



*Say to those
who have an
anxious heart,*

"BE STRONG; FEAR NOT!"

Isaiah 35:4, ESV

May 20, 2021

First Church of the Brethren

730 Church Street Eden, NC 27288

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Reflections:

As we come upon Pentecost Sunday, we can look at it as a huge birthday party for the church. On the day that the disciples “saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them,” something new and wonderful was born – the church. The church would be God’s hands and feet and mouth in the world. The church would feed the hungry, care for the orphans and the widows, it would build homes and spread the “Good News” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Over the centuries, the church has been both something to celebrate and something to lament. It is easy to focus on the negative of the church. Gandhi is said to have told the church that he would be inclined to become a follower of Christ if it weren’t for Christians. Church people or a bad experience in church are often listed as a person’s reason for not being interested in becoming a Christian. I would offer them this analogy: I have had a bad experience in a restaurant. Maybe it was bad food or bad service, whatever. But you know what, I still go to restaurants. Because not all of them are bad. In fact, there may even be times when I would go back to that same restaurant where I had the bad food or bad service and give them a second chance. It may have just been an off day for them. How about giving the church the same treatment? Maybe that Christian that you had the bad experience with was going through a lot that you could not see. At the very least, consider that he or she, or that congregation, even, is not representative of the whole church.

The church is not the invention of man. Jesus told Peter that he was the rock on which he would build his church. Jesus founded the church, and it is alive today because he has

breathed life into it. We are taught in scripture that the church is the “Bride of Christ.”

So how do we celebrate the birthday of the Bride of Christ? With balloons and streamers and cake? We probably won't, but why not? Every time we come together to worship our risen Savior and King, it should be a celebration. I love worshipping in the church in Peru because the worship services are a celebration. They have the sanctuary decked out with fabric and sometimes even balloons and there is a spirit of joy. I truly believe that the church is something to celebrate. So, as we observe Pentecost, may it not just be another day on the church calendar, but instead may it remind us that God made the church something special and chose us to be a part of that. And then let's take that concept and with great joy, invite others to be a part of it.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:24, 25 (NIV)

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“The mere whisper of the Holy Spirit
can drown out the thundering noise of
an entire world.”
—David Jeremiah

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

May 20, 2021

730 Church Street Eden, NC 27288

Office phone: (336) 627-7063 - Email: eden1stcob@gmail.com

Pray Without Ceasing

Sheila Barnes, Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Katherine Bridges, Carolyn Combs, Melissa Dalton, Donnie Gilley, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Gary Janney, Tania Martin, Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Arnie Roberts, Jutta Shelton, Roger Shockley, Louise Tudor, Patsy Underwood, Gail Walker, Danny Whitley, Frankie Wilson

Thinking of You

Marie Priddy

District Prayer Request

Pray for the Parkway Church as the congregation anticipates disorganization at the 2021 Virginia District Conference. Let us give thanks to God for the ministry and mission accomplished by this congregation and for seeds planted that yet await blossom and fruit-bearing.



The Home and Family Life Committee is now accepting donations for the Father's Day Bulletin.

Along with your donations, please include the names you would like listed (please indicate if they are In Honor or In Memory). You may also email any pictures you would like included in the slide show to the church office. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, June 6.



If you cannot attend regular Sunday service do not forget that you can watch a live stream of Sunday Worship service on YouTube. Find us on YouTube as Eden NC Church of the Brethren, where you can view the live stream each Sunday, or watch any of our recent sermons online.

Thank you for continuing to honor your commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through your tithes.

Would you rather send your tithes by PayPal?

You can find us listed as Ncbrethren.tithe@gmail.com

Attendance and Offering for the week of May 16, 2021

Offering	\$	2,148.00
CCM	\$	50.00
Home & Family Life	\$	165.00
District Subsidy	\$	833.33
Total	\$	3,196.33

The Power of Pentecost

Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things.

—A.J. Gordon

Upcoming Birthdays

May 24: Mike Janney

May 25: Mandy Silvers

May 27: Jack Murray

May 31: Hunter Murray



“Let’s give ’em a good start
with some holy water!”

Congregation Members,

The Witness Commission needs your help! We will soon be planning our projects for 2022. We would like your input. Below are listed several projects we are considering. Some blank spaces have also been provided for you to add any worthy causes that you would like to see us help.

Please rank your top four picks. Thank you so much for this valuable input!

_____ **Bundle- Up**

The congregation collects funds and purchases coats for students in need attending Rockingham County elementary schools. We work through school guidance counselors to determine needs.

_____ **CCM** (Cooperative Christian Ministries)

We can provide food items and money to this local organization, which supplies food and other aid to those in need.

_____ **God's Pit Crew**

We will collect funds for God's Pit Crew to use in assembling Blessing Buckets. They prefer that we let them assemble these disaster relief buckets rather than filling them ourselves.

_____ **Heifer International**

This organization began with Church of the Brethren member Dan West. This program works to end poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling families. Those receiving livestock participate in “passing of the gift”, which means they pass along the firstborn of their animals to others in need.

_____ **Hospice of Rockingham County**

This nonprofit organization provides end of life care to patients. We can provide items to help them in their work.

_____ **Leaksville-Spray Elementary School
backpack project**

This project provides food to children in need for weekends and throughout the summer.

Please place completed lists in the offering plate