



Methodist *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JENNINGS UMC |
APRIL 2021

April Worship

From the Pastor's Desk...

Transformation!

Easter is a season of transformation. Through the resurrection we become transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God at work in our lives. We move from the season of repentance to a season of JOY and CELEBRATION and we experience the fullness of God's Grace.

In 2001, I buried both my Grandmothers on Tuesday of Holy Week. I remember celebrating Palm Sunday in Lake Providence and then driving to Ponchatoula that afternoon. My mother asked me to officiate both services. That sounds like a hard assignment, however, the celebration of life that took place was an honor and a healing for me. My Grandmothers showed me that the transformation was to new life.

I still pause and reflect on the transformation that takes place when the resurrection occurs. I see it as the bursting forth of life giving light for all the world to see. I see a tremendous gathering of believers shouting and singing and praising the name of JESUS.

I officiated for my father's celebration in September 2018, and in March 2019 officiated my mom's celebration. Dad believed in doing for others and he built his last wheelchair ramp in June 2018. We celebrated his gifts of labors of love he left behind. What a bursting forth of light for us to follow.

April 4th Easter Sunday –

Psalm 31:1-24~Before and After

Scripture Reader: JUMC Confirmands

Prelude: "Above All"

Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Anthem: "O Praise the Name (Anástasis)"

Communion Song: "In the Presence of Jehovah"

Praise Song: "Worthy Is the Lamb"

April 11th Second Sunday of Easter –

1 John 1:1-2:2~The Power of Doubt

Scripture Reader: Hazel Hoffpauir

Prelude: "Here I Am to Worship"

Hymn: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Anthem: "My Savior, My God"

Praise Song: "You Are My King" ("Amazing Love")

April 18th Third Sunday of Easter –

1 John 3:1-7~The Power of Deception

Scripture Reader: Michelle Sawyer

Prelude: "Who You Say I Am"

Hymn: "Come, We That Love the Lord"

Anthem: "In This Very Room"

Praise Song: "Jesus Messiah"

April 25th Fourth Sunday of Easter –

1 John 3:16-24~The Work of Belief

Scripture Reader: Anne Arceneaux

Prelude: "Draw Me Close to You"

Hymn: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

CHOIR CANTATA: Is He Worthy

Praise Song: "What Faith Can Do"

From the Pastor's Desk contd....

Mom loved butterflies and she wore one or more on her lapel everywhere she went. If she was up and dressed she had a butterfly on. If she was in her lounging clothes she had a butterfly on. My mom was an Easter transformation. She brought life, love, and laughter everywhere she went. What a privilege to be her son.

Passing through Lent and entering into Easter we need to see Jesus the way Catherine Parker saw the butterfly. Our pledge from Lent should be to keep the light of Christ in our life and remain clean and pure in all that we do. Our Easter pledge should be to let the light of Christ be a reflection of our soul so all people can witness our transformation and see the risen Christ in us.

If we would unclutter our lives and homes to make room for the light of Christ and join in the proclamation, "HE IS ALIVE AND HAS BEEN RESURRECTED FROM THE GRAVE!" then we could show the world the TRUTH.

My prayer for you is for the light of Christ to be embedded in your heart so that you can be transformed into His likeness.

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

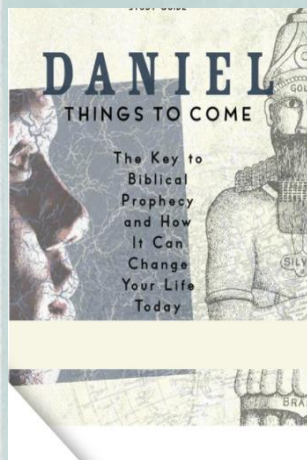
See you in Sunday School and worship this Sunday.

Your pastor and friend,

Walter

Small Group Opportunities at JUMC for Adults...

JUMC Men's Sunday School



The men's group is currently studying the book of Daniel. The group meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the men's Sunday school room 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.

All men are invited to join the group on Sunday mornings as they spend time together learning more about the book of Daniel.

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

JUMC Women's Sunday School



Check out the publisher's description and study session outline for the JUMC Ladies' Sunday School class's new study...

Every life gets messy at times. Sometimes these messes are literal, like a house that would be easier to condemn than to clean. But sometimes they are intangible messes such as illness, conflict, depression, abuse, bankruptcy, divorce, and job loss. And these messes can be painful, hurting our hearts and our homes. But as we see in the Bible, God loves to use messy people!

In this six-week study, we will dig into the lives of biblical heroes who were messy people just like us but who were used by God in powerful ways. Together we will examine the stories of five wonderful but messy people and one messy parable character: Rahab, the Prodigal Son, Josiah, Mary, David, and Daniel. From their stories, we will learn how God can use broken people, restore damaged hearts and relationships, give us power to handle our critics, and help us deal with the hard moments of life. Along the way, we'll discover that we don't have to just endure messy lives but can actually learn to thrive with God's guidance and help.

Sessions:

Week 1: Rahab: Changing Your Messy Story (Joshua 2;6)

Week 2: The Prodigal Son: Restoring Messy Relationships (Luke 15: 11-32)

Week 3: Josiah: Breaking Messy Family Cycles (2 Kings 22-23; 2 Chronicles 34-35)

Week 4: Mary: Surviving Life's Messy Plot Twists (Luke 1: 26-38)

Week 5: David: Overcoming the Mess of Criticism (1 Samuel 16-18; 2 Samuel 12;15)

Week 6: Daniel: Thriving in Messy Circumstances

JUMC Women's Book Study



Is it possible...

That there exists an ancient mystery that holds the secret of America's future?

That this mystery lies behind everything from 9/11 to the collapse of the global economy?

That ancient harbingers of judgment are now manifesting in America?

That God is sending America a prophetic message of what is yet to come?

Before its end as a nation, there appeared in ancient Israel nine specific warnings and omens of national destruction – These same nine Harbingers are now manifesting in America with profound ramifications for America's future and end-time prophecy. Hidden in an ancient biblical prophecy from Isaiah, the mysteries revealed in The Harbinger are so precise that they foretell recent American events down to the exact days; the 3,000-year-old mystery that revealed the exact date of the stock market collapse of 2008; the ancient prophecy that was proclaimed from the floor of the US Senate and then came true; and more. The revelations are so specific that even the most hardened skeptic will find it hard to put down. Though it sounds like the plot of a Hollywood thriller – IT'S REAL.

NYT fiction bestseller, The Harbinger is taking the nation by storm with prophesies and signs from 9/11 and beyond, that parallel Isaiah 9. Omens from Isaiah 9 show God's anger with the people of Israel; and now, we as a nation, defy God again. How does this correlate with our future? The prophetic mysteries are factual but revealed through a riveting narrative the reader will find hard to put down. The Harbinger opens with the appearance of a man burdened with a message he has received from a mysterious figure called The Prophet. The Prophet has given him nine seals, each containing a message about America's future. As he tells of his encounters with the Prophet, from a skyscraper in New York City, to a rural mountaintop, to Capitol Hill, to Ground Zero, the mystery behind each seal is revealed. As the story unfolds, each revelation becomes another piece in a larger and larger puzzle, the ramifications of which are, even now, altering the course of America and the world.

Join us as we read this book together and study with one another. This will take place during our Wednesday small group time at 3:30.

JUMC Youth Updates...

I am super proud of all my youth! They have had a busy month I have had some participate in the Easter program which was a wonderful event for youth and children of the church! We are blessed to have such dedicated young people!

This week will be having a youth outing to take a Pottery Class! I'm excited for us to participate in this project as a youth group! I will be sure to show you pictures in next month's letter!!

We are getting closer to preparing for our Summer trip to BIGSTUF CAMP 2021!

We will have one more fundraiser for this trip. We will have a Rummage Sale w/BBQ Hamburger sale on Saturday, May 1st!

We will continue to meet on Sunday evenings from 4:00pm-5:30pm in the youth room for our bible study lessons.

This past Sunday, we had 3 confirmands make their confirmation. I will start off by saying these youth have been taking classes since 2020; they were about to confirm when the pandemic hit and everything got shut down! These youth have been troopers when it comes to taking confirmation classes!! Well they finally got to confirm and we are so proud of them! Please be in prayer for them as their church family!

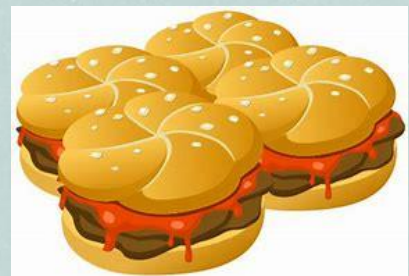
Collin Watson, Kaitlyn Sawyer, & Brooklin Clement we welcome you as the newest members of the Jennnings United Methodist Church!!

In Christ,
Crystal

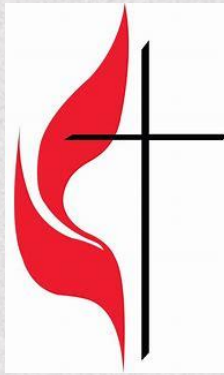


May 1st
7am-12pm

BBQ
Hamburgers



Confirmation 2020/2021



Children's & Youth Sunday School Updates...



APRIL 11th, 18th, 25th & May 1st, 16th, & 23rd:

SERIES OVERVIEW – Finding Treasure Along the Romans Road

The Romans Road is a way of understanding why we as people need to be saved, and how we can accept Jesus as our Savior. It is called the Romans Road because all of the Scripture references are found in the book of Romans, Paul's letter to the Roman church. In this series, kids and youth will travel down the Romans Road – learning life-giving verses along the way – on a journey from sin and separation from God, to peace and eternal life with God. An X, or rather a cross, marks the spot for the greatest treasure anyone could ever find – eternal life with Jesus. They will learn that salvation through Jesus is the ultimate treasure.

WEEKLY LESSONS & MEMORY VERSES

1-Quick Sand – Scripture: Romans 3:23

God is perfect and his ways are perfect. Every one of us have sinned – disobeyed and acted in ways that fell short of God's perfection. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's perfection.

"Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory." – Romans 3:23 NIRV



2-Walking In The Dark – Scripture: Romans 6:23a

If you've ever disobeyed your mom and dad and gotten a time out, you know what a consequence is. A consequence is the punishment for doing the wrong thing. The Bible tells us that sin – disobeying God – has a consequence as well. The consequence is to be apart from God forever. Since we have all sinned, we all deserve that same punishment. Everyone has sinned, and sin comes with a consequence.

"When you sin, the pay you get is death." – Romans 6:23a NIRV



3-A Light Up Ahead – Scripture: Romans 6:23b

We all deserve the consequence for the sin that we have committed. But God loves us and has provided another way, the way of life. Jesus came and took our consequence for us, so we didn't have to experience it.

God offers us the gift of life. **"When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done." – Romans 6:23 NIRV**



4-Clear Path – Scripture: Romans 10:9

Salvation – which means being free from the eternal consequence of sin – comes only from God. Romans 10:9 tells us how we can all receive salvation. To be saved, we must put our faith in Jesus.

"Say with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord.' Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved." – Romans 10:9 NIRV



5-A Place To Rest – Scripture: Romans 5:1

When we put our faith in Jesus, he makes us right with God and brings us peace. We have peace because we know that even though we make mistakes, God forgives us because Jesus paid our sin price for us. Our faith in Jesus makes us right with God.

"We have been made right with God because of our faith. Now we have peace with him because of our Lord Jesus Christ." – Romans 5:1 NIRV



6-Treasure – Scripture: Romans 8:38-39

When we find Jesus, we find a treasure. One that no one can ever take away for eternity. Salvation is a treasure that lasts.

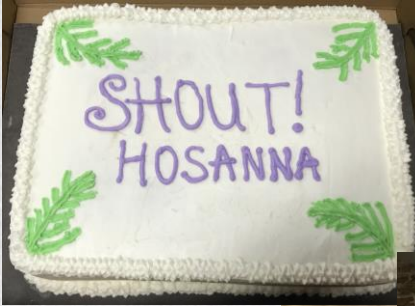
"I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can separate us. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done." – Romans 8:38-39 NIRV



Easter 2021

As I attempted to say before the kids/youth Easter program, Easter 2020 was difficult. We celebrated our Savior's resurrection by streaming to our members at home while the few of us present worshipped in an empty sanctuary. This year has been difficult on so many levels. We have all experienced losses of some sort. However, this year, our Easter celebration was so joyful. Our egg hunt was so much fun for the RUMC/JUMC kids (and youth). Their program was beautiful, and even more beautiful than the program itself was the beauty in the joy on their faces and in the new relationships built throughout this year and Lenten season. Below are some pictures from both events. Thank you to everyone who helped with either special day! We also want to offer a special thanks to Alison (Benoit) Whitney for the beautiful and most delicious cake!

In Christ – Sarah



Remember, Reflect, Rejoice



"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."

The words above are an excerpt from the publisher's description of the cantata that the JUMC choir will present on April 25th. Some may ask, "Why so late?" Well, there are several "Sundays of Easter" in our liturgical calendar. Since this year has been one of a challenge for our own children, asking them to perform technical tasks with which they were, at first, uncomfortable, I wanted to find a date that allowed all our volunteers who also sing in the choir the opportunity to focus entirely on the cantata. In planning worship, Brother Walter and I discussed an option that would enable the sound system technicalities to be handled by someone not in the choir. For me, I also feel it gives us all an extended opportunity to continue the resurrection celebration. This Lent and Easter, I pray that you have had the chance to experience the three R's in the description above. Through the cantata's music on April 25th, the choir will remember the days and weeks leading to Easter, reflect on the depth of God's love for us and the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, and rejoice as we celebrate our risen Savior who came to pay our debts!

Just because our cantata preparations are coming to an end does not mean that there is not a need for people to come make a joyful noise! The choir will continue to meet weekly on Wednesdays to prepare music for worship each Sunday. There are also other opportunities to participate in the music ministry of our church. Our children and youth are invited to participate in our praise music each week. On Sunday mornings at 9:15 before Sunday school, we meet in the sanctuary to sing through our music for the service. We will also begin to work on an opportunity for our children and youth to share with you in worship more regularly. We would love to invite anyone who feels led by the Spirit to join us for our chancel choir on Wednesdays at 5:30 or to sing with us on Sunday mornings before Sunday school.

The music available through contemporary Christian artists and being able to continue to "lead" music throughout 2020 allowed me to worship through it...through the struggles of the lockdowns, through the disappointments of the "not normal", even through the loss of my grandmother. I am grateful to God for the gift of song, for without it, I would have felt a bit lost this last year! I pray that the Lord places a song in your heart and His praise on your lips...and, if you feel the Spirit's nudge, willingness to serve Him through music at JUMC.

In Christ,
Sarah



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4.3-----Monika Hebert

4.6-----Logan Nichols

4.12-----Matthew Lafleur

4.24-----Anne Arceneaux