



# Mossy Creek United Methodist Church

May 4, 2023

## MOSSY CREEK MESSENGER

### *Food for thought from J*

Like it or not, disappointment is a real and unavoidable fact of life. As I witness regularly with my grandsons, it begins early and often with anger over not getting our way, no matter how much of a tantrum we throw. Over the years, as our capacity for disappointment evolves and matures, we experience it in such forms as not getting everything we asked for on our Christmas list, being turned down for dates and, ultimately, more adult concerns over missed job or career opportunities.

While the above disappointments are generally minor and short-lived though, imagine the disappointment of those early followers of Jesus immediately after the crucifixion and before the resurrected Christ was revealed to them. For them, the death of Jesus they had witnessed or heard about would have been a life shattering event causing faith shaking disappointment. Those who had decided to follow Jesus had done so with dreams of being on the ground floor of a new world order that included the overthrow of Roman oppression, the re-establishment of Israel to the glory it had enjoyed under King David, and with their fortunes rising along with those of the nation. With the death of Jesus, however, those dreams were shattered in an instant, and replaced by the fear of being persecuted and punished, just for being among those who had once held those dreams. When you think about it like that, disappointment hardly seems an appropriate word to describe what those first disciples of Christ may have been feeling.

Thank God, then, for the resurrection which not only took away the disappointment of those first century disciples, but which should also ease the pain and uncertainty of our own more personal and minor disappointments. With the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, God demonstrated the divine commitment to a plan that would stop at nothing to draw us back into a perfect, loving and trusting relationship with God – even the physical agony of the cross. Furthermore, as the familiar song promises – “Because he lives, I can face tomorrow” – which means we can all face the uncertainty and even the disappointments of life because of God’s unwavering love and commitment to our future in according to God’s perfect plan.

May the perfect power and goodness of God, that shines forth in the miracle of the resurrection, ease our own, inevitable pain and disappointment, as we face uncertain days because Christ lives.

## WORSHIP NEWS

### **Resurrection Stories**

Christ is risen, now what? As we continue to celebrate the season of Easter, over the next few weeks, we will be looking at what each of the gospels has to tell us about that time immediately following the resurrection and what we can learn from these amazing Resurrection stories. I hope you will join us each Sunday.

## Never Miss a Sunday

If you can't worship in person, you can watch our worship services on the Mossy Creek UMC Facebook page. Simply click on the link below to worship live or watch later at your convenience. **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>

## CHURCH BUSINESS

### Check out our Updated Website

Our Mossycreekumc.org website is being upgraded, complete with a fresh, new look and important updated information about our church. We hope you will take a minute to look over the website and then utilize it as an important resource for keeping up with church activities and events or referring friends and neighbors who might want to know more about our church. You can click on the link below to view:

<http://www.mossycreekumc.org>

## DISCIPLESHIP/FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Yard Sale is Here!

Come be a part of this important fellowship and outreach event for our church. The sale runs from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM this Friday and Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Let's make this the best yard sale ever.

### 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.

### Read the Bible in a Year

#### Week 40

Day 1	-	Jeremiah 11-13; 2 Corinthians 12
Day 2	-	Jeremiah 14-16; Psalm 76, 2 Corinthians 13
Day 3	-	Jeremiah 17-20; James 1
Day 4	-	Jeremiah 22, 23, 26; Psalm 77, James 1
Day 5	-	Jeremiah 25, 35, 36, 45; Psalm 133, James 3

### Gifts

Supporting the church with our tithes and offerings is necessary for the life of the church and as 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 weekly offering during worship, contributions can be placed in the box outside the 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.

## 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*. We would love to have you join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M in the choir room.

The Fellowship class offers an opportunity for group prayer, fellowship, and spiritual devotion using such resources as the Upper Room. They meet in the old Middle School classroom in the main church building.

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 meets every Tuesday at noon. The class is doing a chapter-by-chapter study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. Everyone is invited to join us as we take a short but in-depth look at this very important early work of the apostle Paul.

Our United Methodist Women are currently studying Shannon Bream's book, *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*.

The United Methodist Men meet for breakfast on the second Sunday of each month to share food, fellowship, and a time of spiritual devotion.

Our Ladies Fellowship Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month for food and fellowship.

## BUILDING UPDATE

### New Building Available for Limited Use

Our new 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.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### Financial Report

#### General Fund – Through March 2023

- 2023 YTD Receipts	\$58,454.00
- 2023 YTD Expenses	\$56,973.00
- Net income/(loss)	\$ 1,481.00

#### Building Fund – Through March 2023

- 2023 YTD Receipts	\$ 29,957.00
- YTD Balance	\$ 57,236.00

### Recent Attendance

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook views</u>
April 30, 2023	91	53
April 23, 2023	119	47
April 16, 2023	103	120
April 9, 2023	138	29

### May Birthdays

5/1 - Kelli Cruce  
5/4 - Don Stockwell  
5/6 - Susan Head  
5/7 - Sydney Jenkins  
5/12 - Ed Bentley  
5/17 - Colton Adam  
5/20 - Jordan Miller  
5/24 - Donna Stockwell  
5/27 - Joyce Bentley  
5/28 - Raiden Miller  
5/31 - David Palmer

### May Anniversaries

5/3 - Jim and Robin Patton  
5/15 - Ronnie and Sue Dorsey  
5/30 - David Hollingsworth and Ginger Golden

### NEW PRAYER NEEDS

- Ronnie Dorsey
- Noah Chavers
- Harold Bryson
- Dana Lynch
- Family of Daro Miller
- Family of Robert Driver
- Family of Joe Freeman
- Family Kaine McKinney