

Methodist *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF JENNINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2021

From The Pastor's Desk

WOW! Can you believe it? One year ago we were cleaning up in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura as well as dealing with COVID. What began in March of 2020 is still haunting us in 2021 and once again we are watching the weather very closely for hurricanes. According to the writer of Ecclesiastes 3 there is a time for everything under the sun and everything has a season. A time to be born, a time to die, a time to plant, a time to uproot, a time to weep, and a time to laugh, . . . a time to be silent, and a time to speak, . . .

In a sense the only thing that is everlasting is the love of God. Right now it appears that we are in a season of chaos and COVID. This too will eventually come to an end and we will enter into another season.

As I pondered Ecclesiastes and the season of my life I ran across an article written by another United Methodist Minister and the season she is in. I find it food for thought as we ponder this season we are in called church. "It was a simple question. Are you going to church tomorrow? Church: a building. Gathering in-person was now an option, so thus a choice: Watch it online or go in person. Church, meaning worship. The church, which in its fullest sense is the body of Christ living in the way of Jesus, has been so defined by one main activity: the Sunday morning worship service. So when the question was asked—Are you going to church tomorrow?—I knew exactly what was meant. Am I going to the building for that particular activity of the gathered community for worship?"

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“My response told me how much my notions of church have been upended by this pandemic. I said, “No, I don’t think so.” I checked in with my soul and what it was hungry for, and it longed to be outside in creation on this beautiful summer weekend, not inside a building. I said, “I think I am going for a bike ride instead. If I want to, I can always watch it later.” It got me wondering: What is church if the Sunday morning worship service is not the main thing anymore?” Rev. Cindy Gregorson is director of ministries and clergy assistant to the Bishop for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

To answer that last question, we need to claim the vision that the church is not the building but the gathered community. We need to see ourselves as “the church”. We gather as the community to worship, pray, sing, offer gifts, hear scripture, and hear the Word. We are in a season of calling for vaccinations, mask, not gathering and taking precautions. Worship is changing as well, and we will continue to change with the seasons. We are still in the season of sowing and reaping.

I share all of this information with you to simply say Jennings United Methodist Church is alive with the Spirit of Discipleship and love. We can accomplish great task and care for our community in exciting ways.

My prayer is that we make time for our spiritual well-being and that each of you will find a way of using your gifts in the ministry and mission of our church. Also, that you will continue to be a witness to others for Christ through the touch of the Holy Spirit.

Blessing and peace.
See you in church this Sunday,

Walter
Your pastor and friend

September 5th– Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 7:24-37~Unending Love

Scripture Reader: Hazel Hoffpauir

Prelude: “The Love of God”

Hymn: “He Touched Me” – UMH #367

Anthem: Our Great God Medley

Communion Song: “Sovereign Over Us”

Praise Song: “Sons and Daughters”

September 12th – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 11:28-30~Lessons of Hope: Hope for the Weary

Scripture Reader: Anne Arceneaux

Prelude: “Sovereign Over Us”

Hymn: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” – UMH #526

Anthem: “Come Unto Me”

Praise Song: “Way Maker”

September 19th – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

John 8:1-11~Lessons of Hope: Hope for the Broken

Scripture Reader: Ryleigh Crochet

Prelude: “Come As You Are”

Hymn: “Nothing But the Blood” – UMH #362

Anthem: “Broken into Beautiful”

Praise Song: “No Longer Slaves”

September 26th – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:20-50~Lessons of Hope: Hope for the Underdog

Scripture Reader: Michelle Sawyer

Prelude: “Strong God”

Hymn: “Holy, Holy, Holy” – UMH #64

Anthem: “Glorious Day” with “Victory in Jesus”

Praise Song: “Battle Belongs”

October 3rd– Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion

Johns 20:24-29~Lessons of Hope: Hope for the Doubter

Scripture Reader: Craig Crochet

Prelude: “Above All”

Hymn: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” – UMH #140

Anthem: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Communion Song: “Death Was Arrested”

Praise Song: “Hold Onto Me”

September Worship

Each year, as Christmas approaches, our hearts are somehow drawn again to Bethlehem. We long to relive the story — to see the shepherds on the hillside, to hear the angels in the heavens, to journey with the wise men, and more than anything, to worship the newborn King lying in the manger. Experience the Christmas journey back to where it all began with the choir as they present Take Me Back to Bethlehem. I am longing for that journey this year, perhaps more than any year than before!

We would welcome any voices to join us as we make a joyful noise to the Lord and celebrate His birth during our Christmas cantata this year. Maybe you would like to be a part of this special programs in a different way than singing. We would also love to have you join us as a narrator. Please let me Sarah or Crystal know if you are interested in participating in this program.



God always keeps His promises! This Christmas, celebrate the promise of Jesus with The Promise of Christmas, a lively new Christmas musical for our children and youth. Explore God's promises throughout the Bible with incredible songs ranging from traditional carols to modern worship songs, and even a scripture memory song! Celebrate like the angels and worship the King who always keeps His promises in The Promise of Christmas.

I love that thought: "Celebrate like the angels and worship the King who always keeps His promises!" We will begin rehearsing for our Christmas musical sometime in September. We will meet Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:00. All youth and children are invited to be a part of this special program to help our church celebrate like the angels and worship the King as we welcome His arrival at Christmas!

Please let Crystal or Sarah know if your young person(s) is interested in participating. Also, please let us know if you would like to volunteer to help with rehearsals to prepare for this awesome event. We need at least two adults present during our practices. It is also nice to have another set of eyes/ears to guide our young people and offer suggestions as they work on this musical.



Our youth group began meeting on Sunday, August 22nd . We started our new bible study entitled “Start Here”. We had 14 youth that were in attendance our group consists of 6th-12th grade students.



Series “Start Here”

*Week 1: Run the Race

Growing in your faith is like running a race and the starting line is your relationship with God.

*Week 2: Don’t Trip

Allow God to remove sin from your life so you are able to run the faith race uninhibited.

*Week 3: Persevere

As you run the race of faith, don’t give up, don’t grow weary, and don’t lose heart.

*Week 4: Fix Your Eyes

Fix your eyes on Jesus and realize that as you follow him, he’s always with you.

This is an exciting time for our youth as they begin new classes and venture off and maybe start new extracurricular activities and the smell of football season is in the air! But it is also a very trying time for youth with the pandemic still looming around making what should be the best years of their lives very troublesome also. This is where their church comes in and prays for them daily and surrounds them with positive outlook instead of all the negativity that is in their world right now! So if you see one of our youth ask them how their day is and bring a little bit of sunshine into their world by your smiling face!

God Bless,
Crystal



Coming This Fall...

Sunday School Updates: Elementary Students

BIBLE BASICS



WELCOME TO BIBLE BOOT CAMP

Come join us for an 8-Week Bible Boot Camp with God

Soldiers train and train in order to find themselves ready for whatever situation they find themselves in. They start out in Basic Training, where they lay the foundation for their career as soldiers. We can use God's word to help us train so that we can live for God. This series will teach kids 8 important Bible Basics to lay the foundation for a lifetime of faith.

We train with prayer and Bible study so that we can follow Jesus better.

Memory Verse: "By using Scripture, a man of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing." 2 Timothy 3:17 (NIV)

Lessons 1: Listen Up! –

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:15-17, Scripture is True; John 1:1-14, The Word Became Human
A soldier at boot camp will learn very quickly that he needs to listen to instructions and obey them right away. A soldier learns that he can trust his leaders and obey them. The Bible, also called Scripture, is God's Word. It's God's instructions for our life. The Bible also calls Jesus "The Word" because Jesus lived a life in perfect obedience with God's Word. We can trust that God's word because we know God is trustworthy.

Objective: Kids will learn Bible Basic #1: God's Word Is TRUE

Lesson 2: Make Your Bed Soldier! – **Scripture:** Genesis 1:1-5, Genesis 1:31-2:3, Creation

One of the most basic things a soldier learns to do at boot camp is make the bed. You know what is not basic? Making the ENTIRE world! But God did it. And it only took Him 1 week!

Objective: Kids will learn Bible Basic #2: God made EVERYTHING

Lesson 3: Good Work! – **Scripture:** Genesis 2:7-22, Adam and Eve, 1 Chronicles 16:34

Even from the beginning, God showed his goodness. He created the Garden of Eden for Adam. And he created another person, Eve, so that Adam would not be alone. God deserves our praise; He is the very definition of GOOD.

Objective: Kids will learn Bible Basic #3: God is very GOOD

Lesson 4: Drop & Give Me 50! – **Scripture:** Genesis 3, The Fall; Romans 3:23, All Have Sinned

A soldier who disobeys orders quickly learns that there are consequences for disobedience. God created Adam and Eve to be in a close and strong relationship with Him. But Adam and Eve chose to follow their own desires and disobey God. Disobeying God is called "sin". Sin has consequences too. The Bible tells us that the punishment for sin is separation from God. Just like Adam and Eve were no longer allowed to live in the Garden of Eden, our sin hurts our relationship with God too.

Objective: Kids will learn Bible Basic #4: Sin Is Very BAD

Lesson 5: About Face! – **Scripture:** Exodus 14:21-31, 15:13, The Red Sea; John 3:16, God Sends Jesus

When soldiers learn to march, they learn what's called an "about face." This is simply making a quick 180 degree turn to march in the opposite direction. Our sin separated us from God, but that is not the end of the story. Our sin did not change the fact that God loves us very much. When God's people were suffering in slavery, God sent Moses to save them. Many years later, God would send his son, Jesus, to help all of us who have become slaves to sin to make a spiritual about face, and go in a new direction.

Objective: Kids will learn Bible Basic #5: God LOVES You Very Much

Lesson 6: Company Halt! – **Scripture:** Luke 23:32-46, The Crucifixion; 1 John 1:9, Forgiveness

How can we halt the damage that sin is doing to our life? Only through Jesus. Jesus died, not because of anything he had done, but because he chose to take the punishment for our sins. Jesus died for our sins and rose to new life again. He has the power to forgive our sins. We only have to believe and come to him.

Objective: Kids will learn Bible Basic #6: God Can FORGIVE Your Sin

Lesson 7: Hit the Barracks! – **Scripture:** John 14:1-6, Jesus Prepares a Place, 2 Peter 3:9

After a long day of training a soldier looks forward to hitting the barracks for rest. Through Jesus, God made a way for our sins to be forgiven. When we put our faith in Jesus, Jesus puts us right with God again. That means that those who put their faith in Jesus have their sins forgiven, and will be able to rest forever with God in heaven.

Objective: Kids will learn Bible Basic #7: God Wants To Be With You FOREVER

Lesson 8: A-tten-tion! – **Scripture:** Acts 16:6-15, Paul in Philippi

The news of who Jesus is and what he did for us is GOOD NEWS and deserves our attention. Paul went all around the world sharing the good news with people he met. We can help others learn about God wherever we are too.

Objective: Kids will learn Bible Basic #8: Learning About God Is GOOD NEWS

Coming in September: “Anti-Social” New Youth Sunday School Unit

Social media is where anyone can become a star. It’s also where people are canceled, where bullies wreak havoc, and otherwise normal people waste a whole lot of precious time. Unchecked social media can become a huge distraction, pulling us away from things we should be doing and real people who deserve our attention. With God’s help, we can find a better way to balance social media with the life God wants us to lead. In this new unit, students will reevaluate their time spent online and commit to what’s truly important.

Memory Verse: “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

LESSON 1 (September 5) - Cancel Culture Scripture; Luke 19:1-10, Zacchaeus Does Not Get Canceled

Social media has given the masses a platform to cancel people - destroying people’s lives and careers for the wrongs they have committed in the recent or even distant past. While many of those canceled may seem deserving of their sentence, the result of so many cancellations is that we are all one post away from being canceled ourselves. Jesus showed us a better way to deal with people’s errors when He had compassion on a man who probably deserved to be canceled - a tax collector named Zacchaeus.

Objective: Consider compassion and reconciliation rather than cancellation.

LESSON 2 (September 12) - Selfie Schtick Scripture; Philippians 2, Being Humble Like Christ

First came the smartphone with the camera. Then came the selfie. Then everything that came with selfies, from selfie sticks to the duck face. We spend a lot of time looking at the camera on our side of the phone, but how much time do we spend looking through the camera on the other side? God wants us to put others first, to flip the cameras, and to serve others.

Objective: Brainstorm ways you can help others rather than focus on yourselves.

LESSON 3 (September 19) – Influencers; Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20, The Great Commission

The beautiful thing about social media is that anyone can become a star, an influencer, making millions promoting all sorts of products. But as believers, what kind of influence are we having on the world? God wants us to remember the Great Commission so we can influence others online and in person to discover Jesus.

Objective: Use your influence to point others to Jesus.

LESSON 4 (September 26) - Going Offline; Scripture: Acts 8:26-40, Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Social media gives us the illusion of friendship with people around the world, but there is simply no substitute for the real-life connections we make, like the one Philip made with an Ethiopian nobleman. We need to curb our lazy time online - playing games, posting media, or just scrolling - so we do not miss the opportunities God gives us to serve others in real life.

Objective: Make it a goal to reduce your online time this week and intentionally look for ways to serve others.

ANTI-S+OCIAL

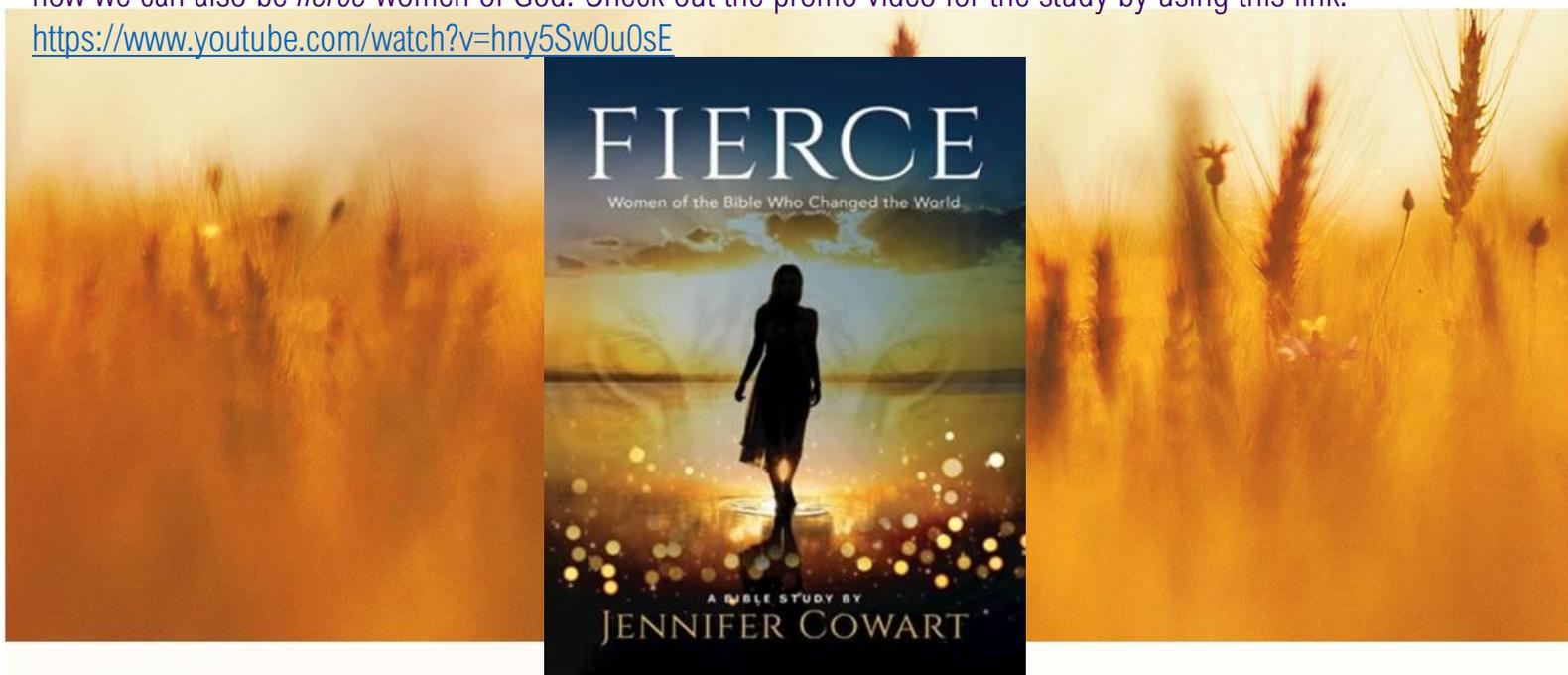
Life Beyond The Screen ➡



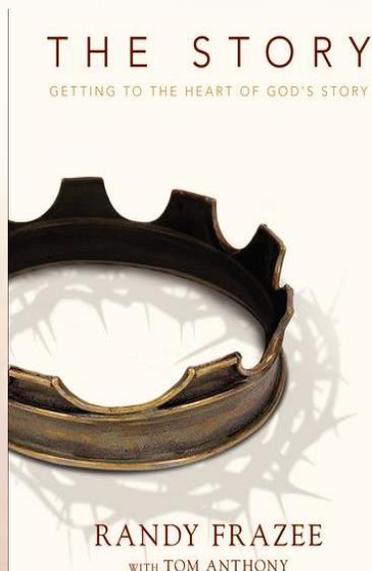
Join us at 9:15 on Sunday mornings for our new ladies' Sunday School study series beginning on September 12th.

Learn from the fierce women of God who changed the world. The word *fierce* is trendy. It is used to describe women who are extreme athletes, high-level executives, or supermodels. Women at the top of their game. But what about the rest of us? Can we be fierce? Absolutely! In fact, women like us have been changing the world for thousands of years—many who received little fanfare yet lived fiercely anyway. In this six-week study we will look at lesser-known female characters in the Bible and the ways they changed the world by living into God's calling, including: The midwives of Egypt (Shiphrah and Puah), who made hard decisions in the face of evil Deborah, who was an unlikely and powerful leader Naaman's slave girl, who bravely points others to God's healing power The Woman at the Well, who boldly repented and shared her faith Lois and Eunice, who parented with intentionality and effectiveness Dorcas, who showed kindness to those in need. As we explore their lives, we will discover how we too can live into our callings, honor the Lord, and even change the world through our courage, faithfulness, and obedience, and learn how we can also be *fierce* women of God. Check out the promo video for the study by using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hny5Sw0u0sE>



Wednesday Afternoon Ladies' Bible Study



"The greatest story ever told" is more than just a cliché.

"To understand the Bible," says author and pastor Randy Frazee, "you need bifocal lenses, because two perspectives are involved. The Lower Story, our story, is actually many stories of men and women interacting with God in the daily course of life. The Upper Story is God's story, the tale of his great, overarching purpose that fits all the individual stories together like panels in one unified mural." Bestselling author Max Lucado also adds some introductory insights.

You are invited to join our **Wednesday afternoon** Bible study time as we journey through The Story with 31 video sessions and discussions. The Story DVD curriculum will open your eyes to God's master-plan as it unfolds in the lives of the Bible's characters. Discover the heart of God's Upper Story and the joy that comes as you align your story with God's.



On Sunday, September 19th following our 10:30am worship service, we will have our potluck lunch & BINGO. Please bring a dish to share with everyone!



This event is for all ages! Be sure to join us for some fun, food, and fellowship!



On Sunday, October 31st, we will have a guest speaker from Chosen Ministries during worship. Be sure to join us after worship that day for our fifth Sunday potluck lunch. At our lunch, we will hear more from our visitor regarding the meaning of the Jewish festivals and how they impact our Christian beliefs today. Please invite someone you know to come with you to worship on the 31st to dig deeper into Jesus' faith and culture and learn more about how they shape our own faith.

As a reminder, our worship services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings at 702 Cary Ave. There are a few ways you can join us each week for worship. If you are not comfortable or are unable to attend in person, our services are streamed live on our Facebook page (Jennings Methodist Church) and on Zoom with access via emailed link and passcode.

The weekly recorded Scripture readings and Sermons are uploaded to our church's website:

<http://www.jenningsumc.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/me/>

Every other Tuesday afternoon
from 2:00pm-4:00pm
September Days: 14th & 28th

GAME DAY



Breakfast Church



First Sunday of the month
Breakfast

Sunday, September 5th
8:30am

Breakfast provided by UMW



The next UMW Meeting will be held
on Thursday, September 9th at 2pm

Birthdays with cake following We
will Celebrate all September
worship on September 19th!



12th-Theresa Lyons
13th-Aaron Cooper
14th-Brittany Talley
16th-Miriam Kahl
16th-Matthew Precht
16th-Jacquie Prielipp
17th-Harry Ann White
21st-Eric Jeanise

22nd-Cheryl LeJeune
24th-Hazel Hoffpauir
26th-Ginger Brown
29th-Bryan Goodreau