



Jennings United Methodist *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JENNINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | JULY 2020

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Every ten years we go through this same scenario for our government. It may be slightly

different, but it is still about counting people for the purpose of taxes. However, it is not just about taxes. It is also about local communities receiving benefits from the government. That may be the difference between NOW and THEN.

Our national government collects taxes from us (the citizens) for the purpose of providing for the needs of all of us...Provisions such as infrastructure (roads and bridges), business and commerce, health and welfare, and education just to name a few benefits. Government also provides protection thru military and other forms of policing.

It is important to have a sense of belonging and that is another side of the census. The census brings us back to our roots. Every family on earth has a home place. It may be where you live today or it may be somewhere else.

August Sermons

August 2nd
Romans 9:-5
The Truth

August 9th
Romans 10:5-15
Do You Confess Your Belief?

August 16th
Romans 11:1-10
We Are IN This Together

August 23rd
Romans 12:1-8
Are You Presentable?

August 30th
Romans 12:9-21
Give LOVE a Chance

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

When Shirley and I were married 50 years ago I stilled called Ponchatoula home. That is where my parents were raised as was I. No matter where Shirley and I moved to my home was Ponchatoula. If you were to ask Shirley, she was from Metairie by way of Bay Minette, Alabama. That was where her grandmother lived.

Our grandparents and parents are all gone on to eternal life and we don't seem to be connected to any one place anymore. While we still have strong ties to the cities of our birth we are now from the place where we live. We have called Jennings home for the past 9 years. In 2010 we were counted in the Webster Parish Census. This year we have been counted in the Jefferson Davis Parish Census. We don't have to travel to be counted but we still need to be a part of the count. It does make a difference when it comes to federal funding of local government programs.

August 2020 is an important time for our communities. I encourage everyone to stand up and be counted because it is a way to help our community continue to receive funding for local benefits.

August is also "Back to School" month and this year will be a challenging one. This is a time to for our community to do everything we can for the good of our children. I am asking for volunteers to be ready to assist the children of our church have a safe place to study and take classes on line while their parents teach. I am working on the details and so I am asking for your help. You can contact the church office for more information or you can call me directly.

My prayer is that even during this time of uncertainty we make time for our spiritual well-being and that each of you will continue to be a witness to others as we care for and nurture one another in every way possible. In the words of John Wesley, "Do all the good that you can" in every way that you can and live for Christ through the touch of the Holy Spirit.

Blessing and peace.

See you in church this Sunday,
Walter
Your pastor and friend

*You Are
Cordially Invited...*



*Please contact the church
office if you have any questions
(337) - 824 - 4079.*

Youth Group News

August is here!! Where did the summer go? This summer was not like most of summer's that we have had in youth ministry by far! Most youth have camps, youth trips, and family vacations. However, this summer we did not have a youth trip, most of us did not have camps to attend and some of us did not even go anywhere on a family vacation due to the COVID pandemic! But during it all God is present with us molding us and giving us ideas of how to do ministry amidst of all these uncertain circumstances! God is good no matter what life throws our way we must look for the good in ourselves and others.

Last month our youth got together and painted the kitchen in the fellowship hall. It might have not been like any other trip we have attended in the past years, but our youth did mission for our own church! That was something to praise! Our youth worked hard and played hard for a couple of days. Now they are preparing to go back to school with a whole set of new rules! I don't think anyone will get use to this new "Norm" but we have to make the best of it. We have to trust that God has His hands on all of this, and it will work out for the good of everyone! So please keep our youth, children, and our teachers in your prayers as they start this new school year!

My life has taken a different outlook in the last month as well. My mother was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver and has become extremely ill. I have had to take her into my home and become a caregiver to my mom. I am saying this to let you all know that my role as youth leader may become extremely hard at times, and I ask for your patience and prayers during this time! I have decided to do Zoom Bible studies for the month of August starting on August 9th from 3pm-4pm. I am hoping to start back in person in September. However, for those who would like to meet in person, Sarah has offered to help. So please reach out to me and let me know what would work best for your youth and your family or how/what your youth wishes to participate in. I must be careful due to my mother's illness. I miss my youth and love them all, so please know that each and every one of them are in my thoughts and prayers!

Thank you always for your support and blessings for our youth ministry program!

Thank you for all the prayers and concerns during this time! I love my church family more than I can say!!

God Bless,

Crystal

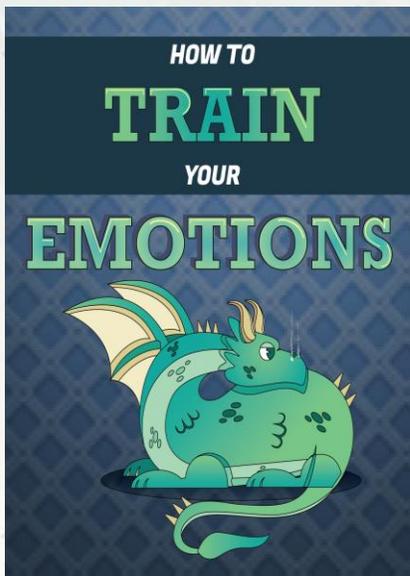
Children's Ministry Updates

It is August, and as a parent, I can honestly say I have no idea how to best prepare for what this school year will bring for our children. There are so many unknowns, questions, and concerns! For our JUMC parents, know that you are prayed for as you navigate these uncharted waters. For our JUMC family who do not have school age children of your own at home, I would encourage you now more than ever to surround our families with prayer and support. This will be a different, and sometimes difficult year.

Our Sunday school class will begin a new unit called "How to Train Your Emotions". We cannot wait to get started with our new sessions! Be sure to check out the website to catch up on the Sunday school lesson skits and object lesson videos. They are traded out weekly. Speaking of the videos, if any youth and/or children (or adults) are interested in participating in recording our unit skits, please let me know. They are truly improv skits, and trust me when I say, you may even be blessed by participating in making the videos!

Weekly Sunday school session materials will continue to be delivered to our families. Be sure to check out the information for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks in the announcements section. If any youth/children cannot attend our worship service that week, please contact Mrs. Crystal, Mrs. Sarah, or Brother Walter so that we can get your tag(s) to you. May God truly bless the beginnings of your 2020-2021 school year!

See you Sunday!
Mrs. Sarah



UNIT MEMORY VERSE:

"I will be glad and full of joy because of you. Most High God, I will sing the praises of your name."
Psalm 9:2 (NIRV)

How to Train Your Emotion Lessons

Lesson 1: Anger

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7, Water From the Rock

The people of God were in the desert with no water to drink. Because they were thirsty, they were angry at Moses, and they were angry at God. Even in their anger, God loved his people and provided water in a miraculous way.

Objective: "When I'm angry, I will remember God's mercy for me and others."

Lesson 2: Fear

Scripture: Luke 8:22-25, Jesus Calms the Storm

When the storm hit, Jesus' disciples let their fear overpower them. Then Jesus showed them that he is in control, and he stopped the storm. In times when we are afraid, we can tame our fear by turning to Jesus and remembering that he is in control.

Objective: "When I'm afraid, I will remember God is in control."

Lesson 3: Sadness

Scripture: John 11:17-44, Jesus Raises Lazarus

When Lazarus died, his sisters and all of his friends were very sad. When Jesus came to see them, he shared in their sadness. Jesus showed us that it is not wrong to feel sad, as even he wept in this story. But Jesus showed that you can be sad and still have peace if your hope is in God. He turned their sadness to joy, when he raised Lazarus back from the dead. In times of sadness, Jesus is with us, and he can give us peace and turn our sadness into joy.

Objective: "When I'm sad, I will remember God's love."

Lesson 4: Joy

Scripture: Acts 16:22-34, Paul and Silas in Prison

Paul and Silas were thrown into prison for telling people about Jesus. Most prisoners probably would have been filled with anger, sadness or fear. But Paul and Silas were filled with joy – singing songs of praise and praying to God. Even in the most terrible of times, if our focus and hope is on Jesus, we can have joy and peace.

Objective: "When I focus on God, I have joy."

August Spotlight Song

“What was the name of that hymn?” “I have never heard of that before!” “How do you even sing that?!” “That is such a familiar tune, but I have never sung it with those words.” These are all statements we have heard or have even expressed before! But new does not have to be deemed not good enough for worship.

As our ministry works together to create meaningful worship experiences for our church, music selection becomes a very integral component of this planning process. This month, I wanted to share the words to a hymn we recently sang and offer you a small background on the meaning behind the hymn-writer’s words. I am also including the Methodist website where I found the history of this song. I would encourage you to take a look at it sometime. I don’t know about you, but I can connect better with the hymns and songs in worship if I understand the meaning behind them.

One more word of encouragement as I close, when you have an opportunity to lift your voice in praise to the Lord, do it whole-heartedly. Connect the Word to the words. Allow music to be another way to connect to God and praise Him for He is good and His mercy endures forever!

“Children of the Heavenly Father” was written by the “Fanny Crosby of Sweden”, Caroline “Lina” V. Sandell-Berg. The article said that it is possible Lina Sandell-Berg wrote this hymn when she was as young as 17 years old. Here is an excerpt of the meaning behind her lyrics: “...And it is the “security of God’s children” that serves as the central theme around which this text is built. The bosom of the “heavenly Father” serves as a “refuge” where children are nourished and protected from evil by the “mighty arms” of God. The last two stanzas build on this theme of protection by boldly confessing that nothing can separate children from their God (Rom. 8:38-39), a God who will never forsake God’s children (Deut. 31:6).”

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-children-of-the-heavenly-father-bjorlin>

God Bless,
Sarah

“Children of the Heavenly Father”
By Caroline “Lina” V. Sandell-Berg

1. Children of the heavenly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e’er was given.
2. God his own doth tend and nourish;
in his holy courts they flourish;
from all evil things he spares them;
in his mighty arms he bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.
4. Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne’er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

AUGUST WORSHIP MUSIC:

AUGUST 2ND

Opening Hymn: “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

Anthem: “Standing on the Promises”

Communion Song: “Come to the Table”

Closing Song: “Above All”

AUGUST 9TH

Opening Hymn: “I Love to Tell the Story”

Anthem: “Because We Believe”

Closing Song: “We Believe”

AUGUST 16TH

Opening Hymn: “Jesus Shall Reign”

Anthem: “Orphans of God”

Closing Song: “Wonderful, Merciful, Savior”

AUGUST 23RD

Opening Hymn: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Anthem: “Sanctuary”

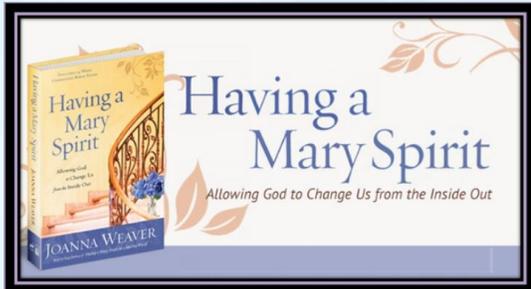
Closing Song: “I Am Yours”

AUGUST 30TH

Opening Hymn: “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

Anthem: “The Reconciliation Song”

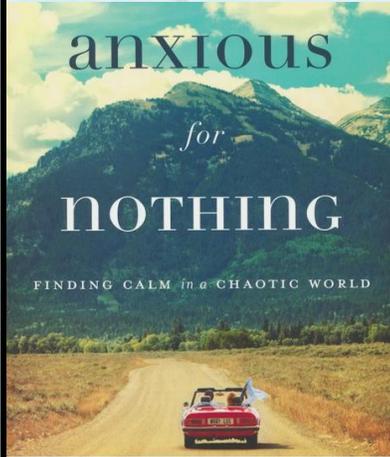
Closing Song: “Make Us One”



LADIES' SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE: The ladies' Sunday school class has resumed face to face meetings. Face masks are encouraged, especially when passing one another in tight spaces such as the hallway. All ladies are invited to join the new study series. Each week, Zoom links are made available for any ladies who are unable to join the group in person.

In Having a Mary Spirit, Joanna Weaver, author of the bestseller Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, directs your gaze past your own shortcomings to the God who stands ready, willing, and able to make a new woman out of you. She equips you with biblical insights and practical tools to partner with Christ, inviting him into the hidden places of your soul and giving him full permission to redeem and renovate. Drawing on the stories of biblical Marys and others whose experience with God transformed their lives, Weaver shows how you can find the hope, healing, wholeness, and joy your heart longs for.

We have 8 more sessions in this study series. On September 27, we will begin a Max Lucado study entitled Anxious for Nothing. See the description to the right and let Crystal or Sarah know if you would like to participate in this series so that we can order your books.



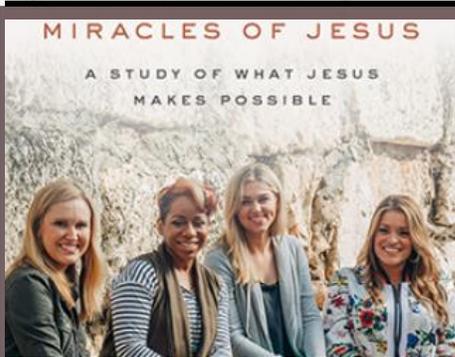
NEW LADIES' SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES: On September 27, the ladies' Sunday school class will begin a new 5-week study series by Max Lucado titled Anxious for Nothing. Read the publisher's description below. In this five-session video Bible study, bestselling author Max Lucado explores God's treatment plan for anxiety found in the most underlined verse in the Bible, Philippians 4:6-7:

Be anxious for nothing, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

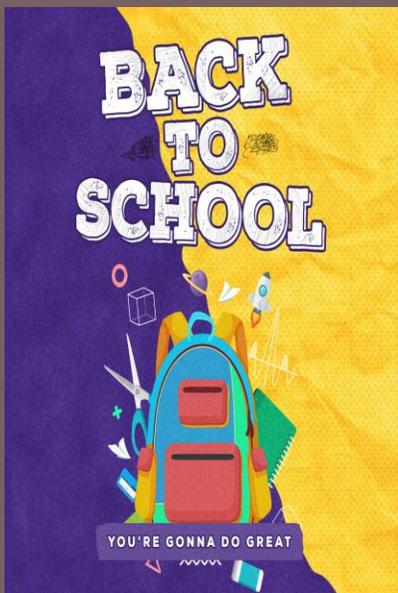
As you follow the Biblical prescription – celebrating God's goodness, asking for his help, leaving your concerns with him, and meditating on good things – you will experience God's peace. This is a peace that "transcends all understanding" and will help you reframe the way you look at your fears.

With the heart of a pastor and his poetic storytelling and homespun humor, Max will help you:

- Let God help you win the war on worry and receive the lasting peace of Christ.
- Recognize the difference between present anxiety and persistent anxiety.
- Find true freedom and experience more joy, clarity, physical renewal, and contentment by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Train yourself to rejoice in all circumstances.
- Discover the secret of remaining calm when you feel you have more than you can handle.
- Know how to encourage a friend and help them navigate anxiety and fear with real help from God's Word.

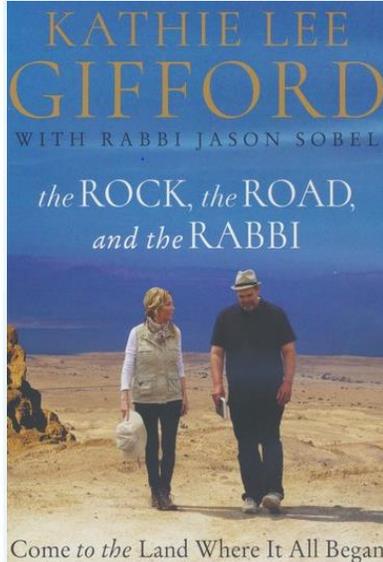


LADIES' BIBLE STUDY UPDATE: Our small group ladies' Bible study meets on Wednesdays at 3:00 in the ladies' Sunday School room. We have three sessions left in our current study titled The Miracles of Jesus: A Study of What Jesus Makes Possible.



Join us for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. On Sunday, August 9th during our 10:30 worship service, we will have a time of prayer for our children, youth, and school personnel. 2020-2021 will be a year of different: different rules, different schedules, different protocols, different ways of learning...and having our church offer prayers over the year will truly bless everyone!

Following worship, we will have hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch. You are invited to sit as family units in the fellowship hall or can take your lunch to go. For our church family members who cannot get out: If you would like a hot dog or burger delivered to you and you live locally, please call the church office this week to reserve a lunch.



NEW LADIES' BIBLE STUDY begins August 26th. Let us know if you would like to participate in this study as soon as possible so that we can order your books.

Kathie Lee Gifford always believed the Bible held the answers to every question a person could ask. Her problem was, how could she be sure of what the Bible was really saying, when we are so separated from the ancient Jewish culture in which it was written?

As a lifelong student of Scripture, Kathie Lee Gifford has always desired a deeper understanding of God's Word and a deeper knowledge of God Himself. But it wasn't until she began studying the biblical texts in their original Hebrew and Greek—along with actually hiking the ancient paths of Israel—that she found the fulfillment of those desires.

In this six-session video study, Kathie Lee invites you to join her as she visits sites in Israel that have impacted her life. As she shares her story, Rabbi Jason Sobel, a messianic Jewish rabbi who was trained in the ancient rabbinical way, provides fascinating background details into the language, culture and heritage that make the story of the New Testament come alive. Kathie Lee and Rabbi Sobel will take you and your group beyond the typical "Sunday school" teaching to

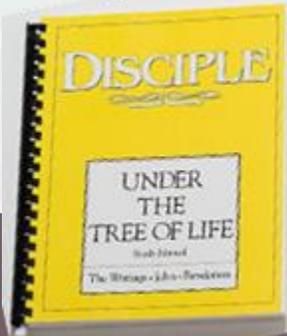
Now you can walk with Kathie on a journey through the spiritual foundations of her faith:

- **The Rock (Jesus Christ):** Hear directly from Kathie about her life-changing and ever-deepening connection with Jesus, the Lover of her soul.
- **The Road (Israel):** Explore dozens of ancient landmarks and historical sites from Israel, the promised land of God's covenant.
- **The Rabbi (God's Word):** Go beyond a Sunday-school approach to the Bible by digging into the original languages and deeper meanings of the Holy Scriptures.

Come! Explore the land of Israel and mine the treasures of God's Word. There is so much more!

Sessions include:

- **Bethlehem:** Where It All Began
- **Nazareth:** The Early Years
- **Capernaum:** Ministry Headquarters
- **Galilee:** Ministry Grounds
- **Mount of Olives:** The Triumphal Entry
- **Jerusalem:** Crucifixion and Resurrection



DISCIPLE IV: UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE is prepared for those who have completed DISCIPLE I: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY. This study concentrates on the Writings (Old Testament books not in the Torah or the Prophets), the Gospel of John, and Revelation. Emphasis on the Psalms as Israel's hymnbook and prayer book leads natural to an emphasis on worship in the study. Present throughout the entire study is the sense of living toward completion—toward the climax of the message and the promise, extravagantly pictured in the Revelation.

If you would like to participate in this new small group study, please contact the church office to reserve your place. The group size is limited. The study will be led by Diane McGregor on Monday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m. each week. The first session will be on Monday, September 7.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

August 4th: Craig Crochet
Isaac Crochet
Jacqueline Crochet

August 6th: Alison Benoit

August 9th: Joshua Crochet

August 12th: Emmie Goodreau
Grayson Goodreau

August 15th: Richard McGregor

August 16th: Ray Boudoin

August 17th: Betty Jo McCourt

August 22nd: Hadleigh Romero

August 25th: Elizabeth Mack
Carol Mack

August 26th: Robert Lockhart