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Messenger

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Superimposed Love

Maybe you've heard how salvation is like a total solar eclipse: God doesn't see our sins because Jesus' holiness covers them completely. Or maybe you've heard how trials can cause an "eclipse of faith."

At WorldChallenge.org, Pastor Gary Wilkerson explains that in Greek, *eclipse* means "I am absent" or "I cease to exist," because people once thought the gods temporarily extinguished the sun. "For Christians, a 'spiritual eclipse' is a dark hour when God seems to be absent from our lives," Wilkerson writes.

Wilkerson points to Peter being sifted like wheat, Elijah and Jeremiah facing extreme discouragement, and David collapsing morally. Amid Satan's attacks, "God seems completely absent," writes the pastor. "In that dark moment of eclipse, the devil has created such chaos we can't possibly see a way out." During times of testing, Christians must cry out to God and trust his faithfulness.

Completing the eclipse analogy, Wilkerson shares Titus 3:4, the "love of God our Savior appeared" (NIV). The Greek meaning of *appeared* here is *superimposed*, he writes. God looks on our fraught-filled times of eclipse and "superimposes his divine love over us."

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APRIL

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

- 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. Adult Bible Study
- 6:15 p.m. Solid Ground Youth

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Handbell Choir
- 5:30 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible study
- 6:15 p.m. Snack Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Youth

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

- 6:00 p.m. Staff Parrish meeting

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market

Blessed Are You

The Beatitudes receive little attention, lamented novelist Kurt Vonnegut. "But, often with tears in their eyes, [Christians] demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And, of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard [anyone demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere.]"

Jesus' Beatitudes have much to teach about selflessness, mourning, peacemaking and more. Jim Berger, author of *Being Sermon on the Mount Christians*, explains that those teachings were once "viewed as a mandate for the faithful." Post-Reformation, they became less law-like and more of a "liberating directive." Berger writes, "For Jesus, being and doing are inseparable. The Sermon is at once theory and praxis Jesus intends it to be how we live." -copied



Samuel Ray Burnham received the Sacrament of Baptism Sunday, April 7, at the 9 a.m. service.



We received the following note from Brother Bill Poole:

Thank you so much for the invitation to be one of the speakers for this year's Lenten services and luncheons. We appreciate Brother Lauren being such a welcoming and gracious host pastor.

Thank you to everyone involved in making the day so special for Carolyn and me. Your attendance was impressive and the fellowship was such an added blessing. As always, the food was superb!

May God continue to pour out His blessings upon all of you at First Methodist as you faithfully serve Him together.

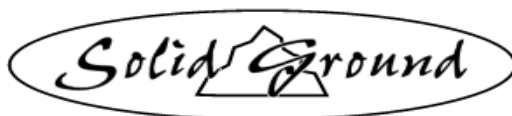
In His Service,
Willis Ray "Bill" Poole



This Sunday is our second lesson in the series *A Time for Concern*. In last week's lesson, God was with Elijah and comforted when he felt all alone. Elijah was afraid and feared for his life because of Queen Jezebel. This Sunday our lesson, "Learn from Others," introduces us to Elisha. God sent a friend and helper to Elijah.

W.O.W. Wednesday

Wednesday night Bible Study for Grades K-6th continues to meet at 5:30 p.m. The Bible Study will continue to be Bible-in-Crafts. We are currently studying about the story and life of Moses. We will soon complete the Book of Genesis and study a little from Exodus. Learning about all of God's faithful followers has been so fun and learning through arts and crafts has kept it hands on and interesting.



Youth Bible Study and Small Group

As Youth Bible study continues to meet on Sunday and Wednesday nights, we will continue our study concerning entertainment, music, and social media. We will be discussing the progression of the types of entertainment throughout the past decades and how we have been manipulated to accept, become numb to, or just ignore the fact that wrong is being presented as right. We will connect scripture to these facts and talk about how/what we can avoid being too pulled in.

M28 CAMP

Camp dates are Friday, July 5- Tuesday, July 9. The total cost is \$350. A payment of \$75 must be made by Sunday, April 17. Each participant must have paid a total of \$150 by Sunday, May 5. Final payment must be made by June 16.

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Greeters LaShone Robins/Pam & Hubert Hatfield
Scripture Matthew 28:16-20
Sermon “Jesus’ Legacy”

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

APRIL

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 14. 3rd Sunday of Easter | John 20:19-31 |
| 15. Justice, kindness, humility | Micah 6:6-8 |
| 16. Make disciples | Matthew 28:16-20 |
| 17. Amend your ways | Jeremiah 7:1-7 |
| 18. A chosen instrument | Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) |
| 19. Clothed with joy | Psalm 30 |
| 20. Worthy is the Lamb | Revelation 5:11-14 |