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LINK

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

MAY 2026



Contact Us!

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FBC Food Collection:
(716) 652-7272



April—Soup
May—Cold Cereal
June—100% Juice Boxes or Large Juice

In This Issue:

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- ⇒ Be In The Know!!!
- ⇒ Opportunities!
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The Spaghetti Dinner has come and gone.

A good time was had by all. Our total profit is \$2024.00. Here is the breakdown

Dinner tickets counted	114
Money collected	\$1868.00
Food expenses	-\$464.00
Advertising	-\$125.00
61 Baskets Raffled	\$745.00
Total Profit	\$2024.00



Though attendance was down this year we still managed to turn a profit. The difference this year was we had competition with Baker Memorial church, they had a free meal that evening. Also, we normally have our dinner in March instead of April and that may have affected our turnout. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into making this happen. We appreciate all the hard work and effort. Our community looks forward to this dinner and basket raffle every year. Thank you all for your support in making this year a success.

The Beautification Committee

Everyone seems to be enjoying the transformation of

Community Meeting Room, where we spend our second Sunday coffee and snacks. A BIG THANKS to Jodi and husband Chris for painting the walls. The new color combination, truly brightens up the room. We added a Church pew, along with new furniture covers, lamps, new curtains and extra finishing touches. The coffee bar is a big hit, thanks Chris for making that happen.

Christian Education Committee

The C.E. committee teaches the children in our congregation about God and Jesus and being a good Christian. It teaches BOUT Jesus' life and death. And what this means to us as Christians.

After many years being chair person for the committee., attending the monthly council meetings and instructing our future generation of Christians, Sarah would like to take a break.

This means there is an opening!! Look inside yourselves. Think how YOU could be that teacher of the Lord's word. Opening the Eyes of our youth. Making a difference in their lives. And, chances ae, in your life too. How rewarding and fulfilling this will be.

See Sarah for more information about the position. And, find it in your heart to volunteer your time and skills and "be that teacher"!

FeedMore

Most of us think of food pantries when we think of Feedmorewny. And while it is true that they supply food pantries and soup kitchen with low-cost supplies, they are much more. Meals on Wheels provides daily meals to homebound seniors, even supplying pet food once a week. There are nutrition education classes, Rise workforce training in culinary and food manufacturing and warehousing, food trucks with fresh produce serve food deserts in the county .

A project we would like to support as our church May mission is the weekly backpack program. Many schools in WNY provide a free breakfast and lunch to students. Feedmore sends a pack of easily prepared, nutritious food home for the weekend and school breaks for many children without home food support. Foods such as packaged fruit cups, instant oatmeal and cereal, juice boxes, raisins, mac and cheese and more. Look for a list of suggested foods you could donate at the back of the church. Our donation will be delivered to Feedmore for their distribution.

Attention is often and rightly given to our hands-on projects for the Haiti Mission Foundation: the sewing sessions to provide essential birthing bags and clothing for the residents and clients of the orphanage, school, and Tovar area clinic in Haiti.

Haiti is also included as a line item in our annual mission budget. Here is a recap of the services provided by the Robert Ford Foundation which is the recipient of our monetary donation and distributor of our sewing projects.

Our donation helps to subsidize in a small way:

- Primary and Secondary school- instruction, school supplies, uniforms, a midday meal. Approximately 2000 students are assisted with the help of Ford Foundation Donors.
- An Orphanage in Grison-Garde- 50 children are given a safe loving “home”, two meals a day, medical care, and an education. A few children live with relatives but come to the orphanage for nutrition, clothing, and the necessities their families are unable to provide.
- The Tovar Clinic, staffed by volunteers of the Haiti Mission Foundation four times each year, is staffed on a consistent basis by a Haitian physician, whose salary is provided by the Foundation. In addition, a clinic initially built by the Haitian government is now supported by the Foundation, which not only pays the staff but also installed a well for clinic use.
- Community health includes a midwife program which trains and provides rural midwives with supplies (birthing bags) for home deliveries.

Several times a year volunteers, including our own Sue Allen and her daughter Adriane and others, go to Haiti to assist in the clinic. Prior to her mission trip Sue ships boxes of birthing bags, donated T-shirts and other supplies collected locally. She passes out “happy Meal money to families so they can purchase lunch from market vendors.

Our next HH4H sewing event is Saturday, May 16, from 9 AM- 2PM at the church. We will be making and filling birthing bags for the next shipment to Haiti. All are welcome to come and help in many ways!

MISSIONS MOMENT:

Seneca Gospel Mission: We supported the Seneca Gospel Mission last Sunday 4/19/2026 with 8 people and a \$300 check. Our next date to support Seneca Gospel Mission will be Sunday 5/17/2026. There are signup sheets on the back table of the Sanctuary. Keep the homeless and the hungry in your prayers!

Salvation Army - Buffalo Temple Corps: Members of our congregation, Kathryn Smith & Meg Hausauer, took 50 lbs of donations and a \$241 check to the Salvation Army on 4/13/2026. The staff were incredibly appreciative! Thank you for your generous donations of cash and hygiene items for those in the Buffalo downtown area that have great need!

Literacy of Love: This months Missions Charity is an International Baptist Christian group, located in Uganda, which provides entrepreneurial training to people traditionally subject to perpetual poverty. By teaching them business skills and mentoring, all with a Christian foundation, we help to raise people out of poverty and help them provide for themselves (so they can then provide for their families and strengthen their communities). Thank you for your cash envelope donations this month!

A friend of mine used to always say: 'Give a man a fish and feed him for a day, but if you teach him how to fish you can feed him for a lifetime'. This saying reminds me of one of my favorite stories in the New Testament when Jesus had a similar conversation with the woman at the well (John 4: verses 1-42) where he talked about himself as the living water.

FeedMore - In May 2026 we will be supporting the FeedMore organization. The mission statement for FeedMore is to offer dignity, hope and a brighter future by providing nutritious food, friendship and skills training to our Western New York neighbors in need. Our Missions donations envelopes will switch over to FeedMore on Sunday 05/03/2026.

FISH of EA - Please continue to bring in your food donations for FISH. FISH of EA is our local food pantry that distributes food to needy families in our local area. *The need is great!* We have a yellow barrel for donations just inside the front door of the Church. **This month's request from FISH is for soup.** Please pick up a few extra items when you go to the grocery store and donate them to help feed the hungry in our local area. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

Pastor's Thoughts

Pastor's Thoughts – May

May is a month that feels like a deep breath.

After the gray stillness of winter and the unpredictable stretch of early spring, May arrives with a quiet confidence. Trees that once looked lifeless are suddenly full. Flowers push their way up through the soil. The world feels awake again. It's as if creation itself is reminding us: *life is still at work, even when we couldn't see it.* There's something deeply spiritual about that.

Because if we're honest, many of us walk through seasons that feel a lot like winter—cold, uncertain, and quiet. Prayers seem to linger unanswered. Growth feels stalled. Joy feels distant. We wonder if anything is happening at all.

And yet, May reminds us that God is always at work beneath the surface.

Scripture echoes this truth in Galatians 6:9:

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Notice the phrase: *in due season*. Not immediately, or not on our timeline. But in God's perfect timing.

Just like the trees didn't rush their budding in February...

Just like the flowers didn't force their way through frozen ground...

God's work in us unfolds in seasons.

And that means something important for us today:

What feels dormant may not be dead.

God may be growing something in your life that you can't yet see. Maybe that prayer you've been faithfully lifting up, or that effort to remain faithful when it would be easier to walk away.

These are seeds. And seeds don't look impressive at first. They're buried, hidden, and seemingly inactive. But beneath the surface, life is forming.

May also invites us into another truth: growth requires connection.

Jesus said in John 15 that He is the vine, and we are the branches. Branches don't produce fruit by striving. They do so by abiding. Staying connected. Remaining in Him.

As everything around us turns green and vibrant, it's a gentle but powerful reminder:

Spiritual vitality comes from staying close to Christ.

Not just on Sundays, not just when life is easy. But daily, intentionally, consistently.

So as you step into this month, consider:

- Where might God be working beneath the surface in your life?
- Are you growing weary in a season that simply requires patience?

Are you staying connected to the One who gives life?

May is not just a change in weather. An invitation to trust God's timing.

An invitation to remain rooted in Christ. An invitation to believe that growth is happening, even when you don't yet see it.

Take a moment this month to slow down and notice what God is doing, both around you and within you.

Because just as surely as spring follows winter...

God is faithful to bring new life in His perfect time.



FISH had an appreciation Luncheon to honor the original generation of founders. Our own Winnie Bove was among those honored!



Easter 2026

This year's Easter season was a meaningful and spiritually rich time in the life of our church, as we gathered to remember, reflect, and rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We began with our Maundy Thursday service, a solemn and intentional time centered on remembrance. Through Scripture, reflection, and communion, we were invited to sit in the weight of the cross. It was a quiet, reverent gathering that helped prepare our hearts by reminding us of Christ's sacrifice, His humility, and His deep love for us.

We then gathered early on Easter morning for our Sunrise Service, welcoming the dawn together as a visible reminder of the hope and new life found in the resurrection. There was a special sense of joy and anticipation as we celebrated the empty tomb and proclaimed together that Christ is risen. The simplicity and beauty of that early morning setting created a powerful moment of shared worship and reflection.

Our Easter Sunday service continued that celebration in a fuller expression of praise and proclamation. The message focused on the reality that the empty tomb changes everything; not just historically, but personally. We were reminded that the resurrection is not only something to believe in, but something to live from. Christ's victory over sin and death invites us into new life, renewed hope, and a restored relationship with Him.

Throughout the entire weekend, there was a strong sense of unity, gratitude, and joy among those who gathered. It was encouraging to see faithful participation, as well as guests joining us to celebrate. These moments serve as an important reminder of the impact of simply opening our doors and faithfully proclaiming the gospel.

I also want to express sincere appreciation to all who served and made these services possible. From those who helped prepare the space, to those involved in music, readings, hospitality, and behind-the-scenes support. Your efforts helped create an environment where people could encounter the truth and hope of the risen Christ.

As we move forward, we do so with the reminder that Easter is not just a day we celebrate, but a reality we live in. The resurrection continues to shape our faith, our mission, and our daily walk with Christ.

HE IS RISEN!

Mother's Day is one of those moments in the year that invites us to pause and reflect. In the middle of busy schedules, responsibilities, and routines, we are given the opportunity to recognize something both ordinary and extraordinary—the quiet, steady influence of a mother's love.

For many, this day is filled with gratitude. We think of the women who nurtured us, prayed for us, sacrificed for us, and stood beside us through every season of life. Mothers often give in ways that go unnoticed—early mornings, late nights, whispered prayers, words of encouragement, and countless unseen acts of care.

Mother's Day reminds us of something essential: love, when lived out faithfully over time, has incredible power. It shapes hearts. It strengthens lives. It reflects the goodness of God.

So today, whether you are celebrating, remembering, or quietly reflecting, take a moment to recognize the gift of a mother's influence.

Because in a world that often values the loud and visible, motherhood reminds us that some of the most powerful things in life are quiet, faithful, and deeply rooted in love.

Happy May Birthday to:

12-Erin Popek
15-Donna Dziak
23-David Dziak
25-Gretta Popek

Happy May Anniversary to:

14-Chris & Ray Hartmann
20-Erin & Karl Popek

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