



*12 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”  
<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.*

*(Genesis 12:1-9, New Revised Standard Version, NRSV)*

***Loose Lines from Daniel’s Den...***

Are you ready for a summer vacation? Memorial Day Weekend was the “unofficial” start of summer. The end of the school year was May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The *official* start of summer is June 21<sup>st</sup>. Here in North Carolina, we are blessed to live in what the North Carolina Department of Tourism dubbed, “the Variety Vacationland”. From the Appalachian Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, North Carolina has numerous vacation destinations. You name it, hiking, camping, fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, canoeing, golfing, or just “taking-it-easy”, you can do all of it here in The Old North State. We can’t forget the museums, National Parks, State Parks, aquariums, Carowinds, and The North Carolina Zoo. From sunrises over Outer Banks to sunsets over the Smokie Mountains, there is much to see and do.

When we go on vacation, we usually have a plan. We pick out dates on the calendar. We set a budget. We select a destination. We find a place to stay. We look at a map and plan a route including stops along the way. We find places of interest, restaurants, and local attractions which to visit. We decide what clothes to pack and what items we need to take with us. We check the fluid levels and tire pressures on the family car.

When God called Abram to *Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you*, it wasn’t to go on a vacation. God did not give Abram an arrival date. God didn’t share a travel itinerary with Abram. God did not reveal Abram’s destination. There was no map nor route to take. God just told Abram to get the family together, pack up, and go.

However scarce the details, there was a plan. God told Abram, *I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.* That sounds better than any travel insurance that money could buy!

Abram answered God’s call to go. He believed God’s promise. Abram trusted God to be his travel guide along the way. Throughout the long, perilous journey, Abram listened to God and obeyed God’s will. When God told Abram that he and his family had arrived at their destination, Abram gave thanks and worshipped God.

This summer as you go on vacation to the mountains, the coast, the lake, your backyard... .. wherever you go, go with God. Take time to spend with your family and with God. Enjoy God’s creation. Take time to be refreshed and renewed. That is what recreation, or “re-creation”, is all about. Above all, please be safe as you do.

Grace and Peace,

Danny <>



## Deacon's Dialogue

*As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.*

*(Mark 6:34)*

Do a quick Google search about how Jesus shows mercy and love. Yes, we know that Jesus is loving and merciful. We know that he showed his love toward us through his ultimate sacrifice on the cross. But how often do we think about the different ways Jesus showed his love in action during his ministry on earth? The scripture above, from Mark, tells us that Jesus had compassion on a huge crowd that seemed like sheep without a shepherd. Of course, we know Jesus is the Great Shepherd, but He also would become the sacrificial Lamb himself.

In a nutshell, Jesus was highly moved in this moment but also in many others. While at Mary's and Martha's house, he was deeply moved by Mary's own sacrificial act of pre-anointing him with nard. When he came to Lazarus's house, he was moved to tears with the family, even though he knew that he would be able to raise him. In Luke, upon seeing a grieving widow, who had lost her son as well, scripture says "Jesus' heart went out to her, and He brought her son back to life" (Luke 7:13).

Over and over again, we are given many examples and descriptions about Jesus' love for us. What is the nature of Jesus? He is compassionate. He is merciful. He is moved. He weeps. His heart goes out to us. He is prone to comforting, teaching, problem-solving, and just generally being with us in our hardest moments.

As Father's Day approaches this month, it is not lost on me that all of these actions and characteristics are the ultimate models for how our earthly fathers should be. I am beyond grateful to have had (and to still have) a father who exemplifies these traits and puts them into action in his daily life.

Too often, today, society sends the opposite message to boys and men. Somehow, the male or masculine ideal is to be super aggressive, cold, immune to emotion, and almost heartless. But make no mistake. This was not the "ideal" that Jesus modeled or taught *any of us to ascribe to or to abide*.

Let's show our youth a different way. And this month, let's let those men who have made an impact on us know how much it meant. If you are grieving the loss of your own father, or his lack of involvement or care in your life, I am praying for you and ask that our Heavenly Father pour out all the love and mercy upon you that you need to be sustained and at peace.

Grace and peace,

Kennette

***Missions Moment...*** The Mission Committee would like to thank the 18 volunteers that helped to pick up groceries, sort, pack and distribute food boxes. We packed 40 boxes for Mount Airy City Schools families in need. Aubreigh Heisler, MACS social worker, expressed her sincere appreciation for this mission. The families are SO grateful. We also packed 10 boxes for families served by the Children's Center of Northwest NC and 2 boxes for members of our congregation. If you or someone you know, would be blessed to receive a food box, please let Bucky or Logan know.

Many thanks go to Doug Porter, Corey Martin, Scott and Donna Bailey, Catherine Hauser, Tommy and Sandra Hill, Mike and Norma Johnson, Arlette Porter, Marinda Rives, Danny Miller, April Delacruz, Ginny Adams, Debbie Lyon, Marie Simmons, Bucky Holcomb and Rachel Johnson. We also appreciate all those who contribute financially to this ministry.

Everyone is welcome to participate in this ministry. Whether you have time to join us, pray for the volunteers and families or contribute to this mission project, we appreciate you.

*Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be bright as noon. (Isaiah 58: 10-11)*



# grace note

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

Happy summer everyone! I hope you all are having a lovely time enjoying this very warm weather and appreciating God's beautiful creation in this season. I enjoy planting in the garden and all the wildflowers that bloom throughout the summer.

The choirs are taking a much-needed break for the summer. Since I will be a little less busy with the choirs on break, I will turn my attention to planning for the rest of the year's services at Central. I have begun planning for the summer services. Since the choir will not be singing anthems during the summer, I will play organ during the offering instead. I have chosen a few very lovely organ pieces by Florence Price, a composer whose music has made a huge resurgence in recent years since the discovery of a large collection of her music in 2009. She was the first African American woman to have a piece played by a major orchestra, having won the prestigious Wanamaker award. She wrote a whole collection of short organ works, many of which are perfect for church services. I will play two selections from this collection over the course of the next few months. I thoroughly enjoy her works, as they often feature rich and complex harmonies paired with a lovely melody.

Happy summer! Praise be to God!



# June 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Vacation Bible School: June 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> 6pm-8pm			7pm - Al-Anon		
		#Kids Connect!				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7pm - AA & Al-Anon		9:30am: Class Meeting		7pm - Al-Anon		Private Event Fellowship Hall
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
7pm - AA & Al-Anon		9:30am: Class Meeting		7pm - Al-Anon	Annual Conference 2026	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY		9:30am: Class Meeting		7pm - Al-Anon		
7pm - AA & Al-Anon		7pm - Class Meeting				
28	29	30				
John Wesley's Birthday		9:30am: Class Meeting				
7pm - AA & Al-Anon		7pm - Class Meeting				

# Central Happenings



~ Congratulations ~

**DISCIPLE**

BECOMING DISCIPLES  
THROUGH BIBLE STUDY  
Led by Rev. Danny Miller

Kim Gardner, Dougenna Hill,  
Sandy Matthews, Ruth McBride,  
Tiwi McCreary, Jody Morgan,  
Nancy Russell, Rev. Craig Toth

**DISCIPLE**

Remember Who You Are

Led by Dr. Anderson Rouse

Donna Bailey, Scott Bailey,  
Rev. Bobbie Henley,  
Bucky Holcomb,  
Ken Klamfoth, Tim Matthews

Wow! We have so many graduates in our Church Family (and extended church family) to celebrate this year! When you see these young people, please offer your congratulations!

## High School Graduates

Jessi Delacruz (MAHS)

Kelsey Golding (MAHS) - heading to ECU!

Luca E. Livengood (MAHS) will attend NCSU!

James W. Collins is on his way to UNC!

Ford Butner is on his way to UNC!

Walker D. Heidenreich is heading to NCSU!

William L. Koch, Jr is heading to Penn State!

Wilmott J. Spires IV is heading to MSU!

## Advanced Achievements

Jordain Hill (SCC) as a certified welder!

Allie Kittrell (NYU) - Masters of Public Administration in Health Policy & Management

Alayna K. Smith has completed her master's in Earth and Marine Sciences from UNC Chapel Hill. She will continue to pursue her doctorate from the University of Alabama in the fall!

Officer Jaedon Hill completed Basic Law Enforcement Training in Decemeber of 2025 and is currently employed with the MAPD!

Rev. Kennette Thomas finished the first cohort of a new Certification Program at Duke Divinity School. She is a Certified Practitioner of Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation.

We are excited to celebrate these individuals for their commitment to completing Disciple Bible Study!

## The Pacesetters are starting a new study:

*Acts of the Apostles*, the next in their Efirid Bible Study Series. Come journey with them as they seek to understand the growth of the church following the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and how to apply that understanding to our own lives and the life of our church. **Everyone is invited.**

**10am Sunday mornings** in the Pacesetters Classroom (adjacent to the Lower Foyer) The first session starts **June 14th!**

This fall, we are so excited to offer again two Disciple Bible Study opportunities.

Disciple I, led by Pastor Danny, is open to any and everyone. This study helps to lay the groundwork for understanding scripture, and truly has the potential to change your life and strengthen your relationship with Christ.

Disciple IV, led by Anderson Rouse, is open to anyone who has previously completed Disciple I. This study focuses in on the writings of the Old Testament, as well as select Gospels, Epistles, and even Revelation.

Both classes meet for 32-weeks.

If you are interested in learning more, please complete the interest form included and return it to the church office. Indicate which meeting time would work best, and once a class time is decided, we will let you know!

Our hope is that **YOU** will be part of this next Disciple journey.

# DISCIPLE



Have you always wanted to learn about the Bible? Have you wanted to see how the Bible can speak to you and your life? Has it been difficult to study Scripture on your own? If you answered yes to any of these questions...Disciple Bible Study is for you!

Central is excited to offer two options this fall for Disciple participants:

Disciple: *Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study* (**Disciple I**) is a 32-week journey through both the Old and New Testament.

**This class is open to everyone.**

Disciple: *Under the Tree of Life* (**Disciple IV**) is a 32-week journey that focuses on Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, The Epistles of John, James, Jude, and Revelation.

**This class is open to those who have completed Disciple I.**

Classes will be offered at one of the times below, depending on interest. Please indicate which time works best for you, and you will be notified once a class time is chosen..

## **Disciple I Options**

- 10am Wednesday Mornings
- 10am Thursday Mornings
- 7pm Thursday Evenings

## **Disciple IV Options**

- 3pm Sunday Afternoons
- 5pm Sunday Afternoons
- 7pm Wednesday Evenings

**Classes will begin the week of August 30th.**

*There is a \$45 registration fee which pays for the cost of the workbook. This will be collected once classes begin.*

Disciple is open to everyone in the Mount Airy Community. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join you on this journey.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_