

# The Communicator

## MADISON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

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CATHERINE WHITE, Director of Music/Organist  
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### **REMEMBER**

Memorial Day, as Americans have come to know it, began in the years immediately following the Civil War. But until World War II, most people knew it as “Decoration Day.” It was a day to decorate with flowers and flags the graves of fallen soldiers and remember those who had given, as Lincoln beautifully said, “the last full measure of devotion” to defend their nation. It was a day to remember what the honored dead had died to defend.

A century and a half has passed since Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox, effectively ending a national nightmare that filled over 625,000 American graves with dead soldiers. Since then, other international nightmares have ravaged the world and put more than 650,000 additional Americans into war graves in Europe, North Africa, the Pacific Rim, Asia, and the Middle East.

### ***Remembering Is for the Future***

Memorial Day is an important national moment. It is a day to do more than barbeque. It is right and wise to remember the great price some have paid to preserve the historically unprecedented civil and religious freedoms we Americans have the luxury to take largely for granted.

But the importance of Memorial Day is more for our future than it is for our past. It is crucial that we remember the nightmares and why they happened. We forget them at our own peril. The future of the United States depends in large amount on how well we collectively remember and cherish what liberty really is and the terror of tyranny. There is a high cost to forgetting. In the words of George Santayana’s famous aphorism, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

### ***A Memorial People***

Christians, of all people, understand the crucial importance of remembering. Christians are “memorial people” because the whole of our faith depends upon remembering. Those who persevere into the glorious future are those who remember the gracious past.

That’s why God has surrounded us with memorials. The entire Bible itself is a memorial. We meditate on it daily to remember. The Sabbath was a memorial to Israel’s freedom from Egyptian slavery (Deuteronomy 5:15), and the church switched it to Sundays as a memorial to Christ’s resurrection and our freedom from sin. Israel’s great gathering feast days were memorials (Exodus 13:3). And now each time a local church gathers, each Lord’s Supper celebration (I Corinthians 11:24-26), each baptism, each Christmas celebration, and each Easter celebration is a memorial.

Remembering God’s past grace is necessary to fuel our faith in God’s future grace for us.† This makes the memory one of God’s most profound, mysterious, and merciful gifts granted to us. God designed it to be a means of preserving (persevering) grace for his people. We neglect it at our own peril.

The future of the church, globally and locally, and of each Christian depends largely on how well we remember the gospel of Jesus, all his precious and very great promises, and the successes and failures of church history. Scripture warns us that if we fail to remember, we will be condemned to submit again to sin’s and hell’s enslavement (Hebrews 6:4-8). Such warnings are graces to help us remember. So as we commemorate Memorial Day as Americans, let us do it with profound gratitude for the extraordinary common grace given to us when men and women laid their lives down for the sake of America’s survival. And let us remember the past evils that we may not repeat them in the future.

And as Christians, let us make every day, as long as it is called today, a memorial day (Hebrews 3:13). Let us “take care lest [we] forget the Lord” (Deuteronomy 6:12).

Let us “remember Jesus Christ” (II Timothy 2:9).

~Jon Bloom

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### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

9:45 A.M. – SUNDAY SCHOOL – There’s a class for everyone.

11:00 A.M. – MORNING WORSHIP – Jesse Staton will be the worship leader.

The Pastor’s sermon is based on Isaiah 6:1-8.  
There will be special music by the Koinonia Choir.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEACON OF THE WEEK**

May 27-June 2 Ron Rosser & Sarah Landon

**DEACONS SERVING MAY 27**

Michael McPhatter Donna Massie  
Carl LaFerney Cary Murphy  
Luke Hamel Harold Massie

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**USHERS SERVING IN MAY**

Adam Clark, David Bryant, Barbara Witt

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**IN THE HOSPITAL**

John Mann – Guggenheimer Rehab  
Bernie Gowen – Lynchburg General

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**SAVE THE DATES**

Sunday, June 3 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY**

**River Rampage on the James**

(Rivers Edge Park)

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**Vacation Bible School**

**June 11 – 15, 9:00am – 12 noon**

**Rolling River Rampage**

Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!

**ALSO:** There will be a brief meeting of ALL VBS workers on Sunday following the worship service.

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“Did you know there's a difference between being busy and being fruitful? Did you ever stop to think that just being busy - running around in circles all day but not accomplishing anything - is the same as wasting your time? It's frustrating to expend so much energy and time and not have any fruit from your effort!”

– **Joyce Meyer**

**May 20, 2018**

Budget Envelopes .....\$ 9,084.00  
(Weekly Budget Needs \$8,688.73)  
Plate Offering .....\$ 174.00  
Designated Offering .....\$ 11,485.00  
Miscellaneous Receipts.....\$ 57.00  
TOTAL DEPOSIT .....\$ 20,800.00

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 110 LAST WEEK – 116  
FUF – \$195.00

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**CHRISTMAS CHEER BASKETS**

May – Cornbread mix or Bisquick

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**MAY WMU MISSION PROJECT**

In May we will be collecting non-perishables for Jericho Baptist. There is a container in the main hallway to collect your donations Thank you for your support of this mission project!

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**KEENAGER**

**Q** Due to VBS in June we will not have a  
**R** a meeting. Our next meeting will be held on  
**N** Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be the annual  
**E** picnic and it will be held at the church.  
**R** As in the past we will not meet in August but will meet again in September when we might be going to the Station in Bedford.

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Tornado Relief Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Saturday, June 2, 2018

12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

Winton Country Club

For more info Contact 434-946-7336

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The **Mission Action Circle** will meet on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

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“Successful people maintain a positive focus in life no matter what is going on around them. They stay focused on their past successes rather than their past failures, and on the next action steps they need to take to get them closer to the fulfillment of their goals rather than all the other distractions that life presents to them.”

– **Jack Canfield**