

The Witness

May 2023

Red Bank United Methodist Church
3800 Dayton Boulevard 37415

Mother's Day 2023

*"I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you."
2 Timothy 1:5*

A mother's love and encouragement help shape our worldview. Christian mothers pass on the faith that guides and strengthens us. The influence of a mother cannot be overstated. I am grateful for the influence of my mother. She believed in me always. Her confidence in me helped me overcome challenges and setbacks later in life. Her faith became my faith.

Paul mentioned the faith he observed in Timothy's mother and grandmother. Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice were early Christian converts, possibly through Paul's ministry in their home city of Lystra. They may have heard Paul's preaching when he was there during his first missionary journey (Acts 14:6-18). Timothy is the first second-generation Christian mentioned in the New Testament. He is also the first Christian we read about, whose faith was passed down to him from his mother.

Faith develops through love; the nurturing bond of a mother lays a foundation for trust. The stories and prayers mothers share with their children empower them to dream, trust God, and believe in themselves. My mother always encouraged me, always believed in me, and gave me the confidence to know I could do anything. Her ability to press through and persevere in hardship helped build a determination in me that helps me to this day.

Sunday, May 14th, is Mother's Day. Mother's Day is a great opportunity for moms to invite their grown children to join them in church. It is also a great opportunity for younger mothers to make a commitment to start bringing their children to church on a regular basis. It can make all the difference in the world for your child.

I look forward to seeing you in worship and Sunday school this month.

In Christ, Pastor Ken



To Blessed to Stress

This is one of the most popular religious catchphrases. I overheard someone comment about it a while back. It was a shame that she followed it with, "I wish that were true."

There are so many ways to reduce stress. There are breathing exercises, yoga, going for a walk, and just relaxing and listening to music to name a few. I believe in just not letting the stress grow in the first place. This makes it easier to keep it under control. I do not let a lot of things bother me. I have been accused of being too laid back. I do not think that it helps the situation by stressing over things that are not in your control. I have faith in God that He will take care of my needs. It is said best in Matthew 11:28.

"Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'"

God has always taken care of my needs. He may not always take care of my wants, but I know that my needs are covered. About ten years ago, I had a dinner party scheduled at my house. It went off without a hitch and was a great night of fellowship. Back track a few weeks before that and I had a recipe for stress. The air conditioner went out at my house. Of course, this happens during a record heat wave in Nashville. Money has been extremely tight, so I did not have an immediate solution. I could not afford a new compressor to repair the unit and replacing the whole thing was just about impossible. I immediately lifted my concerns up to God in prayer.

I asked Him to make the decision on what to do next. I prayed that if He wanted me to have a new air conditioner, He would need to help me get it financed. After being denied credit a couple of times, I realized that a new air conditioner was a "want", not a "need". A dear friend loaned me some window air conditioners to use until I got it fixed. I have friends that are truly blessings in my life. I know that there are people that are doing without air conditioning all of the time. I was blessed to own my own home, even though it was hot at the time. We tend to focus on what we do not have instead of what we do have.

After three weeks and only a couple of days before the dinner party, I had the condenser replaced on the unit and paid cash. I had refinanced my house and could skip a payment. This was a process that I had started a several months before now. Once again, God has provided. He had laid the groundwork for this need months before.

I am too blessed to be stressed! Let your faith in God reduce your stress level. If we would take the time to realize all of the things that are blessings in our lives, we would know that the current situation is not as bad as we make it out to be and will also pass. **What are the blessings in your life?**

Peace be with you,
Tom Mayberry



Sunday, May 21st,
5 pm,
we will have a Picnic in the
Park (covered dish)
featuring a bluegrass band:
New Grass Express.

There will be activities for
children as well.

It will also be a time for us to honor **David Brackett** and his 26 ½ years of ministry at Red Bank United Methodist Church.

You are encouraged to bring cards and gifts for David (along with a covered dish). If David Brackett's ministry has touched your life in some way, please be sure to come and let him know.



- 1 Sandi Dahl
- 2 Bailey McGinnis & Rick Hensley
- 4 Shannon Baxter
- 5 Sue Beebe & Sarah Richie
- 6 Beetle Bailey & Sherri Millard
- 11 Sam Meagher

- 13 Barry Glasscock
- 14 Mike Wright
- 17 Pam Barker
- 22 Hannah Clem
- 23 Charlotte Byrns
- 24 Joy Haskett
- 28 Kay Moore
- 30 Sylvia Newman



- 1 Joe and Glenda Guthrie
- 18 Rick and Pam Hensley
- 29 Roger and Carolyn Richie

Prayer Concerns: Katie Rigby, Susan Parks, Martha Rushing,
Kathy Ryan, Hannah Clem, Mary Ellen Sauer, Peggy Clem,
Lisa Wilson, Ken & Sylvia Newman, Serie Bland, Joy Haskett,
Don and Ethel Brooks, Pat Crouch, Jim Wulf, Jay Bland,
Jennifer Jones, Jerry Jordan

Kids Corner!

Trinity Baxter

Easter Eggstravaganza

In April, we kicked off the month with our Eggstravaganza Easter Event! We had egg hunts, Noah's Little Ark Petting Zoo, Off the Grill food truck, and crafts. I appreciate everyone who volunteered and came out to enjoy the event, I have received such positive feedback from kids and parents.

What We Learned In April

We kicked off the month learning all about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We talked about the importance of the silly sounding word "Hosanna", and finished with a game of pin the Jesus on the Donkey.

Then, on Easter Sunday, we did an Easter egg hunt that took us through the journey of why we celebrate Easter. We talked about the important events of Holy Week, and how everything leads back to Jesus' resurrection.

This month we also took a look into the Garden of Eden, and God's wonderful creation. Through dancing and drawing, we were able to discuss what some of our favorite parts of God's creations are from animals to nature. One of the kids talked about how much they loved frogs, and another kid enjoyed sharing about their grandmother's compost garden.

Coming Soon...

As summer is quickly approaching, the kids are going to be going on a road trip Route 66. They will be taking a trip through the books of the Bible.

Summertime Wednesday Night Activities

Vacation Bible School: June 25-28



Trinity Baxter helps Pastor Ken put up the banner for the Eggstravaganza.



Palm Sunday was a great celebration.













The weather was just right The weather was just right for the Eggstravaganza!



The Party in the Park Fundraiser for the Food Pantry was a success.

