



MAY 2026 / VOLUME 300

# SALTSHAKER

Quote of  
the Month

My belt holds my  
pants up, but the  
belt loops hold my  
belt up. Who is the  
real hero?  
- Mitch Hedberg

## AVPC GRADUATES

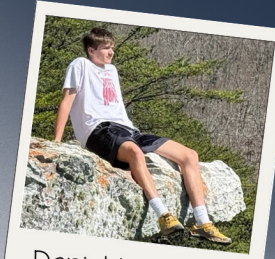
**Congratulations to all of our 2026 graduates!**



Charis Armstrong



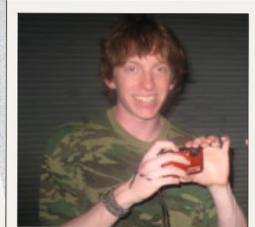
Pierce Gamble



Daniel Lumpkin



Zeke Putman



Isaac Savoie



Emma Snow

### College graduates:

Caleb Lumpkin: University of Alabama

Addie Benz: UAB School of Nursing

Zadyn Labreche - Lincoln Memorial University

Joanna Linder - Mississippi State University

Jack Parker - University of South Alabama

# AVPC NEWS

## Service Opportunity

Shepherds Fold is one of our supported ministry partners, housing and serving men recently released from prison. In years past, the Men of the Valley have provided meals and fellowship for these men, and we desire to reengage that connection by bringing a meal this June. Email John Wimberly ([johiwi@gmail.com](mailto:johiwi@gmail.com)) if you want to help!



# AVPC NEWS

## COVENANT FAMILY VERSE OF THE MONTH

*"I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect."*

**Leviticus 26:11-13**

## PRAYER SERVICE - MAY 17

Join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 17, at 5:00 PM for a time of prayer.



## May Birthdays

5/2 Rick Halbrooks  
5/2 Jeff Lunceford  
5/2 Mardi Penuel  
5/2 Deb Warnat  
5/3 Jamie Holmes  
5/3 Ben McCallum  
5/5 Bob Hess  
5/5 Cal Martin  
5/6 Drew Russell  
5/6 Patrick Barker

5/7 Rebecca Barley  
5/7 Alice Short  
5/10 Austin Amerson  
5/10 Mason MacCaughelty  
5/10 Jacklyn McGlothlin  
5/10 Thomas Peters  
5/10 Penny Prettyman  
5/11 Grahame Bobo  
5/11 Sam Parker  
5/13 Ty Campbell

5/14 Amy Barker  
5/14 Tricia Dougherty  
5/15 Anna Katherine Cohen  
5/16 Claude Dorsey  
5/17 Beth Mullins  
5/18 Kelly Jackson  
5/20 Josh Edmonds  
5/22 Bettie De Shazo

5/24 Owen Ireland  
5/24 Luis Orteza  
5/26 Laura Allday  
5/27 Noah Allday  
5/29 Mike Becker  
5/29 Tracy Labreche  
5/30 Alli Campbell  
5/30 Lucas Ireland  
5/31 Jackie Boggs



# Pastor's Pen

“Prayer is both conversation and encounter with God...We must know the awe of praising his glory, the intimacy of finding his grace, and the struggle of asking his help, all of which can lead us to know the spiritual reality of his presence.”

“Prayer is the only entryway into genuine self-knowledge. It is also the main way we experience deep change – the reordering of our loves. Prayer is how God gives us so many of the unimaginable things he has for us. Indeed, prayer makes it safe for God to give us many of the things we most desire. It is the way we know God, the way we finally treat God as God. Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life.”

“It is remarkable that in all of his writings, Paul’s prayers for his friends contain no appeals for changes in their circumstances.”

“A rich, vibrant, consoling, hard-won prayer life is the one good that makes it possible to receive all other kinds of goods rightly and beneficially. [Paul] does not see prayer as merely a way to get things from God but as a way to get more of God himself.”

“The infallible test of spiritual integrity, Jesus says, is your private prayer life.”

– Tim Keller



# Pastor's Pen

On May 17, we will gather in the evening to pray – often these times are observed by a small and at times disproportionately dominated by staff and officers. Why is this? (Let me be clear, there is zero guilt in this inquiry – I struggle at times to leave the house and hit another meeting.) Prayer is a practical and biblical means of grace given to the fabric of our lives to grow us in Christ-like character. How? Prayer moves us beyond what we know, how we read, what we want, who we want, when we want, who we trust, who we will never trust into who God is and his plan to address all those 'we, I, and you' interests. How do we know prayer works, that God is listening? Jesus tells us where he is and what he is doing in every prayer we offer.

## **Romans 8:34**

...Christ Jesus...is at the right hand of God...interceding for us.

I admit (and frequently repent) that prayer is at times challenging for me. It used to be challenging because I did not know what to pray for – life, marriage, and parenting have soundly filled my prayer cards with material! What are some of the current struggles? Time is a big one – taking the time to rest and trust in Jesus that his Lordship of my life also involves his Lordship of my wristwatch and daily plans. I am reminded of a great quote from a favorite movie:

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

– Ferris Bueller in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* (1986)

Prayer slows us down and puts us into a mental framework to evaluate, prioritize, and empathize with the plight of others. Prayer forces us to wrestle past circumstance towards our shared communal needs to cry out to God together. I frequently pray to learn prayer better. I also pray that we all learn to pray with better intimacy, fervor, and consistency – a good place to do some learning together is on the evening of May 17.

AMEN

-Kyle Parker, Senior Pastor

# Women's Ministry



We will be reading *Appalachian Song* by Michelle Shocklee and will meet to discuss the book on Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 in the Preteen Hangout (basement of GHK).

## Women's Summer Bible Study

This summer we will be studying *The Nature of Rest* by Eryn Lynum. The study begins on Monday, June 1. All 4 groups are meeting same schedule as normal.

Books will arrive mid-May. No study the weeks of Camp Solid Rock or WACK.

# MISSIONS NEWS

Did you know that we have over 50 missionaries and ministry organizations that we are partnering with around the world? These 50+ missionaries are laboring each and every day to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to every tongue, tribe, and nation. We have the opportunity to partner with them and take part in this amazing endeavor to share the love of Christ with anyone and everyone. This is a vital and important partnership. Not only are we providing the financial funds that are necessary to see their ministries move forward but we are actively connecting and engaging as we pray with them and for them.

As Missions Team Chair, I have the privilege of regularly meeting with many of our partner missionaries and missionary candidates wanting to connect and share. These are times where I am able to just listen, ask questions, and learn more about their ministry. It is always an amazing conversation that allows me to hear their passion for where God has called them and the impact the gospel is making in the lives of those around them. At the end of our time, we pray for each other. I can tell you that I am always truly blessed to have spent even this small amount of time of personal engagement. The missionaries are always thankful and excited for the time we had together, but I always receive a tremendous blessing. My heart is pulled out of its day-to-day routine, and it is connected to another heart from the other side of the world or even just around the corner from the church. My faith is refreshed and energized to see the amazing things Jesus is doing around the world

We would like to invite you into this partnership. Would you like to connect with one of our missionary partners? It is really rather simple, but so crucial to the missionary on the field. The commitment is simply to read their newsletters and updates, pray for them regularly, and connect occasionally. The missionary you bless with these actions will be overjoyed, and you will not only gain a new friend but your vision for seeing the gospel of Jesus going out into our community, our city, our state, our country, and our world will expand and grow. Join with us in this amazing ministry as we engage with our partner missionaries. For more details and information, reach out to the church office or contact me directly.

- Jeff Schofield for AVPC Missions Team

# Youth Ministry News



When we join the church, one of the vows we take is to "support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability." I am so encouraged to see our students living that vow out within our church body. On any given week you can find our students faithfully serving in various areas within the church. We had the joy of ending our ministry year of Sunday night meetings by leading Bridge Night for the children's ministry and it was such an amazing time! The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather and our students jumped in and loved the smallest members of our congregation so well!

Peace,  
Clint



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 29-30 - Senior High Spring Retreat
- June 3 - Summer Kickoff at Blue Water Park
- June 15-19 - The Edge
- July 10-18 - Mission Trip w/ Sacred Road

# **YOUNG ADULT NEWS**

## **Summer Young Adult ✦ Bible Study**

Join us this summer on Thursday nights from June 4 to August 6 from 6:30-8 pm at the Youth House for dinner, fellowship, and a study in the Psalms.

College through young adult age is welcome. Bring a friend, and we'll see you then!



**Thursday Nights**

**6:30 PM**

**Youth House**



# AVPC Easter Egg Hunt



# God's House Kindergarten



April has been a full and joyful month at the school! Our 4K classes enjoyed a beautiful field trip to Aldridge Gardens, where they were able to explore God's creation firsthand and take in the sights of spring in bloom. Meanwhile, our 5K students worked diligently during their testing days, showing all they have learned this year and preparing for the exciting transition ahead. We are so proud of their hard work and growth!

We also celebrated our annual Spring Fundraiser, which was a wonderful success. Thanks to the generosity and support of our school and church community, we were able to raise funds that will directly benefit our students through scholarships, new playground equipment, and classroom needs. We are incredibly grateful to our church family for providing a delicious meal for our staff—it was such a meaningful blessing. A heartfelt thank you as well to Jim and Susan Baird, Grahame Bobo, Lauren Hall, Jennifer Rush, Michael MacCaughelty, Jamie Lumpkin, and Hillary Gamble for their time, effort, and support in making this event so special. We truly could not do it without you!



# Session/Diaconate Minutes

## Session Meeting • March 17, 2026

- The Session heard reports from the Prayer Ministry Team (Steve Barley), the Children's Ministry Team (Catie Lumpkin), and the Mercy Team (Dylan Peters).
- Approved the "Emergency Facilities Repair Funding Policy" proposed by the Diaconate, which reads as follows: The Facility Manager is authorized to make emergency repairs up to \$20,000 with the approval of one Pastoral staff member AND one of the following: 1. A Facilities Team Diaconate Representative, 2. The Chairman of the Diaconate, or 3. The Vice Chairman of the Diaconate. Funds to be drawn from the existing "Capital Reserve Equipment Account," or as determined by the Finance Committee. Expense approval documentation by Facilities to follow completion of the emergency repair.
- Approved the Summer Women's Bible Study book – *The Nature of Rest: What the Bible and Creation Teach us About Sabbath Living* (Eryn Lynum) – Kregel Publications

## Diaconate Meeting • April 11, 2026

- Approved a request not to exceed \$3,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to purchase and install park entrance signs at the Main and Old Looney Mill entrances to Altadena Park
- Approved a request not to exceed \$23,500 from the Capital Reserve Fund for sewer repair and associated playground surface restoration at the God's House Kindergarten facility.
- Approved a request not to exceed \$12,000 from the APIC Designated Fund to expand the irrigation system at Altadena Park to reduce the effort required to maintain landscaped areas.

**THE FINANCIAL REPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.**