



March/April 2026

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Message From the Pastor

When I was younger, I hated art classes. I was always much more interested in math and science, and the arts always felt so subjective to me that I always looked down on it. I liked things that I could measure, problems with clear and concise answers, something where the resolution was concrete. Art was always about filling a page or space with what you wanted or what you felt, and that was too big and too undefined for me. And perhaps the most unpleasant part of it for me was not being able to know definitively if I had done things well or not. I knew if I had done a math problem right, that it would have a right answer, but with a painting or a drawing, things were much murkier.

As I have gotten older though, I have grown to appreciate the murkier parts of life. I think we all are forced to accept that the definitive answers in life are more challenging to find than we thought as children, but also that the journey of discovery for those answers is where the true joy in life is actually found. As I sat with our church makers group this past week, listening to them as we all worked on various artistic projects, I reminded that there is a reason why so many people find God in painting, writing, knitting, and other artistic endeavors. In the meandering and time-consuming work, we have to slow down, pay attention, cut out distractions, and actually be present. As we have more and more things jockeying for our attention, these moments become all the more precious. And as I heard people's stories and jokes and advice shared during those quiet moments on Tuesday, I also saw why it is so powerful to engage in that creative process with other people as well. When we build and create together, we see parts of someone else that can't be viewed in any other avenue.

God is in many ways the first and greatest artist, and if we are made in God's image, this is something which God has shared with us. A gift to create something out of nothing and share a piece of our identity with those around us who we are connected to in ways that we can never fully articulate. To create individually or as a group is a spiritual practice and is one that is good for the soul. Take time, whether with your family, with strangers, or just on your own, to set down your phone, get your hands dirty, and make something. God will be with you.



Highlights of Session Meeting May 21, 2026

April Treasurer Report

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|--------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| • April Income: | \$ 22,537.00 | YTD Income | \$ 70,958.00 |
| • April Expense | \$ 12,158.45 | YTD Expenses: | \$ 58,645.89 |
| • April Net Income | \$ 10,378.55 | YTD Net: | \$ 12,312.11 |

Approved: Fellowship Hall request November 14; Updated Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Policy; Purchase of small chest freezer to replace ice maker; Called Meeting on May 31; Joint Meeting with Deacons June 18; Christmas Cantata with reception December 5, 2026 at 6 PM ; Purchase of new choir robes.

Presbytery: Approved Sue Holland as Commissioner/ Ruby Campbell, Alternate to Presbytery West Gathering at Brownson Memorial in Southern Pines, June 13, 2026

VISITATIONS AND COMMUNION

If you would like to request a visitation from Rev. Chance Snell or for communion to be brought to you, please contact his cell phone at (540) 245-0261. He would love to get to know all the congregation members, so don't hesitate to call.

Food Pantry

The Outreach Committee greatly appreciates the generosity of our congregation in supporting the Food Pantry ministry. There is a collection basket in the narthex to receive any food donations, such as "dry" goods (i.e., canned foods, cereals, pasta). Food bags are distributed on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our congregation in supporting this program. Come early and help with distribution!





Youth Group

Youth group this year has come to a close until the fall. Our last gathering was on April 26th at Buffalo Lanes in Erwin for bowling. We had around 9 children participate in this event, many of whom did better at bowling than their parents!! Arcade games were played and prizes were won. Everyone had a fun time all around and we look forward to seeing you all join us on July 19 for our Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is Rainforest Falls!

Do you enjoy tech, sound, or just want to serve behind the scenes? The Media Ministry Team is looking for volunteers to help out on Sunday mornings—and we'd love to have you join us! No experience? No problem! We'll teach you everything you need to know in just a couple of Sundays. Whether it's managing sound or helping with livestream, you can be part of what makes Sunday morning happen. Stop by the media booth after service or talk to Heather Simpkins to sign up.

****This is an excellent opportunity for high school students: Earn Volunteer Hours – Perfect for school or college applications. Learn New Skills – Hands-on experience with sound, livestreaming, and cameras—real tech skills that look great on a résumé. Build Confidence – Learn responsibility, teamwork, and leadership in a supportive environment. Be Part of Something Bigger – Help create a meaningful worship experience for the whole church. Have Fun! – Connect with a creative team, make new friends, and enjoy being part of Sunday morning energy.****



Graduate Sunday

Barbecue Family, our Graduate Sunday was rescheduled from May 17th to May 31st due to so many graduates being unable to attend. There will also be a luncheon following the service to celebrate our new members, graduates, and confirmands. We are asking for volunteers to bring dessert.

A note from Music Director

In preparing music and hymns for services I am reminded that one of the most powerful ways God draws people together is through song. When we sing together, we do more than express personal taste or preference – we join our voices in prayer, praise, and shared faith. Not every hymn or song will speak to each of us in the same way every week, but each one may become a source of encouragement, comfort, hope – an extra measure of grace for someone else. Congregational singing invites us beyond our-selves and into a community. It is an act of generosity, unity, and worship. So let us sing heartily, joyfully, with open minds and open hearts, helping one another lift our voices to God as one body in Christ.

When the choir returns in the fall, we may look a little different. With the help of donations and session approval, the choir has purchased new choir robes.

Black robes are considered perfect for church because they symbolize humility, spiritual focus, and the weight of a holy calling. By creating visual uniformity, they shift the congregation's focus away from the pastor's personal style and onto the message of the Gospel. The tradition of wearing black robes in church is rooted in deep symbolism and practical benefits:

- **De-emphasizes the Individual:** Similar to a judge's robe in a courtroom, a black clergy robe symbolizes an official office rather than the individual person wearing it. It helps worshippers focus on the Word of God rather than the personality or everyday clothes of the pastor.
- **Symbolizes Humility and Penitence:** Black has historically represented simplicity, a death to worldly desires, and a need for God's grace. It signifies that the wearer is a servant of God, standing before the congregation with reverence.
- **Historical Significance:** Dating back to the Protestant Reformation (such as John Calvin's "Geneva gown") and ancient monastic traditions, dark and plain robes were a direct rejection of worldly wealth and flashy garments.
- **Practicality:** Practically, black robes are easy to care for, resist showing stains, and provide a dignified, consistent uniform that is appropriate for all church services and seasons

We thank you for all the donors and the support for the music department at Barbecue Presbyterian Church.





Our indoor yard sale this year was very successful. It was held for our Youth Group to make money for new playground equipment. They made approximately \$1,200.00. We donated \$200.00 to the Harnett County Buddy Backpack Program. Thank you everyone who participated by either donating items, renting tables, standing by to help, and most importantly, buying the items!

We have a new group called our Maker's Group. This group meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 AM. We would love for you to come join us. It is a very relaxed atmosphere where we chat and work on individual crafts, as well as receive instruction on beginning new crafts.



AN INVITATION FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Members of the Diaconate acknowledging their responsibility of "...sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress." (G-2.0201, *Book of Order*) invite you to inform them of people who because of physical and/or financial limitations...cannot do their own yard or housework; need transportation to and from the doctor's office and/or the grocery store; need food and/or clothing. The deacon who is the head usher in each month will act as the contact person for the Board of Deacons. During the month of August and September, if you know of someone who has any of the aforementioned needs, Ellen Phillips 614-444-7000 or Gwen McCormick 919-708-3169.

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Congregational Family - Connie Ahlvers, Glenda Cameron, John Cameron, Pamela Cameron, Sheila Funderburk, Peggy Howard, Larry Howard, Richard Porter, Richard Roller, Gayle Weaver, John Wells, Don Warcup, Deborah Womble

Family and Friends of the Congregation- Erin Jane Allen, Abena & Kaison Ampofo, Jodee Beck & Family, Jarrett Blockwell Family, Sue Buie, Don Cseh, Nathan Davis Clifton, Marlys Daugherty, Will Dixon, Dave Dryden, Faye Ellis, Valarie Fields, Jackie Gore, Eli Griffin, Tom Hightower, Anna Howsden, Fran & Roger Ivy, Denise Spivey Johnson, Peggy King, Caid Long, Gene Low, Jerrod Lowry, David Lucas, Ray May, Randall McCormick, Anne McDonald, Rob and Annie McDonald, Belinda McGugan, Tim McNeill, Judy McNeill, Ted McNeill, Jane Morrison, John Phillips, Helen Poole, Pedro Rodriguez, Becky Thomas Rosser, Pat Ruis, Christian Cameron Seeley, Barbara Severin, Tom & Marianna Shaw, Dwight Shaw, Brandon Spivey, Yvonne Star, Vivian Street, Robbin Taylor, Robin Thompson, Paul Tysinger, Marlene Watson, Betty Lou White, DeEtta Wood, Cristian Wood, Jon Woods, Jim & Teresa Wood

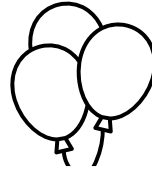
Missionaries- Titus and Kathy Gall



Sanctuary Flowers

Dates Available!

*The 2026 **Flower Calendar** is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the Sunday School Office. If you wish to give flowers on a particular date, please sign your name and the name of the person you wish to honor or remember.*



May Birthdays

May 5, Amber Dienstmann, Debi Emmert, Raiden Wagner

May 6, Steve Stratton

May 7, Ben Thomas

May 8, John Wells

May 10, George Sullivan

May 21, Carolina Simpkins, Edie Spivey, Garrett Morriss

May 25, Alice Sherrod, Kaitlyn Hinkle, Mike Weaver

May 31, Lora Street

June Birthdays

June 3, Kay Donner, Chloe Dienstmann

June 5, Gretchen Clabaugh

June 8, Shirley Holmes

June 16, Sarah Angel

June 20, Amber Spivey, Debbi Thomas

June 26, Bonnie Hill

June 29, Sherry Holder

Join Us!

Easter Chocolate Eggs

Easter Basket Assembling

March 18 and 25 @9 AM

Join us as we prepare for Easter by making our delicious chocolate eggs and assembling Easter baskets for the youth




JOIN US FOR PICKLEBALL
Every Wednesday starting May 27th
BARBECUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ON THE TENNIS COURTS AT 6 PM



Steak Dinner & Bingo

Bingo Night

June 20th | 4:00PM-6:30PM
Bingo starts at 7:00PM

Pre-sale \$35 per ticket
Contact Troy Morris to purchase tickets



Upcoming Events

- May 5, 10 AM, Maker's Group Meeting
- May 6, 6:30 PM, Chancel Choir
- May 10, Mother's Day
- May 11, 5:30 PM, Worship Committee
- May 12, 6:30 PM, Diaconate
- May 13, 6:30 PM, Chancel Choir
- May 18, 6:00 PM, Fun and Fellowship
- May 19, 10:00 AM, Food Pantry, Maker's Group
- May 20, 6:30 PM, Chancel Choir
- May 21, 6:30 PM, Session
- May 24, Pentecost Sunday
- May 25, 6:30 PM, Christian Education Meeting
- May 27, 6:00 PM, Pickleball
- May 31, Youth Sunday/Confirmation /Graduate Sunday
- June 1, 5:30 PM, Worship Committee
- June 2, 10:00 AM, Maker's Group
- June 3, 6:00 PM, Pickleball
- June 10, 6:00 PM, Pickleball
- June 14, 12:00 PM, Presbyterian Women
- June 15, 6:00 PM, Fun and Fellowship Committee Meeting
- June 16, 10:00 AM, Maker's Group and Food Pantry
- June 17, 6:00 PM, Pickleball
- June 18, 6:30 PM, Joint Session and Diaconate Meeting
- June 20, 6:00 PM, Steak Dinner Fundraiser and Bingo
- June 22, 6:30 PM, Christian Education Committee Meeting
- June 24, 6:00 PM, Pickleball

Barbecue Presbyterian Church

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919-499-5211

[Check out our website:](#)

<http://www.barbecuech1758.org/>