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## MESSENGER

Friday, May 27, 2016

**SUNDAY SERVICE,  
MAY 29, 2016 - 10:30 AM**

**Rev. Spencer VanGulick**

**New Testament Lesson:** Matthew 5:1 – 12a

**Sermon:** "Faith and the Funny Bone"

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*This week we welcome guest Pastor **Rev. Spencer Van Gulick** to our pulpit. Pastor Ben and his family are on vacation.*

*We also welcome guest soloist **Robyn Huff** this week.*

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**BIBLE STUDY:** Pastor Ben's Sunday morning Bible Study has been discontinued for the summer. It will resume in September.

On this weekend we celebrate **MEMORIAL DAY**. Let us pause to remember all of our family and friends who have passed on into eternal life. We thank all who are serving and who have served in our armed forces, with special prayers for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

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### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Last Sunday we welcomed very special "family members" of our Church family, friends and neighbors for a "Blessing of the Animals" ceremony.

About 25 dogs and 1 kitten brought their humans for this inaugural event.

What a wonderful variety of breeds and ages of the dog guests. One dog and the kitten were brought by foster parents who are caring for them until they find their forever homes. One very happy “physically challenged” dog has been fitted with a cart to let him be actively mobile in spite of a severed spine. Many of the guests were rescues. All of them were obviously very loved by their humans.

Pastor Ben welcomed the pet guests, spoke of their importance in our lives, and asked each pet parent to briefly introduce their special family member(s). His prayer was one of thanks for God’s gift of all the creatures of the earth, expression of concern for all those suffering from abuse, and asking God’s blessing on all of the beloved pets that were gathered together on this Sunday morning.

Appropriate treats and water were provided for both pets and humans. Everyone had so much fun that the “Blessing of the Animals” will most certainly become an annual event for our Church.



Thank you to Stacey Albrecht for these photos.

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## SUNDAY NURSERY:

Our nursery attendant, Deb Dery, has taken a family leave and we will miss her. If parents would like to write a thank you note to her, Pati will make sure to forward them. If we want to continue to have nursery care available on Sunday mornings we will need volunteers. Please let Pastor Ben know if you would like to serve in this capacity.

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## May - June 2016 Upcoming Family Events

**May 29th: Memorial Day Weekend**

**June 4-11: Montreat Youth Conference**

**June 5th: Children's Summer Church** begins

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### Pastor Ben's Corner



Memorial Day is a special day that celebrates those who died while servicing in our country's armed forces. The holiday has its origins in the Civil War during which we lost more than 600,000 soldiers in total from both sides. Can you imagine that? Then think about the fact that the entire U.S. population during the Civil War was approximately 31 million people which is about one-tenth of the U.S. population today! Nearly every family must have suffered a direct or indirect loss. Possibly today you or your family may not have experienced a recent loss of a service member but many families have. Please keep all of those families and their loved ones in your prayers. Their loss is massive and their sacrifice is for us all.

Faithfully,

Pastor Ben

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### BIRTHDAYS

- **May 30** - Cam Boynton
  - **May 31** - Lennie Finchum
  - **June 2** - Harry Hunter
  - **June 4** - Alexis Moore
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### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Elinor Ryan
- Dorothy Barringer
- DeDeCarrieri
- Sandy Owen
- Bill Hendren
- Marilyn Benedict
- Lorraine White
- Jim White
- Alex Lopez-Estrada
- Brian Tobin

- Joanne Weiland
- Ed Heimann
- Rita Skojec
- Janaty Sessom
- Kent Phillips
- Tricia Todd Family
- Josephine Scricca
- Jonathan Suffill
- Jordan Cook
- Susan McNaughton
- George Roberts
- Bob Skojec
- Myrna Jubb
- Pustay Family
- Charles Schovain

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