



EBENEZER

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

Jun '25

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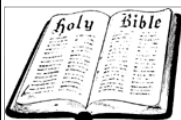
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Sunday Services

- 9:00am Worship Service
- 10:15am Sunday School
- 5:00pm Adult Choir / 4:00 pm Praise Band Practice
- 6:00pm Every FOURTH SUNDAY Ebenezer Methodist Women

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." *Matthew 28:19*



Pastor's Pen



The day of Pentecost is seven weeks after Easter Sunday: in other words, the fiftieth day after Easter inclusive of Easter Sunday. Because Easter itself has no fixed date, this makes Pentecost a changeable holiday. This year we celebrate Pentecost Sunday on June 8th, 2025. Pentecost is also the Greek name for the Jewish Feast of Weeks, celebrated 50 days after Passover. On this feast, the first fruits of the wheat harvest were presented, and the covenant made with God at Mount Sinai was remembered and renewed.

In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke describes the promised outpouring of the Spirit and the beginning of the Church's mission as occurring in Jerusalem during this feast. The accounts in both Acts (Acts 2:1-4) and the Gospel of John (John 20:19-22) show us the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples gathered together in the upper room. "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." John 14:26 says, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

This is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy." (Acts 2:16-18; Joel 2:28-32a)

Let me briefly outline three reasons why we celebrate Pentecost Sunday today. We ought to remember that Pentecost fulfills Jesus's promise to never leave us nor forsake us. Jesus says, "for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. . . . When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come". (John 16:7,13) Jesus did not end his work on earth with the ascension to heaven. He continues it now through his Holy Spirit upon His church. Jesus said, "Behold, I will be with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Secondly, Pentecost signals the birth of the global church with over three thousand people added to the church. The Spirit filled disciples are empowered to share their faith boldly and to carry the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth without fear nor favor. (Acts 1:8).

(Continued on page 3)

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:30p Prayer Meeting
- 7:00p Bible Study — Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.
Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings, etc.

Lord's Supper Ministry

The next meal will be served on **Monday, June 16th, 12-6:30 p.m.** Please contact Ricky Baker for details.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, June 17th at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

Council Meeting

Our Church Council will meet on **Sunday, June 22nd at 4:00 p.m.**

EWG Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, June 22nd at 6:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited.

July 4th Celebration

We will commemorate Independence Day on **Sunday, June 29th during our worship service.**

How do I hide God's word in my heart? Memorize it!

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

—Exodus 20:12 NIV

The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him.

—Proverbs 23:24 NIV

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

—Ephesians 6:4 NIV

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

FIRE AND WIND

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. —Acts 2:2-3 NIV

References: Acts 2:1-13; Interpreter's Bible: Acts Romans, pp.36-39.

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." --Acts 2:12-13 NIV

What happened at a gathering of the disciples and followers at the first Pentecost after the crucifixion of Jesus is considered to be the birth of the Christian Church. In John 20:19-23, Jesus meets with the disciples and tells them he is sending them out to tell the world about him. In vs. 22 we read: "And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' Though Jesus spent 50 days after his resurrection appearing to and teaching his disciples, we have no record of them increasing their numbers or going on mission trips.

Jesus told his followers that he had to leave them before the Counselor could come (John 16:7, 13). Did Jesus breathe on them to show them that he and the promised Holy Spirit were One? Were the fifty days preparation time for when the power of His Spirit would be poured out on them? And it was a POWERFUL pouring—like a violent WIND and like FIRE (Acts:2-4). The aftermath of this power was the ability to speak in other languages they had not been taught; a powerful sermon by the once scared Peter; and the increase of the number of believers by 3,000 souls in one day.

Pentecost is the revelation of the supernatural, the unseen, non-material taking charge of a person who then does extraordinary things. An athlete catches the wind and runs farther and faster than he ever has before, a dancer gives the performance of a lifetime, a musician plays a piece with passionate perfection, a man lifts a car with his bare hands to save a trapped person, a warrior defeats a hundred men with the jawbone of an ass. There are times for all of us when we can be "in the zone," when nothing goes wrong, everything falls into place, where we pull from inside ourselves power, strength, and courage that we never thought we had. These people at Pentecost felt that kind of power when God's supernatural Spirit took hold of them and they let that Spirit control them completely and freely.

They prepared for this by praying to God and worshiping together for days. They emptied their hearts and minds of themselves and invited God to come pouring in to give them power to do extraordinary things. Is this the problem of the church today—we are not willing to let God come in and take over everything? To let God be the owner of all we are and all we have?

(Continued on page 4)



June Events & Activities

Pentecost Sunday Service

Sunday, June 8
9 AM

Holy Spirit Fire is the theme for Pentecost Sunday. **Wear the colors of fire—Red, Orange, or Yellow** to worship with us as we honor the day the Christian Church was officially born.



Pastor's Pen, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

Lastly, Pentecost signals the coming of fuller restoration and a greater celebration. At Pentecost, Peter declares that the prophecy of Joel 2:28–31 has been fulfilled. The Prophet Joel also says, “I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.” (Joel 2:25) We celebrate

Pentecost because it is a pointer that history is truly moving towards the restoration of all things. We await the greatest celebration when the church is united with the bridegroom Jesus Christ.

Pastor Simon

Father's Day Sunday

Sunday, June 15
9 AM

We will honor our fathers at our worship service on Father's Day Sunday. We would like to have a display of photos of fathers, living or deceased, with family or alone, and small memorabilia items to honor these men. Please bring the items in by Sunday, June 8th or during that week during church office hours.

Thank you fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers for all you do to support your families and our church, and the effort you do and have done in the past to raise children in the Christian faith so that they become honest, hardworking and productive members of society.

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in May:

- **In honor of Nancy Sears Birthday** by Sandra Causby.
- **In honor of All Mothers** by Delores & Gary Paul Campbell.
- **In Memory/Honor of All Fallen and Deceased Armed Forces Service Members** by Delores & Gary Paul Campbell.

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



Please pray for the men and women who protect our freedoms.



June Celebrations



- 2nd—Carson Teague
- 3rd—Melissa Wilson
- 4th—Marley Smith
- 7th—Wyatt Baker
- 8th—Eathan Morrow
- 8th—Becky Yount
- 10th—Mary Lynn Pennell
- 11th—Ezma Austin
- 13th—Kim Ellis
- 16th—Casey Knepp
- 22nd—Nathan Adams
- 23rd—Theia McRary
- 26th—Delores Campbell
- 28th—Ragan Knepp

Happy Anniversary

- 20th—Jimmy & Heather Stone
- 21st—Kirk & Irene Austin
- 22nd—Dwight & Rosalind Kelley
- 28th—Ted & Gerry Daniel

John Wesley Said:

“He who governed the world before I was born shall take care of it likewise when I am dead. My part is to improve the present moment.”



Something, cont'd

Fire and wind are both uncontrollable and dangerous elements. Perfect representations of God, who is Spirit. Are we afraid to burn with the passion of the Spirit? To let the wind of the Spirit blow us where He wills? People may think we are crazy or drunk. God may burn up our belongings or us in service to Him and His kingdom's work. God can use us when we hold back from giving him our all, but what wonderful things could He do with us and through us if we gave His Fire and Wind full control? If we were in "His zone" and not our own? †

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

June 8 — Pentecost Sunday—Wear red, orange, or yellow.

June 15 — Father's Day with Display

June 16 — Lord's Supper Ministry

June 17 — Senior Citizens Gathering

June 22 — Church Council Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

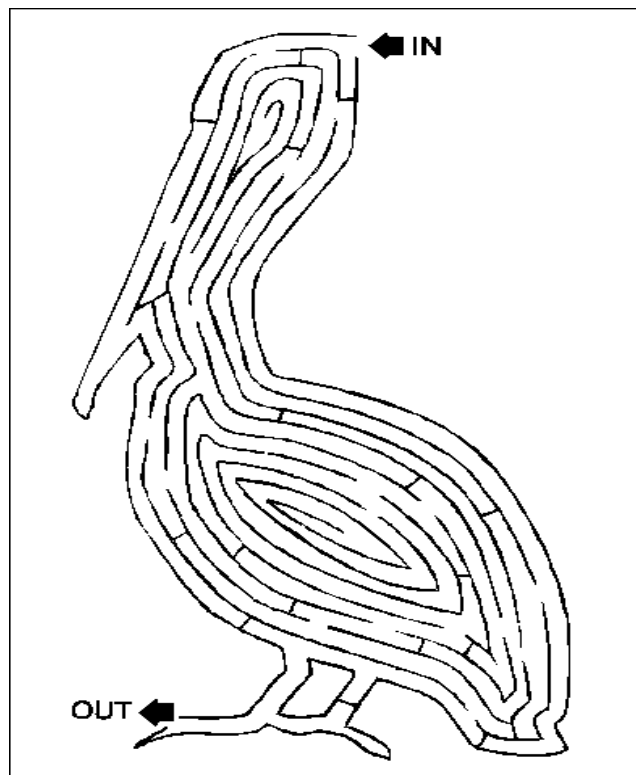
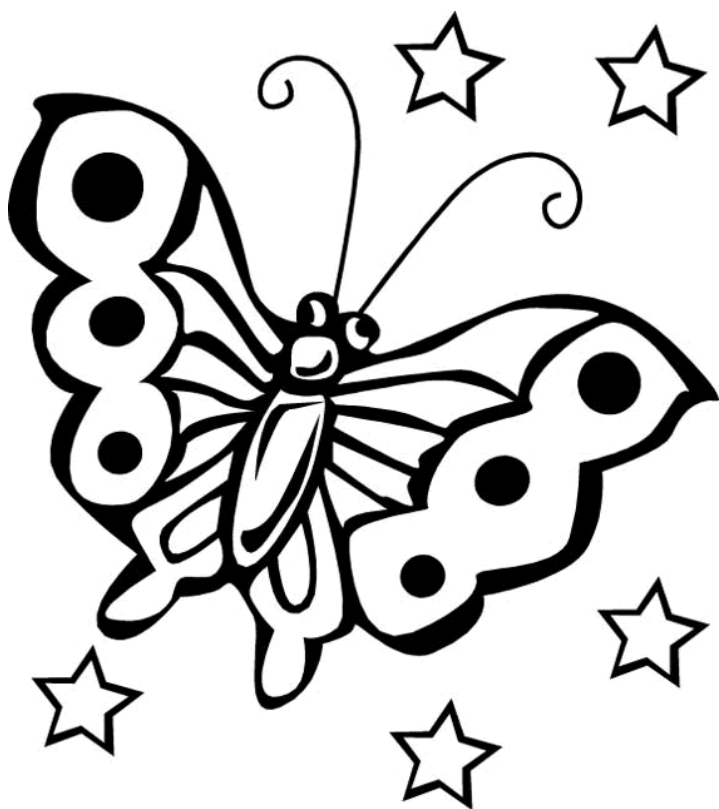
June 22 — Ebenezer Women's Group, 6:00 p.m.

June 29 — Independence Day Celebration Service

July 3-7 — Church Office Closed for Holiday/Vacation

July 21 — Red Cross Blood Drive, 2:30-7:00 p.m.

HAVE A LITTLE FUN!



Ministry Opportunity

The Global Methodist Church North Carolina Conference is collecting Bibles to send to Uganda. Used Bibles in good condition or monetary donations can be made. The Conference meets in June. We need the Bibles by June 15th. Thank you for your help.

