

# The ROYSTER REPORTER

A publication of Royster Presbyterian Church

## Index

- 1 A Note From The Pastor
- 2 Church Duties May
- 2 The Church Directory
- 2 The Gathering
- 2 Prayers & Condolences
- 2 First Friday Dinner
- 2 Spring Fun Day
- 3 Presbyterian Women
- 3 Property Report
- 3 Prayer Meeting
- 3 Meeting Dates
- 3 Nickel-a-Meal
- 4 May Calendar
- 5 Empty Pockets
- 5 Spiritual Formation
- 5 St. Columba Sandwiches
- 5 The Chosen
- 5 May Birthdays
- 5 How the Bible Works
- 5 Clothes Closet
- 6 Devotion
- 6 Pentecost
- 6 Book Discussion
- 7 Food Pantry
- 7 Old Testament Study
- 7 Prayer Wrap
- 7 Eyeglasses
- 7 Justice/Peace Calendar
- 7 Fellowship Luncheon
- 8 In Our Prayers
- 8 2023-2025 Ministry Teams

## A Note From The Pastor

*'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'*  
(Jeremiah 29:11)

Friends,

This well known scripture is one of my favorites. Like others, I love the positivity of the verse. But, I really love the fact that God has plans for us. I love that God tells us God has plans and God has had those plans for a while now.

God says, "I know the plans I have for you." God is not just now making those plans up for Jeremiah. God knows the plans God has had since before Jeremiah was born. 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.' (Jeremiah 1:5)

Cindy S. Lee is a theologian and spiritual director. As part of her own prayer life, she quiets herself and asks God, "God, when you first imagined me, who did you see?"

I love that question. Not only does it acknowledge that God knows me and had hopes and plans for me as God did for Jeremiah the question provides a positive way of relating to God's call on my life.

Lee doesn't ask God where she has failed (at least not in that question). She doesn't begin her prayer time with guilt and sorrow. She asks God to allow her to see herself as God imagined her when she was in the womb.

I trust God. I do not believe even for a second that God imagined us to be anything disappointing or wicked. I believe that God imagined us with a hope and a future. I believe God sees us as we would like to see ourselves. Asking God to share God's vision of ourselves as beautiful can be a wonderful way to pray individually and as a congregation.

When God first imagined you, who did God see?

When God first imagined Royster, who did God see?

Grace and peace,  
Brian

## Church Participation in May

Next Session meeting, Tuesday,  
May 28 6:00 PM

May Ushers: Barry Cain, Ann Wright, Roy Darnell and Charles Sweitzer

Communion will be served from the center aisle.

### May Liturgists:

- 5 Donna Dillon Stockburger
- 12 Joe Perry
- 19 Pat Miskill
- 26 Combined Worship at Ascension

### THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ministers	The Congregation
Pastor	Rev. Brian Harroff
Director of Music and Organist	Sharon Foxwell
Clerk of Session	Jill Keifer
Treasurer	Will Bryant
Moderator of Deacons	Pat Miskill
Secretary	Louise Gordon
Custodian, Security, & Bldg.	Coordinator Jeff Spivey

### Ministry Team Leaders

Administration Tom Ambler      Finance Will Bryant      Property: John Keifer  
 Communications Anna Wactor      Outreach Sharal Halcomb  
 Worship Will Redding      Church Growth Diana Nixon  
 Ad Hoc Celebrations: Richard Joyner

**If the spirit moves you to assist any of the ministry teams, please contact the ministry team leader.**

## The Gathering at Royster

Short • Simple • Spiritual

The Gathering is now meeting in Classroom 1  
**8:50 AM** each Sunday.



**First Friday Dinner** Join your church family for dinner out on Friday, **May 3 at The Fishin' Pig 119 W. 25th Street Norfolk at 6:00 PM.** The Fishin' Pig is a southern fusion of Grady's BBQ and Shorty's Famous Seafood, Chicken and Vegetables.

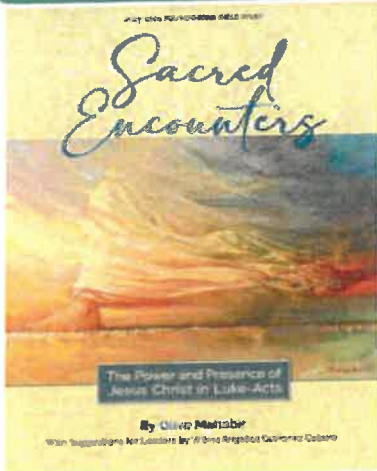


Prayers and condolences to the family of Joan W. Fitch. Joan passed away in Pittsburgh, PA on Sunday, April 7. A graveside service was held at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM.

Come join the fun at Royster  
 Saturday, May 11,  
 1:00 AM– 2:00PM.  
 Crafts. Bounce House, Games  
 Hot Dogs, Popcorn and  
**LOTS OF FUN!**  
 All are welcome!



## Presbyterian Women



### Sacred Encounter—The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

Lesson 9: People Encounter Jesus through the Work of the Disciples  
Scripture: Acts 9: 36-43  
Main Idea: The community of faith relies on the power of Jesus Christ in times of crisis.

### Monthly Horizon Bible

Study will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 1pm and 6pm.

**Royster PW** will meet for dinner on Monday, May 6 at 5:15 PM at Ruby Tuesday 1201 Military Hwy, Norfolk Mark your calendar and join your sisters in faith for a fun evening. **ALL** women are invited. Please let Jill Keifer know if you will attend.

## Property Committee

**EXTERIOR PAINTING, INTERIOR REPAIRS STARTING**  
Two contracts for maintenance/repairs have been approved by Session and awarded to contractors.

A contract to paint the exterior of the church, including the steeple; the cupola over the fellowship hall; the columns and front of the church; and the eaves and trim around the church buildings has been awarded to Azar/Old Dominion Painting. Competitive bids were received and Azar/Old Dominion was the low bidder at \$77,220. The highest quality paint will be used. The work has already started on the south end of our property as evidenced by the mobile lift. Work is expected to be completed by mid-May.

A contract to repair the ceilings in the northeast corner of the Sanctuary (by the balcony) and outside the door by the Lectern side of the church. The contract was awarded to Clarke Thrasher for \$8,106. Work is expected to be completed by the end of April. The 2024 Church Budget included \$100,000 for capital improvements including these two items of work.

The Property Ministry Team (John Keifer is the chair) has been managing these projects.

## Nickel a Meal

Nickel-a-Meal Cans - please take home a can (in the narthex) for your weekly N.A.M collection. Our hope is to donate 15 cents per day from each family. That is \$1.05 per week. All this money will go back to PEVA for our local hunger ministries. Our own food pantry was the recipient of \$1,250 to use in our food pantry this year. Your Outreach Team thanks you in advance for your support!



## Prayer Meeting

**Prayer Meeting** The bi-monthly prayer group meets in the sanctuary on the first AND third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 PM. Our next prayer meeting will take place on **Tuesday, May 7 and 21** Please come and help us cover our pastor and our church in prayer as we seek to discern the presence of God together!



- Communications/CD Thursday, 05/02/2024 5:30 PM
- Worship Thursday 05/02/2024 6:00 PM
- Admin Meeting Tuesday 5/14/2024 6:00 PM
- Property Meeting Tuesday 5/14/2024 7:00 PM
- Deacons Meeting Thursday 5/16/2024 5:00 PM
- Finance Meeting next meeting July 18
- Outreach TBA
- Church Growth & Development TBA
- Session Tuesday 05/28/2024 6:00 PM



## May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45am The Gathering</li> <li>10am How the Bible Works</li> <li>11am Worship</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Lectionary Study Various k</li> <li>10am Food Pantry/Annex</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:15pm British Isle Dancers</li> </ul>	<p>May 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Food Pantry</li> <li>6pm Old Testament Study</li> <li>7pm 7th Day Sanctuary</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm AOM Suzuki</li> <li>5:30pm Communications Mtg</li> <li>6pm Worship Min. Team Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Food Pantry</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7th Day/FH &amp; Classrooms</li> <li>7am 7th Day Prayer Breakfast</li> <li>9am Sharon Sanctuary</li> </ul>
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:50am The Gathering</li> <li>10am How the Bible Works</li> <li>11am Worship</li> <li>12pm St. Columba Sandwiches</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Lectionary Study Various k</li> <li>10am Food Pantry/Annex</li> </ul>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm RPW</li> <li>5:30pm Prayer Meeting</li> <li>6pm Nominating Committee</li> <li>7:15pm British Isle Dancers</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Scherzo, Sanctuary, Annex R</li> <li>10am Food Pantry</li> <li>6pm The Chosen</li> <li>7pm 7th Day Sanctuary</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm AOM Suzuki</li> <li>5:30pm Craft Group</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Food Pantry</li> </ul>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7th Day/FH &amp; Classrooms</li> <li>9am Sharon Sanctuary</li> </ul>
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:50am The Gathering</li> <li>10am How the Bible Works</li> <li>11am Worship</li> </ul>	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Lectionary Study Various k</li> <li>10am Food Pantry/Annex</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1pm PW Afternoon Circle</li> <li>6pm Admin/Ftn/Prop</li> <li>6pm PW Evening Circle</li> <li>7:15pm British Isle Dancers</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Food Pantry</li> <li>6pm Old Testament Study</li> <li>6:30pm TPCL</li> <li>7pm 7th Day Sanctuary</li> </ul>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm AOM Suzuki</li> <li>5pm Deacons Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Food Pantry</li> <li>6:30pm AOM Recital</li> </ul>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7th Day/FH &amp; Classrooms</li> <li>9am Sharon Sanctuary</li> <li>2pm AOM recital</li> </ul>
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:50am The Gathering</li> <li>10am How the Bible Works</li> <li>11am Worship</li> <li>1pm Community Pentecost Worship</li> </ul>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Lectionary Study Various k</li> <li>10am Food Pantry/Annex</li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30pm Prayer Meeting</li> <li>7:15pm British Isle Dancers</li> </ul>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Food Pantry</li> <li>6pm The Chosen</li> <li>7pm 7th Day Sanctuary</li> </ul>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm AOM Suzuki</li> </ul>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Food Pantry</li> </ul>	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7th Day/FH &amp; Classrooms</li> <li>9am Sharon Sanctuary</li> </ul>
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:50am The Gathering</li> <li>10am How the Bible Works</li> <li>11am Worship</li> </ul>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Lectionary Study Various k</li> <li>10am Food Pantry/Annex</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Session Meeting</li> <li>7:15pm British Isle Dancers</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Food Pantry</li> <li>7pm 7th Day Sanctuary</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm AOM Suzuki</li> </ul>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Food Pantry</li> </ul>	<p>Jun 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7th Day/FH &amp; Classrooms</li> <li>1st Day of 11 Day Prayer Month</li> <li>9am Sharon Sanctuary</li> <li>6pm AOM Brass &amp; Piano Recital</li> </ul>

## St. Columba

We will make sandwiches for St. Columba at 12:00 PM on **Sunday, May 5** Please plan to give 20-30 minutes of your time for this vital ministry that St. Columba provides to folks who come through their doors. All food items will be provided, we just need your hands!



**CLOTHES CLOSET** we are collecting clothing to give to the Church of the Advent to distribute in the Ocean View area. Any type of clothing is accepted. Some of the clothing is also given to migrant workers in North Carolina. A bin for accepting the clothes is in the narthex.



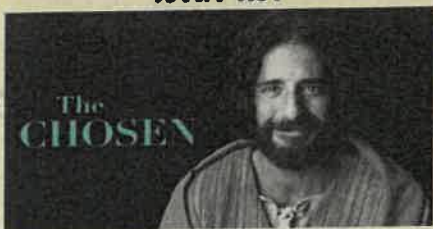
## Nominating Committee

At the congregational meeting, April 28, the Nominating Committee was elected by the congregation. Members are Anna Wactor, Karin Roberts, Ron Jolley and Kathy Kinney. The first meeting will be Tuesday, May 7 at 6:00 PM.

## The Chosen

**NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, May 8**

*Study and discuss The Chosen the series with us!*



*2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6 pm in Classroom 1. starting in May 2023*

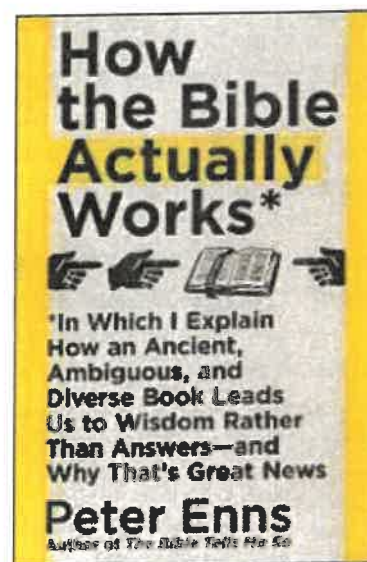
*See Brian and Anna for more information*

## Empty Pockets

Round up for Royster, . There is a glass vase under the TV in the Narthex; please give as you are able. The session members have agreed to roll your change so anyone with a coin jar that wants to donate you have help. Donation YTD—\$454.79

## Spiritual Formation

In Which I Explain How An Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book Leads Us to Wisdom Rather Than Answers—and Why That's Great News  
 May 5: Chapter 5  
 May 12: Chapter 6  
 May 19: Chapter 7  
 May 26: Chapter 8



## May Birthdays

Anne-Perry Booth	05/01	Bill Stockburger	05/21
Sarah Pope	05/02	Greg Stockburger	05/21
Thomas Frantz, Jr.	05/03	Lisa Harroff	05/22
Richard Joyner	05/03	McKenna Griffin	05/26
Bob Lyons	05/06	Sharon Foxwell	05/27
Pennie Sipes	05/08	Jake Wactor	05/29
Gary Althoff	05/10		
Alison H. Coulson	05/10		
Missy Wright	05/11		
Ashby Pope	05/12		
Barbara Anthony	05/16		
Alex Coulson	05/17		
Tyler Coulson	05/17		
Lin Jolley	05/17		
John Keifer	05/19		
Rick Hazelette	05/20		
Diane Coggin	05/20		



Devotion

“The Giver of Life” A Devotion for Pentecost

“I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”— Acts 2:17

The church marks the Day of Pentecost as the birthday of the church. Some congregations mark the day with a birthday cake, something the children take to readily.

Still, if the presence and power of the Holy Spirit at that first Pentecost marks the beginning of the church, the Spirit’s work was not finished on that day, since it is the Spirit who creates the church in every new generation.

For example, it is the Spirit that makes our meal of bread and cup more than a remembrance of a crucified Jesus, but a celebration of the living Christ still present among us. It is the Spirit who makes Jesus our contemporary.

Just as at that first Pentecost, when foreigners without a common language could all understand each other, it is the Spirit that gathers the church out of all sorts and conditions of people.

The church early on recognized that the Spirit that created the church on Pentecost was the same creative life-giving Spirit that hovered over the waters of chaos at the creation.

God’s Spirit was there at the beginning and has never ceased God’s work of enlivening and inspiring. This same Spirit “spoke through the prophets.” And still speaks through a variety of people today.

So let us celebrate the birthday of the church on Pentecost, but let us also discern where God’s Spirit is moving today, both in and outside the church, giving life, creating what is new, renewing what is old, and restoring what is outworn. Let us never stop praying the ancient prayer of the church: “Come, Holy Spirit, Come!”

Prayer: O God, keep sending your Holy Spirit among us, reviving us again and again!

Rev. Richard Floyd.



Royster will celebrate the birth of the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 19 from 1:00 –3:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the **Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ** , and it marks the beginning of the Christian church’s mission to the world. Pentecost offering unites us in a churchwide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church and the world.

## Spiritual Formation



Old Testament study meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month. Next meeting Wednesday, May 8.

### **PW Justice and Peace Calendar for May 2024** **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month;** **asianpacificheritage.gov**

- 2 National Day of Prayer; nationaldayofprayer.org
- 2-8 Children's Book Week; everychildareader.net/cbw
- 6 May Holocaust Remembrance Day; ushmm.org/remember/days-of-remembrance/resources/calendar
- 7 National Teacher Day; nea.org
- 11 World Fair Trade Day; wfto.com
- 11 Stamp Out Hunger Day; about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm
- 12 Mother's Day; presbyterianmission.org/story/a-prayer-for-mothers-day
- 13 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30-8:30 PM (Eastern) on Transforming: The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke. Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 15 Palestinian Nakba Remembrance Day; presbyterianmission.org/story/may-15-2022/
- 19 Pentecost; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/pentecost
- 19 Intercultural Church Sunday; pcusa.org/resource/intercultural-ministries-19226
- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity; cbd.int/idb
- 27 Memorial Day; presbyterianmission.org/story/may-30-2022

## Prayer Wraps

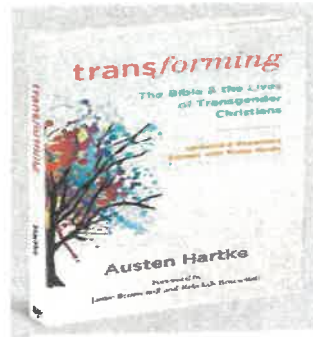
**PW Wrap Ministry** Prayer wraps will be in the Sanctuary the *first Sunday of each month*. If you know someone who may be in need of one, feel free to see Martha Ambler or Jill Keifer after the worship service.



## Food Pantry



**Food Pantry Needs:** bar soap. Monetary donations are also gladly accepted.



**May 13**

6:30 PM-8:30 PM Easter Time

DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM  
The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!



To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice)

## Fellowship Luncheon

Sunday, May 19th is our monthly fellowship luncheon. Join your church family after 11:00 AM worship in the fellowship hall for Menu is Nacho Bar. Lots of choices—Make it your way!



## Eyeglasses



**Eyeglasses donation.** There is a box in the Narthex to donate used eyeglasses to Lions Club of Norfolk. Please donate all your old glasses! So far Royster has donated 28 pairs of glasses and 52 glasses cases. Also, 10 USB Cords.



Sunday, May 26 there will be a combined worship service at Church of the Ascension. Royster will join with Talbot Park Baptist and The Church of Ascension. Join with the community in recognizing the commitment of members of America's military services. Memorial Day honors those who lost their lives while defending their country.

### ***In Our Prayers***

**Prayers/Concerns:** All Medical Caregivers; Carlton Bailey (nephew of Joe Perry); Cynthia Baker; Dejanique Baker (granddaughter of Cynthia Baker); Jennifer Bamman; Joliene Batcher; Paul Bentley (father of Lisa Harroff); Precious Byrd (granddaughter of Helen Byrd); Jeffrey Cain (brother of Barry Cain); Jen Cain (niece of Barry Cain); Family of Tucker Carney; Janice Cournoyer-Webster; Trisha Coulson and family; Christine Craddock, (daughter of Christie Secrest); Sharon Culbertson; Phil Davenport (friend of Jeff Spivey); Eileen Dennihan (sister-in-law of Janice Cournoyer-Webster); Michael Dooley (Heather Sweitzer Dooley's husband); Betsy Elling (friend of Donna Dillon Stockburger); Lisa Eser (sister of Pennie Sipes); Kathy Falconer (friend of Brenda Pendry); Frank and Nancy Ferebee (parents of Karin Roberts); Family of Joan Fitch; Jackie Fricks; Carole Gelfeld (sister of Barbara Vogan); Josh Gibson (friend of Tony Mudrak); Family of Fay Gilbert (grandmother of Brian Gilbert); Martha Greenwood; Ted Hannawalt; **Katie Heile (friend of Gretchen Leib)**; Vivian Henry, (friend of Joe Perry); Karen Mosher Heron (daughter of John & Debora Mosher); Hannah Jacka (granddaughter of Al & Annette Jacka); Family of Al Jacka; Pam and Bob Keirnan; Janet Lassiter (Joe Perry); Bob and Sharon Lyons and family; Bob Lyons; Jimmy Lyons (brother of Bob Lyons); Justin Martin (son of Mike and Susan Dillon); Al Finnie Mcann (father of Matthias Oliver); Mike (father of McKenna and granddaughter of Kathy and Jeff); Jim McDonnell (friend of the congregation); Family of John Mosher; George Nchotu (husband of Mabel Nchotu); Diana Nixon and family; Matthias, Jr., Jupiter and Ryan Rey Oliver (children of Matthias Oliver); Geraldine Long Parker (friend of Carolyn Anderson); Elsie Perkins (mother of Julie Fadden); MSGT André Perry (son of Joe Perry); Anne Pinkerton (friend of Carolyn Greene); Jeanette and David Rice; Judy Rehl (mother of Brian Harroff); Danny Richardson (Joe Perry); Dr. Lesley Richardson (daughter of Anne and Don Richardson); Yulia Richardson (mother of Sophia Richardson); James Riggins (friend of Dionne Byrd); Sherry Romulus; Ron (friend of Jeff Spivey); Jacob and Emilia Sama (parents of Mabel Nchotu); Eddie Schuchhardt (son of Al Schuchhardt); June Schumacher; Christie Secrest; Rachel Secrest; family of Dorothy Smith; John and Verna Stafford; Susan (friend of Kathy Kinney); Whitney Sumner (niece of Pennie Sipes); Danny Swain (friend of Trisha Coulson); David Tigges (brother-in-law of Joe Perry); Tommy and Ralph Turner (friends of Carolyn Anderson); Ukrainian Widows in Granby House and Suburban House; Ken, Helena and Carmen Vaughn (son, wife and daughter of Ken Vaughn); Lynn Inman Whitlock (niece of Anne Richardson; **Louis Wilson**; Ann Wright and family.

**Our Men and Women in the Military:** MSGT André Perry, (Ret.) (son of Joseph Perry); Specialist Hunter Blake Stackhouse (grandson of Bob Stackhouse); AT2 Joshua Stafford (Grandson of John and Verna Stafford).

We pray for those who have lost their lives to gun violence, and we pray for strength and courage as we seek God's guidance to be part of a powerful change. We pray for racial reconciliation with our sisters and brothers. We seek community with believers from all walks of life.

### **2024-2026 Ministry Teams**

**Deacons:** **Class of :** **Class of 2024:** Debora Mosher and Lisa Harroff. **Class of 2025:** Carolyn Anderson and Pat Miskill **Class of 2026** Mable Nchotu Pennie Sipes **Moderator:** Pat Miskill; **Secretary:** Lisa Harroff  
**Session Elders:** **Class of 2024:** William Redding III, John Keifer and Wilbur Bryant. **Class of 2025:** Karin Roberts, Diana Nixon and Sharyl Halcomb. **Class of 2026:** John Stafford, Thomas Ambler and Anna Wactor **Clerk of Session:** Jill Keifer.