

2 Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," 8 and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(1 Peter 2:1-10, New Revised Standard Version, NRSV)

Loose Lines from Daniel's Den...

When we go to the supermarket to pick up a gallon of milk, most of us probably go to the cooler in the dairy section and pick up the first plastic gallon milk container we see. After all, milk is milk, right? Well, not exactly. There is whole milk, 2% milk, 1% milk, skim milk, butter milk, soy milk, cashew milk, almond milk, coconut milk, oat milk, rice milk... That's a whole lot of milk (no pun intended). I thought milk only came from cows! Trust me, if you make a special trip to the store and don't know what kind of milk you need to bring home, you are just setting yourself up for another special trip to the store. There is no need to waste time or gasoline, so just ask before you go!

When I was growing up, we only had regular milk (whole milk) in the refrigerator. I always liked Sealtest Milk. I could tell the difference between Sealtest, Pet, Pine State, and Biltmore (not to mention all the store brands). If it wasn't Sealtest, it just didn't taste "right" to me. To a child, that could be a big disappointment.

The Apostle Peter wrote, *Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good* (vv. 2,3). Where can we go to find this pure, spiritual milk? We can ask for it in our prayers. I believe we can find this milk in the Bible. I believe we can find it in worship, Sunday School, Disciple Bible Study, Class Meeting, and GriefShare right here at Central United Methodist Church. And I believe when we ask for pure spiritual milk, God (through the power of the Holy Spirit) pours it into our hearts.

However, Peter seems to have said there is a precondition for us to receive pure, spiritual milk. According to Peter, we must rid ourselves of all *deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech* (v. 1. New Living Translation). I think Peter has a point! If things like deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy and unkind speech are lurking in our hearts, it would make it difficult to drink the pure, spiritual milk of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, I think those things can make our hearts resistant to the Gospel.

A few years ago, the National Dairy Board launched an advertising campaign with the slogan, "Milk. It does a body good". When we drink the pure spiritual milk Peter wrote about, it helps us to grow into salvation. "But wait a minute", you say, "I thought when I accepted Christ into my heart, I was saved". Accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior is important. That is but the first step on our journey as disciples of Jesus. Peter wrote earlier in his letter: *You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart* (I Pet. 1:22, NLT). In order to love each other deeply, we must love one another as Jesus loved us. When deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy and unkind speech remain in our hearts, it makes it awfully hard to love each other deeply. More likely, we would just wind up making each other miserable! Most definitely, it would stunt our spiritual growth.

Jesus Christ is our Savior, but we are also called to worship Jesus as Lord of our lives (I Pet. 3:15). If Jesus is the Lord of our lives, then we must follow his command. As you have heard preachers and Sunday school teachers say many times, when someone asked Jesus, *What is the greatest commandment?*, Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' *This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets* (Mt. 22: 36-40). That, and a heart full of pure, spiritual milk will go a long way... all the way through eternity!

Grace and Peace,

Danny ><

Deacon's Dialogue | May 2026

***When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
'Receive the Holy Spirit'***

(John 20:22)

May is here! Spring is in full swing (no rhyme was intended, but here we are!), and along with the beauty of creation witnessed in full bloom, we also come to a time that for so many is filled with the beauty of personal connections and the anticipation of summer. Right now, graduation season begins at the college level, and teachers are trying to survive the last month or so in K-12. Mother's Day comes like clockwork each second Sunday of this month, and weddings, bridal showers and baby showers have kicked into high gear. May reminds us to *live*.

This month also marks the birthday of the capital "C" Church Universal, what we call, Pentecost, when we remember the breath of The Holy Spirit coming upon all the people and pouring out new life and a new charge to Christian discipleship for all believers. Of course, Pentecost is not the first instance of The Holy Spirit's work in The Bible...one example is Jesus' provision of the promised Advocate after the resurrection, noted in John 20:22 above. But Pentecost does remind us that not only do we all contain the Breath of Life or The Holy Spirit as our Advocate within each of us as individuals; we also should expect The Holy Spirit to move and to advocate on behalf of all of us as The Church, as *one body* of Christ.

Spring is the perfect time to take stock, to scrub away debris, to clear clutter, and to make things new. That's exactly what Jesus does for us; He makes all things new, and with the help of The Holy Spirit, we are motivated and equipped to serve others and to breathe new life into the situations of those who are suffering, struggling, and/or do not know the love of Jesus Christ—who don't know that His very breath is within them because they are made in His image.

This month, as we see our natural world come back to life and observe Pentecost, how is the Advocate speaking to you? What is the Advocate pouring into you? Where is the Advocate leading you? On our own, we may not be able to do much, but look at what we can do through the Advocate, especially when we join together. I don't know precisely what this looks like for you, for me, for *us*, but I do know God is at work, and I do know the Holy Spirit will equip us, The Body, to accomplish whatever God calls us to do. So this month, let's come together with open palms, open hearts and open minds and expect The Advocate to work. The question, then, is not what can The Holy Spirit do through us? The question is: what does The Holy Spirit have in store for us?

Grace and peace,

Kennette



grace note

Definition: *Noun:* an extra note added as an embellishment and not essential to the harmony or melody.

I hope everyone is having a lovely spring season and is looking forward to the summertime! As the seasons change, I am looking forward to some slower days and enjoying the beauty of God's creation.

Trinity Sunday is quickly approaching and will be celebrated on May 31st this year. Trinity Sunday is a special celebration of the triune nature of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Bellissima bell choir is preparing two pieces to share with the congregation on this Sunday. We will play a beautiful arrangement of the hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy* and a joyous arrangement of *All Creature of Our God and Sing* by the formidable handbell arranger and composer Cynthia Dobrinski. *Holy, Holy, Holy* is a perfect hymn for this day not only because it directly speaks to the trinity, but also the three iterations of the word holy are a representation of the trinity. The Dobrinski piece proves to be slightly a challenge with a changing key signature, changing meter, and a lot of accidentals (notes not belonging in the key signature naturally), but the choir is up to the challenge. It is always such a joy to work with the handbell choir in creating the most musical piece we can. I hope you all will enjoy these musical offerings.

#KidsConnect

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS EXCITED TO HOST #KIDSCONNECT 2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!! A FUN-FILLED WEEK WHERE KIDS CAN CONNECT WITH JESUS, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND ENJOY GAMES, CRAFTS, AND MORE! WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOUR FAMILY TO JOIN US!

Register Now



JUNE 1ST - JUNE 4TH 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Central Happenings

Senior Adult Ministry...

Our spring meeting will be **10:15am on Wednesday, May 6th in the Fellowship Hall**. We will meet for a light lunch and enjoy a few songs from our Child Center Preschoolers. Afterwards, we will have a time of discussion to plan a path forward for this ministry.

We hope you will join us!

Mother's Day Lunch

Sunday, May 10th at 12pm in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for a time of fellowship and great food.

Bring a side or desert to share. (the church will provide the main course)

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Bring a friend or neighbor as well!



class of 2026

Calling all Graduates (and families!)
We want to celebrate YOU and all of your accomplishments on Sunday, May 17th.

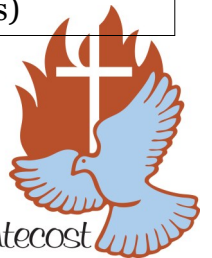
If you are a member of the Class of 2026 - whether graduating high school, college, or advanced Programming...we want to recognize you!
Please reach out to Logan in the church office by
Wednesday, May 13th
(logan@mtairycentralumc.us)

May 24th is **Pentecost Sunday**.
During worship we will celebrate our confirmand, Colton, as well as the Recognize those who completed the two Disciple Classes this year.

We will also have our annual

NOISY OFFERING

for Yokefellow Ministries. Keep collecting that spare change in your red cups and bring them to worship with you on the 24th. Let's make lots of NOISE as we raise funds to impact food insecurity right here in Surry County.



Pentecost




Congratulations!

Thank you for
Voting
us Best Preschool!



1909 N Main Street Mt. Airy NC 27030
336-786-4416

May 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31  Trinity Sunday	1 Vacation Bible School: June 1st-4th 6pm-8pm	2	3	4	1 <i>Girl Scout Event</i> 5pm-9pm	2
3	4	5 9:30am:Class Meeting	6 10am - Disciple I	7 10am - Disciple I <i>Senior Adult Ministry Event - 10:15am</i>	8	9
7pm - AA & Al-Anon	10 <i>Mother's Day Luncheon</i> 3pm - Disciple 3 7pm - AA & Al-Anon	12 9:30am:Class Meeting 7pm - Class Meeting	13 10am - Disciple I 6:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	14 7pm - Assess UMC Danny & SPPRC 7pm - GriefShare (final), Al-Anon	15 CMCC End of Year Programs 9am & 10:15am	16
17 Graduation Sunday	18 Graduation Sunday	19 9:30am:Class Meeting	20 10am - Disciple I	21	22	23
3pm - Disciple 3 7pm - AA & Al-Anon	24  Pentecost 3pm - Disciple 3 7pm - AA & Al-Anon	26 9:30am:Class Meeting Children's Committee Meeting - 5:30pm 7pm - Class Meeting	27 10am - Disciple I Staff 5:00pm 6:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	28 MACS Summer Food Boxes 3pm 7pm - Al-Anon	29	30
	25  Memorial Day	26 9:30am:Class Meeting Children's Committee Meeting - 5:30pm 7pm - Class Meeting	27 10am - Disciple I Staff 5:00pm 6:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	28 MACS Summer Food Boxes 3pm 7pm - Al-Anon	29	30