

May 2024



St. John Journey

www.stjohnabingdon.org



Message from our pastor:

The month of May brings a lot of fun and fascinating moments! Mother's Day, quilt blessings, Pentecost, and this year we will be celebrating my installation as your pastor. Some of you may be wondering, "She started in March, why do we need an installation??" and that is a valid question! We've been worshipping together, celebrating together, visiting, and even mourning losses together. So, why do we need an installation? Well, read on dear reader and I will tell you!

In the same way new members renew their baptisms when joining a new church and that community welcome them in a pastor's installation works in a similar way. While a pastor is only ordained into the ministry once each time they are called to serve a new congregation they have an installation. The installation service is a congregational event that formally recognizes a pastor's responsibility to their congregation. The service emphasizes my role as your pastor and my responsibilities to lead worship, to teach, preach, care for and lead you into this next chapter of St. John's history. And you as the congregation are reaffirming your decision to call me as your pastor, to promise to work with me, pray with me, and reach out to the community with me. If the contract I signed with the council was a marriage certificate the installation service would be the wedding!

I hope that you all are as excited as I am to continue this work of the gospel together! I may be the one standing up front on May 19th but this is a service for all of us. To mark the official beginning of our ministry and faith lives together.

**Blessings,
Pr. Elise**

Special May Events

Sunday, May 12th -Quilt Sunday and Mother's Day.

Sunday, May 19th -Pentecost Sunday and Pastor Elise's installation at 5:00pm. We will have a potluck dinner following the service.

Please email Jill in the office know if we missed your May birthday so it can be added to our database.

Volunteers for May

If you are unable to serve, please let Jill in the office know as soon as possible.

Sunday May 5th

Lay Asst.: Ed Davis
Lector :Helen French
Ushers: The Krolls
Counters: Doris Vaught, Sandy Davis

Sunday May 12th

Lay Asst : Ken Croghan
Lector: John Gifford
Ushers: The Giffords
Counters: Chris Meacham, Roger Nipper

Sunday May 19th

Morning service

Lay Asst.: Ken Croghan
Lector: Doris Vaught
Ushers: Jim and Sharon Meacham
Counters: The Krolls

Sunday May 26th

Lay Asst.: Linda Garnett
Lector: Bill Spencer
Ushers: Helen French, Dennis Bailey
Counters: Jim Suhrbier, Helen French



May birthdays

5/04-Christine Fields
 5/06-Chris Meacham
 5/20-Josh Wellenhoffer
 5/24-Sam Davis

MAY NEWS

Women's Group

The meeting will be Sunday, May 5th at 2:00pm. Special Guest coming! Lavelva Stevens the VSWO President will attend our meeting! Sam Davis will give an Intro to World Religions talk. A small group will be offered later to further explore this topic. We will have plenty of time for fellowship and food, so please join us!

There's still time! Deadline extended to May 24th! The Women's Retreat at Hungry Mother is May 31-June 2, 2024. Feel free to come and relax with women from the Highlands Conference. For more information click [here](#).

Save the date! The VSWO (Virginia Synodical Women's Organization) has a convention in Williamsburg, VA, July 26-27, 2024. Click [here](#) for more information.

Quilters

The quilters are continuing to meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 to noon (come late, leave early as needed). Quilt Sunday is scheduled for May 12 (Mother's Day). They will continue to meet in May to pack the quilts.

Book Group

The book group is reading Search by Michelle Huneven, per Pastor Elise's recommendation. It's described as a "sharp and funny novel of a congregational search committee, told as a memoir with recipes." A date has not been set but we will give plenty of notice. Snacks will be pot-luck.

Food Pantry

Our turn is coming up again! Please mark your calendars for the week of May 13-17. We will need help on Monday and Friday from 9:45am -1:00pm and Tuesday from 3:45pm-6:00pm.

NexTrex Plastic Recycling Update

Another 61 pounds was collected this month, bring out total to 315!
 Keep up the great work--bring your plastic and fill our bins!

Thank you Pastor Wylie!

On Sunday, April 21st, we honored Pastor Craig Wylie for his service to St. John as our interim pastor. Our own Helen French made the wonderful sculpture that was presented to him. A pot luck lunch followed.

