



Acts 6:1-6 - Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the Word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this



duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

It's a comfort sometimes to remember that the early church had its conflicts, just as we do. In this case, there was a problem with the food bank, to put it in modern terms. The congregation was made up of two groups of people from different cultures and languages, and the Hellenists (Greek speakers) were getting the short end of the stick. Their poor widows were getting overlooked. So they complained. So far, so typical of church conflicts, right?

But then these first Christians did something remarkable. They didn't sweep the problem under the rug, or appoint a committee, or make an off-the-cuff decision. Instead, the apostles called them all together and laid the problem before them. They asked for people who could take on this job—and they had to be wise and filled with the Spirit, even for such a humble job! So the congregation chose seven people. Now look at the names. They are all Greek names! The congregation cared so much about fixing this problem that they made sure the people in charge of solving it came from the group that had been suffering.

This is love. This is sensitivity—to be willing to share power, or even hand it over completely, to those who have suffered. In this time and place, the "Hebrews" were in a position of power in the larger culture, but not in the church. In the church, all were brothers and sisters—with one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And that day, they proved it through their actions. The church stayed united in love, and one of the new leaders—a man named Stephen—eventually had the honor of being the first to lay down his life for Jesus.

This kind of love is no surprise when we remember what Jesus has done for us. When He saw that we were in trouble, doomed by our sin and suffering under the power of evil, what did He do? Hand us over to a committee? No. He came Himself. He put Himself at our service, making Himself our caregiver—loving us as nobody ever did before, or ever could. He loved us to the point of death on a cross for us. And He rose from the dead triumphant, to gather us all together as one church across all time and space. In His kingdom, there are no permanent divisions. Jesus Himself is our unity, and He will be our peace (see Micah 5:5).

WE PRAY: Dearest Lord, thank You, and make Your love shine through us to those around us. Amen.

Bits 'N Pieces.....

- *LMM* Will meet May10th at 7:00. Cooks for this month are Jerry Havird and Lenny Mack. All Lutheran men are invited.
- Congratulations to our Graduates The congregation of would like to congratulate our High school graduates. From Newberry Academy, Ryan Brown, Cassie Gilliam and Christian Gilliam. From Mid Carolina High School, Sarah Bryant and Chase Lybrand. And from MUSC, with a BSN, Eva Derrick. We wish you all the best in your future Plans.
- Confirmation Class On May 28th will are excited to honor our Confirmation Class.

 Mary Grace Bryant, Cooper Piersol, Olivia Piersol, and Karsen Wix. WELCA will honor them with a catered meal following the worship service in the fellowship hall. Family, friends and the congregation are invited to attend. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please sign up if you plan the stay for lunch.
- Summer Schedule Beginning June 4th and going through August, Sunday School will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by worship at 10:00 a.m. We will worship outside, under the picnic shelter again this summer, weather permitting. All services indoor and out will have a time change.

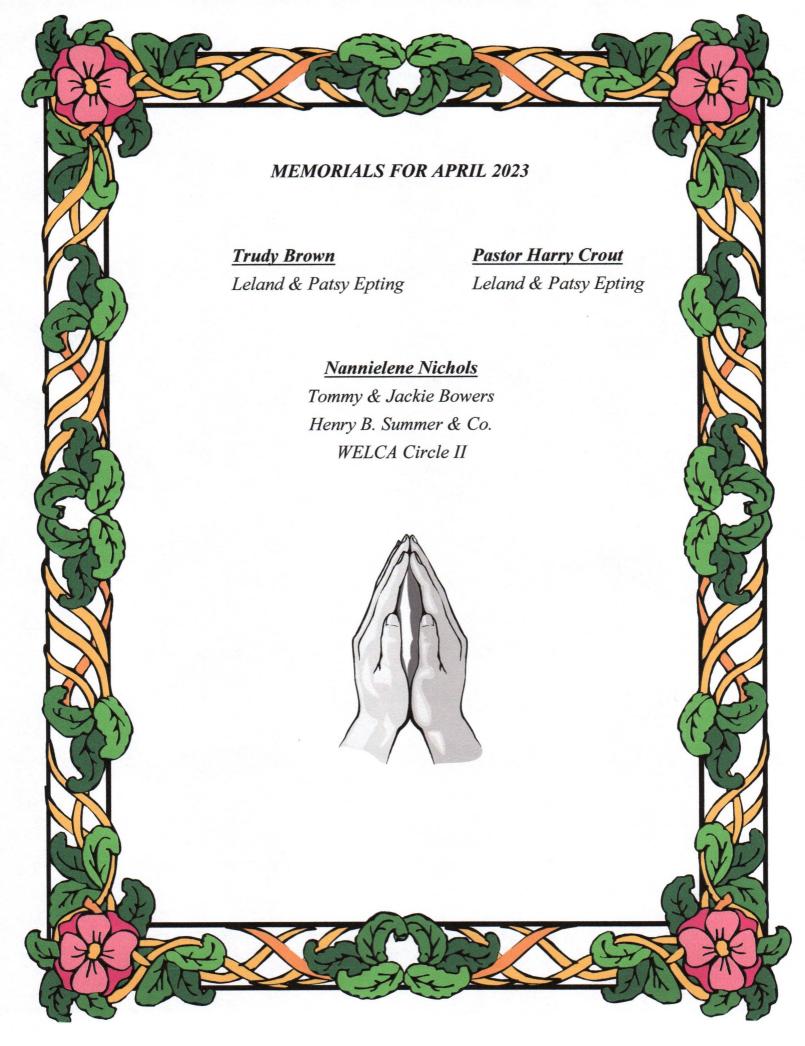
Current dates for outdoor services will be June 18th & 25th, July 16th, 23rd, & 30th, And August 20th and 27th. We hope everyone will plan to join us.

Manna House – Food pantry is accepting monetary donations which can be sent to Manna House, c/o Sue J. Mitchell, 2210 Timber Lane, Newberry, SC 29108. Food supplies are currently low. Nonperishable food items are being accepted as well as dish and laundry detergent. There is a basket in our Narthex that you my put your donations in and the SOW Committee will take them to Manna House for you. For info call (803) 321-2155.

Reuben Backpack program – The SOW committee will be sponsoring the program and will volunteer to purchase food/snack items which are packed into individual bags and will be taken to Reuben on Fridays for distribution in order to assure these children have food when not in school. Monetary donations will be appreciated. Please consider donating to this program.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." – Galatians 6:2. By being generous and sharing our blessings we show love and support to those most in need. If you or if you know of a member of this congregation who needs assistance with things such as yard work-possibly from a storm; transportation for groceries, appointments, or church; housework or meals following an illness please contact a member of the church council. Committees and resources are available to meet your needs. Thank you.

Mike Willingham-President Terry Crone-Vice President Brandy Wix-Secretary Jan Piersol Christopher Smith Jerry Willingham T.C. Bowers Johnny Hayes Alana West





Circle II

May 10th

3:00 pm

Hostess

Leader

Susie Epting

Susie Epting

Circle IV

May 2nd

7:00 pm

Hostess

Leader

April Bryant

April Bryant



WELCA would like to invite & encourage all women of the church to join a circle.

This is a wonderful outreach program.

SERVING GOD IN MAY 2023

If a conflict arises and you cannot serve on the appointed date, please find a replacement. Each person and their duty is vitally important to the worship service. *Head Usher ** Greeter. Thank You.

Ushers	Communion Steward	Offering Tabulators	
Dalton Shealy *	7 Nancy Ruff	April Bryant	
Helen Shealy **	21 Nancy Ruff	Mike Willingham	
Alicia Willingham	28 Anna Bedenbaugh		
Jerry Willingham	Securing The Church		
	Mike Willingham		

21 Nancy Ruff Casey & Cayce Lybrand
28 Jan Piersol (Day of Pentecost) Lorie & Michael Parker (Day of Pentecost)



Happy Birthday to the Following.....

May	5	Olivia Piersol	25	Riley Guy	PARAMARY.
	6	Dell Miller	26	Ivy Ella Cook	Challandon
	7	Holly Gable	27	Michael Parker	
	13	Mary Willingham	30	Katherine Hawkins	ie: 0: 0i
	23	Alana West	31	Leland Epting	
		Gerald Dominick		1	

Happy Anniversary to the Following.....

May	1	Austin & Beth Willingham	
	5	Nick & Jessica Piersol	
	6	Jan & George Piersol	
	19	Casey & Cayce Lybrand	Celebra R
	26	Jerry & Alicia Willingham	

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy Mothers Pay	1	WELCA Grp IV 7 pm	3	4	5	6
9 am Choir 10 am Sun Sch 11am Worship/ Communion	8	9	WELCA Grp II 3:00 pm LMM 7:00 pm	11	12	LMM Boston Butts Pick up 3pm - 6 pm
Mothers Day 8:30 am Council 9 am Choir 10 am Sun Sch 11am Worship/Recognize Graduates	15	16	17	18	19	20
9 am Choir 10 am Sun Sch 11am Worship/ Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10 am Sun Sch 11am Worship/ Communion/ Confirmation 12 Noon Lunch	29	30	31	MO	ther's	Day