

JORDAN MEMORIAL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



The Link

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 4

MAY 2026

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Homebound	2
Memorials & Honorariums	
Military	
College	
Obituary	
General	3
Information	—
	6
May	7
Calendar	
Community	8
Meal	



Something about the first fruits of the season that stirs
Here in North Carolina, May brings those early, eager
— the first ripe strawberry, a tomato still warm from
promise that more is coming. There's joy in that first
because it's good. It tells us something important: the

The Pentecost became known as the birthday of the
Children; it was a harvest festival. The Jewish feast of Shavuot, the Festival
of Weeks, was one of the three great pilgrimage festivals of the Hebrew
calendar, observed fifty days after Passover. It marked the offering of the
first fruits of the wheat harvest, and it carried a second, equally profound
meaning: the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. God had delivered His
people from Egypt, and now He was giving them something to live by.
Shavuot was a celebration of both provision and covenant — bread and
Word, field and faith, bound together.

That is precisely why Acts 2 opens the way it does. Jerusalem is
crowded. People have traveled from every corner of the known world to
observe the feast, carrying offerings, speaking a dozen different languages,
representing every nation under heaven. And it is in that moment, in the
middle of a harvest celebration, that the Holy Spirit falls.

This is no coincidence. It is a fulfillment. Just as Shavuot marked
the first fruits of the grain, Pentecost becomes the first fruit of something
far greater: the Church itself. The Spirit moves, the gospel is proclaimed,
and three thousand people are gathered in a single day. It is the beginning
of a new harvest, not of crops, but of hearts. Not grain brought to the
temple, but lives given over to God.

But here is where the ancient practice of first fruits speaks directly
to us. In the Old Testament, the first fruits offering was not what was left
over. It was not the bruised grain, the last bushel, the gift that cost
nothing. The first fruits were exactly that, the *first* and the *best*, offered
before the rest of the harvest was even certain. It was an act of trust as
much as an act of worship. You gave God the beginning of what He had
provided, as a declaration that everything which followed belonged to Him
too.

That principle does not belong only to the ancient harvest season.
It belongs to us, right now, in every area of our lives.

We tend to think of giving in terms of finances, and certainly that is
part of it. But first fruits giving is a posture of the whole life. Consider what
it looks like when we apply it more broadly:

Our time — Do we offer God the first and most attentive hours, or
only the minutes left over after everything else is done? First fruits mean
carving out space for prayer, worship, and rest before the calendar fills up,
not after.

Our gifts and abilities — The talents God has placed in us are not
ours to spend entirely on ourselves, squeezing in service when convenient.
First fruits ask: am I bringing my best to what God has called me to, or just
what's left?

Our presence — Showing up matters. Not a distracted half-way

**Please send mail and
pray for our Homebound**

Genie Cross

Clapp's Room 206
500 Mountain Top Dr.
Asheboro, NC

Sharon Jones

2988 Tuttle Road
Archdale, NC 27263

Malvin & Ann Robinson

2800 Spoons Chapel Rd
Asheboro, NC 27205

Jordan Memorial Military

Quinton Smith

Memorials and Honorariums

**In Memory of Claude & Wilma
Hardin**

Bruce & Claudia Ihme

In Memory of Terri Chamblee

Bob & Betty Jo Armfield

In Memory of Ray Albright

Bob & Betty Jo Armfield

In Memory of Mont Gilmore

John & Priscilla Allen

Emily Johnson

David & Celia Harris

Anne Cox

Wayne & Ann Hutchins

Grey Graham

Ed & Shirley Mitchell

Martha Thomas

Larry & Crandall Ellison

Greg & Cindy Chaffin

David & Kathy Posey

Hiram Marziano

Bill & Jackie Craven

Billy & Jamie Poolle

Travis & Anna Poole

College Students

Maria Almanza (NCSU)

PO Box 361
Ramseur, NC 27316

Logan Armfield

5017 Liberty Grove Rd
Liberty, NC 27298

Samantha Hicks

Jagiellonian University
ul. Gołębia 24, 31-007 Kraków
Krakow, Poland

Hunter Shackelford

Lynch Hall Room 333
9201 University City Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28223.

Jaidy Smith

307 Elam Ave.
Ramseur, NC 27316

Melissa Strickland

2868 Spoons Chapel Road
Asheboro, NC 27205

Mont Bland Gilmore, a resident of Rutherford County, was called home on April 17, 2020, 17 days shy of his 100th birthday. Born on April 17, 1926, Mont lived a full and industrious life. Mont was a proud veteran of the United States Army, serving in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. After his return to the states, he was employed as a surveyor for Moore, Gardner & Associates, eventually rising to be the head of the surveying department. Mont was a member of the North Carolina Society of Surveyors and dedicated his career of over fifty-five years to building and shaping his community with diligence and integrity. He was a brilliant mathematician and developed computer software for the Army Corps of Engineers for many years. Mont also was one of the original owners and developers of Pine Wood Country Club in Asheboro. He loved to play golf and was affectionally called "Hustler" by his friends. He was also a devoted member of Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church in Ramseur, where he found fellowship and spiritual guidance.



Broken Chain

We little knew that morning that
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
in death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
you did not go alone;
for part of us went with you
the day God called you Home.

You left us peaceful memories,
your love is still our guide;
and though we cannot see you,
you are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken,
and nothing seems the same;
but as God calls us one by one,
the chain will link again.

© Ron Tranmer



Being the Hands of Ministry

Thank you for being willing to serve by adding your gifts to our worship services!

May Ushers

Bruce Ihme
Eric Hutchins

Acolyte

Kim Shackelford

May Reading

May 3rd John 21:1-19
May 10 Matthew 28:16-20
May 17 Acts 1:4-11
May 24 Acts 2: 1-13
May 31 TBA

Jordan's Closet

Jordan's Closet is open on the first Saturday and third Tuesday each month. Saturday hours are 10am-12pm and Tuesday 5pm-7pm.

Scouts

The boy and girl scouts meet on Mondays at 6:30pm.

Line Dancing

Line Dancing class is on Wednesdays at 10:00am, Thursdays at 7-8pm and Fridays at 1pm.. Cost is \$3.00.

Ramseur Civitans

The Civitans meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:30pm

Senior Bingo!

Join us the first Tuesday of each month at 10am in the Fellowship hall for Senior Bingo. You might win BIG!

Meetings!

Leadership	May 3rd	4:00 PM
Back to School Bash	May 11th	6:30PM
UWF (UMW)	May 17 th	2:30 PM
Community Meal	May 19 th	5:30 PM
Care Team	May 27 th	10:00 AM

United Women In Faith

United Women In Faith will meet Sunday, May 17th at 2:30 in the Fellowship Hall with a special guest speaker, Denise Wilson. She will share her talent in a skit of "Edith Ann". Denise asks us to help others in their time of need by donating individual small packs of cookies, the small bottles of water and boxes of tissues. These items are much needed and will go to Hospice House. Hope you will help us with this mission project by placing items in the container outside the office. Please plan to attend. All are invited.

Faith & Fitness

Exercise class meets on Tuesday's & Thursdays at 9am in the fellowship hall. Equipment is provided and there is no fee. It is more than just exercise, it is a time to connect with other ladies and share in stories, prayer, and scripture. There is a physical need that is met but even more so there is an emotional and spiritual need that is met when we come together. Hope you can join us.

AA Group

Jordan Memorial hosts Alcoholic Anonymous meetings on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in the conference room.

Lion's Club

The Lion's Club is collecting old eyeglasses, hearing aids, and cell phones. There is a collection box outside the church office. The Lion's Club also meets in the conference room on the second Tuesday each month from 6-7pm.

THE MONEY BIOGRAPHY—PART 2

Values questions

Day 1: In what ways are you a spender? A saver? In what ways are you generous? Stingy?

Day 2: Although money can't buy happiness, what are some of the things money can buy that bring happiness?

Day 3: What do you like best about money? What do you like least?

Day 4: What things in life are worth more than money? In what ways does your lifestyle reflect the relative importance of these things to money?

Day 5: How has your gender influenced your thinking about money? What differences do you observe about the ways men and women relate to money?

Day 6: Which of the following words best communicate your attitudes and feelings about money? Why? Money is...

Power, security, hope, love

Pleasure, prestige, dirty, value

Anxiety, identity, a tool, freedom

Protection, evil, comfort, fun

Day 7 Reflect on times when you have given to meet the needs of another. How did you feel? Reflect on times when you were on the receiving end of a gift. How did you feel?

**Community
Yard Sale!!**



Graduates

If you know of someone graduating this spring or summer, please send pictures, write up and future interest to be included in the June/July LINK.

Thanks, Church Office

There's something about the first fruits of the season that stirs something in us. Here in North Carolina, May brings those early, eager signs of abundance — the first ripe strawberry, a tomato still warm from the vine, the quiet promise that more is coming. There's joy in that first taste, and not just because it's good. It tells us something important: the harvest has begun.

Long before Pentecost became known as the birthday of the Church, it was a harvest festival. The Jewish feast of Shavuot, the Festival of Weeks, was one of the three great pilgrimage festivals of the Hebrew calendar, observed fifty days after Passover. It marked the offering of the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and it carried a second, equally profound meaning: the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. God had delivered His people from Egypt, and now He was giving them something to live by. Shavuot was a celebration of both provision and covenant — bread and Word, field and faith, bound together.

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Our gifts and abilities — The talents God has placed in us are not ours to spend entirely on ourselves, squeezing in service when convenient. First fruits ask: am I bringing my best to what God has called me to, or just what's left?

Our presence — Showing up matters. Not a distracted, halfway presence, but genuine, attentive, engaged community. First fruits means bringing yourself to your family, your neighbors, and this congregation.

Our prayers — It is easy to pray out of desperation, when we have nowhere else to turn. First fruits prayer is different. It is coming to God first, before the crisis, before the day runs away from us, as an act of trust and dependence.

In each of these, the question is the same: Am I giving God what remains, or what is best?

Living in this season between Easter and Pentecost, we stand in a sacred in-between. The resurrection has happened but we are not fully living into what it means to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. This is a season of preparation and expectancy, of asking: *What is God bringing forth in me? Where is the Spirit inviting me to be part of the harvest?*

In a community like ours, multilingual, multicultural, and multigenerational, we are a living echo of that first Pentecost. The Spirit did not erase differences; it spoke through them. It gathered people

together not because they were alike, but because God's love was for every single one of them. **THE LINK**
So perhaps this May, as you enjoy the sweetness of the season's first fruits, let them be a reminder and a question. The strawberry, the tomato, the bloom on the vine, they are not holding back. They are giving what they have fully and in season

Back to School Bash Meeting
Our next back to school bash meeting will
be Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026 10AM-1PM

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH 2026

**FREE BOOKBAGS FILLED WITH SCHOOL
SUPPLIES**

**FREE FOOD, CLOTHING, VISION SCREENING,
AND ACCESS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

ARE YOU READY?

Main Street Ramseur

FREE TO ALL K-12 STUDENTS

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Leadership Mtg 4pm	4 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	5 Faith & Fitness 9am Senior Bingo 10am Civitan Mtg 6pm	6 Line Dancing 10am	7 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	8 Line Dancing 1pm	9
10 Mother's Day	11 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm School Bash 6:30pm	12 Faith & Fitness 9am Lions Club 6pm	13 Line Dancing 10am	14 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	15 Line Dancing 1pm	16
17 UWF meeting 2:30pm	18 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	19 Faith & Fitness 9am Senior Bingo 10am Jordan Closet 5pm Community meal 5:30pm Civitan Mtg 6pm	20 Line Dancing 10am	21 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	22 Line Dancing 1pm	23
24 Pentecost	25 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm MEMORIAL DAY / OFFICE CLOSED	26 Faith & Fitness 9am	27 Line Dancing 10am	28 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	29 Line Dancing 1pm	30
31						

Ramseur Food Pantry: Corn Muffin Mix, Small bags of rice. We will need volunteers May4-8.

May Birthdays

- 04 Melissa Urban
- 08-Debbie Campbell
- 08-Mary Gant Hudson
- 08-Debbie Huffman
- 09-Celia Harris
- 12-Barry Ellison
- 14-Hannah Harris
- 18-Kay Parks
- 19-Addison Armfield
- 20-Peyton Leonard
- 21- Lauren Hutchins
- 22-Betty Jo Armfield
- 22-Liam Armfield
- 22-Jake Chaffin
- 23-Greg Fox
- 23-Devonia McNeill
- 25-Brian Leonard
- 25-Chris Watkins

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- 23-Greg Fox
- 23-Devonia McNeill



Jordan Memorial United

Methodist Church

1511 Main Street
PO Box 848
Ramseur, NC 27316
Phone: 336-824-2252



E-mail:

JordanMemorial@JordanMemorial.org

www.JordanMemorial.org

Community Meal May 19th, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Join us for our Community Meal, it's a great time of food, fellowship, and faith!

Worship times

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship Service 10:30am

