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July 26, 2020
Vol. 47 No. 29

Messenger

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

God Amid Pandemic

Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, “Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you” (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20).

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THIS WEEKS CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 26

11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship

MONDAY, JULY 27

9-12 noon Methodist Market

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

9-12 noon Methodist Market



- 26. Hannah Woods
- 27. Susan Melton, Cameron
Dunnington
- 28. Sharon Smith
- 30. Melissa Wyatt, Phil Williams,
Jana Bardwell, Mills Paul
- 31. Gray Goodman, Daniel Newman
- 1. Walter Patterson, Hamp Wallace

- 26. Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Harris
- 28. Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Coulton

*With
Sympathy*

*Sympathy and love is extended to
Bert and Kate Fennell in the death of
their wife and mother, **Linda Little
Fennell**, who died July 16, 2020.*

Don't forget to watch our
live stream worship service
Sunday, July 26 at 11 a.m.
Our Scripture is
1 Samuel 13:1-15. Sermon
title is "Waiting is the Hardest
Part."

Our hymns are:

Hymn No. 61 –

Come, Thou Almighty King

Hymn No. 467 –

Trust & Obey

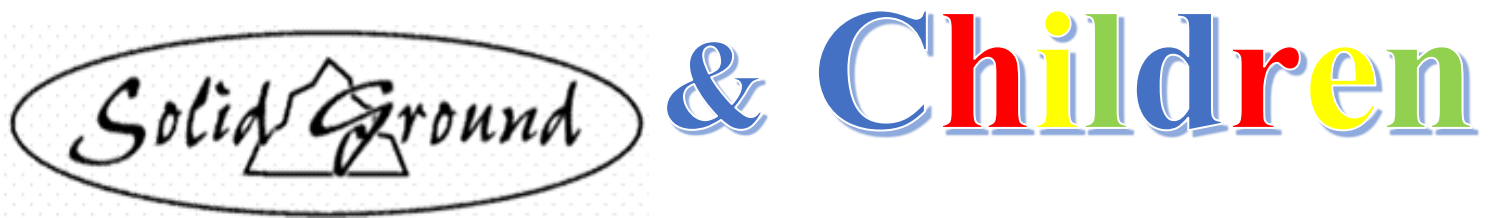
Learning — and Laughing — on the Fly

Faced with the sudden move to
livestreamed church services, many
pastors and worship leaders had to
learn new technology quickly
during the pandemic. As they were
"winging it," bloopers and bobbles
added levity to the tense time.

For instance, a fake tree fell on a
drummer while a worship song was
being broadcast from Georgia. After
getting too close to a candle, a vicar
in England had to pause to
extinguish flames from his sweater.
And several preachers appeared on
screen with cartoon-like features
after inadvertently turning on social
media filters.

"This wasn't planned," wrote the
pastor about the falling ficus,
which didn't cause injury but
quickly went viral. "But God used
it to bring laughter to the hearts of
many. For that, we are thankful."

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I hope you have all enjoyed your vacation and time with your family. As the summer comes to an end, be watching for our last few activities that are being planned.

It is hard to believe school will hopefully be starting soon. As of right now, we are not able to get back to our normal activities.

Note! There are still several copies of the *Upper Room* for July-August. Please call the office and Rosemary will be happy to mail them out.

Daily Bible Readings

JULY

26. 8th Sunday after Pentecost

27. As you saw...

28. There is no other!

29. Abounding in steadfast love

30. An encounter with God

31. God's faithful presence

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Galatians 6:7-9

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

AUGUST

1. Waiting for redemption

Romans 8:12-25