

May 2024
Volume 15
Issue 5



First Methodist Church of Havelock Newsletter

From the Pastor

Mothers: Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel

First, I want to thank God Almighty for giving us mothers, some biological and others not. Secondly, I want to praise God for three matriarchs from the beginning who were barren when God made the **Promise** to Abraham. These women were Abraham's wife, his daughter-in-law, and his granddaughter-in-law. Lastly, I want to thank God for putting in our hearts to always honor mothers. Some of them were written in the Bible, and at least six women were barren. There are three scriptural references of the seeds of the **Promise** that had a significant impact on the covenant between Abraham and God and the beginning of the fulfillment:

- **Genesis 11:29-30 KJV, "And Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. But Sarai was barren; she had no child."**
- **Genesis 25:19-28 KJV** describes the birth of Isaac and Rebekah's twin boys. After marrying when Isaac was forty, Rebekah did not become pregnant for 20 years, only in response to Isaac's prayer to the Lord. Her pregnancy is so difficult that she asks the Lord why.
- **Genesis 29:30-32 KJV, "And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years. And when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the Lord hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me."**

These women were barren, but God opened their wombs. Sarah was the first to experience a lot of pain and insult, but God had a plan and gave her Isaac. Rebekah had a lot of rough times with her twins Esau and Jacob, but God delivered. Rachel had to contend with her own blood sister, Leah, but God prevailed, and she conceived a son named Joseph.

Moreover, Sarah became the mother she thought would never happen because she had passed "those years of child birthing," according to society. Sarah later discovered that there was nothing "too hard" for God/Yahweh. Rebekah had doubts but prayed to the Lord. She received clarity in a dream/vision of the two nations she was carrying. Finally, Rachel waited an extreme time before her prayers were answered in God's time.

In conclusion, God's timing for motherhood and childbirth varies in the Holy Bible. Notwithstanding, Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel were not the only three who were barren in the Bible; we must remember Hannah, Elizabeth, and others. What is most important is the women of the 21st century and their belief that by being a female, you are a mother to many, whether biologically or not.

Happy Mother's Day, and may your day be filled with Blessings!

Servant of Christ

Reverend, Johnnie L. Wright II, Pastor



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This Month at FMC

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7am Men's Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm Choir	2 6am – 6pm National Day of Prayer (S) 10am Women of Matthew 18:20 (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie 	3	4
5 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship (S)	6 6pm Worship Committee (CR)	7 10:30am Bible Study (FH) 6:00 Board of Trustees (CR) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	8 7am Men's Bible Study (FH) 9am Craft Day (FH) 4pm Sweet Hour of Prayer (Chapel) 6:30pm Choir	9 7am Rotary Club (FH) 10am Women of Matthew 18:20 (FH) 10:30am Preschool Mother's Tea (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie 	10 10:30am Preschool Mother's Day Tea (FH)	11
12 8am Mother's Day Breakfast (FH) 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship (S) 	13 2pm – 4pm Pictorial Directory Portraits (CR)	14 10:30am Bible Study (FH) 6pm Church Council (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	15 7am Men's Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm Choir	16 10am Women of Matthew 18:20 (FH) 6pm – 8pm Pictorial Directory Portraits (CR) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	17	18 10am – 2pm Pictorial Directory Portraits (CR)
19 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship (S) 	20 6:30pm Joy Circle (FH)	21 10:30am Bible Study (FH) 6pm Quilt Guild (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	22 7am Men's Bible Study (FH) 9am Craft Day (FH) 12:30pm Preschool Book Fair (FH) 4pm Sweet Hour of Prayer (Chapel) 6:30pm Choir	23 7am Rotary Club (FH) 10am Women of Matthew 18:20 (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	24 	25 9am Quilt Guild (FH)
26 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship (S) 	27 12 noon Faithful Circle (FH) Church Office Closed 	28 10:30am Bible Study (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	29 7am Men's Bible Study (FH) 6:30pm Choir	30	31	

Prayer List

Please remember in prayer: Helen Bare, Louis McCormick, Preston Mead, Paula Cowles, Andy Watson, Carene Stover, Lela Britt, Shirley Reynolds, Gayle & HG Westberg, Bill Britt, Jimmy Sanders, Cynthia Mulligan, Steve and Beth Fowler, Billy Modlin's family, Alice Martin, Anna Sebastian, Pat Faulkner, Helen Bayer, Sandy Chambers' cousin, Debbie Stowell, Jeanne Puterbaugh, Coverly Chapman, Mike Thompson, Marlene Lynch, Irma Heerwig, Dale Attaway, Jim Blaylock, Michael Petit, Fred DeFeo, Frances Sides, Betty Jean Cox

Prayer requests can be made by placing a prayer request card in the offering plate during Sunday worship, contacting the church office, or submitting online: <https://forms.gle/qyTbsULr5ddJRPCJA>. All requests will be kept confidential.



Birthdays

May 2	Susie Bare
May 3	Blaine Massey, Johnnie Wright III
May 4	Pat Hardee-Thompson
May 7	Norm Reynolds
May 8	David Wynne
May 16	Sue Modlin
May 25	Rut Ramah
May 26	Josh Thurston
May 27	Anna Sebastian, Mikey Sudul

Anniversaries

May 4	Russ and Lynn Dixon
May 8	Marty and Cari Metzger
May 14	Steve and Jan Fuller
May 15	John and Linda Ariola

Altar Flowers

May 5	To be determined
May 12	To be determined
May 19	To be determined
May 26	To be determined

If you want to donate flowers or make a donation to a mission in lieu of flowers, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/2024altarflowers> or contact Krystal Bennett in the Church Office.

May Servants

Ushers

	10:00 a.m.
May 5	Ed Bloxom Larry Thompson Marty Metzger
May 12	Judy Simmons Pete Geier Jim Blaylock
May 19	Debbie Hurst Arden Carter Donna Carter
May 26	Jimmy Sanders Norm Reynolds Shirley Reynolds

Greeters are listed first. Please contact Pat Hardee-Thompson at (252) 229-1655 or hardeepat5@gmail.com if you cannot serve on the designated Sunday.

Liturgist

	10:00 a.m.
May 5	Jackie Attaway
May 12	Linda Eldredge
May 19	Peggy Geier
May 26	Jackie Attaway

Children's Message

	10:00 a.m.
May 5	Jackie Attaway
May 12	Linda Eldredge
May 19	Jackie Attaway
May 26	Jackie Attaway

Is this something you feel called to do? Want to know more about it? Please contact Jackie Attaway, jattaway@ec.rr.com or (252) 229-8701.

Acolyte

	10:00 a.m.
May 5	Amelia Thurston
May 12	To be determined
May 19	Nate Thurston
May 26	Amelia Thurston



Please welcome Trina Benyi to our church family. She joined us on March 31, 2024.

Notes From the Lay Leader

"Surely God is my salvation, I will trust and be afraid. The Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2



Faith in our God has the power to influence our emotions. When our minds are filled with doubts about God, anxiety and fear rush in. Instead of resting in

Christ, we fuss and fume, trying to anticipate all possible outcomes and solve every problem in our own strength.

When God's Word is the foundation for our thoughts, we'll find that His love and wisdom become our focus. We'll find ourselves depending on Him more. Then difficulties won't shake us as easily because His peace and joy will guard our hearts and minds.

Faith doesn't take us out of the problem; faith brings us through the problem. Faith doesn't take us out of the storm; faith calms us amid the storm.

Stay in the Word by reading your Bible daily, and you will grow closer to our God.

God bless us, everyone.

Jackie Attaway, Lay Leader

Aflame with Faith

In the Old Testament, fire often symbolizes the presence of God's Spirit. For example, God called to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6) and defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30-39). In the New Testament, tongues of fire rested atop the believers gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

Some Christians have described a burning or current-like sensation when they encounter God. Methodism founder John Wesley said his heart was "strangely warmed" during worship. After such an encounter, people often feel compelled to share the Good News of Jesus. The flame of faith inside one believer can spark a revival of faith in others. As Charles Spurgeon said, "A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue."

Open Hands

Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an "a-ha" realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we're saying before God that we renounce "all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence." We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, "I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy."

Vacation Bible School

The end of school is fast approaching, bringing lots of summer fun! We hope your first plan for summer will be Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is **Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God.** There



will be memorable Bible-learning activities, catchy songs, team-building games, fun crafts, and yummy treats while enjoying Sticky Scriptures daily. The materials and activities are research-based and kid-tested!

There will be mission opportunities for learning about the joy of giving. Our local missions will be collecting canned food and staple items for the food bank at Ministerial Outreach/Blessing Box, and dog and cat food for the Havelock Animal Shelter. Money will be collected for our global mission. It will provide rice, beans, and oil for families in Haiti through Provision of Grace Outreach.

If you love children and are interested in volunteering, contact Donna and Arden Carter (252)447-9395 by May 17. If you are a little nervous, don't worry! The schedule is set up for rotating stations. Teachers have been secured for all the stations. Other volunteers will assist children in moving from station to station and will provide "extra sets of hands" to help the teachers.

Registration forms will soon be available in the church office or on the back pew of the sanctuary. Deadline for early registration is June 12.

June 17 - 21, 2024

9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Ages 3 - 5th grade (3 yr. olds must be trained)

Donna & Arden Carter, VBS Coordinators

Little Island in the Parking Lot

Are you a yard sale or thrift store shopper? If so, check to see if there are any books. If so, purchase a few for our Little Library, especially children's books. School will be out soon, and some children in our neighborhood will not have access to books. Our Little Library can fill that void.

The Blessing Box is used daily by those in our community who need a little help. What a blessing we can be to them. Contributions of canned goods or other shelf-stable goods are always needed.

Many thanks for supporting this Little Island!



Pictorial Directory



We are thrilled to announce that we will be creating a pictorial directory for the church! We will be taking portraits at the church in the Conference Room on May 13, May 16, and May 18 for anyone who attends the church. You

can register by visiting <https://bit.ly/3Pt9zXE> or by contacting the church office.

If you need to update or add your family information, you can do that online at <https://bit.ly/FMCmemberinfo> or by getting a form from the church office.

We hope to have everything compiled and printed, so that we can distribute the directories later this fall.

Methodist Men

The Methodist Men will meet in the Fellowship Hall, on Sunday, May 12, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. for the Mother's Day breakfast.

Food Pantry Item of Need

The item of need for May is **jelly**. The food pantry baskets are in the Narthex and the rear of the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!

Adult Sunday School Teacher

We want to restart the **Achievers for Christ** Adult Sunday School Class. The time will be on Sunday at 8:45 a.m. The meeting place will be determined later. If you are interested in teaching this class, please get in touch with Pat Hardee-Thompson at hardeepat5@gmail.com or 252-229-1655.

A Prayer for Roots

O God, we thirst for you, as dry tree roots thirst for water in hot, dusty soil. Help us send spiritual roots down deep into the grace and knowledge of the One who is the same yesterday and today and forever, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gives us stability when the earth shakes and the storms of life swirl about us.

Rooted and grounded in your love, and strengthened and comforted by your grace and your Spirit who gives us hope, may we be steadfast and immovable in the work Christ gives us to do, until he comes again. Amen.



WE LOVE OUR MOMS!

Troubles Away with the Wind



"You know, sometimes I just wish I could figure out how to let everything that causes negativity to just spill out..."

It was a comment that made me immediately think about the above

picture that I took a couple of years ago. Spending some quiet moments in a meadow in Colorado, I was lucky to witness a flower "letting go", as if it was so full, so heavy, that it could no longer hold everything inside. One good gust of wind, and the show before my eyes was over...just like that, the flower appeared to be back to normal.

Wouldn't it be nice to be like that small flower, to be able to tilt our heads, and let all the junk just fly away with the next breeze? But guess what?? **WE CAN!!**

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father" ~Ephesians 3:14

Do not let the weight of the world rest on your shoulders...do not let your spirit grow weary...do not let others bring you down...but be like the flower - bow your head with a humble heart, so that you may feel your soul let go - allow the breath of God take your troubles away with the wind...

Sue Modlin, Music Director

Consoler, Healer, Guide

Holy Spirit, Lord divine,
Come from heights of heav'n and shine,
Come with blessed radiance bright!
Come, O Father of the poor,
Come, whose treasured gifts endure,
Come, our heart's unflinching light!
Of consolers, wisest, best,
And our souls' most welcome guest,
Sweet refreshment, sweet repose.
In our labor rest most sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat,
Consolation in our woes. ...
Cleanse our soiled hearts of sin,
Arid souls refresh within,
Wounded lives to health restore!
Bend the stubborn heart and will,
Melt the frozen, warm the chill,
Guide the wayward home once more!

—12th-century hymn



National Day of Prayer

National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 2, 2024. We will observe this occasion by having our sanctuary open to prayer from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. You will be able to enter, as you are able, and participate in several different ways. This observance will be held in silence.



A House United

When President Lincoln declared in 1858, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan's power, so Jesus responded, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand" (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples: Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the "house divided" image to point out the nonsense of the scribes' words. It takes someone *other than* the "strong man" (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can't drive out evil. Sin isn't stronger than sin. Hate doesn't solve hate. Violence doesn't end violence. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Jesus came to "bind" evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God's goodness.

You Are My Witnesses

John White (1924-2002) was a medical missionary, psychiatry professor, church planter and prolific author who wrote about faith and outreach. He refuted the notion that being an effective witness for Christ is akin to being a salesperson. Christians are representing and sharing a person, he said, not touting a product.

"A good witness is like a signpost," he added. "It doesn't matter whether it is old, young, pretty, ugly. It has to point the right direction and be able to be understood. We are witnesses to Christ; we point to him."

Preschool News

The month of April was filled with exciting activities in the preschool. We celebrated Easter, rested through spring break, took class pictures, and hosted our Once Upon a Bunny Bookfair! What a month! The month of May is bringing in the end of our school year. This is an exciting time for our prekindergartners as they move into the big world of kindergarten! As sad as we are to bid them along, we are buzzing with excitement to see how extraordinary they do in this big world. Please join us in praying for our preschool families through this next summer season of their lives.



Blessings,
Cassie Mosley, Preschool Director

Upcoming Events

May 9-10: Mothers' Day Tea

May 24: Graduation and Family Picnic

Running Slowly

At a track meet, we sat in the stands, cheering for our son. I chuckled as a young sibling of an athlete asked, "Why are they running so slow, Mommy?"

These athletes had been training for years, and many were setting personal best times and even state records. Most spectators would provide little competition for the runners. But the child was comparing how he'd felt while running at the park, sprinting to a soccer game.

Along the track, dozens of teammates and coaches cheered. Each time an athlete passed, she heard strong, pointed encouragement. "You've got this!" "Someone's approaching; time to pick up the pace!" "Great stride — keep going!" The coaches and runners knew what was helpful and understood how hard the athletes were working.

My point: Consider who you allow to speak truth into your life. Do you listen to loved ones who "train" alongside you? Or do you give sideline critics too much space in your thoughts? Heed Proverbs 2:2 (NLT), which advises, "Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding."


—Janna Firestone

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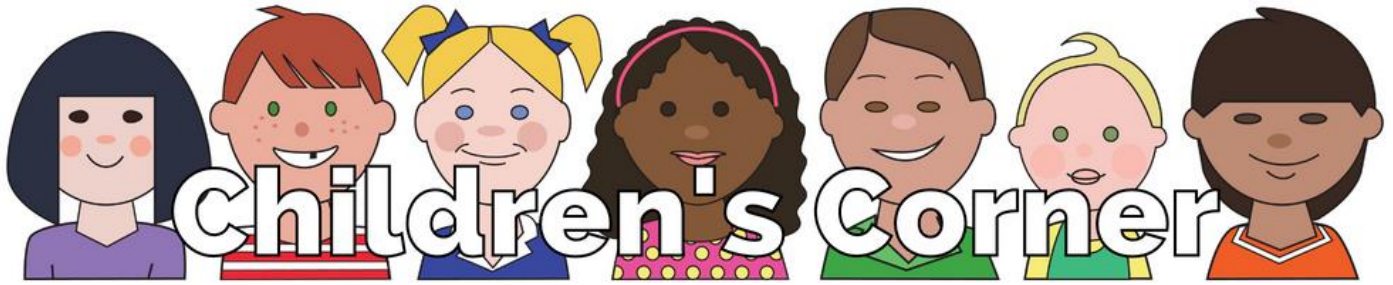
Bible Quiz

What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates



Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14.)



a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



What you do:

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about ½-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.



PUZZLE

UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment.
How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

*Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong.
Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.*

flower, stem, bee, leaf

—○—

pink, red, yellow, blue

—○—

mother, sister, brother, aunt

—○—

purple, dress, skirt, blouse

—○—

necklace, ring, bracelet, braid

—○—

diamond, emerald, heart, ruby

—○—

orange, cherry, potato, kiwi

—○—

my, our, she, your

—○—

faith, family, love, hope

—○—

sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature

—○—

cookie, cake, pie, sandwich

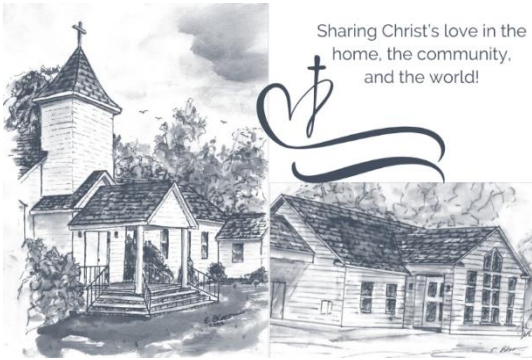
—○—

silver, white, gold, bronze

—○—

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self,
the unfading beauty of a g _____
and qu _____ p _____, which is
of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

Answers: bee, pink, brother, purple, bracelet, braid, heart, potato, kiwi, our, she, your, faith, family, love, hope, sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature, sandwich, white, gold, bronze, silver, white, gold, bronze



Sharing Christ's love in the
home, the community,
and the world!

Newsletter Editor: Krystal Bennett
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