



Mossy Creek United Methodist Church

February 1, 2023

MOSSY CREEK MESSENGER

Food for thought from J

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the first three definitions of the word “gospel” are, in order:

1. “The message concerning Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.”
2. “One of the first four New Testament books telling of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
3. “An interpretation of the Christian message.”

Clearly, as the first two definitions suggest, the central theme of all four gospels is Jesus and his life. Matthew and Mark make this proclamation in the first verse of their gospels, and while Luke and John take a little longer, both make it clear, before the end of chapter one, that what follows will be focused on the person and life of Jesus.

It is when we look at the third dictionary definition of “gospel,” however, that an interesting observation emerges. While Jesus, as God incarnate, is, undeniably, the whole point of the gospels, the “Christian message” that is referenced in the above, third definition is often delivered to us through the actions, both good and bad, of the people who surrounded Jesus in his earthly life and ministry. What this means is that, while the events in the lives of Mary and Joseph certainly teach us more about the nature of Jesus and the providential work of God guiding them in a way that will ensure the safety and the proper upbringing of the Christ-child, they also provide us with an example of what it looks like when real, ordinary people listen faithfully to and obey God - regardless of the hardship and difficulty this obedience may entail. Likewise, people like the wise men, Simeon, Anna, and of course, the disciples, all provide these same studies in faithfulness that we would do well to consider in our lives today.

All of which leads to our roles as modern-day disciples of Christ. It is critical we realize that the purpose of our discipleship is not just so that we might live better and more Christ-like lives ourselves. Rather, it is through our living of Christ centered lives that we will serve as modern day witnesses to Jesus, so that those who do not yet have a personal and life changing relationship with him might be drawn to Christ through us, by the power of the Holy Spirit. And so, isn't it wonderful that, as modern-day disciples and witnesses to Christ, we can choose to join with the likes of Mary and Joseph, and all the others in continuing to be one of the means through which the good news of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ is communicated to a world that is desperate need of this message?

May we all join together faithfully in taking our place in the history of Christ's church and sharing the gospel through the way we live out the example of Christ every day.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations

...to our Wayne's World bowlers for bringing home 5 gold medals, 6 silver medals, and two 4th place finishes in the State Bowling Championships. We are so proud of you!

WORSHIP NEWS

Where is Jesus?

...may have been a question that was raised by those 1st century travelers in this week's scripture passage from Luke 2 as they searched for the young Jesus when he remained behind them in the temple, but it is just as relevant to us today as a means of considering our progress on the path toward better discipleship. This week we will look at what we can learn from this final passage that recounts events in the childhood of Jesus. I hope to see you there.

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. **Please be sure to introduce your Facebook friends to our church and the gospel message by sharing our online worship with them.**

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

Technology Update

...and regarding the live stream of our worship services on Facebook, 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 are already beginning to enjoy 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 27

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| Day 1 | - | 1 Kings 10-11, 2 Chronicles 9, 1 Timothy 6 |
| Day 2 | - | Ecclesiastes 1-3, Psalm 45, 2 Timothy 1 |
| Day 3 | - | Ecclesiastes 4-6, Psalm 125, 2 Timothy 2 |
| Day 4 | - | Ecclesiastes 7-9, Psalm 46, 2 Timothy 3 |
| Day 5 | - | Ecclesiastes 10-12, 2 Timothy 4 |

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 5 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 12. 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.

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion is one of only two sacraments that are recognized by the Methodist Church, and its celebration is a means of grace by which we experience the presence of God's grace through Jesus Christ and in fellowship with our neighbors. We hope you will join us this Sunday, and every Communion Sunday, for this historic celebration and remembrance of God's gift of grace, mercy, and forgiveness through our Lord Jesus.

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.

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.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Financial Report

General Fund – Full Year 2022

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| - 2022 YTD Receipts | \$235,610.40 |
| - 2022 YTD Expenses | \$202,925.99 |
| - Net income/(loss) | \$ 32,684.41 |

Building Fund – Full Year 2022

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

Recent Attendance

| | <u>In-person</u> | <u>Facebook views</u> |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Jan 29, 2023 | 94 | 139 |
| Jan. 22, 2023 | 101 | 180 |
| Jan. 15, 2023 | 115 | 55 |
| Jan. 8, 2023 | 82 | 67 |

February Birthdays

2/1 – Carol Chambers Crumley
2/5 – Cindy Gaddy
2/7 – Cindy Fain
2/9 – Eunice Meaders
2/26 – Jamie Fain

February Anniversaries

2/23 – Jeremy and Cindy Fain

NEW PRAYER NEEDS AND CONCERNS

Peace and Healing

- Wayne's World
- Skip French
- Memphis Gibbs
- Harold Crumley
- Kim Blasingame
- Bob Christian
- Cindy Fain
- Emily Patton

Christian Sympathy

- Family of Lisa McDonald Marcengill
- Family of Russell Strickland
- Family of Paul Kelly

BUILDING UPDATE

Check Out the Progress on our New Building

While we await the last steps in completing our new building and receiving our final Certificate of Occupancy, the building is now available for ***limited*** use by our members. If you would like to reserve the building for an event or activity, please contact the church office to inquire about availability.

