

# Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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## Exciting Next Steps

It's official! On August 1, 2023, we will launch the **Mississippi-West Tennessee Provisional Annual Conference** of the Global Methodist Church. The Transitional Leadership Council, the interim governing body of the general church, officially approved our conference proposal last week. And we will officially launch next week.



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Mississippi - West Tennessee

The Mississippi-West Tennessee Conference already has over 100 churches that have joined it and just as many, if not more, pastors. It includes large churches like Christ Church Memphis and Madison Methodist as well as small churches like Ellison and Hollandale. And more churches and pastors are applying to join every day!

Our area will run from the coast of Mississippi all the way up to the north of Tennessee, and from the Mississippi River all the way east to the Tennessee River and the Mississippi border. In essence, it will include all of Mississippi and the Memphis area of west Tennessee.

Our current leader of the Mississippi-West Tennessee Conference is **Rev. Tim Prather**, the pastor of Senatobia First Methodist. In the spirit of being less-bureaucratic and more local church-centered, Rev. Prather will continue to pastor at Senatobia First Methodist while leading our growing conference part-time as the President Pro Tempore.

Likewise, all of our presiding elders (the GMC-equivalent of a district superintendent) will serve part-time while continuing to pastor their local church. To that end, starting August 1<sup>st</sup>, I have been asked to serve as the **Presiding Elder for the Delta District** of our MS-WTN Conference. I will continue to serve full-time as your pastor here at First Methodist while also helping to coordinate the pastors and churches of our district.

So far, our **Delta District** includes the following churches: Avon Methodist, Benoit Methodist, Christ Methodist (Indianola), Ellison Methodist, Glen Allan Methodist, Hollandale Methodist, Indianola First Methodist, Inverness Methodist, St. John's Methodist (Greenwood), and our own Yazoo City First Methodist. And there are likely more who will be added soon.

Our current plan is to hold a **Convening Conference** in late January so that the churches who are disaffiliating in December will be able to join us. If it's like other Conference sessions that have recently met, it will be far less administrative business and far more worship, learning, and celebration.

The **Convening General Conference** will likely be in the late summer or early fall of 2024. Until then, all Annual Conferences are "Provisional" until the General Conference makes them permanent. Our general church Connectional Funding will also remain at 1% until after the convening General Conference, when its delegates will vote on the first general church budget.

In the meantime, the overall Global Methodist Church continues to grow. According to Keith Boyette, the transitional leader of the general church, we now have over **3,100 churches** and over **3,400 pastors** that have joined the Global Methodist Church. And again, more are joining every day! Our denomination is quickly growing!

I am excited about what God is doing in the Global Methodist Church, both here in Yazoo City and throughout the world. It is wonderful to see brothers and sisters in Christ who are committed to following Jesus, abiding by the Word of God, and being faithfully Methodist.

I hope you will join me in praying daily for our church and for our new Annual Conference, that God will lead us and guide us and bless us as we seek to faithfully follow Him.





**SUNDAY, JULY 30**

- 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

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5**

9-12 noon Methodist Market



- 30. Melissa Wyatt
  - Phil Williams
  - Jana Bardwell
  - Julie Trammell
  - Mills Paul
- 31. Gray Goodman
  - Daniel Newman
- 1. Walter Patterson
  - Hamp Wallace
- 2. Rich Knox
  - Jamie Byrd
  - Cathy Thompson
- 3. Garner Burton
- 4. Harry Simmons
  - Matt Matrick

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- 1. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Anderson
- 2. Mr. & Mrs. Jason Dees
- 3. Mr. & Mrs. Mike Phillips

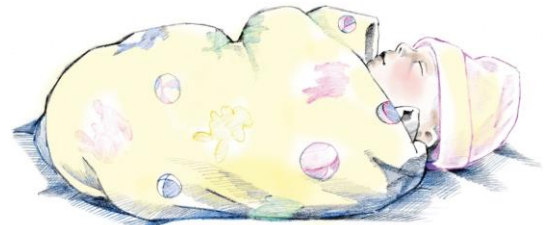
*Gifts & Memorials*

*Webb Hewlett*

Josephine Peterson

*Pat Webb*

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hodgson



*Newborns*

*Congratulations to Mailey Melton on the birth of her son, **William Crue Melton**, who was born July 20, 2023. Proud grandparents Susan and Billy Melton, and great-grandparents Brenda and Jim Oakes.*

**Instruments of Connection**

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them." --copied



## Hiskidz and Bible in Life

We have one more lesson in the series, **WHO IS GOD?** This Sunday the lesson is "Real or Phony." In our story this week we will be talking about the Pharisees and how they often lived their lives trying to follow the laws, but they were not always sincere in how they lived. They often pretended to be rule followers to appear better than others.

### HISKIDZ

**Summer is coming to an end and school will soon be starting. We are planning an End of Summer Activity that will be happening soon.**



### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

On Sunday, August 13, we will have our annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" to start off a new school year. During this time, we offer up a prayer over all our students and school faculty as they begin another school year.

### Youth Sunday School

Our series for the month of July is **WHO IS GOD.** This week our lesson is entitled "Our Great Helper." When Jesus left this earth, God provided the Holy Spirit to take His place. The Holy Spirit is a confirmation that God will fulfill all His promises. The Spirit is a daily reminder of God's grace in your life.

### Youth Bible Study and Small Group

Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group will be kicking off soon. We are planning for our first meeting to be on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Summer Activity

I am working on planning a few Youth Fellowships before school starts back up, so be watching for that info.

### *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. The cost is \$125, and half of the cost (\$75) will be required as a deposit to hold your spot. Sign-up will begin soon. Payment will be due in full by the first week in October.

## Sunday, July 30, 2023

Greeters	Debra Batton/Brenda & Denny Paul
Scripture	Joshua 6:12-21
Sermon	<b>“And The Walls Came Tumbling Down”</b>
Flowers	Dixie & Jim Roberts

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### JULY

**30. 9th Sunday after Pentcost**

31. Trusting God's providence

**John 6:1-21**

Exodus 16:1-6

### AUGUST

1. Enough for the journey

2. Feeding on God's word

3. The aftermath of sin

4. I know my transgressions

5. Gifted for ministry

Exodus 16:31-35

Matthew 4:1-14

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Psalms 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-16