

## *A Message from Pastor Tripp Brogdon:*



Lately I've been having some fun experimenting with one of the new Artificial Intelligence software programs named ChatGPT. The technology is fascinating, exciting, and in some ways, scary.

Curious as I am, I wanted to know what Artificial Intelligence might have to say about our Christian faith, so I first asked, "Why is Easter so important to Christians?"

Here was ChatGPT's response: "Easter is one of the most important celebrations for Christians because it commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. For Christians, the resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of their faith and a testimony to the power of God. The resurrection demonstrates that Jesus is the Son of God and that he has conquered sin and death, providing a way for believers to be reconciled with God and attain eternal life."

All in all, that's a pretty good answer! Impressed, I asked one more question: "What do Christians do after Easter?"

Again, ChatGPT's response: "After Easter, Christians continue to live out their faith and put into practice the teachings of Jesus. Many churches continue to celebrate the Easter season for several weeks, which is known as Eastertide. During this time, Christians focus on the significance of the resurrection and reflect on the implications of Christ's victory over death for their daily lives. Overall, Christians strive to live out their faith and share the message of Christ's love and salvation with others, both in their words and in their actions, throughout the year."

If I'm being honest, if Artificial Intelligence gets much better, I may be out of a job soon!

Even as I marvel at this new technology, I can't help but recognize that these come from a computer program and not from a living, breathing child of God. For that reason, they ring hollow to me. Even though the answers are more or less "correct," they are just not enough.

I wonder how many of us, like ChatGPT, can say the right words when asked. I would venture to guess that the overwhelming majority of St. Andrew could do what this software did. We can say the words just fine. Why is that, though? Is it just because we've been taught what to say? Is it because we think that's what we're supposed to say? Or is it because we have experienced the risen Lord Jesus Christ ourselves? Throughout the rest of this blessed Easter Season, may we not lose sight of that important distinction, and may our words not be hollow.

Grace and peace,  
Tripp

**St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2023..... Chairperson**

Clerk of Session..... Stuart Strong  
 Building/Grounds ..... Bob Naumann  
 Communications & Outreach ..... Rev. Tripp Brogdon  
 Education & Spiritual Formation..... B. J. Breeding  
 Finance & Administration ..... Turner Matthews  
 Member Care..... Faye Anderson & Jackie Naumann  
 Mission ..... Barbara Mouton and John Jordan  
 Treasurer ..... Philip Gilbert  
 Nominating ..... Shelly Shull  
 Worship ..... Linda Grissom  
  
 Comptroller ..... Tommy Gates

**MAY**  
**Birthdays**

Robert Sumner	May 10
Amy Burks	May 19
Bobbie Meier	May 24
Don Koza	May 26

**MAY**  
**Anniversaries**

Bob & Jackie Naumann	May 16
Tommy & Nellie Gates	May 17
Don & Sheila Koza	May 22
John & Joan Jordan	May 30



**Presbyterian Women's Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 10:00 AM**

**Lesson: "Sabbath and Community"**  
**Acts 2:42-47**

**Leader: Rev. Tripp Brogdon**

**Lunch will follow the meeting at the Olive Garden.**  
**Please let Barbara Allen know if you plan to attend the luncheon.**



**Choir Rehearsal**  
**May 10 at 4:30 PM**  
**May 24 at 4:30 PM**

## CCC FOOD PANTRY

### Collection the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.



#### Items Needed Most

Grits/Oatmeal	Soup
Hamburger Helper	Crackers
Peanut Butter	Canned Greens
Canned Fruit	Pasta
Canned Veggies	Pasta Sauce
Dried Beans	Rice

Please leave items in shopping cart.



Canned Food  
Toiletries  
Men's clothing  
Women's Clothing  
Underwear  
Socks  
Antiseptic ointment  
Insect Repellent  
Travel size shampoo  
Bar Soap / Deodorant  
Tissues  
Aspirin

More items listed in the donation area.

## CONNECT

### MAY SCHEDULE

MAY 10, 5:30 PM

MAY 24, 5:30 PM

BIBLE STUDY

LONG-TERM CARE

Connie Glass, Elder  
Care Law Firm

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



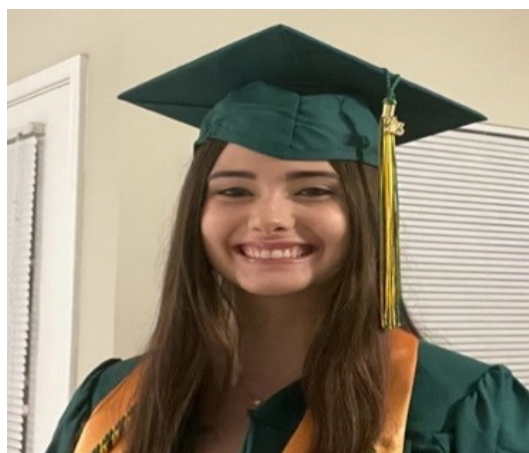
Calvin Jerome Lindsey, son of Selena & Shane Lindsey, and grandson of B.J. & Don Breeding. Graduating from Hartselle High School and plans to attend the University of Montevallo.



Hannah Matthews, daughter of Heather and Andy Matthews, and granddaughter of Betty and Turner Matthews. Graduating from Decatur High School and tentative plan is to attend Auburn University and major in Chemical Engineering.



Kathleen Eva Stephens, daughter of Karleton and Janet Stephens and granddaughter of Mavis Stephens. Graduating from Bob Jones High School in Madison. She plans to go to Calhoun Community College in the fall.



Madeline Joiner, daughter of Rick and Jackie Joiner and granddaughter of George Hilleary. Graduating from UAB with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with plans to become a Physician's Assistant.

Graduates continued on page 5.



Andrew and Samantha Simmons, son and daughter of Jimmy and Deborah Simmons. Graduating from Hartselle High School.

Andrew Simmons will attend Auburn University for aviation.

Andrew is a member of the National Honor Society, National Technical Honors Society, President of Band, Vice-President of Scholars Bowl, and has passed his Student Pilot written exam.

Andrew received the Spirit of Auburn scholarship for 2023-24.

Samantha will be attending The University of Alabama to study Pre-Law. Samantha is Student Government President, Debate Team President, Editor of the School Newspaper, Girls State Governor, Girls Nation Senator, National Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, DYW of Morgan County, and State of Alabama winner for Sons of the American Revolution.

Samantha has received the following scholarships: UA forensics scholarship, Alabama Prestige Scholars Scholarship, DYW scholarships, UA book and study abroad Stipend, and Bert Banks Patriotism Scholarship



### **“CHAT N’ CHEW” BIBLE STUDY IN MAY**

Beginning May 1, bring a lunch with you and join us for a weekly Bible Study on Mondays from 11:30-12:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Our first month of this new program will be a four-week study on prayer! Prayer is both a central spiritual practice for followers of Jesus, and, for many, one of the most difficult to grasp. It seems like prayer should be simple, just talking to God. But we worry about how we are praying, if we are saying the right words or doing the right things, and we wonder if anyone is really listening.

Bring your lunch and an open heart as we “chat n’ chew” on the Word together!

Additional teachers are needed, so if you are interested in leading a session from the curriculum, please contact Tripp.

### **PENTECOST OFFERING MAY 28**

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost Offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



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## May Worship Leaders

MAY	7	14	21	28
Liturgists	Bob Naumann	Ceil Hydrick	Nellie Gates	John Jordan
Ushers	Shelly Shull Dave Ellerbe	Harold Moore Harold Culbert	Stu Strong Ceresee Sweeley	John Shull Shelly Shull
Nursery	Shelly Shull	Betty Matthews	Jane Lowery	Joan Jordan



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9a Color Grp. 11:30a Chat 'n Chew Bible Study	2 10a Pres. Women	3 1:00p Christian Ed Mtg	4 11a DAR	5	6
7	8	9	10 Choir 4:30 PM CONNECT — Bible Study 5:30 pm	11 1:00p Caring Hands	12	13
14 Mothers' Day Celebrate Women Sun.	15 9a Color Grp.	16 <div>Bonita on vacation May 16-24</div>	17 2p Session	18	19	20
21 <div>Bonita on vacation May 16-24</div>	22	23	24 Choir 4:30 P CONNECT 5:30 pm	25 1:00p Caring Hands	26	27
28 Pentecost Offering	29 Memorial Day	30	31			