

# Messenger

The background of the cover is a photograph of a beach. In the foreground, there are sand dunes with sparse, dry grasses. In the middle ground, a long wooden pier extends into the ocean. The sky is a clear, light blue.

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
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## Living as Poetry of God

For Christians, the Scriptures are our first source of guidance for how to live, and within them, Jesus is primary. But God speaks through nonbiblical voices too: preachers and teachers not found in the Bible, and even literature that isn't directly Christian. God, who used King Cyrus of Persia to free the exiled Israelites, can use *anyone* to call us to right living. Take, for example, Walt Whitman's description of life as poetry when we live certain ways, and God as "the greatest poet":

"This is what you shall do: Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to every one that asks, stand up for the [vulnerable], devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward the people, ... and your very flesh shall be a great poem and have the richest fluency. ... The known universe has one complete lover and that is the greatest poet. ... His love above all love has leisure and expanse." (From the preface to *Leaves of Grass*, 1855)



**SUNDAY, JULY 16**

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship

**SATURDAY, JULY 22**

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market

*John McGowan*

Patsy Clark

*Pat Webb*

Patsy Clark



**Tornado Relief Response**

21. Avery Harris

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- 16. Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Whitaker
- 20. Mr. & Mrs. Butch Gary
- Mr. & Mrs. Billy Wyatt

We received the following note from Silver City Baptist Church:

Dear Methodist Church:

Thank you so much for caring about all of us in the Silver City community. We appreciate you more than you will ever know. Your generosity will help so many in their time of grief.

May God continue to bless you as you continue to serve Him.

Love in Christ,  
Rev. Chris Childers  
Silver City Baptist Church



**BACK TO SCHOOL**

If you would like to help with the purchase of "Back to School" clothes and supplies, please make your check/donation to First Methodist Church and indicate that it is for foster children. Presently, after helping with Christmas, Easter and summer camp supplies, we are low on funds.

Thank you!  
Allison



## Hiskidz and Bible in Life

This week we are back in Sunday School, and our lesson is from the series, **WHO IS GOD?** This Sunday we will talk about "The Good Shepherd." We will be talking about the Parable of the Lost Sheep. Jesus came to seek and save us, but we must accept Him.



### HISKIDZ

**Summer Activities are in the works, so be watching so you can mark them on your calendar.**

### Youth Sunday School

This Sunday we will begin to catch up on some of our past lessons. Our series for the month of July is *Jesus Conquers Death*. Our lesson for this week is called "Making Difficult Choices." One thing that we must always remember is that when we make choices, we must consider the effect on others.

**Summer Activity:** I am working on planning a few Youth Fellowships before school starts back up, so be watching for that info.



**"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."**

Matthew 17:20-21

This year M28 Camp at Lake Junaluska was definitely "Mountain Moving." This was one of the most powerful experiences that I have witnessed in the 8 plus years I have been attending. God met us on the mountains at camp and His presence was felt all weekend. We cannot wait for the first ever **M28 Winter Reunion Retreat** in February. It is being planned for President's Weekend in Franklin TN, so mark your calendars.



## Sunday, July 16, 2023

Greeters

Angie & Archie Edgar/  
Molly & Bill McNair

Scripture

Joshua 2:1-16

Sermon

**“Rahab’s Faith”**

Flowers

Patricia & David Parker

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### JULY

**16. 7th Sunday after Pentcost**

**Mark 6:14-29**

17. I will praise you

Psalm 43:3-5

18. Hope of all creation

Psalm 65:1-5

19. Refreshed by good news

Proverbs 15:30

20. In God’s own time

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

21. Faithful to the promise

Psalm 89:20-37

22. A dwelling for God

Ephesians 2:11-22