

JANUARY 2021

JENNINGS UMC METHODIST MESSENGER



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It's A Whole New Year!

Christmas is over and those who decorated are beginning the process of repacking everything and preparing for 2021. Celebrations with family and friends were different in 2020 and as we look forward to the New Year, we pray for things to get better.

New Years is more than at time of resolutions. It is a time of renewing one's covenant as a disciple of Jesus Christ. On December 31 we did just that. We celebrated a special covenant service of worship and renewed our commitment to serve God. This is an annual event that is important for all disciples of Jesus Christ to participate in and recommit themselves to serving God.

On January 3 we will celebrate Epiphany, the coming of the Magi bearing gifts for Jesus. Maybe this is a day to look within our own hearts and wonder about the gifts we bring to Christ. Our gifts are not about money but rather about the care and love that we can spread to those around us and how we live out our faithfulness. Our gifts are many.

On January 10 we will celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday with an opportunity to renew our faith once again and receive a special blessing. When we renew our Baptism, we commit to putting Christ first and living a life based on his teachings. Both the Covenant Renewal Service and the Baptism Renewal service are two of the most important worship events in our spiritual journey.

In the Wesleyan Covenant Service, there is this prayer. It is a serious prayer and should only be prayed if you really intend to ratify it in your heart and in your life. I am asking you to place this prayer in a place where you will see it daily and contemplate on the meaning as you pray every day. Do this from now until Easter and you will have a deeper faith and relationship with God.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTD.



Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

With the New Year come some continued challenges and a hope for a better year. We still need to be aware of the spread of viruses and take care of ourselves and others in the process. Wear a mask or face covering in stores and in crowds and wash your hands often. Remember you are protecting other as well as yourself.

My prayer is that you will join us in worship each Sunday either in person or on ZOOM and that you will continue to support the ministries and mission of Jennings United Methodist Church by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and your witness. Hope to see you Sunday.

May God bless your home and may all that God has placed in your care receive His blessing.

See you in Sunday School and worship this Sunday.
Your pastor and friend,
Walter



January Worship

Jan 3rd Epiphany Sunday–

Matthew 2:1-12~Arise, Shine...

Scripture Reader: Craig Crochet

Prelude: "Offering"

Hymn: "We Three Kings"

Anthem: Tell of His Wonder Medley

Communion Song: "Jesus at the Center"

Praise Song: "Adore Him"

Jan 10th Baptism of the Lord Sunday–

Mark 1:4-11~Get In

Scripture Reader: Michelle Sawyer

Prelude: "Take Me to the River"

Hymn: "Shall We Gather at the River"

Anthem: "At the Riverside"

Praise Song: "What a Beautiful Name"

Jan 17th Second Sunday after Epiphany –

John 1:43-51~Come and See

Scripture Reader: Hazel Hoffpauir

Prelude: "Come As You Are"

Hymn: "I Am Thine, O Lord"

Anthem: "Just As I Am (I Come Broken)"

Praise Song: "He Leadeth Me"

Jan 24th Third Sunday after Epiphany –

Mark 1:14-20~What Shall I Do?

Scripture Reader:

Prelude: "Keep Making Me"

Hymn: "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

Anthem: You Are God Medley

Praise Song: "I Will Follow"

Jan 31st Fourth after Epiphany –

Mark 1:21-28~Tremble and Listen

Scripture Reader:

Prelude: "In the Garden" with

"There Is None Like You"

Hymn: "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Anthem: "Mighty to Save" with "Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Praise Song: "Awesome God"

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Well, here we are 2021! Our youth have endured quite an unusual year with canceled summer trips, cancelled retreats, basically their whole summer and fall season has been a series of ups and downs. Our high school students have finally begun back this week to a normal routine as normal as it will get at this time. My prayer as they begin this new journey that they will see the good in all of this and not the negative. We as a church need to see the positive in the world we live, and we need to pass that positivity on to our youth and children. As we begin youth group again this Sunday, we are starting a new bible study series "The Comeback". We will continue to meet for youth on Sunday afternoons from 3:00pm-4:30pm. I would like to invite all youth and children to get involved with Sunday School also. We have a combined class that I am leading and its good for our older youth to be involved with our younger ones also! I also encourage any adult to get involved in a Sunday school class!



We have cookie dough available to purchase this is one of our fundraisers for our Summer Trip! Its \$15 a tub we have all flavors to choose from Choc Chunk, Snickerdoodle, Triple Chocolate, Oatmeal Raisin, Peanut Butter, White Chocolate Oatmeal Cranberry, Caramel Pecan, White Chocolate Macadamia. We are looking forward to our Steak Dinner Supper in February.

Prayers for all my youth and their families in the upcoming new year!

God Bless,
Crystal

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

Well, we find ourselves at the start of a new year following such an unpredictable year of firsts and unknowns for nearly all of us. We have tried to learn how to do all aspects of ministry in new, and quite frankly, sometimes difficult and/or uncomfortable ways. We have had to adapt to many changes and safety parameters...we have had to cancel events and programs and services and have experienced some disappointing times. We have even "been freed from jail", as one of our youth shared following a period of quarantine.

We have indeed faced trials and heartbreaks and disappointments in 2020, but in the same year of crazy unknowns and firsts, we have also grown. We have grown as people of God. And, as people of God, what are you going to do in your 2021? Below are the upcoming lessons in Sunday school for our children and youth. I personally think that the New Year's Resolution lesson offers us all a great thought to begin 2021: "How can I make life better for other people?" So JUMC, children, youth, and adults, how will you show love to others with your actions so they can see Jesus in us?

Be sure to also check out the Emotions series coming up in the month of January.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION LESSON

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37, The Good Samaritan

Objective: Kids will make a resolution to do one thing – just one – to help other people this year.

Synopsis: People think of themselves when New Year's Day arrives and ask, "What can I do to make myself better?" This year, why not ask, "How can I make life better for other people?" God wants us to love others with our actions so they can see Jesus in us.

Memory Verse: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." - 1 John 4:7 (NIV)



EMOTIONS SERIES OUTLINE

Loving God From The Inside Out

We think of some emotions as good and others as bad. But God made every part of us, and no matter how we are feeling, we can turn to Him.

Lessons:

Anger – James 1:19-27, Listening And Doing

We all get upset and angry sometimes, but kids will learn that we need to be slow to anger so our emotions don't get out of control.

Fear – Mark 4:35-41, Jesus Calms The Storm

Most of the time we'll do whatever we can not to feel fear, but kids will learn that when we are afraid we can tell God what's scaring us and he will comfort us.

Disgust – Luke 17:11-19, Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

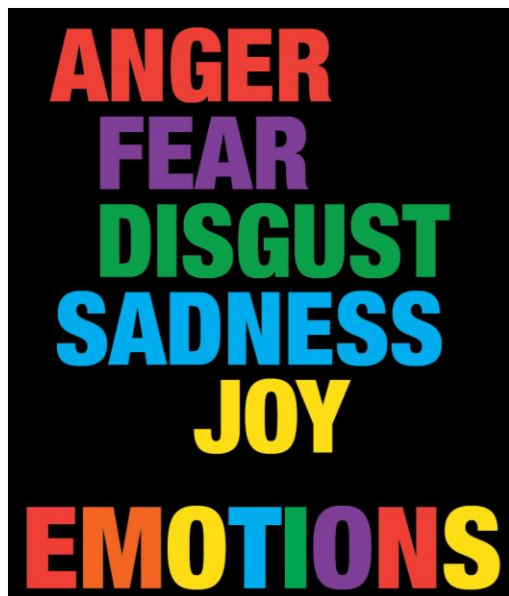
When we see things we don't like or understand we may feel disgust, but kids will learn that Jesus loves everyone – even those others find disgusting.

Sadness – John 11:17-44, Jesus Raises Lazarus From The Dead

No one likes to feel sad, but kids will learn that sadness can lead us to seek out Jesus, which is the best place we could ever go.

Joy – Luke 19:1-9 Zacchaeus meets Jesus and finds JOY

Joy is the emotion that makes us feel the best, and kids will learn that when we walk with Jesus he will transform our anger, sadness, disgust and fear into a celebration of JOY.



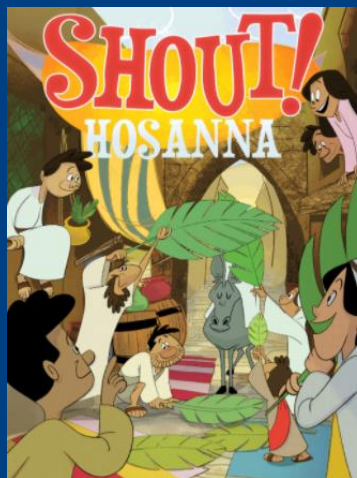
Memory Verse:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." - Deuteronomy 6:5

Music Ministry Updates...

As we move into Epiphany and the weeks following Epiphany, I hesitantly began to pull out the Easter program and cantata we had begun to prepare in 2020. In the midst of those preparations, life as we knew it came to a screeching halt. Yet, we are still called to praise our Lord. I have books and CDs already prepared for the choir members and narrator(s) for the Easter cantata. I have books and CDs already prepared for our children and youth Easter program. Please let me know if you are interested in being a part of either of these two wonderful opportunities. For me, music, even its most modified formats, carried me through 2020. I don't know about you, but I plan to enter 2021 praising the Lord the same way I praised Him in 2020...with SONG!

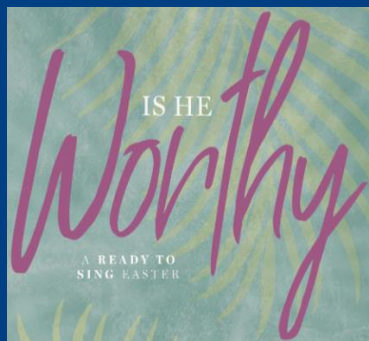
In Christ,
Sarah



Three unsuspecting friends find themselves in the middle of an Easter Flash Mob! But when they start asking what the celebration is all about, they soon discover the Easter story is much more meaningful than they could ever imagine.

Shout! Hosanna is the brand-new Easter musical from Jeff and Dana Anderson focusing on the whole Easter story, from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection! Discover a deeper understanding of the need for salvation, and encounter the beauty of worshiping Jesus with timeless worship songs like Hosanna (Praise Is Rising), Is He Worthy?, and Shout Hosanna.

Easter is a season of remembrance, reflection, and rejoicing. We ponder the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we praise God for the miracle of the resurrection, and we prepare our hearts for His promised return. We will celebrate everything Easter embodies with Is He Worthy, including timeless arrangements by Russell Mauldin and poignant narration from Sue C. Smith. With a blend of traditional hymns, classic songs, and a special moment retelling the crucifixion story called "Journey to the Cross," the choir will boldly proclaim Jesus is worthy of all blessing, honor, and glory.



- ❖ Join a Sunday school class
- ❖ Join a small group study
- ❖ Tune in to Brother Walter's weekly Zoom devotional and time of prayer on Wednesdays
- ❖ Serve as a Lay Reader – volunteer to read the Scripture on a rotating basis
- ❖ Present the Children's Message – volunteer to deliver a children's message on a rotating basis
- ❖ Volunteer to be an adult volunteer Sunday school
- ❖ Volunteer to be a part of the Easter cantata
- ❖ Be a part of feeding disaster relief work teams in the Lake Charles area

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

January 7th – Kaitlyn Sawyer
January 9th – Kate Cooper
January 10th – Brent Sawyer
January 11th – James Wilson
January 14th – Jade Conner
January 15th – Rory Myers
January 16th – James Benoit





Ring in 2021 with JUMC small group opportunities

LADIES' SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

New Ladies' Bible Study Coming Dec 29th

Why should I have to be the one who forgives when I'm the one who has already suffered the most? We know God commands us to forgive. But how, when the hurt plays over and over in our mind? And why, when we have already suffered so much? And, are there exceptions, such as when the other person keeps inflicting pain?

Lysa TerKeurst has walked this journey, carrying so many wounds that felt unforgivable, that she at first refused to write these lessons! But after more than 1,000 hours of theological study, Lysa has discovered that Scripture not only offers the truth about forgiveness that our souls desperately need, but practical ways to let go of our bound-up resentment and finally heal. Lysa says about these sessions, "If you were to ask me, of all the Bible lessons I've taught, which are my favorites? These would be it."

Sessions include:

- What Am I Supposed to Do with All the Hurt?
- Your Mind, Your Mouth, Your Master
- The Divine Echo
- There's Always a Meanwhile
- The Compounding Effect of Unforgiveness
- This Isn't Easy, But It Is Good



Need a good laugh? Come join us on **Tuesday, January 26th at 7pm** for a night of some much-needed laughter and fun, Christian fellowship. The original show date was rescheduled to this month. We will stream our show from fellowship hall. Bring a comfy lawn chair, some popcorn, hot chocolate, and an appetite for some great Christian comedy. I guarantee you will not be disappointed. However, I cannot promise that your abdominal muscles won't ache the next day! Contact Crystal or Sarah if you have any questions.

New Ladies' Sunday School Study Coming January 3rd

Find the good news that brings hope and spiritual renewal.

We live in a world full of bad news. The media recounts stories of natural disasters, violence, and conflict. In the midst of all this heartbreak, we can't lose sight of the fact that God has given us good news. We call it the gospel. It reminds us that God loves us and longs to redeem our suffering. He stepped out of eternity and into time to send us His one and only Son. The gospel truths shared with the early church at Rome echo into our day, reminding us that we still have good news to embrace personally and to share with others. In this six-week study of the Book of Romans, we will be highlighting significant concepts regarding the good news about faith, grace, daily life, God's plan, relationships, and eternity. Whatever bad news we may receive, in Romans we will find good news to encourage and transform us.

Sessions include:

- Introductory Video (14:20)
- Good News About Faith (25:43)
- Good News About Hope (25:39)
- Good News About Daily Life (28:02)
- Good News About God's Plan (26:10)
- Good News About Relationships (23:43)
- Good News About Eternity (23:23)

