



The Oakletter, May 10, 2026

It's the major, major month of May, and here's what's ahead in worship:

May 10 is both Mother's Day and the Festival of the Christian Home. Mother's Day is the heavy-hitter here, and it originated at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West-by-God Virginia in May 1907. I'm picking up flowers for Mother's Day Thursday. Maybe we can give them out Sunday as part of our Message for Growing Christians.

The Festival of the Christian Home may not be as well known. Here's how it's described by our *Book of Worship*: "This day celebrates the gift of Christian homes and affirms the Christian family in its wholeness." Ephesians 1:15-23, our scripture for Sunday, affirms such wholeness.

May 17 is both the sixth and final Sunday of Easter and a day to celebrate Jesus' ascension. Strictly speaking, May 14 is Ascension Day, since it's the 40th day after Easter this year and thus marks the end of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances. Our scripture for this Sunday comes from Acts 1:1-14, and if the Sixth Sunday of Easter and Ascension Sunday weren't enough, there's more!

May 17 is also Heritage Day. Our BOW says Heritage Sunday "calls The United Methodist Church to honor its heritage by committing itself to the continuing call of God, remembering that on April 23, 1968, The United Methodist Church was created by the union of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church." This gives us a chance to celebrate the anniversary of our 1956 decision to ordain women in full connection. Perhaps then we'll focus on hymns written by women, including Carolyn Gillette's Winfrey's great "O Christ, When You Ascended."

May 24 is Pentecost Sunday. I think we're clear on this one.

May 31, however, is both Trinity Sunday and Peace with Justice Sunday [above]. Says the BOW, "The Sunday After Pentecost is a celebration of the Trinity: one God in three persons." Also, "Observed on the First Sunday After Pentecost, [Peace with Justice Sunday] witnesses to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world." Sounds like a good day to sing both "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth" in addition to our hymn sing.

Again, it's the major, major month of May. Please pray for all that's ahead.

Thanks,

Ned

Sunday's Epistle lesson, Ephesians 1:15-23, NRSV

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Birthdays: Kenneth Long, May 11; Matt Springer, May 12; Rachel Friedel, May 14; Lorraine Baker, May 16

Reminders: Mission of the month [blessing box]: canned vegetables;
UMW collections for kits for conference, through May 31

This Week at Oaklette:

Sunday, May 10: Sunday school class and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; worship service and children's church @ 11 a.m. [C. Gallop/L. Gallop]

Monday, May 11: Food pantry [B. Swoope/T. Webb] @ 10 a.m.; HRM Band @ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13: choir practice @ 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 14: HSOBX @ 8:30 a.m.; Bible study @ 10 a.m.; Model A Club @ 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 16: Soupline at Salter Street; meet at St. Brides Episcopal @ 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 17: Sunday school and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; worship service and children's church [**note: volunteers needed**] @ 11 a.m.; confirmation class @ 5 p.m.

New to the prayer list: Barbara Bennett. Also pray for: Pastor Tyrone Armstrong, Donna Baker, Preston Basnight, Tanya & Steve Benton, Chris Carney, Sandy Carraway, Megan Carroll, Chesapeake Fire Dept., Coastal Va District & DS Givens, Kaylee Cuccorillo, Rylee Amelia Dimitry, Bille East, Jay Eckert, ForKids, Joyce Gaston, Freekind Virginia, Bill Gilliam, Kaye Herndon, Ethel Hickman, Debbie Hodges, Home School Out of Box, Earl Jenkins, Teal Jenkins, Pat Johnson, Karon Hardy, Brian Lincoln, Dave Lorence, Rose Marie Madu, Wayne Magner, Walter Nebrotskie; Pat Newbern, Dakota Rebel, Ray & Bob Rosales, Rhonda Roughton, Loretta Smith, the League of Advocates, Virginia Conference & Bishop Sue, John Tandy, Marilyn Washington, Monica Whitehurst, Phyllis Buchanan Wolfe, Our Country & Military, our confirmation class, Our Pastor

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