

# Methodist *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JENNINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH |  
JANUARY 2022

## *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 2022. Celebrations with family and friends were different in 2021. New virus's continued to plague us and as we look forward to the New Year as we pray for things to get better.

What lies ahead of us is unknown. As we put away Christmas wrappings and the Crèches I wonder, have you ever looked at Mary and wondered what she was thinking and feeling as she prepared for giving birth?

Did she ponder what miracles He would be blessing people with?  
What kind of persecution might He encounter?  
Did you ponder on these questions before you had children?

I remember growing up in a family that gave me encouragement and told me I could be anything I wanted. Even though my dad did not enjoy hearing me practice piano or trombone he still attended performances and gave me a thumbs up. I was always allowed to dream big.

Maybe that is the story of Christmas leading into Epiphany. We need to dream big and encourage one another to find the joy and light in everything we do.

On January 2 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.

## **In This Edition**

<b>From the Pastor's Desk....</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Music Ministry Updates.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>January Worship.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Youth Updates.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Children Updates.....</b>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>December Highlights.....</b>	<b>7-9</b>
<b>Honduras Mission Trip.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>January Birthdays.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## The Pastor's Desk contd....

On January 9 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. These first two Sundays of 2022 are very important times for us to reach for our dreams and live in the wonders of what we can become in the light of Christ.

I am not talking about making resolutions but rather those things that our parents may have pondered in their hearts when we were born. The things that we pondered at the birth of our children is part one. Part two is to give our children and grandchildren room to grow in spirit and understanding.

With the New Year comes 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

## Music Ministry Notes

On behalf of the JUMC Chancel Choir and the JUMC/RUMC Children and Youth, I would like to thank our church family for allowing us to share our gifts with you during the season of Advent and Christmas. It is truly a blessing to be able to make a joyful noise to the Lord as we lift our voices in praise and worship!

Before we know it, we will be looking at Easter programs and special services for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Several people have mentioned having the Living Last Supper again. It has been several years since we have done this in our church. **If you are interested in helping to direct this presentation and/or play a role in the reenactment of the Last Supper, please contact Sarah or Crystal ASAP. We will need to find volunteers to fill the parts of the disciples.** If you feel the Spirit's nudging you to help this happen but are uncertain of what is needed, there are people available and willing to assist you.

Also, be prayerfully considering how the Lord may use you in any of the other special services that we will have during Lent and Easter. The children and youth will prepare to share with you on Palm Sunday. The choir will prepare an Easter cantata to share with you during worship. We need people to be willing to commit to these special programs. Adult volunteers are always welcome to help with our children and youth. We need voices to sing as well as narrate for our Easter cantata.

There will be special services of meditation and reflection for Ash Wednesday and during Holy Week. We always need people willing to read Scripture or liturgy for services. As 2022 begins, spend time in prayer asking how God can use you to serve our church and community. May the Lord bless you and your families in 2022!

In Christ,  
Sarah Crochet



## Important Dates for the Season of Lent

(More specific details and times to come in the future.)

- \* **March 2: Ash Wednesday service**
- \* **April 10: Palm Sunday**
- \* **April 10-17: Holy Week Services/Meditations**
  - April 10: Palm Sunday** (morning worship and afternoon/evening Easter program for children and youth)
  - April 14: Maundy Thursday** (evening meditation/service OR possible Living Last Supper)
  - April 15: Good Friday** (personal meditation/ reflection stations, possible Tenebre Service)
  - April 17: Easter Sunday**
    - Easter Sunrise Service
    - 10:30 Worship Service



## The Light of Home

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERIES



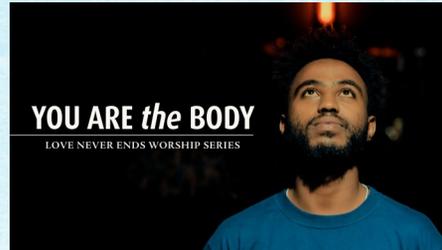
## WELL PLEASED

LOVE NEVER ENDS WORSHIP SERIES



## VARIETIES of GIFTS

LOVE NEVER ENDS WORSHIP SERIES



## YOU ARE *the* BODY

LOVE NEVER ENDS WORSHIP SERIES



## THE GREATEST of THESE

LOVE NEVER ENDS WORSHIP SERIES

### JANUARY 2: EPIPHANY SUNDAY—MATTHEW 2:1-12

Scripture Reader: Richard McGregor

Prelude: "Adore Him"

Hymn: "We Three Kings" - UMH #254

Anthem: "This Child Is"

Communion Song: "What Can I Do?"

Praise Song: "King of Kings"

### JANUARY 9: BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY—LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

Scripture Reader: Ryleigh Crochet

Prelude: "Take Me to the River"

Hymn: "Baptized in Water" - TFWS #2248

Anthem: "At the Riverside"

Praise Song: "Down to the River to Pray"

### JANUARY 16: 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY—1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

Scripture Reader: Crystal Benoit

Prelude: "Make Us One"

Hymn: "We All are One in Mission" - TFWS #2243

Anthem: "Many Gifts, One Spirit"

Praise Song: "Make Us One"

### JANUARY 23: 3RD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY—1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31a

Scripture Reader: Randy Daigle

Prelude: "Make Us One"

Hymn: "We Are God's People" - TFWS #2220

Anthem: "There's a Quiet Understanding"

Praise Song: "We Are One"

### JANUARY 30: 4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY—1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

Scripture Reader: Kylie Price

Prelude: "The Love of God"

Hymn: "Sacred the Body" - TFWS #2228

Anthem: "The Gift of Love"

Praise Song: "Make Us One"

# JANUARY 9TH, 16TH, 23RD, 30TH



# LOVE NEVER ENDS

WORSHIP SERIES



# FEBRUARY 6TH, 13TH, 20TH, 27TH

# JUMC Youth Updates



Serving God By Serving Others

Youth will have their first fundraiser for 2022 year on February 12th we will have our annual Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser! Tickets will be available to purchase for Dine in or Carry out!

Pork Steak w/apricot glaze, green bean casserole, mash potatoes & roll

Appetizer: Corn bisque soup

Dessert: Caramel bread pudding

\$20 donation per plate!



Youth Sunday School held on Sunday mornings at 9:30am

Join us for our new series starting in January

“Going Pro”

## STRUGGLES

We will begin a new Bible study series “Struggles” on January 9<sup>th</sup>

Lesson 1: Don't Let Worry be a Distraction

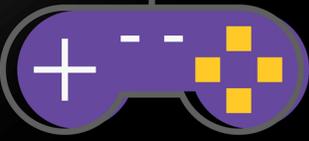
Lesson 2: God is Faithful in the Midst of Our Struggles

Lesson 3: God Turns Our Struggles into Victory

Lesson 4: The Potter and the Clay

Sunday afternoons 4:00pm-5:30pm

# RESET

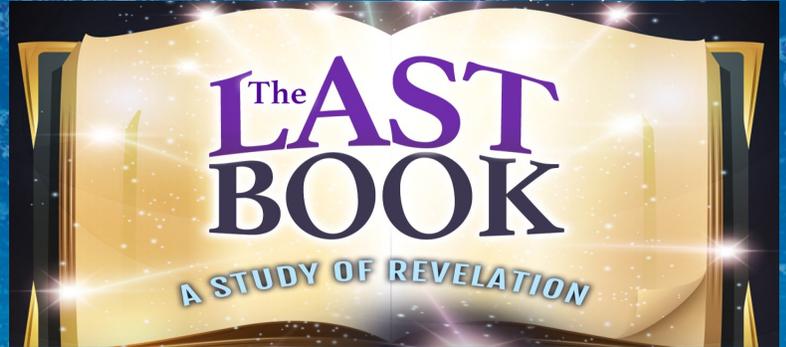


LET GOD TAKE CONTROL THIS YEAR

# Children's Ministry



**Memory Verse:** "I am the Alpha and the Omega. I am the First and the Last. I am the Beginning and the End." Revelation 22:13 (NIRV)



We began 2022 with a special New Years lesson called "Reset" and talked about when Zacchaeus meets Jesus.

**Memory Verse:** "I will give my people hearts that are completely committed to me. I will give them a new spirit that is faithful to me." Ezekiel 11:19a NIRV  
**Scripture:** Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus had lots of money but no friends. He'd chosen a poor path in life, he was very unhappy, and he didn't know how to fix it. Then Zacchaeus met Jesus and Jesus showed Zacchaeus how to hit the reset button. Jesus will let us reset because loves us and wants the best for us. If we trust Jesus, He will give us a fresh start! We spent time in prayer asking God to help us reset one thing in our lives we want to make right this new year. How are you going to hit reset in 2022?

Check out what we have in store for our January lessons (to the right). We hope to see you in Sunday school as we learn more about the book of Revelation.

The Old Testament books of prophecy become much easier to understand because of the New Testament. We can look at the gospels and see how every word God spoke about Jesus in the Old Testament came true. Revelation is also a book of prophecy, but it's hard to understand because many of the events in Revelation have (probably) not happened yet. We can know that they will come true though, just like the Old Testament prophecies did, because God's Word is always true. We can also learn much from this mysterious book, God's final word to his people, as it tells us about the end of times and the glorious future we have in Heaven. We will learn that Revelation is a book of prophecy that gives us hope for the future.

**Lesson One: Seven Letters** Scripture: Revelation 3:14-22, Letter to a Lukewarm Church Revelation begins with seven letters to seven churches, and most of them are not good news. God calls all believers and churches to be faithful and alert. He wants us to be hard at work sharing the gospel because the end of times will one day come. We will learn that God wants them to be "hot" rather than lukewarm in their faith.

**Lesson Two: Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, Seven Bowls** Scripture: Revelation 16, Seven Bowls Revelation is a series of sevens: seven letters followed by seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls. Each set of seven seems to make things worse and worse, especially the seven bowls of wrath. God gave us these revelations so we would not lose heart. Yes, the end of times will be bad, but Jesus will still win out in the end! We will learn that we don't need to fear the end of times if our faith is in Jesus, but these warnings should push us to share the hope of Jesus with anyone who is not saved.

**Lesson Three: Court Date**, Scripture: Revelation 20:7-15, The Final Judgment When Jesus returns, the first thing He will do is pass final judgment on Satan. Anyone who rejects God will be judged as well, but those who are written in the Book of Life will be spared. Knowing this makes it all the more urgent that we stay "hot" for Christ and share our faith with others. We will learn that God is judge. Our job is not to judge others for sin, but rather to share the hope of forgiveness through Jesus.

**Lesson Four: A New Home**, Scripture: Revelation 21:1-4, 9-27, A New Heaven and Earth The final vision of Revelation is of the new home Jesus is preparing for us. We will live in a new Heaven and Earth, and we will dwell there with God forever. We will learn that if they call on Jesus as their Savior, they will live with Him in Heaven forever!

# Children's Ministry



## BIBLE SIDEKICKS

**BIBLE HEROES YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF**

Lesson 1: The Speaker – Aaron

Scripture: Exodus 4:10-17, 6:28-7:6,  
A Reluctant Hero

Lesson 2: The Wise Father-in-Law — Jethro

Scripture: Exodus 18:1-27,  
Jethro Advises Moses

Lesson 3: The Connector — Naomi

Scripture: Ruth 2-3

Lesson 4: The Wing Man—Jonathan

Scripture: 1 Samuel 19, David and Jonathan

Lesson 5: The Peacemaker - Abigail

Scripture: 1 Samuel 25, David Meets Abigail

Lesson 6: The Man Who Knew No Fear - Nathan

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12, Nathan Rebukes David

Lesson 7: The Good Student - Elisha

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-22

Lesson 8: David's Mighty Men

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:8-17, The Mighty Men

Lesson 9: The Fire Walkers - Shadrach, Meshach,  
and Abednego

Scripture: Daniel 3

Lesson 10: The Point Man - John the Baptist

Scripture: John 1:19-37,  
John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Lesson 11: The Music Man - Silas

Scripture: Acts 16:16-40, Paul and Silas in Jail

Lesson 12: The Tent Makers - Priscilla and Aquilla

Scripture: Acts 18:1-3

## SUNDAY AFTERNOONS:

We have been enjoying an elementary Bible study on Sunday afternoons called "Bible Sidekicks: Bible Heroes You Haven't Heard Of". Our group meets from 4:00-5:30.

Volunteers are welcome to join us for snacks, and sometimes supper, Bible study, and then fun fellowship with games. Please contact Crystal or Sarah if you are interested in volunteering or helping to provide a light supper or snacks to the elementary and youth groups on Sunday evenings. The group has been so fun and such a blessing. You have no idea how wonderful it is to see our church filled with such life and energy on Sunday evenings!



# 2021 Caroling



Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from our Children & Youth!



Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from Crystal, Kim, & Sarah!  
Thank you for your willingness to help us grow our Children's & Youth Ministries Programs! It takes the whole church to love and nurture our children and youth!





Happy Holidays & Happy New Year from your church staff!  
Crystal, Walter, Sarah & Jacquie!



2021 Children's & Youth Christmas Program  
Jennings UMC & Roanoke UMC



### Honduras Mission Opportunity

St. Luke Simpson UMC in Lake Charles is looking for team members for a mission to Poterillos, Honduras. We are sending a medical and children's VBS team March 26-April 2, 2022. We are in need of doctors or nurse practitioners. Other skilled and unskilled volunteers are welcome. The second mission of dental and construction will be sent April 2-10<sup>th</sup>. Again, skilled and unskilled volunteers are welcome. You are welcome to join us for one or both weeks. The cost is \$1300 for either week. If you are interested please contact the church at (337)824-4079.

We are in need of donations of children's chewable vitamins or money to purchase them. No Gummie vitamins please!!

January 7<sup>th</sup>-Kaitlyn Sawyer

January 9<sup>th</sup>-Kate Cooper

January 10<sup>th</sup>-Brent Sawyer

January 11<sup>th</sup>-Jim Wilson

January 14<sup>th</sup>-Jade Conner

January 15<sup>th</sup>-Rory Myers

January 16<sup>th</sup>-James Benoit

