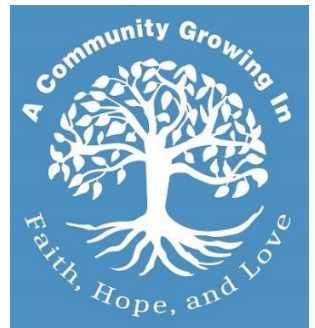


# May Memorial Baptist Church

*E-Connect Newsletter*

Printed Edition 8-18-20



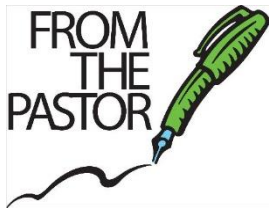
***Reaching...Teaching...Touching...in the Heart of Powhatan***

3922 Old Buckingham Rd. In the heart of the Courthouse Village  
(804) 598-3098 [Maymemorialchurch.org](http://Maymemorialchurch.org)



**Please join us for Worship at 11:00  
Sunday in the Sanctuary!**

You do not need a reservation but if you plan on coming would you please let us know by calling the church office? Thank you.



## ***The Cross and the Lynching Tree***

A couple of weeks ago during a May Memorial Wednesday night gathering we read the text from Matthew's gospel in which Jesus, angry at the Pharisees, refers to them as "blind guides leading the blind." This is a repeated theme in the gospels. In another text, after the healing of a blind man, Jesus discusses this issue of blindness, of "not-seeing," and the story concludes with the Pharisees saying to one another, "surely he is not talking about us." He was. They were blind to all kinds of important things.

Last week I read James Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. In it Cone discusses in detail the "American Holocaust" of the lynching of over 5,000 black men, women, and children. It is theological as much as it is historical, and Cone contends that the similarities between the death of Jesus on the Cross are too similar to the deaths of those lynched in the United States for us to miss. Lynching and crucifixion, as a public display, are as much about the witnesses as they are about the victims. "If you question the system, this will happen to you too." (cont. on page 4)



## **Blessing of the Backpacks**



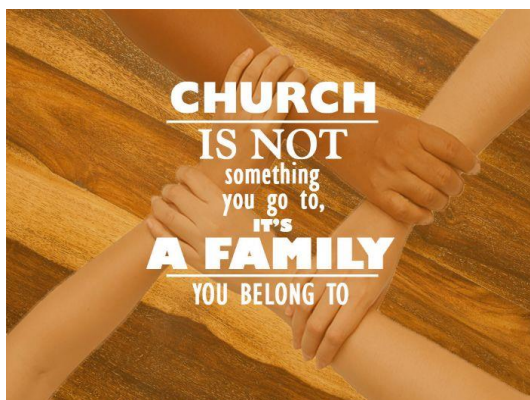
**Two youth events next week and Blessing of the  
Backpacks, details inside...**

# What Are You Doing Here ?

## Team Sign Up Has Begun

Call the church office to get set up on a team for the 20-21 church year!

Connecting to Each Other...Fellowship



### The May Memorial Gathering Room 8 p.m. on Wednesday's

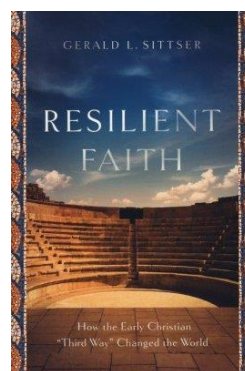
Join us for The Gathering Room on Zoom this Wednesday night. Click the link <https://zoom.us/j/286978612> on your computer or mobile device and the Zoom meeting will automatically open. Be sure your camera and microphone are turned on! You can click on the link anytime this week to be sure it will work. If you experience problems [email](#) or call Pastor Michael at (804) 922-0101.

To join with any phone: Call (312) 626-6799  
Enter this code: 286 978 612

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### Church Wide Zoom Sunday School: Sunday Morning at 9:15 a.m.

Beginning August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the online the church wide zoom Sunday School class will begin a series of lessons based on the early Christian church. Mr. Bob Kruschwitz will be leading us in a discussion centered around the book *Resilient Faith: How the Early Christian "Third Way" Changed the World* by Gerald L. Sittser. The book can be purchased from Amazon. Three copies of the book have been donated to May Memorial and can be checked out at the office.



To join by phone: Call (312) 626-6799  
Enter: 871 7487 0259

# Blessing of the Backpacks



## **Blessings of the Backpacks Sunday, Aug 30th**

We encourage all families to attend our sanctuary service. You do not need to bring backpacks into the church, but please take a picture of your students holding their backpacks or on the first day of school and we will put them on the screens! Forward these pictures to the church by emailing [maymem@verizon.net](mailto:maymem@verizon.net). Please make sure to send the pictures by Tuesday, August 25.



## **YOUTH OUTING!**

Wednesday, Aug 26th  
to Drive Shack!  
(near 288 and 64 in Goochland). Meet at the church at 2:30 and we will caravan.



## **Youth Day at the Lake!**

on Sunday, Aug 30.  
To Bob and Nancy Woods' home for an afternoon at the lake.  
Please bring a bag lunch.  
1:00-4:00 p.m.

**FROM THE PASTOR...(continued from page 1)**

But what I carry with me from Cone's deeply troubling work is how the church is tied up in the culture that lynched over 5,000 black men, women, and children. First, it was conservative or Evangelical church members who were doing the lynching. These were not godless atheists or agnostics who were burning and whipping and shooting black human flesh. One contemporary observer noted that "the most cruel heathen could do no worse" (than the church members were doing). Another wrote that "if this is Christianity, I hate and despise it."

White liberals, whether they be secular or Christian, would love to think they got it all right, that it was not their party, their church, their "tribe" that participated in this atrocity. Cone spends more than a chapter pointing out how the mainline church, how liberal Christians, stood by and refused to name this murderous evil in their culture. Reinhold Niebuhr is perhaps the most celebrated American Theologian of all American history, but certainly of the 20th century. He pastored a large Presbyterian Church in Michigan before going to Union Seminary in NYC for a revered teaching and writing career. Reinhold Niebuhr probably influenced American government, culture, and religion more than any other Christian thinker and theologian, and he is still cherished by many Christians, especially those of a more liberal orientation. Barak Obama once stated that Reinhold Niebuhr was his favorite theologian, the one who influenced him most deeply. But Cone points out over many pages that Reinhold Niebuhr did nothing to call out this evil in America. Neither did the evangelists Dwight Moody, or Billy Graham, or Billy Sunday. The list goes on and on.

There are exceptions, the German Dietrich Bonhoeffer is one, who made the courageous moral decision to speak out. But the exceptions are few.

The blind were leading the blind.

I would recommend *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, it is a great book. Cone discusses how music voiced much of the despair and lament felt by black Americans. He talks about the song *Strange Fruit*, written by a Jewish American (Abel Meeropol) and sung by Billie Holiday, and how no record company would record the song because it painted such a clear picture of what was happening. You can't listen to this song and "not see."

But as I read and considered Jesus' words "blind guides leading the blind," I wondered how we think today that we see everything so clearly. The Democrats will tell you this week in their convention that they are the ones who see it all so clearly. Next week the Republicans will do the same thing. But remember, the Pharisees missed it. Nineteenth and twentieth century American Christians missed it. German Christians missed it as Hitler rose to power. In the history of the church between these two historical times there were blind guides leading the blind as well. How foolish for me to think that the blindness Jesus spoke about has cleared up, for a country, a culture, or just for me.

I am prone to blindness, and so are you. Understanding this should keep us humble, and looking, and trying to refocus. Because the things that we are blind to can be deeply important, matters of life and death.

Thank You

*Dear MMBC,  
Thank you so much for the continued support as I begin another school year.  
I greatly appreciate the scholarship.  
God bless you all.  
Thank you,  
~ Josh Deal*

## Dear May Memorial Friends:

As I approach the end of my time with you, allow me to express my gratitude for two-plus years of meaningful service and shared ministry as your minister of music. I pray you have grown and matured in the faith as I have since my first Sunday with you, Mother's Day, May 9, 2018. Thank you for your consistent support and encouragement. God bless you in the coming months and years. I pray you remain healthy and strong during this unusual and difficult period in our world's history. When physical distancing eases and the threat of COVID-19 lessens, may this local gathering of God's family move into the future with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. Many thanks to Michael and Ashley for committed ministerial teamwork; to Diana for her excellent administration; to volunteer musicians always eager to offer their gifts and skills; to the Adult Choir for engaging new musical concepts and learning challenging music; to Mary Ellen (and Irma before her) for sweet-natured collaboration and willingness to go the extra mile; and to you, May Memorial members, for embracing corporate worship with open hearts and minds. God bless you all!

With humility and gratitude, **Rev. Joan B. Maples, B.A., M.C.M.**

## Prayer List August 17, 2020

### CHURCH FAMILY:

Barbara Barden  
Susie Brock  
Margaret Carter  
Bob Cosby  
Bob Cox  
Snead DeNoon  
Lee Duncan  
Nick Elam  
Ester Fitch and Family  
Bea Gallier  
Rick Gallier  
Bill Ketron  
Jeanan Krueger  
Paul Lindsey  
Fran O'Donnell  
Jim Pinkley  
Gladys Rabon  
David&Susan  
Terry  
Frances Tilman  
Karen Utt  
Nancy Wilkinson  
Janice Worsham

### MILITARY:

Danny Myers, Brent Templeton, Quint Sutton, David Brizendine, Jeremiah Clift, Nelson Sutton, Justin Donnavon, Austin, Breeden, Caleb Hammer, Kris Curtis, Adam and Hunter Mitchell

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Stephen Breeden, Son of Martha Oberg  
Estelle Davis, Debbie Elam's mother  
Lacie Baggett  
Libby Gregg, daughter-in-law of Carol Gregg  
Stuart Yeorge  
Ben Spoon, Juli Spoon's son-in-law  
Matthew Berger, friend of Joy&Juston Sanudo  
Clyde Martin, brother of Esther Fitch  
Jeff Crews, Susie Brock's brother-in-law  
Sheri Sadie, Nancy Flower's Daughter  
Sharon Baltimore, friend of the Bradbury's  
Bill Casper, Bill Karnolt's brother-in-law  
Justin Yancey, Grandson of Irma Alvis  
Stephanie Hay, Karen and Ray's daughter-in-law  
Jodi Erpelding, friend of Jeanan Krueger  
Janie Dean  
Phyllis Lester, Ed Utt's sister  
Shawn Neugent, friend of the Sheltons  
Lennox Family  
Helen Fitzgerald, friend of Diana and B.J. Smith  
Chloe, granddaughter of Amy&Bill Karnolt  
Nurses, Erin and Melissa, relatives of the Karnolt's  
Logan Cook, grandson of Wilford and Linda Poore.  
Tim Martindale, friend of Bob & Vicki Kruschwitz  
Pam Polk Mottley, Ed Mottley's sister  
Gwen Lunford, Lester Oberg's sister.  
Debbie, Vicki Kruschwitz' sister  
Randy Kope, grandson of Les and Dianne Miller  
Brian Sullivan, nephew of Mike and Bernice Koelzer  
Mary, Annie Sparrow's Aunt  
Family of DeMarco Harris, Nancy Alexander's relative  
Family of Myrtle Holland, Russ Holland's mother

### **HOMEBOUND Prayer List:**

Janice Worsham, 2041 Rocky Ford Road

Frances Tilman, 3904 Old Buckingham Rd

Audrey Johnston, (currently at Kirk and Peggy Johnston's home) The Crossing at Bon Air, 9100 Bon Air Crossings Drive, Room 202, Richmond, 23235

Audrey Mann, The Laurels of Willow Oaks, 11611 Robious Road, Midlothian, 23113

Jim Pinkley, Currently with Billy and Marlis Kruschwitz

Jean Hall, 1748 Old Powhatan Estates

### Tentative Schedule

### Birthdays

#### **Sundays:**

**9:15 a.m. Zoom Sunday School  
(Re-Gathered SS begins in October)**

**11:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary**  
Also, a Live Streaming Worship Service  
will continue to be shared on  
YouTube Premier at 11:00

**5:30 p.m. Soul Food**

#### **Wednesdays:**

**3:30 p.m. Zoom Kingdom Kids**

**8:00 p.m. Zoom Mid-Week Gathering  
(Re-Gathered Bible Study in January)**

#### **August**

17-Karl Schmitz

17-Karen Cheatham

19-Louise Poore

20-Kyle Wills

21-Carol Gregg

22-Barbara Barden

22-Alyse Gillespie

26-Judy Ketron

27-Judy Boelt

28-Buddy Stokes

28-Nancy Wood

29-Francis Shelton

31-Graham O'Donnell

### Financial Information

#### **Our Gifts to our Lord, Week of August 16, 2020**

**Regular Offering      \$ 2,805.00**

Scholarships                      25.00

Special Offering                    20.00

**Total    \$ 2,850.00**