



We are a welcoming community of fully devoted Christ-followers that demonstrates Jesus's love to all.



May 2026

** Please contact the church office before planning events or setting up for events, as Newington gets used frequently in the winter months by outside groups (esp the gym).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Grad Sunday 9:00am Sunday School	4 6:30 pm Terri T. Teaching	5 9:30 am Food Packing @ Bread for Life 6:55 pm Men's Bible Study Fellowship	6 9:30 am Bethel Backpack 10:00 am Clothes Closet 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:45 pm Choir practice 6:30 pm COR3 Youth 6:30 pm Deeper Kids	7 11:00am Churchwide Prayer	8 9:30 am Membership Class	9 10:00am Clothes Closet
10 Mother's Day 9:00 am Sunday School	11 10:00 am WMU 6:30 pm Terri T. Teaching	12 9:30 am Bethel Backpack 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:45 pm Choir practice 6:30 pm COR3 Youth 6:30 pm Deeper Kids	13 9:30 am Bethel Backpack 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:45 pm Choir practice 6:30 pm COR3 Youth	14 11:00am Churchwide Prayer	15 11:00 am Young at Heart/Honchak Goodbye Lunch	16 10:00am Clothes Closet
17 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30am Morning Worship	18 10:00 am WMU 6:30 pm Terri T. Teaching	19 9:30 am Bethel Backpack 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:45 pm Choir practice 6:30 pm COR3 Youth 6:30 pm Deeper Adults	20 9:30 am Bethel Backpack 10:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm COR3 Youth	21 11:00am Churchwide Prayer 6:00 Church Board	22 6:00 pm VBS Prep Party	23 6:00 pm VBS Prep Party
24 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30am Morning Worship	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26 9:30 am Bethel Backpack 10:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm COR3 Youth	27 9:30 am Bethel Backpack 10:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm COR3 Youth	28 11:00am Churchwide Prayer 6:00 PM Men's Group	29 Preschool/Kindergarten Field Day 9:00 am-4:00 pm Blood Drive	30 Preschool/Kindergarten Field Day 9:00 am-4:00 pm Blood Drive
31 Volunteer Appreciation 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30am Morning Worship						

*Fellowship hall not available until after 5:30 pm
*Gym not available until after 12:30 pm

From the Pastors View: 'Freedom and Family!'

As individuals and our local community here in Gloucester, May brings us warmer temperatures, more grass to mow, as well as special holidays on Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

But in the life of our church, May also brings us specifically a new message series! We have not been in a book of the Bible series on Sunday mornings for several weeks, and I for one have been itching to dive back into one!

And so, I am excited to reveal that this Sunday, the first Sunday in May, we will begin a sixteen-week (through the whole summer) investigation into the incredible letter by Paul to the church in Galatia. The title as you can see above is 'Freedom and Family'. And so, I am excited to give a brief overview of the letter in this space.

Now, as we look all around us, it is easy to see that our world will continually try to preach at us, that we should work harder, or try to 'earn' our way to get ahead. Status can be seen through titles, money, career success or our social standing.

However, we also see the negative effects of 'earning' within the church, where some will make a kind of internal religious checklist in their minds. "Well if I only **do** this...then God will bless me or answer my prayer or allow me to go to Heaven."

This is where Paul's letter to the Galatians can be so helpful and challenging to us. Because at the center of this letter, Paul will define and defend the True Gospel. He will reassure all of us that the Gospel begins and ends in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, NOT what we try to 'earn' in our efforts! So at its heart, Galatians is a defense of the pure Gospel.

In fact, Paul wrote Galatians to early church believers that were repeatedly being told that having faith in Jesus alone, was never enough. They continually felt under pressure to add more rules and traditions back into their faith, so they could be truly right with God. Paul's letter will give us a clear 'NO' to this type of false 'earning'.

Throughout Galatians, we will come to read and understand repeatedly, that we are all justified by trusting Jesus alone. That's it—end of story!

Therefore, we don't pray, read the Word of God or come to church to try and 'earn' God's love for us. No, we follow and obey Jesus because He already loves us!

So, in some ways, Galatians will be like our grand charter for Christian freedom. Paul will remind us that our true freedom is not in the ability to do whatever we want, whenever we want.

Instead, this freedom means the power to live our lives the way that He created us and intended us to...living in the power of the Holy Spirit; and motivated by grace in every area of our lives!

Just listen to the theme verse of Galatians... **For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.** - Galatians 5:1 (ESV) Amen!!

In Christ,
Pastor Chris Grella

Our next 101 Membership Class will be Sat. May 9 @ 9:30 am. Sign up on the FYI board.



 Thank you to the **Properties team** for all the work done on our new Children's Wing!! Thank you also to all those who helped to paint, move furniture, or helped in any other way!! And thanks to Heather King for EVERYTHING you did to make this happen!! **THANK YOU!!!**

As our preschool year comes to an end this month, we will be celebrating all of our students' accomplishments! We are so proud of all the things they have learned this year from counting, writing their names, sounding out words and learning to share and follow directions.



We will be celebrating our three and four year olds with an end of year family celebration at the end of May and the kindergartners are having a kindergarten graduation to celebrate their achievements before they head to first grade.

The preschool wants to give a big thank you to the church members who have been helping with our playground resurfacing project and the Marshall family for building a new and bigger sandbox for the playground!

Stephanie Smith



THE NEWINGTON COURTHOUSE PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN IS HIRING A CHRISTIAN, LICENSED KINDERGARTEN TEACHER FOR OUR SMALL, HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN CLASS, BEGINNING AUGUST 2026. FOR MORE INFO, VISIT [HTTPS://NEWINGTONBC.ORG/PAGES/NEWINGTON-COURTHOUSE-PRESCHOOL APPLICATIONS](https://newingtonbc.org/pages/newington-courthouse-preschool-applications) SENT TO SMITHSTEPHANIE452@GMAIL.COM

NEWINGTON
COURTHOUSE
PRE-SCHOOL



AN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD OUTREACH EVENT IN A VILLAGE KNOWN FOR ITS SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE BRINGS A REMARKABLE HARVEST OF SOULS.

Ambodibibaka is so remote you can't even find it on most maps. The village is nestled in the forests of eastern Madagascar where its residents long held to ancestral worship and traditions—until Samaritan's Purse teams recently brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ to children and their families. Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts opened the door and, today, classes of *The Greatest Journey* follow-up discipleship course have started with hopes of giving a new spiritual heritage to generations of Ambodibibaka residents!

Carrying Gospel Opportunities Through prayer and persistence, the Operation Christmas Child volunteers reached out to the leaders of Ambodibibaka with a message of tangible love: "We want to bless your children. We want to give each child a gift."



Hygiene Items
May



Young at Heart senior ministry invites you for a **SPECIAL GOODBYE lunch for our former custodian, Heather Honchak & family, Friday, May 15th at 11:00 am** in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to share. For those unable to come but wish to give a card, a basket will be available in the church office.

"I WILL GO TO THE ALTAR OF GOD, TO GOD WHO IS MY JOY AND HAPPINESS" (PSALM 43:4)

PRAYER MEETING

THURSDAYS
11 A.M.
IN THE MEDIA ROOM

MAY MESSAGES - GALATIANS SERIES: FREEDOM & FAMILY

May 3	Grace to You	Galatians 1:1-5
May 10	None Other (Baby Dedication)	Galatians 1:6-10
May 17	Called by God	Galatians 1:11-17
May 24	Acceptance	Galatians 1:18-2:10
May 31	Opposition	Galatians 2:11-14

 **COR3 Youth** 

It's hard to believe we are entering May. Our Youth will continue to meet during the summer with the exception of VBS week, Camp week and we will take a night off in August. Our group is growing and each week I see a difference in the spiritual growth as well. It's a blessing to me when I ask them to read scripture and I have about 6 hands raise.

Two Youth will be going to Camp Piankatank this summer. Our group is a very young group, and some are afraid to go away for a week. There will be no more fundraising for 2026. Thank you to all who have contributed to make this possible.

Thanks again to the Prayer Team for praying for our Youth and Leaders.

Thanks again to those who help with meals, snacks, sodas or water. We really appreciate your generosity.

Blessings,

**Brenda H. Armistead
Youth Director
(804) 694-7583**

  

**SPREAD A LITTLE SOFTNESS
WMU COLLECTION**

We will be collecting rolls of toilet paper for

  

Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic
Free Medical Clinic for Native Americans and their families

COLLECTION DATES: MAY 17-31

Newington Church App

Newington has a church app that is available through Tithe.ly or scan here:



You can access messages, Deeper Adults Bible study (during the school year), Year in the Gospel readings, message notes, events, and more.

NEWS AND UPDATES FOR FAMILIES



Our VBS preparations are going strong!

Rainforest Falls VBS
June 22-26
9 a.m. to noon
for ages 4 through entering 6th grade

Here's how you can help:

Be in prayer for our volunteers, the kids who come, and their families!

Help out at our VBS Prep Party on Friday, May 22 at 6 p.m. in the

Fellowship Hall! We'll be cutting papers and posters and creating things like vines, grass, leaves, snakes and more! *Please note that children might be able to help with some of these projects, but they need to be supervised by an adult at all times.*

Donate items for our VBS snack. We'll be placing a donation list on the FYI board by early June. If you can help bring in any of the items, we'd appreciate it! You can mark them for VBS and leave them in the kitchen the week before we begin.

Tell your family, friends and neighbors about VBS and be sure to register early! You can register at this link or use the QR code below: <https://vbspro.events/p/newingtonvbs2026>

Volunteer the week of VBS. We REALLY need a Bible Adventure leader, crew leaders, crew helpers, and substitutes! We are also looking for two nursery volunteers. You can sign up on the FYI board to help or register as a volunteer at the same link or using the QR code below: <https://vbspro.events/p/newingtonvbs2026>

Volunteers can wear their Newington Kids shirts from the past or Newington church shirts if they like. If you want a green Newington Kids shirt (they are optional!), please be sure to include that on the sign-up sheet and tell me what size you want. I don't order extra so please let me know by May 24. They are \$14 and money is due when you receive the shirt.

~Heather King~
757-592-7632, heatherking@cox.net



From the Deacons...Jubilee Churches of Gloucester – April update:

In April, Jubilee Churches (of which Newington is a part of with 18 other churches) provided support to **THIRTEEN** (the largest number in Jubilee's short history) **HOMES** in our community.

All of the requests were for help with rent payments or Dominion power bills.

As well, Jubilee was able to help a family secure a new home for the first time by paying just the first month's rent of \$1,100. Again, each dollar of our support as NBC to Jubilee, helps with eviction prevention! Finally, at the end of March, the Jubilee balance stood at \$4,700.

Here is one example of how our Newington deacon fund support was used in March:

Sometimes the difference between losing everything and holding on is just a little bit of support at the right time. Recently, Jubilee and the GUEST ministry worked with someone who was at risk of eviction after losing a long-term job. She did everything she could to stay on track—using her savings, picking up new work, and continuing to push forward even when things got hard.

But like many starting over, catching up was the toughest part. For the first time, she reached out for help. With support from multiple community partners—and because of funding made possible by you, NBC and our Jubilee churches—we were able to step in and help her stay in her home. She's now working consistently and making a plan to keep things stable moving forward.

NBC, thanks for being part of these stories. Your kindness in giving to our deacon fund is changing lives in real and lasting ways!

FYI: GUEST has scheduled a workday at the day shelter on Friday, May 15th from 9 am -2 pm.

We will be cleaning up both inside and outside the day shelter (located on Moose Drive).

Take the Next Step to Becoming a Member at Newington (Membership 101)!

Next>>

May 9, 9:30 am

If you are new to the church and interested in finding out more about the church, what we believe or what it means to become a member at Newington, please consider joining Pastor Chris on Sat, May 9 at 9:30 am in the Media Room for the Membership 101 class. Coming to the class does not obligate you to membership. Topics include membership, core beliefs, baptism, and church involvement.



On May 10, Mother's Day, we will have a parent/child dedication during the service. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Chris or Heather King by Sunday, May 3rd. Parents and children must be present to have their child dedicated.

****Wednesday, May 20, will be the last day for Deeper Kids before summer. Come join us for VBS, June 22-26! Wednesday, June 3, will be the last day of the Deeper Adults Isaiah series.**