



Messenger

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A PUBLICATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P. O. BOX 444, YAZOO CITY, MS 39194

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June 7th: Return to In-Person Worship

Sunday, June 7th, the Sunday after Pentecost, will be our first in-person worship services since March 15th. Naturally, we will continue to livestream our 11 o'clock service as well, but we look forward to offering **in-person worship at 9 am and 11 am** for those who would like to attend.

Over the last month we've been working hard to prepare for this moment. So, back in April, I formed our Health Advisory Group, an ad hoc committee of the church, to help guide us through this process. This group is made up of various church members: Dr. Walter Burnett, Melinda Richards, Shawn McCoy, Jana Bardwell, Rich Knox, Steve Newman, and Van Ray. We met on April 29 and May 13, and they have offered the recommendations and guidelines you will find below.

Likewise, we have also reviewed the suggested guidelines offered by the Governor's office and those from our Bishop's office. In addition, I met with Mayor Delaware on May 7th to discuss her recommendations and suggested guidelines from the city. At each step, we have made every effort to take all the necessary precautions for your health and safety. Your well-being is important to us as a church.

In that spirit, we offer the following **Recommendations and Guidelines** for in-person worship:

- First, please be assured that the **Sanctuary has been deep-cleaned** by our custodial staff before you arrive and will be cleaned again in-between services.

- **Entrance to the Sanctuary** will be limited to the two main doors opening to Washington Street. Please enter through these doors. To limit contact with the door, doors will be left open prior to the service, and opened again at the conclusion of the service.
- **Hand Sanitizer** will be available for you at the main entrances, should you desire it.
- **Masks are encouraged, but not required.** If you prefer, please bring your favorite mask with you. We will have a few disposable masks available for your use, if needed.
- **Social Distancing:** We encourage you to keep a safe distance (6 ft) from non-family members.
- **Seating:** Please sit every other pew in the sanctuary. Families may obviously sit together, but we encourage everyone else to leave appropriate spacing between them.
- **No Shaking Hands or Hugging.** (This one is hard for me. I'll probably break this rule at least twice on Sunday, but let's try our best to greet others with a smile and a wave, just to be safe.)
- **No Sunday School** at the church, at least through June.
- **No Coffee & Donuts** in the Fellowship Hall. (Can we still have church without this?)
- **No Passing of the Offering Plates.** Instead, the offering plates/baskets will be placed at the entrances to the sanctuary.
- And lastly, we would kindly ask: **If you have a fever, cough, or feel generally ill**, please exercise caution and stay home. You can always worship with us through the livestream and then join us at the church when you feel well.

Finally, I would like to add one more word: Whether to attend in-person worship or not is a highly personal choice based on a variety of individual factors. Each person must make his or her own best decision.

Please, let's be gracious with each other in this process. It is so easy to look down on someone because they chose to stay home, or because they chose to go to the church, or because they didn't wear a mask, or because they really want to keep that 6 feet of distance.

Please try to respect each person's decision and love them where they are. You might have chosen differently. But, this is their choice. It's where they are. Extend them that same grace and love that you would like them to extend you.

As Jesus says, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). If we'll all do that, I think we'll all make it through this together. God bless!

Brother Lauren



Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, on a day called Pentecost, the Christian Church was born. Because Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving), the apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem.

Many people had assembled near Peter and the other followers of Christ when "*From heaven there came a sound like the rush of violent wind...*" (Acts 2:2 ff). After the wind and fire descended, all sorts of languages, known and unknown, came out of the crowd. Each person spoke "*about God's deeds of power*" (verse 11). No wonder Luke wrote, "*All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'*" (Verse 12). The whole affair was mind-boggling and life changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people.

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. We suggest that **WE ALL WEAR RED** even as we worship in our homes as a symbol of the Holy Spirit that is powerfully at work in our midst. If you'd like, please feel free to take a picture of your family dressed in red and text it to the church office or post it to your favorite social media account. We would love to see you.

Don't forget to watch our live stream worship service Sunday at 11 a.m. Our Scripture for this Sunday, May 31, 2020 is Acts 2:1-16.

Our Hymns are:

Hymn No. 57 – *O For A Thousand Tongues* (vs. 1-4)

Hymn No. 34 -- *Spirit Song*

The Anthem is *Surely the Presence*.

See back page for lyrics for the hymns.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

9:00 a.m. Early Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service



***Congratulations to
Alix and Garrett
Deschamp on the
birth of their
daughter, Dylan Elle***

***Deschamp, who was born May 3,
2020. Proud Great Grandparents
are Butch and Neetsie Gay and
Great, Great Grandparents
Davis and Lois Gary.***



Chancel Choir
practice resumes
Wed., June 3, at 6
p.m.

31. Emily Harris, Frances Johnson

1. Mark Lee

2. Slater Phillips

6. Lisa Saxton

4. Dr. & Mrs. Logan Rush



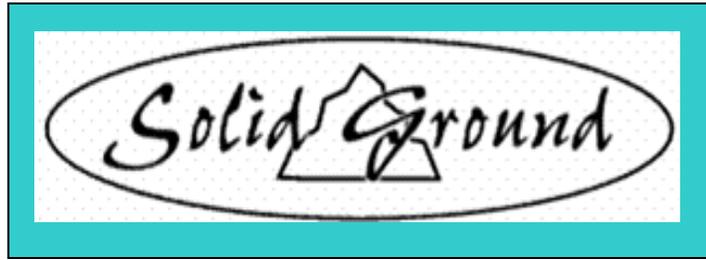
Memorial Gifts

Dr. Earl Pennington

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Coker

Betty Coker Wade

Elizabeth Ball Brevard



Solid Ground

I am continuing to work on getting more youth activities together for the group this summer. I am working on a tubing/river trip in early to mid-June. Hoping to have something every other Sunday and incorporate devotion, food, and a fun activity.

Also, M28 Camp staffers are working right now on filming this year's speakers and doing all they can to bring camp to us virtually. I will get the info out as soon as it's available. Clearly, it will not be the same, but this situation has most definitely made us all appreciate things so much more!!

Children

Hiskidz & Planet 456

Thank you so much to Owen and Mary Lou Richards for hosting Planet 456 last week. The kids had a blast and were obviously very excited to be back together with friends. Thank you also to Melissa Gooch for helping as a chaperone.



Planet 456 needs to be watching for an exciting activity/daytrip that is in the works. This trip involves the Okatoma River and will hopefully be happening in early June.

I will continue planning outings for the children this summer. Most of these will be outside events like swimming and outdoor games and such. I am hoping to do this every other week. If you have any ideas or can volunteer to send food/drinks, please let me know. Also, chaperones are always needed.

Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School was very different this year, but we somehow pulled it off. We would have much rather been at the church together, but unfortunately, circumstances

kept us from doing that. Thank you so much to Laura King for sending a text and offering to help. Your enthusiasm was great, and Virtual Bible School would not have been the same without you. We can't thank you enough.

If you missed out this week, that's ok. The entire week can be found on YOUTUBE. We had 75 boxes picked up and there may still be a few VBS boxes in the Fellowship Hall.

These are pictures of the FUMC Day Care children. They were allowed to participate via the YouTube link.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We do ask that you continue to support our church with your giving. You can do either of two things: Mail your offerings to **FUMC, P. O. Box 444, Yazoo City, MS 39194**, or use our online giving option by going to our website, **fumcyazoo.org**. Click on the “online giving” option.

Daily Bible Readings

MAY

31. Pentecost

John 14:8-17 (25-27)

JUNE

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A charge to priests | Leviticus 10:8-11 |
| 2. Keep these words | Deuteronomy 6:1-6 |
| 3. To fulfill, not abolish | Matthew 5:17-19 |
| 4. From the beginning | Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 |
| 5. Who are we? | Psalms 8 |
| 6. At peace with God | Romans 5:1-5 |

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

3 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the power of canceled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

Spirit Song

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love;
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Oh, come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
Oh, give him all your tears and sadness, give him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.