



Dear Friends,

Have you ever wondered what significance the month of May holds in the Bible other than it being the month of my birth? As spring blooms and life comes alive, May can feel like a time of renewal and hope. We can easily link May to themes of growth and spiritual awakening. There is opportunity to explore its biblical meaning.

Here are a few bullet points to ponder:

May symbolizes themes of growth, renewal, and as mentioned, spiritual awakening resonating with key biblical events and teachings.

Pentecost: May often hosts Pentecost, commemorating the Holy Spirit's descent upon the apostles and thus, empowering believers to spread the Gospel.

Symbolism of Nature: May reflects the renewal of life, coinciding it with biblical verses such as, Isaiah 43:19, which highlights God's transformative work in believers.

Cultural Practices: Many cultures celebrate May with festivals emphasizing fertility and growth.

Encouragement for Reflection: This month invites individuals to engage in reflection and gratitude, enhancing one's faith and connection with God who is the creator of all things great and small.

Symbolically, May represents new beginnings. Flowers bloom, and trees regain their leaves, illustrating the hope and promise that comes from spiritual growth. Reflecting upon these things can truly enhance and inspire one's journey of faith. Now might be a good time to deepen your connection with May's significance. Consider, perhaps, dedicating time each week to reflect on the above theme. You might want to read scripture that emphasizes faithfulness and engage in prayer that focuses on growth and guidance. Set aside time to really ponder your journey with God. Write down your thoughts in a journal. Acknowledge moments when you felt God's presence and guidance.

As for Pentecost...reflecting upon your faith is perfect. As you celebrate the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church, take a moment to appreciate the blessings in your life.

Think upon the following verse and use it as a focal point for the month of May. 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new creation. The old life is gone, and new life has begun!"

Happy May!

Pastor Jim

Mark Your Calendar

Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....May 1
 Needles & Pins 10:00 am.....May 2
Church School/Bible Study /Worship/Communion
 Facebook Live 10:30 am/Cinco De Mayo Lunch 11:30 am.....May 3
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....May 5
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....May 6
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....May 7
 Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....May 8
Church School/Bible Study 9:00am
 Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am/Mother’s Day.....May 10
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 12
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 13
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 14
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 15
Church School/Bible Study 9:00am
 Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am.....May 17
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 19
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 20
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 21
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 22
 Worship/Facebook Live 10:30.....May 24
Office Closed for Memorial Day..... May 25
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am..... May 26
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 27
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 28
 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....May 29
Church School/Bible Study 9:00am
 Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am.....May 31

Hope in the Hills of Warren – May 2026

The local organization that we will support for the month of May will be Hope in the Hills of Warren, a community extension of Warren County Habitat for Humanity, that seeks to improve the living conditions of the elderly, low-income and disabled persons in our community. Seeking to put God’s love into action, Hope in the Hills of Warren brings youth and adults together to restore homes, community, and hope. Please prayerfully consider contributing. Your gift will be matched by the Kathleen Smith Fund. Checks should be made payable to “First Presbyterian Church” with “Hope in the Hills” in the Memo. You can find an envelope on the tables in back of the sanctuary. Thank You,
 The Stewardship and Benevolence Committee

PARADE: I will be assembling the parade float again this year. We would like to continue the tradition of throwing out candy. I am asking for monetary donations for me to purchase the candy. Any amount is truly appreciated. Please mark it July 4th candy and place in offering envelope or drop to the office. Thank you!

Kerri

First Presbyterian Church

Phone 908-689-2547 Fax 908-689-7911

Web site: www.washingtonfpc.org

Pastor, James Scovell;

Directors of Music, Peter & Julie Stevenson;

Administrative Assistants Kerri Caldaro

Church School Coordinator, Jean Bowers.

The Community Singers will be hosting their Spring Concert here on Sunday May 3rd at 3pm. The theme is around the 250th Celebration of America. So there are a few patriotic songs. Come out and support them.

Remember In Prayer



Prayer: Dear Lord, cleanse our hearts and give a new spirit to all your people, that your saving grace may be professed and proclaimed to the whole world. As we pray for our friends and loved ones, let us pray with confidence, knowing that God not only hears our prayers, but responds in love and with a perfect will.

Those ill or recuperating at home: Barbara Miller, Joan Miller, Vince Smith, Peggy Westlake, Jim Vlossak, Vicki Morgan, Eleanore Jensen, Doug Foley. Linda Walsh, Joyce Parsons, Ronald & Joan Weber, Michael Housman, DJ Pesaniello.

Relatives of church members: Don Johnson's grandson Dylan, Callie & Mark Kresser, Linda Darwin's sister-in-law Jenny, Lynn Alleger friends of the Ours, Lee Ann Kubbishun's brother-in-law Harvey Hendershot, Pauline Albrecht's cousins Kathy & Bill, Harold Teabo, Judy Ours cousin Aurelius Newbold, Jim Morgan, Joe Kresser's brother John, Charlie Kugelmeyer, John & Elaine Boreman's daughter & son in law Jill & Ross Duncan, Joe Caldaro, Peggy Westlake's son-in-law Travis Jablonski, Barbara Miller's daughter in-law Julie, Patricia Handlos's great nephew Bear Shaw, Robert Stacie Ullrich's dad, Dorothy Thoms son Don, Pauline Albrecht's cousin Pete Lekousis, Laura Housman's mother Betty Machauer, Fred Kulick's brother-in-law Jon, Joan Miller's sister-in-law, Vicki Tensfeldt's mother & niece; Kerri Caldaro's mom & dad Gail & Fred Mosher.

Those in care centers: Connie Allen, Joan Vasko, Bob Pesaniello and Nancy Vlossak.

Friends of the church: Kerri Caldaro's friend Jason Leonard, Pat Hawkins sister Susan and her husband John, Stuart Ours friend Don Walker, Fred & Karen Graf's friend Renee Wise, Carol Kain's friend John Vybihal. Joe Groff friend of Doug & Jolene Foley, Gale Soler & Ellen Gulick friends of Joan Miller, Barbara Miller's friend Patrick O'Malley.

Also, pray for our servicemen and women and their families: Albrecht's nephew Captain Kyle Mogensen, Vimp Smith's grandson Cory, Stephanie Farley's nephew John, Kathy Perry's nephew Jimmy, Linda Darwin's friend Sean Devine.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



May 4

Amelia Vlossak

May 7

Kate Fazzari
Jim Scovell

May 9

Joe Kresser

May 11

Doug Foley
Fran Martin
Vincent Smith Jr.

May 13

Linda Hotchkin
Jim Vlossak

May 16

Fred Phelps

May 18

Phyllis Kearns

May 21

Paul Fazzari

May 22

Barbara Miller

May 29

Lynne Quada



MUSIC NOTES - MAY 2026

I can describe how I feel on any given day in one word: GRATEFUL. I am continually amazed that God cares for me...ME! In the grand scheme of things, I know that I am smaller than the tiniest grain of sand and yet I have felt the guiding presence of God in all 65 years of my life.

The month of May brings thoughts of my Dad. On May 27, he will be 90 years old. He suffers from Lewy Body Dementia and was moved into a nursing home in 2024. Gradually, things that he used to be able to do have slipped away. Dad was an opera theater major at Drake University and has always had a beautiful baritone voice. He sang in churches, choral societies, drama productions and for weddings and funerals his entire life. He has four children, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and foster children. *Each and every one of us* gets a phone call on our birthday with Dad singing "Happy Birthday" to us. I cannot describe how special this makes me feel! It always makes me cry to hear Dad sing to me.

Lewy Body Dementia is cruel and one of the symptoms is that his voice has become very weak. I still got a call this year on my birthday and Mom handed over the phone so that he could sing to me. While he mixed up some of the words, he got my name right and he nailed the tune. It was quiet but it was definitely "Happy Birthday". Even though singing is not a big part of his life anymore, I bet he hears music in his head all the time. I hope he does because music can bring such peace and joy.

Mom tells me that the care givers at the nursing home all love Dad because he is so nice to them. He says "thank you" to each person as they feed him, as they clothe him, as they help him in and out of bed or his wheelchair, as they bathe him, as they help him to walk up and down the hallway, as they help him with toileting. I thank God every day for these caregivers as they are truly the hands of Christ.

The last time I visited Dad (in Iowa) was last summer. He was surprised when he first saw my face. He smiled and then apologized that he was "not the Dad you remember." My sister and I took him outside to the garden and he loved being in the sunshine. At lunch, I played an hour of music on the keyboard right next to his table and sang some of his favorite songs. I could hear him attempting to sing along with me which warmed my heart. Before saying goodbye, I asked him "how are you feeling Dad?" To which he responded: GRATEFUL.

I thank God every day for giving me the Dad I needed and I hope I can live up to his example for the rest of my life.

Peace and Love,
Julie Stevenson



YOU ARE INVITED

to the Deacons'

CINCO DE MAYO

ALL-CHURCH LUNCHEON

First Presbyterian Church, 40 E. Church St., Washington, NJ

Sunday, May 3rd

Immediately following morning worship service

Fellowship Hall



Tacos & a taco bar with all the fixins'
Beef, chicken, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, sauce, & more!



Beans...Rice

Join us for fun, fellowship & a good meal!

The Deacons will supply the main luncheon and drinks.

If you are able to bring a dessert, we'd appreciate it!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY BULLETIN

The Choir is sponsoring a special Mother's Day Bulletin dedicated to all the women in our lives: mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, great grandmothers, godmothers, wives or special friends. Donation: \$2 per name.

Fill out the form below and return to the church office by May 3, **2026**. Please print clearly. Questions may be directed to Kerri Caldarò at 689-2547 office@washingtonfpc.com take your check out to First Presbyterian Church and earmark it "Mother's Day."

HONOR OF:

| Name: | Relationship (mother, grandmother, etc.) | Given By: |
|-------|--|-----------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

MEMORY OF:

| Name: | Relationship (mother, grandmother, etc.) | Given By: |
|-------|--|-----------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |



YOU'RE INVITED TO
First Presbyterian Church of Washington's
**CHURCH FAMILY
& FRIENDS PICNIC**

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

come after church...around 12

Meadowbreeze Park, Washington NJ

**RSVP to the office with name and number attending
or drop a note in the offering plate! 908-689-2547**

**BRING a side dish &/or
dessert to share**



| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 2 Needles & Pins 10am |
| 3 Church School/ Adult Bible Study 9:00 am Worship/ Communion 10:30 am Facebook Live/ Cinco De Mayo luncheon | 4 | 5 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 6 Facebook Devotions 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm | 7 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 8 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 9 |
| 17 Church School/ Adult Bible Study Class 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live/ HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY | 11 | 12 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 13 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm | 14 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 15 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 16 |
| 17 Church School/ Adult Bible Study Class 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live | 18 | 19 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 20 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm | 21 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 22 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 23 |
| 24 Church School/ Adult Bible Study Class 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live | 25 HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  | 26 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 27 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am 11:30 am Brown Bag Bible Study Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm | 28 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am Session/Deacons Joint Meeting 7:00pm | 29 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am | 30 |
| 31 Church School/ Adult Bible Study Class | | | | | | |