

Glade Weekly News

May 5 - 11, 2025



Glade Church

faith · diversity · justice

Glade Church, a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation, is a progressive Christian community—welcoming, compassionate, and joyful—seeking to embrace all people wherever they find themselves in life. We strive to discern God’s still-speaking voice through worship, study, fellowship, and service. We work for God’s peace and social, economic, and ecological justice.

Lectionary Readings for the Week

Acts 9:36-43— Psalm 23 — Revelation 7:9-17 — John 10:22-30

Scripture for the Week

Psalm 23 (Common English Bible)

¹The LORD is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

²He lets me rest in grassy meadows;

he leads me to restful waters;

³ he keeps me (or *my soul*) alive.

He guides me in proper paths

for the sake of his good name.

⁴Even when I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no danger because you are with me.

Your rod and your staff—

they protect me.

⁵You set a table for me

right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil;

my cup is so full it spills over!

⁶Yes, goodness and faithful love

will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live (or *I will return*) in the LORD’s house

as long as I live.

Word for the Week

Shepherd
ΣΥΝΕΠΙΣΤΑ



Pastor Kelly's Comments on the Scripture

The central claim of this psalm is that God cares for Their people as though They are a shepherd and we are the sheep. The image of God, and of course, Jesus as a shepherd seems fitting. But knowing what I know about sheep, the comparison isn't flattering at all. Sheep are herd animals – defenseless, vulnerable, and altogether unintelligent. In all fairness, a mass of people can and will act as a cohesive and unintelligent group. A person is intelligent, but a group of people quickly becomes panicky, leading to people being trampled in emergencies.

However, the focus isn't on the derogatory image of a herd sheep, but rather, the sheep's complete and total dependence on its shepherd. Sheep cannot make it on their own, but they can trust the shepherd. They lack a strong sense of direction, much like humans. But the shepherd is faithful. Our shepherd is always faithful.

The shepherd leads us to places that restore us – bountiful sustenance and restful waters for our physical needs and spiritual restoration for our souls. The shepherd guards us and keeps us safe. Oil keeps away flies and pests from actual sheep while it represents God's abundant blessings on us.

God's goodness and faithful love will be with us all our lives. And as we pass from this life into the hereafter, verse 6 assures us that we will return to the source of all creation and love.

Pastor Kelly Bryant

Office Day Next Week: Friday May 16th. Kelly isn't listing hours to not place limits on their availability to you. Please contact them for a meeting at a time that fits your schedule on office days. Should you need Pastor Kelly outside of these days, please don't hesitate to contact them.

540-521-9993, bryantkj@gmail.com.

Join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday Morning

Attend in-person at 1600 Glade Rd. Blacksburg, or on Zoom at

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88914981619?pwd=Q3E4Rk95d2lZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdz09/#_success

Spiritual Formation Class meets again on May 11

Spiritual Formation for adults now meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 9:45 AM. We hope you'll join us!

Special Offering for OCWM May 18th

In isolation, no single congregation can completely answer God's call to love. Together we are a bold witness to God's extravagant love for all. We share resources to transform our vision into reality. Gifts from congregations like ours to OCWM Basic Support make it possible for our Conferences and the National Ministries to strengthen local churches and leaders and engage us in mission well beyond our community.

We will be collecting a special offering for Our Church's Wider Mission on Sunday May 18th.

Laundry Love

Thursday May 8 from 6-8 PM and Sunday May 18 from 2-4 PM at North Main Laundromat.

Laundry Love has opportunities to volunteer. This is a great way to put "Words" into "Actions" of faith and love. We do this at the laundromat on North Main across from the Y-Thrift Shop. Click below to volunteer!

[VOLUNTEER FOR LAUNDRY LOVE](#)

Volunteers are needed for Church Cleaning

Gladders, we really need folks to help clean up the church. We have cleaning sheets in the hallway for everything we need cleaned. Please mark sections complete when done. If you need the key code to get into the church, please contact David Taylor David.taylor1@verizon.net or call (276)266-4637

Volunteers are needed for Kids Church and Youth Group

There are leader slots available for youth, kids, and nursery. Session topic info is available on the sign-up link below. Youth Group is on the first and third Sundays of each month and Kids Church is on the second and fourth Sundays of each month during worship service. Here is the link to sign up to serve our children:

[Kids Church and Youth Group Volunteer Signup](#)

Radical Conversations [RadCon] Meets Saturdays at 11:00 AM

Radical Conversations meets from 11:00-12:15 each Saturday morning at the church. This is a time for open discussion of a wide range of topics. RadCon is open to any and every interested individual.

Coffee & Devotion Group Meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 am

This virtual get-together meets at 10 a.m. on Zoom and lasts for about an hour for a time to meet people, share thoughts, hear a brief devotion, and join in prayer. This time of fellowship is open to everyone, it's a time to gather for conversation, devotion and prayer. Come meet some people you may not know.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89240288592?pwd=KzhRWlJiQTkzWWRIYTNUckdPaUNqUT09>

Women's Book Group Meets Third Mondays at 7 PM

The Women's Book Group meets on the third Monday of each month at 7 PM in person and on Zoom for a discussion of the current book. The book for May is "Better Living Through Birding – Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World" by Christian Cooper. Contact Rebecca Herman at rherman@gilesk12.net for more information.

Pulaski Pride: Connect and Build – Saturday June 7

Glade Church will have a booth at Pulaski Pride again this year. The event will be on Saturday June 7 at 4 PM at Jackson Park. We will need volunteers to help with setup starting at 2:30 PM and tear down afterward, no later than 9 PM. Contact Pastor Kelly for more information.

UCC Purpose, Vision, and Mission Statements

Purpose: To love God with all our heart, mind soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. (From the Gospel of Matthew)

Vision: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

Mission: United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

John 17:21 is the scriptural foundation of the United Church of Christ