



THE BEACON

Brookstown
United Methodist Church
Rev. James T. (Chip) Webb, Jr.
May 2026

A Message from Pastor Chip

Perspectives, Lessons, Choices

A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ~ According to Luke

The events of the crucifixion and appearances following the resurrection, recounted by the four Evangelists – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – provided the opportunity to examine the shared and differing perspectives, and details peculiar to the Synoptics and to John. As students of Jesus and the Bible, we often “merge” the various details into a single, chronological narrative; i.e., our Christmas “manger scenes” have baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi, with a host of angels.

In 1819, Thomas Jefferson did the same thing; however, he produced the narrative by literally cutting and pasting the events and teachings of Jesus’ life as represented in the Gospels in four languages: Greek, Latin, French and English. Jefferson left out some events and details, and focused on Jesus’ life and moral teachings.

Any of us would have been punished for cutting up the New Testament, but Jefferson can be admired for being deeply engaged in seeking to properly understand Jesus’ teachings. The literal “extraction” and compilation of the “Jefferson Bible” was a serious and labor-intensive effort, producing a product of unique perspective. Some might disagree!

One of Jefferson’s most significant contributions to our country is a document entitled: *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom*. Jefferson’s experiences among a variety of religious folk – Baptists, Methodists, Hebrews, Catholics, Anglicans, etc. – in the former British colonies, living under the authority of the Church of England, gave birth to his considerations of religious freedom for citizens of the new nation. Our freedom to think, believe and practice our faith as we see fit owes much to this founding Father, who authored the Declaration of Independence and the Virginian Statute for Religious Freedom, became President, founded the University of Virginia, and studied and practiced farming all of his life.

Jefferson wrote, “No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden. Such a variety of subjects, someone always coming to perfection, **the failure of one thing repaired by the success of another** [emphasis mine]. But tho’ an old man, I am but a young gardener.”

And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold. ~ According to Luke

Life is like a garden. The sun shines. The rains come. Frosts happen in May. Deer pluck plants and drop them. Nutgrass seeds germinate. Green beans sprout. Figs leaf. Pears grow. Blueberries ripen. So it is, in the garden, and in life. Sow on!

The harvest is in God’s hands.

Pastoral Appointment

We are pleased to announce that we have received a letter from the district advising that Chip Webb has been appointed as Pastor to Brookstown UMC for the year beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This will be Chip's 19th year at Brookstown. Please take a moment to congratulate Chip on this appointment as we welcome him back for another year in the continued work and growth here at Brookstown.

*~ Charlie Sharpe
Chairman, SPRC*

"Practice makes preachers. Love makes pastors."

~ Clyde R. Webber Jr.

Ascension of the Lord

Forty days after each Easter, this year on May 14, many Christians around the world celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. It's the day when the resurrected Jesus was raised up from the earth into heaven. The Ascension is the prelude to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon a gathering of people, including the apostles, in Jerusalem. The Sunday after the Day of Ascension is Ascension Sunday, which falls on May 17 this year.

The Ascension is more important than many Christians realize. In His human body, Christ could be in only one place at a time. The risen Christ, however, can be spiritually present in any place at any time.

Day of Pentecost

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon those who believed in His resurrection. Ten days after His ascension, the disciples were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost, when "from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind" (Acts 2:2, NRSV). Tongues of fire descended on everyone in the crowd (Acts 2:3, NRSV).

The disciples were able to share the good news of Jesus in the native tongues of all the pilgrims assembled there. That day of Pentecost, some 3,000 people came to believe in Christ. That's why today Christians remember this powerful event as the birthday of the church.

The Day of Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 24 this year. To symbolize the "tongues, as of fire" that came upon the people, churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday. Many people attending worship wear red.

Even today, the power of the Holy Spirit fuels the "flame" that ignites Christians' outreach efforts. Only by the Spirit's power can we know Christ and make him known throughout the world.

Trinity Sunday

On Trinity Sunday, May 31 this year, we praise our Triune God for meeting all our needs. Christians believe in one God who is manifested in three forms: God the Creator, the Incarnate God (Jesus), and God's (Holy) Spirit.

Theologian Henry Van Dusen thought of the Trinity in these terms: In God the Father, our Creator, we see the ultimacy of God. In God the Son, Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior, we see the character of God. In God the Holy Spirit, who is eternally present with us, we sense the intimacy of God.

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
~ Reginald Heber, 1826*

*"The mere whisper of the Holy Spirit
can drown out the thundering
noise of an entire world."
~ David Jeremiah*

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Results

“Through the teaching, support, sacrifice, worship, and commitment of the church, utterly ordinary people are enabled to do some rather extraordinary, even heroic acts, not on the basis of their own gifts and abilities, but rather by having a community capable of sustaining Christian virtue. The church enables us to be better people than we could have been if left to our own devices.”

~ Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon,
“Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony”

*“We are only fully alive
when we’re helping others.”
~ Rick Warren*

CCM Hope du Jour 2026

Eat Out. Take Out. Help Out!

Tuesday, May 5

“Join us on May 5 for the 36th annual Hope du Jour, where participating food and beverage establishments donate 10% of their proceeds to Crisis Control Ministry, Forsyth County’s largest non-profit provider of emergency assistance.

Plan to visit participating establishments for breakfast, lunch, dinner and more in a day of feel-good eating to make a difference in our community.

Visit <http://hopedujour.org> to find a list of participating restaurants.

Can’t eat out May 5, but want to help? Visit crisiscontrol.org to donate online.”

~ Crisis Control Ministry

Crisis Control Gifts of the Month

Baked Beans

(Pork & Beans, Beanie Weenies, etc.)

For Kids: Cereal Bars

*Thanks to everyone who gives generously to
Crisis Control Ministry each month!*

Special Offering

Sunday, May 31

Gifts on Peace with Justice Sunday fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God’s children globally. When you give, you encourage people to live – not just preach – a gospel of peace. For more information visit:

www.umcgiving.org

Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 6, 1:30-5:30pm

Make plans to come out to Brookstown and give the gift of life by donating much-needed blood! The Red Cross will set up in the Fellowship Hall, and will take good care of you.

You can make an appointment by calling Tim Lasley at 336-817-4593, or sign up online at:

redcrossblood.org

Use Sponsor Code: Brookstown

*“To pray is to grasp heaven in one’s
arms, to embrace the Deity within
one’s soul, and to feel one’s body
made a temple of the Holy Spirit.”*

~ Charles H. Spurgeon

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 7

The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day of observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people “to turn to God in prayer and meditation”.

Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln’s proclamation of a day of “*humiliation, fasting, and prayer*” in 1863.

In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May.

United Women in Faith

All women in the church and community are invited to join us for our next monthly meeting at 11am on Thursday, May 21 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a potluck dish of your choice as we gather for a meal before a short business session. The program is "Dreams of More" and focuses on how we might practice this in our lives with God's help, especially as we reach out to potential new members to join our organization. As we meet this month, United Women in Faith members worldwide are meeting at Assembly, celebrating the theme, "Dream It! Believe It! Do it!" If we are to live out our dreams, we will also need some of the discerning wisdom Solomon asked for in 1 Kings 3:4-15.

The district "Wear a Hat, Bring a Hat Tea" is Saturday, May 30 from 11am to 1pm, at Pine Grove UMC on Jonestown Road in Winston-Salem. All who attend should wear a hat and bring one or more new or gently used hats which will be donated to Cancer Services for cancer patients. The hats can be for men, women or children. If you can't attend and have hats to donate, bring them to me at our meeting May 21 or to church May 24. May 21 is also the deadline for reservations to me if you plan to attend this free event. We hope we'll have a good number attending from our church just as we have had with the district mission study and prayer breakfast that were held this spring.

A conference UW Faith event, which is always wonderful, is the Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska June 11-13. All the details and registration information are available at the conference site at wncumw.org. Meeting, sharing fellowship and learning at Lake Junaluska is always special!

~Martha Isenberg, UWF President



"Adopt the pace of nature: Her secret is patience." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



Community Yard Sale

Melisse Hopping is organizing a yard sale to be held in the old pavilion at the lower side of the Brookstown cemetery on Saturday, May 23 from 9am-3pm. Any church members or friends who would like to participate, please let her know (336-671-6308). It's a great opportunity to do your spring de-cluttering, and also make some profit from the items you no longer need. One person's trash is another's treasure!



2026 Brookstown Community Festival Update

Festival Bible Verse:

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV

Preparations are underway for our upcoming Community Festival, to be held September 12, 2026. We are all looking forward to another great Saturday filled with delicious food, inspirational entertainment, lots of great vendors, helpful volunteers, and wonderful fellowship!

We already have some vendors registered, with a variety of items for sale. Roberta Lasley is our Vendor Coordinator, so contact her if you have any questions or know of possible vendors.

We are working on filling volunteer slots, so please contact Tim Lasley, Jimmy Holder or Roberta Lasley if you are able to help. We will need help for set-up, breakfast, lunch, Country Store, Bakery, Tractor Pull, frozen baked goods, vendor assistance, and clean-up.

Our Festival planning meetings will begin soon and the dates will be published. Anyone who would like to help with planning is welcome!

~ The Festival Committee
Jimmy Holder, Tim & Roberta Lasley



Brookstown Summer Care

The last day of public school is May 27, and the Brookstown Summer Care Program will begin on Monday, June 1, for elementary aged children. We are still taking registrations for summer, so let your friends and neighbors know about this great opportunity for children to have a fun-filled "summer camp" experience. Parents may stop by or call 336-945-2547.

Remember to drive safely if you come through the church parking lot during the day. We pray all children have a safe and happy summer!

~ Jenny Tilley, BSSC Director
& The BSSC School Board



*"Where flowers bloom,
so does hope."
~ Lady Bird Johnson*

Graduate List

During May we will compile a list of 2026 Brookstown Graduates. If you or someone in your family is graduating, please let Chip or Lavonda know **by May 31**. We need the graduate's name, school, program from which he/she is graduating, and future plans, if you would like to include that.

Graduates will be recognized on Sunday, June 14. We will need to know which service you will attend that day.

*Thank you, God, that Your divine
resurrection is revealed here on earth.
Newness is springing to life
all around us!*



*"Live simply, love generously, care deeply,
speak kindly, leave the rest to God."
~ Attributed to Ronald Reagan*

Drivers Needed

We are looking for persons able and willing to drive the big school bus for summer outings for the children. If anyone is interested in this, or in getting their driver's license with school bus endorsement, please contact Roberta Lasley at 336-817-3051.

Applications for the William Shelton Scholarship

Those students who will be attending college for the year 2026-2027, and would like to be considered for the William Shelton Memorial Scholarship, should submit your letter of application by **June 30, 2026**.

Your letter should include the following:

Current address ~ College you plan to attend ~ Status: full time or part time student

Please include brief summary as to why you feel this scholarship would benefit you, and any other information about yourself that you would like to share with the Scholarship Committee.

Applications may be submitted by a third party. Only one application will be considered for the same applicant per year (July 1 through June 30).

You may send your application to the church office or directly to:

Susan Jameson
2105 Pendragon Court
Pfafftown, NC 27040

May God bless each of you as you continue your education.

~ Susan Jameson, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Teacher Appreciation Week: May 4-8

*This is an opportunity for students, parents, and communities
to show their appreciation for teachers' hard work,
and the long hours they dedicate to our children.*

*From the bottom of our hearts,
"Thank You, Teachers!"*



The Brookstown Express

If they see God's love lived, they learn to live God's love.

Vacation Bible School!

Monday, June 8 – Friday, June 12

6:30-8:30pm; Optional Family Meal at 6pm

Dear Friends, thank you for your wonderful support at the VBS volunteer meeting. We have chosen this year's theme – "Come Follow Me" – Jesus calls His disciples. Using lessons from Matthew 10:1-31, crafts, games, and songs, the children will learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We'd love for you to "Come and Follow" as we enrich each VBS experience.

*You are a child
of God, you
are wonderfully
made, dearly
loved, and
precious
in His sight.
~ Psalm 139*

*Faith is the gateway
of communion
with God;
love is the gateway
of ministry to people.*

VBS Meetings

We've held two productive planning meetings about our upcoming VBS. We have two more scheduled, and anyone who is volunteering, or would like to, is encouraged to attend. The meetings will be held on Sundays, May 17 and May 31, at 12:15pm, following the 11:00 worship service. Please join us!

We are looking forward to another amazing Vacation Bible School at Brookstown UMC!

Hymn of Promise
*In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of
winter there's a spring that
waits to be, unrevealed
until its season,
God alone can see.
~ Natalie Sleeth*

*But Jesus called
the children to
him and said,
"Let the little
children come to
me, and do not
hinder them, for
the kingdom of
God belongs to
such as these."
~ Luke 18:16*

Sunday School

The Children are very excited about their Bibles, and enjoy reading them in class. We are grateful to the church for providing Bibles for our youngest disciples.

The Youth class has been meeting in the Ola Apperson classroom on the main level of the education building to accommodate our injured student, Ace Lasley, who had a skiing accident. We're happy to report that prayers have been answered, she is recovering well, and can now maneuver stairs! So, the Youth Sunday School Class will once again meet in their upstairs classroom.

Marsha Campbell, Children's Ministries Coordinator
Jonna Lasley, Youth Ministries Coordinator

*I have decided to follow Jesus; If no one joins me, still I will
follow. The cross before me, the world behind me;
No turning back, no turning back.
(from the hymn, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus")*

Thank God for Mothers

"To the world you are a mother, but to your family you are the world."

~ Dr. Seuss

Mother's Day ~ Sunday, May 10

In 1907, a lady in Philadelphia, Anna Jarvis, began lobbying for a day when our nation would honor mothers. She persuaded the leaders of the church her mother attended to designate the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day.

After Mrs. Jarvis had written countless letters to political authorities across the nation, by 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday. The annual celebration is on the second Sunday in May, which was the anniversary of the death of Mrs. Jarvis' mother.

*The best inheritance a mother can leave
her children is a Christian example.*

*"She watches over the affairs of her
household and does not eat the bread
of idleness. Her children arise and call
her blessed; her husband also, and he praises
her: 'Many women do noble things, but you
surpass them all.' "* ~ Proverbs 31:27-29



My Mother Kept A Garden

*My Mother kept a garden,
a garden of the heart,
She planted all the good things
that gave my life its start.
She turned me to the sunshine
and encouraged me to dream,
Fostering and nurturing
the seeds of self-esteem.
And when the winds and rain came,
she protected me enough,
But not too much, because she knew
I'd need to stand strong and tough.
Her constant good example
always taught me right from wrong-
Markers for my pathway
that will last a lifetime long.
I am my Mother's garden.
I am her legacy-
And I hope today she feels the love
reflected back from me.*
~ Author Unknown



*"It's only for a day or two. . .
Mother's Day present."*

May Friendship Day ~ Friday, May 1

May Friendship Day, a Church Women United initiative, is celebrated on the first Friday of May, and centers around a theme of shared concern for Christian women and their communities. This year it falls on May 1. The predecessor to May Friendship Day, May Fellowship Day, began in 1933, after two Christian women's groups planned gatherings based on similar concerns: child health and children of migrant families. These groups united and over the years eventually became what we now know as Church Women United. The May celebration has been continually observed since 1933; in 1999, Church Women United changed the name from May Fellowship Day to May Friendship Day.



"He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

~ St. Basil

May

ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby & Judy Macemore	4
Seth & Amy Lowrance	5
Tyler & Hannah Steppe	14
Jim & Marcia Downey	19
Kevin & Karen Procter	20
Andy & Vonda Brown	20
Trey & Faith Greenwood	21

*If your birthday or anniversary needs to be added, please let me know.
Lavonda*

Flowers for Worship Services

May 3 – Shannon Craft
May 24 – Tim & Roberta Lasley
(May 10, 17 & 31 are open)

BIRTHDAYS

Jimmy Holder	3
Aubrey Apperson	5
Seth Lowrance	5
Dakota Dzula	10
Carey Mock	11
Rebecca Allen	14
Garland Apperson	14
Whitney Sharpe	16
Johnny Reed	16
Nancy LaPrad	17
Jennifer Carr Sheek	18
Kathryn Webb	24
Sadie Lasley	24
Stefen Quiros	31

Flower Chart

Sign up for your special Sundays on the flower chart in the vestibule, or call Lavonda to reserve a Sunday.

A Memorial Day Prayer

Gracious God, on this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace. In union with people of goodwill in every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe. We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

~ Author Unknown

Military Appreciation Concert

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, from 6-8pm

Make plans to come out to Shallowford Square for an evening of remembrance and honor at Lewisville's **11th Annual Military Appreciation Concert**. There will be a special Memorial Day Tribute by American Legion Post 522. The music concert will be provided by The Embers, featuring Craig Woolard. There will be lots of delicious food for purchase; Vienna Civic Club will serve hamburgers and hotdogs. Come early and bring your chair to get a good seat!

Church Contact Information

6274 Yadkinville Road
Pfafftown, NC 27040
336-945-3029

brookstown@triad.twcbc.com
brookstown.umcchurches.com

Like us on Facebook

"Butterflies... flowers that fly, and all but sing."

~ Robert Frost

"Kindness is like a garden of blessings."

~ Sirach 40:17



Whatever the Weather

*No matter what the forecast is,
weather can remind us of God's presence:*

- *When it's sunny, remember that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12).*
- *When it's cloudy, remember that God often spoke to and guided His people from a cloud (Exodus 13:21-22).*
- *During a thunderstorm, remember the thunder and lightning when God beckoned Moses to Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16).*
- *When it rains or snows, remember that God's Word serves His purpose just as precipitation does (Isaiah 55:10-11).*
- *When it's windy, remember that "a wind from God" came at Creation (Genesis 1:2), and God's Holy Spirit arrived at Pentecost like a mighty wind (Acts 2:2).*

~ From "The Newsletter Newsletter"

