



Mossy Creek United Methodist Church

January 26, 2023

MOSSY CREEK MESSENGER

Food for thought from J

We all have things we would like to change about ourselves. We want to procrastinate less, exercise more, eat healthier, spend more time with our family, watch less television – and the list goes on and on. This is certainly true for Christians whose desire for change is part of our new nature as those who are reborn as new creations in Christ.

But all change requires critical decisions. Being a Christian begins with deciding to accept Christ as Lord of our lives, and then, learning what it means to follow the example Jesus set with his life. Ultimately, this leads to one of the most important decisions we will ever have to make - choosing which world we are going to live in. Will we remain mired in a secular and fallen world of false promises, materialism, violence, and selfishness that tells us we don't really have the time or the need for God, the church, or the Bible? Or will we pursue a world in which God's grace, love, mercy, peace, and truth reign supreme?

Thankfully, if we would truly seek to follow Christ, the choice is simple. We must choose the world that is ruled by the one who offers a better way of living together in peace as children of God. Importantly, this is a world where living God's kingdom is our priority, and we look forward to worshiping together in Christian community – not just when it is convenient or when we don't have something better to do – but every chance we get! In this world, we study God's word with a hunger to learn how to be better disciples of Jesus. We don't wait for someone else to help the needy in our midst, because we understand that we all have a job to do for God.

Make no mistake, we must decide. We must choose and take a stand. –We can't have it both ways! So, what will it be? Which world will we choose?

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations

...to our very own Ella Blair for her recent recognition as valedictorian of the White County High School class of 2023. Congratulations on this incredible accomplishment. We are so proud of you!

CHURCH BUSINESS

Finance Committee

Our Finance committee will meet on Monday, January 30th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Young at Heart classroom. We hope members will make every effort to attend. Business will include review of calendar year 2022 financials and consideration of 2023 budget.

WORSHIP NEWS

Studies in Faithfulness

Over the next two weeks we will complete our consideration of that limited amount of information the Bible provides about the childhood of Jesus. This week we shift our attention from Matthew's gospel to Luke, as we encounter two biblical characters who, despite their relative obscurity, provide us with important illustrations of what it means to live by faith. I hope to see you Sunday.

Never Miss a Sunday

If you can't worship in person every Sunday, you can watch our 10:00 A.M. worship service on Facebook. Go to our Mossy Creek UMC Facebook page by clicking on the link below to worship live or watch later at your convenience.

<https://www.facebook.com/mossycreekumc>

Technology Update

...and regarding the live stream of our worship services on Facebook, you may have noticed that, over the last few months, we have been making upgrades to the video capabilities in our sanctuary. One of the most obvious of these has been the addition of two new cameras that provide viewers with multiple camera angles, including a much-requested view of the congregation. We are still working through some installation and internet challenges associated with these upgrades, but we expect the end result to be a higher quality, more consistent, and dynamic online worship experience than ever before. Thank you for your patience as we work through this process.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Read the Bible in a Year

Week 26

Day 1	-	1 Kings 6, 2 Chronicles 3, 1 Timothy 1
Day 2	-	1 Kings 7, 2 Chronicles 4, 1 Timothy 2
Day 3	-	1 Kings 8, Psalm 30, 1 Timothy 3
Day 4	-	2 Chronicles 5-7, Psalm 121, 1 Timothy 4
Day 5	-	1 Kings 9, 2 Chronicles 8, 1 Timothy 5

UMW Scholarship Fundraiser

The United Methodist Women will hold their annual scholarship fundraiser Sunday February 12th in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Bring a covered dish(es) and your checkbook to support our scholarships for graduating high school seniors active at Mossy Creek. For questions see Sally or Beth. Everyone in the church is invited.

Family Promise

Mossy Creek UMC's next week to provide meals for Family Promise is February 12-18. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, or if you have any questions, please call Kim Sosebee at 706-878-6087. Thanks to all who are willing to be God's hands and feet by helping those in need.

Ladies Fellowship

Our Ladies Fellowship Group will meet for their next monthly luncheon on Wednesday, February 15th at 11:30 a.m. at Fender's Diner in Cornelia.

Christian Education Opportunities

Sunday School – 9:00 AM every Sunday

We have classes for children of all ages that focus on providing age appropriate and foundational lessons about the Bible, its main characters, and the fundamental life lessons they hold for us today.

Our Choir Room class is currently reading C. S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. This week we will discuss chapter 4 of Book 3. If you would like to be a part of this study, please join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M in the choir room.

The Fellowship Hall class offers an opportunity for group prayer, fellowship, and spiritual devotion using such resources as the Upper Room. The class welcomes anyone wishing to engage in these important spiritual practices.

The Young at Heart class meets in the room adjacent to the church office and follows the traditional Cokesbury Sunday School curriculum.

Bible Studies and Small Groups

The Tuesday Bible study group is continuing an in-depth study of John's gospel. We meet every Tuesday at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Next week we will be discussing chapter 11. It's never too late to get involved in serious Bible study, and we hope you will consider joining us in studying God's word from John's gospel.

Our United Methodist Women meet monthly on the Monday following the second Sunday of the month. They are currently studying Shannon Bream's book, *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*. Their next meeting will be on Monday night, February 13th at 6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

The United Methodist Men meet for breakfast on the second Sunday of each month to share food, fellowship, and a time of spiritual devotion. Their next meeting will be February 12th at 8:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Ladies Fellowship Group meets monthly for a time of food and fellowship. Their next meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 15th at Fender's Diner in Cornelia.

Children are our Future...

...but we need volunteers to work with our children on Sunday mornings and throughout the year, as we seek to grow disciples for the future of the church and God's kingdom. If you have a gift for working with and teaching children, don't wait to be asked to use your talent for God's kingdom. Call the office or talk to J to volunteer.

Gifts

Supporting the church with our tithes and offerings is not only necessary for the life of the church, it is also an important spiritual practice for growing as a disciple and exercising our faith in God's providence. Fortunately, there are several ways for you to give at Mossy Creek. In addition to our time of offering during worship each week, contributions can be placed in the box outside the church office marked "Sally," they can be mailed to the church at PO Box 557, Cleveland, GA 30528, and they may be made electronically by clicking the "**donate here**" button of the church web site. Thank you for your continuing financial support of our church.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Financial Report

General Fund – Through November

- 2022 YTD Receipts	\$197,811.00
- 2022 YTD Expenses	\$185,318.00
- Net income/(loss)	\$ 12,493.00

Building Fund – Full Year 2022

- 2022 YTD Receipts	\$ 31,415.00
- Current Balance	\$ 48,879.00

Recent Attendance

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook views</u>
Jan. 22, 2023	101	180
Jan. 15, 2023	115	55
Jan. 8, 2023	82	67
Jan. 1, 2023	72	63

January Birthdays

7- Billy Jenkins, Angie Sledge, Kari Murphey, Teddy McDonald

9- Andy McDonald

11- Douglass London

18- Haley McDonald

23- Beth Nix, Erica Owens

24- Mike Fitzpatrick

26- Lily Clark

January Anniversaries

1- Ron and Maggie Jones

8- Harry and Patsy Barton

12- Mike and Donna Fitzpatrick

NEW PRAYER NEEDS AND CONCERNS

Peace and Healing

- Shane Kirk
- Donald Hunt
- Scott Ramey
- Jeanette Allen
- Doug Colston
- Family of Johnny Pashinski