



# CROSS CURRENTS

May 2026



## WELCOME OUR NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

We welcome Teresa Bowman as our new Director of Children's Ministries. Teresa has over 20 years of experience in children's ministries, with over 12 years at the Director level. Teresa comes to us from River Club Church in Fredericksburg, where she served as Children's Ministry Director. She has a passion for children and brings enthusiasm and expertise to children's ministries.

This has been a long road to find the individual God wanted for this church. The search committee reviewed and contacted over 38 applicants and physically interviewed five. Thanks to your prayers and support, the Board of Elders feel strongly this is the individual called for us. Please stop by Teresa's office in the Discovery Zone and welcome her in person and ask how you might be able to support her.

# From our Senior Pastor: Summer Loving

## FALLING IN LOVE WITH JESUS ALL OVER AGAIN



Rev. Adam Colson

*“Do you know that nothing you do in this life will ever matter, unless it is about loving God and loving the people he has made?” -Francis Chan*

If you grew up hearing the songs from Grease, you probably remember the phrase “Summer Lovin.” The song talked about excitement, connection, and a relationship that captured someone’s heart during the summer months.

What if this summer became a season of Summer Loving with God? Not a shallow, passing feeling or a “vacation from faith.” But a fresh, deep, joyful renewal of our love for Jesus Christ. Jesus once spoke to the church in Ephesus and said: *“You have forsaken the love you had at first.”* (Revelation 2:4)

It is possible to know about God without passionately loving Him. It is possible to attend church while our hearts quietly drift into autopilot. But summer gives us a unique opportunity to reset spiritually. We have longer evenings, different schedules, more opportunities to gather, more time outside in His creation, more moments to slow down and hear the voice of God again.

So how do we fall in love with Jesus afresh this summer?

### 1. Spend Time in His Word

*“Loving God with all our mind means that our thinking is wholly engaged to do all it can to awaken and express the heartfelt fullness of treasuring God above all things.” -John Piper*

Relationships grow through communication. The more we hear the voice of Jesus through Scripture, the more our hearts are shaped by Him. Jeremiah said:

*“Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.”* (Jeremiah 15:16)

This summer, don’t just scroll endlessly, sit with the Word of God. Read a Gospel slowly.

Study the Psalms outdoors with your morning coffee. Listen to Scripture while driving or walking. The Bible is not homework; it is an invitation into the heart of God.

### 2. Reignite Your Prayer Life

*“Loving God means rejoicing in God, being eager to think of and pray to God. It means being glad to be in God’s presence and to be with God alone. It means not grieving God, but rejoicing in God simply because it is God who is involved, and because we are permitted to know and have God, and to speak with and live with God.” -Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Love grows through time together. Prayer is not merely presenting requests to heaven; it is communion with God. James 4:8 says:

*“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”*

This summer, join others in prayer.

- Wednesday Vespers – 5:00 PM in the Sanctuary
- Friday Morning Prayer Group – 9:00 AM in the Sanctuary

There is something powerful about praying together. The church has always been at its strongest when it has been on its knees.

As A. W. Tozer once said: *“The man who would truly know God must give time to Him.”*

### 3. Serve Jesus by Serving Others

*“If we are serious about loving God, we must begin with people, all people. And especially we must learn to love those that the world generally discards.” -John Ortberg*

One of the quickest ways to rekindle spiritual passion is to serve. Jesus said:

*“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”* (Mark 10:45)

Summer at church is not just busy, it is full of mission opportunities. This year, there are so many ways to jump in and make a difference:

- Vacation Bible School

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

- Good News Across Sports
- Good News Camp Navajo Nation
- Teen Camp
- Kingdom Builders Training School
- RISE Summer Activities

Something incredible happens when we stop asking, “What can the church do for me?” and start asking, “How can I help someone encounter Jesus?” Serving changes us! Sometimes, the very thing that reignites our love for God is helping someone else discover His love for the first time.

### 4. Connect with Other Believers

*“Keep the joy of loving God in your heart and share this joy with all you meet especially your family.” -Mother Teresa*

Christianity was never meant to be lived alone. Acts 2 describes believers eating together, praying together, worshiping together, and growing together. This summer, take a step toward community.

Join:

- A Small Group
- Bible Study
- Christian Book Club
- Tables of 8
- Wednesday Eucharist at 6:00 PM
- Men’s Group
- Women’s Group
- Sunday School

Some of the greatest spiritual growth happens around tables, in conversations, during prayer circles, and through friendships centered on Christ. Hebrews 10:24–25 reminds us:

*“Let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together...”*

Make This a Summer Loving Season

This summer, don’t just chase vacations, cookouts, ballgames, and beach trips.

Enjoy those things, but don’t miss the deeper invitation.

Let this be a summer where:

- your Bible gets opened more,
- your prayer life grows deeper,
- your friendships grow stronger,
- your service becomes meaningful,
- and your love for Jesus burns brighter.

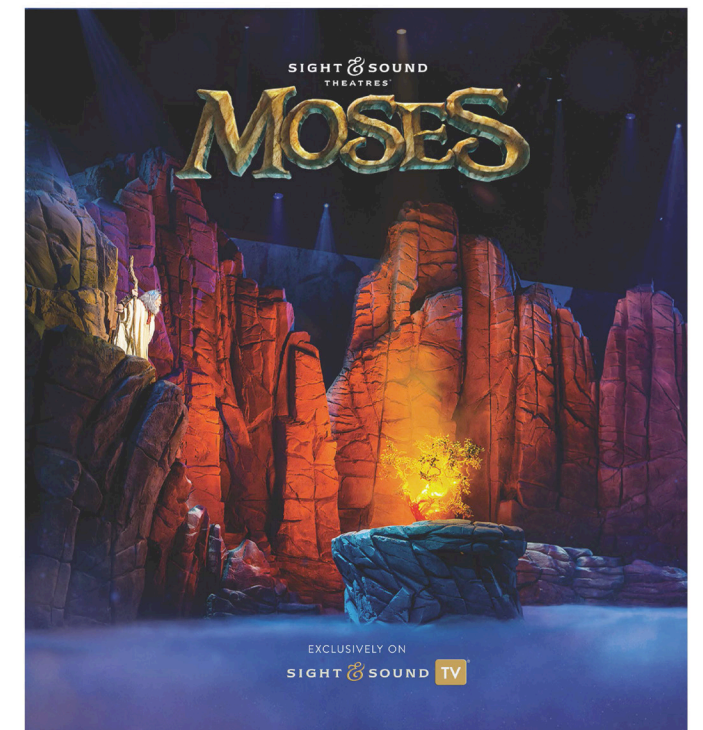
The world talks about “summer flings.” God invites us into something far greater: A lifelong relationship with the One who first loved us.

*“We love because He first loved us.”* (1 John 4:19)

So, this summer let’s make it a season of Summer Loving with God. See you in worship, prayer, fellowship, and service.

Let’s fall in love with Jesus all over again.

Your Partner in Ministry,  
Pastor Adam Colson  
Senior Pastor



**MOVIE NIGHT, MAY 22, 6PM, LWOC**



CrossCurrents is a publication of  
The Lake of the Woods Church  
1 Church Lane  
Locust Grove, VA 22508  
Telephone 540-972-9060

Unsolicited content is welcome.  
Send to: [elder.comm@lowchurch.org](mailto:elder.comm@lowchurch.org)  
View online at [www.lowchurch.org](http://www.lowchurch.org)

## Board of Elders, Welcome to our Journey into Summer

God has so much in store for us—from Kingdom Builders to Good News Camp – Navajo Nation—with several stops in between. We look forward to you joining this adventure.

### **Our first stop is Kingdom Builders.**

This intense, four-day program is designed to train youth to share the gospel with the next generation of elementary-aged students and other teens. Even better, the training has been refreshed and updated for this year.

The magnificent group of teens we have at LOWC is firmly grounded in Scripture and ready to accept the challenge Kingdom Builders offers, as well as the opportunity it provides to grow deeply in Christ.

Pastor Colson will be leading the sessions, which will be held **Tuesday, May 26, through Friday, May 29, at the Living Water Outreach Center.**

### **Our second stop is another youth program—Teen Camp “Knowing & Going”**

Held at **Camp Shenandoah Springs near Madison, Sunday, May 31 through Friday, June 5, with a closing program for families.**

At Knowing & Going, we’ll dive deep into Paul’s powerful words in Philippians 3:8–12, where he boldly declares that nothing compares to knowing Jesus.

This isn’t just head knowledge—it’s a life-changing, everything-on-the-line kind of relationship that reshapes our identity, our priorities, and our

purpose.

We have packed this week full of both fun and meaningful ventures for the teens, including outreach opportunities for those in the community who may not yet know our Lord.

The camp offers plenty of activities and lake time, along with moments for personal devotions, corporate worship, chapel, and unhurried fellowship. God has a history of doing great things during Teen Camp, and we are excited to see Him do it again this year.

**The third stop on our journey is one many of our volunteers have been eagerly anticipating—Vacation Bible School (VBS).**

This year, we will step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, children will plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They’ll explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with their Creator—a safe place in life’s storms.

**VBS will be held at the church from 9 a.m. until noon (volunteers arrive at 8 a.m.), Monday, June 15 through Friday, June 19.**

The children will participate in the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, June 21—Father’s Day—a joyful and fitting family celebration to conclude the week.

*continued on page 5*

## Board of Elders

*continued from page 4*

**Our fourth stop is Good News Across Sports (GNAS).**

GNAS carries a simple but powerful mission: **to reach boys and girls with the Good News of Jesus.**

Through high-energy sports camps and engaging arts camps, children not only learn the fundamentals and skills of each activity, but they also encounter the love of Christ and discover what it means to build character that truly counts.

Designed for children in grades K–5, each camp is led by adults and teens trained at Kingdom Builders, who serve as both coaches and Christlike role models.

**Held at The Lake of the Woods Church,** every session includes a sport or activity, a Bible-time lesson, and a snack break—creating a safe, joy-filled environment where kids grow in confidence, community, and faith. Parents drop off and pick up their children for each camp (children must be picked up between sessions).

**Each sports camp lasts two hours, with morning camps running from 9–11 a.m. and afternoon camps from 1–3 p.m.**

**Our fifth stop takes us to the Good News Camp – Navajo Nation from July 19–26.**

Each summer for 8 years, our Mission Trip team has had the privilege of bringing hope, encouragement, and the Gospel to the children and families we serve in New Mexico. We will once again host a day camp for up to 60 children—sharing Christ through Bible lessons, activities,

and personal connection—while also completing some much-needed repairs to the camp facilities.

This mission **requires a team of 30–40 volunteers**, and every role matters. Whether you teach, play sports, help with crafts, or offer a warm smile, you become part of making Christ known.

We are working on a feature that will allow participants to share updates and invite prayer support throughout the week. For those unable to travel, we are also developing a virtual option where you can sponsor a child and commit to pray for them during the trip.

God has used this mission to the Navajo in powerful ways, and we look forward to what He will do again this summer.

### **Our sixth stop is CentriKid.**

CentriKid Camps provide a vibrant, Christ-centered summer experience where children encounter Jesus through biblical teaching, fun activities, and high-energy worship.

**This overnight camp for children finishing 2nd–5th grade will be held July 20–24 at the beautiful Skycroft Conference Center in Middletown, Maryland.**

CentriKid is committed to giving kids a place to step away from the noise of everyday life—even if for just a few days—to hear clearly that God loves them and has a plan for their lives. Safety—both in programming and relationships—is a top priority. We believe powerful things happen when kids feel safe enough to simply be kids, and CentriKid creates an environment where faith can take root

*continued on page 7*

## Mission Partner for March

### Youth with a Mission

Kelly and Vicki Hoodikoff have served as long-term missionaries with Youth With A Mission for over 30 years. Their calling has taken them across Eastern Europe and into over 80 nations worldwide, but Ukraine has been home. For decades, they lived and raised their children, Alisa and Steven, in Kyiv, where they helped establish a thriving YWAM base that became a key training hub for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Today, their ministry continues to span multiple nations each year, including both open and closed countries, meeting people, building trust, and investing in lives where the Gospel is often least accessible. Due to the recent war in Iran, Kelly & Vicki had to cancel their ministry trip to Iraq to help with the National Prayer Breakfast but hope to reschedule once things settle down.

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, their work has remained deeply rooted there. In Kyiv and surrounding regions, they are actively engaged in humanitarian response, providing food, medical supplies, generators, and housing support to those affected by the war. Over the past few years, they have helped establish over 450 new tiny homes for people who lost their homes due to a missile attack. At the same time, they continue strengthening leaders and communities from within by teaching in Discipleship Training Schools, preaching in local churches, and mentoring a new generation of leaders in the nation.

Their daughter, Alisa, serves full-time with YWAM Kyiv. Through art therapy, photography, and creative outreach, she brings healing and hope to those navigating trauma. She is also developing We.Create Studios, a space where local artists



can gather, create, and explore meaningful conversations about art and faith. Each week, Alisa meets with children affected by the war and uses art, prayer, and the love of Jesus to bring hope and healing into their lives. Their son, Steven, supports the mission behind the scenes while based in Maryland through airport runs and watering house plants. Thankfully, he works remotely as a computer programmer.

A defining thread of Kelly and Vicki's ministry is leadership. They invest deeply in emerging leaders through teaching, mentoring, and discipleship—equipping men and women not only for ministry, but to influence their communities and nations with integrity and wisdom. They believe the Gospel is not only personal but transformational for cultures and nations. Policies shift. Conflicts rise. Nations struggle. Behind it all are leaders making decisions that shape millions of lives. When leaders encounter Jesus and are formed in biblical truth and genuine relationships, the impact extends far beyond a single moment—it shapes the future.

*Continued Page 7*

#### Prayer for Youth with a Mission

O God of our Salvation, you are not willing that anyone perish but that all should experience your redemption, love, and healing. Thank you for the Hoodikoff family and the ministry of Youth with a Mission, who have obeyed your call to share the Gospel in many countries around the world. Anoint and bless their ministry, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Youth with a Mission

*continued from page 6*

The Hoodikoffs are very grateful for all who pray, give, and walk with them in this calling. Partnership enables them to go where God opens doors, especially to leaders who wield influence in their communities. Recently, Kelly and Vicki spent time in Morocco, a Muslim nation, where they began building meaningful friendships with local business leaders and families in Rabat. In a nation where faith conversations require



## BOE

*continued from page 5*

and grow.

If you are interested in joining us at any of these stops, sign up on the church website. [www.lowchurch.org](http://www.lowchurch.org) or contact me at email: [elder.chair@lowchurch.org](mailto:elder.chair@lowchurch.org).

As we step into this summer together, our prayer is that every stop on this journey helps us grow in knowing Christ more deeply and making Christ known more faithfully. From discipling our teens to welcoming children into the wonder of God's Word, each moment we serve communities both near and far is an opportunity for the Lord to shape us and to shine through us.

May God unite our hearts, strengthen our hands, and use every camp, every conversation, and every act of service to draw people to Himself. This is our calling and our joy—to walk with Christ and to make Him known in all we do.

John R Gingrich  
Chairman, Board of Elders



2nd Saturday of the month / March 14th - October 10th  
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Living Water Outreach Center  
32345 Constitution Hwy, Suite N  
Locust Grove, VA 22508

#### Services Offered:

Lube, oil and filter change  
Rotate Tires  
Air and cabin filter change  
Replace brake pads & rotors  
Diagnostics "check codes"



## GO YE THEREFORE BANQUET

The annual Go Ye Therefore Banquet was held on April 11, with about 60 attendees who gathered in Friendship Hall to support the LOWC Youth Program. The banquet serves as the launch for the youth missions season, and funds raised through generous donations defray the cost of training, camps, and missions for youth-group members throughout the summer.

Diners were treated to an Italian buffet-style dinner and dessert, as well as testimonies from youth and Youth Elder, Mike Phillips. The youth speakers, Ella Dates, Brent Dorton, and Elise Hall, each focused on summer programs such as Kingdom Builders, Teen Camp, VBS, and Good News Across Sports that train and equip LOWC youth to effectively evangelize elementary-age kids.

Elder Phillips spoke about his experience in the mission field and how a group can come together to bless others while also being richly blessed. In addition to funds raised through ticket sales, attendees donated through a silent auction, by sponsoring a particular teen, or by donating to the youth program in general. Approximately \$6,000 was raised to support youth programs.

**Donations can still be received by designating “Youth” via cash or check, turned in at the church, or online at [www.lowchurch.org/give](http://www.lowchurch.org/give).**



DINERS HEARING TESTIMONY FROM THE YOUTH ON THEIR PREVIOUS YEAR EXPERIENCES

Calendar for church activities for the next 90 days...See [lowchurch.org](http://lowchurch.org) for latest information

May	June	July
10 - Mother's Day	1-5 Teen Camp	3 - OFFICE CLOSED Independence Day
15 - LWCC Golf Tournament	13 - 8am Mechanics' Ministry LWOC	5 - 12:30 GNAS Training
17 - Senior Sunday	15 - 19 VBS	6-10 - GNAS
22 - Outreach Movie LWOC	21 - Father's Day	11 - Mechanic's Ministry LWOC
25 - Memorial Day Office Closed	22 - Jeneteenth Observed OFFICE CLOSED	19-26 Navajo Mission Trip
26-29 Kingdom Builders LWOC		30 - Stuff the Bus Distribution
30 -Men's Qtrly Breakfast LWOC		
31 - Teen Camp Begins		

## MUSIC NOTES

Today's worship music runs the gamut from Gregorian chant to modern praise songs. Why we sing at all, the purpose of singing a particular piece, and the history of some of the songs we sing are interesting subjects that we aim to address each month.

One hymn that we join most Protestants and a few other denominations in singing is the Doxology. Short, simple; you probably know it by heart.

We sing to praise God, acknowledging that he gives us every good gift. We praise Him in unity with each other and all creatures. We invite the heavenly host to join our song of praise and conclude by acknowledging the Triune nature of God.

Who composed such a short, yet powerful piece? The melody has long been a common tune. Often referred to as "The Old 100th", it was composed by Louis Bourgeois and first appeared in the Genevan Psalter in 1551. Thomas Ken was an Anglican minister who served as chaplain to Winchester College an English boys' school. In 1674, he wrote three hymns to help the boys with their daily devotions. At that time, only Psalms were sung in church, so these songs earned Rev. Ken the title of "England's first hymnist".

The boys were encouraged to sing each of three separate hymns in their rooms; one in the morning upon rising, one at bedtime, and one later in the night if one had trouble sleeping. Each of the hymns ended with the verse we call the Doxology. Rev. Ken ultimately became a Bishop and advisor to kings. In 1688, he was imprisoned in the Tower of London for his Protestant beliefs. Happily, he was acquitted and retired to private life in 1691. He went on to write several additional hymns. The Doxology was sung at his funeral on March 19, 1711. ---DONNA CHERNOWETZ



## VBS VOLUNTEERS

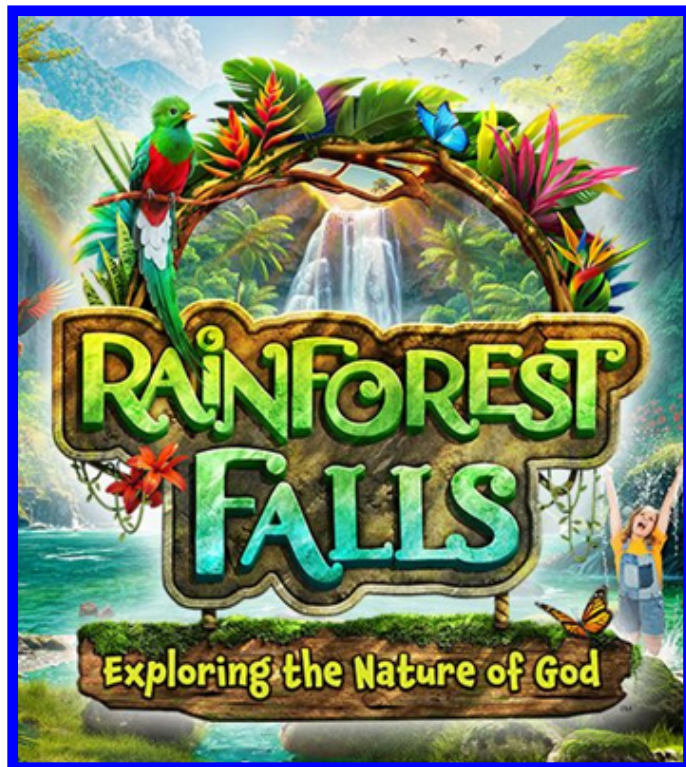
If the thought of summertime has given you new energy and a positive, joyful attitude that you want to channel into sharing the Gospel, then there is an amazing opportunity fast approaching for the adults and youth of The Lake of the Woods Church.

**That's right--for five amazing days this summer, from June 15-19, LOWC will host Vacation Bible School: "Rainforest Falls, Understanding the Nature of God."** With your volunteer help, we can welcome as many children as possible into the church and, through learning stations, music, fun games, and snacks, show each child the love of Christ and teach them about the salvation He offers.

Last year, about 80 children registered for VBS. To minister to so many children, about 120 volunteers are needed. You can help lead children from station to station (with the help of other volunteers), assist the audio/visual team, or serve on the Safety Team. The church provides a background check and the required training for each volunteer. The 1.5-hour required training will be held on Sunday, May 17, May 31, or June 7, after the 11:00 service. Youth will also have the opportunity to attend training at Teen Camp.

VBS offers volunteers a time of fellowship with other church members as well as a time to build relationships with the families in our region. You do not want to miss out on this week. There will be snacks and singing. There will be laughter and learning. There will be air conditioning.

**To register, go to [lowchurch.org/events](http://lowchurch.org/events), choose the VBS Volunteer option, choose a t-shirt size, and pick the date you prefer to go to training.**



SCAN TO GO TO THE REGISTRATION PAGE

## LANCASTER FIELD TRIP

Our recent trip marked a wonderful start to our summer journey. A group of forty-nine traveled together, and we experienced rich blessings throughout our time.

### The Tabernacle Experience

The Tabernacle Experience was both informative and deeply meaningful. It helped us view Scripture with a renewed perspective, offering insights that brought the biblical narrative to life.

### Sight & Sound Production of Joshua

Attending the Sight & Sound production of Joshua was a highlight. The show was absolutely fantastic—powerful, engaging, and spiritually uplifting, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

### Reflections and Looking Ahead

Throughout the trip, joy, unity, and a deep sense of God's presence were evident. We look forward to future trips, including opportunities such as visiting the Ark Encounter and other experiences that are rich in biblical significance.



## May Birthdays

Carol Brown	Richard Nelson
Kristen Browne	David O'Hara
Claire Chapman	Jack Phend
Melissa DeLeon	Allen Priester
Patricia Ericksen	Melanie Przybocki
Bobbie Fetzer	Janis Rieley
Roberta Griggs	Becky Salustri
Robert Hamilton	Susan Santucci
Betty Herron	Lynn Shutts
Gloria Hutt	Valerie Smallwood
Skeeter Marcum	Martha Somerville
Kevin Maris	Jennifer Suche
Deborah Martin	Judith Thomsen
Renee McCalla	Julia Toler
Maria Meldrum	Dave Valentine
Garland Miller	Ruth Watson

## May Anniversaries

John & Debbie Beisheim  
Phillip & Carol Brown  
Doug & Carrie DeSalvo  
Eldon & Susan Doubet  
Mitch & Gwendolyn Fournet  
William & Deanna Jones  
Mark & Jennifer Manelli  
Skeeter & Betsy Marcum  
Jonathan & Julie Sadler  
Michael & Chelsea Suche  
Ron & Judy Swarthout  
Dave & Donna Valentine  
Ben & Henny Van Der Vliet



Heather Austin	Herbert McKittrick
Silvana Babikow	Lee Moore
Janet Bocook	Ann Nadwodny
Laurel Buongiavanni	Tom & Lois Northam
Luanne Coffee	Barbara Rakes
Lindsay Cole	Selena Rave
Millie Davis	John & Ann Sawyer
Danny DeLongis	Bob & Ellen Schwartz
Jim Divelbiss	Wes Seaman
Nancy Doseff	Shelly Seymour
Susan Dyer J	Normajean Solebello
ohn Eckman	Martha Somerville
Steve Gaines	Greg Soukenik
Phil Harris	Bobbie Stone
Betty Herron	Beth Sundberg
Andres Idrovo	Darrell Turner
Olivia Knights	Pat Watterworth
David McCune	Newt Wilson

Bereavement ~ Family & Friends of:  
Bill Feterle ~ Service Sat. 5/9/26, 11 a.m.  
Timothy Edwards ~ Service Sat. 5/16/26, 1 p.m.  
John Hines ~ Service Sat. 6/6/26, 11 a.m.

Cross Currents is published monthly. Comments, suggestions, interests in helping with content should be directed to:  
Elder of Communications  
email: [elder.comm@lowc.org](mailto:elder.comm@lowc.org)