



# WASHINGTON COOPERATIVE PARISH

## **May/June 2026 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*



My hope and prayer is that this correspondence finds you blessed and safe in your surroundings.

This week we explore verse 3 of Psalm 121.

“He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.” Psalm 121:3 (NRSV)

In a world that often feels uncertain and unsteady, this verse offers a quiet but powerful assurance that we are not left to navigate life on our own. The image of God as a vigilant keeper, one who never sleeps reminds us that divine care is constant, not conditional. Even when we feel as though we are losing our footing, there is a presence holding us firm.

It's easy to place our confidence in things that shift, circumstances, plans, even our own strength. Yet the psalmist points us to a steadier foundation. God's watchfulness is not passive it is active, attentive, and enduring. Every step we take, whether in confidence or hesitation, is seen and held within that care.

As you move through the coming days, carry this promise with you. When anxiety creeps in or the path ahead feels unclear, remember, you are kept by One who does not grow weary. May that truth anchor your spirit and give you peace in both the ordinary and the uncertain moments of life

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Jeff

## The Holy Spirit at Pentecost

(adapted from an article by Jason Sansbury)

**Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated on May 24, 2026.**

### Celebrating the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Pentecost is celebrated by Christians globally because we want to remember Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit would come and work in the world. We also celebrate Pentecost because we want to remember that the Holy Spirit is at work in us as followers of Jesus.

### The Promise in Scripture

In **John 14:16**, Jesus says, *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever"*. This "another" refers to the Holy Spirit, who would replace Jesus' physical presence but continue His work in believers' lives. In **John 14:26**, He adds, *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you"*. This shows the Spirit's role in **teaching, guiding, and reminding** believers of Jesus' words.

### Jesus' Promise of the Holy Comforter

Jesus promised His disciples—and us—that He would send **another Comforter**—the **Holy Spirit**—to be with them forever. In the Greek New Testament, the word *paraclete* can be translated as **Helper, Counselor, Advocate, or Comforter**, and it conveys someone who comes alongside to support, guide, and strengthen.

In today's world, anxiety charts at record levels in younger students. A 2000 American Psychological Association study states that the average teen has higher levels of anxiety today than did psychiatric patients in the 1950's; the levels of stress exhibited by teenagers continues to rise. The Holy Spirit at work in the world and within us is a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness and the intimacy we can share with God as followers of Jesus.

### The Holy Spirit at Work in the World

Sometimes we fail to notice the Holy Spirit faithfully at work in our lives and the world. Pentecost creates a natural pause in our liturgical rhythm and reminds us that the Holy Spirit is present and at work all around us. Part of the Christian tradition is to examine the world and identify the places we see the Holy Spirit at work, along with the people the Holy Spirit is using to do the work. That dedicated practice reminds us and helps us to understand that while the world may make us anxious, we have hope because God's Spirit is at work and that hope helps us build spiritual endurance and keeps us moving forward in faith.

### The Holy Spirit at Work in Us

Similarly, we need to remember that the Holy Spirit is working in our individual lives. Sometimes it is difficult for us to recognize in ourselves what others around us see—the fruit of the Spirit. The result of the Holy Spirit's work in our personal lives is often hidden from us. Pentecost is a reminder to take a break, examine our lives, and notice where the Spirit is teaching, guiding, encouraging, and convicting us.

### **Why This Promise Matters**

Jesus' promise reassures believers that **we are never left comfortless**. Even after His departure, the Holy Spirit dwells within us, teaching, guiding, and comforting us (John 14:18). This presence enables us to live by the Spirit (Galatians 5:25) and to walk in the truth and love of God.

*Holy Spirit, Thank you for your constant presence in our minds and hearts. Continue to dwell in us; teaching, guiding, comforting and encouraging us that we may continue to do the Father's work here on earth and walk in the truth and love of God. It is only through you that we have the hope, grace, and mercy we need to share the Good News with the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen*

Chris Mosig, Lay Leader  
[cmosig67@gmail.com](mailto:cmosig67@gmail.com), 914-262-9106

## **Spirit Song**

Oh let the Son of God enfold you  
With His Spirit and His love  
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul  
Oh let Him have those things that hold you  
And His Spirit like a dove  
Will descend upon your life and make you whole

Jesus oh Jesus  
Come and fill Your lambs  
Jesus oh Jesus  
Come and fill Your lambs

Oh come and sing the song of gladness  
As your hearts are filled with joy  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name  
Oh give Him all your tears and sadness  
Give Him all your years of pain  
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name

Jesus oh Jesus  
Come and fill Your lambs  
Jesus oh Jesus  
Come and fill Your lambs

**Author:** John Wimber

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Easter Sunrise service was held on April 5, 2026 at Halesford. Congregants gathered in the parking lot to worship with songs and sermon, as we expressed our joy in our Savior's resurrection. Pastor White preached from Matthew 28:1-6, saying, in part, that the stone was rolled away, not so Christ could escape the tomb, but so all could see that He was no longer imprisoned, that He has indeed risen from the dead as He promised. The angel could sit on the limestone barrier, because it was 4-5 foot in diameter, 12 inches thick and weighed anywhere from 3000 to 4000 pounds. The stone was about the size of a midsize car. The angel had 4 messages:

1. Don't be afraid, which still resounds today.
2. Jesus is not here, He is alive!! The church is alive!
3. Invited the followers to "Come and see".
4. Go quickly and spread the news the Good News that Jesus is Risen! He is no longer buried, He is alive!!

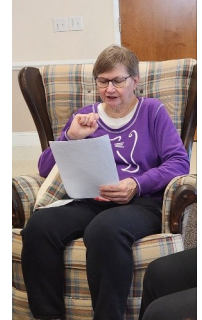
After this uplifting message and joyful celebration, congregants enjoyed a delicious breakfast and wonderful fellowship.

Easter was celebrated through praise, fellowship and worship by the Washington Cooperative Parish. Following the Sunrise Service and breakfast at Halesford, Epworth met at their usual time of 9:30am. Several from Halesford joined the service. Since Easter fell on first Sunday, the Parish observed Communion as one body, a joyous occasion! After the 9:30 service, brunch was served, during which food, fellowship and community were enjoyed. The day was too wet for the Easter Egg Hunt, but the children left with bags of eggs to take home. A glorious day!





United  
Women  
in Faith



**Halesworth UWF met on March 23, 4pm at Epworth.**

The program was the 2026 United Women in Faith's A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial.

The 2026 theme, The Future is Now, Invest in our Children, is an expansive topic, as children are influenced by all they experience at home, in their church, their community and their world.

Too many children are hungry, in poverty, don't have healthcare or the early childhood education they need, because they live in poverty.

Scripture readings were Matthew 18:3-5 and Mark 9:36-37, which reminded us of the value of children and the sacred trust we have in their care and upbringing. Halesworth members learned of the different National Missional Institutions that serve on our behalf, and voted to donate to the Day of Giving in support of these important programs.

After the program, we stuffed Easter eggs, fellowshiped and enjoyed Cindy's cookies!



**Halesworth UWF met on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 4pm, at Epworth.**

Betty shared the roadmap for turning our faith into action, or the explanation for the United Women of Faith's Purpose.

The Purpose calls us to commitment, impact, faith, action, advocacy, community, education, inspiration, and mission. Discussion followed.

Afterwards, we enjoyed Cindy's cookies and instructed our newest member in the steps of planning. Our next meeting is May 18, 3pm, at which time we will have a planning party. Y'all come!

# SAVE THE DATE:



Smith Mountain Lake Walk to End Poverty  
Sat September 19 2026



## 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	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

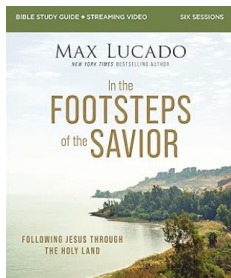
3	Matilda Poindexter	(Halesford)
2	Braxton Goad	(Halesford)
12	Andre` Edwards	(Halesford)
21	Sheila Jackson	(Halesford)
26	Imari Crider	(Halesford)
17	Faye Wuergler	(Epworth)
21	Rick Gramling	(Epworth)
28	Liam (Lawrence)	(Epworth)

## June Anniversaries

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 12** —SPRC Meeting 6pm (Epworth)
- **May 18**—UWF Meeting @ Epworth 3 pm
- **May 31**—5th Sunday Combined Parish Worship @ Epworth 9:30 am
- **June 13**—Epworth Community Breakfast, 8-10am
- **June 14**—Halesford Men’s and Women’s Day, 11am service, lunch, 2pm afternoon service with Rev. Hodge, Mt. Zion A.M.E.
- **June 17-20**— Virginia Annual Conference (Harrisonburg, VA)
- **June 22** —UWF Meeting @ Epworth 4 pm



## Sunday School

Thursdays @ 7:30 p.m.

via Zoom

contact Cindy Lollar for link:  
clollar65@gmail.com

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

(see calendar for schedule)



via Zoom—contact Cindy Lollar for link: 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 2026

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	2
3	4	5	6	7 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12 SPRC Meeting (Epworth) 6pm	13	14 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	15	16
17	18 UWF Meeting 3 PM @ Epworth	19	20	21 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	22	23
24 Pentecost	25 Memorial Day 	26	27	28 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	29	30
31 5th Sunday Combined Parish Worship @ Epworth 9:30 am						

# June 2026

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	2	3	4 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	12	13 Epworth Community Breakfast 8-10am
14 Halesford's Men's and Women's Day (see events)	15	16	17	18 Prayer 7:00 PM Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	19 Juneteenth	20
21 Father's Day 1st Day of Summer 	22 UWF Meeting 4 PM @ Epworth	23	24	25 Sunday School 7:30 pm on Zoom	26	27
28	29	30				