

May news



Black Wicks

My tiny baby who enjoyed drinking “lemolade” and watching the Wiggles somehow turned 25. I guess I blinked.

His cake was topped with two lit candles that were blown out and wished upon. A few days later, the cake was in the fridge, the dishes had been washed and put away, and I noticed the candles tossed on the countertop, the white wicks now blackened from use. Life that briefly sparkled with celebration was now back to normal.

It isn't always easy to go back. In Scripture there are lots of examples of big things, and what follows.

Starting on page 1 with Creation, we see that is followed by rest and then day-to-day work of taking care of it all. (Genesis 2:15)

Hannah in 1 Samuel was broken over her longing for a baby, and God blessed her with Samuel. The days after were filled with normal things - changing all those swaddling clothes, and nursing every few hours, day in and day out. The normal, ordinary and routine.

In Luke chapter 8, there is a guy who was nicknamed Legion because he was possessed by so many demons. Jesus did what Jesus does and rescued the man, sending all his demons into a passel of pigs. The man was so grateful he wanted to follow Jesus, literally. This huge thing had happened in his life, and he wanted to be close to his Healer. Jesus had other plans for him, telling him to go back to his normal, day-to-day life, but to go back changed. Luke says he went back and told people all over town what the Lord had done.

In each of these instances, day-to-day life carries on. They go back to eating, drinking, working, and planning. They go back to waking up sleepy, getting stomach bugs and wondering when the rain is coming. They prepare meals, take care of animals and check on their neighbors.

Life returns to normal, but they are not normal. They are changed.

When our big things happen, and our candle wicks are blackened from use and dripping with wax drops frozen in time, it can leave us feeling deflated. After spending weeks preparing for Easter through the Lenten season, and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, it can feel ho-hum to go back to work the next day. To take down our decorations that remind us He Is Risen.

After spending weeks preparing our hearts for revival, praying and seeking the Lord, then clearing our schedules to devote those four days to renewing our faith, it can be strange to spend the next days doing laundry and cutting the grass.

We return to our normal life, but we are not normal. We are changed.

Every Lent, every revival, every renewed commitment to your faith - these are pivotal moments. While we continue to go about our day-to-day lives, we are doing it changed. We have greater purpose in those everyday tasks.

As we see our coworkers, we remember they aren't just our coworkers. They are people entrusted to us by Jesus to point them to Him. As we make dinner for our families, we know we are caring for them and offering a brief glimpse into how our Father cares for us. As we sign up for our turn at nursery duty, we know it isn't just about keeping the kiddos alive for an hour and a half. We are showing them the love of Jesus by welcoming them as Jesus did. We are praying for them and over them.

Nothing is ordinary anymore to those touched by Jesus. Hallelujah for that!

“The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Return home and tell how much God has done for you.’ So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.” John 8:38-39

-Jennifer Chapman



CHURCH ELECTIONS

Sunday, May 17



MAY'S MISSION'S FOCUS



The Gideons International

ALL DISCIPLESHIP OFFERING WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY



2nd Saturday Prayer

May 9 at 9 AM



Small Business & Artisans Welcome!

highlawn

COMMUNITY market

May 9th
9am-2pm



OPENING DAY

MAY 9

9:00AM- 12:00

GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE

HIGHLAWN
COMMUNITY GARDEN

CRISIS CARE KIT

MAY COLLECTION



Packages of unscented, individually wrapped, regular absorbency



WOMEN'S MINISTRY Game Night!

Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 PM



SAVE YOUR STUFF!

6TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY GIVEAWAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

FMI- See Mona Epperly



ALS Empathy Dinner "An Eye-Opening Evening"

May 12 | 6 PM

Sponsor a Table \$200
Individual Tickets \$25

Experience. Understand. Connect.

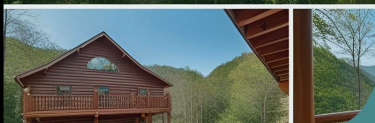
First Church of the Nazarene
321 30th St., Huntington, WV

TICKETS



LADIES

GET AWAY Pigeon Forge, TN



November 1-4

\$150.00 (per person)

Balance due by Mid September

FMI- see Mona Epperly or Davida Brooks

SECURE YOUR SPOT!
SIGN-UP & \$50 DEPOSIT
DUE BY APRIL 26



HF Homebound Church Family

Donna Connelly
Marian Crowe
Deborah Gibson
Marie Scheff
Melba Sprouse
Tammy Stultz
Eleanor Dean

Ron Davidson (Katie)
Nancy Hampton (temporarily)
Ron Dallis (Judi)

Let's remember to pray for each one, consider sending a card or even visiting them.



If we have missed anyone, or if you need the addresses, please see Joey Saxton, Mona Epperly or contact the church office.

May Celebrations

Birthdays

Jet Alan Price
2 Madison Wippel
5 Gavin Thompson
6 Eleanor Dean
14 Lydia Kaylor
Oscar Staggs
Ray Adkins
16 Kal-el Bailey
Myles Smith
18 Larry Grahovac
23 Carolyn Lewis
Jenna Hendrick
24 Jet Alan Price
27 Carol Wells
Cheryl Vance
Tina Dean
28 Andrew Petty
Josie Pannell
30 Tim Dean

Anniversaries

12 Tyler & Leigh Anne Simpkins
Timothy & Brooklyn Thomas
29 (Michael)* & Cheryl Smith

If you don't see your special date. Please call the church office to have your information updated.

*(We remember.)



Congratulations
Class of 2026

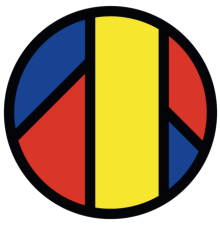
Graduation Sunday
May 17th

Men's Prayer Breakfast

May 16
8:30 AM



Please Sign up at the Welcome Center



MAY 2026

ALL CHURCH, **HF KIDS**, **HF YOUTH**, **HF WOMEN'S MIN**, **THRIVE**
HIGHLAWN COMMUNITY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 THRIVE-Mom's of Little Ones
3 THRIVE-Rorabaugh	4	5 THRIVE-Men's, Women's & Young Adults Groups	6 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	7	8	9 Community Garden Opens 2nd Saturday Prayer Small Business Market
10	11	12 THRIVE-Rick's Group Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adults Group	13 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	14 THRIVE-Married Group	15	16 Men's Breakfast Widow's Luncheon
17 CHURCH ELECTIONS NDI Meeting	18	19 THRIVE-Men's, Women's & Young Adults Groups	20 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	21 Women's Game Night	22	23
24	25	26 THRIVE-Rick's Group Prayer Shawl THRIVE-Young Adults Group	27 Wed. Night Activities Women's Bible Study	28 THRIVE-Married Group	29	30
31						

Connect. Thrive. Serve.

*"Our vision at HF is to be a church that is CONNECTING with Christ and people,
THRIVING in Christ and God's Word and SERVING Christ and others."*

CONNECTING:

Ministry Center: (Gathering Room) There is a plumbing issue with the water to the baptistry and the Ministry Center stemming from last years pipe burst underground (beneath the Adult Education wing) That is being addressed and will cost around \$4,000. The Health Department is scheduled for inspection the week of the 26th of April. We are still hoping to open in June.

Local Ministries: In an effort to both, be good stewards of what we've been blessed with, as well as connecting with organizations and individuals, our facilities have been well utilized. In March, both Faith Health Appalachia and Marshall Health had successful training events, and we are scheduled to host an ALS Awareness Dinner on May 12 (volunteers to serve dinner needed). In addition, on May 9 (9 am-2 pm) there will be a Small Business Market in the FLC as well as the Spring Opening to the Highlawn Community Garden.

THRIVING:

Welcome new HF Members: After completing our Connections Classes, on April 12 we were delighted to add five new members to our Church body. We welcomed Patrick and Melody Schaeffer, Cody Bellomy, Kaitlin Curtis and Angelia Rayburn as official members. We're excited to have you. *If you're interested in finding out more about the Church of the Nazarene and attending our next classes please contact the Church office.

Youth Pastor: We are excited about the future of our Youth Department as we await the arrival of Sawyer White (Livvi) as our Youth Pastor in mid-May! We're planning something special for their arrival that you'll want to be involved in. Details will be shared in our Discipleship Groups (SS, Thrive, Bible Studies) or you can contact the office for details.

Holy Week: What an exciting month it has been! Beginning with our Holy Week services as we joined with some other Church friends from around the city for a Mondy Thursday Service (Transformation Community), Good Friday *Tenebrae (HF), and Sunrise Service (10th St. COG). It was a great week to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior!

Spring Revival: We had a tremendous week of Revival services with Pastor Kerry Willis. It was an incredible outpouring of the Lord's Spirit as Pastor Kerry presented a time to "Encounter" the holiness of God and His expectations of His Church to be filled! It was such a joy to share that in fellowship together with our two Huntington sister churches, Central and Walnut Hills.

SERVING:

Online Giftings Test: Confucius said, "Find a job you love, and you'll never work a day in your life." That's doubly true for serving in the Kingdom of God. Soon we will be releasing a new test that will be added to our church app. The test will help you find exactly what your Spiritual giftings are, which will give us the opportunity to see where you'll fit best to serve. We can't wait to have you serving as the hands and feet of Jesus at Huntington 1st!

***NEED - Van Coordinator:** We're still in need of someone with a heart for this ministry that would be willing to schedule riders and drivers, as well as recruit new ones. Please contact Pastor Marc or Nathan Miller if you can serve here.

*Also, there are rotation options now for Sun. AM and Wed. PM (1 time per month or floater)

***Church Elections:** Mark your calendars for May 17th as we will be electing new Leadership Team/Board members for 2026-27. We will be filling positions on both the Church Board as well as the NDI Board and electing Delegates to District Assembly. If you are a church member, please make a point to be there and vote just before Sunday School and right after church.

Pastor's Note: It's been my hope and purpose to be able to keep our church body informed about the exciting things happening here at Huntington First. If you ever find yourself in need, or just have a question, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or a Leadership Team member. Let's all go and be light in a dark world!

In Jesus,
Pastor Marc