



Wesley UMC family,

This week we will continue with part two of the Beatitudes where Jesus taught the crowds who gathered on the hillside that they are to be salt and light in the world. I recently learned of a website that takes several Bible translations and will add the Southern y'all to reflect when the "you" in the Greek is plural. It's a difference that we usually miss in the English translations. Here is the y'all version of Matthew 5: 13-16: "Y'all are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its flavor, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. Y'all are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let y'all's light shine before people, so that they can see y'all's good deeds and give honor to y'all's Father in heaven. (NET, www.yallversion.com/)"

Notice that no one on their own embodies salt or light. It takes all of us together, all y'all, to be the salt and light of which Jesus speaks. Just as salt adds flavor to food, we need to be present and mingled throughout the world, bringing a gospel flavor in our communities. The light doesn't need to be hidden away under a basket or kept only within the church walls, but it needs to be put on a lampstand and shared in a way that gives glory to God. As our MS Conference celebrated the assignment of Bishop Sharma Lewis recently, she preached a sermon with a challenge called "Take Jesus to the Streets." It's an important reminder of who we are called to be as the church. The salt has to leave the shaker in order for it to do any good. The light doesn't need to be covered up. We have to step beyond the walls of the church building to be the church.

As I have been working on our annual statistical reports, it has been powerful to see the impact of our various ministries in 2022. The thousands of people served through our Food Pantry, Mobile Manna, Tree of Life and other missions. Hundreds of children and families who were part of our Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, and Trunk or Treat. The generosity of this congregation that supported all our ministries as well as completed our parking lot renovation. We celebrate our new member, Sarah Jean Boggan, and we remember the legacy of our five Wesley saints who died in 2022. We give thanks for a 5% improvement in our average in-person worship attendance to 64, even as we work to involve more people in our weekly worship both in the Sanctuary and through Facebook Live. I'm proud of the connections and growth that happens in our Sunday School classes, Bible Studies, United Methodist Men, Chancel Choir, and other small groups.

Y'all are salt and light in this Tupelo community! Thank you for the ways you are letting your light shine as a sign of God's love and bringing out flavor and life wherever you go. Briny and bright, we are God's faithful people. I look forward to another year of fruitful ministry together.

Grace and peace,
Emily

Sunday Sermon

"You Are"

Matthew 5:13-
-20



February Events

Thursday, February 2nd

5:30 pm.....Finance Committee

February 3rd-4th

Christina Gibson.....CLC reserved

Sunday, February 5th

9:15.am.....Donuts in Holy Grounds

9:30 am.....Sunday School

10:30 am.....Worship Service

Monday, February 6th

Girl Scout Cookie Distribution

Wednesday, February 8th

5:00 pm.....WOW Meal

6:00 pm.....Bible Studies

7:00 pm.....Choir Practice

Birthday List

February 2nd - Chris Clay, Tommy Dempsey

February 3rd - Rex Gibson, John Sanford

February 5th - John Baker

February 6th - Karen McMillin

Flower List

Have a special occasion to celebrate? Contact Rachel Davis and she will have a beautiful arrangement fixed up to help celebrate! Sign up sheet is in the foyer! **There are open dates for 2/19-3/12!**



Prayer List

Praying for others is an important part of our ministry as the body of Christ. Please incorporate this list as a part of your personal prayer life.

Merrie-Kyle, Chesley, & Hunter
Heatherly
Kathy Byrd
Martha Miller
Kevin Patrick
Bobbie Schreppel
Joan Smith
Barbara & Sonny Turner
Mary Ruth Wilburn
Ann Armentrout (Tricia Thistle's mother)
David Beene (Linda Austin and Leslie Card's Uncle)
Ann Bevill (Martha Langley's sister-in-law)
Rickey Bishop (Requested by Judy Counce)
Mattie Boehms
The Chaney's (death of Robert's brother-in-law Joe Byrd)
Eliska Counce

Billy Downs (Quay Whitten's brother)
Charley Enis (Requested by Jim Counce)
Carol Frazier (Requested by Martha Langley)
Elizabeth Galloway (Requested by Jim Counce)
Beth & Billy Golden (Glenda Glay's parents)
Laura Gregory (Requested by Pat Pearce)
Devin Horn (Chris Horn's son)
JoAnn Miller (James Taylor's grandmother)
Sherry Rial (Jimmy and Martha Langley's daughter)
Jim Staggs
Drew Steward
Cohen Tedford (Blake and Lindsey Tedford's son)
Skip Thistle (Chris Thistle's Father)
Tony Turner (Sonny Turner's Brother)
Lucy Wiygul

Please remember to keep our confirmands and their faith friends in your prayers as they continue their journey to confirmation.

Abigail Davis & Annette Wilson (faith friend)

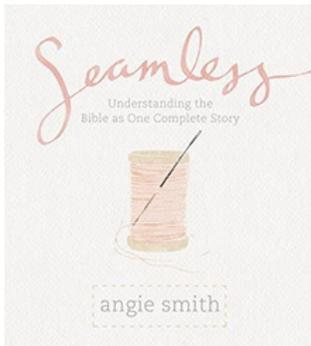
Walker Herndon & Dewaine Card (faith friend)

Wesley Witness

Upcoming Events!

FELLOWSHIP MEAL AT 5 PM BIBLE STUDIES AT 6 PM

Wow Meal for February
8th
Chicken Tenders, cold
salads, bread, desserts!



Ladies Bible Study with Anna Garner



Men's Bible Study with James Taylor



Bible Year Study with Pastor Emily

Confirmation St. Luke & Wesley UMC

What is Confirmation?

St. Luke UMC and Wesley UMC are partnering together to offer confirmation for our students! It is a special time in the life of a student when they learn about the Christian faith and what we believe as Methodists. Together we will learn, grow, have fun, build relationships and participate in mission. Confirmation is more than just a class on Sunday afternoons – it is a foundation for your faith. You will carry what you learn in Confirmation with you your entire life.

Confirmation Schedule:

January 22nd - Kick Off at Wesley
February 3-5 Confirmation Retreat at Camp Lake Stephens
February 26 - At St. Luke
March 5 - At Wesley
March 19 - At St. Luke
April 16 - At Wesley
April 30 - At St. Luke
May 7 or 21 - Confirmation Sunday

What will we learn?

Grace, The Way of Salvation, Sin and Redemption, Baptism, Holy Communion, UMC History, John Wesley, Spiritual Practices, Prayer, Worship, Church Membership, Mission, Service, Trinity and SO MUCH MORE!

Continue to pray for our Wesley and St. Luke Kids as they continue to learn about their relationship with God and the church and as they confirm their commitment to His service.

Wesley Witness

Church Work Day

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH 9AM-
NOON

This is Cherie Walker, the new Chair of the Trustees Committee and I'm writing this on behalf of the Trustee Committee. We are a small committee with a lot of projects we need to work on at our beautiful Church. This Church is a building that craves for attention just like our homes do. I know I am guilty to attend, go to class, but never really think about the expense or the up-keep of an older building.

The Trustees are here to keep the building/grounds up but as you know projects take money, time and talent that some of us have and others don't. I know that not all of us can paint, repair, clean or climb but we each can do our part. I am asking first that each family donate 2 storage bins with lids (cost about 7 to 9 dollars each) and bring to the Church. The trustees want first to organize our Church supplies, rooms and offices and use the rooms to their max potential.

First, we are planning a clean/paint/work day on **Saturday, Feb. 18th from 9am-Noon**. There are so many small projects that we will find you a job that fits your physical status. Multiple cleaning projects, painting, tear down/build up projects available. Please attend if you can help if not we understand. However please consider bringing the 2 storage bins by this date. We need about 40-50 total boxes. This day is for men and women of all ages, sizes and shapes.

The Trustees also want to keep you in the loop with completed and upcoming projects. Completed projects include the bolsters have been placed in front of 2 canopy poles (the yellow poles to remind us not to back into them), some minor bathroom leaks/repairs, the Sanctuary roof leak repair and a major move was moving the food pantry from several areas in the Church to one location. Currently working on cleaning storage areas/putting in storage bins and labeling items in multiple places in the Church, replacing some water damaged ceiling tiles, painting some small areas that need touch-ups, locating the Mobile Manna in the old Food pantry area (across from Pastor Emily's office) and Dale Dobbs is working with a handyman to make small repairs on our doors/bathrooms.

If you can't be there on the 18th please be there in prayer and spirit.



Our Stay Young group will meet February 7th at 10:30 a.m. here at Wesley UMC. Ashley McDaniel is the Executive Director for NextAge Mississippi and will be the speaker. She oversees two outreach programs for Methodist Senior Services here in Lee County: NextAge Mississippi and Meals on Wheels. NextAge Mississippi serves elders 62 and older that still live at home that need a little more assistance with their housekeeping and home or yard maintenance. Our housekeeper and maintenance man comes from Traceway Retirement Community and is trained, and background check by our facility. They can come out and clean and organize your living space or even mow your yard and fix your fences, paint, build a ramp or fix your toilets etc. This program is starting completely over since Covid hit but is on the way to being renewed in the upcoming months. Meals on Wheels is another service offered to elders 62 or older that live in Lee County to be able to receive a hot, nutritious meal 5 days a week, Monday through Friday at no cost to the recipient. Meals on Wheels is a nonprofit agency that fundraisers the money to help feed the elders that need a meal. Meals on Wheels consists of 12 routes and has over 300 volunteers. Fundraising and volunteering are how Meals on Wheels is able to keep delivering these meals to our growing population in Lee County. If you know of anyone that are needing these services, please contact her office at 662-432-1755.

WAYS TO SERVE



FOOD PANTRY

2/7/23 - Ruth Dobbs, Wenris Alford,
David Koon
2/14/23 - Judy Counce, Martha Clay, Errol
Tootle

Item of the Month: Peanut Butter and
Jelly

TRUSTEES

2/5/23 Rob Haven
2/12/23 David Hutson
2/19/23 Jay Senter

OFFERING COUNTERS

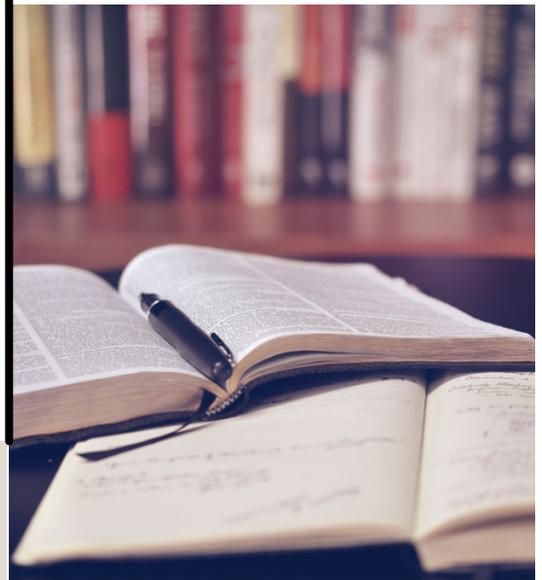
2/5/23 - Rachel Davis and David
Hutson
2/12/23 Martha Clay & Brenda
Pearce
2/19/23 - Phyllis Hunter & Trae
Wyatt

Church Work Day

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH 9AM-
NOON

TREE OF LIFE CLINIC

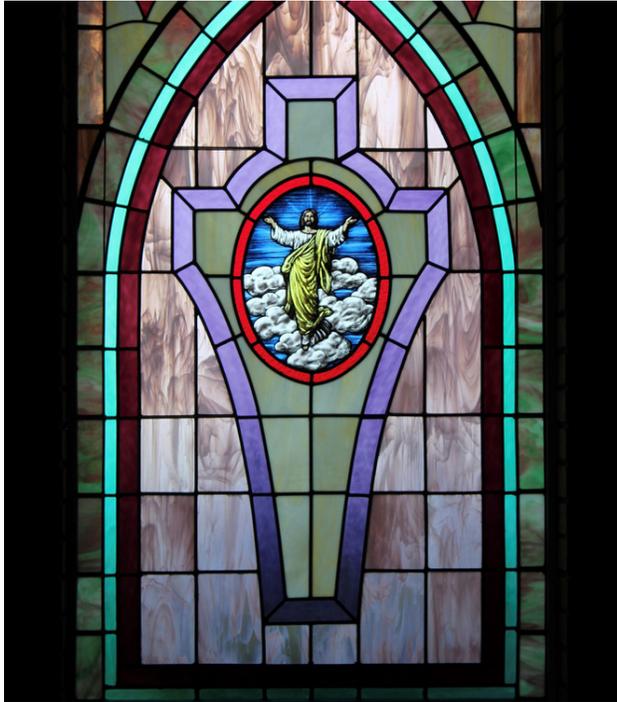
Saturday, February 18 @ 8:30 am Wednesday, March 1st @ 4:30 pm



Wesley Witness

February 1, 2023

Volume 47, Issue 29



FOR THE RECORD

Attendance (In - Person)

Morning Worship....83 (7 online)

Stewardship

2023 Operating Budget.....\$274,921

Needed to Date.....\$26,434.71

YTD Budget Receipts.....\$24,034.73

Needed Weekly.....\$5286.94

Weekly Budget Receipts.....\$1928.98



WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Located at 2010 West Main Street

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Church Website: www.wesleytupelo.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/wesleytupelo

Pastor's Cell # 601.376.9658

Pastor's Email:

revemilysanford@gmail.com

Emily Sanford - Pastor

Linda Austin - Worship Leader

Debbie Clark - Financial Secretary

Martha Webb - Pianist

Sandi & Doug Haire - Custodians

Frances Heavens - Nursery

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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TUPELO, MS 38803-2434

To Believe. To Belong. To Become
Christ-Like Through Discipleship.