

August 2022 |  
Newsletter of Jennings United Methodist Church

# Serve with Gladness

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

I know you don't want to hear it, but it is only four months until Christmas. Some stores and advertisers are hawking goods for Christmas in July Sales and next is school supplies and uniform sales. At last calculation there maybe one or two weeks of summer left. However, some families are still trying to get finished with their last opportunities for vacation time. So, in the middle of getting ready to begin a new school year and getting in one more weekend of family time, let me take a moment to share upcoming events.

In the midst of bitter sweet tears of empty nest syndrome and meeting new teachers and schedules, we will be celebrating "Blessing of the Back Packs" and collecting school supplies. If you are a high school graduate, you may be gathering necessary items to go to college or embarking on a career. If you are a college graduate you are writing resumes to send to prospective employers. Wherever you fit in the picture you know that change is coming.

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## ***From the Pastor's Desk cont. –***

I am preparing for another retirement, and there are a lot of changes heading my way. I have been appointed to serve another year as a retired Elder for Jennings UMC and Roanoke UMC. That is a big change. One change is that I will be in Ponchatoula getting our home ready and in the office taking care of the church. Regardless of where I am, I will always be available by phone so don't hesitate to call.

There are many, many more celebrations, activities, and changes to come and a lot of opportunities for doing ministry. Remember, Paul stated in the New Testament book of Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." I understand this to be a proclamation of equality and independence that we should celebrate today. Also the Commandment to love one another is something we need to practice each and every day so that we may be able to affect the lives of those in our city and beyond.

Let us pray continually for help that we may fully trust in God, realize our limitations and live in peace with all people as we work for justice. Keep God as a constant in your life and walk with Him daily.

May God bless your journey this Summer.  
See you in church on Sunday.  
Walter

*Shirley and I have enjoyed being your pastoral family these past 11 years and are very excited about returning for a 12th year. You welcomed us on June 19, 2011, Father's Day, and have made us feel like we are a part of your family. Thank you for your support over these past years and for the year to come.*

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page features several stylized hands in various colors (magenta, yellow, orange, green, blue) reaching out. The hands are set against a background of a globe with a hexagonal pattern. The globe is partially visible, showing the top and sides. The hands are arranged in a way that suggests unity and support.

**Reminder:  
Update To Directory  
This Week.**



# Prophet Margins

## WORSHIP SERIES

August 7th—9th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Reader: Kylie Price

Prelude: "Carrier"

Hymn: "The Voice of God Is Calling" - UMH #436

Anthem: "Jesus Paid It All"

Communion Song: "All the Poor and Powerless"

Praise Song: "Your Way Yahweh"

Learn to  
Do Good

PROPHET MARGINS WORSHIP SERIES



August 14th—10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7

Reader: Charlie Sawyer

Prelude: "Came to My Rescue"

Hymn: "O God of Grace Every Nation"-UMH #435

Anthem: ""

Praise Song: "Your Way Yahweh"

I Knew You

PROPHET MARGINS WORSHIP SERIES



August 21st—11th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Reader: Ryleigh Crochet

Prelude: "Word of God, Speak"

Hymn: "Lord, Speak to Me" - UMH #463

Anthem: "When I Think about the Lord"

Praise Song: "Your Way Yahweh"

Yielding  
Wild Grapes

PROPHET MARGINS WORSHIP SERIES



August 28th—12th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Reader: Miguel Encinas

Prelude: "The Goodness of God"

Hymn: "We Utter Our Cry" - UMH #439

Anthem: "Lord, I Need Your" with

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

Praise Song: "Your Way Yahweh"

Cracked  
Cisterns

PROPHET MARGINS WORSHIP SERIES



# Serve with Gladness

## How You Can Get Involved

There are so many ways you can be involved in the ministries of Jennings United Methodist Church.

We have various ongoing outreach missions as well as opportunities for specific events. Check out the information for ways you can serve the ministry and mission of your church.



Our church has been selected to stock the pantry @ Council On Aging with small boxes of cornbread. So, when you are out doing your weekly or monthly shopping please consider picking up a few boxes of cornbread and bring them to the church. We have a designated shelf in the choir room that we are using to store the cornbread.

Karen & Randy Daigle will be in charge of this project and will bring the cornbread to Council On Aging when the pantry needs to be restocked with cornbread. Let's help the needs of our community and be the hands and feet of Christ! If you have any questions please contact the church office.

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"* ~~~~~Matthew 25: 40

## OUTREACH MINISTRY MISSION OPPORTUNITIES -

- \* OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY
- \* SUMMER CAMPS
- \* HONDURAS MISSION
- \* EMERGENCY HOUSING, FOOD, AND OTHER NEEDS
- \* MOST RECENTLY, OUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE HELPED THE VBS MISSION PROJECT AND PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES/RESOURCES TO PROVIDE EACH CHILD PRESENT WITH A BLESSING BAG TO HAND OUT TO SOMEONE IN NEED IN THE COMMUNITY.

For more information about a specific outreach mission(s), you can see Brother Walter or Richard McGregor.

## How You Can Get Involved contd.....



### **Blessing of the Back- Packs – AUGUST 7TH DURING WORSHIP**

You are invited to join us as we bless our students (and their backpacks) as well as our teachers and staff as they embark on a new school year. If you would like to donate to the cost of the backpack tags and student planners, please see Crystal for more details. We invite you to continue to pray daily for the students and faculty in our community for the 22-23 school year.

### **Messy Games for JUMC Children and Youth**

**– AUGUST 7TH 4:00-5:30 p.m.**

All children and youth are invited to attend our annual JUMC Messy Games Sunday, August 7th from 4:00-5:30 p.m. If you would like to help with this event or make a donation for this fun back to school activity, please see Crystal for more details.

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### **Back to School = Ways to Bless Our Teachers and Students and Serve Our Community**

This year, the faculty and students of what once were two separate entities will merge to become one united family. James Ward Elementary (PK-2) and Jennings Elementary Schools will join together under one roof this year! The new school is currently under final preparations for the move in day for teachers. It has been prayed for and prayed over by pastors and youth/children ministers. It is an exciting venture!

As the staff and students embark on this new journey, there are many complexities in play. If you know a staffer in the throws of his/her move, you may know the stress they are feeling at this present moment. There are a couple of special opportunities we have as a church family to support this new adventure!

1. As a means of grace and love, we have offered to help coordinate and prepare a spaghetti luncheon for teachers on their August 10 meeting day. However, Brother Walter will be out of town with Mrs. Shirley for her back surgery. Here is your chance to step up and be the hands and feet of Christ for those who take charge of the education of our future leaders! Please see Brother Walter for further details as to how to help with the lunch.

## How You Can Get Involved contd.....



## Ways to Bless Our Teachers and Students cont.

2. Also, in an effort to better prepare our community and school families for the traffic complexities with the new school, a “practice carline” day will be held. During the mock drop-off, parents will receive a raffle ticket for their student(s) to have an opportunity to win prizes **donated** by the Jennings community. Our church’s goal is to purchase approximately \$300 worth of outside play equipment (basketballs, footballs, jump ropes, skateboards, etc.) to offer as a part of the prize opportunities. If you would like to donate to this outreach project, please see Brother Walter.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE ASK SARAH OR BROTHER WALTER. DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS OPPORTUNITY!**

## Back to School = Back to Super Sundays BEGINNING AUGUST 14TH 4:00-5:30 P.M. EVERY SUNDAY

All youth 5th grade—12th grade are invited to attend our Sunday evening Bible study and fellowship time. We are kicking off a new configuration of youth grouping and opening our group to 5th graders this year. We would love to be able to have a light supper each Sunday for our youth.

This year, we will have two groups that will meet separately each week but will all be a part of our united JUMC youth. We will need adults who are willing to fill in for our volunteer leaders sometimes.

In a combined youth ministry of this size, volunteers are always welcome. Also, we can **ALWAYS** use snacks. Even Jesus made sure to feed the crowds before attempting to instruct and teach them! We will have approximately 16 -20 youth in all. If you have any questions about our Super Sunday needs, please see Crystal or Sarah.

## How You Can Get Involved contd.....



### **Blessing and Thanking Our First Responders – SEPTEMBER 11TH BEFORE AND DURING WORSHIP**

We would like to honor our local area first responders and pray over them. Prior to worship we will have a light breakfast come-and-go reception for our first responders. During worship, we will have a time to pray over any first responders in attendance. Our church will also be gifting our first responders with a special daily devotion book.

We will need volunteers to provide food for the breakfast and funds to purchase the devotion books. If you would like to give financial support for this special mission, please see Brother Walter or Crystal for more details. A sign up list for the breakfast items will be available soon.

### **Covered Dish Luncheon and Round Table Discussions – SEPTEMBER 18TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP ( FELLOWSHIP HALL)**

One way to become involved is to become informed and to take part in group discussions regarding your church family WITH your church family. And what better way to do this than to have...yep you guessed it...A COVERED DISH LUNCHEON after church service!

Bring your favorite dish and come be a part of table and church family discussions regarding the future of Jennings and Roanoke United Methodist Churches. Brother Walter will be providing some guidance with questions we will discuss each time we gather. It is essential that we come together as church families and educate ourselves and prepare ourselves for any future decisions our congregations may face.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Brother Walter.

# Youth Ministry Updates

A graphic for 'Youth Rising' featuring silhouettes of a crowd with their arms raised against a background of falling confetti.

Youth  
Rising

A graphic for 'Youth on Fire' featuring a red oval with the text 'Youth on Fire' in yellow, surrounded by colorful hands reaching up.

Youth  
on Fire

We have some new ministries we will be starting this fall! We are excited, and we hope you will be too! We are starting a new pre-teen youth group for 5th-8th graders called “Youth Rising”. This class will be led by Mrs. Sarah Crochet, and Erin Precht has agreed to help! We are in need of other adult volunteers that would be willing to rotate with Ms. Erin when she can’t be here. This group would meet on Sunday afternoons same as older youth group from 4:00pm-5:30pm. “Youth On Fire” will be our 9th-12th graders. This group will be led by Mrs. Crystal & Ms. Kim.

The purpose for us splitting our groups is the wide age gaps between our youth. Having the two groups allows for us to divide into two groups with less of a gap. The two groups will both be the JUMC Youth as a whole. Although we will have two different Sunday study groups, we would all still be considered one youth group! When I make a retreat for us, we would all go on the retreat together. Or, if I plan a fun function or for the summer trip, we would all go as one group! Therefore, fundraising would be done as one big group! Please let me know if you have any questions. I’m excited to see how God will move in the lives of our young people this year!

Also, please take note that we will have a confirmation class this year. It will be held during Sunday school hour at 9:15am. This class will begin on September 11th. We are currently working on the curriculum. If you are interested in your child confirming this year, please see Crystal or Sarah for more information.

God Bless,  
Crystal Benoit

A large, stylized yellow hand graphic with fingers spread, positioned at the bottom of the page.





## Confirmation Class 2022-2023

Youth and children who are not involved in confirmation classes will attend Sunday school and follow the current series. Make sure to come join us each week as we learn more about God together!

**BACK TO SCHOOL =  
BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Confirmation Class will begin Sunday, September 11, 2022. Class is open to any youth **6th grade and older** who have not yet been confirmed. Class will take place during **Sunday school from 9:15-10:15**. There will be a few times we will need to meet with Brother Walter for a couple of longer sessions. We will discuss the times/places for these specific portions of the confirmation classes. Please see Sarah or Crystal to register your youth for confirmation.

This year, our confirmands will complete the Colaborate curriculum as they learn about their denomination and the Bible. Each of the Colaborate: Methodist Confirmation units has its own handbook containing fifteen lessons that guide students through a process of discovery. With intriguing questions, in-depth infographics, and punchy graphics, each page pulls students into the content to drive engagement with the Bible, Methodist doctrine, and each other.

**Please remember to register your youth with Crystal or Sarah for Confirmation so that we have enough time to order curriculum and materials.**

# Music Notes from the Worship Leader

Each month, or sermon series, Brother Walter works on selecting the Scripture readings and sermon titles. Then, he sends this information to myself, Crystal, and Jacquie. From there, worship planning continues. Some passages are easier than others when it comes to song selections/suggestions. However, The Prophet Margins worship series has been a bit challenging. Yet, sometimes, I find the more challenging ones are those that help me to dig deeper and learn more in my own Christian walk.

I also feel it is extremely important for us to understand the history of the music we sing. This month, I am including some history about the hymn "God Hath Spoken by the Prophets" (the one recorded by Jacquie and myself and played in worship the week we were at our family reunion). This particular hymn is extremely fitting for our worship series and has quite powerful lyrics. The history will follow on the next page.

I recognize and can even empathize with the challenge of "new" hymns. I often have to stretch my boundaries when planning music for worship. But, what if perhaps instead of viewing something unfamiliar to us as a barrier, we flip our perspectives to view the unfamiliar as an opportunity for growth? Imagine the opportunities as we broaden our scope of experiences!

If we sing something unfamiliar in worship that causes you to feel uncomfortable singing, I would invite you to simply listen and read the lyrics. However, remember that the LORD instructs us to "make a joyful noise". We do not have to sing like professionals. We simply have to worship with complete abandon! May the Lord place a song in your heart and His Word upon your lips!

In Christ,  
Sarah

## God Hath Spoken by the Prophets Words by George W. Briggs

1 God hath spoken by the prophets,  
spoken the unchanging Word,  
each from age to age proclaiming,  
God the One, the righteous Lord!  
'Mid the world's despair and turmoil,  
one firm anchor holdeth fast:  
God eternal reigns forever,  
God the first, and God the last.  
God the first, and God the last.

2 God hath spoken by Christ Jesus,  
Christ, the everlasting Son;  
brightness of the Father's glory,  
with the Father ever one;  
spoken by the Word incarnate,  
God of God, ere time was born;  
Light of Light, to earth descending,  
Christ, as God in human form.

3 God yet speaketh by the Spirit,  
speaketh to our hearts again;  
in the agelong Word expounding  
God's own message, now as then.  
Thru the rise and fall of nations,  
one sure faith yet standing fast,  
God abides, the Word unchanging,  
God the first, and God the last.

# A History on the Hymn: “God Hath Spoken by the Prophets”

by George Wallace Briggs; The United Methodist Hymnal, No. 108

“God Hath Spoken by the Prophets” by George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959) was published in 1953 by the Hymn Society of America (now the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada), who searched for new hymns to celebrate the printing of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. The New Testament translation was completed in 1946, and the Old Testament was added in 1952. This hymn was selected as one of ten hymns out of five hundred, appearing in *Ten New Bible Hymns on the Bible* (1953), and successively was included in forty-three hymnals, the first of which was *The Methodist Hymnal* (1966) in the United States.

George Wallace Briggs was born in Nottingham, England, on December 15, 1875, and died in Hindhead, Surrey, England, on December 30, 1959. He was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he took classes in classical studies; then he became a chaplain in the Royal Navy (1902-1909). He served English parishes as vicar at St. Andrew's, Norwich (1909-18), rector of Loughborough (1918-27), canon of Leicester (1927-34), and canon of Worcester until his retirement in 1956.

Briggs, a prolific and renowned British hymn writer, was one of the founders of the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland. His hymns appear in the *Hymnal 1940* (Episcopal Church, U.S.A.) and several British hymnals. In 1950, he briefly visited the United States, lecturing at Berkeley, New Haven, and the Hymn Society of America in New York. As a religious educator, he contributed to two books, *Prayers and Hymns for Use in Schools* (1927) and *The Daily Service* (1936), which significantly influenced British worship practice. One of his prayers was used when Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill met for the adoption of the Atlantic Charter on August 10, 1941. According to Methodist biblical scholar Emory S. Bucke, Mrs. Briggs remembers her husband: “All his life he was writing hymns...” (Young, 1993, 192).

Briggs's poem unfolds the Trinitarian message in three stanzas: God has spoken by the prophets in stanza one (Old Testament), then through Jesus Christ in stanza two (New Testament), and then through the Holy Spirit in stanza three (New Testament). This Trinitarian form is strengthened by the use of a similar beginning for each stanza:

Stanza 1: God hath spoken by the prophets

Stanza 2: God hath spoken by Christ Jesus

Stanza 3: God yet speaketh by the Spirit

God's eternity is emphasized in the final two lines of stanzas 1 and 3, and even the second stanza has a sense of God's eternal nature: “God of God, ere time was born.” And this idea is reiterated throughout the poem using another rhetorical device, tautology, a poetic way of repeating an important idea in different ways for emphasis. Yet another example of this is the allusion to the Nicene Creed in stanza two: “Light of Light, to earth descending...”

For further information on the history of this hymn, the poet behind the words, and the composer of the music we use to sing this hymn, please refer to the following website:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-god-hath-spoken-by-the-prophets>



# Small Group Updates...

## **Ann Voskamp's WayMaker: Discover the daily habit of S.A.C.R.E.D**

In the *WayMaker* Bible Study you'll journey with Ann Voskamp to discover a **S.A.C.R.E.D** daily habit that will reorient your soul to God through Scripture, prayer, and study. In this six-week study you will learn:

**S** – Stillness to Know God  
**A** – Attentiveness to Hear God  
**C** – Cruciformity to Surrender to God  
**R** – Revelation to See God  
**E** – Examine to Return to God  
**D** – Doxology to Thank God

**(Session 1—June 29th)**  
**(Session 2—July 6th)**  
**(Session 3—July 13th)**  
**(Session 4—July 20th)**  
**(Session 5—August 3rd)**  
**(Session 6—August 10th)**

This powerful spiritual practice will become a directing compass through the hard seasons when it feels like there is no way - only to find you have a WayMaker making an unexpected way into the life you've only dreamed of.

**We will wrap up our last session on our current study on August 10th. Please stay tuned in worship for information regarding our next Bible study. We would love for you to join us on Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30!**

*The only way to survive waves is to keep the beat of your heart in rhythm with the One who walks on water.*

*What is in the way, is making the way more than you've yet dreamed. Where there seems to be no way—is exactly the way to miracles.*



## LADIES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS :

Old Testament heroes are best known for their most celebrated moments: Moses dividing the Red Sea; David slaying Goliath; Gideon routing an insurmountable army; Joshua marching around the defiant walls of Jericho.

And Elijah—calling down fire on Mount Carmel.

Blinded by the remarkable narratives of our biblical heroes, we can forget they each had a backstory—months and years of development, even difficulty, which fortified their spiritual muscle and prepared them for the tasks that made their lives unforgettable.

Every serious believer longs to summon up the kind of boldness and faith that can stand firm on Mount Carmel and pray down heaven into impossible situations. Yet few are willing to go through the process required to get them there. Strength of faith, character, and boldness can only be shaped in the hidden fires of silence, sameness, solitude,

and adversity. Those who patiently wait on God in the darkness emerge with their holy loyalty cemented, their courage emblazoned, and their confident belief in Him set afire. Join Priscilla Shirer on this 7-session journey through the life and times of the prophet Elijah to discover how the fire on Mount Carmel was forged in the valley of famine. And how the emboldened, fiery faith you desire is being fashioned by God in your life right now.



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## UMW News & Meeting Date

The Jennings UMW met on July 14th and enjoyed hearing about the two ministries they supported this summer: **JUMC VBS 2022 & JUMC Youth Trip to Mt. Sequoyah, AK.**

The next UMW Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 11th. Each person is invited to bring their favorite salad dish to share with the group.



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

### **AUGUST 4TH**

CRAIG CROCHET  
ISAAC CROCHET  
JACQUELINE CROCHET

### **AUGUST 9TH**

JOSHUA CROCHET

### **12TH**

EMMIE GOODREAU  
GRAYSON GOODREAU

### **AUGUST 15TH**

RICHARD MCGREGOR

### **AUGUST 17TH**

BETTY JO MCCOURT  
KEITH PRICE

### **AUGUST 22ND**

HADLEIGH ROMERO

### **AUGUST 25TH**

ELIZABETH MACK  
CAROL MACK

### **AUGUST 26TH**

ROBERT LOCKHART

## **UPCOMING EVENTS...**

### ♦ **August 7th–**

Breakfast provided by JUMC  
Youth Group  
Blessing of the Backpacks  
during 10:30 worship  
service

Messy Games 4:00-5:30pm for  
all children and youth

### ♦ **August 8th–**

LifeLine Screening

### ♦ **August 7th–**

Finance Committee Meeting 5pm

### ♦ **August 11th–**

UMW Salad Supper Meeting:

Everyone brings their  
favorite salad dish to share  
with the group..