

Shiloh Notes & News May 2026

A Word from the Pastor

Greetings,

My, how time flies. You blink your eyes a couple of times and a year has passed. May 4th of 2025 was my first Sunday at Shiloh Methodist Church. What a year it has been. While we still have boxes here and there, and please don't look in the garage, we are really starting to feel settled in. And for anyone wondering, yes, we absolutely love it here.

Late April and May always seem more like spring to me. Especially in May, when things really kick into gear.

I used to have a rule (although it was never enforced) that we can't plant a garden in the ground. Buckets, yes. In the ground, no. Why, you may ask. It just seemed that every time we planted a garden, we got moved. Well, last week Joyce and I went out and bought more veggie plants than we planned to or even have room for. So, I guess I'm committed to a garden, or I just need to be committed. One of the two.

You see, May is planting season depending on who you talk to. Up north you don't even think about planting until after Memorial Day. But around here, May is the start of planting season—a time of preparing the soil, sowing seed, and trusting God for the harvest to come. It's a fitting picture of the Christian life. We plant through acts of kindness, service, and witness. We water through prayer and encouragement. And we trust the Lord to bring growth in His perfect timing. As Galatians 6:9 reminds us: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"* This month, may we be faithful in planting seeds of love and hope in our homes, workplaces, and community.

Of course, also in May, is Mother's Day, that special day to pause and give thanks for the women who have nurtured, guided, and loved us. Whether through a mother, grandmother, aunt, foster parent, or spiritual mentor, many of us have experienced the steady care of someone who has poured herself out for the sake of others.

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." – Proverbs 31:28

The Bible honors this kind of love. It does not ignore the sacrifices, the sleepless nights, the prayers whispered in quiet rooms, or the strength it takes to keep showing up day after day. Proverbs 31 describes a woman whose life is filled

with wisdom, diligence, and compassion. Her worth is not measured by perfection, but by faithful love.

Motherhood, in many ways, reflects the heart of God. God comforts His children, provides for them, corrects them in love, and stays near when they are afraid. Isaiah even uses the image of a mother to describe God's tender care: *"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you."* – Isaiah 66:13

But we also recognize that Mother's Day can be difficult for some—those grieving a mother's absence, longing for a child, or carrying wounds from the past. In every circumstance, God's love remains steady and sure. He is the One who sees every joy and every sorrow.

Although there are so many more things happening in May, I will say: And finally, Memorial Day; the unofficial start of summer. I tend to get a little irritated during Memorial Day weekend. Not because of what the day stands for but because of how society treats Memorial Day. Every retailer in America uses it for a reason to have a big summer kick off sale, never once acknowledging the reason for the day. The general public sees it as nothing more than the unofficial start to summer, the weekend when most public pools open.

In truth, Memorial Day is the day we pause to remember with gratitude those who gave their lives in service to our country. We honor their sacrifice and the families who carry that loss.

As Christians, we remember that peace is a gift worth praying for, and we give thanks for those who laid down their lives for others.

Jesus said: *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."* — John 15:13

I am all about having a picnic, enjoying a good hot dog and hamburger and everything that goes with them. And I encourage you to enjoy the weekend, especially if you get the extra day off. But at some point, during that weekend just take a moment or two to think about those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we have in this country. Share the meaning of the day with children or grandchildren. Make sure the younger generations understand the true meaning of Memorial Day. It's not about retail sales or swimming pools.

In the meantime, don't blink too many times because this year, I'm sure, will fly by just as quickly as last year.

Blessings,
Pastor Fred

Activities and Announcements

Please join us for:

Sunday School - 9:45 am

Worship Service – 11:00am

Bible Study – Tuesday's 7:00pm

Methodist Men's Breakfast – 2nd Sunday of each month

Saturday 5/2 – 9:30am-2:00pm Blood Drive at Shiloh

Please see Lori or call her at 336-908-1444 to make appointment or see the sign-up sheet at the front of the church.

Sunday 5/24 – Homecoming Service with lunch following

Mission Minutes: Thanks to everyone for the continued donations to the Julian Food Pantry. For the **May** distribution we are collecting **Canned Meat**.

SOME THOUGHTS ON ANGER MANAGEMENT

I rarely have the time for it these days, but when I do, I try to spend some time watching TV (news, politics, sports, talk shows, etc.). While channel-surfing recently, I observed how angry people seem nowadays. Everyone has the potential to become angry, and anger itself is not a sin (Ephesians 4:26). But uncontrolled anger can ruin everything. It can even be demonic.

King Solomon warns us to keep our distance from people who are constantly angry:

“Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered” (Proverbs 22:24).

Anger management is an important theme in the Old Testament book of Proverbs because it's so important to life.

After King Saul drifted away from God, God's Spirit departed from him and an evil spirit tormented him (1 Samuel 16:14). To get relief, Saul had young David play his musical instrument. But when the evil spirit troubled him again, Saul was filled with rage, and he hurled his spear across the room at David (1 Samuel 18:10-11, 19:9-10). His unrequited anger eventually cost Saul dearly.

Venting our rage may feel good, but it's a sign of foolishness. Solomon also writes:

“Fools give full vent to their rage” (Proverbs 29:11).

Unchecked anger can have devastating effects. A young man who wasn't happy with his golf shot swung his club at a nearby bench. The club snapped, ricocheted back, pierced his heart, and he died.

Another man had trouble at his bank trying to cash a check at the drive-through window. The teller told him he'd have to come inside. But since the lobby was already closed, he'd have to come back the following day. In anger, he drove his truck into the lobby and asked to close his account. That didn't end well.

Anger is a brief insanity that's obvious to everyone except the angry person. It makes people feel powerful, but it can have the opposite effect. It destroys reputations and relationships.

In fact, anger is so destructive that we shouldn't even associate with those who have anger issues. Remember the earlier quote from Proverbs: "Don't make friends with a hot-tempered person, don't associate with one easily angered."

Even better, my friends, avoid letting anger consume you!

Bishop Jeff Greenway – Global Methodist Church

Grateful for Those Who Gave All



We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Open Hearts and Minds

O Lord, our heavenly Father, in you is the fullness of light and wisdom. We ask that you enlighten our minds through the work of your Holy Spirit. Clear away distraction and doubt, and help us turn our full attention to you.

Give us grace to receive your Word with reverence and humility. Shape our hearts so we may listen not only with our ears, but with willing spirits, ready to be taught and transformed. Remind us that true understanding does not come from our own insight or effort, but from your truth revealed to us in love.

As we hear and reflect on Scripture today, draw us closer to you. Strengthen our faith, deepen our trust and guide us in the way we should go. May your Word take root within us and bear fruit in our lives, bringing honor to your name.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, through whom all wisdom and grace are given. Amen.