

MAY 2026 WORSHIP GUIDE

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of May 2026.

If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family.

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

We have just come through the great celebration of Easter, where we proclaimed again that Christ is risen! But Easter is not a single day, it is a season. In the life of the Church, we are still living in Easter, still learning what it means to be a resurrection people.

In these weeks, we are reminded that the resurrection is not only something that happened to Jesus, it is something that is happening in us. As First Epistle of Peter declares, we have been “born into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” That means our lives are no longer defined by what is fading, uncertain, or broken, but by what God has made new, enduring, and alive.

This is the heart of our current sermon series, Living Hope. We are exploring how the resurrection reshapes not just what we believe, but how we live, how we endure trials, how we love one another, and how we carry ourselves in a world that often feels uncertain. Hope, in the Christian sense, is not wishful thinking. It is a steady confidence rooted in what God has already done and is continuing to do.

As we move through May, we also approach two significant moments in the life of the Church: Ascension and Pentecost. In the Acts of the Apostles, we see that after the resurrection, Jesus does not leave His disciples empty-handed. He ascends, not to abandon them, but to reign and to send the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, the Spirit fills the Church with power, courage, and life.

This is important for us to remember: the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead is at work in us today. We are not called to live the Christian life in our own strength. We are empowered, guided, and sustained by the presence of God Himself.

So what does this mean for us at Cherryvale?

It means we are a people of hope, even when life is hard.

It means we are a people of new life, even when the world feels weary.

It means we are a people sent into the world, not to withdraw from it, but to bear witness to what God has done.

In a time when many voices around us speak fear, frustration, or despair, the Church has something different to offer: a living hope that does not fade. And that hope is not something we keep to ourselves, it is something we embody and share.

I want to encourage you this month to take a simple step: look for where resurrection life is already breaking through. It may be in a restored relationship, a quiet moment of peace, an opportunity to serve, or a renewed sense of purpose. Give thanks for those moments. They are signs that God is still at work.

And as always, I invite you to stay connected: to worship, to prayer, to one another. Bring someone with you. There is a place here for everyone, and the life we share together matters more than we often realize.

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts, and may the hope of the resurrection shape your days.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Jonathan Greer
Cherryvale Church

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3)

MAY WORSHIP

May 3

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Prov 4:10-18; Ps 119:9-32; 1 Pet 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Call to Worship

Once we were not a people, Now we are God's people. Christ is the cornerstone rejected by the world. Yet chosen and precious in God's sight. We gather as living stones being built together. Let us worship the Lord who makes us one, and who lays the foundation of the Church on Jesus Christ alone.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, You have called us into community, yet we often choose division. You build us into a spiritual house made of living stones, yet we live as isolated stones. Forgive our pride, our impatience, and our failure to love, serve, and help one another as Christ calls us to do. Heal the fractures among us and teach us to bear one another's burdens with grace. Through Jesus Christ our cornerstone, shape us into a people who reflect Your mercy, and who uphold one another in faith, so that Your light may shine through Your Church. Build us to be the living testimony of Your love and unity to the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Builder of Your Church, You gather us into one body in Christ. Receive these gifts as part of Your holy work, and use them to strengthen Your people and proclaim Your marvelous light. Amen.

May 10 - Mothers Day

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Ezk 34:1-7; Ps 115; 1 Pet 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Call to Worship

People of God, always be ready to give a reason for the hope within you. Our hope is in the risen Christ, who suffered once for sins to bring us to God. Through His resurrection, Christ has given us a living hope. Through His Spirit, we are shaped into people of faithful love. With gentleness and reverence, we bear witness to God's saving work. We come to worship with hearts ready to live and sing of love's redeeming power

Prayer of Confession

God of truth and grace, You call us to bear witness to hope, yet we remain silent when courage is needed. We speak harshly when gentleness is required and forget that our lives proclaim Your gospel even when our words do not. Too often we fear rejection more than we trust Your promise, and we choose comfort over faithful love. Forgive us, renew our courage, and soften our hearts. Form in us the character of Christ, that our words and actions may reflect His mercy, and that others may see Your living hope revealed through us. .

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Faithful God, You entrust us with the message of hope and call us to share Your grace with the world. Bless these gifts and offerings, that through them Your love may be made known in acts of mercy, compassion, and service. Use what we bring to strengthen the weary, encourage the searching, and proclaim the good news of Christ. Make our lives an offering to You, shaped by gratitude and guided by Your Spirit, that we may faithfully tell Your story to the world. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

We honor and give thanks for the mothers and special women who have profoundly shaped our lives.

MAY WORSHIP

May 17

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Isa 45:1-7; Ps 21:1-7; 1 Pet 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Call to Worship

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. Christ is ascended and reigns at the right hand of God. Our Lord rules in glory and intercedes for His people. Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand, and He will lift you up in due time. We cast our cares upon Him, for He cares for us. Come, let us worship the ascended and reigning Christ! To Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen!

Prayer of Confession

Risen and Ascended Lord, You reign in glory, yet we live as though fear still rules the world. We cling to anxiety instead of casting our cares upon You. We seek control instead of trusting Your sovereign grace. Forgive us when we forget that Christ reigns, when trials shake our confidence, and when hope grows faint within us. Lift our eyes to Your throne of mercy. Strengthen us to stand firm in faith until all creation proclaims Your glory.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ascended Christ, You reign in glory and gather all things into Your grace. Receive these gifts and our lives as offerings of praise. Use them to strengthen Your Church, to comfort the weary, and to proclaim Your kingdom in every place. Until the day You come again in glory, keep us faithful in hope and steadfast in love. Amen.

May 24 - Pentecost

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Num 11:24-30; Ps 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Cor 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

Call to Worship

Come, Holy Spirit, come! Come as wind and fire, come as breath and life! When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place And suddenly a sound like the rush of a violent wind filled the house! Divided tongues, as of fire, rested on each of them And all were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak as God gave them voice! Jesus cries out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me" "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water!" Come, Spirit of the living God Fill us, renew us, and send us!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Holy God, You have poured out Your Spirit upon all flesh, yet we confess that we have resisted Your movement. You call us into new life, but we cling to what is comfortable and familiar. You send us to speak Your truth, but we remain silent in fear. You offer living water, yet we thirst for lesser things that cannot satisfy. Forgive us, O God. Cleanse us by Your Spirit. Burn away what is not of You, and kindle within us the fire of Your love, that we may live as Your faithful people.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Pour out Your Spirit upon Your Church, that we may be bold in witness, faithful in love, and united in Christ. Fill Your people with power from on high, that we may proclaim Your mighty deeds everywhere. Pour out Your Spirit upon the nations, bringing justice, peace, and hope. Pour out Your Spirit upon the sick, the grieving, and the weary, that Your living water may restore them. Pour out Your Spirit upon us, that we may be renewed, transformed, and sent as Your witnesses in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who sends the Spirit and makes us one. Amen.

MAY WORSHIP

May 31 - Holy Trinity Sunday

Scriptures to read and meditate on: Gen 1:1-2:4a; Ps 8; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Matt 28:16-20

Call to Worship

Come and worship the God who is beyond all understanding One God in perfect love. From the beginning, God spoke creation into being. The Word was with God, and the Spirit moved over the waters. In Jesus Christ, God has come near Teaching, redeeming, and calling us into new life. In the Holy Spirit, God is present among us now Guiding, empowering, and making us one. Let us worship the Triune God, who has been revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Confession

Triune God, You have created us, redeemed us, and sustained us, yet we confess that we have not lived as Your people. We have turned from the Father's will, ignored the call of the Son, and resisted the leading of the Spirit. You have sent us into the world, but we have remained silent in our witness. You have called us to make disciples, but we have kept faith to ourselves. Forgive us, O God. Renew us in Your grace, and draw us again into the life of Your love, that we may live as Your faithful people.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Triune God, from You and through You and to You are all things. We give You thanks for every good gift, and we offer these gifts back to You. Bless them and use them for Your kingdom, that through Your Church the good news may be proclaimed, disciples may be made, and Your love made known to all nations. Send us now in Your name, to live and serve as Your people, until all the world knows Your grace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.



Meal Packing Event May 2, 2026

\$4100 Goal - 10,000 meals

They may appear to be simple bags of rice and soy, but Rise Against Hunger meals carry the hopes and dreams of people around the world. Rise Against Hunger Experience events offer a meaningful and engaging way for groups to make a hands-on difference for those facing hunger globally. By combining an assembly-line process with an educational component, these events create a powerful impact.

To help reach our \$4,100 goal, we are partnering with Tidal Wave Car Wash. You can purchase a premium \$30 car wash for only \$10, and for every ticket sold, \$5 will go directly toward our Rise Against Hunger fundraising effort. These car wash tickets make great gifts, thoughtful thank-yous, or simply an affordable way to keep your own car clean at a fraction of the cost. Please contact the church office for more information on how to purchase tickets.

If you would prefer to support this vital ministry with a direct donation, please note "RISE" on your check.

Pentecost Word Search - Find the **40** words or phrases relating to Pentecost.

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.



Harvest
Holiness
Jerusalem
Joel
Languages
Law
Nations
Offering
Outpouring
Pentecost
Power
Prayer
Presence
Promise
Prophecy
Rejoicing
Scripture
Shavuot
Sinai
Spirit
Thanksgiving
Tongues
Unity
Witness
Wheat
Wind

Anointing
Apostles
Assembly
Birth
Church
Covenant
Disciples

Festival
Fire
First fruits
Fulfillment
Gathering
Glory
Grain

3 Spiritual Habits That Will Change How You Read the Bible

There's a spiritual habit that millions of Christians practice with extraordinary faithfulness every morning.

Before their feet touch the floor — sometimes before eyes are fully open — a hand reaches for the nightstand. They pick up their phone and begin their daily liturgy: email, news, social media, email again. No one taught them this ritual, and yet they perform it with a consistency that would make a Benedictine monk weep with envy.

Imagine if you were able to apply that same energy to your walk with God. Your spiritual life would look completely different. And that's actually the point. What you do habitually — what you do without thinking — shapes who you are becoming. That's true whether the habit is scrolling Instagram or sitting with the Psalms.

The historian Will Durant once said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." What Durant meant is that what type of person we are is based on our habits. Show me your habits and I'll show you what type of person you are becoming. This is especially true when it comes to our spiritual formation. We are all, every day, being formed by our spiritual habits. The only question is whether your habits are forming you into the image of Christ — or into something else.

What Are Spiritual Habits?

A spiritual habit is any repeated practice that, over time, shapes your soul toward (or away from) becoming like Jesus. The classic term for such practices is spiritual discipline. But for many people today, "discipline" carries connotations of punishment, rigidity, or performance. It can feel like something you do to earn God's favor rather than something you do because you have already received the grace of our Lord.

The word "habits" gets at the same idea with a different feel. Habits aren't about grinding your way to holiness. They're about arranging your life so that Christlikeness becomes the path of least resistance. Habits are a way of putting us on a path to healthy behavior so that it becomes automatic. For instance, you don't think about brushing your teeth every night. You just do it because it's become an ingrained habit. Spiritual habits aim at that same kind of effortless consistency. The effort you put into such habits will, over time, become embedded in who you are. And with the aid of the Holy Spirit, it can conform you to become more like Christ.

This is why intentionality matters. Left to themselves, our habits drift toward ease, novelty, and distraction. But a God-pleasing spiritual life doesn't run on autopilot. It requires us to deliberately build the practices that keep us connected to the Father, formed by his Word, and shaped by his Spirit. And of all those practices we should adopt, habits related to Scripture are the most essential.

3 Spiritual Habits for Engaging Scripture

When it comes to the Bible, most of us have one gear: we open it, read a passage, maybe journal or pray, and close it. That's a fine starting place. But it's a bit like having a library card and only ever reading the same chapter of the same book. Scripture rewards three distinct kinds of engagement, and each requires its own habit: breadth, depth, and internalization.

Breadth: Hearing the Whole Story

Most Christians have a canon within the canon. We have a handful of beloved passages we return to again and again, with only a vague sense of how Ecclesiastes connects to Revelation, or what the Minor Prophets are actually saying to us. The habit of breadth is about moving through larger sections of Scripture quickly enough that we are able to see the broader storyline and to develop a feel for the whole.

Depth: Reading the Same Book Again and Again

Next, include a habit that goes in the other direction. Pick one short book of the Bible and read it in its entirety. Then repeat this process between ten to twenty times.

This sounds extreme until you try it. What happens around the fifth or sixth reading is something close to magic. Connections you never noticed surface. The author's logic becomes clear. Verses you've quoted out of context for years suddenly make sense in their proper place. Then, after the eighth or ninth reading, you'll hit a wall that is similar to what runners face in marathons. The text will become dry and lose its flavor.

You'll want to move on to the next book or abandon the program altogether. Stick with it. Persevere and you'll discover even more of the treasures that repeated readings can provide.

Shorter books are the ideal place to start. Philippians, Colossians, Ruth, and Jonah are all short enough to read in a single sitting and rich enough to easily reward twenty consecutive readings. Once you've built the habit, you can move to longer books (but resist the temptation to jump to Genesis or Isaiah).

The point of this habit is saturation in God's Word. You're not trying to finish the Bible faster. You're trying to know one book better than you've ever known any book.

Internalization: Getting God's Word Into Your Heart

The third habit goes even deeper to hide God's Word in your heart. Memorization is the classic practice here, and it remains one of the most spiritually formative things a believer can do. When Scripture lives in your memory, it becomes available to you in moments when you have no Bible handy — in a hospital waiting room, in the middle of a temptation, in the dark hours of the night when anxiety won't let you sleep. Many people give up on memorization because it seems incredibly difficult. Why then can we remember lyrics to songs and commercial jingles we heard as teenagers? What keeps them stuck in our head even decades since we heard them last? The brain encodes songs differently than prose. Songwriters and educators have been using this for centuries, from children's alphabet songs to ancient Jewish liturgy.

Today there's an abundance of Scripture put to music in every genre imaginable, from country to R&B and from pop to folk.

Implementing these practices teaches that these aren't techniques just for spiritual elites. They're accessible, practical habits that any believer can build into ordinary life.

Start Somewhere

You already have spiritual habits. The question is whether they're working for you or against you. The phone you reach for before you're fully awake is proof that your brain is capable of remarkable consistency. That same capacity, pointed toward God's Word, can transform your spiritual life.

Pick one of these habits this week. Listen to Philippians on your commute. Start reading through Jonah every morning. Put a verse to a tune you like. You don't have to be extraordinary. You just have to be consistent.

And be patient with yourself. The most formative habits aren't the dramatic ones. They're the quiet, daily, almost unremarkable choices to return — again and again — to the Word that gives life.

Verona Food Pantry

This list is a guide line, any item you can give is welcomed.

Drop off at the office before the end of the month.

January - cereal and instant oatmeal cups

February - peanut butter and jelly jars

March - canned milk and dry milk powder

April - Mac n Cheese

May - canned meats and fish

June - canned fruit, fruit snacks and fruit cups

July - canned or boxed soup and soup cups

August - cereal bars / granola bars

September - peanut butter

October - canned pasta and pasta cups

November - anything thanksgiving

December - paper goods and personal hygiene items

In addition to the above list we are collecting Kleenex, Lysol wipes and hand sanitizer for the teachers and kids at AR Ware Elementary.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box, but it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.