

Methodist Messenger

February 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

DISTRACTIONS!

It's easy.
It's easy to check out the news.
It's easy to get on social media and see what's up.
It's easy to plug into the gossip and the next conspiracy.

These distractions give us a false sense of satisfaction because now we know and we get to have opinions. Then we struggle with our own opinions and the opinions of others. And then we become distracted by those with different opinions.

These distractions also keep you from your purpose.
The addiction to distraction has replaced the desire for Holy satisfaction.

What is Holy satisfaction? To know the creator and to become the person you were created to become.

Ask yourself this question: **Would many of the challenges of the world be solved if enough of us woke up every day with two simple goals:**

1. Invest time today learning, growing, and developing myself into the person I was meant to be.
2. Serving and solving problems for the people who I encounter during the day.

Don't be distracted. Listen, walk, and talk to God every morning, noon, and night.
Stick to the simple goals each day.
Choose to Win!

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.
And remember to pray daily.*

*God Bless
Walter L Parker, Your Pastor*

Feb 7th 5th Sunday After The Epiphany—
Mark 1:29-39~House to House
Scripture Reader: Randy Daigle
Prelude: "O Lord, You're Beautiful"
Hymn: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
Anthem: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"
Communion Song: "Jesus, Lover of My
Soul (It's All about You Jesus)"
Praise Song: "God, You're So Good"

Feb 14th Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday—
Mark 9:2-9~WOW! Did You See That?
Scripture Reader: Kim Precht
Prelude: "Open Our Eyes"
Hymn: "I Stand Amazed in the Presence"
Anthem: He Is Holy Medley
Praise Song: "King of Kings"

Feb 21st First Sunday of Lent —
Psalm 32:1-11~Nothing to Hide
Scripture Reader:
Prelude: "Secret Place"
Hymn: "Near to the Heart of God"
Anthem: "Sanctuary"
Praise Song: "Boldly I Approach
(The Art of Celebration)"

Feb 28th Second Sunday of Lent —
Psalm 121:1-8~Looking Up
Scripture Reader: Ryleigh Crochet
Prelude: "One Thing Remains"
Hymn: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"
Anthem: Christ the Rock Medley
Praise Song: "Way Maker"

JUMC Youth Updates...

Youth ministry has been particularly challenging since last spring to say the least. We are trying to adapt to this "New Norm" which has been very different to what we are used to but we are managing to be supportive of one another during this time. We all need each other especially the youth and children. My heart was broken when I heard of the stabbing in Lake Charles by such young youth, question I asked myself was how did they get in that place and how can I pray for our youth that I have no control over. Well then, I realized I am not in control he is "God" is in control of everything in our lives, but he calls us as adults to be role models to these youth and children that are looking at us, watching us, and if we are angry and not compassionate with others then they think its ok for them to act that way. I believe we need to teach our children what it is to be compassionate and kind even if things are not going our way. This is the only way we will break the cycle of violence among our youth and children. I ask that you be in prayer with me for our youth and children! We need to live our lives more as Jesus did! Looking for the good in everyone!

Brother Walter will begin Confirmation classes on Sunday, February 7th at 2pm. Our plan is to confirm our youth that we could not last year due to pandemic.

May God bless you and your families,
Crystal

JUMC Annual Youth Valentine's Steak Dinner Fundraiser

Valentine's Steak Dinner Fundraiser
Friday, February 12th from 6pm-8pm
Carry Out or Dine-in Available
\$25 Donation per plate – Tickets
Available!

Jennings United Methodist Church
702 Cary Avenue, Jennings, LA
For more info call: (337)824-4079

Menu:

*4oz Filet Mignon
Roasted potatoes
Lima beans with duck bacon
Garlic knots*

Dessert:

Strawberry Champagne Cream Puffs

*Catered by:
Matthew
&
Alison
Whitney*

JUMC Children's Ministry Updates

What's New in Sunday School...

February 21st, 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th: THE LORD'S PRAYER SERIES

Learning to Pray Jesus' Way

Just like the disciples back in the Bible, we can be confused about how to pray. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer. This beautiful prayer is a blueprint for us to remember God's perfection, God's plan, God's goodness, and our weakness when we talk with God.

Lessons:

1-How You Should Pray – Scripture: Matthew 6:5-15, Prayer

Prayer was an important part of Jesus' life on earth, and it should be an important part of our lives. Just like you talk to your friends or family every day, prayer is simply how we talk to God. Jesus showed his disciples –and us– how we should pray and how important prayer is.

2-Our Father – Scripture: Matthew 6:9 & Isaiah 6:1-8, Isaiah's Commission

God is great and holy – Isaiah got to see that firsthand with God on a glorious throne surrounded by angels. God is so holy and awesome and the fact that He would even allow us to pray to Him is amazing. But that same God who is the most awesome and powerful being in the universe, not only allows us to talk to Him, but also to call Him "Father", because He loves us.

3-Your Kingdom Come – Scripture: Matthew 6:10 & Matthew 26:36-46, In the Garden of Gethsemane

In the last hours before His death, we see Jesus' sadness as He prays in the garden. Despite His own desires, Jesus ultimately prays for the Father's will to be done. In our own prayers, we should seek to know and follow God's way with our life.

4-Our Daily Bread – Scripture: Matthew 6:11 & 1 Kings 17:7-16, Elijah and the Widow

Sometimes our situations seem hopeless—like in the story of Elijah and the widow—but God can work miracles to supply our needs. We should pray about our daily needs—food, clothes, health, etc. - to remind ourselves that all of these blessings come from God.

5-Forgive – Scripture: Matthew 6:12 & Matthew 18:21-35, The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

God's forgiveness is available to everyone who accepts it and puts their faith in Jesus. Just as we have been forgiven, God expects us to extend forgiveness to others.

6-Temptation – Scripture: Matthew 6:13 & 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Warnings from Israel's History

The Israelites give us an example of people who were tempted to sin against God and gave into that temptation. Jesus' prayer closes with the reminder that we have hope in the fact that God always provides a way out of temptation, ultimately by giving eternal life to those who put their faith in Him.

THE LORD'S
PRAYER

PRAY GOD'S WAY



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH :

BOTTOM LINE: We need to love others as Jesus loved us!

OBJECTIVE: Children will learn that Jesus wants us to love everyone just as he loves us.

KEY PASSAGE: John 8:2-11: Jesus forgives the sinful woman.

MEMORY VERSE:

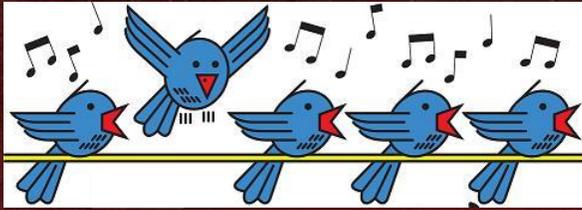
"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

SUMMARY: We shouldn't pick and choose who we love because, as Christians, we are called to love everyone. Jesus loved us and forgave our sins, so we need to be ready to love others. We have no room to condemn others because we have been forgiven. Just like Jesus, we need to love all people, no matter what.

"This is how you should pray. Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from sinning when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one."

~~Matthew 6:9-13 (NirV)

Music Ministry Updates



We are prayerfully making preparations for our two Easter musical presentations. Please check out the information on this page about each of them. We need singing and speaking parts for both programs. Adult volunteers are always welcome to help with the children/youth program. Please let me know if you need books or listening CDs. Practice for children/youth Easter presentation will begin on February 14th at 3:00pm.

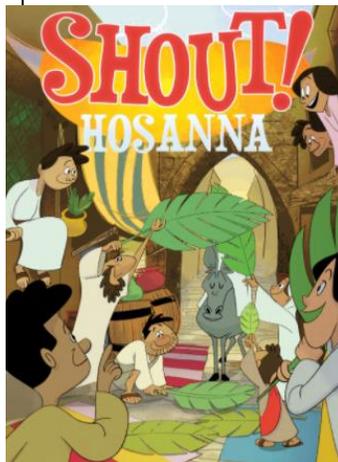
On a personal note, I would be lying to tell you that this month has left me feeling anymore prepared for what 2021 has in store for me than I felt last month! This month has brought a whirlwind of personal and family challenges. But, for me, I find solace in music. I take it everywhere I go. I pray lyrics; I sing praises through the lyrics; I feel that for me, music is a part of my soul and brings me to a deeper connection with the Holy Spirit. Because, in many instances lately, I have NOT been able to find the words to pray. Yet, I have confidence in knowing that the Spirit intercedes for me.

The music that has entered my life during this past month has not been by chance happenings. I fully believe that God has been speaking to me through the artists and their music and lyrics. I know that perhaps God speaks to you in ways other than music. Can I encourage you to do something? Lean in and listen to how He may be speaking to you. He is still in the business of speaking to His children; we must return to the business of listening for and to Him.

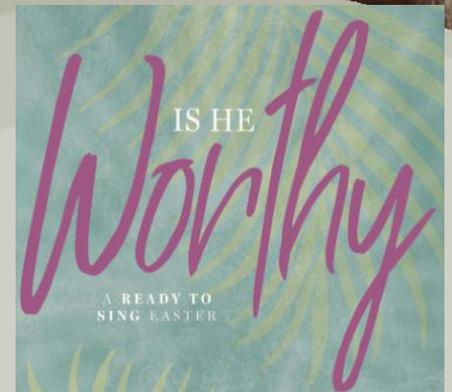
In Christ,
Sarah Crochet

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.



- Psalm 100 – A psalm. For giving grateful praise.**
- 1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
 - 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
 - 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
 - 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
 - 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.



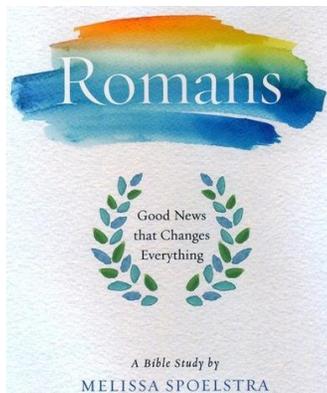
Easter is a season of remembrance, reflection, and rejoicing. We ponder the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we praise God for the miracle of the resurrection, and we prepare our hearts for His promised return. We will celebrate everything Easter embodies with Is He Worthy. With a blend of traditional 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.

We would love to have you join us as we bring this special Easter presentation to our worship service this Easter season. Please let Sarah know if you need a book or listening CD. As always, we will also need a person or persons willing to read the accompanying narration.

Current Small Groups Opportunities

Ladies' Sunday School

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. 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. The ladies' class will finish this 6-week study on Sunday, February 14th.



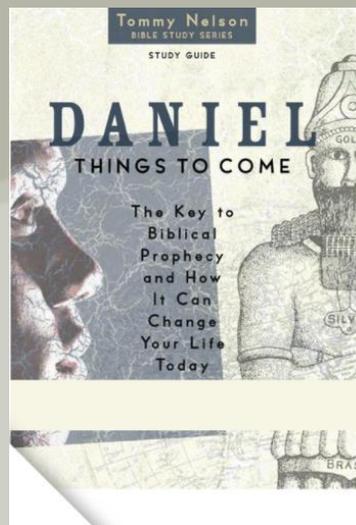
Remaining Sessions include:
Good News About God's Plan
Good News About Relationships
Good News About Eternity

CURRENT WEDNESDAY LADIES' BIBLE STUDY:

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."

Remaining Sessions include:
The Compounding Effect of Unforgiveness
This Isn't Easy, But It Is Good



Men's Sunday School

The JUMC Men's Sunday School group is currently studying the book of Daniel. The group meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. and is led by Richard McGregor.

Things to Come...The Key to Biblical Prophecy and how it can change your life Today. Perspective is everything. Every Christian should know their Bible, and perhaps there is no more enticing and controversial topic than that of the End Times and knowing how "it is all going to work out."

This study of the Book of Daniel is the key to unlocking all other Biblical passages. This is not just about figuring out how it will all end, but it is about finding our place in this journey and how knowing the end gives even more purpose, peace and intensity to living for Today. Tommy Nelson is one of America's premier teachers and one of the most gifted communicators in taking "big" pieces of Scripture and helping us understand them.

The Disciple IV Bible Study Group is continuing to meet on Monday evenings at its usual time.

Upcoming Small Groups Opportunities

New Ladies' Sunday School Study Coming...

What if God is saving the best for last? Of all the books of the Bible, Revelation is the one that people seem to be the most afraid to study. Ask them about it and you get responses like terrifying, mysterious, apocalyptic, perplexing, or you get confusion over things like pre-trib vs. post-trib, 666, and the Beast!

Well, FEAR no more! With the recent world events, there's no better time to dive into an enticing read. Revelation is a book that brings us hope. Yes, hope! As a part of the Beautiful Word Bible Study Series, Bible teacher and author Margaret Feinberg digs into Revelation, which reminds us of God's power and promises during times of suffering and persecution.

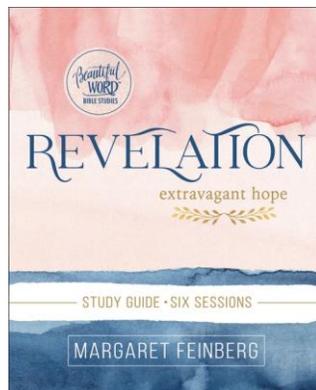
In this study you will:

- Uncover the supernatural power of Jesus' names and titles.
- Be equipped with tactics on how to overcome the wily ways of the enemy.
- Discover how to triumph through the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony.
- Learn that though life is not always fair, Jesus is NOT finished.

John, the author of the book of Revelation, was blessed to see what each of us longs to know, and he gave us a descriptive and poignant expression of the place, the end, and the eternity that God has promised to us. In this final book of the Bible, God indeed saved the best for last, and in its pages, he gives us the one thing we all long for—hope, extravagant hope.

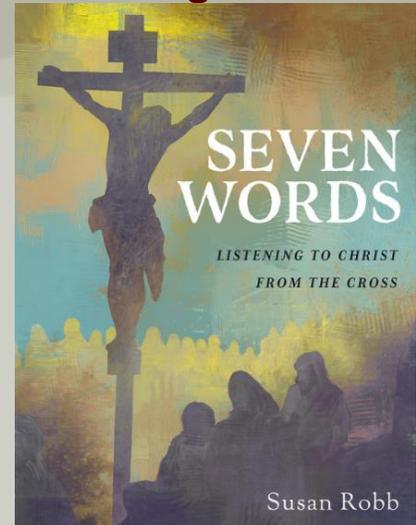
Sessions include:

- Tempted to Give Up on God?
- Have You Lost Perspective?
- When Life's Not Fair
- How to Overcome the Enemy
- When All Hell Breaks Loose
- The Promises of Heaven



THE FIRST SESSION OF THIS NEW STUDY WILL BE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST. PLEASE LET CRYSTAL OR JACQUIE KNOW IF YOU ARE JOINING THIS STUDY SO THAT THEY CAN BE SURE TO ORDER YOUR BOOK.

New Ladies' Wednesday Bible Study Coming...



Examine the last seven words of Christ on the cross this Lent.

While many of us naturally wish to avoid the reality of the cross, it's from the cross that Jesus speaks and shows his deepest love for us. It's from the cross that Jesus' full humanity draws us closest to him. It's from the cross, as Jesus breathes his last breath and speaks his last words, that his deep trust in the Father and his divine glory are revealed. Those who listen to Jesus' last words from the cross will discover what he most wants them (the world) to hear and will experience an intimate and divine awe only available to those who are willing to draw near his cross.

In *Seven Words*, Susan Robb looks at the seven last words of Christ on the cross through a lens that finds life and hope in his final sayings, while exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. The book brings a hopeful and contemplative take on the cross during the weeks of Lent.

THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NEW STUDY WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH.

Upcoming Important Dates...

JUMC LUNDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER



DATE : MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 15TH



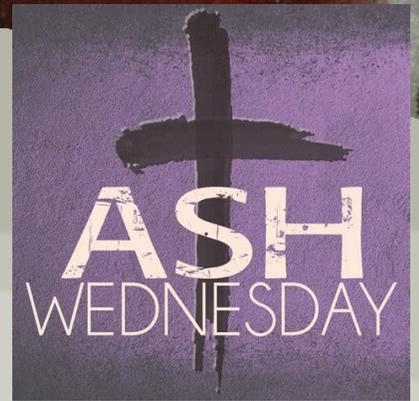
TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
FOR A \$7.00
DONATION/TICKET



THIS YEAR, WE ARE ONLY
OFFERING CARRY-OUT
ORDERS FOR OUR PANCAKE
SUPPER.



YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR
ORDERS FROM 5 :00-7 :00



**ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**
FEBRUARY 17TH
6:00 P.M.



February Birthdays

2.3 Ronnie White
2.5 Livi Romero
2.6 Karen Daigle
2.9 Billie Boudoin
2.12 Sheila Fruge
2.12 Daniel Hebert
2.12 William Romero
2.17 Debbie White
2.18 Dot Berry