

The Edge

Edgefield Methodist Church Newsletter

Estel Williams – Pastor

Suzanne Whittaker, Associate Pastor

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May 2026

Greetings from the Pastor and welcome to May. May is a wonderful month for many reasons. It ushers in the warm weather leading to summer and the beautiful bloom of flowers and shrubs. For the kids it is the beginning of summer vacation from school. But the main reason is it's my birthday. I don't say this to brag or to broadcast my birthday but to give thanks. I am thankful for my parents who did their best to bring me up in the right way and teach work ethic and values. They had discipline but still allowed us to be kids and understood when we went astray. A great brother who is several years older than me who has always been my hero. I was blessed with church and school, teachers who helped to mold us into what we became. I am blessed with and awesome wife who along with Jesus stood by me during those days of sowing wild oats and helped me to see the light. Blessed with 3 wonderful children who have brought joy unspeakable and grandkids, do I need to say more? Blessed, Blessed, Blessed. Friends and family who have always been there whether times were good or bad. Blessed to be an unlikely person who was called to the ministry. Blessed during all those years of pastoring. The friends and acquaintances made along the journey. I am thankful for my health which believe me I don't take for granted. I am thankful for every day I wake up and blessed with another day. Let me close by saying this. I am thankful; for each of you. Having the honor and privilege of being your pastor. Yes, I will turn the big 70 in a few days. Still alive, blessed, thankful, and going strong.

MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU

PASTOR ESTEL



April showers bring May flowers - and in the same way, the seasons that feel heavy and uncertain often carry within them the promise of something beautiful yet to come. This simple saying carries a profound truth: more times than not our growth as individuals and as Christians comes through seasons we would never choose.

Romans 5:3-5 teaches us, "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Our April showers are usually thrust upon us by external forces (although, admittedly, we are fully capable of creating our own storms). It is in the endurance of those storms that we build perseverance - not built upon our own strength but by leaning on Christ. Leaning on our own strength is like building a house upon the sand...but having Christ as our foundation for all areas of our life is how we build a house that cannot be knocked down. And that perseverance develops character and character produces hope.

We all know someone who languishes in the April showers seasons. Fear of change is greater than the fear of continuing in the rain. It produces no character and no hope. The seeds that germinate deep in the ground watered by the April showers....must endure the rain until the ground warms enough that they break out of the protective shell and cast down their roots and lift up their stalks towards the light and warmth. They must change something deeply essential within in order to become what God has created them to become! Something so much more.

And so it is, too, with us. We must allow the painful seasons to become the catalyst to shed what must be lost so that we can become what God created us to be. To be filled with the eternal hope that comes from Christ alone.

I pray that if you are in a season of pain or you are coming out of one, that God will, daily, lead you closer to Him.

In this season of Easter
Passionately serving Christ,
Rev. Suzanne Whittaker
Global Methodist Church
540 599 5301

STATISTICS: March Averages

Worship – 106

Sunday School – 36

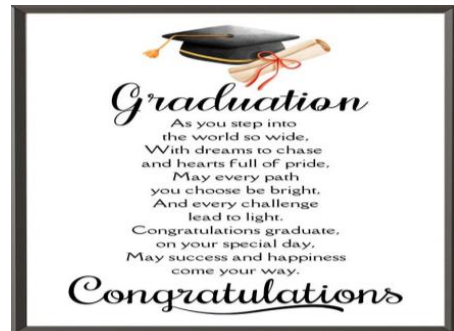
Average Budget Offering - \$15,002.00

(Needed – \$5,518.00 weekly)

Congratulations to our High School Senior:

Romelo Ta'Sean Lovelace

To my son, congratulations on your graduation! You have achieved greatness through dedication, late nights, and perseverance. Never lose that spark I see in your eyes to succeed. I am honored to be your Mom. Always believe in yourself as much as I believe in you. Im so proud of all your accomplishments 4.0 GPA shows all your hard work has paid off Son. My encouragement for you in this new chapter is to never settle, keep connecting to your purpose, and dreams remember that you have the power to change the world. Son you're my heart you mean the world to me. You bring me peace and joy being a single mother you made it easy. Im happy to watch the man you're growing into. I know your looking forward to being a big brother and excited! It will always be me and you against the world! I love you to infinity and beyond! Love, Mom



Congratulations to our college seniors:

Krisalyn Elliott – Krisalyn will graduate on May 12, 2026 from Northeast State Community College with an Associate Degree in Psychology. Krisalyn was honored on April 30th at an honors convocation with a 4.0 average. She will graduate Summa Cum Laude. She plans to transfer to ETSU in the fall and prepare for a Bachelor degree and go into pre-law.

Gracyn Fox -Gracyn Fox will graduate law school from the University of Tennessee Winston College of Law on May 14th. While in law school, Gracyn was a member of the Federalist Society, Sports and Entertainment Law Society and Law Women Organization. She served as an Executive Editor for *Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law*, where she also was published as an author. She also completed the Concentration in Business Transactions, which allowed her to focus her studies on the legal aspects of business and finance. She will spend the summer studying for the bar exam. She will move back to the Tri-Cities and begin practicing at Hunter, Smith, and Davis in Kingsport this fall.

Congratulations to Sue Smith on the birth of a great-grandson, Jason Jaxon Newman. Jason was born on April 11, 2026. Parents are Chance and Megan Newman.

Sue Smith would like cards sent to Tallulah Bright, 361 N Third Street, Apt. 615, Memphis, TN 3810. She is a child with cancer and loves mail.

Sympathy is extended to Kim Baggett and Debbie Stitt and family in the death of Jean Sartain.

The Chosen, Season 5 will resume on the following dates. The time has been changed to 1:00 pm. We will meet in CLC classroom. Everyone is welcome to come. We will begin with a word of prayer, scripture that is relevant to the episode and we will, as always, follow up with sharing our insights. 05-03: E3 Woes, 05-17: E4-The Same Coin, 05-31: E5-Because of Me (Part 1) *Sherry Blizzard*

Honor and Remember your Veterans on Memorial Day Week-end, May 21-25, by purchasing a flag in their honor to be placed in the grass area between Eastman Credit Union and Piney Flats Drug Center. A yellow ribbon will be attached to your flag with your honorees name attached on it. Flags are \$10.00 each and all proceeds will go to support the Piney Flats Patriot Corner Ruritan's Annual Veterans Luncheon. Forms with money can be mailed or handed to a Ruritan member. Address: Piney Flats Ruritan, 321 N. Austin Springs Road, Piney Flats, TN 37686

Request prayer for churches participating in Compassion Sunday 2026

Pray that many new children will know God's love and plan for their lives because of people activating their faith on Compassion Sunday. (1 John 3:18 NKJV)

Also, don't forget Holston Home for children offering on May 31.
Thank you. Patricia Portnoi

I will highlight all the children from Pre-K through 11th grade (seniors highlighted in this newsletter) in the June newsletter. Please send me a short paragraph relating their accomplishments for the year or at least the grade and school they attended or will be attending in the fall. Send it to the church email: Edgefieldgmc@gmail.com. I would like to include every child attending Edgefield. I will need this info by May 25th. Thank you. Janet



LORD'S ACRE SALE

Remember to **mark your calendar for Saturday, September 26** for the Lord's Acre Sale. We will have breakfast, baked and canned goods, crafts, produce, a raffle, and auction.

Breakfast will start at 8 and end at 10. The auction will start at 9:30. All other areas will be selling items until 12:00.

We have the following baskets so far for the auction:

Fishing, Boy's Basket, Girl's basket, UT, Barbie, Shampoo, Fall Theme, Mary Kay, Kitchen, Chocolate, Hot wheels, Scentsy, Vera Bradley, and Snowman. If you are planning to make a basket for the auction, please let Linda Hodge know what the theme will be, you can also make a monetary gift for someone's items if you do not want to commit to an entire basket. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your willingness to help!!

We are still looking for a Halloween basket, Spa basket, and a Game basket. If you would be willing to sign up for one of these, please let Linda Hodge know. THANKS!!

It is almost time for planting gardens. When you are canning this summer why not prepare a few extra jars of your special recipes that can be donated for our canned goods. We appreciate all donations!! Canning days will be coming soon and we will need lots of help on those days!!

The raffle will be a 50/50 raffle. Candy will be sold this year as we have done in the past and the winner of the raffle will win half of the money that was sold for the tickets.

Jill Fandl is overseeing the crafts. If you are planning on making any items for the LAS, please let Jill know. Watch for craft items to be posted on facebook and please help by sharing the posts.

Small appliances, décor items, etc are great items for the auction. If you come across any of this on sale that is a great time to buy them to donate for the LAS auction. You may also have contacts at local restaurants, hair salons or SPA'S that might be willing to donate a gift certificate. If you need a donation letter, please let Linda Hodge know. Any help is greatly appreciated!

Get ready to bid! bid! bid!! We have the following items for the auction so far for sites:

2 tramway rides at lower tramway in Gatlinburg, 2 admissions to Luray Caverns (Luray,VA), 2 admissions to Tennessee Aquarium Chattanooga, 4 tickets to Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga, 4 passes to Soaky Mountain Water Park, and 4 passes to Grandfather Mountain

Miscellaneous items:

Dash fresh pop popcorn maker, Crock pot, My mug ice cream maker, Cuisinart 12 piece knife set, Fabware 15 piece cookware set and a Maroon purse, wallet and cross body.

Baked goods information will be posted closer to the LAS. We will need lots of baked goods for our event so be getting your best recipes ready!! Please see Teri Fox if you have any questions about the baked goods items.

John Weaver, Trish & Randy Shipley are overseeing the produce for the LAS. If you have any produce that will donated for the LAS, please let any one of these individuals know.

We are still looking for a few more workers/helpers for the LAS. Please let Linda Hodge know if you are available to help.

Thanks for your continued support of our Lord's Acre Sale!!



MEMORIALS:

In Memory: **Howard Smith Jr.**

By: John & Jan Weaver
Bill Smith
Judy Cross
Eric Hughes
Ivy, Matt, and Wes Smith

In Memory: **Buster Cox**

By: Bill Smith
Helen Houston
Val & Mary Lee Heil

In Memory: **Warren Torbett (Food Pantry)**

By: MM Martin Lodge # 547
Ellen Torbett
Steve Little
Bill Smith
Pat Powell
Judy Cross
Eric Hughes
Tim & Camille O'Neill
Janette Berry
Anonymous
Sam O'Dell

In Memory: Dave Tester

By: Eric Hughes



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- May 3 - 7:30 am** – Methodist Men 's Breakfast in CLC
- May 3 – 12:30 pm** – The Chosen E3 Woes in CLC
- May 3 – 2:00 pm** – Paper Angels@ Dawn Tuck's Home (906 Denvers Lane)
- May 6 – 7:00 am** – Men's Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles
- May 8 – 10:00 am** – Women's Meeting in CLC
- May 15 – 10:15 am** – Food Pantry Unload
- May 16 – 8:30 am** – Food Pantry Distribution
- May 17 –1:00 pm** – The Chosen E4 The Same Coin in CLC
- May 17 – 4:00 pm** – Church Council Meeting in the Sanctuary
- May 17** – Graduation Sunday
- May 22 – 10:15 am** – Food Pantry Unload
- May 24** – Recovery Soldiers Ministry (both services)
- May 24 - After Worship** - "Table for One?" at Chef Alfredo's in Piney Flats
- May 24 – 2:00 pm** – Game Time for seniors 50 plus in CLC (Rook players needed also)
- May 31** – Offering for Holston Home for Children
- May 31 – 1:00 pm** – The Chosen E5 Because of Me
- June 7 – 7:30 am** – Methodist Men's Breakfast in CLC
- Every Monday, Tuesday – 12:00-3:00 pm** – Saturday – 9 -11:00 am – Quilting for the Homeless
- * Every Wednesday:**
 - 9:00 am** – Mayberry Bible Study (CLC)
 - 10:30 am** – Dulcimer Jam Session
 - 6:00 pm** – Bible Study in CLC & On-Line
 - 6:30 pm** – Youth Adults (bi-weekly)
 - 7:00 pm** – Choir Practice





Susie Feathers	3
Helen Houston	4
Krisalyn Elliott	7
Aaron Schowalter	7
Jeff Hess	8
Ronnie Bowers	8
Estel Williams	9
Paulette Smith	12
Mark Hensley	13
Dolores Chapman	22
Jan Weaver	23
Ashley Minton	26
Mary Beth Sidebottom	26
Brittany Tanner	26
Marcella Payne	29
Bodey Fox	30



Danny & Linda Walsh	4
D.J. & LeAnn Roberts	5
Aaron & Dawn Tuck	17
Elliott & Rhonda Haverlack	25
Terry & Nancy Moretz	3

LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Mary Beth Sidebottom	Jean King	Beth Bently
Charles Arnold	Norma Curtis	Denika Jones
Shane Malone	John Bragg	Betty Arnold
Nancy Broyles	Becky Chapman	Paul Gannon
Jane Howell	Helen Moyers	Carol Fox
Dickie Matney	Leslie Merrick	Bob Jara
Anne Whittemore	Janiece Brown	Tom Cross
Jeff Sluss	Benny Tester	Middle East
Stacy Fox	Jamieon Wright	Nicki Songster
Bill Sawyers	Jim Culbertson	Jeff Depew
Tom Pruitt	Jim & Verlyn Hearn	Phyllis King
Beth Hearn	Robert Davidson	
Jean Oliver	Donnie Chapman Jr.	
Sherry Hensley	Chris Trivette	
Diane Whaley	Reggie Jett Family	
Andy Wilhoit	Summer Simpson Family	
Reba Anderson	Clara Hawkins Family	
Ava Cox	Ken Sage Family	
Henry Sheldon	Eddie Fillers Family	
Keith & Nancy Wilson	Nancy Dubell Family	
Martha Oliver Ballard	Dorothy Clingingsmith Family	

Homebound

Betty Berry	Betty Birdwell	Carol Fox
Betty Hale	Sam O'Dell	Stan & Earlene Strouth

Nursing Homes/Assisted Living

Pete Carrier.....Dominion Senior Living of Bristol, 425 Shelby Lane, Room 180, Bristol, TN 37620

Lynne Deakins....Greystone Healthcare Center, 181 Dunlap Road, Blountville, TN 37617

Eleanor Ensley....Lakebridge Rehabilitation Center, 115 Woodlawn Dr., Johnson City, TN 37604

Trula Hodge.....Dominion Assisted Living, Room 223, 2412 Knob Creek Road, Johnson City, TN 37604

Phyllis King.....Dominion Senior Living of Bristol, 425 Shelby Lane, Bristol, TN 37620

Rena Lewis.....Princeton Assisted Living, 401 Princeton Road, Room 309, Johnson City, TN 37601

Marshall Lineberry....Holston Senior Living ASL, 990 Holston Rd., Wytheville, VA 24382

Pauline Oliver.....NHC Healthcare, 3209 Bristol Hwy., Room 312, Johnson City, TN 37601