

MAY 2026

# Church Newsletter

## Pastoral Message

**"Rooted in the Risen Christ"**

May brings us fresh green trees, blooming flowers, and the reminder that God is still at work making all things new. In Western North Carolina, spring beauty arrives alongside real burdens: families carrying economic pressures, communities recovering from hardship, churches seeking renewal, and neighbors longing for peace. Around the nation and the world, people continue to wrestle with division, uncertainty, conflict, fear, violence and war. Yet the gospel meets us in every one of these places with a steady and hopeful word: Jesus is alive, and because He lives, we are not abandoned.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." The risen Christ brings new mercy for weary hearts, new strength for difficult days, and new purpose for ordinary lives. He does not merely improve us from the outside; He gives us new life from within today and forevermore.

As we hear troubling news from near and far, we are tempted to let anxiety set the tone of our hearts. But the empty tomb tells a different story. The world may feel unstable, but Jesus remains Lord. The cross proves His love, the resurrection proves His victory, and His coming kingdom proves that hope is never wasted. We do not ignore the pain of our world; we bring it to the Savior who has already overcome it. This May, let us be a people rooted in Christ, quick to pray, ready to serve, and willing to speak hope in a hurting world. Let our homes, churches, and communities reflect the peace of the One who said, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Spring is a fitting picture, but Jesus is the true source of all new life.

Pastor Cesar Perozo

## UAS Announcement

**Upward Adventist School is now open for enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year!**

**We are excited to have two teachers this year and look forward to another wonderful school year. For questions, please contact Sheri Baker or visit the school website for more information.**

## Upcoming Events

- **Church Picnic - May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Park at Flat Rock**
- **Women's Ministry Meeting - May 9<sup>th</sup>**
- **All Board Meetings - May 11<sup>th</sup>**
- **Graduation - May 13<sup>th</sup>**
- **Adventurer & Pathfinder Investiture - May 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **Baby Shower for Katie & Landon Kwasny - May 17<sup>th</sup>**
- **Dr. Tibbits Seminar - May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>**

## Ministry Updates

**Adventurers & Pathfinders:**  
Our Adventurers had an exciting and activity-filled April! At our first meeting, we welcomed a special guest from the sheriff's department who taught us valuable lessons about safety. Later in the month, we attended Adventurer Fun Day, where the children became "Detectives for Jesus" and enjoyed a day full of fun and learning. To wrap up the month, firefighters visited our club with a fire truck and gave the Adventurers an inside look at their important work. They shared helpful fire safety tips and taught the children how firefighters help keep our community safe.

The Pathfinders have continued to sharpen their archery skills and have been learning valuable safety lessons along the way. This month, they welcomed a special guest firefighter who taught them about lithium-ion battery safety and shared important tips for staying safe.

The Pathfinders are also getting ready to attend the Carolina Conference Camporee this month. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for a safe, fun, and memorable trip!

**Women's Ministry:**  
Women's Ministry is hosting a special event for the ladies of the church at the Watsons' residence.

**Location: 45 White Pine Circle, Fletcher, NC 28732**

Please bring lawn chairs, a change of clothes, your Bible, and a potluck dish to share. We look forward to a wonderful time of fellowship together!



## School Update

### Class Trip in Kentucky!

-Haley Cutchens

For our class trip we got to go to the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. We arrived at the hotel around 1:30 on Thursday, April 23. Vickie and I had to rush to get inside the welcome center at the ark since we had ziplining. Vickie and I had twelve zip lines and one drop. This was my first time ziplining, but I got to be the first one to go every time! At the end of all the zip lines, Vickie and I got to jump off an eighty foot tower! That was one of the most exciting things I have ever done! The next day, Friday, we went to the Ark Encounter. There were dozens and dozens of exhibits, and so many things to watch, read, and see. After the ark we went to a restaurant and then a zoo. After the zoo, we went to a virtual reality place where we got to sit in a seat wearing glasses and watch a really cool video that made you feel like you were in the ark. We then went to the park and met some friends there! Later after swimming we played Apples to Apples with five of our new friends we met at the park. The next day, Sabbath, we went to the Creation Museum and saw more exhibits, movies, and animals! Sadly we had to leave Sunday, but I am so happy that we got to go to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum for our class trip!

