



# WASHINGTON COOPERATIVE PARISH

**May/June 2025**  
**Bi-Monthly Newsletter**



**Epworth United Methodist Church**

60 Merriman Way Road  
Moneta, VA 24121  
540-721-4926

<https://epworthumcmoneta.org>

Sunday Worship—9:30 a.m.  
Livestream also on Facebook:

click link:



**Halesford United Methodist Church**

1601 Lakewood Forest Road  
Moneta, VA 24121  
540-520-7875

<https://www.halesfordumc.com>

Sunday Worship—11 a.m.  
Livestream also on Facebook:

click link:



**Go green!** If you would like to subscribe to a full color electronic copy of your monthly newsletter (instead of paper) please email Cindy Lollar - [clollar65@gmail.com](mailto:clollar65@gmail.com)

Design Team: Teresa Edwards, Kaye Hancock, Betty Johnson, Cindy Lollar

*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*



## **“Spiritual Weapons”**

To all who are in Christ Jesus,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that you and your families are well and that this correspondence finds you in perfect peace.

Life can feel like a battle sometimes. Whether it's dealing with stress, fear, temptation, or just the everyday struggles that wear us down, we all face moments when we wonder how we'll make it through. But 2 Corinthians 10:4 gives us an important reminder:

*“for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds.”*

This means that as followers of Christ, we don't fight our battles the same way the world does. Our strength doesn't come from our own abilities or from physical power, it comes from God. God gives us spiritual weapons like prayer, faith, The Word, and the power of the Holy Spirit. These aren't just nice ideas, they are powerful tools that can break down walls, tear down lies, and overcome anything that tries to hold us back.

Whatever stronghold you may be facing, whether it's worry, anger, addiction, insecurity, or anything else, know this: **God has given you the tools to fight and win.** You don't have to face it alone, and you don't have to stay stuck. Lean on God, trust His promises, and use the spiritual weapons God has given you. They are mighty and more than enough.

Let us continue to work toward ministries of excellence as we make disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Jeff

## **PREPARING FOR PENTECOST**

Its coming on June 8<sup>th</sup> and you are invited!!!! Send out invitations, order the cake, get out the party favors, and strike up the band—the church is having a birthday! Tell everyone to wear red, for it is the Day of Pentecost, the birth of the church, and the celebration of the Holy Spirit.

Imagine entering to the sound of music filling the sanctuary, children waving red streamers, and the worship leaders processing through the crowd.

Worship on Pentecost has many possibilities for the church. It is the great climax of the Easter-Pentecost season, for on this day we realize and remember the fullness of God's promise in Jesus Christ, which has been the theme throughout Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Regardless of worship choices, the service should focus as a witness to God who has "poured out his Spirit upon all flesh" (Acts 2:17).

Pentecost is believed to be the oldest festival in the church, dating back to the first century. The early Christians adapted the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which occurs fifty days after the Passover, commemorating Hebrew freedom from Egyptian bondage and the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses. Today, among Christian churches, Pentecost is most often celebrated fifty days after Easter, ten days after the Ascension (see Acts 1:6-11).

The story of Pentecost comes from Acts 2:1-42, as 120 worshipers, including the disciples, were fasting and praying in an upper room in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit descended upon them in a violent rushing wind. Small flames of fire rested upon their heads, and they began to speak in other languages. As crowds came to investigate the commotion, the apostle Peter spoke to them about Jesus and exhorted them to repent. From the crowd of Jews and converts, three thousand heard his message, were baptized, and became followers of Jesus.

Pentecost is a time of renewal for Christian believers. Through studying the story of Pentecost, many seek and pray for spiritual gifts for the church during this time of holy celebration. There is a renewed focus on evangelism, empowerment from the Holy Spirit, deeper intimacy with God, and fellowship. For Christians, the celebration of Pentecost imparts faith, hope, a sharing of community, and an awareness of a purpose much greater than ourselves.

Indeed, Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate hope, a hope born by the knowledge that God through the Holy Spirit is at work in the church. The church's birthday calls us to consider our purpose, mission, and work as God's people. Yet this calling is not a sober reflective time, (remember, we did that in Lent), but rather a grand and glorious gathering with smiles and laughter and praises to God!

Let's have a party!

( adapted from "Pentecost: God's Spirit Poured Upon the Church" By Robert W. Winstead)

## SPRING BECOMES SUMMER

Spring becomes summer—no matter what we do  
The days become warmer and the sky turns a special blue  
The sun gets up earlier and stays up later every day  
Giving us more time to stay outside for work and for play.

Lord, your world, so carefully made— renews to look its best  
The plants and the trees awaken from a needed winter's rest  
The little shoots of spring are helped by sun, rain, birds, and bees  
Summer arrives to find them gently blowing in the breeze

Young animals are growing too—becoming independent.  
They've figured out your plans for them, when you made this planet.  
Surrounded by summer's bounty, they eat and drink their fill  
Preparing for the next season when they will feel autumn's chill.

Thank you, Lord, for Summer---for all the things it brings:  
The sunlight and the beauty and all the birds that sing.  
The faithful flow of seasons, that give our years their frame,  
We thank you, Lord, and pray for your world, in your holy name.

Christine Mosig

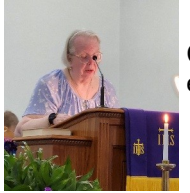
May 2025



## The Washington Cooperative Parish 7 Last Sayings service was held on Good Friday, April 18, at Halesford UMC



Wayne Loomis spoke on Luke 23:24, saying the suffering Jesus experienced is a profound challenge to all Christians to forgive. His standing there was a radical act. Most people's instincts when wronged is to get revenge, or hold a grudge. Jesus sees the bigger picture, and is an example for us, to commit ourselves to see the potential of what all can become.



Chris Mosig spoke on Luke 23:39-43, and pointed out that 3 men died that day, one in rebellion, one entering eternal life by his belief in Jesus. One man died for all our sin, became sin, to give us salvation.



Betty Johnson had John 19:25-27, which tells of Jesus, even in His agony and suffering, looking out for His mother. She said she couldn't imagine what Mary was feeling, watching her son die, and could only be there. Sometimes being there is all we can do.



George Wilson stated that Jesus was human, had emotions, needed to eat and drink. When He was on the cross, Jesus took on the past, present and future sins of mankind. He felt alone, asking God "Why did you forsake me?" (Matthew 27:45-46). We are blessed that God says He will never leave us or forsake us!



Mike Goad explained "I thirst" (John 19:28), that none of the soldiers, Pilate, witnesses, criminals or anyone there knew that they were fulfilling Scripture. They didn't know that Jesus was thirsting for us, thirsting for our spirits, suffering for our sins, so that one day, we could say to Christ, "I thirst for you".



Jennifer White asked, "Have you ever finished a project? Paid off a mortgage?" If so, you know the burden that is lifted off you. In John 19:30, "It is finished", Jesus is triumphant, He hadn't given up, but He wrapped it all up, cancelled our debts, broken every yoke that we have. We don't have to carry guilt or shame, He shut the door on death. However, your story is just beginning.



Marques Wilson pointed out that Jesus was fully human but divine. He wept at the tomb of Lazarus, walked the Earth showing the Will of the Father. Marques said that he was looking at the Hands of Christ. Hands are often taken for granted, they represent strength. His granddaughter knows that if she gets a bump, if she can make it into his hands, all will be well. The woman that needed healing reached out her hand to touch the hem of Jesus' cloak. Jesus touched so many, as He fulfilled His divine assignment. Luke 23: 45 says Jesus cried out, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your Hands"! I believe, Marques said, that the Father led Jesus into Heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." When the road gets tough on this Earth, we, too, can reach out and find shelter in God's unchanging Hands.



The Washington Cooperative Parish enjoyed Shrove Tuesday, was somber on Ash Wednesday and through the Lenten Season, and rejoiced mightily on Easter Sunday!!!





## 50 Homeless Mats

During Washington Parish 5th Sunday service, we celebrated the completion of our 50th homeless mat. Halesworth UWF members prep for the mats at meetings by cutting plastic bags, and tying them together to make plarn balls. Pat Young has crocheted almost all of the mats together, as she watches TV (seen here).

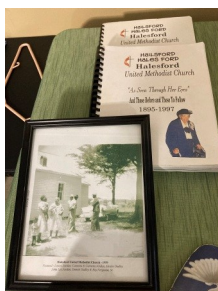


The mats have been given to RAM house, Rescue Mission, and more recently, the Warming Shelter at Redwood UMC. Each mat contains 1,500 plastic bags. Rev. Jeffery White shows off the 50th mat as he congratulates Pat.

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## Black History Month Program

Halesford UMC was represented at the Black History Month Program held on March 30, at Pigg River Community Center. Part of the history of Halesford was shared with a display. Mike Goad brought greetings from Halesford to all assembled. The program celebrated the traditions of the Black church, including the choir processing in, music, and hats, among other memories. The program was well done and enjoyable. Not pictured are Jimmie Hancock and Betty Johnson.



Halesford dedicated their new addition of a hallway and 2 handicapped accessible bathrooms, complete with changing tables after service on April 6th. While adding the bathrooms, trials arose and other renovations were completed. We thank the project committee for their diligence, perseverance and attention to detail! Praise God for bathrooms on both levels of the church!





United  
Women  
in Faith

During the March meeting, Halesworth UWF got a jump on Easter by stuffing Easter eggs for the upcoming hunt. Over 600 eggs and items to go in them were donated! The



Easter Egg Hunt was coordinated by First Lady Jennifer White, who did a wonderful job, as always. The April meeting saw the Halesworth members planning the District Spiritual Retreat, which we are hosting, and planning. Our May meeting will be a planning party on May 19. Please note the change of date-usually our meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. The meeting is being changed due to Memorial Day.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### May Birthdays

3	Jason White	
5	Pastor Jeff White	
6	Michael Goad	(Halesford)
8	James Jordan	(Halesford)
30	Melodi Huston	(Halesford)
12	Axel (Ashley Keesee)	(Epworth)
3	Melissa Toney	(Epworth)
7	Rick Toney	(Epworth)
8	Donna Ross	(Epworth)
8	John Lollar	(Epworth)
9	Catherine Medovich	(Epworth)
24	Barry Martin	(Epworth)
27	Braidan (Lawrence)	(Epworth)

### May Anniversaries

31	James & Valerie Jordan	(Halesford)
28	David & Cathy Anderson	(Epworth)

### June Birthdays

3	Matilda Poindexter	(Halesford)
2	Braxton Goad	(Halesford)
12	Andre` Edwards	(Halesford)
21	Sheila Jackson	(Halesford)
26	Imari Crider	(Halesford)
17	Faye Wuergler	(Epworth)
21	Rick Gramling	(Epworth)
28	Liam (Lawrence)	(Epworth)

### June Anniversaries

8	Glenn & Alice Prather	(Halesford)
24	Pastor Jeff & Jennifer White	
30	Jimmie & Kaye Hancock	(Halesford)





- **May 12**—Epworth PPR meeting 6pm, Fellowship Hall
- **May 14**—Epworth Ad Council meeting 6pm, Fellowship Hall
- **May 19**—UWF meeting 4pm, @ Epworth UMC
- **June 8**—All are invited to Halesford for our Men's and Women's Day. The service will begin at 2pm, and lunch will be served before the service. The theme for the service is "Working Together for God". Our guest preacher will be Rev. Vincent Jones, Mount Zion Baptist Church in Bedford, his congregation and choir. Come join us as we praise God and learn more about His Word!!!!



## Sunday School

Thursdays @ 7:30 p.m.

via Zoom

**Prayer Meeting** —Every Other Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

(see calendar for schedule)



via Zoom—contact Cindy Lollar for link: [clollar65@gmail.com](mailto:clollar65@gmail.com)



**Sundays @  
Epworth UMC  
9:30 a.m.**

Please let Cindy (Epworth) or Betty (Halesford) know if you have a prayer request you would like added and also updates on those currently listed.

**Prayer Meeting held every other Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

**Collecting: plastic bags from your grocery or department store** for plan (plastic yarn) to make into homeless mats. Help the Halesworth UWF keep these bags out of the landfills. Please place in the recycle bin located in the Narthex. Thank you!!

**Collecting New Socks for the Homeless ~ Drop Box is in the Narthex at Epworth UMC**  
**"Socks for Lost Souls"**



Socks are currently being donation to Rescue Mission in Roanoke:  
<https://rescuemission.net/>



Thank you to all who are signed up with the Kroger Community Rewards program for Halesford (QD391) or Epworth (EP178). Without realizing that when you shop, a percentage of your total order is shared with our churches through the Community Rewards Program.

Here is the link to get started:  
<https://www.kroger.com/i/>

# May 2025

AA meets every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday @ 9:00 a.m. @ Epworth UMC  
Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. @ Epworth , and  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. @ Halesford UMC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	2	3
4 Communion	5	6	7	8  Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12 Epworth PPR Meet @ 6PM	13	14 Epworth Ad Council @ 6PM	15 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	16	17
18	19 UWF Meeting 4 PM @ Epworth	20	21	22  Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	23	24
25	26  MEMORIAL DAY • REMEMBER AND HONOR •	27	28	29 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	30	31

# June 2025

AA meets every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday @ 9:00 a.m. @ Epworth UMC  
Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. @ Epworth , and  
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2	3	4	5  Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	13	14
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom  Juneteenth	20 First Day of Summer	21
22	23	24	25	26 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	27	28
29	30					