

WORSHIP SERVICE PLAN**(Traditional & Online Service) (White/Gold)**

May 17, 2026 • Seventh Weekend in Easter • Homecoming Weekend

Psalm 90:1; John 1:14; Revelation 21:1-6*"There's No Place Like Home"*

As much as we take shelter in the faith God provides, for generations, God has sought to shelter in us.

(online only) Preparation for Worship

Gather these items for worship. If an items unavailable, fret not:

- a piece of **white (or gold)** cloth
- an end table or stand
- a plate
- a cup
- a glass or bowl with water
- a lighter/match
- a flower for God
- a computer or internet-accessible device

For each item you have, thank God for the provision. For each piece you do not have, thank God you don't need it. Place the table/stand in the area you plan to worship. If more than one person will be present, place the table in the middle of where you will be seated. Drape the cloth over it. Arrange the cup, plate, glass of water, and other items on the table. Keep the Bible in front of you.

Questions for the announcement loop*In preparing for Worship, consider the following:*

- What makes a place home for you?
- Given the list you made, in what ways are you making yourself a good home for God?
- Why do you think God wants to save you?
- What Easter memories will you build on this season?

Choral Introit:*"Glory to God" by Noah Melton***Opening Sentence****John 1:14 (CEB)**

The Word became flesh and made his home among us....

Happy Easter! As a part of the Easter Season we practice the traditional greeting: "Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed, hallelujah!"

We are glad you are with us! We have a few Community Notes for you to consider as we worship throughout the week, living that Christian life...



2026 Homecoming Celebration • 271 Years

- a thank you card to God for something this week

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you are here! Our nursery is in the Education Building and our restrooms are in the buildings other than this Sanctuary.

Happy Birthday, Hawfields!

This weekend we celebrate 271 years! That's older than the nation, older than the conversion to horseless carriages, but far younger than the grace of God that has sustained us for so long. We welcome home Elder Sam Jenkins to the pulpit as well as the stories and visitors that remind us of the reach of this place. Most importantly, let's celebrate together the choice of God to make a home here with us in the Old Fields. We will have our traditional pot luck lunch/picnic so bring your favorite(s) to share. Also, bring some tea or lemonade to share if you think of it. We will also have our group picture in between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

There's No Place Like Home

So our theme is about more than a place. It is about safety, growing up, having a place, warmth, setting up roots, making memories, sharing values, finding rest. Home! Well, that's what God wants with us! As we bring this season of Easter to a

close, let us reflect on the ways in which we are making ourselves, making our church, the kind of place where can feel right at home. What are you doing to make yourself the kind of place to which God's Spirit wants to return?

The Day of Pentecost

Writ large, the birthday of the entire Church is next week! We celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit and the start of a movement that God sustains to this day. We celebrate the reconciliation of the world God and the drive to establish forgiveness as the chief ethical value of our faith. We celebrate that we are a chosen, made-holy part of what God is doing. Come wearing red of some kind (even if it's just a scarf or wristband) next weekend for the worship services!

Pentecost Is Also Memorial Day Weekend

As we recognize God's great gift to us in the Spirit, we also set time aside to remember those who have died to give our country 250 years. As a part of worship the weekend of May 24th, we want to recognize at least a few of the folks we can who have given ultimately. If you have someone you wish to recognize please submit their name, photo and a brief sentence or two describing their service to the church office no later than Thursday, May 21st, at Noon.

Youth Stock Is On!

'Tis that time of year! Youth Stock is yet one more way we can show our young people that their faith development matters to us. At \$10 a share (for however many shares you wish!), your investment returns our youth to their summer conference experiences in Montreat in Western North Carolina and Massanetta in Virginia. These distinctively Presbyterian conferences are opportunities to learn more about God but also to connect with other youth from around the region. In return you get personalized thank you cards and a luncheon in your honor where the youth will share their experiences with you. You can gain stocks personally from the youth following our worship services, online at our church website, or by calling the church office (336-578-2811). We will continue to accept Youth Stock donations through **May 17th.**

Help Out Our School!

Garrett needs EOG testing proctors. Being a proctor is necessary to ensure that our testing sessions take place uniformly across the school. You will be walking around in a classroom or small group, ensuring that students are on task and assisting with restroom breaks. Please make sure that you are signing up on a day that your child is NOT testing. Proctors can NOT be assigned to the grade level of their own student.

We thank you in advance for your help during our testing window. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up for the day/time that works best. You will need to complete a training session to be a proctor. I will be in touch with some options for training after you sign up. Thank you!

Sign Up Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4BADA72CA7FB6-63831523-eogproctor>

Choir Appreciation Sunday

On **June 7th**, the worship service will feature the sanctuary choir providing more music than on a typical Sunday. In addition to routine hymns and responses, the choir will present six anthems, a collection of some of their greatest hits. Communion is also scheduled that day so prepare for a slightly longer service, but not too lengthy. Similar to Homecoming, we invite everyone to bring a covered dish to share for a luncheon in the fellowship hall following the worship service. June 7th will be the last day the choir is in session before they enjoy several weeks "off" during the summer. We look forward to a glorious day of music making and celebrating the many contributions of the choir the past year.

(10am only) Greet one another in Christ!

(10am only) Gathering Song

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" GTG#240 v.2

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live forever.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

(10am only) Prelude:

"O Worship the King" arr. Faye Lopez

As much as we take shelter in the faith God provides, for generations, God has sought to shelter in us.

In this moment, let us stand, take a deep breath, silence our devices, and continue in worship together. Let us make use of the *Call to Worship* that is before you...

(10am only) Call to Worship

God created us brothers and sisters

God gave us shelter and bread

God built into us the drive to succeed

God set us up to need each other

God started our church 271 years ago

God is what makes us a homestead

Sing:

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" GTG #837

Prayer of Confession/Preparation

Sometimes we are not mindful that we are a home for God's Spirit. It's not good that we do that. It's important to talk about our shortcomings so that we're ready to hear what God has to say. Let us begin with silent prayer...

(Please pray silently...)

Pray: Holy God, We take great care of our own priorities. We take great care of our accounts, our houses, our grass, our meals, our comforts. We take great care of our fears, our grudges, our opinions. Lord, help us, we do not take as great care remembering that you didn't die for any of those things. You didn't die for numbers or popularity or even winning. You died, Precious Lord, for us. Help us to take as great a care with the reality that we are your house. Help us to take great care to be more suitable as a place for the living God to reside. As the season of Easter comes to an end, may your Spirit remind us always of what's possible. Thank you for listening, God. Amen.

(10am only) Assurance of Pardon

God's love can change everything, even the power of our sins over us. God's will that we have this power:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

(10am only) Gloria Patri (Glory to God)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

And to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning

It is now and ever shall be

World without end: Amen, amen.

Reading of Scripture

Say: God's Word is confirmation of what God has promised all along: to be with us. Taking in God's Word is a chance for us to with God. God offers to make that happen through the power of God's Spirit. Let us take God up on that offer and ask for help to understand. Let us pray...(everyone sings)

Pray/Sing: "I Love to Tell the Story" (Refrain)

GTG #462

I love to tell the story;

'twill be my theme in glory

To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

The Book of Acts is really the Gospel of Luke, part II, and a record of the early Church. A big section of it talks about Paul's missionary work among the non-Jewish folks. This passage is a great example. Listen closely to the Word of God to us all and for God's challenge to us all...

Read: Genesis 1:1-5, 2:4-7; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 90:1; John 1:10-14; Revelation 21:1-6

The long arc of God's desire with us.

Genesis 1:1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth—² the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God's wind swept over the waters—³ God said, "Let there be light." And so light appeared. ⁴ God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

2:4 On the day the LORD God made earth and sky—
 5 before any wild plants appeared on the earth,
 and before any field crops grew, because the
 LORD God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and
 there was still no human being to farm the fertile
 land, 6 though a stream rose from the earth and
 watered all of the fertile land—7 the LORD God
 formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile
 land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The
 human came to life.

Jeremiah 31:31 The time is coming, declares the LORD,
 when I will make a new covenant with the people
 of Israel and Judah. 32 It won't be like the covenant
 I made with their ancestors when I took them by
 the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt.
 They broke that covenant with me even though I
 was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 No, this is
 the covenant that I will make with the people of
 Israel after that time, declares the LORD. I will put
 my Instructions within them and engrave them on
 their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my
 people. 34 They will no longer need to teach each
 other to say, "Know the LORD!" because they will
 all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,
 declares the LORD; for I will forgive their
 wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

Psalms 90:1 Lord, you have been our help,
 generation after generation.

John 1:10 The light was in the world,
 and the world came into being through the light,
 but the world didn't recognize the light.

11 The light came to his own people,
 and his own people didn't welcome him.

12 But those who did welcome him,
 those who believed in his name,
 he authorized to become God's children,
 13 born not from blood
 nor from human desire or passion,
 but born from God.

14 The Word became flesh
 and made his home among us.
 We have seen his glory,
 glory like that of a father's only son,
 full of grace and truth.

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new
 earth, for the former heaven and the former earth
 had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 I saw
 the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of
 heaven from God, made ready as a bride

beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a
 loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's
 dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with
 them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will
 be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away
 every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more.
 There will be no mourning, crying, or pain
 anymore, for the former things have passed away."
 5 Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look!
 I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this
 down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
 6 Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha
 and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the
 thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving
 spring.

*One: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the
 Word of God among us, for the Word of God within
 us...*

All: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Adults, you'll need:

- a picture of a house with the address
 superimposed over it
- Make space for questions if you get them
"What Is God's Address?"
- We're going to talk about a big people word:
 "address"...do you know what that is?...
- So an address will help people know where
 something or someone is. Like our church
 building. The address is 2115 South NC Highway
 119, Mebane, NC 27302. If you know that, you
 can put that in a map program and it will show
 you how to get there.
- Your school has an address. Your favorite store
 has an address. You all have an address. With an
 address you can always be found.
- So...what's God's address? Many people will say
 "heaven" and that's fine. But do you where God
 REALLY wants to live? What God wants God's
 address to be?...*(at this point say your name and
 their names).*
- You see God wants to live in us more than
 anything. So, when you're around the people
 who care about you, ask them what it's like to
 have God living in them.
- Don't forget to pray!

(10am only) Anthem:

"The Blood of Jesus Medley" arr. Jay Rouse;
Percussionist: Chason Alligood

"There's No Place Like Home"

As much as we take shelter in the faith God provides, for generations, God has sought to shelter in us.

One of the real challenges growing up in the military was knowing what to **tell people about where I live.** Whether it was 6852 Mahogany Road, Fayetteville, NC or 2977 Millers Place, Aurora, CO or 219 Culverson Avenue, Anchorage, AK or 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC or 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA or 30th NE Avenue, Ocala, FL or Grouse Court, Elsmere, KY or 2307 South NC Highway 119 or 2872 South NC Highway 119 or 1004 Longleaf Pine Place, knowing my address was more than making sure my mail could find me. Each address is its own story about time and place and learning and growing and heartache and laughter and sadness and losses and exquisite moments of pride and passion. Each address describes what my voting precincts were, which courts I answered to for jury duty, whatever were the closest grocery stores and where my roaming charges started and ended (when that was still a thing). Each address described the laws I lived under and who my neighbors might be. Each address has its own fire and law enforcement districts and determined whether or not I lived in or out of the county, in or out of the city, but always the state in which I resided. And with each address, with each move, each change, the same quiet but supremely important designation: **home.**

That place to which I could return. That place where my people lived. That place where my memories were stored for safe keeping and sharing. That place where my food choices were tucked away and my bathing products sat waiting. That place where I could recover, recoup, reimagine my life. Home. Where the essence of my identity and the core of my values are reformed and reforming. We commonly describe children and youth as coming from a broken home, not because the roof needed fixing but because the people did. Home. Where the relationships defined everything.

You can just imagine, then, how utterly chaotic and caustic it is to be home-less. To be without so much that we take for granted. How much hinges on whether or not we have an actual address. Home can prove to be security when we are at our most vulnerable (we can be naked there, for goodness sake).

So why in the world would God want us for an address?

Every now and then, especially at the dentist's office for some reason, I'll catch one of those home improvement shows. It is without a doubt fascinating to look at what's possible with enough money. I also have watched the show **Extreme Makeover: Home Edition** (though, there are hundreds of shows out there that are much more current). Here you have families in various stages of distress and need that are sent away and return to find their homes transformed. But no matter which one you watch, for each transformation, there is planning, intention, attention to detail, measuring and cutting and nailing. There is painting and arranging and stacking.

What home improvements do you imagine God is looking to make with you? What are you willing for God to change in you? Are you willing for God to change your situation? Are you willing for God to change your attitude? Are you willing for God to renovate your beliefs? What about your priorities? You see things get real fast once God moves in.

Recently our youngest daughter graduated from college. With housing prices being what they are and wages being what they are (seriously, an hour of my time at minimum wage is not worth a pretzel from Aunt Annie's at Tanger outlet) she is staying with us for a time while she saves money to get her own place. It makes a huge difference in the house. Just one person but all the difference in the world. It wasn't the original plan, but it's the one our family needs at the moment. **What difference does it make that God is living in you?** What are the chores? Who gets to stay where? What's the setup? Who's in charge?

While God clearly prizes our ability to choose, God's plan involves wanton, messy and blatant imposition. **As much as we take shelter** in the faith God provides, for generations, God has

sought to shelter in us. That was true at the start of Creation, that was true in 1755, and it is true now. The house that is Hawfields is no more the residence of God than it was 271 years ago. We, the congregation of God's people have been the address. Whether it was when we congregated on what is now Mebane Oaks Road or across the street on what now is our Cemetery or our present location, God's address in the Old Fields has been us and remains us. And if the Bible, if Revelation is to be believed, it will be us.

For Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

Necrology

We serve as witnesses to the resurrection for those folks who have passed into God's light since the last Homecoming. They are in God's hands as we ever are.

Judy Lineberry - 5/13/25
 Jimmy White
 Frozie Woods - 6/22/25
 Harriett Covington - 7/2/25
 Henry Crisp - 8/2/25
 Jimmy Strother - 8/12/25
 Josephine Minor - 8/24/25
 George Bason - 12/4/25
 Milly Smith - 12/31/25
 Danny Thompson - 1/12/26
 Carol Thompson - 1/29/26
 Fenton Covington - 2/20/26
 Susan Loy - 3/4/26
 Helen Thomas - 3/22/26

Song of Reflection

"Sweet Beulah Land" CEL #776

Offering

God chooses to love us, abundantly. We should respond by choosing to be loving, abundantly. This is why we should give and share what we have and who we are. Let us reflect together on what has been given...

(10am only) Offertory

"I Saw the Light" arr. Camp Kirkland; Percussionist: Chason Alligood

(10am only) Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
 Praise God all creatures here below.
 Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;
 Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Blessing (text is for the ONLINE service)

Let there be no doubt, Great God: you love us. And we are grateful. Let there be no doubt, Great God: we should be loving in turn. As we receive the gifts you provide, may the gifts we are meant to be emerge. In the great name of Jesus Christ, we pray this together. Amen.

Prayers of the People

- Say: God doesn't just hear our prayers. God answers. Let us pray...
- "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" GTG #469
**Lord, listen to your children praying.
 Lord, send your spirit in this place.
 Lord, listen to your children praying.
 Send us love; send us power; send us grace.**
- Holy God, we, of course, must say thank you. We say thanks not only because you forgive us, but because your grace makes it possible for us to be your address, to be your house. We don't have to worry about cleaning up before you come over, we don't have to worry about whether there's room, we don't even have to worry if our property is attractive enough: you have made clear already that you want to live here in us. Thanks be to God. And as we contemplate this, help us to not be satisfied with the status quo. Help us to strive to make all the home improvements you direct. Help us pay attention to all the places that need fixing, replacing, cleaning and just rearranging. Help us listen for your voice, look for your vision, have a better sense of your Spirit within us. We want to be a place you are glad to call "home."
- No matter where in the world WE may go, may we always be a home for you. And when people visit with us, rest with us, seek our help, seek our collaboration, may they find you living here, prominently. When people go looking for where you live and work and rest, may they always count on us to be a reliable address for you.
- Thus, let us be Godly people. Let us make a habit of compassion and consolation. Let us make second nature your grace and mercy and sense

of justice. Let us set aside safety and embrace risk-taking with you. May your healing balm reach through us to those around us, especially those on our prayer lists and those we will come to know. Help us love and give love. Help us value mercy as you do. Despite our collective answer of violence, of disdain, of division, of cynicism, of apathy, to your love, may we truly be washed by you and embrace hope instead... (take time to name your own prayers)

- Thank you for believing in us, Thank you for transforming us. Thank you for teaching us, even how to pray when words fail us, saying,
- **Pray: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn of Sending

(10am) "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder"
CEL #774

Sending & Benediction

Let us say together our benediction...

As much as we take shelter in the faith God provides, for generations, God has sought to shelter in us.

(raise your hands and say) "Get up, take heart, Jesus is still calling you..."; Go, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guide your hearts and minds this day and forever more. Amen!

Sing: "There Is Power in the Blood" (Refrain)
CEL #329

**There is power, power,
wonder-working power
in the blood...of the Lamb
There is power, power,
wonder-working power
in the precious blood of the Lamb**

(10am only) Postlude

"I Saw the Light" by Hank Williams

"Home" by Christy Bailey

Our hearts long for home,
A place to which we return
Or for which we are still searching.

A place where we are welcome
Exactly as we are; all of us, complete,
With nothing marked for change.

Like a key, we fit, turn, and open
Our hearts to those who share our shelter.
We exhale and find peace.

Even separated by miles and moments,
We search and return again, because
Together we are coming home.