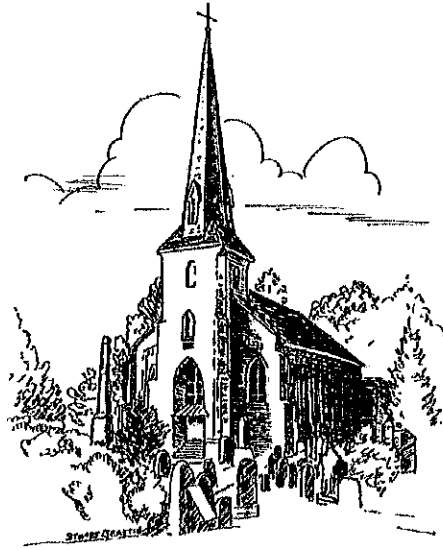


# THE SPIRE

**FROM:** GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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Wilmington, DE 19807-0892

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**TO:**

## June, 2026

**Green Hill Presbyterian Church Office Phone: (302) 652-5065**

**Pastoral Care: Rev. Dr. David Lovelace**  
[revdel@comcast.net](mailto:revdel@comcast.net)  
**(302) 652-5065 (Church)**  
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**SPIRE Editor: Evelyn Williams**  
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**(302) 622-8032**

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

**Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM**

**Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM**  
(ends for the summer after the June 3 meeting)

### JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

**Tuesday, June 2 – Men's Bible Study, 8:00 AM, Janssen's Café**

**June 7 – Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace Preaching; Communion; Last Day of Choir for Summer**

**June 14 – *Flag Day*; Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace Preaching**

**Tuesday, June 16 – Men's Bible Study, 8:00 AM, Janssen's Café**

**June 21 – *Father's Day*; Rev. Dr. Lovelace Preaching; Men Sing during Worship; Deacons Gifts to Men**

**June 28 – Rev. Lovelace on Vacation; Rick Baun Leading Worship**

**Tuesday, June 30 – Men's Bible Study, 8:00 AM, Janssen's Café**

## From the Session – May 17, 2026

1. Green Hill reached out to Mother African Union Church after a devastating fire on Sunday, May 17. People and congregations are encouraged to give through the church's website: [motherafricanunion.org](http://motherafricanunion.org). Green Hill's historic organ came from that church.
2. Bruce Fine's recorder group from Osher Lifelong Learning Institute received approval to meet at Green Hill during the summer.
3. Session met with Commission on Ministers & Congregations (COMC) members Carol Hogue and Carol Haas for the annual rounding meeting. They shared the new structure at the Presbytery: Rev. Cindy Kohlmann- lead, 2 associate presbyters- Rev. Sarah Craven and Rev. Casey Carbone.
4. Session thanked Rick Baun for going above and beyond in his service to Green Hill.
5. Rev. Lovelace will be unavailable on Sundays, June 28 and July 5. July Communion will take place during the July 12 worship service.

Chandler Brown  
Clerk of Session

## Scouts Flagged Cemetery

Scouts from Troop 959 and their leader raised a new flag on our flagpole, replaced veteran flags, and straightened flag holders on Sunday afternoon, May 17, in advance of Memorial Day. The gravesite flags were supplied by our local VFW branch. Troop 959 meets at the Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin, Delaware, and has flagged our cemetery for many years.

## Men's Bi-Weekly Bible Study

If you are a male Green Hill member or friend, you are welcome to participate in the bi-weekly **Men's Bible Study**. The men will meet on Tuesdays, **8:00 AM, June 2, 16, and 30, at Janssen's Café**. If you are interested in Men's Bible Study, please contact Rick Baun for more information. The meetings contain time for fellowship (including breakfast!), prayer, and Bible study of the New Testament book of **Exodus**. Please plan to check out the group and see if it is for you!

## Projects from the Spring Clean Up List

Trustees ask that you please remember that we still have projects from our **Spring Clean Up task list** to be accomplished. If you anticipate good weather for an outside job or have some free time for either inside or outside work, please contact Evelyn Williams for a job assignment. Steve Grubbs has removed weeds from under the front door holly trees.

## Easter Memorials - Removal from Cemetery

If you have placed Easter memorials in the Green Hill Cemetery, Trustees remind you that they must be **removed by Saturday, June 6, 2026**. After that date, trustees will dispose of faded and worn-out memorials.

## 'Looking Up' at Jesus' Ascension

As we write, Ascension Day has just passed – it was Thursday, May 14th. And so it is that – some years – a pastor may use the Ascension Day texts from the Lectionary for preaching. Then, other years, the texts for the 7th Sunday of Easter may be chosen – as will be the case this coming Sunday.

What came to my attention this year – from a Facebook post, concerning the Ascension of the Lord – was the fact that we usually read the story of Ascension Day – and focus almost entirely on what was happening on earth. We picture the disciples standing there – on the Mount of Olives – watching Jesus bless them one final time. We imagine their faces lifted upward as the risen Christ physically ascended before their eyes – higher and higher – until a cloud took Him from their sight. It is – to be sure – a most extraordinary moment.

But – the fact is – while earth was watching Jesus leave, Heaven was watching Him return. While human eyes strained upward in wonder, the courts of Heaven were preparing for the arrival of the victorious King. And suddenly, the words of Psalm 24 become something far greater than beautiful poetry. “Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!” This was triumph!

Jesus had left Heaven's perfection, and willingly entered humanity's brokenness. He had taken on flesh, endured temptation, experienced grief, faced betrayal, suffered torture, and borne the crushing weight of sin itself. He had gone to the cross. He had died. He had entered the grave. But He did not remain there. He rose in victory, defeating death itself. So, when He ascended, He was not returning as one defeated. He was returning as the conquering King.

Psalm 24 almost reads like Heaven itself is announcing His arrival. “Who is this King of glory?” Who is this approaching the ancient gates? Who is this returning from battle? And the answer echoes with unmistakable authority. “The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!” Jesus did not merely ascend. He ascended having fully accomplished the mission. Sin had been paid for. Death had been defeated. The grave had been conquered. Satan's power had been broken. The scars He bore were no longer merely reminders of suffering, but eternal declarations of victory.

Can we even begin to imagine that moment? The ancient doors of Heaven opening wide. The King of Glory returning. The Lamb who was slain now exalted in triumph. Heaven receiving back its rightful King; not in sorrow, but in celebration. Every promise fulfilled. Every prophecy completed. Every part of redemption secured. And, He did it to make a way for us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Dave Lovelace*

## *God's Steadfast Love is Infinite (Psalm 108)*

Psalm 108:1-2 *"My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;  
I will sing and make melody. Awake my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre!  
I will awake the dawn."*

The psalm begins with the personal declaration noted above. This psalm, attributed to King David, is a unique psalm that combines verses from Psalms 57 and 60, thus creating a new composition that addresses personal commitment, congregational worship and reliance on God in times of challenge.

By combining these two texts, the psalmist creates a powerful bridge between personal devotion and national petition. It moves from an individual heart set on singing praises to God, (verses 1-3) into a desperate cry for God to act on behalf of His people, whereas the congregation expresses its praise (verses 4-6). *"Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered."* David acknowledges God's vast love and faithfulness, highlighting the universal scope of divine power and the importance of proclaiming it beyond Israel. Notice how this structure teaches us to navigate the tension between our private worship and our public struggles.

The Psalm imparts several key lessons: **Steadfast devotion:** Maintaining a heart fixed on God, even in adversity, strengthens faith. **Joyful worship:** Praise should be expressed creatively and fully, using music and celebration to honor God. **Trust in God's sovereignty:** Human efforts are limited, but God's power ensures ultimate victory over challenges.

The latter portion of Psalm 108 focuses on God's sovereignty and the assurance of salvation. David recalls God's promises to subdue adversaries such as Moab, Edom, and Philistia, and he expresses the conviction that human strength alone is insufficient: (vv 12-13) *"Give us aid against the enemy, for human help is worthless. With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes"*. This section underscores reliance on God's guidance and intervention rather than on human effort, reinforcing the theme of trust in divine power.

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end:  
Be Thou forever near me, My master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if Thou are by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.*

Ref: Psalms: Interpretation by James L. Mays published by John Knox Press  
Biblical Ref. New Revised International Version (NIV)

Bruce Fine  
Music Director

## Baby Blankets Donated to A Door of Hope



*New Mother Baskets with Blankets*

*photo by Nicole Staz*

On Wednesday, May 6, Green Hill Craft Group made a donation of **10 baby or lap blankets** to **A Door of Hope Christian Pregnancy Center**, 3407 Lancaster Ave., Wilmington, Delaware. These small baby blankets, which are lovingly hand crocheted or knitted by our **member, Agnes Brown**, age 105, are various sizes in the 36" x 20" range. These baby blankets will go into New Mother Baskets which A Door of Hope fills with a variety of items needed by new moms. Nicole Staz, Advancement Administrator at A Door of Hope, accepted the baby blankets on their behalf.

## Devastating Fire at Mother African Union Church in Wilmington

During the early morning hours of Sunday, May 17, the Mother African Union Church at 812 N. Franklin Street, Wilmington, Delaware suffered a devastating fire. This historic church building was almost totally destroyed.

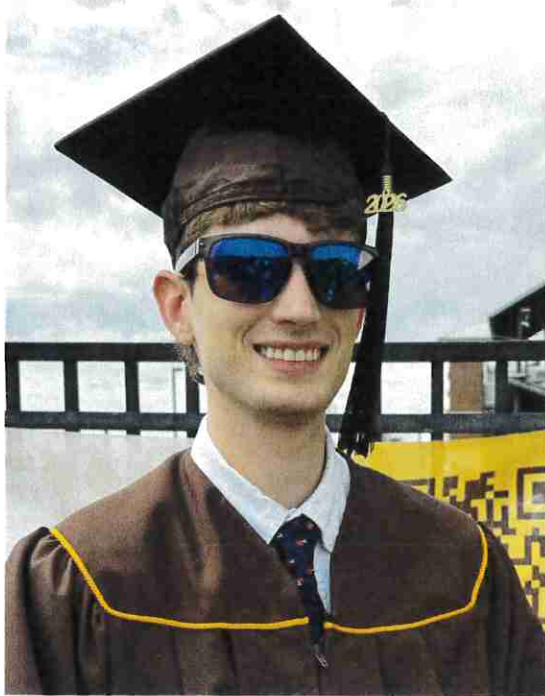
The church has a 213-year history. Peter Spencer and his co-worker, William Anderson, founded the Union Church of Africans in 1813 as an independent and incorporated Christian church movement. For over 156 years the church worshipped at a building at 8<sup>th</sup> and French Streets. They relocated in 1969 due to urban renewal in Wilmington. This church began the annual event called the Big Quarterly in 1814. It still goes on today and is known as the August Quarterly. It attracts people from the region and nationally to celebrate African American religious freedom.



The current pastor, Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Whittaker II, has already publicly stated that he and his congregation will rebuild. *The Hook & Hastings pipe organ that we listen to each week at Green Hill came from the church on Franklin Street.* **Green Hill members can help with monetary contributions for the Mother African Union rebuilding effort.** We will collect checks payable to Green Hill with Mother African in the memo line. Please make your donation by June 28 so that we may send one check to Mother African Union Church to support rebuilding.

## Congratulations, Graduates!

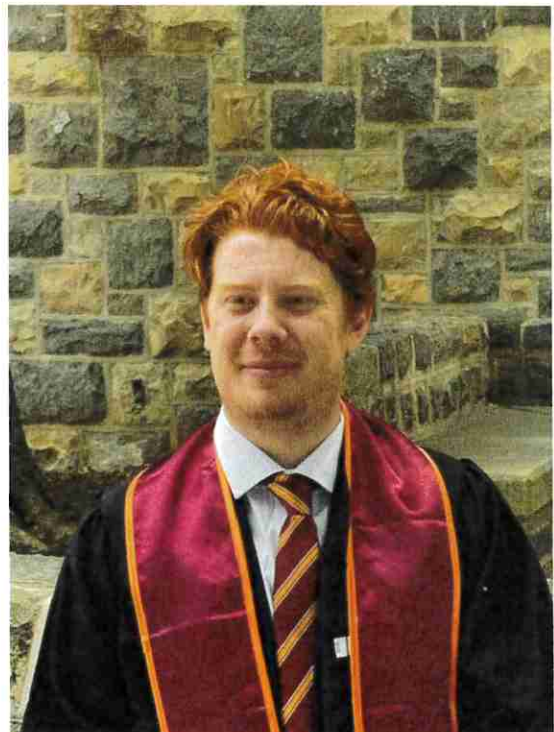
### Shamus Fellner, Rowan University:



**Shamus Fellner** of Stewartville, New Jersey, son of Brian and Pamela Fellner and **grandson of William and Elizabeth Lamb**, graduated on May 13 from Rowan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management. He is very involved with his community, including being a lieutenant in the Stewartville Volunteer fire department. Upon graduation, Shamus aspires to be a full-time professional firefighter or to work with an emergency preparedness unit. Great work, Shamus! We are very proud of you. By Bill Lamb

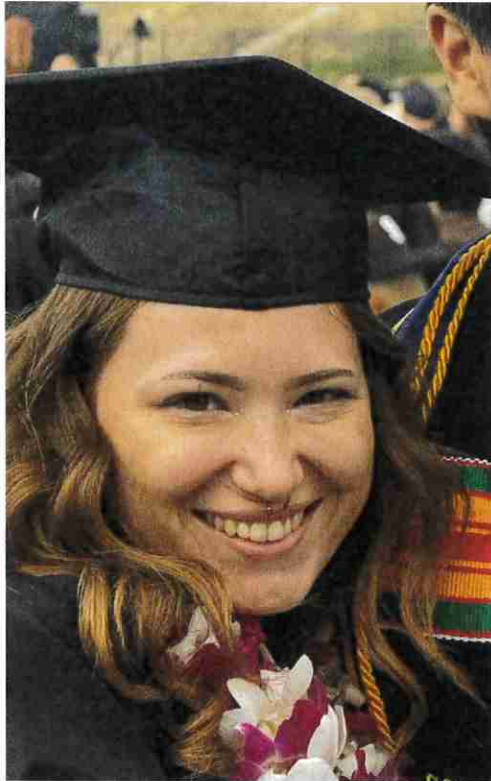
### Zachary Smith, Virginia Tech:

**Zachary Smith**, son of Mary and Brian Smith and **grandson of Bruce and Sandy Fine**, graduated May 15 from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering, a five-year degree program. Zach was the Payload Lead on a VT student team that designed an autonomous spacecraft for servicing satellites in orbit, which won the Orbital Servicing Track competition of the COSMIC Capstone Challenge at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in April. After graduation, Zach will be living in Columbia, Maryland where he has accepted a position with Systems Engineering Group as a Threat Missile Analysis Engineer. He plans to begin work on a Master's degree in 2027. Submitted by Sandy Fine



## Congratulations, Graduates!

**Jacqueline Van Luit, California State University at San Marcos:**



**Jacqueline Van Luit** of Oceanside, California, daughter of Melinda and Christiaan Van Luit and **granddaughter of William and Elizabeth Lamb** graduated on May 15th from California State University at San Marcos with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She is very involved with her community, including being a behavioral therapist for children on the spectrum. Upon graduation, Jacqueline aspires to pursue higher education with a Master's and PhD in Psychological Sciences with focus on Behavioral Neuroscience. Great work, Jacqueline! We are very proud of you. –by Bill Lamb

**Editor's Note:** Green Hill Church extends its congratulations and best wishes to each of these 2026 Graduates. We wish them continued success in their next life steps.

## Joseph Martin Concert at Faith Presbyterian

Mark your calendar now for a **special choral concert of sacred music** at Faith Presbyterian Church, 720 Marsh Road, Wilmington, Delaware on **Friday, June 5, at 7:00 PM**. Joseph Martin, Joel Raney, and Heather Sorenson will be playing the piano as well as leading the singing of a Community Chorus and the congregation in attendance. Sometimes there is a handbell choir, too. They will introduce some of their new sacred choral works at this **free** event. The concert is titled: *Words of Worship, Songs of Praise*. It has moved to Faith Presbyterian from its longtime Delaware home at Brandywine Valley Church due to construction at Brandywine Valley. This is usually a wonderful, praise-filled concert and worth attending!

## Women's Bible Study News

Women's Bible Study is completing work on the Old Testament book of Jonah. On Wednesday, May 27, the women will read and study Jonah Chapter 3, which is split into two Scenes in our handouts: "The repeated command and its fulfillment" and "In doomed Nineveh: The repentance of the sinners". After that, we have one final chapter to study in the short book of Jonah. We plan to meet on June 3 and then additionally in June as necessary to finish our study.

**June 2026 Hymn-of-the-Month**  
**“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”**

This hymn by George Croly, an Anglican minister, was first published in *Psalms and Hymns for Public Worship* in 1854. George Croly (1780 – 1860) was born in Dublin, Ireland and attended the University of Dublin. He was ordained and served until age 30 in Ireland, then moved to London and devoted himself to literary works. During this time he was a writer of poetry and novels as well as biographical, historical and scriptural material. In 1853, at the age of 73, he returned to active ministry. He desired a new hymnal for his congregation and as a result he prepared and published the following year a new hymnal *Psalms and Hymns for Public Worship*, in which was this hymn.

The tune was composed by Frederick Cook Atkinson (1841 – 1897) and was named for the Morecombe Bay, near where the composer lived. Arkinson was educated at Cambridge and held several chorister and organist positions.

The four stanzas, though strongly personal, have a moving, universal appeal for each of us today. Stanza 1 invokes the desire to change the focus of one’s life from temporal things to eternal, spiritual things “to love Thee as I ought to love,”. In stanza 2, we find the total dedication of one’s being to God “Soul, heart, strength and mind.”. In stanza 3, the prayerful concern regarding the soul’s struggle with doubt and impatience “teach me the patience of unanswered prayer,”. And in closing stanza four, with its beautiful metaphor “my heart an altar and Thy love the flame.”.

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.*

*Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;  
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.  
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!*

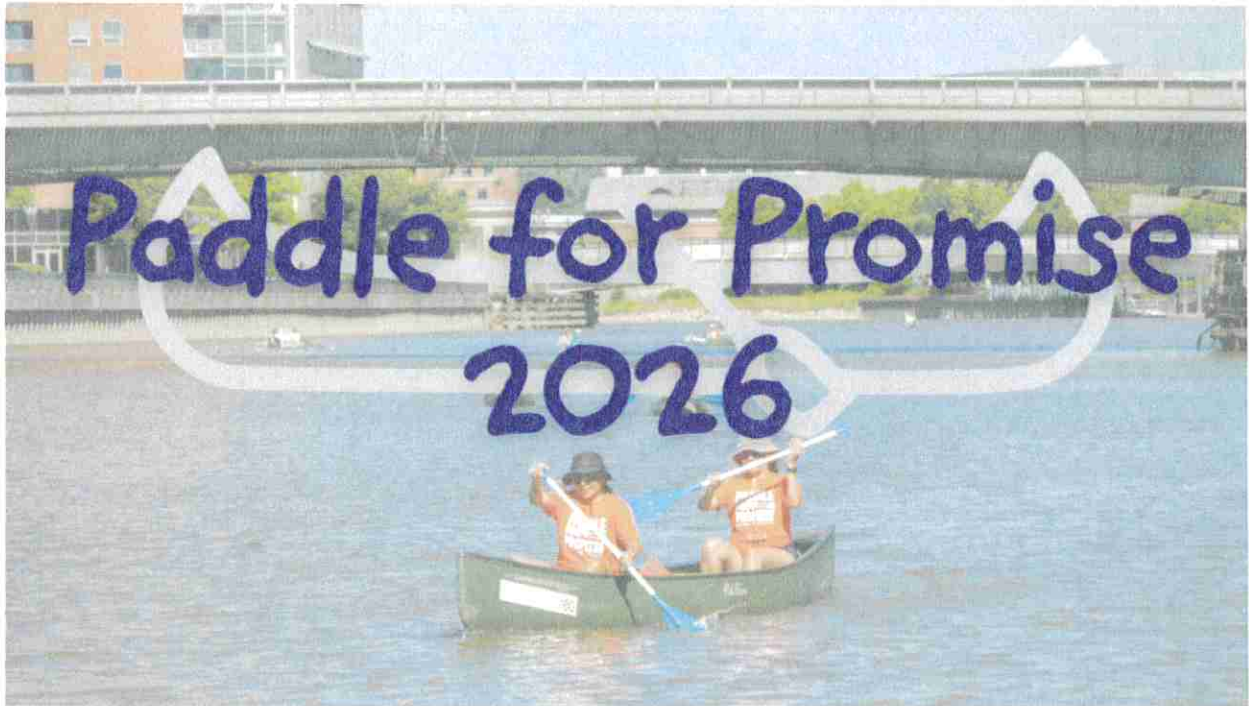
*Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.*

*Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,  
One holy passion filling all my frame;  
The baptism of the heaven descended Dove,  
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.*

*Lyrics: by George Croly (1854)  
[Hymns for the Family of God #147]  
[Presbyterian Hymnal (1990) #326]  
Ref: 101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth Osbeck*

Bruce Fine

**UrbanPromise Wilmington Paddle for Promise Fundraiser**



On Saturday, June 6, 2026, **UrbanPromise Wilmington** volunteers, staff, students, families, and StreetLeaders will paddle along the Christina River to raise funds for its StreetLeader program. The StreetLeader program is a leadership development program that trains teens in: Servant leadership, Academic development, College preparation, Community, and Outdoor experiential opportunities. UrbanPromise Wilmington is one of the largest year-round employers of teens in Delaware. Last year over 102 paddlers raised \$101,000 for StreetLeaders. If you wish to donate, please do so at this website <https://donate.urbanpromise.org/give/790988/#!/donation/checkout> and be sure to mention Green Hill Presbyterian on the Church Affiliation line.

*UrbanPromise Wilmington is one of Green Hill's local supported missions.*

**June Prayer Emphasis**

**Thanksgiving for Deliverance and Prayer for Help**

- <sup>13</sup> Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me;  
O Lord, make haste to help me.**
- <sup>14</sup> Let all those be put to shame and confusion  
who seek to snatch away my life;  
let those be turned back and brought to dishonor  
who desire my hurt.**

# Signs of Serving

*From the Green Hill Deacons*



## Thank You for Donations to Our Spring Clothing Drive

The Deacons' annual spring clothing drive runs through May 31<sup>st</sup>. "Thank you" to all who have donated clothing. We will be delivering the items early in June to Sunday Breakfast Mission's *Urban Vintage* thrift store.

## Back To School Rally

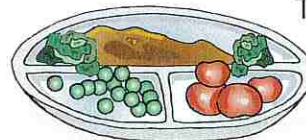
Through the summer we will be collecting school supplies for the Sunday Breakfast Mission's "Back to School" Rally. The school items are for children in kindergarten through Grade 8. Last day for donations will be **Sunday, July 26**. Please place items in the basket provided at the back of the church. Contact Denise Snyder 302-683-9113 if you have any questions.

- Backpacks-children and youth
- Pocket folders
- Scissors, blunt and sharp
- Notebook paper (College or Wide Ruled)
- Wide-ruled spiral notebooks
- College-ruled spiral notebooks
- 3-ring binders
- Erasers, rulers
- Pens and pencils
- 24 Pack Crayons
- Pencil Cases
- Sharpeners
- Glue sticks & Washable glue
- Washable markers or colored pencils
- Tissue packs

SBM will hold its annual Back-to-School Rally on Saturday, August 8, 2026. It brings together hundreds of neighbors for a festive celebration and a meaningful Gospel message. Every year at the Rally, many people – adults and children – make the decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Not only are the kids equipped with supplies to get homework done, they have the knowledge that they can overcome distractions at school through Jesus.

## EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for EDR on Tuesday, May 19. The workers were: **Gail Heath, Evelyn Williams, Dan Dugan, and Kathy Dugan.**



Thank you to all who delivered **Meals on Wheels** during May. They were: **Sandy & Bruce Fine, Maya**

**Hirs, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, Evelyn Williams, and Kathy & Dan Dugan.**

The schedules for EDR and MOW are posted in the entry to the church office. If you are interested in being a substitute for either of these projects, please contact Ellen Grubbs at 429-8698 for EDR and Jen Galvin at 494-8259 for Meals on Wheels.

## Mother's Day

On Sunday, May 10, all the ladies attending Green Hill Church received a beautiful live begonia plant for a windowsill at home or outside in the garden. May God bless them every day for the job they do!



## Upcoming Projects

The Deacons will honor the men of the church with a special recognition on Father's Day, June 21. Deacon Sandy Fine is in charge of this project.

## Food Donations

Please remember to bring in your non-perishable food year-round for Sunday Breakfast Mission and bring in breakfast foods for EDR.

## June 2026 Schedule of Volunteers

### Head Usher Rick Baun

June 7 - Evelyn Williams

### Deacon of the Month

Jen Galvin

### Worship Assistants

June 7 - Amy Baun

June 14 - Allison Brokaw

June 21 - Denise Snyder

June 28 - Evelyn Williams

### Greeters

June 7 - Evelyn Williams

June 14 - Jen Galvin

June 21 - Laurie Collender

June 28 - Sandy Fine

### Refreshments Gail Heath

### Chancel Flowers

June 7 - Miriam & John Stevens

June 14 - John, Jane, and Jeffrey Rice  
(unconfirmed at press time)

June 21 - Kathy & Dan Dugan

June 28 - Margaret Marquardt

### Communion Servers

June 7: Amy Baun and Sandy Fine

### Kids Sunday School + Child Care

Kids Activity Bags in the File Room

### Meals on Wheels

June 1 - Allison Brokaw and Evelyn Williams

June 2 - Maya Hirs and family

June 3 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath

June 4 - Kathy Dugan and Evelyn Williams

June 5 - Kathy Dugan and John Hartman

June 29 - Sandy & Bruce Fine

June 30 - Maya Hirs and family

July 1 - Jen Galvin & Gail Heath

July 2 - Evelyn Williams

July 3 - *No Delivery – Independence Day*

### Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Friday, June 19

Cooks – Allison Brokaw

– Gail Heath

Kitchen Help – Dan Dugan

Celery – Allison Brokaw

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### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2 Chance Scarborough

3 Nicole Parsons

4 Bruce Fine

12 MaryLynn Stevens

16 Will Kovalcik

19 Grayson Maxwell

Logan Galvin

22 Jennifer Grubbs Tate

Chandler Brown

24 Jane Reed

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

13 Jane & Chick Reed

- 65 years 2024

# June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	2 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	3 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	4 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries	5 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	6
7 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Communion; Last Day of Choir for Summer 11:30 AM Lemonade & Conversation	8 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	9	10 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	11	12 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	13
14 <b>Flag Day</b> 10:30 AM Worship; Favorite Hymns 11:30 AM Lemonade & Conversation 12:00 PM Session Mtg. 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg.	15 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	16 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café	17 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	18	19 <b>Juneteenth</b> 8:15 AM EDR Prep 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	20
21 <b>Father's Day</b> 10:30 AM Worship; Men Sing; Deacons Gifts to Men 11:30 AM Lemonade & Conversation SPIRE DEADLINE	22 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	23	24 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	25 6:30 PM Craft Mtg.	26 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	27
28 10:30 AM Worship; Rev. Lovelace on vacation; Rick Baum Leading Worship 11:30 AM Lemonade & Conversation	29 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	30 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café				