



Words from Woodforest

May 2022 Newsletter

A Word from the Pastor

I have been reading two autobiographies by Julie Andrews, who is the reason that I got into singing. That has caused me to pull out my old vinyl Broadway soundtracks. So, when I started to think about what to write for the May Newsletter I got the song “The Lusty Month of May” from Camelot stuck in my head. Not really the most spiritually inspiring (or even appropriate) song for the church newsletter. But maybe if I am careful I can find some Gospel in there.

The first line that grabbed me was “Everyone makes divine mistakes.” I think that deals with one of the problems of the church today. We want to do everything right. We want to be decent and in order. But if you are afraid to make mistakes, you might never try anything new. “What if our worship broadcast isn’t perfect?” Trust me, it is anything but perfect, but it has made a difference. It has helped us keep connected during the pandemic. It has helped us think about how and why we do things in worship and what is important. But best of all it has brought our home bound members as well as some members that live far away back into active participation in worship with us. I am glad that we were brave enough to risk the divine mistakes! How sad would it be if we were so afraid of trying something new that we just closed the doors to wait out the pandemic. So, what is our next challenge? Where can we make more divine mistakes that will bring deeper and more meaningful discipleship here at Woodforest?

The second line I want to look at is similar. “That darling month where everyone throws self-control away.” In all my years working with children and youth I learned the value of letting go and letting God. As we prepare for Vacation Bible School in June I look forward to letting go of Inhibitions and just letting myself be silly with the kids who come. When we are sitting prim and proper in our seats we don’t catch the true Joy that God intends for us. Jesus said that to enter the Kingdom we need to become like children. This May I challenge us to all take time to “play” with the Holy Spirit. Run through a field of wild flowers praising God for the beauty of spring at the top of your lungs. Maybe if we take time to joyfully enjoy God we might shake the stereotype of “God’s Frozen Chosen.”

The final line I want to share with you is, “It’s May, it’s May, the time of yes you may.” The session at our retreat on the 30th looked at where God is calling us to be as a congregation. What are some things that God may be calling us to say “yes” to in our walk with Jesus?

Happy May!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Karen



Christian Education



**Vacation Bible School
Food Truck Party
June 20, 21,22**



**Fellowship Potluck
May 22nd
Following Worship**

A big **thank you** to all who helped spruce up the church during the church work day. Linda Norris, Mary Ellen Baker, Julia Prasco, Char and Jack Baker, Karen and Jon Paul Estes, Courtney, Kaylee, and Chris Schockey, and Renee Feltner.

Adult Sunday School Class will continue the study of 1st Peter..

Choir rehearsals are Sunday at 9 AM
Come and join in the fun!

We have been asked to join in on an amazing outreach opportunity. A faithful and devoted Christian woman, Keisha Ash, has approached us to use our front field for a **“Pop Up Market”**. She considers it her mission to bring attention to and support local, community churches. You may have seen other “Pop Up Markets” around town. Local artists, and farmers, crafts people, and local business owners set up tent booths on a Saturday. This could be a very exciting new ministry for us and our neighborhood. The best part? Keisha and her husband will do all of the planning, set up, tear down, and clean up. We can set up a table with church information where we can advertise VBS, or the fish fry, or the yard sale. We can be available to answer questions about the church or offer prayers with our neighbors. We could even coordinate canned food drives, school supply drives or even have the bloodmobile come in conjunction with it. This could be a way to greatly supplement our mission and outreach without wearing out our church volunteers.

Keisha says our church name and address will be prominently displayed on all signs and advertising. If we feel that we can’t staff a table ourselves, Keisha will take our brochures and any other advertising that we want people to see! Our session has already screened the types of booths that we will allow. Pastor Karen and the session are very excited to see what new opportunities that God will open up for us through this!

The first Pop up Market will be Saturday, June 11 12-5 PM
Come check it out. We will have a table for those asking for prayer
and inviting children to Vacation Bible School.

Easter Lilies were donated by:

Kevin and Jo Ann Nickels in memory of Wilbur “Nick” Nickels and Margret Nickels
Darlienne H. Powell in memory of Earl Cloherty, Daniel Cloherty, Robert Hamilton,
and Winston Powell
Ana Snyder in memory of Oneyda Soronado and Martha Snyder

Julia Prasco
Evelyn Jogie
William Marshall
Ryan Cole
Merlene King Waggoner

Marjory Sutton
Renee Feltner
Courtney and Ollie
Ruth Flick
Margaret Hosein

If you donated money for a Easter lily and I have not listed your name I am sorry. These are from the slips of paper that I was given.



Lectionary Readings for May

May 1

Acts 9: 1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-9

May 8

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10: 22-30

May 15

Acts 11:1-8; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 22

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 ; John 14:23-29

May 29

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14,16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

Presbyterian Women

In May the Presbyterian Women study on the women in Jesus' genealogy we will look at our final chapter and wrap up the study! We will meet at 10:30 a.m. May 18th for our study followed by going out to lunch at noon. You can participate either in person or join us on the livestream on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/Woodforestpc](https://www.facebook.com/Woodforestpc). It has been a wonderful year of study together. Come celebrate the learning and fellowship that we have shared this past year!

Updating the Photo Directory

Our photo directory is a wonderful way for us to stay connected. Both the phone app and our printed copies are a great way to keep in touch. But have you noticed that some of the pictures are ten years old or older. It can make it harder for new members to learn names and faces.

So, Easter Sunday we will be taking new directory photos! If you were unable to come to in person worship this Easter, you can submit a recent photo by emailing it to info@woodforestpc.org or mailing it to the church office. Or hey, give Pastor Karen a call and she will come take a photo of you at home!

Pentecost Sunday June 5 This is the Sunday where we all wear red and receive the special Pentecost offering. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering is retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. If you are worshipping from home and want to donate to this offering just write Pentecost Offering on the memo section of your check.

During the session retreat it was decided to become a **Matthew 25 Church**.

What does that mean.?

As part of our Mathew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus.

Building congregational vitality.

Dismantling structural racism

Eradicating systematic poverty

What is a Matthew 25 Church?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

How the vision unites all Presbyterians.

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, you can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

Keep in Prayer



Healing and comfort for Sandra Horton, Darlennie Powell, Shar Baker, Krista Bartel, Billie Vickery, Kathleen Watson, Johnny Powell, Alice Drennon, the Mendosa family, Anna Marshall, and Alice Morgan.

We welcome 2 new members to WPC:
Deoran Hosein and Troy Halik.

Last Word

**Pray.
Pray often.
Pray with faith.
Pray knowing
that it makes a
difference.**