

Jennings Methodist

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
MAY 2023

Messenger

From the Pastor's Desk...

What's Next!

Easter begins with the resurrection and the world becomes transformed because of that moment in time. What's next? Why Pentecost, that's what. That is the day the winds blew throughout the land and the voice of God was heard. No it wasn't George Burns it was God. The "I AM" spoke and Peter and the disciples baptized 5,000 men as well as a host of women and children. That is what is next, at least for the church. There is a new chapter in progress beginning with Pentecost Sunday followed by the Season of Kingdomtide (or Ordinary time).

For the church this Ordinary time will season of making plans and reorganizing. Planning VBS, youth activities, maybe some new Bible studies, and looking forward with hope and expectation. For the Parker household it will be a time of celebrating another granddaughter graduating and preparing for college in the fall, getting settled in Ponchatoula, and visiting relatives.

As I reflect on my years in ministry, 33 years, I realize that 36% of my ministry was in Jennings and Roanoke. 12 years in Jennings and 11 years at Roanoke and it has truly been a joy to serve here. Both churches have become family for us and it will be very hard on us when we leave. However, just like Easter and other holidays come around often, we may appear at any given time. You are also welcome to come and visit us whenever you want. Our address will be as follows:

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From the Pastor's Desk...

Walter & Shirley Parker
190 South 2nd St, Ponchatoula LA 70454

Our home phone in (985) 386-3287

Shirley's Cell (318) 617-9600

Walter's Cell (318) 617-9600

Our cell numbers are the same ones we now have.

The landline number has been the same for the Parker household since 1959.

A lot of changes coming for Jennings Methodist Church and Roanoke Methodist Church as both enter a new era of post Pentecost season and changes for the Parkers as well.

May the light of Christ to be embedded in your heart so that you can be transformed into His likeness and everything you do this Easter season and the season beyond celebrates your salvation and causes others to turn to Christ.

*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*

From Your Lay Leader

We have had several informational and discussion meetings in this season of discernment and decisions within our church. On Sunday, April 30, we had a representative from the Wesleyan Covenant Association who came to bring us information about the Global Methodist Church. The Tuesday after this meeting, our church council met to discuss our next steps as a congregation. The council made the recommendation to call a church conference in order to vote to or not to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church.

On Sunday, May 14 immediately following worship, we will hold a very brief church conference to bring forth the official motion and vote regarding the congregation's decision in affiliating with the Global Methodist Church. We listened to information about the Global Methodist Church brought to us by several different people. The church also has a copy of the Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church should you wish to look at it. Below is the official website for the Global Methodist Church. Please let us know if you would like further information or have any questions.

We are a church together, a body of many who are as one through Christ our Lord and Savior. Each person matters, and each should be present to vote. We know that this is Mother's Day Sunday which is why we promise to be very brief in this meeting. We will simply remain in the Sanctuary following worship and meet there. Again, please contact the office if you should have any questions regarding this information.

Love In Christ,
Sarah

May Worship Series

A Living Hope

EASTER SEASON WORSHIP SERIES


*How has God
been present
to you in
difficult times?*

A LIVING HOPE WORSHIP SERIES

Like Living Stones

A LIVING HOPE WORSHIP SERIES

May 7, 2023
1 Peter 2:2-10

Always Be Ready

A LIVING HOPE WORSHIP SERIES



Casting Your Cares

A LIVING HOPE WORSHIP SERIES

May 14, 2023
**1 Peter 3:13-22 &
1 Peter 4:12-14,
5:6-11**



Reader: Anne Arceneaux
Prelude: "More Precious Than Silver"
Hymn: "We Are God's People" TFWS # 2220
Anthem: "Cornerstone" with "The Solid Rock
(My Hope Is Built)"
Communion Song: "Leaning"
Praise Song: "Cornerstone"

Reader:
Prelude: "Living Hope"
Hymn: "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" UMH 605
Anthem: "O Praise the Name" ("Anástasis")
Praise Song: "Death Was Arrested"

THE BUTTERFLY:



Represents faith, transformation,
& acceptance to new beginnings.

May 21, 2023
Youth Sunday

Colossians 3:5-15
Redefined

Reader: Madilynne Prielipp
Prelude: "Thank You Jesus for the Blood"
Opening Song: "Waymaker"
Anthem: "Sons and Daughters of God"
Praise Song: "Leaning"

May Worship Series contd....



When God Came Down Like Fire

WORSHIP SERIES



PENTECOST SUNDAY

He Breathed on Them

WHEN GOD CAME DOWN LIKE FIRE WORSHIP SERIES

Reader:
Prelude: "A New Hallelujah"
Hymn: "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" UMH # 540
Anthem: "Holy Spirit" with "Holy Spirit Rain Down"
Praise Song: "The Blessing"



TRINITY SUNDAY

Go Therefore

WHEN GOD CAME DOWN LIKE FIRE WORSHIP SERIES

Reader:
Prelude: "We Believe"
Hymn: "All Creatures of Our God and King" UMH #62
Anthem: "By the Way You Love"
Communion Song: "Remember I Am There"
Praise Song: "New Doxology"

Youth Ministry News

Wow! It's May already where has the school year gone! Youth and children are preparing to end yet another school year. Some are graduating pre-k; others are graduating high school. Either way they are embarking on adventures. Some are finishing up wonderful softball seasons, band concerts, track, and other spring sports.

During all of this, our college students, who we still pray for, are finishing up a year of college. Some of them pack up their dorms to head home for the break to transition for the summer. So many changes yet God is in the middle of all these changes in our lives and he is with us through it all. Just as we go through changes in life, the church also goes through changes, and just as God is with us through those changes in life, he is also with us through the changes in the church. We are all together as one body of Christ and must stand together as one body of Christ!

On May 21st we will celebrate Youth Sunday in Roanoke & Jennings Methodist Churches where the Youth will lead worship. I invite and encourage you to come and hear what these youth share as a witness to God's Holy Spirit as we prepare for the upcoming season of Pentecost! As we get excited for the new things that God will be stirring up in our church, we prepare for a revival!

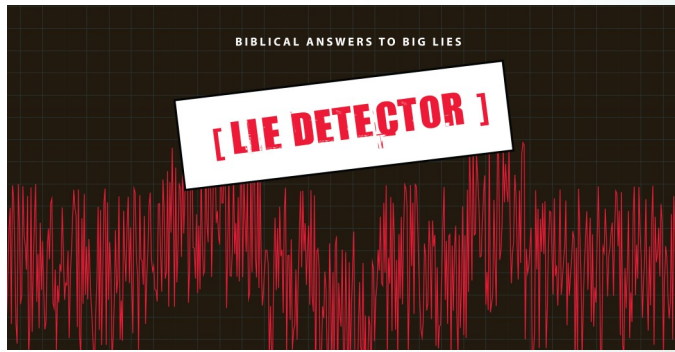
Vacation Bible School will be held on June 4th-8th we will be helping be leaders again this year. This is part of our mission to our church. We would also like to Thank Pastor Walter for all his leadership and guidance to our Ministry for the last 11 years. We will miss him dearly, but we hope he enjoys his retirement with his grandchildren and Ms. Shirley in his home in Ponchatoula.

I plan on having an end of school /youth party I just haven't decided when yet. There will be more plans to come.....SO stay tuned for more information.

God Bless,

Crystal Benoit

Sunday School Series



Don't you believe it!

There are many lies going around today that sound good, but are really leading people away from the truth. However, if we look to Scripture we'll find reasons to believe the Bible and reasons to do things God's way. We will receive Biblical answers to big lies.

Memory Verse: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

Lesson 1: You Are Number One Mark 9:33-35, Who is the Greatest

This big lie tells us we should put ourselves first. Get ahead at all costs. Look out for number one, and number one is you. Jesus teaches us that if we want to be great, we will serve others. We will learn that God wants us to put others first.

Lesson 2: There's No Such Thing as Right and Wrong 2 Timothy 3, Follow the Bible and Not the World

One of the biggest lies told today is that there's no such thing as right and wrong. There are no absolutes. That can't be true because "There are no absolutes" is itself an absolute statement! The Bible teaches us there is absolute truth, as well as right and wrong. We will learn that the Bible teaches us right and wrong.

Lesson 3: The Bible is a Myth Matthew 27:11-26, Jesus Before Pilate

This big lie tells us the Bible is a myth or a fairy tale. There's not only Biblical evidence to show the Bible is true, there is archaeological evidence to back up the Bible. It is a book rooted in real history that teaches us who we are and what God has done for us! We will learn the Bible is a true book of history as well as a revelation about God.

Lesson 4: There's More Than One Way to Heaven John 14:5-6, Jesus is the Way

The big lie says all religions are essentially the same. They all lead to the same place. This lie is as dangerous as telling a driver that any direction they drive on a road is safe. That's a great way to have a head on collision! Jesus says He is the ONLY way to be saved. Only by believing in Jesus can we get to Heaven. To tell someone otherwise is not being "tolerant" or "kind". It's actually one of the most unloving things you can do. We will learn Jesus is the only way to Heaven.

Youth Rising Sunday Study



A True Hope Idea: Helping kids understand the concepts of Sin, Love, Grace, Forgiveness, Belief, and Faithfulness – 6 of the most important words in any galaxy.

Memory Verse: "Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not overcome the light." -John 1:4-5 (NIRV)

Lesson 1: Sin – Genesis 3:1-10, 21-24, The Fall of Man
In the beginning, there was only good, but then something bad entered the world. We call that bad thing Sin. Sin is disobeying God and not doing what he says is right.

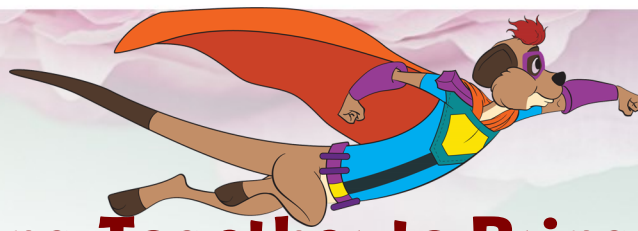
Lesson 2: Love – John 3:16 For God so loved the world, Matthew 22:36-40 The greatest commandment
God's love is a force to be reckoned with. He created the universe and everything in it. He loves every person very much. So much so that he would even send his son to die for us to save us from sin. Love is also the most powerful weapon we have to fight against sin. If we are doing what God says, we are showing love to him and to others. Love is when we think of others before ourselves.

Lesson 3: Grace – Luke 2:1-14, The Birth of Jesus
Just when it seemed that sin would be victorious, God gave us the gift of his Son Jesus. He gave us a way to escape sin. Grace means God gave us a way to not be punished for sin when we did not deserve his help.

Lesson 4: Forgiveness – Luke 23:26-43, The Cross
A lightsaber can cut through whatever the enemy throws your way. Forgiveness through Jesus is like that lightsaber, cutting through our sin so we are no longer sinful. Forgiveness means God does not punish us like we deserve for our sins, because Jesus took the punishment for us.

Lesson 5: Belief – John 20:1-19, Jesus Is Alive
When Jesus died, many thought that sin had won and nothing could stop it. But sin is not stronger than God's love. God raised Jesus to life again in power! If we believe that, Jesus promises to save us from sin and give us eternal life. Belief means we trust that what the Bible says is true

Lesson 6: Faithfulness – Acts 9:1-19, Saul's Conversion
In the end, each of us must choose: will we follow the dark path of sin and shame or will we choose to be faithful to Jesus and follow him. Faithfulness means we choose to live life God's way and not sin's way.



Working Together to Bring Peace

Hero Hotline VBS Theme Verse

Romans 14:19: "So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up."

This verse reminds us that God calls us to be a part of a community—working to bring peace to the world is something that we are all called to do together. Here's how Hero Hotline helps Heroes work together to bring peace and build one another up: The Hero Hotline Headquarters is a secret place where Heroes go to help solve problems called in by other heroes out in the community.

At Hero Hotline, everyone's gifts are valued and each Hero has a role to play. Heroes receive a call/assignment each day by the Professor and Super Meer to help solve a problem that other Heroes in the community are facing. Heroes will then explore the files and database of the Hero Hotline to discover how Heroes can work together to bring peace.

Peace comes from God, and as God's people we are called to share that peace with the world. We work together, help one another, and encourage one another because God has called us to live in community and fellowship with one another. We all can strive, in both expected and unexpected ways, to bring peace, love, and justice to the world.

HEROES
..are called to..
FOLLOW JESUS!

HEROES
..are called to..
HELP OTHERS!

HEROES
..are called to..
WORK TOGETHER!

HEROES
..are called to..
LISTEN to GOD!

HEROES
..are called to..
SHOW GRACE!

CALLING ALL
SIDEKICKS...
STATION
LEADERS...
VBS
VOLUNTEERS
WE NEED
YOU!!!!!!



As a church, we all need to support VBS with our time and prayers. VBS offers unique and fun opportunities to not only minister to the children and youth of our own church, but it also offers that same opportunity outreach to children and youth in the entire community. God can use us all. Remember, He does not call the equipped...He equips the called! See the next page for opportunities to be a part of this special event!

Hero Hotline where... “We are called together to serve God!”

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to serve during VBS or help preparations for this year's VBS. Please contact Crystal at the church office, Sarah Crochet, or Kim Precht to let us know where you can help.

Supper will be served each evening for our VBS Heroes. Whether you are able to volunteer to donate to our help with our VBS, we are asking you ALL to be in prayer for our Hero Hotline. Help us advertise for the event by word of mouth and social media. If an opportunity arises, we can schedule a time to meet briefly with volunteers prior to our first session of VBS. If we plan a meeting for volunteers, more information will be announced. This year, our VBS will begin on a Sunday and run through Thursday that week. (JUNE 4-8) VBS will be open to all grades PK-6. Our youth will help to “shepherd” the groups.

We are in need of adult volunteers for the following:

- Meal preparation/serving
- Snack prep (the evening before it is needed)
- Arts and Crafts Station
- Storytelling Station
- Science Station.



We are all called to serve. Each of us is a minister by definition. We are not ordained pastors, but we are all called to serve as ministers of the Word. What this looks like varies from day to day, person to person, location to location. VBS is an opportunity for us all to be ministers and to be connected with one another as we serve our children of youth of our church and our community.

Whether you are a behind the scenes prayer warrior, a behind the scenes set up and clean up crew, a station leader, a decorator/designer, a meal server...we are ministers all. So, step up and join us as we work together side by side to share love and grace and the Word of God at Hero Hotline this year!

Wednesday Bible Study

PERFECTION NOT REQUIRED

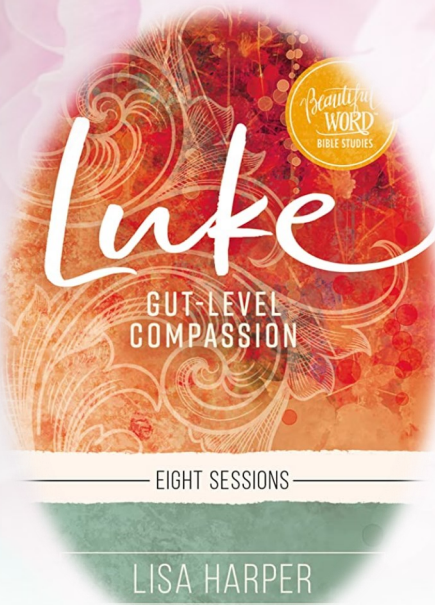
Many of us believe that we aren't good enough to meet other people's expectations. Maybe you can't wrap words around why, but lurking beneath the surface of the carefully curated façade you present in public, it's there. Being missed and marginalized by others moves us to assume we're not quite good enough for God either.

The great news woven throughout the Gospel according to Luke is that perfection is not a prerequisite for a deep and personal relationship with Jesus. In fact, this riveting account reveals that Jesus is especially fond of ragamuffins in need of a safe place to lean in and linger! Join Lisa Harper in this video Bible study of a literary masterpiece that doesn't celebrate the elite, but embraces the outliers, outcasts, and overlooked!

It's not too late to join us. If you have not connected with a small group, this is a great one to join. Following our study on Luke, we will begin a new study titled Don't Look Back: Getting Unstuck and Moving Forward with Passion and Purpose.

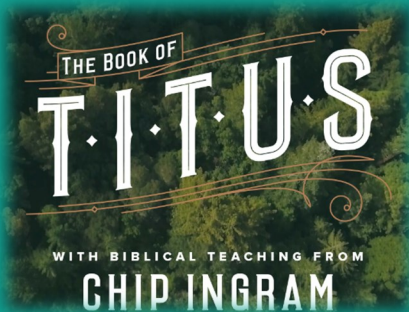
Sessions:

- April 26/Session 1: Outliers, Outcasts, and the Mercy of God
May 3/Session 2: Worship in The Waiting
May 10/Session 3: Uphill Glory
May 17/Session 4: Gut-Level Compassion
May 24/Session 5: The Tender Heart of Obedience
May 31/Session 6: A Beautiful Unbending
June 14/Session 7: A Most Radical Restoration
June 21/Session 8: A Tale of Two Rooms



Sunday School

The adult Sunday School class is currently working on the study on the book of Galatians. We will have a special Pentecost lesson on May 28th. On June 4th, we will begin a study on the book of Titus. We would love to have you join us for our time of discussion and study together. We meet at 9:15 in the Sunday school room off the fellowship hall. For more information, please see Jacquie Prielipp.



In this Book of the Bible series, Chip Ingram unpacks the book of Titus. He challenges us to display the gospel in our lives through doing good. We do good works not to earn God's favor, but as a result of God's favor. When the gospel has truly taken root in our lives, it produces the fruit of godliness. As we pass these things on to future generations, the Church stands in bright contrast to the darkness of the world.



SESSION 1



SESSION 2



SESSION 3



SESSION 4



SESSION 5



SESSION 6



SESSION 7

Announcements

- **FINANCE MEETING:** There will be a finance committee meeting on **Tuesday, May 9, at 5:00 p.m.** If you are on this committee, please make every effort to attend.
- **CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE:** There will be a called church conference immediately following worship on **Sunday, May 14.** This meeting is to discuss and vote upon the decision to or not to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church. Please contact the church office if you have any questions regarding this meeting.
- **SUMMER SIGN UP DAY at Sowela:** Our church will be hosting a table at the community Summer Sign Up event to be held on **Saturday, May 20, from 11:00-1:00 at Sowela.** If you would like to help with this, please let Sarah or Kim know. We will arrive early to set up and will have registration forms for parents/guardians to pre-register their child/children for our VBS. We will also have some fun items to pass out as a way of advertising for VBS and outreach.
- **MAY 28: PENTECOST SUNDAY AND WALTER AND SHIRLEY'S LAST SUNDAY**
- **JUNE 4: TRINITY SUNDAY AND FAREWELL POTLUCK LUNCHEON** Following worship on June 4, we, along with the Roanoke congregation, will host a potluck to celebrate Walter and Shirley. We would like to coordinate dishes being brought, so please call the office to let Crystal know what you are planning to bring. We will also need some volunteers to help clean up following the luncheon so that we can prepare for our first night of VBS!!
- **SUNDAY JUNE 4—THURSDAY JUNE 8:** VBS will be held each evening from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

May Birthdays

10TH-BROWNIE GOODREAU

12TH-CADE DOMINGUE

15TH-PRESTON LACOMBE

18TH-NANCY ALLBRITTON

30TH-CRYSTAL BENOIT

31ST-BROOKLIN CLEMENT

