



**Riverlawn Presbyterian Church**  
2008 Pennsylvania Avenue, St. Albans, WV 25177  
(304) 727-8872 ♦ [rpc.pastorchrist@gmail.com](mailto:rpc.pastorchrist@gmail.com) ♦  
[www.riverlawnchurch.org](http://www.riverlawnchurch.org)



## May 2025

Dear family in Christ, my prayer is that the love of our Lord fills you to overflowing - that it grows and grows, and pours forth from you into all the lives you touch! Such love sounds very much like that offered by ... a godly mother! How will we honor the women in our lives who have shown us the love of God? Those who have displayed through their lives the sacrifice and dedication that naturally come from such love?

In Gen. 3:20, the very first woman is given the name 'Eve' (which means living) because she would become the mother of all the living." Eve is the mother of all people who have been and who will be. She was the first mother - the first woman to ever give birth to a child. I wonder if she knew what to expect when it came time for Cain to be born? I wonder if she was afraid of motherhood ... for no one had ever done it before! I wonder if she knew what an important and influential job being a mother would be?

Since the time of Eve, it has fallen on mothers to raise their children for the Lord. It begins as soon as their child is brought into the world. From that moment, our mothers' nurture us, provide for us, teach us, discipline us, protect us. And by doing this, we grow in wisdom and stature, to follow the ways of the Lord, and to have children of our own. And the beautiful cycle begins anew. Eve was but the first of many mothers' who had the remarkable ability of changing the world through her children. What a thought... a mother's remarkable ability to change the world through her love & strength.

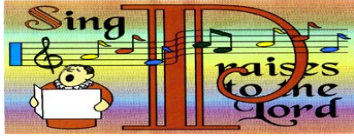
This made me think: Is there a difference between a strong woman and a woman of strength? I would argue that there is. A strong woman works out day by day to keep her body in shape...but a woman of strength kneels in prayer to keep her soul in shape. A strong woman isn't afraid of anything...but a woman of strength shows courage in the midst of her fear. A strong woman won't let anyone get the best of her...but a woman of strength gives the best of herself to everyone. A strong woman makes mistakes and avoids the same in the future...a woman of strength realizes life's mistakes can also be God's blessings and capitalizes on them. A strong woman walks sure footedly...but a woman of strength knows God will catch her when she falls. A strong woman wears the look of confidence on her face...but a woman of strength wears grace. A strong woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey...but a woman of strength has faith that it is in the journey that she will become strong.

This month, we remember, honor, and celebrate our mothers. But this celebration does not end with our mothers. It extends to every wonderful woman who has offered to us their time and wisdom and kindness and joy. It extends to every woman who has lived the faith, conveyed the faith, and nurtured the faith - in us and in others. We express our love and gratitude to all those who showed us, through their lives, a beautiful picture of Christ.



Praising the God who gave us a mother's love,

Pastor Chris



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

### MAY 2025

What glorious music we had during April. Thanks to the choir, orchestra members, our accompanist Anita Stonestreet, Pastor Chris, Adam Bryan & Katiebeth Bowens for a great presentation of the cantata Whispers of the Passion. To those behind the scenes – Greg Sayre at the computer; Pat Croghan our sound tech and Paul Mullins for doing the recording – a big thank you! On top of their work on Palm Sunday Paul, Pat & Randy Dodrill spent several hours before Sunday getting all the mikes in working order. I really appreciate all the time spent doing that! The special music (prelude & offertory) that morning played by violinists Molly Page & Kaitlyn Wilcoxon and soloist Betty King was beautiful. Grateful for all the participants that day!

During May Molly Page and Aaron Sowards will be joining us and providing special selections. The choir will continue singing each Sunday during the month and the Praise Band will be playing on May 11th. I hope you can join us for worship as voices are lifted in praise to the Lord and instrumentalists share their talents.

Pam

Make a  
*Joyful noise*  
Unto the Lord  
Psalm 100:1



Join in us on Wednesday nights for Family Night, a time to enjoy friendships and our church family, with dinner at 5:30. Activities for the children and youth begin at 6:15.

### WEDNESDAY KITCHEN CREW

- |     |    |                                   |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|
| May | 7  | Judy Clingenpeel & Frances Miller |
|     | 14 | Mimi Albert & Sherry Claar        |
|     | 21 | Pam Johnson                       |
|     | 28 | Judy Clingenpeel & Sherry Claar   |
- (Last Family Night of school year)**

Available to substitute – Susan Bryan (304) 389-6063 and Sherry Claar.



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**2nd Jane Lothes**

**5th Jim Recknagel**

**14th Janette (Shamblin) Vickers**

**15th Alex (Campbell) Hudson**

**18th Kellen McClure**

**19th Sequiera Wilson**

**25th Mary Kathren Watson**

**25th Andy Roberts**

**27th Ernie Powell**

**28th Bob Henrich**

**30th Toni Sayre**

## Current St. Albans Food Pantry Needs

\*Items needed for the Saint Albans Food Pantry.

- \* Pop tarts
- \* Vienna sausage
- \* Peanut butter
- \* Noodles
- \* Tea bags



Junior Church is offered for PreK through 5th grade on Sunday mornings after the Children's Message, until 11:30 or when the church service ends.



\*Bible study of Romans, Volume 2 with J.D. Greear, lead by Pastor Chris meets Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. in the Cottage.



## Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays at 7:00 pm



## Graduation Recognition

Join us this Sunday, May 4, for our Graduate Sunday! We will recognize Lakyn Kilbert and Donald Marcum during the 10:30am worship service, followed by a time of fellowship in the gym to congratulate them on their achievement and to wish them well as they enter the next part of their life journey and all of the ways that God may use them! We also celebrate Sequiera Willson, graduate of Medina Valley High School, TX. Cards for Sequiera can be mailed to: 6611 Scarecrow Way, San Antonio, TX 78252.



## PRAYER CONCERNS

Linda Jones/Jonah Cart/David Poe (Wanda Smith); Joanna Bowles/Brittany Ragle (Mimi Albert); Cathy Lothes (Joe Lothes); Pam Mullins (Paul Mullins); Shirley Hyatt (Larry Hyatt); Jeana Meadows/JJ Callaghan/Michael Burton/Vikki Williams/Randy Fizer (Wanda Smith); Jason Haught (Gayle Michael); Ruth Watts (Anne Giersch); Beth Ann Taylor (Kathy Barnes); Sherry Ellis; Kay Craigo/Tony Craigo/Niki Michels (Susan Bryan); Phyllis Kellam/Betty Steen (Doris Kellam); Joanna Keller; Jill Snyder; Joe Lothes; Missy Sneed; Carroll Miller; Dale Dodrill (Randy Dodrill); Darrell Williams (Mary Kathren Watson); Robin Burnam; Eddie Mcfall (Linda Ross' son); Mike VonDuben (Gayle Michael); Greg Cook; Kathy Barnes; Arlis Miller (Joe Lothes); Gretna Michels (Susan Bryan); Angel Grover (Brenda Petry); Lori Goodwin (Brenda Petry); Elizabeth Thompson (Bill Bryan); Janet Young; Mick Hughes (Caroline Dodrill); and for the Global Church that we may embody the gospel to all.



## Visitation Teams/Schedule

\* Week of:

- May 4 Linda & Steve Wilson
- May 11 Linda Monday & Parry Johnson
- May 18 Robin Burnam & Joe Lothes
- May 25 Dennis Emmett



## BUILDING SECURITY

\*After church lock-up for May will be Linda Wilson.

\*After hours security check for May:

Week of:

- May 4 Joe Lothes
- May 11 Dennis Emmett
- May 18 Larry Hyatt
- May 25 Randy Dodrill

*If you are unable to cover the security check on your scheduled week, please let Pat Croghan know (304)989-1894.*



**Dates to Remember**

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Stroke Awareness Month**

- 05/01 National Day of Prayer
- 05/02 Mission Yard Sale — 8:00 am - 7:00 pm
- 05/03 Mission Yard Sale — 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 05/04 Graduation Recognition Sunday - Lakyn Kilbert & Donald Marcum Jr - 10:30 am
- 05/04 Deacons meeting after fellowship service
- 05/10 Stamp Out Hunger P.O. Food Drive for SA Food Pantry
- 05/11 Mother's Day
- 05/18 Session Meeting - 2:00 pm via Zoom
- 05/24 Men's Prayer Breakfast — Dwight's at 8:30 am.
- 05/26 Memorial Day
- 05/27 St Albans High School Graduation
- 05/28 Last Wednesday Family Night for this school year
- 05/29 Ascension of the Lord
- 06/19-26 Colombia Mission Trip - Open Arms Foundation

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**June 2025 Mission Team Yard Sale Information**

**Yard Sale Dates:**

**Friday, May 2, 2025:** 8:00 AM -7:00 PM

**Saturday, May 3, 2025:** 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (St. Albans City Wide)

**Important Notes:**

Space is limited at the church for storing items prior to the sale. For bulky items (furniture, appliances, etc.), please contact Barb or Jim. Please no large gym equipment, or old printers, computers . We can accept a wide variety of *gently used items*, including:

- Furniture** (indoor and outdoor)
- Appliances**
- Clothing**
- Books**
- Toys**
- Household items**
- Sports equipment**
- Tools**



If you prefer, you can also make a monetary donation to support the mission trip. Every little bit of help makes a difference! If you need more details or want to sign up to volunteer, just let me know.

## 2025 Riverlawn Elders and Board of Deacons

### Elders

Jamie Albert, Clerk of Session, Community & Family Ministries, Evangelism  
681-340-1128; [James.macd.albert@gmail.com](mailto:James.macd.albert@gmail.com)

Dennis Emmett, Finance & Stewardship  
304-610-7535; [emmett@suddenlink.net](mailto:emmett@suddenlink.net)

Sharon Herndon, Christian Nurture  
304-444-2071; [Polecat818@hotmail.com](mailto:Polecat818@hotmail.com)

Parry Johnson, Buildings & Grounds  
304-926-4745; [Parryjohnson1@gmail.com](mailto:Parryjohnson1@gmail.com)

Joe Lothes, Missions  
304-767-8313; [fishlothes@hotmail.com](mailto:fishlothes@hotmail.com)

Steve Wilson, Worship & Fellowship  
304-741-7890; [stevewillie@suddenlink.net](mailto:stevewillie@suddenlink.net)

05/18 Session via Zoom, 2:00pm

### Deacons

Mimi Albert—304-546-6547  
[Mimialbert72@yahoo.com](mailto:Mimialbert72@yahoo.com)

Robin Burnam – 304-722-5665  
[robinsnestsawv@hotmail.com](mailto:robinsnestsawv@hotmail.com)

Linda Monday – 304-541-4927  
[lindadmonday@gmail.com](mailto:lindadmonday@gmail.com)

Mary Reppert—304-419-2755  
[Reppert.mary@gmail.com](mailto:Reppert.mary@gmail.com)

Linda Wilson – 304-741-3113  
[Linda.wilson867@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.wilson867@gmail.com)



Friday, May 23

## Nurturing Faith Ideas

### May 3: Third Sunday of Easter

Read John 21:1-19

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked him if he loved him not once but three times. We can feel equally hurt when our faith and/or love is questioned. However, a life of faith and following Jesus isn't a one-time commitment but a lifetime of showing up and doing as Jesus asks us. What will you do this week to feed Jesus' sheep?

### May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Read Psalm 23

The psalmist lifts up God's care for us. God provides what we need, guides us in God's ways and provides rest for us. God is with us in the midst of our struggles, walking through the darkest, saddest, scariest places of our lives with us, comforting us. What is a dark place you've experienced recently? Picture God in that place with you, walking beside you and comforting you.

### May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Read Psalm 148

The psalmist calls on all creation to praise the Lord! How do you praise God? What are five things for which you would praise God? Share your thoughts with a friend or family member.

### May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Read John 5:1-9

The man by the pool thought he knew what his problem was and how it needed to be fixed. Jesus offered the man a different perspective and a different solution. This week think of a problem you are facing that you can't solve and ask God to open your eyes to new possibilities.

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*Riverlawn Strives To*

*Purge ourselves of pride by focusing on glorifying God*

*Teach the truth through fellowship & discipleship*

*Demonstrate a life of love through service to others*

*Share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in need*

**Purge Pride, Teach Truth, Live Love**