

# The Beacon

The Latest at **CHRIST UMC** | MAY 2024



## Pentacost

Rev. Eric Williams



This time of year is filled with many joyous occasions. May includes Mother's Day and the beginning of summer weather. Beyond these, the church looks forward to the celebration of Pentecost on May 19th. As Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus, Pentecost celebrates the Holy Spirit coming the church so it could fulfill its mission. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red. Why? When the Holy Spirit came up on the church in Acts 2, it was experienced as:

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.*

*Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:1-4)*

The church will be decorated in red as a testimony that we are a community united and empowered by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. We will wear red as an outward sign of the Holy Spirit at work in and through us. I look forward to worshipping together.

Blessings,  
Rev. Eric Williams



# May 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

5	9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumcnb.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship 12pm Youth group	6	10am Adult Bible Study	7	3pm Feed the Hungry	8	10am Hope Circle Mtg 10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir	9	9:30am Preschool Singing 10am Christ Quilters 10am Preschool Gymnastics	10	5pm Girl Scouts	11	
12**Mother's Day**	9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumcnb.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship	13	10am Adult Bible Study	14	10am Circle One 10am Preschool Connection 6:15pm Operations Mtg 6:30pm Freedom Circle	15	10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir 6pm Messy Church	16	9:30am Preschool Graduation 10am Christ Quilters 11am Preschool Party	17	5pm Girl Scouts	18	
19**Beam**	9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumcnb.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Tacos after Worship 12pm Youth Group	20	10am Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Possibilities Plus	21		22	10am Preschool Chapel 10am UWF Unit Meeting 5:30pm Choir	23	9:30am Preschool Singing 10am Christ Quilters 10am Preschool Gymnastics 2pm Church book Club	24	5pm Girl Scouts	25	11am End of School Celebration 
26	9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumcnb.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship	27**Office Closed**		28	7pm Ministry Team— R Coordinators	29	10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir	30	9:30am Preschool Singing 10am Christ Quilters 10am Preschool Gymnastics	31	5pm Girl Scouts		

**CHRIST United Methodist Church**  
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and Youth News.

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with the Mission Highlight,

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**United Women in Faith**  
plus Volunteer Spotlight.



## Youth News

A heartfelt thank you from CUMC's Cunnity Youth Group for your support at our breakfast fundraiser—it was a hit, especially after our fun-filled lock-in night! The youth aren't stopping there; they're eager to keep the energy going with ongoing meat stick sales for fundraising—feel free to request your favorite flavors. Your contributions are fueling our mission and community service.

Upcoming Youth Meetings:

May 5 & 19  
 June 2 & 23  
 (We'll pause for summer, but stay tuned for summer activities!)  
 Resuming on August 25

Got a rising 5th grader? They're invited to join our summer fun before officially becoming part of the youth group in August.

For more details, reach out to Hanna Thomas at 904-612-7286. Let's keep making a difference

## CHRIST UMC FAMILY May Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 7 Shirley Church
- 8 Jerry Ferguson
- 10 Ann Marie McCurdy  
Edith Jenkins
- 11 Nancy Russell
- 12 Mary Muratore  
Terry Stuart
- 18 Lota Maness

- 19 Yvonne Hitch
- 20 Claudia Young
- 24 Sally Dajero
- 25 Mimi Ames
- 26 Dick Galphin
- 28 Thomas Pavlick
- 31 Christine Mezza

### Anniversaries

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

## YOU'RE THE BEST Thank You

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Bob Strachan

Bob Strachan is the head of the security task team. He takes the safety of our church, our congregation, and our preschool very seriously, and it goes without saying, but we will say it anyway. We Thank You! Other churches even reach out for Bob's advice. Bob also heads up our Easter Sunrise service; we hope you had a chance to go on March 31st! It was spectacular and well-organized. Bob, we are grateful for your contributions; we are blessed.



## THANK YOU! A Successful Grounds Beautification!

Thank you to the 20 plus people who come out on a beautiful Saturday in April to spiff up the church grounds and to Becky who donated 7 azaleas for us to plant. We weeded, planted, washed windows, washed signs, blew off the roof and gutters, picked up litter and pine cones, filled welcome bags, and then fellowshiped over hot dogs. Many hands made light work.  
 Cindy Kastner, Trustee

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY Can You Help?

Christ UMC will deliver meals to homebound, disabled, and frail senior citizens for the Beaches Community Kitchen the week of May 13 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please call Sally Ogburn to volunteer at (904)703-3424.

**TO ALL THE LADIES:**

# United Women in Faith Welcomes You!



**U**WF Unit Meeting: All are invited to join us on Wednesday, May 22 for brunch, business, and program. This month our program will be given by Leslie Lyne, Director of the Neptune Beach Senior Center.

Circles (Please join us!):

Circle One: Tuesday, May 14 at 10am in Wilson Hall

Freedom Circle: Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30pm in the Kitchen

Hope Circle – Wednesday, May 8 - 10am - Wilson Hall

Are you craving more Cinco de Mayo?! Keep

the spirit alive with The Freedom Circle's lunch fundraiser on May 19th, right after church during fellowship time. Indulge in a taco spread with all your favorite toppings, or dive into a hearty plate of nachos—yours for only \$10! And yes, takeout is an option.

Join us for a festive post-Cinco celebration with the wonderful company of your church family and a fun group of ladies. Your participation helps drive our UWF ministries forward. Let's taco 'bout generosity and joy at our table! Contact Karen Lagitch for details: karenlagitch@yahoo.com

**THIS MONTH**

## Coming Up: Messy Church!

**C**elebrate the joy of community and faith at Messy Church, where we connect in a spirit of togetherness, with Christ at the heart of everything. It's a time for families of all shapes and sizes to create lasting memories through shared experiences. Join us for a special evening dedicated to Pentecost on May 15th, from 6-8pm. Embrace the spirit of the occasion by wearing a touch of red. Let's come together for a vibrant, memorable gathering!

For a glimpse into the fun or to lend a hand with spreading the word, reach out to Kathy Scott (Kathy\_s45@yahoo.com) or Sally Ogburn (srogburn@comcast.net)

Dive into the delightful chaos that brings us closer – come to Messy Church!

**GROWING YOUNG MINDS**

## Preschool Praises

**E**xciting news from our Preschool—two classroom bathroom renovations are now complete, bringing enhanced facilities to our little ones! The holiday season saw a \$28,000 makeover, followed by a spring upgrade at \$16,500, each adding more toilets and sinks to accommodate our growing community. These improvements were made possible by our collective efforts in fundraising through T-shirt sales, book fairs, brick sales, and more. A huge thank you to all church members who supported these initiatives.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for another renovation this Christmas with an estimated cost of \$25,000. We value your support and will share ways you can help continue this momentum soon. Stay connected for how you can contribute to our next project's success!



## Honoring All Moms

**W**e are creating a video of all the wonderful Moms in our lives. If you would like your 'favorite' Mom to be included, please send a picture of your mom along with her name and the names of her children to Pastor Eric by Sunday, May 5th. Send your picture and names to [UMCPastorEricWilliams@gmail.com](mailto:UMCPastorEricWilliams@gmail.com).

**KEEPING US SAFE IN 2024**

## Security Corner

**V**iolence against two Christian churches highlights this month's Security Corner. One in a church near Sydney, Australia, and one here in the United States.

A 16-year-old boy attacked six people in a church outside of Sydney with a knife on Sunday, April 15th and one of those stabbed was a Priest standing at the lectern. Thankfully, no deaths occurred and the attacker was apprehended. Police have labeled this as a religious terrorist attack.

In Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, a small American city with a population of 57,000, an 18-year-old Isis terrorist "want-to-be" planned to attack multiple Christian churches on Sunday, April 15th. He was

going to use knives, a machete, guns, and fire to kill as many Christians as possible before being killed by police. He was arrested on Saturday, April 14th, with all the items he was planning to use the next day. This young man had boasted about his upcoming attacks on a social media site that was monitored by the authorities.

The point here is that there are people in this world hunting for Christians regardless of the size of the community. We at Christ UMC must remain vigilant and on watch for anything or anyone that is out of place.

Your Security Team does its best to come up with policies and actions to help keep us a least likely target. All doors are

kept locked at ALL times. People coming to our campus are screened before they are given access including those coming to our sanctuary services. The Preschool has the same strict standards.

It truly is a shame that we live in a world where the innocent need such vigilance against violence. The size of the city or church seems to not matter to those with evil on their minds.

Stay Alert, Stay Alive  
Bob Strachan Chairperson  
CUMC Security Task Team

KEEP IN TOUCH  
**Summer is Around the Corner!**

**VACATION Bible SCHOOL**

**Camp Firelight**

A SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE WITH GOD

Psalm 56:3

OPEN TO 4 YEARS OLD THROUGH 4TH GRADE

**JULY 15-19, 2024**  
**6-8PM**

WITH THE HELP OF LU THE LIGHTNING BUG AND THE CAMP COUNSELOR GUIDEBOOK, OUR CAMPERS WILL EXPLORE TIMELESS BIBLE STORIES THAT SHOW HOW OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT CAMPERS TRUSTED GOD IN THE FACE OF THEIR OWN FEARS AND WENT ON TO DO GREAT THINGS IN GOD'S NAME.

CHRIST United Methodist Church  
 Being and Making Disciples Of Jesus Christ

GET READY FOR A GREAT ADVENTURE!

REGISTER HERE!

LET'S PARTY

**End of School Year Celebration!**

Celebrate the close of the school year and the beginning of summer fun at our “End of School Year” Celebration on May 25th, from 11 am to 1 pm! Join us as we bid farewell to the 2023/2024 academic season and gear up for sunny days ahead.

And get ready to embark on adventures with a special crafty companion! Introducing “Flat Jesus,” your child’s travel-sized companion reminding us that Jesus is with us wherever we go. This fun, paper cut-out figure of Jesus can join your family on trips to the park, vacations, or even just backyard explorations—capturing moments that celebrate His presence in every aspect of our lives.

Snap a photo with “Flat Jesus” and share your journey with us! Email your pictures to cumcnb@gmail.com and keep an eye out—you might spot your snapshots on our Facebook page or featured in our Sunday service slides. Let’s spread joy and fellowship with every snapshot of “Flat Jesus” this Summer!



RELEASING DISCIPLES TO SERVE

**May Mission Highlight**

For our May Mission Highlight, we spotlight the commendable work of the Beaches Boys and Girls Club on Seagate Avenue in Neptune Beach. This vital organization provides essential after-school care and summer camp opportunities to children aged 5-18 residing in the Jacksonville beach communities. The club serves a demographic that underscores the importance of our mission to serve our community and the world: 96% of the club’s members benefit from free or reduced lunch programs, and 90% come from households with annual incomes below \$28,000. Additionally, many

of these children come from single-parent homes, with 60% being raised by a single mother and only 27% living with both parents. Due to the community’s generosity at the Easter Sunrise service, Christ UMC is delighted to donate \$1,000 to the Beaches Boys and Girls Club, celebrating their dedication to our community’s youth. Additionally, we are pleased to extend the same support of \$1,000 each to both the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry and Mission House.

Furthermore, thanks to the generous offerings of March 5th Sunday, we are sending \$913

to “Residing Hope,” the organization previously known as the Florida Methodist Children’s Home.

We’re filled with gratitude for being part of a church family that actively participates in community aid. A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your commitment and generosity.

