



### May Scripture Readings

- 1—Proverbs 3: 5-6
- 2—Psalm 56:3-4
- 3—Jeremiah 29:11
- 4—Psalm 13:5
- 5—Psalm 40:4
- 6—Isaiah 26:3-4
- 7—Philippians 4:6-7
- 8—Psalm 37:5
- 9—Psalm 31:14-15
- 10—Proverbs 3:25-26
- 11—Jeremiah 17:7-8
- 12—Isaiah 43:2
- 13—Psalm 143:8
- 14—Psalm 91: 1-2
- 15—2 Corinthians 5:7
- 16—Psalm 121:3
- 17—Matthew 6:26
- 18—Hebrews 13:6
- 19—Psalm 73:25
- 20—Philippians 4:19
- 21—I John 4:1
- 22—Nahum 1:7
- 23—1 John 3:21-22
- 24—John 14:1
- 25—Psalm 28:7
- 26—Romans 8:25
- 27—Psalm 33:22
- 28—Psalm 27 :13
- 29—Romans 8:38-39
- 30— I John 3:2
- 31—2 Timothy 1:12

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# The Connection

**May 2024**

**A monthly publication of the**

**Millington United Methodist Church**

**Our Mission: To Know Christ, and to  
Make Him Known**



- 2—Ashtin Giddings
- 2—Trenton Robinson
- 6—Cody Roselles
- 6—Alfred Burns
- 11—Jackson Henderson
- 12—Bill Colosky
- 13—Marci Stohon
- 14—Willie McCall
- 15—Jonathon Mason
- 16—Bristol Trato
- 17—Carleigh Parker
- 18—Ethan Buccaneer
- 22—Greta Bolton
- 23—JR Schriber
- 25—Jennie Brown
- 25—Grace Henderson
- 26—Kay Hemingway
- 30—Trisha Love
- 30—Bruce Hemingway
- 31—Marshal Fabbro



Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12

## Pastor Carol's Corner

As I start to think about packing up my office, I am starting to look through all of my books, and I realize I sure do have a lot of them! Yet, beyond the sheer number of them, it is the diversity in my book collection that overwhelms me. I have books that were my grandfathers and other now long retired clergy. I have books that were my mother's when she was in Christian Education in the 1980's. I have the books that I bought while I was in Seminary 30+ years ago plus all the books I have purchased since... There are countless books that I have loaned out and never got back, some I gave away. Yet, each book I got for some very specific reason. As I come into the last quarter of my ministry I think about how things have changed since the 1930's when some of my books were purchased.

So many of my books have only been partially been opened. I have used a portion of the information that is locked inside them. One such book that I recently came across again is written by Dr. Don Saliers, a professor emeritus of Theology and Worship at Candler School of Theology, and his daughter Emily Saliers a member of the Indigo Girls, *A Song to Sing, A Life to Live*. As I was rereading portions of this book, which is why I pack so slowly, Don reflects on how he often sings Psalm 139:1 calling it "A telephone line through time" *Search me, O God, and know my heart. He says, "I keep coming back to this phrase, which speaks to me in the midst of so many life situations. In spite of everything I now know about human frailty and the threat of death, I always experience the affirmation of life when I return to this psalm. When I sing it, I feel that I am known and affirmed."* (pg. 40)

*Some of you have wondered why I put so much music in the service, it is because sometimes, music gets deep within our soul in a way that a spoken word often does not. It is why I choose to begin prayer almost every Sunday in song—to center our whole beings on God. For when we sing, we engage our whole bodies. So in these last few weeks together, join me in engaging all of yourself in worship, knowing that God is present among us.*

Pastor Carol



## Mission Notes for May

We have just received the latest issue of the Walugembe Connectional Newsletter. In this issue, they gave a brief summary of the happenings in their lives and ministry during the last 5 years since they built a house in a new community.

In this letter one thing that stuck out was that Peter, Kate and their family started developing relationships with the families by serving in various ways: offering work for a struggling young man, praying with a young widow, etc. They were told by an elderly man that “this community doesn’t throw each other a bone.” They, however, are caring for their new community even as they went against some norms.

This letter will be on the Mission Bulletin Board. I hope you will take the time to read it and discover how they introduced themselves into this community.

Next, I’d like to thank those folks who, last week, brought 3 bags of clean medicine bottles which I will take to the free medical clinic in Flint. They really appreciate these bottles.

*Maury Chapin*  
*Missions and Outreach*



## American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, May 16th, 2024

Noon to 5:45 pm

Millington United Methodist Church

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS

(800-733-2767)

To Pre-Register



# Finance



# Moment

Generous people do not give in expectation of receiving a material return from God. God is not a giant vending machine or a lottery ticket. The Christian gives from a thankful heart for God's blessings, even when physical or economic life is difficult.

When we give generously, we witness to the work that our faith matters, and the church matters. When we give our money and other resources, we make a statement about whom we trust and who we're willing to make sacrifices to.

The practice of generosity stretches us to offer our utmost and highest to God rather than to give in a manner that is haphazard, unplanned, reactive, or mediocre. ... We should not give from the '*what's left over*' place, but from a '*what comes first*' priority. From "Five Practices of Fruitful Living, by Robert Schnase"

.....

Did you know ... the IRS allows those who are over 70<sup>1/2</sup> the opportunity to donate their RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) directly to a non-profit organization, such as Millington United Methodist Church, and forego paying tax on the donation? Ask your financial advisor for more details. <sup>1018</sup>

## Millington Arbela District Library

**Craft Night**—every 2nd and 4th Wednesday (May 8th we will be making a Paper Lillies Craft and May 22nd we will be making Giant Pinwheels) from 4:30—6pm. Tweens through adult ages can participate in a different craft each week. Watch the Facebook page or go to [millingtonlibrary.info](http://millingtonlibrary.info) for more details.



Mother—and more

Though I’ve primarily known God as Father—along with metaphors such as rock, eagle, shepherd, potter—I also learned of Scripture passages portraying God as mother. For example (all NIV):

- “For a long time I have kept silent....But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant” (Isaiah 42:14)
- “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you” (Isaiah 66:13).
- “Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them” ( Hosea 13:8).
- In others, God is pictured doing traditional “women’s work”: making clothes (Genesis 3:21), sweeping (Isaiah 14:23), preparing and hosting a meal (Proverbs 9:1-6), baking bread (Luke 13”21).

One of my favorite images of God is tucked in Hosea. While many modern dads nurture their toddlers this way, the tender words surely call to mind a mama’s care: “It was I who taught [Israel] to walk. ...To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them” (Hosea 11:3-4). Most importantly, God—however known—is loving and good.

— Heidi Hyland Mann

## a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

### What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



### What you do:

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about ½-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.



### In-carnation

The official flower of Mother's Day is the carnation, the favorite flower of the mom of the holiday's founder, Anna Jarvis. Over time, the custom arose of wearing a white carnation on Mother's Day if your mother has died and a red one if she's living.

In fact, many carnation colors have special meanings. Pink carries the richest Christian symbolism. According to legend, carnations first appeared on earth as Mary wept while watching Jesus carry his cross. Where her tears fell, there appeared pink carnations, symbolizing a mother's undying love.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."

According to one theory, the English word for carnation comes from *carnis*, Latin for flesh. From the same root comes *incarnation*, God's coming to earth in flesh. Thus, carnations remind us of our loving mothers as well as our loving Savior.







### WE REMEMBER

More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.



May 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm Happiness Study	2  National Day of Prayer	3 Friendship Day	4 M-15 Garage Sale
5 10am Worship 6th Sunday of Easter	6 6pm Mission and Outreach mtg.	7 8:30am Women's 4th Day	8 6pm Happiness Study	9 Ascension Day	10	11 Roberta Lumsden 10am Visitation 11am Memorial
12 10am Worship 7th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day	13	14 8:30am Women's 4th Day	15 6pm Happiness Study	16 Blood Drive Noon to 5:45pm 	17	18 
19 10am Worship Pentecost Heritage Sunday	20 Victoria Day (Canada)	21 8:30am Women's 4th Day	22 6pm Happiness Study 6pm Millington HS Baccalaureate MUMC Host	23	24	25
26 10am Worship Rev. Gloria Haynes Cox Preaching Peace w/Justice Sunday Trinity Sunday	27  Office is Closed	28 8:30am Women's 4th Day	29	30	31	
<b>Pastor Carol, Amy Collins &amp; Andrew Bouse—Attending the Michigan Annual Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, MI</b>						

## A Note from Barb...

*On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, it will be a year since my mom went to heaven. In that time, we have had many "firsts" without her.*

*Mother's Day, Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Mom's birthday January 6<sup>th</sup>, Valentines Day, Easter. While these are all memorable days of their own, each and every day that Mom wasn't here, and each and everything that I do, say, or remember involving mom is another first, second, etc. In essence, no matter what, mom is always with me whatever I do or say. I am made up of so many things that my mom has taught me over the years, and I thank her for everything she has done to make me who I am today.*

*So it is with God. No matter where we are or what we are doing, He is always with us. Our relationship with Him makes up who we are today. And what we do every day reflects what we have learned in our relationship with Him. How is **your** relationship?*



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**Our Mission: To know Christ and to make Him known**

Check out our Sunday sermon online on our Facebook page at :

**Millington United Methodist Church**