

# The Beacon

The Latest at **CHRIST UMC** | MAY 2026



## A Season of Quiet

From the Pastor's Desk



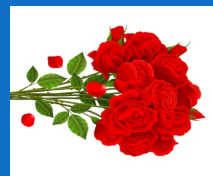
Did you know that Mother's Day has strong roots in The United Methodist Church? Ann Reeves Jarvis organized women's clubs in the 1860's to serve mothers and children suffering from the Civil War. She encouraged all women, especially mothers, to strive for peace and care for each other. Ann and her daughter, Anna, were members of Philadelphia's St. George Methodist Episcopal Church. Anna would take up the mantle of her mother and sought to make Mother's Day a recognized national observance. People were encouraged to write personal letters and share white carnation flowers. This flower was chosen so that anyone could afford it, and because the tight petals represented a Mother's embrace.

We wish to allow everyone an opportunity to honor mothers in

worship on May 10th. We encourage you to email a single picture of your mother to Pastor Eric. Please include her full name and the first names of her children. Please note: we do not use pictures from previous years. You must send a new email in order to be included in the tribute video that will be shown during worship on May 10th. Pastor Eric's email address is [UMCPastorEricWilliams@gmail.com](mailto:UMCPastorEricWilliams@gmail.com). The deadline to receive these pictures is May 5th.

Blessings,  
Pastor Eric Williams

# May 2026



REMEMBER  
MEMORIAL DAY  
& HONOR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Happy Mother's Day</i>						
3 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship Service 10:30am Adventure Kids 11:15am Fellowship	4 7pm AA meeting	5 3pm Feed the Hungry	6 10am UWF Board Mtg 10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir Practice	7 9:30am P/S Music 10am Christ Quilters	8 5pm Girl Scouts	9 
10** Mothers Day** 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship Service 10:30am Adventure Kids 11:15am Fellowship	11 7pm AA meeting	12 10am Hope Circle Mtg 10am P/S Connection 6:15pm Operations Mtg 6:30 Freedom Circle	13 10am Hope Circle Mtg 10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir Practice	14 10am YPK Graduation 10am Christ Quilters 11:15am YPK Celebration	15 5pm Girl Scouts	16
17** BEAM** 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship Service 10:30am Adventure Kids 11:15am Fellowship	18 7pm AA meeting	19	20 10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir Practice 6pm Messy Church	21 10am YPK Graduation 10am Christ Quilters	22	23 11am End of School Bash
24 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship Service 10:30am Adventure Kids 11:15am Fellowship	25**Office Closed**	26 10am P/S Connection Craft 7pm R-Coordiators	27 10am UWF Unit Mtg 10am Preschool Chapel 3:30am Worship Design 5:30pm Choir Practice	28 9:30am P/S Music 10am Christ Quilters 1pm Book Club	29	30
31 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship Service 10:30am Adventure Kids 11:15am Fellowship						

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**Monthly Calendar**  
Grow your faith and connect with our church family.

## MAY MISSION HIGHLIGHT

# Quessua Mission, East Angola

The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church has a partnership with East Angola. This month, we highlight the Quessua Mission in East Angola.

Some of the mission's work involves children's literacy, providing a boarding house for children from remote and impoverished communities, medical care, and training in new agriculture practices.

a few years ago to have one of the missionaries come and share with us about Angola and the Quessua Mission. We are pleased to be able to send a donation from this congregation in support of the Methodist Church in Angola.

The Quessua Mission is involved in many ways with the people of the area. Christ United Methodist was fortunate

## HONORING LOVED ONES

# Memorial Tree Dedication

We have two memorial Drake Elm trees, located between the preschool and the Wilson Hall parking lot, available for dedication in memory or in honor of a Christ United Methodist Church family member. The trees come with an inscribable black granite marker. A donation

of at least \$500 to the Church's building fund is required. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Kastner at (904) 221-4103, or ckast952@gmail.com.

## MESSY UPDATES

# Messy Church in May

Join us for our next Messy Church on May 20, in Wilson Hall. Messy Church is for everyone and is a fun, relaxed way to connect, learn, and grow together.

All done and ready to go home by 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact:  
Sally Ogburn (904) 703-3424  
Kathy Scott (904) 612-4361  
Brittani Laski (402) 305-2748

Bring the whole group, family and friends! Dinner starts at 6:00 PM, then a lesson and activity, followed by praise music.

## CALLING ALL LADIES

# United Women in Faith

You are invited to our next get-together on Wednesday, May 22nd, 10:00 AM in Wilson Hall. We look forward to getting to know our new members. Refreshments, fellowship, and a surprise program. We do hope you can be part of the fun!

Circles will be meeting during the month. Circle One on Tuesday, May 12th, in Wilson Hall at 10:00 AM. Freedom Circle on Tuesday, May 12th, in Wilson Hall at 6:30 PM. Hope Circle on Wednesday, May 13th, in Wilson Hall at 10:00 AM.



## CUMC FAMILY

# May Celebrations!

### Anniversaries

- 1 Bruce and Cindy Smith
- 6 Mike and Sonni McEvoy
- 22 David and Kathleen Stephens
- 26 Bob and Shirley Van Duzer Strachan

### Birthdays

- 7 Shirley Church
- 10 Ann Marie McCurdy Edith Jenkins
- 11 Nancy Russell
- 12 Mary Muratore Terry Stuart
- 18 Lota Maness
- 19 Yvonne Hitch

- 20 Ken Walker Claudia Young
- 24 Sally Dajero
- 25 Mimi Ames
- 28 Thomas Pavlick
- 30 Reily Hargis
- 31 Mona Ewest Christine Mezza

## FUN FOR EVERYONE

# End-of-School Bash!

Come celebrate the end of another school year with food, fun, friends, and a double water slide! Join us on May 23, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM for a laid-back afternoon together. We'd love your help bringing the sides to round out the meal, as Pastor Eric will be serving up his famous BBQ pulled pork with a sauce bar of 5 of his homemade sauces.

Have a favorite dish you love to share? Let us know by contacting Hanna Thomas at (904) 612-7286 to sign up.



# Book Club

You're invited to join our next book club gathering as we discuss *Tattoos On The Heart* by Gregory Boyle. This nonfiction shares memoirs of a priest who worked for decades improving lives of Los Angeles gang members. It's sure to spark meaningful conversation, and we'd love to have you be part of it. Join us on May 28, at 1:00 PM. If you'd like to receive book club updates, simply email Peggy Adolphson at peggyadolpshon@gmail.com and she'll be happy to add you to the list.

# Sew & More

The ladies of the Thursday morning "Sew and More" group recently completed a mission project for residents of the Beach House memory care unit. The group met for an extended day to cut, sew, and fellowship. The result was 30 colorful, washable adult bibs. These were delivered to the staff at Beach House for their use.

# Thank You's Are In Order

Thank you to Shirley Church for always bringing our food donations to BEAM; the total donation was 1,591 pounds of food! Way to go, Church!

Youth Thank You: Dinner and movie night was so much fun with delicious food, friends, and a fun movie. The youth group wants to express their many thanks for your donations to help support our upcoming service project. They are grateful for each of you!



## SECURITY CORNER

# Teaching Moment

The Children & Youth Protection Training, held in late April, was expanded by Hanna Thomas to include Security and Safety as part of the annual program. The training was open to all congregation members and frequent visitors and was required for anyone who has a key to the church and/or works with our youth.

Bob Strachan, chairperson of the CUMC Security Task Team, was part of the training line-up. He spoke about the history of Security at CUMC, which began in 2018. He detailed both the visible and invisible aspects of the overall security strategy, noting that

security at CUMC "is always evolving to adjust to new types of threats."

He took the attendees through some of the more visible security actions, including window covers on all campus doors, and the installation and monitoring of the 16 security cameras inside and outside our buildings. Bob detailed the current practice of Security Task Team Members and Ushers reviewing our security cameras before, during, and after Sunday services.

Above all, Bob spoke about the NUMBER ONE aspect of security at CUMC being door locking. Neptune

Beach Police, who partner with CUMC, shared that the best way to keep someone with evil on their mind is to not provide an access point to enter buildings. He said, "The congregation is now accepting the need for door locking. It was a paradigm shift, especially in the beginning of the door locking campaign," Strachan said.

The security training added to the overall theme of safety during the program. Child Protection is a multifaceted campaign in itself, and Security training added to the overall effectiveness of the program.