

RISE AGAINST HUNGER - MAY 3

What an incredible day of faith in action!

On Sunday, May 3, our church family and community came together not just for a meal but for a mission. After sharing a delicious lunch together, we rolled up our sleeves and packed 20,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger!

Every box, every scoop, every smile was filled with love and purpose. It's amazing what we can accomplish when we unite to serve others.

To everyone who showed up with open hearts and helping hands: thank you. You made a difference today. When someone inspires you, it leaves a lasting impact. We packed our final meal and rang the gong in celebration and in memory of Esther Gilman, who made missions like Rise Against Hunger a norm in her life's work. Her spirit continues to inspire us to serve with compassion and purpose. She taught us the importance of community both near and far and that even on a grassroots level we can make a global impact.

And to those receiving these meals, we pray they bring not only nourishment, but hope.



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Young Adults Small Group

Who: Open to anyone ages 17-30
Facilitated by Sarah & Noah Parks
What & Why? A regular gathering to make connections and grow in our spiritual lives

When: Tuesday nights, 7-8:30 pm

Where: Sarah & Noah's house
Bumpass, VA (text Sarah for address)

How to participate: text Sarah @ 434-282-8493 for information!

St. Peter's

COMMUNITY DINNER

Come join us for great food and fellowship. Menu includes salad, spaghetti, and dessert. No charge.

 15599 Mountain Rd., Montpelier

 May 6, 2026

 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall

Please RSVP
by May 5
stpetersumc@gmail.com



EDLERBERRIES LUNCHEON

The Elderberries will meet on Friday, May 29 at 11:30 for lunch at Lola's Farmhouse Bistro in Goochland. Sign up at church, call the church office, or text Ruth Smith at 804-216-1260. All are welcome!



MAY Birthdays

Patty Shortridge	3
Barbara Adams	5
Ruth Smith	14
Shelley Horton	17
Jacob Stockwell	17
Lynwood Barthurst	18
Josh Covington	20
Carolyn Craig	21
Eula Mae Stanley	28

ST. PETERS UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION	MARCH 2026	YEAR TO DATE
Donations to the Budget Account	\$27,114.00	\$57,867.00
Transferred from Savings	None	None
Budget Account expenses	\$19,543.00	\$59,292.00
Gain/Loss	\$7,572.00	-\$1,425.00

MEN'S GROUP NEWS

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, May 9th at 8am** at **Kitchen 33 & Bakery**. Join us for breakfast, fellowship, and a conversation about our ongoing and upcoming projects. These meetings are usually brief—just enough time to connect, encourage one another, and strengthen our bonds as Christian men.

Luncheon: Our bi-monthly luncheon meets on the **third Friday of every other month**. The next one will be on **Friday, May 15th at 1pm** at The Eagles Nest Restaurant at the Federal Club located at 13450 Palmers Way, Glen Allen, VA 23059.

Evangelism: We are always seeking meaningful ways to welcome new men into our group, into St. Peter's, and ultimately into God's kingdom. We invite you to share any ideas you have that could help us reach others more effectively. We also welcome your honest feedback if you feel there's anything we're doing that may unintentionally stand in the way of this mission.

Easter Breakfast: We hope the breakfast after the Easter Sunrise Service was a blessing to you. Serving you was our joy.

Wheelchair Ramp Ministry: We currently have **five ramps installed**. If you know someone who needs a temporary wheelchair ramp, please reach out.

Firewood Ministry: We've made several deliveries to WHEAT clients in need of firewood. Our group also harvested multiple trees donated by church and community members and split a large amount of wood together, helping us rebuild our supply and continue serving families who rely on wood heat.

Church Maintenance: Our members have completed several maintenance projects around the church grounds.

Ongoing Support: We continue to help with small repairs and maintenance needs for individuals in our church and community. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please let us know.

Donations: If you'd like to support the Men's Group financially, you may:

- Write a check to **St. Peter's UMC** with "**Men's Group**" in the memo line
- Visit the church website, click **GIVE**, enter your amount, and select "**Men's Group**" from the drop-down menu

Place a donation in the offering plate with a note marked "**Men's Group**"

Subscribe: Want to stay informed? Join our mailing list by clicking [here to subscribe](#).

We'd love to have you join us for any meeting or project. No special skills required—just a willing heart for fellowship and service.

If you have questions, contact us at MenOfStPeters@stpetersumc.org or call **Butch at 804-496-1399**.

May God continue to bless us all!



PASTOR PONDERINGS

Welcome to May and our continuing celebration of Eastertide! Beginning Easter Sunday and lasting 50 days right up to Pentecost, this season highlights God's abundant grace through new life in Christ. Reading each Gospel we witness Jesus' many post-resurrection appearances with disciples and followers. For today's faith communities it is an opportunity to celebrate and offer gifts of new life through acts of service, kindness, mercy, and seeking restored relationships.

Often Easter is seen as only one day. In its purest reality followers of Jesus *embody* Easter — testifying to God's new life through their own living faith. We are Resurrection People. Worship and study this season presents a focus on Jesus, early disciples, and first faith communities growing into the new reality of hope realized, covenant fulfilled.

May your Easter season bloom into an ever fuller experience, encountering God's abundant hope. Make it a season of growing courageous love in every relationship. May we live together as God's beloved community.

Serving with you in Christ,
Pastor Gretchen

Happy Mother's Day this month to all those in our lives and community who offer the gift of mothering. May God's blessings bring your heart joy as blessings for the love you bring to family and community life. Thank you for compassionately walking along with us in good times, struggles, and every time in between. - Pastor Gretchen

Worship Series for May

Mishpat: God's Heart of Justice

Building God's beloved community through relationships: divine, human, and among all God's creation. Come encounter God's depth of grace as we explore scriptures that direct us toward holy living together. Discover how righteousness and holiness show up in the Bible and in our lives. Come worship each week with hearts open to Jesus' co-mission and command to love as he has first loved us.

Read ahead: Psalm 101. Deuteronomy 10:12-21. Amos 5:21-24. Isaiah 58:6-10. Mark 2:1-12. Luke 10:25-37. James 1:26-27, 2:1-9

Celebrate St. Peter's Presents/ence

Sunday School May 3, 10, 17

Over these Sundays all are encouraged to come explore St. Peter's gifts, vision, and next steps as God's faithful church. Discover and celebrate our shared faith story as disciples of Jesus. Pastor Gretchen will lead this Sunday School study at 9 AM in the Parlor.

April 26th — Week one - "You will be my people." Exodus 6:7

Celebrate St. Peter's history & vision.

May 3 — Week two - "I will be with you always." Matthew 28:20

Expressing God's faithful presence in our lives. What is a faith story?

May 10 — Week three - "For you, O Lord, have blessed..." 1 Chronicles 17:26-27 Explore St. Peter's resources, God's blessings.

May 17 — Week four - "Who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29

Discovering our neighbors, consider these connections, and celebrate relationships.

On April 26th, we noted and celebrated our history as Jesus' disciples at St. Peter's United Methodist Church.

Fun facts:

* Francis Asbury with local resident Thomas Crenshaw, started the first Sunday School in North America right here in Hanover County. At Crenshaw's home, Shrubbery Hill, Rt. 33 & Rt. 871.

* Among that fellowship were local Quakers from the previous "Cedar Creek Quaker Meetinghouse" on Rt. 54.

* This was how St. Peter's began. As a Sunday School and prayer meeting group gathered together in a local home in 1786 to bring education to all in the community.

Check out our timeline in the Parlor. Add your own memories and experiences from your time with the people of St. Peter's UMC.

United Methodist News Service — People ask me where I get my news. I work at keeping up with local and world information through several varied sources. One is the United Methodist News Service. It is a way to see how and where people of faith are living, serving, witnessing in the midst of all the experiences. Check it out today. UM News is a fair, faithful, and trusted denominational source; bringing breaking news, features, and commentaries from across our global connection. Visit www.UMNews.org.

Bible Study, Spiritual Formation, Prayer, and Discipleship — Check out Amplify Media

In support of your faith journey, St. Peter's has a subscription to **Amplify Media**. This resource is for everyone to explore and grow in relationship with God. Amplify has Bible studies, topical discussions, and many offerings for families, children, individuals, and groups.

Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify>

Create your own personal account.

Enter St. Peter's congregation access code. **SNMFBH**

Find your next favorite program.

Share what you are discovering with others.

There is an App available for all your on the go devices and Smart TV.

Mother

Molded by God in His grace

Opening her heart to love in every place

Teaching the faith with gentle hand

Holding me tight in a righteous land

Encouraging hope in Christ above

Reflecting a selfless, divine love

Happy Mother's Day to all our mother's and those who are mother figures in our lives! Happy Mother's Day also to the wonderful mother's who have went to be with our Heavenly Father but have left a lasting impact of motherly love.



What a busy and exciting time we had in April! The children dove right into our spring themes with curiosity and enthusiasm.

We explored the wonderful world of **seeds**, comparing their sizes, shapes, and colors. The children learned which plants grow **above the ground** and which grow **underground**, sparking lots of great conversations and observations.

Our classroom was buzzing with excitement as we learned about **bees** and how important they are to our environment. The children became "busy bees," flying from flower to flower and pretending to pollinate just like real bees do! A highlight of the week was tasting sweet, golden honey—what a treat! Each child also received a flower seed packet with the special message: "Save the Bees, Plant a Flower."

We celebrated **Earth Day** by learning how to **reduce, reuse, and recycle**. The children did a fantastic job identifying recycling symbols and sorting items correctly. It was wonderful to see them so engaged in helping take care of our planet.

Our little learners also turned into **bird watchers**, keeping track of how many birds they spotted each day. We discovered that birds have different types of **beaks** depending on what they eat. The children had so much fun using different tools to represent beaks—cracking "seeds," picking up "food," and even sipping through straws like hummingbirds! They were especially surprised to learn that birds aren't the only animals that hatch from eggs.

As we look ahead to May, we are excited to begin learning about **life around the pond** and creatures that live in the **tall, tall grass**. There will be plenty of discoveries and hands-on fun!

With the last week of school quickly approaching, we have planned a **Fun Week** filled with special activities, including:

- 🌊 Water Games
- 🏠 Bounce House
- 🍦 Ice Cream Sundae Day
- 👕 Pajama Day

We will wrap up our wonderful year together with our **Preschool Graduation Program**, a special celebration of all the children has learned and accomplished.

Thank you for being such an important part of our preschool family. We are looking forward to a joyful and memorable end to the school year!



Using science to change the flower pedal colors.



Chapel time with Pastor Gretchen.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We envision our church welcoming all people, encouraging a journey of faith, and serving the world in the name of Christ.

Happy Mother's Day

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." PROVERBS 31:25-26

