

# Covenant Connection



Covenant United Methodist Church

May 2021

## *A Prayer for Our Moms*

*Thinking of you on Mother's Day,  
and saying a special prayer,  
That God who knows how dear you are,  
will keep you in His care.  
That He will bless your daily life  
with joys of every kind --  
with perfect health and happiness  
and peace of heart and mind.*



## *May Calendar*

**May 6** - National Day of Prayer

**May 9** - Happy Mother's Day!

**May 16** - 2 pm Council Meeting

**May 22** - 11 am Community Lunch

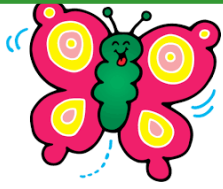
**May 26** - Honey Hunters Welcome Dinner - Ballpark Staff and Players at Covenant, our members are welcome to come too!

**Choir meets on Wednesdays  
at 4 pm for rehearsal.**

## *Coming up in June!*

**Sunday School and Bible Study  
will be resuming in June!**

**We hope to resume our weekly  
schedules and fellowship. ☺**



## May Birthdays

1 Jim Brøndle  
 4 Wesley Lowe  
 5 Brenda Johnson  
 8 Greg Turner  
 12 Don Gibson  
 12 Bob Perkins  
 15 Margie Martin  
 18 Ann Dees  
 23 Cole McGinnis  
 23 Ambrie Lowe  
 24 Sharon Brøndle  
 24 Marcia Phillips  
 25 Abigail Fairfield  
 25 Hillary Kaylor  
 30 Buddy Johnson



## Happy Anniversary!

4 Shawn & Erin McGinnis  
 13 Joseph & Leanne Flowers  
 23 Don & Sallie Gibson  
 26 Wayne & Ruth Houser  
 28 Jim & Sharon Brøndle

Worship Attendance		
Tithes & Offerings		
March 28	31	\$4,231
April 4	64	\$3,580
April 11	27	\$ 735
April 18	34	\$1,120
April 25	32	<u>\$1,750</u>
		<b>\$11,416</b>
\$2,483 is needed weekly to meet our 2021 budget.		



## Greeting our Visitors and Members

### Greeters

"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."

1 Peter 3:8-9

As a greeter, you are the first contact as people enter through our doors. Create a welcoming environment by greeting others with a big heart and a big smile! Greeting others should never be viewed as an obligation, it is a privilege!

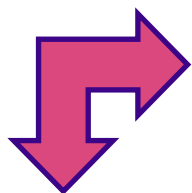
**Smile! ☺ Make eye contact!**

**Be a great listener! Introduce yourself!**

**Tell those attending that you are glad to see them!**

Arrive 30 minutes early (suggested time, but do arrive early) and **SMILE! ☺**

A sign up sheet is at the front entrance of the sanctuary if you would like to volunteer as a greeter.



# Covenant Prayer Corner

## New/Updated Prayer Concerns

**Sarah Bentley** - had several tests, waiting on results of her last scan, pray her healing and daily strength as she feels weak and tired

**Jack Bridges** - having a stress test & blood work, weak and not feeling well, fluid in lungs

**Cam Carpenter** - recovering from foot surgery

**Beverly Cole** - getting stronger and eating better, pray for strength and healing

**Lib Grose** - daily strength and healing, having some tests done this month

**Ina Jones** - was in the hospital following a seizure, she has been transferred to rehab in Mount Holly

**Family of Shirley Kahill\*** (Bill's sister-in-law) recently passed away

**Ann Lethco** - healing from foot surgery on April 27

**Family of Ricky Poole\*** - Ricky passed away unexpectedly on April 24. Be in prayer for Sherri, Laura, Harvey, and the extended family.

**Henry Raxter** - automobile accident, after two weeks in the hospital, he has been moved to a long term care facility in Pineville. Pray for healing and strength and for Linda too. Linda will be staying with her son, Lee, temporarily.

## Continued Prayer Concerns

**Jeff & Lisa Casey\***

**Elizabeth Smith\***

**Jay Raxter**

**Harvey McDonald**

**B.A. & Carolyn Moore**

**Dennis Dees**

**Dean Atkinson**

## Covenant Shut-Ins

**Betty Lynch** - Covenant Village, Alzheimer's unit, needs prayer for strength and healing

**B.A. Moore** - Belaire, 2065 Lyon St, Gastonia 28052, **Rm 45B, 704-874-3294 (changed)**

*B.A. can now have visitors! Appointments are needed to visit. Call the front desk at 704-867-7300. Visits are limited to one hour. B.A. would love to see you. Note also that they moved him again, therefore, he has a new phone number as well.*

## **\*Friends/family of members**



Our Christian Sympathy is expressed to Sherri Poole on the recent death of her husband, Ricky, on April 24, 2021. Be in prayer for Sherri, Laura and Harvey, and the extended family.



# *Congratulations Teacher of the Year Katie Cochran!*



*Katie teaches Kindergarten at North Belmont Elementary. Katie has been a teacher for 12 years and this is the second time she has won this award. Your Covenant family are so proud of you Katie! Congratulations!*

*Thank you to all teachers for going above and beyond for our children over this last year of craziness. You all are super heroes and we appreciate you!*

## **Kids at Work! at Covenant**

Covenant has opened her doors for the last couple years for “Kids at Work!,” an after-school program through Aspire Youth & Family, Inc. The kids come in on Thursdays led by a chef and an Interpersonal/Vocational Coach. Kids, ages 12-17 learn the technical skills of cooking while building better methods of communication. It is a hands-on, exciting and unique way for them to learn and apply academic and social concepts. In addition, the kids learn about nutrition and a healthy diet. The program improves assertive communication and conflict resolution skills and is also a great way for teens to gain the skills they need, when they are ready, to get hired for a job.



Pastor Larry has enjoyed Thursday afternoons observing this group of young teens. He has developed friendships with them as well. The kids have been helping with our monthly community lunch, by preparing the meal and serving. The photo to the left shows them out in front of the church, in the pouring rain, inviting those passing by to come to lunch 😊

The kids have cleaned up the game rooms upstairs and Jack Bridges has done some repairs, so they can be used for the youth. Thank you for your support of the Kids at Work!

## *A Personal Message from Pastor Larry. . .*



One year ago, I was officially appointed to Covenant United Methodist Church. My first appointment, I can honestly say I had no idea what was in my future for the next year. But I was not the only person who didn't have any idea what was coming next. This past year has been difficult for us all, some more than others, but we have learned a lot about ourselves and how tough we can really be. Last week in church Tony Wilson announced that I have been reassigned for another year here at CUMC. I want to say I appreciate the support you have given this new preacher who is learning by trial and sometimes even error.

It looks like this coming year there are a lot of great things on the horizon. We will be having a church dinner with the staff, coaches and players from the Gastonia Honey Hunters baseball team. In June we will plan on starting back our Sunday school and Bible study. We also plan on getting more involved with the youth of the Kids at Work. I have hope that we will all be able to celebrate together again this year and all feel comfortable to again attend church on a regular basis.

I leave you with one thought going into the next year from my sermon last week. "Yes, there is hope. If we stand together and refuse to hate and judge. Because if we do we will not be standing alone we will be standing with Jesus, the one who taught us to love and not judge."

God bless you all and love you,

*Pastor Larry*

*"For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing right than for doing evil." 1 Peter 3:17*





**Covenant United  
Methodist Church**

**801 W. Franklin Blvd  
Gastonia, NC 28052**

**Larry Taylor  
Pastor**

**LTaylor1@wnccumc.net  
828.413.4067**

**Church Office**

**704.865.5055**

**9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday**

**Administrative Assistant**

**Tammy Bassett  
covenantgastonia@gmail.com**

**Director of Music**

**Laura McDonald**

**Church Website**

**covenantumcgastonia.com**

**May 2021**

*Happy Mother's Day!*

May the *God of hope* fill you with all *joy* and *peace*  
as you *trust* in *him*, so that you *overflow* with *hope*  
by the *power* of the *Holy Spirit*. Romans 15:13

**Regular Scheduled Activities (limited at this time)**

**Sunday**

**10:00 am** Join us for worship!

**Wednesday**

**4:00 pm** Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Fourth Saturday of each month**

**11:00 am - 12:30 pm** Community Luncheon - Drive-thru

**We plan to resume some of our regular schedule activities in June.**