Prayer Requests



PRAYING FOR OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS Bob Hardy, Terry Dyche (Grady Hospital), Glen Eason (Osceola Mills - The Eason's son), Francisco Acosta, Frank & Shirley Bradley, Jo Calhoun, Thomas Chukwura, Bill Coleman, Betty Colwell, Kelly Conrad, Felix Cruz, Mary Dardy, Davis Family, David Dawson, Janine Dunn, Mary Dyche, Jim & Lei Eason, Carol Erickson, Mary Farwell, Trudy Fincher, Mark Floyd, Shirley Forester, Jessica Giddens, Allen Grant, Olen Grubbs, Gail Hardy, Betsy Hilliard, Jeannie Hodges, Thuan & Jun Hong, Kris Hooten, Michael Howell, Erika Jenkins, Austin John, Annie Johnson, Jessica Johnson, George & Marsha Ann Kempson, Braden Knebel, Tricia Koehler, Marty LeDuke, Bob & Suzanne Lukat, Judy McKinney, Jackie McLeod, Jim McNaull, Angelin Rebecca Muller, Rick Peel, Linda Reece, Gary Robinson, Jr, Roxie Romine, David Schuler, Glenn Sharpe, David Swafford, Laraine Tinsley, Cathy Trustorf, Gene Ussery, Clay Verdell, Amanda Webb, Barry Weems, David Weems, Gene Williams, and Terry Williams. Our country, Our Military, Missionaries, School/College Teachers & Students, Food Pantry Patrons.

A full prayer list is in the narthex.

Mother's Day Ladies Lunch, May 9, 11 a.m.

Mother's Day Ladies Lunch, May 9, 11 a.m. The theme for our Mother's Day Brunch this year is "Lydia." *"A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, one who worshiped God, heard us; whose heart the Lord opened to listen to the things which were spoken by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and stay.'" So she persuaded us. Acts 16:14-15*

All ladies of any age are invited to attend and eat and fellowship with us. David Turner will be providing the meal.

Cost: \$15 per adult ticket; \$8 for 12 & under. A nursery will be provided. Sign-up sheet in narthex or you may call the church office at 770-961-5444.

Welcome New Members

Five New Members Joined April 19.

A warm, MPC welcome to...

Ambrose Muller and Angelin Rebecca who joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. Ambrose teaches Math at Morrow High School. He enjoys singing. **Rebecca** is currently a stay-at-home mom, and is looking for a customer service job she can do from her home. She enjoys sewing and gardening. Rebecca has already joined our choir. Ambrose & Rebecca have a two-year-old son, **Josiah**.

Michael & Lisa Johnson who joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. **Michael** is retired Army who worked in Human Resources and Operations (Admin). He enjoys photography and hiking. **Lisa** is a Mortgage Loan Officer and has expertise in finance and planning. She enjoys shopping, decorating, and planning.

Linda Reece who re-joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. Linda originally joined MPC in 1964 when she was a teenager. She is now returning home and is active in our Young at Heart, Dorcas Circle, and Virginia Dews Circle. Linda retired from the Clayton County School System. She can often be seen with her sister, Libby McNair. Linda enjoys being the grandmother of Ansleigh, and the great-grandmother of three teenagers and one who thinks she is.



Graduation News



High School Graduate Recognition Sunday, May 17, 11 a.m. We will celebrate with our High School Graduates, Aleyah Verdell and Tyrese Jenkins, on Sunday, May 17, during the worship service and afterward with a reception in the fellowship hall. Congratulations, Aleyah and Tyrese!

College Graduate? If you are graduating soon or have graduated recently from college, please share your pictures and information with the church office so that your church family may celebrate with you. You will be featured in the next newsletter.

Presbyterian Women



Virginia Dews Circle, May 11, 6:00 p.m. The Virginia Dews Circle will meet Monday night, May 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the library. Deborah will provide the devotion. Lei will present Lesson 9 “When You Are Walking with Jesus: The Road to Emmaus” from our PW workbook. Project is gift cards to Kroger, WalMart, or McDonald’s for the church office. Please join us.

Dorcas Circle, May 12, 10 a.m. The Dorcas Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 12, at 10 a.m. in the Arnold/Bates classroom. Mary Ann will do the devotion. Linda Lillie will present Lesson 8—“Remembering Jesus’ Baptism” from the workbook. Project: Feminine hygiene products for our Food Pantry.

Morning Glory Circle—May 17, 9:30 a.m. The Morning Glory Circle will meet on the third Sunday this month due to Mother’s Day being on the second Sunday. We will be on Lesson 7, “The Woman Who Was Bent Over” Carol Campbell will lead the Bible study.

PW Project for 2026 - Water Wells. Water is center to every part of a community’s well-being. It is necessary for farmers’ crops and livestock so that they can raise food and earn an income. When families cannot access clean water, they suffer from food insecurity. It also enables people to practice proper hygiene and sanitation to stop the spread of disease. Morrow Presbyterian Women’s Mission for 2026 is to help to provide a deep rock well. A deep rock well taps into pure water sources hundreds of feet below ground, providing access to clean water even during drought and other extreme weather conditions. These sustainable wells serve communities in the most water-scarce regions of the world and are placed in areas where they can make the greatest impact and be maintained by trained community members. There is a red bucket placed in the hallway (or surprise locations) for your donations.



Come one, come all!

June 28 - July 2, 2026

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

All ages – including adults

Challenge Accepted—With God, I Am Strong!

WITH GOD I CAN ...

*** Share my gifts! * Be brave! * Give my all!**

*** Pray! * Hope!**

Mountain Motto: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

Volunteers Needed

Science – Would you like to volunteer in the science lab showing the kids exciting experiments?

Recreation – Let’s have some fun with the kids outside!

Crafts – Do you have a smidge of creative spark in you that you would like to share with the kids helping them with their art?

Storytelling (actors) – No memorization necessary! Have fun while helping the storyteller bring scripture to life!

Set up and clean up – Many hands make light work!

Talk with Deborah Venizelos or Dianne Hooten to volunteer to help this year with VBS. You don’t have to wait for them to come to you!! You may sign up for your activity preference on the sheet in the narthex. You may pre-register for classes by going to www.morrowpresbyterian.org and clicking on the VBS tab at the top of the page.

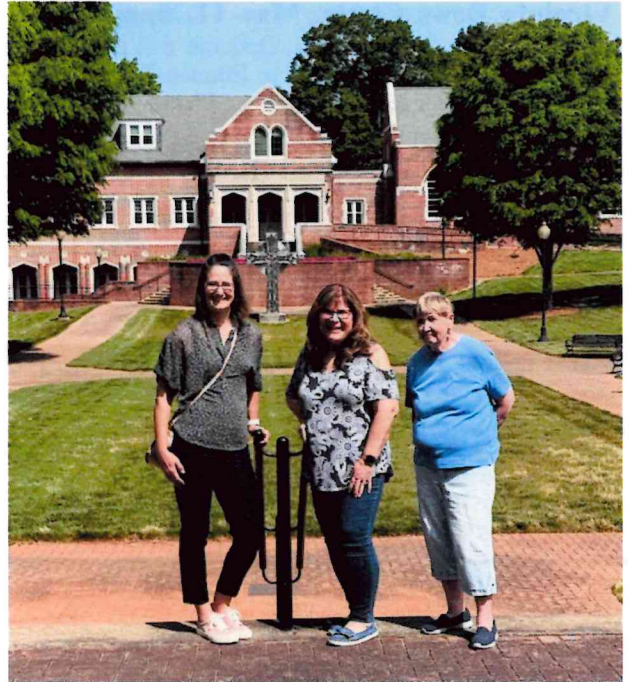


Field Trip to Columbia Theological Seminary

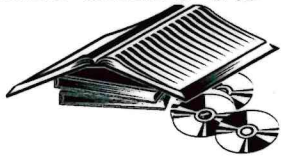
On Friday, April 24, Andra Gammage, Dianne Hooten, and Libby McNair took a little field trip to Columbia Theological Seminary to check out their archives. CTS is the new home for Greater Atlanta Presbytery and also for various Presbyterian churches' historical documents. The archives located in their library are very impressive and CTS provides their archival services free of charge to Presbyterian churches.

MPC's Clerk of Session and church office staff are looking at the archives to explore the possibility of moving some of our older session, PW, and financial documents to CTS for safe storage.

One of their lead archivists gave a very thorough and impressive tour through the facility. If you are interested in a tour yourself, we can get you his contact information. You won't be disappointed!



Church Archives



Following the tour, the group walked around the beautiful, green grounds of the campus, reflecting on our experience. Even though we had just met the archival staff, we walked away feeling like we had known them forever. All in all a great trip- we were reminded of how special it is to be a member of the body of Christ in addition to learning some more of our Presbyterian history.

2 Timothy 4:17

Young at Heart Lunch, May 6, 11:30 a.m., O'Charley's

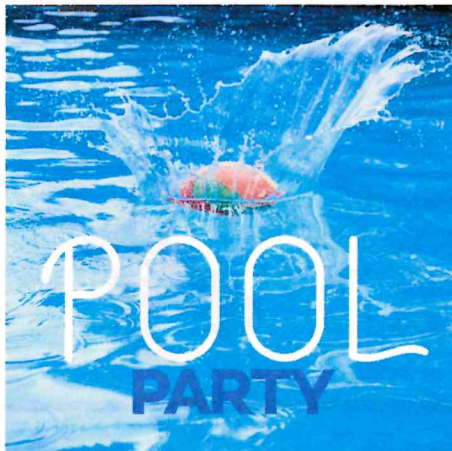
Young at Heart Lunch, May 6, 11:30 a.m., O'Charley's. The Young at Heart will meet for their monthly luncheon on Wednesday, May 6, at 11:30 a.m. at O'Charley's in Stockbridge. Please let Bruce Campbell or Libby McNair know that you plan to attend so enough seats can be reserved. All are welcome.

Nominating Committee 2026

A **Congregational Meeting** was held on Sunday, April 26 following the worship service for the purpose of electing the Nominating Committee for 2026. Those elected were Elders Dock Gammage and Shawn Butcher (Session), Ines Follykoe (Youth), Linda Lillie (Young at Heart), Twarna Johnson (Congregation at Large), Donna Boggs (PW), and Albert Coughlin (Sunday School). Please keep this committee in your prayers as they prayerfully consider the Elder slate for 2027 and 2028. Please, also, be in prayer and keep an open and willing heart if you should be approached to serve as an elder.



Youth Pool Party—May 17, 4 p.m.



The Youth are invited to a Pool Party!

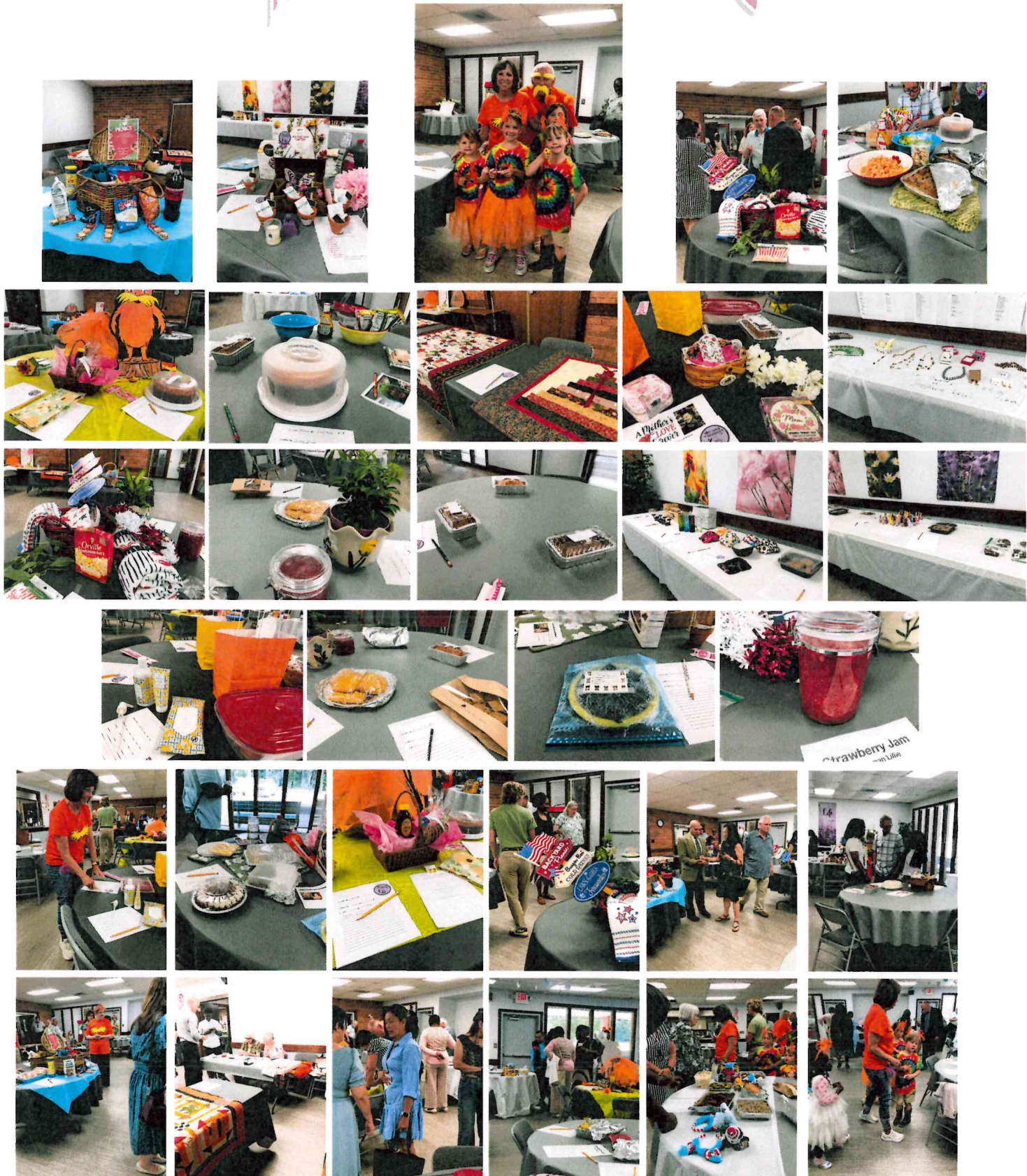
Home of
Allen & Susie Grant
115 Moseley Rd
Stockbridge, GA
30281

May 17
4—7 p.m.

The
Lord stood
at my side and
gave me
strength.

2 Timothy 4:17

Relay for Life

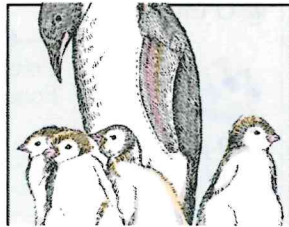


2026 Basket Auction for American Cancer Society

MAY 2026

May Birthdays

- 5/3 - Ines Follykoe
- 5/5 - Eliana Sodjavi
- 5/9 - Joseph Thomas
- Manny England
- 5/10 - Rebekah Venizelos-Taylor
- 5/11 - Lei Eason
- Dianne Hooten
- 5/18 - Mary Nell Winkles
- 5/19 - Annie Holloway (1)
- Oupidja Gnofammani (10)
- 5/20 - Arrah Thomas
- Marty LeDuke
- 5/23 - Kathlyn Moriles
- 5/24 - Carol Keene
- 5/25 - Marco Sierra
- Alyssa Tuttle
- 5/26 - Shawn Butcher
- 5/27 - Jake Holloway
- 5/30 - Margaret Cofie
- Ty Gammage



May Anniversaries

- 5/13 - Joseph & Arrah Thomas (9)
- 5/17 - Hunter & Libby Weems (1)
- 5/28 - David & Stacy Weems (27)

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL		IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP	
April 5	- NA	Maundy Thursday	- 29
April 12	- 33	April 5	- 30 Sunrise
April 19	- 19		- 86 Worship
April 26	- 22	April 12	- 74
		April 19	- 71
		April 26	- 68

WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

ELDERS ON CALL

Primary: Shawn Butcher
Secondary: Florette Njonu

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SERVICE PROJECT MONTH

Virginia Dews Circle

USHERS

Ronnie Hooten, Captain, Carol McGhee,
Libby McNair, Jo Calhoun

CHILDREN'S SERMON

- 3 - Pastor John
- 10 - Dock Gammage (Mother's Day)
- 17 - Deborah Venizelos
- 24 - Allen Grant
- 31 - Youth

LITURGIST

- 3 - Andra Gammage
- 10 - Deborah Venizelos (Mother's Day)
- 17 - Mary Ann Moriles
- 24 - Michael Johnson
- 31 - Youth

COUNTING TEAM

Allen Grant and Deborah Venizelos

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 3 - Annie Johnson
- 10 - Aku Sodjavi (Mother's Day)
- 17 - Susie Grant
- 24 - Mary Ann Moriles
- 31 - Twarna Johnson

Financial Health—April 2026









April 5	- \$ 11,303	Needed:	\$ 23,350
April 12	- \$ 3,868		
April 19	- \$ 2,941	Received:	\$ 22,913
April 26	- \$ 3,883		
Online	- \$ 918		

Ways to give to Morrow Presbyterian Church:

- 1) Mail your check to the church at MPC, P. O. Box 316, Morrow, GA 30260
- 2) Set up an account online with your bank's bill pay option. When it asks for the account number, use your envelope number. Your bank will send the church a check for the amount and on the date you designate.
- 3) Scan this QR code with your camera:



May 2026

<p>3</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live 12:15 p.m. Coffee Fellowship 12:15 p.m. PWCT 5 p.m. Youth</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:30 a.m. YAH Lunch @ O'Charley's</p> <p> Choir</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10 a.m. Peacemakers Life Group</p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6 p.m.—11 p.m Relay for Life Salem Baptist Church Park</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship—Mother's Day In person and Facebook Live 12:15 p.m. Coffee Fellowship NO Youth NO Kids Club</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Virginia Dews</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts</p> <p></p>	<p>12</p> <p>9 a.m. Presbytery Mtg at Calvin Ctr.</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Dorcas Circle</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Session</p>	<p>13</p> <p> Choir</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>14</p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Scouts</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11 a.m. Mother's Day Ladies Lunch—Lydia</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Morning Glory Circle</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live—Graduate Sunday 12:15 p.m. Graduate Reception 4 p.m. Youth Pool Party @ the Grant's NO Kids Club</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p> Choir</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>21</p> <p>3—6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Scouts</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1-3 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship In person and Facebook Live—Pentecost/ Communion 12:15 p.m. Birthday Celebration Reception in honor of Oupidja Gnofammani 5 p.m. Youth NO Kids Club</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> <p></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p> Choir</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>28</p> <p>3-6 p.m. Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6 p.m.—2 p.m. Cub Scout Campout</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship in person & Facebook Live—Youth Sunday 12:15 p.m. Coffee Fellowship NO Youth NO Kids Club</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> HELLO <i>may</i> </p>					