

# Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## Connecting The Dots

Commencement speeches and greeting cards are full of advice for graduates, yet good intentions and careful plans can't guarantee a perfect life — whatever that might mean.

“You can't connect the dots looking forward,” said Steve Jobs. “You can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something — your gut, destiny, life ...”

As Christians, we can do more than that: We can trust in God. Yes, he may speak to us through a “gut” feeling, and our eternal “destiny” is assured. And we know that life, not death, will win out. But recent grads — and all of us — need not just sit and wait to see how the dots of our lives will someday connect. God has shown us through Scripture, the church and, above all, Jesus that the dots connect this way: from God's heart, to Jesus' sacrifice for us, to our entry into relationship with God, to our heart and finally to our own loving outreach to others.

Whatever shape your education, work and family take through the years, “commence” with this: God has drawn your life to connect with him and your neighbors. If you follow those Spirit-etched lines, you'll be fine.

—Heidi Mann



***Sunday, May 7, we will be honoring our graduating high school seniors at the 11 a.m. worship service.***

***Carter Mayson Ketchum***

***Brenden Mills Paul***

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, MAY 7

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Bro. Lauren's Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Solid Ground Youth

### TUESDAY, MAY 9

- 6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study

### SATURDAY, MAY 13

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



- 7. Billy Wyatt
- 10. Sharon Nichols
- 12. Pam Hatfield
- Joe Dearman

## Wherever You Go

Graduations bring a commencement, or beginning, of new things.

In 1990, Dr. Seuss published *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* This popular graduation gift tells in Seuss' inimitable style of all life's possible ups and downs, twists and turns. There will surely be excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness, purpose and confusion. And, yes, fear: "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on."

The sheer determination of the storybook's life-traveler moves him beyond trouble and fear. But God's children don't have to go it alone. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Furthermore, he walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NIV): "Be strong and courageous ... for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."



Phil and Sharon Nichols have been distributing food, supplies, needed items and financial contributions from our church to the tornado victims in Rolling Fork and Silver City. There has been some progress, but much more is needed. Please remember to pray for the victims of this terrible storm. At the present time, volunteers are needed at the distribution center at Rolling Fork. Hours are 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. 7 days a week, at South Delta High School. Monetary contributions will also be most helpful. If you would like to help, please contact Phil Nichols.

Methodist Senior Services  
**SUNDAY FUND**  
A Benevolence Fund for Older Adults

*This fund was created to meet the financial burdens of elders who live on a MSS campus across Mississippi. This is your opportunity to assist these elders. Sunday Fund recipients have depleted their financial resources; many have no family or other support available to meet these overwhelming financial and emotional obstacles.*

Make plans to donate on **MOTHER'S DAY** May 14, 2023

*"Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD."  
- Leviticus 19:32*

Meeting elders' needs through THE SUNDAY FUND depends on your generosity. Please join us in this important source of hope.  
*Thank you for supporting Mississippi elders!*



## Hiskidz and Bible in Life

This week we are beginning a new series in Sunday school called **How Believers Live**. This Sunday's lesson, "Working as a Team," helps us to remember that we need to work together. We will talk about the story of Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark, Barnabas' cousin. In this story, the men have a disagreement, but they had to work together as they continued on their journey.

### W.O.W. Wednesday

Our time of Bible study has come to an end. I have enjoyed spending time with all the children who attended our mid-week Children's Bible Study.



\*\*If there is anyone who would be interested in helping teach a children's Bible study on Sunday or Wednesday nights, please contact Tera Smith. I would love to offer other nights for a children's Bible study, but I will need extra help.

**Summer Activities are in the works, so be watching so you can mark them on your calendar.**

### Vacation Bible School

I am working on a tentative date for Bible School in late June. However, VBS cannot happen without volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to help with VBS, please contact Tera Smith or the church office. We will reach out to those who would like to help. Bible School is such a fun and important part of being a child. Please prayerfully consider helping with VBS.

### Youth Sunday School

As we move into the month of May, we will begin a new series called **How Believers Live**. This Sunday our lesson, "A Whole-Body Workout," is a reminder that as Christians, we are not alone. We are to rely on other Christians to help us grow in our walk. Don't try to be a Christian alone. Following Christ is not easy, and we need to be there for each other.



### Youth Bible Study and Small Group

Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group has come to an end. We will still be meeting for bi-monthly activities outside of the church. Several outings and gatherings will be happening throughout the Summer. I know we all stay busy during the summer, but let's continue to spend time together as a youth group.

### M28 Camp

Final payment for Summer Camp at Lake Junaluska is due by Wednesday, May 10. A reminder text will be sent out to all who have signed up. If you are unable to go, I need it ASAP, so we can offer someone on the waiting list the opportunity to attend.

## **Sunday, May 7, 2023**

Greeters	Debra Batton/Linda & Bob Coker
Scripture	I John 2:7-14
Sermon	<b>“Grow in Grace”</b>
Flowers	Kyle Family

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

### **MAY**

<b>7. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>John 15:1-8</b>
8. God's great love	Jonah 4:1-11
9. The fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:22-26
10. Proverbs for the discerning	Proverbs 10:1-9
11. Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit	Acts 10:44-48
12. Praise God the righteous judge	Psalm 98
13. Faith conquers the world	1 John 5:1-6