

JUMC Methodist *Messenger*

NEWSLETTER OF JENNINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2022

From the Pastor's Desk...

There are a lot of parking lot and backroom discussions concerning what is happening within the United Methodist Denomination. There is also a lot of right and wrong issues being discussed. Over the next several months and into the year 2023, we will hold meetings to discuss what is going on, attempt to answer questions, and make decisions about the future of Jennings and Roanoke UMC Churches.

The United Methodist Church's top court released six decisions Feb. 9 related to a new provision governing how congregations can leave the denomination with property.

All six rulings from the United Methodist Judicial Council stem from questions of law raised about the Book of Discipline's new Paragraph 2553 — approved by the 2019 Special General Conference in St. Louis.

These are difficult rulings that concern issues of ministry, relationships, and many other deep theological doctrines of the church. We will be meeting and dealing with these issues. These are also very sensitive issues and affect all our families.

Because of the nature of the issues facing the United Methodist Church every member has a voice in the future of the church. There are pros and cons and questions about remaining a United Methodist Church, which will require no action. There are pros and cons and many questions about disaffiliating and joining a new Methodist Denomination. Such a decision must be made before December 31, 2023 and does require action to be taken.

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From the Pastor's Desk Cont...

Therefore we will be meeting at least 4-6 times over the next six months.

Some questions we may want to ask could be as follows:

- 1: How many times has the church split since 1784?**
- 2: What were the issues?**
- 3: What happens in a split?**
- 4: What is disaffiliation?**
- 5: What happens to the assets?**

One last question:

Name the 5 most important things your church means to you.

My prayer is that as we make time for these discussions, we also make time for our spiritual well-being and that each of you will find a way to use your gifts in the ministry and mission of our church. That we will spread the love of Christ as we 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

Cracked Cisterns

PROPHET MARGINS WORSHIP SERIES



Pastor's Call to Pray Daily

I am inviting you to join me at 5 PM each day by praying this prayer. This is a way to be in worship as the Body of Christ wherever you are.

God of Life,

We confess that we have gone after worthless trinkets, often losing our own worth in our materialistic desires. Instead of claiming our true identity as Children of God, we define ourselves by other titles.

We are more than our jobs, our families,
our stuff, our lack of stuff.

We are more than our hair, our size, our skin,
or even our age.

While these things inform who we are,
they are not what ultimately defines us.
You define us.

You are the God of Life, the true Living Water.
Our own vessels can never quench the thirst we have for
your Living Water.

We try to drink from our own cisterns,
cracked as they are.

May we embrace what it means to partake of water that
lives and moves,
not limiting ourselves to lives of stagnancy
like water in a jar.

God of Life, keep flowing around us, that we may float
in your Living Water!

Amen.



Having Words with Jesus

WORSHIP SERIES

September 4th

Luke 14:25-33 Reader: Richard McGregor

Prelude: "I Give You My Heart"

Hymn: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" - TFWS #2129

Anthem: "I'd Rather Have Jesus"

Communion Song: "Lead Me to the Cross"

Praise Song: "I Will Follow"

Counting the Cost

HAVING WORDS WITH JESUS WORSHIP SERIES

Finding the Lost

HAVING WORDS WITH JESUS WORSHIP SERIES

Debts are Tossed

HAVING WORDS WITH JESUS WORSHIP SERIES

Gulf is Crossed

HAVING WORDS WITH JESUS WORSHIP SERIES

September 11th

Luke 15:1-10 Reader: Anne Arceneaux

Prelude: "You Are My All in All"

Hymn: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" - TFWS #2158

Anthem: "Twenty-Three"

Praise Song: "Reckless Love of God"

September 18th

Luke 16:1-13 Reader: Randy Daigle

Prelude: "More Precious Than Silver"

Hymn: "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" TFWS #2153

Anthem: Consecration Medley

Praise: "I Am Yours"

September 25th

Luke 16:19-31 Reader: Kim Precht

Prelude: "Said and Done"

Hymn: "Here Am I" - TFWS #2178

Anthem: "Rock-a-My Soul"

Praise: "You Are My All in All"



God's Special Time

Women's Kairos Weekend September 22-25

Ways That Our Church Can Be a Part



Cookies for Kairos

- Homemade - please pray as you bake.
- About 2 1/2 inch diameter.
- No powdered sugar, fruit, or molasses.
- Package one dozen in a 1-quart ziploc bag.
- Cookies can be frozen ahead of time.
- All cookies must be delivered to the church by Thursday, September 14.



Notes to Women

- Handwritten.
- Open with Dear Sister in Christ.
- Print your first name only - no last names, address, or church.
- DO NOT be judgmental - They know they made wrong choices.
- Be encouraging.
- Share your favorite scripture or write about your relationship with God.
- Leave envelope unsealed.
- Turn any notes written into the church office by September 14.



Financial Support

- A Kairos weekend costs about \$12,000.
- Your donation is tax deductible.
- No gift is too small.
- You may notate KAIROS on a check made out to Jennings UMC or make out the check directly to KPMI.
- Deadline for donations is Sunday, September 10.

Questions? Contact Jacquie Prielipp (337) 353-2374.

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “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 25:37-40

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE TEAM AND PARTICIPANTS SEPTEMBER 22-25!

MEMBER Spotlight

Mr. Ronnie White is our member spotlight for the month of September! He takes care of the lawn at the church and our parsonage. Our church lawn always looks beautiful and neat! What a blessing Mr. Ronnie is to our church family! He is always cutting someone's grass around town! What a servant's heart he has! So if you happen to see him tell him "Thank You" and God Bless him for all the work he does for our church!



We love our church ushers!

Dan Donald & Brownie Goodreau and recently they made Jim Wilson and honorary usher!

If you would like to become an church usher and get one of these beautiful usher shirts to wear on Sunday mornings just get with Mr. Dan or Mr. Brownie they would love for you to join the usher club!





Sr. High Youth 9th-12th grade

Our two youth groups have begun our separate Bible studies on Sunday evenings. We come together for snacks and fellowship, then we break off for our bible studies. We have begun our Bible study series:



Warrior is a four session sermon series that will help our students better understand and be prepared for the spiritual battle that rages all around us. Students will learn that, as followers of Jesus, we are warriors! They will learn to understand and utilize the different pieces of spiritual armor God has gifted us to fight this battle

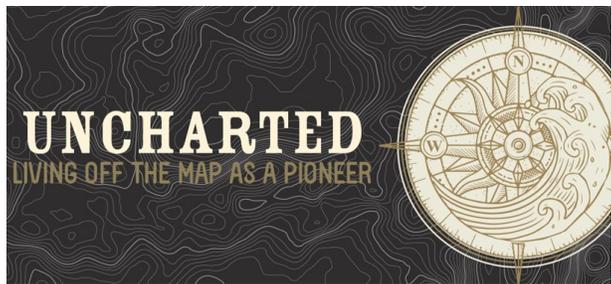
so that we can experience victory in Jesus.

Session 1: The Battle (Ephesians 6:10-13)

Session 2: The Belt and The Breastplate (Ephesians 6:14)

Session 3: The Shoes and the Shield (Ephesians 6:15-16)

Session 4: The Helmet and the Sword (Ephesians 6:17)



Next bible study they will start will be:

Uncharted "Living Off the Map As a Pioneer" it's a four session series that will challenge our students to become pioneers who are willing to trust and to listen for God's direction, look to Holy Spirit as a guide, and use his Word as a compass to discern the best way to move in that direction.

Session 1: The Pioneer's Choice (Joshua 24:14-28)

Session 2: The Pioneer's Friendship (Joshua 2:1-21)

Session 3: The Pioneer's Mindset (Joshua 6:1-21)

Session 4: The Pioneer's Secret (Joshua 10:1-15)

May we all get prayed up every day and put on our armor of God as we go out and show our love as Christians to all in the world!

~Crystal~



Confirmation Classes will begin on Sunday, September 11th at 9:15am. Class is open to any youth 6th grade and older who have not yet been confirmed. The Confirmation schedule will run from September-February. Please see Crystal or Sarah for more information!



AGAINST THE ROPES

FIGHTING TEMPTATION

Our pre-teen and elementary Sunday School class is beginning a new study series this Sunday, September 4.

Staying in the Ring When Temptation Tries to Take You Down

In this wrestling-themed series, kids will learn how to stay in the ring when temptation tries to take them down for the count.

Memory Verse: "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7 (NIV)

Lesson 1: Against the Ropes

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11, The Temptation of Jesus

You are not the only one who has ever faced temptation. Even Jesus found himself against the ropes – tempted by Satan himself – yet Jesus did not give up. We can follow Jesus' example and stay focused on God's word to keep standing. We will learn how to say, "I can resist temptation, because I have God's word."

Lesson 2: Tag Team

Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16, Jesus our High Priest

We do not have to face temptation alone. Jesus is our Savior and our High Priest. Because he was tempted, he understands what we are going through and he helps us to fight temptation at every turn. We will learn how to say, "I can resist temptation, because Jesus fights with me."

Lesson 3: Down for the Count

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, No Temptation Has Seized You

Temptation will rear its ugly head in all of our lives. But we have a choice whether we let temptation take us down for the count or whether we will break free. If we seek Him, God will always provide a way out of temptation. We will learn how to say, "I can resist temptation, because God provides a way out."

Lesson 4: Get Back In The Ring

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-13, Nathan Rebukes David

Because none of us are without sin, we have all fallen to temptation at some point. King David loved God, but when he saw Bathsheba, he let temptation turn into sin. Nathan confronted David about his sin, and David repented. Just like David, if you know Jesus as your Savior, sinning doesn't mean you're out of the game. You have to get back up and continue to seek God to help you overcome temptation the next time. We will learn how to say, "I can resist temptation with God's help, but I will seek God's forgiveness when I stumble."



Our Pre-Teen Super Sunday Study group time for the next several weeks is centered around the lessons learned from the fruit of the Spirit. We are learning about how we can have all of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. The tree doesn't TRY to grow fruit; it grows naturally as long as the tree has plenty of water and sunlight. The tree spends its time trying to reach down for water and reach up for sunlight and the fruit comes as a result. In the same way, when we focus on trusting in God and filling our mind and hearts with God's Word, the fruit of the Spirit will start to naturally be seen in our life.

Memory Verse: "But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind." Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Lesson 1: Love – Luke 15:1-7, The Parable of the Lost Sheep

The Bible says that "God is love." When we live by His Spirit, we will be like Jesus and do things out of love for others instead just doing things for ourselves.

Lesson 2: Joy – Luke 24:50-53, The Ascension

True, lasting joy can only come from knowing we have eternal life by believing in Jesus and accepting him as our Lord and Savior.

Lesson 3: Peace – 1 Samuel 25:1-35, Abigail Creates Peace

Peace isn't just about feeling calm; we need to be peacemakers, helping people find peace in the midst of conflict.

Lesson 4: Patience – Genesis 21:1-7, The Birth of Isaac

Sometimes we want things done on our schedule, but we need to be patient and realize it's ok for others to go first and realize that sometimes waiting is part of God's plan.

Lesson 5: Kindness – 2 Samuel 9, David and Mephibosheth

God is filled with loving kindness, and when we are filled up with God, we will show kindness to others whether or not they deserve it.

Lesson 6: Goodness – Mark 2:1-12, Jesus Heals and Forgives

Any goodness we have comes from God. We need to remember that we are naturally sinful, but that we can do good things when we choose to live God's way.

Lesson 7: Faithfulness – 1 Samuel 24, David Spares Saul's Life

When we commit to doing something and don't quit until it's done, we are showing faithfulness. When we always choose to make the right choice, even when tempted to do wrong, we are showing faithfulness. With help from the Holy Spirit, we can be faithful to God.

Lesson 8: Gentleness – Matthew 11:25-30, Rest for the Weary

Gentleness may sound weak, but it actually takes more strength to be gentle. Displaying gentleness to others means that we are considerate of other people and treat them with love and respect even if they don't treat us the same way. Jesus is our perfect example of gentleness that is also strong and bold.

Lesson 9: Self-Control – Daniel 1:1-17, Daniel's Training

Self-control means exactly what it sounds like, controlling one's self. It means we are able to tell ourselves and others no when we may be tempted to do wrong. While the other young men in the king's court indulged in whatever they liked, Daniel and his friends exhibited self-control and they were blessed because of it.

Listen to God's Love Song

By Brian Wren

1. Listen to God's love song:
"See my vineyard fair,
planted, walled and watered,
pruned with loving care;
ready to yield
on every fruiting vine
grapes of love and justice
for my finest wine!"
2. "But what if my vineyard,
breaking love and trust,
gives me only wild grapes,
bitter and unjust?
Then with an axe
my sorrow shall be shown.
I will leave it fenceless,
trampled, overgrown!"
3. We ourselves are branches
fed by Christ, the Vine,
joined through one another
as we intertwine,
watching in awe
our Grower stoop and stand,
tying, training, musing,
pruning-knife in hand.
4. Money, fame or numbers --
Every measure's moot.
Ask the Grower's question:
"Are we bearing fruit,
year after year,
dear Christ, without a fuss,
loving, loving, loving,
as you first loved us?"

Music Notes

from the Worship Leader

The choir will soon begin rehearsing for the Christmas cantata. We would love to have you join us for this special presentation. Please let Sarah know if you would like sing or are interested in narrating for this program so that we can make sure to order enough books. Feel free to invite a friend to join you to sing.

There are other opportunities to be a part of music ministry in worship each week. The praise team would love to have you join us in leading worship. We would love to invite some of our youth to help with praise music each week.

Also, the children and youth will soon begin their rehearsals for their Christmas program. We would love to have all children and youth participate in this presentation. If you would like to help with the rehearsals or decorations, please let Sarah or Crystal know.

JUMC Small Group Updates

Updates, Upcoming Events, & Announcements



Ladies' Bible Study

We all have past experiences we wish we could redo or undo altogether. In *Nothing Wasted*, counselor and teacher Kasey Van Norman's vulnerability invites *you* to discover God's personal and purposeful design for *your* future--not in spite of your story, but *through* it.

What if the pain and mistakes of your past are exactly what God wants to use to redeem your future?

A difficult childhood, public infidelity, and a fight with cancer--Kasey Van Norman has walked a rocky road of regret and loss. Shockingly, God would take her back to move her forward, uprooting her undealt-with wounds, secret shame, and intimacy-sabotaging patterns of behavior. No longer running from her past, but instead, allowing herself to be defined by it, Kasey discovered a God more intentional and loving than she'd ever believed him to be.

In this book, she shares the truth that *no* part of our life story is wasted--but purposefully designed and used by God to shape who we are meant to be. With vulnerability, sound doctrine, and humor, Kasey unfolds the brokenness in her own life to:

- Remind you that a holy, sovereign God lovingly works *through* your past mistakes
- Help you look at your own past to embrace it as the necessary setup for your future
- Point to the God who can weave together a beautiful story of redemption in your life

No experience or relationship has been a mistake. You are no mere byproduct of random events, and you do not need a do-over! Because with God, nothing is wasted.

Come join us for this awesome study!

Ladies' Sunday School

The ladies' Sunday school class is wrapping up the Priscilla Shirer 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. The class will decide on their next study series on September 4 and will begin the new series on Sunday, September 11. If you have not connected/plugged into a group, this would be a great time to join the class.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ **September 4th–**

Breakfast provided by UMW
Group #2

- ◆ **September 11th–**

First Responders Breakfast
Reception & Blessing During
10:30 a.m. Worship

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS

- ◆ **September 18th–**

Covered Dish Luncheon & Table
Discussions with JUMC &
RUMC Congregations

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



12TH-THERESA LYONS
16TH-MIRIAM KAHL
16TH-MATTHEW PRECHT
16TH-JACQUIE PRIELIPP
17TH-HARRY ANN WHITE
21ST-ERIC JEANISE
24TH-HAZEL HOFFPAUIR
29TH-BRYAN GOODREAU