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LOVE GOD—LOVE EACH OTHER—LOVE THE WORLD

LINK

Our purpose is to bring people to Jesus
Christ as we love, learn and live the
word of God.

MAY 2025



Contact Us!

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FBC Food Collection:



MAY—Cold Cereal

June—100% Juice Boxes or Large Juice

July—Baked Beans

In This Issue:

- ⇒ Risen Already!
- ⇒ A Day to Remember..
- ⇒ Many Meals!
- ⇒ Spring has Sprung!!!

Candles lit, place settings prepared and we gathered around the round table in the back of the sanctuary. As the lights were turned off, we began with an opening prayer. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper and Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet. Jesus establishes Holy Communion during the Last Supper, instructing his disciples to "do this in remembrance of me". He also washes their feet, demonstrating humility and servant leadership, and gives the "new commandment" to "love one another".

Pastor Paul talked about covenants. The one's that God made with his people, which He kept and the ones the people made with God but didn't keep. He went on the talk about a new covenant. The New Covenant, introduced by Jesus, represents a renewed relationship between God and humanity, replacing the Old Covenant. It emphasizes forgiveness of sins, the Holy Spirit's indwelling, and direct access to God through Jesus. This covenant is sealed through Jesus' death and resurrection, offering believers eternal life and fellowship with God. We proceeded it share communion with our fellow believers. Pastor Paul passed the unleavened bread and then the wine which we dipped the bread in the chalice. We ate together and then read the Apostle's Creed. We left in silence thinking about the days ahead and the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

Easter Service

Our service was filled with songs of Christ Resurrection. Joy, He is Risen. Children dressed in their Sunday best answering questions about the significance of the day. And peace, Pastor Paul reminded us that Jesus said, Peace Be with You. After everything that happened from Thursday to Sunday the disciples needed His peace, as do we. His peace not as the world gives...Happy Easter.



An Interactive Experience of the Way of the Cross

We join with several congregations around East Aurora to walk the stations of the cross at St Matthias' Church. A packet of different elements was given to enhance our experience as we journeyed. There was singing, reflection, cleansing, and healing as we walked the footsteps of our Savior. We laid our burdens down at the foot of the cross. It was a "Good Friday," Amen.

Sunrise Service

Hallelujah played in the background as we gathered in the back of the parking lot near the wooden cross. It was draped in white signaling that Christ has risen. As Pastor Paul opened with prayer, we experienced the hope of the resurrection. He preached about No Hope, Cautionary Hope and Hope is Real and we sang a verse of "In the Garden" after each section. We closed with "He Is Exalted." With our hearts full we came back to the church and nibbled on the breakfast delights. Then we left to prepare to return for our 11:00 am worship service. He is Risen Indeed.

"In the Garden of May"

In the garden of May, where the lilies arise,
The heavens declare Your praise to the skies.
Each blossom and bud, each bird on the wing,
Is a chorus of worship to Jesus, our King.

The trees stretch their arms in the light of the sun,
As if reaching for joy in the Risen One.
The wind whispers grace through branches so wide,
A soft-spoken echo of Christ crucified.

The rain soaks the ground where new life begins,
A picture of mercy that cleanses from sin.
And just like the seeds buried deep in the earth,
We rise into life through the power of new birth.

Let this month be a time when our hearts are made new,
When we walk by the Spirit in all that we do.
With hands that serve and lips that pray,
Lord, help us to bloom in the fields of May.

Not for the season alone do we sing,
But for the truth of our resurrected King.
So let every morning and soft evening light
Draw us to Jesus, our joy and our might.



The Pine Hill Scholarship

There is still time for High School Seniors to apply for a \$1,000.00 scholarship to be used during the 2025-2026 academic year at any 2 or 4 year college or university. Applications are on our website and are due May 16th. Emphasis for selection is placed on the student's attendance and involvement with their local church.

Memorial Day: A Christian Reflection

Memorial Day is more than just the unofficial start of summer or a day for family barbecues and outdoor gatherings—it is a sacred time set aside to honor those who have laid down their lives in service to their country. For Christians, this day carries deep spiritual resonance, as it aligns with core themes of sacrifice, love, and remembrance that are central to the gospel message.

Jesus said in John 15:13, “*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.*” This verse is often cited on Memorial Day because it captures the essence of what our fallen servicemen and women have done. They have made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives so that others may live in freedom and peace. As believers, we are called to recognize and honor such sacrifice, not just as an act of patriotism, but as an echo of Christ's own love and selflessness.

Christianity teaches that remembrance is a holy act. Throughout Scripture, God commands His people to remember His deeds, His covenants, and the faithful who came before. On Memorial Day, we engage in this sacred remembrance—not only reflecting on individual lives lost, but also thanking God for their courage and praying for the families they left behind. We remember not to glorify war, but to affirm the value of every life laid down in love and duty.

Moreover, Memorial Day is an opportunity to pray for peace. While we honor the fallen, we also look forward with hope to a world where such sacrifice is no longer necessary. As followers of the Prince of Peace, we are called to be peacemakers in our communities and beyond, seeking reconciliation, justice, and compassion.

This Memorial Day, let us pause not only to remember, but also to live lives worthy of the freedom we have been given—both as citizens of our nation and as citizens of God’s Kingdom.



As spring matures into May, the world around us begins to blossom in full color. Trees sway with fresh green leaves, flowers stretch toward the sun in radiant hues, and the air carries the scent of renewal. Nature seems to sing a song of promise—a quiet yet powerful reminder that God is always at work, bringing life out of what once seemed dormant.

In many ways, May reflects a spiritual truth: God has ordained seasons, both in nature and in our lives. Just as the earth moves from winter's barrenness to spring's renewal, our spiritual journey is full of seasons—some filled with activity and fruit, others marked by stillness and unseen growth. May can symbolize that special time of transition—when seeds begin to sprout, when faith begins to flourish.

But blooming takes time. It doesn't happen all at once. A flower does not rush its way into beauty; it grows slowly, reaching toward the light, drawing nourishment from the soil. Similarly, our walk with God is not about instant results but faithful abiding. Jesus reminds us in **John 15:5**, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."* Our task is not to force growth but to stay connected to the Source of life.

Even if you don't see the results you hoped for, take heart—God is still working. The roots are growing deeper. Your prayers are not in vain. Your quiet acts of faithfulness, your perseverance in trials, and your trust in God's Word are all part of a divine process. This May, as you witness the beauty of blooming gardens and warming days, let them serve as living parables of God's care. Just as He clothes the lilies of the field (Matthew 6:28-30), He is clothing you in grace, strength, and purpose.

Whether you're in a time of waiting, healing, or harvest, remember: God sees you. He is with you. And in His perfect timing, your life will blossom in ways beyond what you can imagine.

Keep abiding. Keep trusting. Your season to bloom is on its way.

Meals-On-Wheels

In September of 2017, we as a church family, welcomed Meals-On-Wheels into our building. Since that time this organization has served the home bound members of our community with daily home-delivered meals. In talking to our new site manager Brigitte Bugman, it was pointed out that this service is very impactful because it helps some of our communities most vulnerable members, the elderly, people with disabilities, and an increasing number of veterans with not only a meal but also friendship. There are 8 routes with roughly 50 people served every day from our building. Two people who volunteer, at our site, deserve special recognition. Marc Smith has been delivering meals for 20 years and Heidi Lisitsky for 35 years. Thank you for touching the lives of all those you have served as Jesus instructs us to do.

Haitian Happy Meals

As you have probably heard in the news of late, Haiti and Haitians are suffering starvation in part because of the shortage of international food assistance. Haiti has always been the poorest nation in the Americas.

The Haiti Mission Foundation has played a small part in helping the hungry through "Happy Meals". These are coupons for a free meal given to children and adults who obviously need immediate nutrition. These individuals are given a "ticket," which they give to a local vendor outside the clinic and, in return, receive a freshly prepared full meal. At the end of the day, the Haiti Mission gives the vendor \$1.50 for each ticket.

In April alone, the clinic in Tovar distributed 245 Happy Meals and treated more than 3000 patients.

At our last sewing event in November \$80.00 was collected toward Happy Meals which was forwarded to Haiti. If you would like to make a donation toward Happy Meals through our church, mark an envelope "Happy Meals", put it in the collection plate or give it to Sue Allen or Chris Hartmann

OUR NEXT SEWING TIME TOGETHER... is coming up soon. On Thursday, May 8, 2025 we will be gathering to sew dresses, toys, bags, whatever anyone wishes to sew that will aide our friends in Haiti. We will meet 9am-2pm.

There will be lots of fabric, lace, thread and whatever else you might need on hand. But please bring your own lunch and your own machine, if you prefer. Again there will be some tasks for non-sewers

The First Baptist Church of East Aurora
591 Porterville Rd/ East Aurora NY 14052

Please Pray For...	Carol Wirth
Tim Lowrey*	Tracy Werick*
Jill Schuhmann	The Family of Billy Hogan
Adam Kamff	
Kendall Johnson—Smith	
Carol North	*Indicates illness
Mike*	
Butch	
Mark*	
Anne Violante	

Happy May birthday to
12—Erin Popek
15—Donna Dziak
23—David Dziak
25—Gretta Popek

Happy May anniversary to Chris & Ray Hartmann
on the 14th and Erin & Karl Popek on the 20th!