



Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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October 29, 2023

Vol. 50 No. 42

The Bible & the Spirit

“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
1 Corinthians 2:14

The Bible is a complicated book. For one, it’s actually a small library of books, not just one book in itself. Those 66 books were written over three thousand or so years by dozens of different authors.

And they are written in ancient foreign languages that few know or understand today. The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew with a smattering of Aramaic, and the New Testament was written entirely in Greek. And they talk about a world with people and places and customs that seem strange and unusual to us.

All of this is to say that the Bible can be hard to understand. And people often study it for years just to try to understand it better.

And yet, for all that, Paul says that the only way we can really understand the Bible is by the Holy Spirit of God. Knowledge and education are helpful. But the Holy Spirit is necessary. Only someone born anew of the Spirit of God can really understand what the Bible is talking about.

Mind you, that doesn’t mean that we as Christians automatically understand every detail. Goodness knows, we don’t. But, it does mean that the Bible talks about a spiritual reality that only a true Christian can understand.

A non-Christian with a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies cannot truly understand what it means to love your enemies or turn the other cheek. But, even the most uneducated Christian can. So, an illiterate pastor in China may well understand the power of the gospel and the depths of God’s forgiveness better than a roomful of academics.

Only by the Spirit of God can we truly understand the Truth of God. Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with your wisdom and grace.

– *Brother Lauren*

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Solid Ground Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

- 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study Millie's House

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Handbell Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

We encourage you to take time to let Bro. Lauren know how much you love and appreciate all he does. Some suggestions include:

1. Write a simple note of thanks for his work and his ministry.
2. Pray for him.
3. Send him an email with encouragement.

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REMINDER!

Consecration Sunday is November 12. Prayerfully consider what you can give financially in 2024, and return your Commitment sheets on that Sunday.



- 29. Caitlin McClellan
- 30. Mary Lou Richards
- 3. Steve Newman
- Reece Vaughan
- 4. Fen Anderson

- 29. Mr. & Mrs. John Cobb

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT DESHA HINES III
REQUEST THE HONOUR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER

Nettie Rainer

to

Zachary John Wattle

SATURDAY, THE FOURTH OF NOVEMBER
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE
AT FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI

Reception to follow

CARTER, MISSISSIPPI



Our new series for the month of October is called ***Taking a Stand for God***. The lessons we will be covering are "Unselfish Friendships", "Don't Get Even," "When Life Gets Tough," "Give God Credit," and "Showing Kindness." These lessons take us on a journey through the relationship of David and Johnathan and the jealousy that grows from Johnathan's father, King Saul.

W.O.W. Wednesday

Wednesday night Bible Study for Grades K-6th will begin at 5:30 p.m. This year's Bible Study will be Bible-in-Crafts. There are so many amazing stories throughout the Book of Genesis. During the months of August and September, we talked about the Creation Story, The Fall of Man, The Great Flood, and The Tower of Babel. For the next several Wednesday nights, we will be talking about the story of Abraham. We have some fun crafting activities planned for these lessons. Supper will be at 6:15, and we will dismiss at 6:30 p.m.

There will also be one scheduled Sunday afternoon activity (field trip) each month.



Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group have been talking about the importance of living a Christ-like life. We all have a story that God is writing for each of us. Sunday nights we have been having a great group of youth who continue to show up ready to study God's word. We have made a slight time change for Sunday's and will be gathering at 5:30 for this semester. Wednesday Nights we will have supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 6:40 p.m.

WINTER XTREME

The youth will be attending **Winter Extreme** in Branson, December 27-29. We will hear multiple speakers and Christian Artists. We will also have a few activities planned in the Branson area. Payment of \$125 per participant will be due in full by the last week in October.

Daycare Fall Fun





We would like to welcome **Pam Crocker Ainsworth Druey** in the fellowship of First Methodist Church. Pam moved her letter from St. John's Methodist Church.



Hopefully you have finished your shoe box for a waiting child. Please place them outside the church office the week of November 12. The boxes will be collected on Wednesday, November 15.

World-wide 10.5 million boxes are collected and distributed. Let your box be in the 2023 boxes to be sent to the waiting children!

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Greeters	Debra Batton/Molly & Bill McNair
Scripture	Genesis 50:15-21
Sermon	“Joseph’s Judgment”
Flowers	Family of James Mason Woodard

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

OCTOBER

29. 22th Sunday after Pentecost

30. The Lord alone

31. Our God is merciful

Mark 10:46-52

Deuteronomy 13:4

Psalms 116:1-7

NOVEMBER

1. All Saints Day

2. Security in commitment

3. Place your trust carefully

4. Once for all

Revelation 21:1-6a

Ruth 1:1-18

Psalms 146

Hebrews 9:11-14