

**REDEEMER CHURCH**

A COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR THE CITY  
**Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—April 14, 2024

*“The Blessing of God: A Journey of Faithfulness, Patience and Faith”  
—Genesis 30:25-43*

## Reflection Quote

“It is Yahweh who has blessed Laban, literally, 'at the foot of' Jacob. This is an idiom that signifies that God's blessing is following Jacob wherever he walks, or wherever he sets his foot. The blessing that Jacob stole from his brother Esau is partly coming to pass here (27:28).” - John Currid

## Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

## Time of Greeting

### \* Call to Worship

*Ephesians 1:3-13*

Mr. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.  
Intern

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making know to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

## Prayer of Invocation and Confession of Sin

Mr. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

## Assurance of Pardon

*Colossians 1:13-14*

Mr. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## \* Song of Preparation

*“I Call You Faithful”*

I call You Holy, Your name is Holy, You are so Holy to me.

I call you Holy, Your name is Holy, Holy You are and Holy You'll be.

I call You righteous, Your name is Righteous, You are so Righteous to me.

I call you Righteous, Your name is Righteous, Righteous You are and Righteous You'll be.

I call you faithful, Your name is Faithful, You are so Faithful to me.

I call You Faithful, Your name is Faithful, Faithful You are and Faithful You'll be.

I call You Awesome, Your name is Awesome, You are so Awesome to me.

I call you Awesome, Your name is Awesome, Awesome You are and Awesome You'll be.

I call You Worthy, Your name is Worthy, You are so Worthy to me.

I call You Worthy, Your name is Worthy, Worthy You are and Worthy You'll be.

**\* Song of Praise**

“Ancient of Days”

Though the nations rage Kingdoms rise and fall. There is still one King reigning over all.  
So I will not fear for this truth remains: That my God is the Ancient of Days.

Chorus: None above Him, none before Him, All of time in His hands.  
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand. All the power, all the glory  
I will trust in His name, For my God is the Ancient of Days.

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul. He is here with me I am not alone.  
O His love is sure and He knows my name. For my God is the Ancient of Days. (Chorus)  
Though I may not see what the future brings. I will watch and wait for the Saviour King.  
Then my joy complete standing face to face. In the  
presence of the Ancient of Days. (Chorus)

**Old Testament Scripture Reading**

*Jeremiah 29:1-11*

Mr. Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiyah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said: “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord. “For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

**Pastoral Prayer**

Mr. Scott Marshall, Ruling Elder

**Worship in Giving**

Mr. Scott Marshall

*\*\*Please find the Connect Pad on your pew at this time to sign in and pass it down the row.\*\**  
*Visitors: If you would like to be contacted by the church, please include your email address.*

**\* Choral Worship**

*“I Will Bless The Lord at All Times”*

Redeemer Choir

All:

Chorus: I will bless the Lord at all times, He’s good.  
I will bless the Lord at all times, He’s good.

Lead: In every situation God has been with me, through the good and the bad times  
He stayed all the way through trouble and trials, toils and strife.  
So, I’m gonna bless Him for the rest of my life. (Chorus)

Lead: God is good all the time, and all the time God is so good. He gave us a  
Savior; He was His only Son and through His death my life has begun. (Chorus)

All:

Special Chorus: He's good, Yes, He's good, I know the Lord is good. Praise God for His goodness He set me free. He's good, so good, He's good everyday of my life.  
I'll bless the Lord cause He's good.

Lead: Living Water, Bread of Life; In the midst of darkness, He is the Light.  
Weeping may endure for a night, but in the morning everything will be alright. (Chorus)

**Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**Sermon Text**

Genesis 30:25-43  
Pew Bible p. 24

**Sermon Title**

The Blessing of God: A Journey of Faithfulness, Patience and Faith

**\*Hymn of Faith**

*"We'll Understand it Better By and By"*

We are often tossed and driv'n on the restless see of time,  
somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine.  
In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled  
away, we will understand it better by and by.

Refrain: By and by, when the morning comes, When the saints of God are gathered  
home,  
We will tell the story how we've overcome; for we'll understand it better by and by.

We are often destitute of the things that life demands,  
want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands.  
We are trusting in the Lord, and according to His  
word, we will understand it better by and by. Refrain.

Trials dark on ev'ry hand, and we cannot understand  
all the ways that God would lead us to that blessed Promised Land;  
but He guides us with His eye and we'll follow till we die.  
For we'll understand it better by and by. Refrain.

**\* Benediction**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.

**\* Departing Song**

*"We'll Understand it Better By and By"*

Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares,  
and our hearts are made to bleed for many a thoughtless word or deed,  
and we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,  
but we'll understand it better by and by. Refrain.

**Prayer Intercessor Team**

Mr. Scott Marshall/Mrs. Helen Marshall (8:00am)  
Mr. Scott Marshall/Ms. Diane Johnston (11:00am)

**\*Please Stand.**

**(Redeemer Church, PCA, CCLI #257987)**

## **SERMON NOTES**

Pastor Elbert McGowan, Jr.—April 14, 2024

*“The Blessing of God: A Journey of Faithfulness, Patience and Faith”*

—Genesis 30:25-43

## SERMON QUESTIONS

- What stood out/challenged you most about the sermon?
- What encouraged you the most about the sermon?
- Put yourself in Jacob's shoes. Have you ever endured a season when it appeared that God's blessing galloped toward others while moving at the pace of a slow crawl toward you? What did that feel like?
- To add insult to injury, what kind of man is Laban? What happened to his estate during Jacob's 14 years of service? On the other hand, what happened to Jacob? Yet, God doesn't release Jacob until 31:3, though he wanted to in 30:25. Why is this hard to stomach?
- Where else in scripture do we see God calling believers to be a blessing to others, particularly his/our enemies? How did Jacob bless Laban? We made the distinction between "blessing" and "Blessing." Why is this hard?
- Can you recall other passages in scripture where God's people struggled with being a blessing to others? We are often guilty of being impatient, indifferent, or ingratiating ourselves into the behaviors of the world. How has Jacob proved this? When have you responded like this? Might this move us to repentance?
- God did not only tell Abraham that he would be a blessing to others. He also told him that He would bless him and curse those who dishonor him (see Gen.12:1-4). That same promise is true for Isaac and Jacob. Does this help us make sense of what's happening in 30:37-43?
- Are you surprised by Jacob's "cutting sticks and placing them in front of the flock" ordeal? 31:10-13 sheds light on it. God appeared to Jacob in a dream and told him what He was about to do. God is causing Jacob to prosper, even through the means of sticks Jacob cut.
- God has used something even more astonishing than "cut sticks" to bless his people. He has used His sent son and a wooden cross to lavish us with all blessings and as a perpetual reminder that He will always supply our spiritual and physical needs. What would it look like to believe this? How might this transform us?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday)

**Connect Pad:** Please find the Connect Pad on your pew and sign in. This helps us keep track of Members and Visitors alike.



### **More Information:**

On the QR Code you'll find links to announcements and online giving.

### **\*\*\* PRAYER REQUESTS/UPDATES \*\*\***

- Katie Trotter: Healing of breast and bone cancer. See QR Code for Take Them a Meal.
- Lydia Abraham: Mito Disease, Stage 4 Liver Cirrhosis, pain management and wisdom for doctors in her treatment. For updates on Lydia, please see QR Code.

### **BIRTHS**

- Samuel Clark Davidson, 4-09-2024, son of Samuel & Emily Davidson. See QR Code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for their meal plan.

### **\*\*\* SEEKING TO SERVE \*\*\***

### **Volunteers Needed for Summer Nursery Sunday School**

We are in need of at least six volunteers to lead Sunday school classes in the nursery for the summer months. Teachers will facilitate a pre prepared lesson and help to shepherd some of the littlest of our flock. If you're interested in joining the rotation, contact Velma Warner at [vwarner@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:vwarner@redeemerjackson.com) for more information.

### **Volunteers Needed for Summer Children's Church**

While spring children's church concludes on May 5, we would love to continue through the summer months. In order for this to happen, we will need four lead teachers and sixteen assistants to shepherd and serve our upcoming class of four year olds! Can you serve? Email Jajuan McNeil at [mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:mrmcneil@redeemerjackson.com) for more information and to sign up.

### **Saturday Serve Neighborhood Cleanup, Apr 20**

Join us for a neighborhood clean up event in the Broadmoor and Broadmeadow (Fondren North) neighborhoods from 9:00am-12:00pm. We will pick up trash, remove limbs and debris, and clear out drainage ditches. We will meet in the Northside Drive parking lot before dispersing to various clean up sites. The church is providing garbage bags, trash grabbers, and gloves. See QR Code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information and to sign up.

### **Join Team Redeemer for CPC Life Walk, May 4**

The CPC Life Walk will be May 4 from 8:00-11:00am at Trustmark Park. Join us with a team of friends to represent the unborn in our state and community. For more information on joining Redeemer's team as a walker, email Al Arnold at [alarnold03@att.net](mailto:alarnold03@att.net) or Tamiko Arnold at [tjparnold6@gmail.com](mailto:tjparnold6@gmail.com). Our team is Redeemer Presbyterian Church-Jackson, MS. See QR Code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information and to sign up.

### **Notes for 2024 High School Graduates**

In just a few weeks we will be celebrating our 2024 graduates! We would love for members of our church body to send in a note 'To the Class of 2024' with advice, encouragement, and reminders of God's faithfulness for their senior notebooks. If you can write one, please email it to Stephanie Greer at [sgreer@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:sgreer@redeemerjackson.com) by April 17.

\*\*\* CALLED TO CONNECT \*\*\*

### **RYA on Your Relationship to Relationships, Apr 18**

Join Redeemer Young Adults as we learn about how we interact with and treat our Co-Workers, fellow Church members, and Non-Christians in our day to day lives. We'll meet in the church Youth Room from 7:00-8:00pm. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information.

### **RCA Library Commission Tour & Artshare, Apr 19**

You are invited to join Redeemer Community Arts for a two part ArtShare on Friday, Apr 19 from 5:30-8:30pm. We will start at the Mississippi Library Commission, and get a tour and talk from the architect, Stan Wagon. We will then head to the Wagon's house for a pot-luck meal. Come ready to share what you've been working on (visual art, writing, music, dance, drama, handiworks, etc.), or just come and partake of the creative feast! All ages welcome! See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information.

### **Youth Senior Night, Apr 24**

Congratulations to our 2024 graduates! All 6th-12th grade students are invited to our pot-luck dinner to wrap up the semester and celebrate our seniors. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30-7:00pm. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information.

### **Redeemer Women's Meet & Greet, Apr 27**

Redeemer adult women young, old and in between, join us on Saturday Apr 27, from 1:00-3:00pm in the Youth Room! Titus 2:3 & 4 says, "older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior. They are to teach young women to be self controlled, pure, kind." Perhaps you will begin a new relationship! Light refreshments will be served. No childcare available. See QR code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information and to sign up.

### **RYA Identity Seminar, Apr 26-27**

Come grow in your identity in Christ with Redeemer Young Adults and Dr. Bob Smart for our Identity Seminar! We will cover topics including identity in Christ defined, warring interpretations over identity, and ample discussion around core lies that threaten our identity in Christ. In order to host this seminar, we need 20 people signed up by Apr 15. We'll gather at the church on Friday from 6:00-9:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am-3:00pm. See QR Code or [redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](https://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday) for more information and to sign up.

\*\*\* NEWS TO NOTE \*\*\*

### **Graduate Recognition**

The Redeemer family would like to acknowledge all those graduating from high school, college, or post-graduate work in our membership. If you or someone you know is graduating this year, please email the church office at: [office@redeemerjackson.com](mailto:office@redeemerjackson.com).

### **Now Accepting Applications for the Director of Music Ministry**

Our search is underway for a Director of Music Ministry. This is a salaried, part-time position (targeting 25-30 hours/week) with potential to grow into full-time role. We are accepting applications through April 15. Know someone who might be interested? See the QR code for all the information about the Director of Music Ministry position and search process.



### **Tommy Dent Moves to Elder Emeritus**

With deep gratitude, the Session has accepted Tommy Dent's request to move to Elder Emeritus status (BCO 24-10).

Thank you, Tommy, for your years of dedicated service (both as a Deacon and as an Elder), for guiding Redeemer through our last building project, for your constant joy in the choir, and your steadfast love and faithfulness. Thank you for sharing your life to serve Redeemer.

We are grateful for your legacy and the way you have devoted your life to serve Jesus.



### **Shelby Watts Moves to 'Without Call' Status**

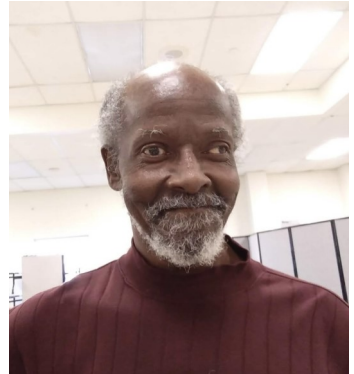
Shelby Watts, one of Redeemer's earliest Ruling Elders, has decided to roll off the session. The session received and approved this request, and Shelby is now an elder without call.

Thank you, Shelby, for your deep conviction and personal integrity, your love of God's word, your attention to detail, and your willingness to shepherd Christ's Church. Your wisdom, discernment, godliness, specificity, and love of the Scriptures and our standards will be missed. Thank you for your faithful service!



### **Simpson Tillman Funeral Service**

Join us as we honor the life of our brother, Simpson Tillman. His service will be at the church Monday, Apr 15 at 3:00. If you would like to serve at the repast for his family following the service, contact Darlene Estes at 601.594.6898.



# **SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**9:45 - 10:35am**

**Adult Sunday School Block Two**

**Mar 31-May 12**

## **Intimacy With God in The Psalms: Sanctuary**

Teacher: Brian Gault

There are times when intimacy with God feels like chasing the wind. Intimacy is found at the intersection of longing and belonging, transparency and acceptance, abiding and beholding. In the Psalms, God takes the words of his saints and they become the word of God as a path to bring our whole self before him. The Psalms are full of raw honesty, overwhelming grief, and incomprehensible joy—all tools for the loving father to woo us into his presence. He says, “Bring your whole self. I want all of you.”

Brokenness and heartache, doubt and confidence, and anger and exaltation are all welcome in God’s presence. And as we walk the well-worn words of saints who have gone before, the path will emerge to bring our whole selves before the face of God. And that’s where intimacy begins.

## **Befriend: Creating Belonging in a Lonely & Isolated World: Fellowship Hall**

Teachers: Karl Arndt, Grant Callen, Scott Marshall, Kelle Menogan, Zack Owens, William Stackler, Jermaine Van Buren, Jr.

Sometimes we find in seasons of life that busyness and social media have left a void of deep, intentional friendship. What ever happened to connection and belonging? Where can I know others and be known?

Using Scott Sauls’ book, *Befriend*, this class will make a case for building friendships that go beyond a digital, transactional, or one-dimensional nature and turn into relationships that are vulnerable, transparent, loving, and loyal. Sauls creates categories, each with a biblical foundation, for various types of friendship and gives us a different lens to see those we encounter day by day. He encourages us to befriend “the One in the Mirror,” “the ‘Other,’” “True Friends and Significant Others,” “the Poor and Empty-Handed,” “the Rich and Powerful,” and so many more. The end result is a paradigm for friendship that challenges us to love others the way Jesus did.

## **Redeemer Explored: Room 109**

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Barry McCay

Would you like to know more about Redeemer Church? Are you interested in becoming a member? If so, you need to take this class. Pastor Elbert McGowan, along with the elders, will teach this 7-week introductory course on the ins and outs of Redeemer Church and how you can get involved. If you are ready to join Redeemer or have further questions, you will have the opportunity to meet with an elder at the end of the class (May 19 & 26).

# **SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**9:45 - 10:35am**

**Spring Youth Sunday School**

**Mar 31-May 12**

## **Middle School, *Worship at Redeemer*: Youth Room**

For those who have grown up in the church, Sunday mornings can become rote. We can be tempted to simply go through the motions. So, our Youth Sunday school will study "Worship at Redeemer." In the class, we will unpack the reason and rhythm of our Sunday morning worship service by explaining the elements of worship and seeing them expressed in the worship service. We will address questions like... "Why do we worship?" and "How can two churches look different, but still be faithful?"

## **High School, *Evangelism*: Youth Room**

In this class, we are equipping students to engage their unbelieving friends and share the gospel with them. According to the Gallup Polls, 88% of people who visited church for the first time did so because they were invited by a friend. And according to The Great De-Churching, 86% of people who have left the church say they would re-visit the church if a friend invited them. By offering this class alongside "Worship at Redeemer", we hope to help students see that part of evangelism can be as simple as inviting their friends to church.

## **Spring Children's Sunday School**

**Feb 11-May 12**

### **K4-1<sup>st</sup> Grade: *Stories of the Bible***

**K4: Room 211**

**K5: Room 209**

**1st Grade: Room 207**

### **2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: *Biblical Themes & Building Blocks of the Faith***

**2nd Grade: Room 210**

**3rd Grade: Room 202**

### **4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Bible Survey***

**4th Grade: Room 206**

**5th Grade: Room 204**

### **\*\*\* Redeemer Kids \*\*\***

*K4-5th Grade*

**Apr 17: Last Upside Down of the semester**

**Apr 21: Children's Church (Ages 4-6, 8:00am only)**

**May 30-June 1: Kids With a Mission**

**June 24-27: VBS**

### **\*\*\* Redeemer Youth \*\*\***

*6th-12th Grade*

**Apr 14: Last Rooted of the semester**

**Apr 17: Last Crossroads of the semester**

**Apr 18: High School Girls Bible Study**

**Apr 24: Senior Night Potluck**

## THIS WEEK

### Deacon on Call for the Week Apr 14

Philip Carter, 601.665.5504

### Sunday, Apr 14

- 8:00am Worship Service  
Livestream Available  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service  
5:30pm Rooted

### Monday, April 15

### Tuesday, April 16

- 12:00pm The Men's Gathering  
6:00pm GriefShare  
7:30pm Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, April 17

- 9:00am Mom's Bible Study  
6:00pm Upside Down  
6:00pm Crossroads  
6:00pm Women's Bible Study  
6:00pm Hope Exchange Community Group

### Thursday, April 18

- 12:00pm Women's Bible Study  
4:15pm High School Girls Bible Study  
7:00pm RYA on Relationships

### Friday, April 19

- 5:30 RCA Artshare

### Saturday, April 20

- 8:30am Men's Basketball  
9:00am Saturday Serve

### Sunday, April 21

- 8:00am Worship Service  
Livestream Available  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service  
Various Sunday Growth Groups

[redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday](http://redeemerjackson.com/this-Sunday)



## STAFF

Elbert McGowan, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Brian Gault, Asst Pastor of Shepherding & Discipleship  
Zack Owens, Asst Pastor of Congregational Care  
Jajuan McNeil, Director of Children's Ministry  
Joya McNeil, Children's Ministry Assistant  
Velma Warner, Nursery Coordinator  
Wilson Jamison, Asst Pastor of Youth Ministry  
Stephanie Greer, Assistant Youth Director  
Jermaine Van Buren, Jr., Intern, Youth Ministry Asst  
Gabriel Garcia, Ministry Assistant  
Daniel Covert, Ministry Assistant  
Corrie Keplinger, Communications & Events Coordinator  
Tina Collier, Administrative Assistant  
Interim Music Ministry Team:  
Joyce Hamme, Arthur Phillips, Kateri Gill, Akida Mosby

## RULING ELDERS

Grant Callen  
Tu Combs  
Gene Dent  
Scott Marshall  
Barry McCay  
Kelle Menogan, Sr.  
Marculis Mosby  
Herb Sanders  
Andy Sauerwein  
William Stackler

## DEACONS

Karl Arndt  
Grafton Bragg  
Philip Carter  
Davidson Forester  
Jon Fults  
David Garner  
Jake Garner  
Levi Gill  
Reid Haygood  
John Hooker  
Detrick Johnson  
Baskin Jones  
Guin Kendrick  
Blaise King  
Cody McCain  
Greg Ross  
Jeremy Smith  
Ellis Tucker  
Johnston Walker  
Thomas Wallace  
Tamarco White

## COMING UP:

Apr 24: Youth Senior Night  
Apr 26-27: RYA Identity Seminar  
Apr 27: Redeemer Women's Meet & Greet  
Apr 28: Children & Youth Sunday  
May 4: Team Redeemer for CPC Life Walk  
May 6: Session Meeting  
May 13: Diaconate Meeting  
May 19: Joint SS-Year in Review & Budget Update  
May 22: Wednesday Fellowship Potluck  
May 30-June 1: Kids With a Mission  
June 24-27: VBS