

**The Messenger**  
**Whitehouse United Methodist Church**  
Love - Serve - Share Christ  
**May, 2018**

**Pastor: Rev. Matt Thomas** 903-839-2173;  
Cell 903-279-7903  
[thomasm11@georgefox.edu](mailto:thomasm11@georgefox.edu)  
Website: [www.whitehouseumc.com](http://www.whitehouseumc.com)

Morning Fellowship 9:30 am  
Sunday School 10:45 am  
Worship Services 9:30 am  
Church E-mail: [whitehouseumc@tyler.net](mailto:whitehouseumc@tyler.net)

### **You're Always There for Me**

When the world comes crashing in and chaos rules my mind,  
I turn my heart to you, Lord, and pure, sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble, You comfort me in pain;  
You nourish, heal and cleanse me, like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss, when things are going right,  
You lift me even higher, and fill me with delight.

You listen to my prayers; You hear my every plea;  
I'm safe because I know, You're always there for me.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

## **Worship Services**



### **May 6th: 6th Sunday of Easter** **Communion Sunday**

Psalm 98  
John 15: 9-17  
**The Thing that Turns Our Lives Upside Down**

### **May 13th: 7th Sunday of Easter** **Ascension Sunday** **Mother's Day**

Psalm 47  
Luke 24: 44-53  
**The Promise of the Gospel for You!**

### **May 20th: Day of Pentecost** **Graduate Sunday**

Ezekiel 37: 1-14  
Acts 2: 1-21  
**How Do We Get the Spirit?**

### **May 27: 1st Sunday after Pentecost** **Trinity Sunday**

I Samuel 6: 1-8  
Romans 8: 1-11  
**Are You Living in the Spirit?**

## *Prayer Requests*

The Walton's  
Juanita Hagan  
The Weaver's  
The Loro's  
The Wilkes  
Johnny Gay  
Sue Lawler  
Steven Robinson  
Lisa McLaughlin  
Tommy Guinn  
Shirl Shamburger  
Jan Moorman  
Gene Ruelle  
Gail Zollicoffer  
Unspoken Prayers  
Our Church Family  
First Responders

**Monday, May 14**  
**Trustees** at 6:00 pm.  
**Finance Committee**  
at 7:00.

## **Wednesday Nights**

**Family Night Bible Study**  
at 6:00 pm.  
**Dinner** at 6:45 pm.  
**Choir Practice** at 7:15.

**Monday, May 21**  
**Methodist Men's Fish Fry**

for our church family.  
Come join in on the fun  
and fellowship  
and enjoy the fish!  
**Methodist Women** will **NOT**  
have a separate meeting.

**May 23** will be our last  
**Family Night**  
for this school year.

## **Philadelphia Blessing**

Ongoing needs are:

Canned foods, jello, cereal, peanut butter crackers, spaghetti, jars of peanut butter, individual packets of macaroni and cheese, pudding, crackers of all kinds, fruit-rollups, jelly, nutrition bars, and fruit cups are essentials. Baking goods such as flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cornmeal, vanilla, etc., are needed also.

**Zip bags** in quart and gallon sizes are also needed.

Place your donations in the box at the Welcome Center.

If you wish to donate money, please  
write a check to Whitehouse UMC and  
note **Philadelphia Blessing** in the memo line.



**Graduate Sunday**  
**Sunday, May 20th**

We will be honoring our  
graduating seniors with  
a lunch following  
Sunday School.  
Be watching for more  
information.

## **Support our Missions**

**Apportionments**  
(Extra Tithe or Offering)

**Scholarship Fund**  
(Designated Gift)

**Philadelphia Blessing**  
(Donations and Your Time)

**International Heifer Project**  
(Bring Your Quarters)



# May



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Quilts for Kids 9 am  <i>Happy May Day</i>	<b>2</b> <u>Methodist Mowers</u> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts <b>Beth's Bible Study</b> 9:30 and 12:30 <b>Family Worship</b> at 6:00 pm. <b>Choir Practice</b> at 7:15.	<b>3</b> <u>East Texas Bee Keepers</u> 6:45 pm. 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Cinco de Mayo 
<b>6</b> 6th Sunday of Easter <b>Communion Sunday</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Quilts for Kids 9 am	<b>9</b> <u>Methodist Mowers</u> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts <b>Beth's Bible Study</b> 9:30 and 12:30 <b>Family Worship</b> at 6, dinner at 6:45. <b>Choir Practice</b> at 7:15.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Ascension Sunday <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 	<b>14</b> <u>Trustees</u> at 6 pm <u>Finance Committee</u> at 7 pm.	<b>15</b> Quilts for Kids 9 am	<b>16</b> <u>Methodist Mowers</u> 8 am <b>Beth's Bible Study</b> 9:30 and 12:30 Family Night Worship at 6:00 pm. <b>Choir Practice</b> at 7:15.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Pentecost <b>Graduate Sunday</b> 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 	<b>21</b> <u>Methodist Men</u> will be having a Fish Fry for our church family.  <u>Methodist Women</u> will not meet separately.	<b>22</b> Quilts for Kids 9 am	<b>23</b> <u>Methodist Mowers</u> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts <b>Beth's Bible Study</b> 9:30 and 12:30 <b>Family Worship</b> at 6, dinner at 6:45. <b>Choir Practice</b> at 7:15.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Trinity Sunday 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Quilts for Kids 9 am	<b>30</b> <u>Methodist Mowers</u> 8 am at Whitehouse Donuts <b>Beth's Bible Study</b> 9:30 and 12:30 <b>NO</b> Family Worship. <b>Choir Practice</b> at 7:15.	<b>31</b> <u>MEMORIAL DAY</u> 	<b>June 1</b>	<b>June 2</b>

## Happy Spring

Spring is the promise of what's to come and the hope of what we will find. The long frigid winter marked by its impasses ensures abundance for spring. You can bet that a really cold and wet winter will yield an extraordinary spring. A friend of mine says it a different way. He says we often overestimate what God can do in 2 years and underestimate what he will do in 5 years. Seeds planted five plus years ago are now coming to fruition. We waited and waited for the seeds to germinate, die, take root and come to full bloom. The harsh winter we went through spelled certain death and quenched any hope the tree would bloom. Some are still waiting for the tree to bloom though it is in plain sight. Its leaves are tender but branches are strong. It has weathered the storm and now offers fruit for the taking. We just had to wait on it. We had to water and fertilize it with prayer.

The fruit finally arrived. It is beautiful fruit. It is reminiscent of large peaches with juicy and tasty meat. You know the kind that I speak of. Once the hide is breached the juice runs down the side of your mouth and immediately you pull the peach away from your mouth and use the backside of your arm to remove the excess juice. It is full and yummy.

We couldn't of had that tender, juicy peach without the harsh winter. The peach is beautiful but didn't go unscathed. It bears the scars and healing of the winter. It didn't take the normal short tenure. It took the full 5 years plus some. When I glance upon the tree or its fruit I not only see the yummy that awaits I see a secured future. Within the heart of the fruit and health of the tree lies its future storms and fruit. I think about the good work you have done in raising your children. Your good and proper work wasn't as evident when the kids were younger. Now that they are grown because of your love, they weather their own storms and produce fruit from the mother tree. One single life changed, a solitary seed, a conflict induced ministry, a harsh winter and a cultivated life is fruitful and reproducible.

We made it. We haven't finished growing and enduring. We are bearing fruit and it is delicious in the eyes and mouth of God. The solitary seed from the peach is reached and now the hard work begins again. One bite at a time.

This is akin, no doubt, to our life together in the ministry. The storms have been tough and the battled weary trees and seedlings look dismal. We survived and the fruit of our survival is at hand. Did you know that I am the longest tenured pastor in the church's 170 year history? The longest tenure was 7 years. I have reached 8. I initially thought God moved and kept me here so I could be next to my children as they grow up. I was wrong or half-right. God sent me here to help the church. It has taken many years and some have been harsh on this tree and yours. Some are just beginning to bear tremendous fruit. Many lives have come to Christ. Many trees have been pruned and many have died. But, the seeds remain. Let me share another truth-The reason the church hadn't advanced to discipleship is because you never had a pastor long enough to weather with you. When you move pastors frequently you miss growing along side of each other. You miss storms and harsh winters. Most of all you miss fruit. It takes a pastor at least 5 years to make headway. A history of short term pastors cant make disciples and bear fruit. I do want growth and maturity. There has to be both and they have to be reproducible.

Over the years there have been remarkable signs of growth and maturity. The investment is coming back. It is Spring and it truly is a happy time. The trees are flowering and the nectar is coming. Love you all and thanks for loving me and my family.

Matt