

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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Seizing holy opportunities



MATTHEW 8:35, NRSV

In *Holy Moments*, Matthew Kelly discusses the world's need for more small (but sometimes large) instances of people caring for others, cultivating joy, encouragement and love instead of anger, envy, fear. Kelly defines a Holy Moment as "a single moment in which you open yourself to God. ... You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment you do what you prayerfully believe God is telling you to do."

This may mean mowing the lawn for a neighbor with a broken leg, praising a child on his artwork, buying a surprise snack for someone having a bad day, working extra shifts for a coworker with cancer so she can receive her full salary while out sick, paying for the next car's drive-thru order. Anyone can create a Holy Moment, because you don't need special skills, position or wealth. "If you want to see miracles, make yourself available to God," Kelly suggests.

He adds that God has a track record of collaborating with "the most unlikely people to make amazing things happen, and now He wants to collaborate with you." When we're open to God's leading, holy opportunities abound. And *we* will experience as much joy as the ones to whom we show care.

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The Staff Parish Relations Committee has provided a survey in this Newsletter for all to complete as we search for a new pastor. Please review this and give them your feedback.

* Sunday, May 11, is Mother's Day. Each year we receive a special offering for the SUNDAY FUND, for Methodist Senior Services. Next week, there will be a brochure in the bulletin regarding this.

As we embark on the search for a new pastor, the Staff Parish Relations Committee is requesting the aid of all members. Below are a few qualities that the SPRC have considered important for our pastor to possess. We ask that you rank these 1-10, with 1 being the most important and 10 the least important, to you. If there is one that you believe we have left off, please write it in at the bottom of the page. Your input is valuable to us as we search for a new leader for our church. You can place this survey in the offering plate over the next two weeks or drop it by the church office no later than Sunday, May 11.

_____ Deep knowledge of the Scripture, including the critical interpretation (exegesis) of Biblical texts and their application to the world today.

_____ Strong background in Wesleyan theology and evangelical doctrine.

_____ Ability to deliver compelling, Spirit-led, theologically sound sermons and Bible based teaching classes.

_____ Empathy and effectiveness in pastoral care, including grief, marriage, and crisis support.

_____ Ability to nurture others in their faith and develop lay leadership within the church, making discipleship a core tenant.

_____ Ability to gracefully handle conflict situations within the church and community.

_____ Competence with online preaching, social media, and digital outreach.

_____ Collaboration with other churches, nonprofit organizations, and civic leaders in the local community.

_____ Ability to lead the church staff to allow them to use their many gifts for the ministry of the church. A key part of this will be the delegation of duties so that the pastor can focus more on growth of the church and sustainability of our ministry.

_____ Ability to focus on church growth with emphasis on youth, young members, and new families.



May



SUNDAY, MAY 4

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

TUESDAY, MAY 6

6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

SATURDAY, MAY 10

9-12 noon Methodist Market

6. Sarah Selby Goodman
7. William Wyatt III
8. Patrick Hendrix
10. Sharon Nichols

Pics From Senior Recognition Sunday



Foster Children Update



Forty five Easter baskets were delivered to Yazoo County foster children. Thank you to all who helped fill the baskets. Please continue to pray for your child throughout the

year.

In the coming months, we will be sending several children to Camp of the Rising Son. This is a Christian summer camp. We will also be helping to purchase "back to school" clothes and shoes. If you would like to help fund these projects, turn in your donation to the church office and indicate that it is for "foster children".

Thank you!





For the month of May, we will begin a new series, ***Getting Along***. Each week we will have a lesson about Jesus and the sacrifices that He made for us.

Being Honest - The Trick - This is the story of Jacob and Esau.

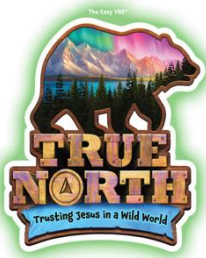
Forgiving Others - Jacob's Journal - This is the story of when Jacob wrestled with God.

Controlling Jealousy - Joseph is Sold by His Brothers - The early years of Joseph

Honoring God - Joseph's Journey - God's plan for Joseph

HISKIDZ/W.O.W. WEDNESDAY

Children's Bible Study has concluded for the time being. School is almost out, and summer is upon us. We will meet for a few activities during the summer months, so be on the lookout!!!

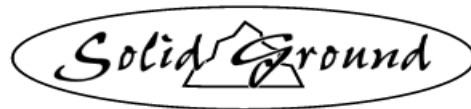


Vacation Bible School

VBS dates have been set for June 23-25 from 8:30am-11:30am.

Our theme this year:

True North-Trusting Jesus in a Wild World.



Youth Bible Study and Small Group

This Sunday will be our last scheduled meeting due to Summer's approach. We will have an End-of-School year gathering this Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Place TBA

M28 Camp –Date June 29 – July 2, 2025

The last 2 Camp payments are due May 4th and June 1st. Info will be sent to parents and participants. T-shirt sizes are also needed as the order date is May 15th.

Thank You!!!!

A special thank you to Pam Hatfield, Melissa Gooch, Brenda Paul, Mattie Burton, Sherrill Ann Chaney, Mallory Pender, and Claire Stevens for helping decorate, cook, and serve the Seniors and their families last Sunday. We are so excited for this next chapter in the lives of our Graduates as they prepare to take a big step out into the world. May God bless you all.

VOLUNTEERS
SUNDAY, May 4, 2025

Greeters	Angie & Archie Edgar/ Terrye Layne & Helen Tenhet
Scripture	John 20:24-31
Sermon	“Born of the Spirit”
Flowers	Kyle Family

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MAY

4. 3rd Sunday of Easter	John 20:19-31
5. Justice, kindness, humility	Micah 6:6-8
6. Make disciples	Matthew 28:16-20
7. Amend your ways	Jeremiah 7:1-7
8. A chosen instrument	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
9. Clothed with joy	Psalms 30
10. Worthy is the Lamb	Revelation 5:11-14