

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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God's Down Payment

“Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14)

I bought a new car a few months back. And as I was deciding on which car I might like to buy, the salesman let me know that before I could go any further, I’d have to put a deposit down on the one I was most interested in. When I raised an eyebrow at this, he told me that it was just standard these days. A deposit was necessary to show how serious I was and to secure the car so that it couldn’t be sold to anyone else until I’d decided whether or not to buy it.

It’s the sort of thing I suspect we’re all familiar with these days. At some point in our lives we’ve all been asked to put down a deposit or down payment on something we wanted to buy.

Even God has done it. Here in our Bible passage Paul tells us that God has put down a deposit on you and me. He has given us a guarantee of our salvation, a proof that we are His and will be with Him in heaven. He has given us the Holy Spirit.

I dare say, most of us probably don’t think of the Holy Spirit like that. But, we should. The Holy Spirit is, in a sense, a foretaste of heaven. He is the sign that God is at work in us and that we really are His. And as Paul says here, the Holy Spirit is the guarantee that God will do everything else He has promised: The forgiveness of sins, the bodily resurrection, the assurance of eternal life in heaven. God will do it all, and the Holy Spirit active in our lives is the proof.

Where is the Holy Spirit active in your life? How is He at work in you? May we rest certain in the assurance that God has made His down payment on you and me. And the Holy Spirit in us is the proof that we are His.

Brother Lauren

JANUARY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

- 9:00 a.m. Come AZ U R Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
- 6:00 p.m. Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Bro. Lauren's Bible Study

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

Church Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

- 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir
- 5:45 p.m. Planet 456 & Children's Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Bro. Lauren's Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Youth
- 6:15 p.m. Snack Supper

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



- 16. Claire Burnham
- 17. Lauren Porter
- 18. Joy Boyd, Seth Swafford
- 19. Sherrill Ann Chaney
- 22. Janet Adams, Sam Smith

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## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- 18. Mr. & Mrs. I. N. Hart

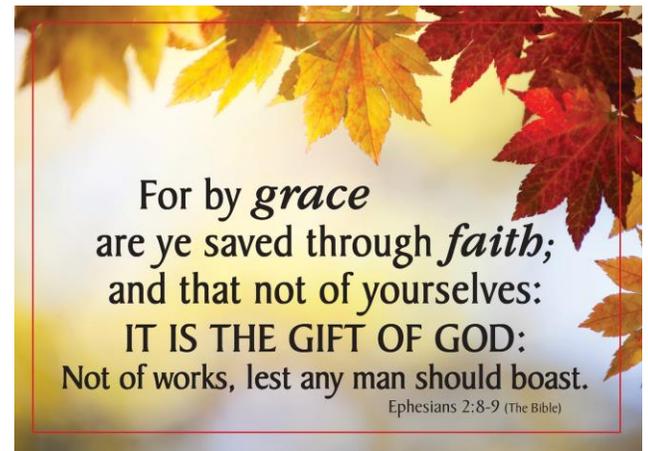


# Memorial Gifts

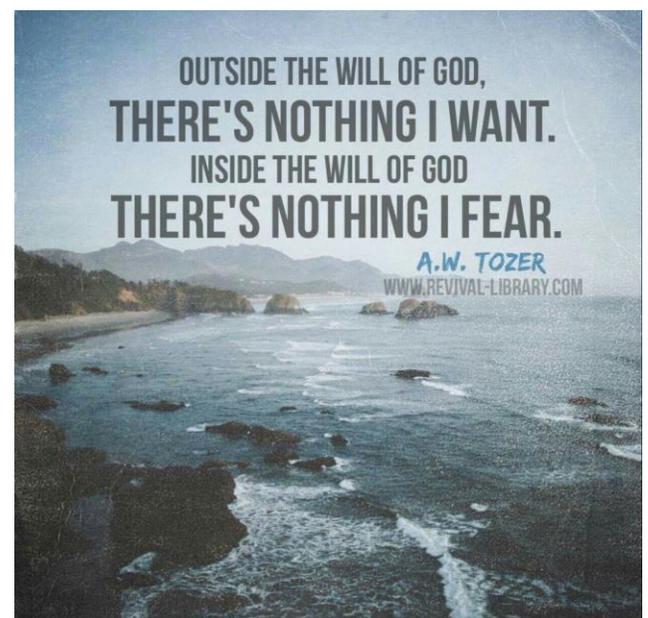
*Harriet DeCell Kuykendall*

Wallace Russell

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## **Sunday School**

This Sunday we will continue our series for the New Year. This series focuses on the life and ministry of Jesus. We will be talking about Jesus' mission and purpose. This Sunday our lesson, *God Time*, is focused on relationships with others and with God. Building a relationship with someone requires time and communication. Prayer is our way of communicating with God, and it is also how we develop a relationship with Him.

## **Sunday & Wednesday Night Group**

Youth Bible Study resumed last Sunday night, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. We discussed how God has a plan and a purpose for everyone, but it is up to us to seek and follow his plan. We watched a clip from evangelist Nick Vujicic, who was born without arms and legs. He travels around the world, sharing his testimony and reminding his audience that nothing is impossible with God.

Wednesday Bible Study will meet next Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning with Supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m.

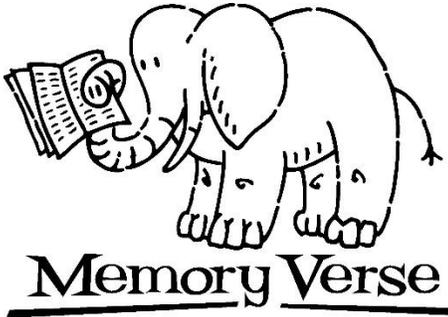
## **Spring Break Trip and M28 Camp at Lake Junaluska**

Please don't forget that the first payment for Spring Break is due next week, and remember to sign up for Lake J. The dates for Lake Junaluska are July 11-15.

Group will meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Night Group will meet each Sunday from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

# Children's Page



Jesus grew in wisdom and stature,  
and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2: 52



## Hiskidz and Bible in Life

As we continue studying our series, “**Jesus: His Mission**,” this Sunday our lesson is called *Commitment*. In this lesson, we will talk about how Jesus followed through with His commitment and calling by being baptized. It was not necessary for Jesus to be baptized, but He did so in order to show people His commitment to God and His ministry.

## W.O.W WEDNESDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

W.O.W Wednesdays started back-up this past Wednesday, January 12. For the next few weeks, we will be talking about the life and ministry of Jesus. If your child did not participate in the Fall, we encourage you to send them for the Winter/Spring session. We are looking forward to beginning a new Bible Study series in February and planning a few fun activities.



## **Volunteers serving Sunday, January 16, 2022**

|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| Greeters  | Sandra Martin/Owen Richards  |
| Acolytes  | Maddie Canard & Myla Wallace |
| Scripture | Ephesians 2:1-10             |
| Sermon    | <b>“Saved by Grace”</b>      |
| Flowers   | De & Julie Paul              |

## **Daily Bible Readings**

### **JANUARY**

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>16. The first of His signs</b> | <b>John 2:1-11</b>        |
| 17. A year of jubilee             | Leviticus 25:8-10         |
| 18. Proclaim liberty              | Isaiah 61:1-3             |
| 19. Not merely hearers            | James 1:22-25             |
| 20. Reading from the law          | Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 |
| 21. Law that revives              | Psalm 19                  |
| 22. In the one Spirit             | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a   |