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# Messenger

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

## August 2<sup>nd</sup>: Return to In-Person Worship

The Church Council met Tuesday, July 28, and after prayerful discussion and with the blessing of our District Superintendent Dr. Stephen Cook, voted unanimously to return to **in-person worship at both 9 am and 11 am for this Sunday, August 2.**

As before, we will continue to livestream the 11 am service through YouTube Live. And if all goes well, this Sunday's livestream should be an even higher video quality as we make the transition from Standard Definition to our new HD camera. We are making every effort to make the livestream broadcast a high quality, permanent ministry of our church.

The Church Council also made the decision to reopen the church for Sunday School as well. So, adult Sunday School classes may begin to meet at the church again this Sunday, August 2. Children's Sunday School will likely begin on August 9 (depending on teacher volunteers).

As we did back in June, we encourage everyone to follow the Recommendations & Guidelines suggested by our Health Advisory Group. You will find those guidelines below. We did a great job of this back in June, and if we do that again, all should go smoothly this time around.

Naturally, we understand that not everyone is ready yet to return to in-person worship. But, we felt it necessary to offer this option at this time for those who are ready. As always, the decision of whether or not to attend in-person worship is highly personal. Each person must make his or her own best decision based on each one's unique situation. There is no right or wrong choice to make. So, as before, let's be gracious with one another and respect each person's decision. After all, "they will know we are Christians by our love." God bless!

*Brother Lauren*

### **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.**
- **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.

## THIS WEEKS CHURCH CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

9:00 a.m. Come AZUR Service

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship

### MONDAY, AUGUST 3

9-12 noon Methodist Market

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

6 p.m. Chancel Choir

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

9-12 noon Methodist Market



*Memorial Gifts*

*Linda Little Fennell*

D/M David Arnold



2. Rich Knox, Cathy Thompson  
Jamie Wallace

3. Garner Burton

4. Lily Adcock, Harry Simmons

\*\*\*\*\*

2. Mr. & Mrs. Jason Dees

5. Mr. & Mrs. Sam Smith



Sunday, August 2, we will have our regular services: Come AZUR at 9 a.m. and our traditional worship at 11 a.m. We hope you will join us. For those who are not yet comfortable in corporate worship, we will also have our live stream worship service Sunday at 11 a.m.

# Children

Thank you to Julie and De Paul for hosting a Hiskidz Pool Party last Sunday, July 26. The kids had a great time swimming and racing down the inflatable waterslide, and we all enjoyed the cookies and homemade ice cream.

This past Thursday night, Planet 456 had a camp-out (in tents) at Owen and Mary Lou Richard's place. We made homemade pizzas on the outdoor brick oven and stayed up late playing games and telling stories.

I am very thankful to everyone who has played a role this summer with our children's and youth ministries. We have been thrown into unfamiliar territory, and I appreciate the efforts that have been made to allow the kids to continue to fellowship.

## **P22 Ministries:**

I'm sure this name is not a familiar one, and you would be correct. This is a new Bible Study that I have been wanting to start for a long time now, and I guess a pandemic helped push me to get it going.

I have wanted the younger children, grades 5k-3<sup>rd</sup> grade to have a special Sunday Night group. Finding the time to squeeze it into my schedule was the problem. I needed help, someone who felt lead to teach it, without being pushed. I dropped hints around different groups, and during the quarantine, it began to take shape. Julie Paul will be leading this program, with the help of a few other volunteers. This program will be for children entering 5 yr. old Kindergarten thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The group will meet every Sunday night beginning on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. They will meet upstairs in a designated children's room.

The name may seem strange, but I wanted it to be a name with meaning and purpose. I want the children to understand the meaning as well. The name is an abbreviation for scripture that comes from the book of Proverbs chapter 22, Proverbs 22:6. This scripture is so very important. "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Children are like sponges, they absorb everything around them, so let's let them absorb more of God's word.

**\*\*Sunday School is starting back on August 9<sup>th</sup>, and I need teachers. Please contact me or the church office if you would be willing to teach for 1 month.**



Thank you to Julie and De Paul for hosting a youth event last Sunday, July 26. We had a great turn out and it is so enjoyable to watch our youth fellowship and laugh together. I am so appreciative to all who have played a role with our Youth group this Summer.

This Sunday night, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sarah and Ryan Ragland and Connie and Jason Dees are hosting a Slip -n- Slide for the Youth group at their Lodge. Everyone needs to wear a suit, bring a towel, and bring a **bottle of dish soap** for the slip -n-slide.

Sunday School will be starting back up on August 9<sup>th</sup>, and teachers are needed. If you feel led to teach, please contact Tera or the church office. Teachers are only needed on a monthly rotation.

## Daily Bible Readings

### AUGUST

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 2. 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost | Matthew 13:124-30, 36-43 |
| 3. A blessing on faithfulness             | Psalm 128                |
| 4. Prayer that pleases God                | 1 Kings 3:5-12           |
| 5. Teach me your statutes                 | Psalm 119:129-136        |
| 6. A deceitful beginning                  | Genesis 29:15-28         |
| 7. It shall be well                       | Psalm 128                |
| 8. Love unshakable                        | Romans 8:26-39           |