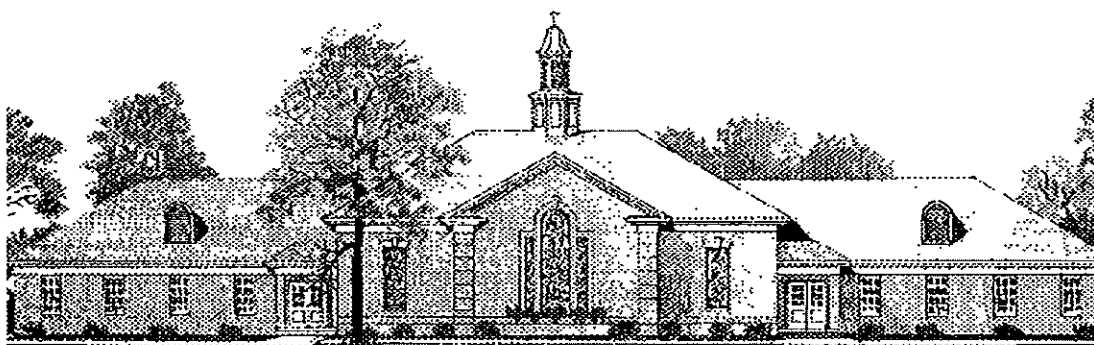


VOICES OF HARMONY

May 2026

Volume 22

Number 2



HARMONY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS



From The Pastor's Desk.....

On Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
Acts 2:1(NRSV)

This is an article I shared a few years ago, during my first May serving Harmony Grove and Sharon. So, some of you have read it. For those who have, I remixed it a bit, but it provides a blessed assurance of God's Presence living in us through the Holy Spirit, who, if you have faith in Christ you have today and who will be with you through all ages and seasons of life, which we will soon celebrate on Pentecost.

When I was ordained a few years ago at the Annual Conference, I had the privilege of assisting with the "Celebration of Life Service," a moving tribute to pastors who had passed away since the previous conference. Part of the service involved lighting candles—something with which, admittedly, I have a bit of a rocky relationship. While I'm comfortable around fire when grilling, candles are another story. I was reassured, however, by the presence of a fire extinguisher discreetly tucked under the altar table, just in case. Still, I found myself worrying: what if I tripped over my robe and accidentally set Stuart Auditorium ablaze? As the service was about to begin, I was anxious.

We are now entering the season of Pentecost. Before this momentous day, the eleven apostles must have felt anxious and uncertain about what lay ahead. Although Jesus had assured them not to worry, they waited ten long days after His ascension for the promised Holy Spirit. Jesus had spoken about this in John 14 and 16 to give them a good pathway to what will happen next when they receive a helper, an advocate—the Holy Spirit who would dwell with them and in them, guiding and teaching them to grow in God's holiness and to carry out His work in the world.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit arrived like a mighty, rushing wind, filling the entire house where the apostles were gathered. Tongues of fire appeared and rested on each of them, and they began speaking in languages they had never known before—empowered by the Spirit. This miraculous event drew a curious crowd. Peter, once anxious, now stood with confidence, filled with the conviction and power of the Holy Spirit. He proclaimed Christ's message boldly, experiencing a new depth of understanding regarding Jesus' promise: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away... When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (John 16:8, 13-15) On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit transformed the apostles' anxiety into peace, enabling them to fully experience and share God's holiness. From that moment forward, they were truly about God's work, emboldened and renewed.

I experienced a similar encounter with God's holiness at the "Celebration of Life" service. Thankfully, I didn't burn the auditorium down or make a mistake, but my anxiety lingered until the worship team began singing "I Can Only Imagine." At that moment, I was moved to tears because that is my mother's favorite song, but also felt an overwhelming sense of God's presence. My anxiety melted away as I was filled with peace and assurance, reminded that God is always with me—removing my burdens and renewing my hope.

Through the Holy Spirit, I felt a new fire for ministry ignite in my heart, transforming my anxious spirit into one of confidence and purpose.

As we celebrate Pentecost, my prayer is that each of you encounter the Holy Spirit in a way that calms your anxieties and fills your heart, mind, and soul with a fresh wind and a holy fire. May this encounter spark a renewed expression of God's love in your life, inspiring you to seek a deeper, more vibrant connection to God's presence through the work of the Holy Spirit living in you, working on you, and shining out through you.

Pastor Ryan Mendenhall
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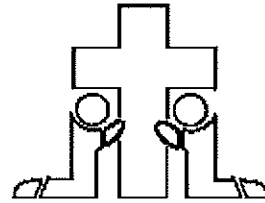
THIS 'N THAT.....



Family of Arlene Jaynes
Myra Williams
Walt Liebscher
Brenda Stanley
Bill & Callie Nugent
Jennifer Nugent
John Craft
Gena Howard
Lenny McLaughlin
Loretta McClain
Rev. Ken Eller
Robin Barefoot
Bob & Linda Ellerbe

Peggy Brookshire
Paul Thompson
Bill Williams
Wendy Armstrong
Karen & Norris Griffin
Allene Gaither
Trudy Jones
JoeAnn Ogburn
Sandra Miles
Scott Todd
Jason Jones
Larry Tate
Cole Stephens
Our Youth
Our church

Our community
Our Nation & World



HARMONY GROVE FINANCIAL RECAP

Truist Checking **\$15,462.13**

Truist Building Fund Checking **\$53,462.13**

Truist Designated Savings **\$21,077**

UMF Building **\$33,131.50**

UMF Parsonage **\$140,397.37**

Scholarship **\$42,135.42**

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

May 1 Margaret Marpoe
May 2 Joel & Myra Williams
May 2 John Craft
May 2 Sadie Ogburn
May 6 Grier Ogburn
May 7 Richard Harper
May 8 Lyla Dohn Myers
May 13 Lauren Casey Sollenberger
May 13 Bailey Craft
May 17 Carole Rosenbaum
May 17 Richard Owen
May 17 Julie Douma
May 18 Jan Bullard
May 19 Kathryn Noxon
May 20 Helen Steelman
May 23 Luke Dohn
May 27 Bob Harper
May 31 Greg & Waneta Freeman
May 31 Brant Wimmer

EVENTS

May 5 Spring Bible Study @1pm
May 6 Choir practice @ 4:30pm
May 9 Comm. Blood Drive @ New
Day @ 9am-1:30pm
May 10 Mother's Day
May 12 Spring Bible Study @1pm
May 13 Choir practice @ 4:30pm
May 17 Youth meeting @ 12:00pm
May 19 Spring Bible Study @1pm
May 20 Drive Thru prayer @ 3:00 –
4:30pm
May 20 Choir practice @ 4:30pm
May 20 UMM & WWF meeting @
5:30pm
May 25 Memorial Day
May 27 Choir practice @ 4:30pm
May 31 Youth meeting @ 12pm

FUN & GAMES.....

Wordsearch G44 - Beatitudes 3

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch G44

Matt. 5:20-30

Beatitudes 3

J	U	D	G	E	R	E	B	M	E	M	E	R	E	T	AGAINST	ALTAR
M	R	Y	S	H	A	G	A	I	N	S	T	B	L	R	ANYONE	ANGRY
K	E	I	U	T	T	S	E	S	U	A	C	O	T	A	BETTER	BODY
N	T	G	B	U	L	A	R	E	O	Y	N	D	T	E	BROTHER	COURT
W	N	P	J	R	A	A	T	E	V	F	R	Y	E	H	CAUSES	ENTER
O	E	E	E	T	C	T	T	E	T	A	F	G	S	H	COMMIT	FRONT
M	R	N	C	A	H	H	W	Y	A	T	E	E	N	E	DANGER	HAND
A	E	N	T	G	R	H	L	K	T	C	A	L	R	A	GOUGE	HEARD
N	C	Y	I	O	O	K	I	N	T	I	H	M	D	V	HEAVEN	HEART
M	I	R	W	L	C	N	O	B	E	A	M	E	Y	E	KINGDOM	JUDGE
G	F	N	E	I	G	S	G	D	E	L	K	M	R	N	MATTERS	LEAVE
O	F	R	U	D	I	C	O	U	R	T	P	I	O	S	OFFICER	OFFER
U	O	Q	O	R	E	G	N	A	D	A	T	O	N	C	PRISON	PENNY
G	O	M	P	N	A	N	Y	O	N	E	E	E	E	G	QUICKLY	PEOPLE
E	D	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	D	N	A	H	R	P	REMEMBER	RACA
															SUBJECT	RIGHT
															TAKING	SETTLE
															TEACHERS	TRUTH
															THROWN	WHOLE

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

WOMAN

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Address Service Requested

**Ministry and Staff
of the Church**

Rev. Conforti
District Superintendent
Rev. Ryan Mendenhall
Pastor
Kim Marpoe
Sunday School Superintendent
Chris Center
Music Director
George Powers
Chairperson of Trustees
Jennifer Nugent
Chairperson of Administrative Board
Eric Hurd
Chairperson of Vision Quest Team
John Craft
Lay Leader
Norris Griffin
Chairperson of Evangelism
Carole Rosenbaum
Chairperson of Outreach
Donna Ireland
Administrative Assistant

May Outreach Needs

Prison Ministries - bar soap, non-aerosol deodorant, 3 oz or smaller toothpaste, and travel-sized shampoo

Samaritan Ministries – Lysol All purpose spray, Paper towels, sugar

Church- School partnership – Underwear (children’s sizes), sweat pants (children’s sizes)

LCAP– Hamburger Helper, sardines, bar soap, brown rice

Bethlehem Center—Disinfectant wipes, laundry detergent

June Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, May 29th