

# Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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August 27, 2023  
Vol. 50 No. 33

## Harvest time!

With harvest underway or imminent, fields of ripe grain, tall cornstalks and soybeans turning brown recall Jesus' words to the disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38, ESV).

Nowadays farmers use fewer laborers and bigger machines than in decades past. But what about harvests of faith? Leading people to know God's love can't be done "mechanically." Studies show that newspaper ads or door-hangers left anonymously are less effective at bringing people to church than a warm personal invite.

Right after urging his disciples to pray for harvest workers — in a classic instance of "You might be God's answer to your own prayer!" — Jesus sends them out as those very laborers! How will they work the harvest? Not by guilting people into faith. Not by pronouncing judgment or biblical law. But by using Jesus' authority to counter evil, illness and brokenness among those they befriend.

Ponder and pray about where Jesus is sending you as his laborer to cultivate and reap Christian faith and assurance of God's love. ---copied

# August September

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Solid Ground Youth

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

- 5:30 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:15 p.m. Snack Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Youth

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES

- 27. Angie Edgar
- 28. Bill Dew
- 29. Reese Ragland
- 2. Pat Davis

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- 28. Mr. & Mrs. James Cresswell
- 31. Mr. & Mrs. Max Sanders



## Newborns

*Congratulations to Allison and Mike Hughes on the birth of their granddaughter, **Stella Stevens Sullivan**, who was born to Chrissie and Tyler Sullivan on August 11, 2023.*



## Scholarships

If you would like to apply for Scholarships for the fall semester, please come by the church office for an application.

Deadline – September 1, 2023.

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## Going to school with Jesus



In *Faith Takes a Name*, Dwight E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain “learners under the instruction of Christ.” He notes, “Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus’] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him.”



## Hiskidz and Bible in Life

This week is our final lesson in our series for the month of August, *Living Out Our Faith*. The lesson "Hang in There," is the story of Nehemiah and the task that God asked him to do. He was asked to lead the people of Jerusalem in rebuilding the walls. While following God's direction, they were still faced with challenges. This is a reminder that things will not always be easy. Sometimes we face difficulties, but we should never quit. We must learn to persevere and learn and grow from our circumstances.

### W.O.W. Wednesday

Wednesday night Bible Study for Grades K-6<sup>th</sup> is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. This year's Bible Study will be Bible-in-Crafts. This is something a little different but will hopefully be fun. Supper will be at 6:15 p.m. and we will dismiss at 6:30 p.m. There will also be one scheduled Sunday afternoon activity (field trip) each month. This schedule will be revealed and begin in September.



### Youth Sunday School

This Sunday is the final lesson in the series for the month of August, *Living Out Our Faith*. This lesson, "Living Life to the Fullest," reminds us that people try to find happiness through things that are temporary. Abundant life is found through Christ, but that does not mean that life will be easy.

### Youth Bible Study and Small Group

Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group are back in full swing. Last Sunday night we had a great group of youth who showed up ready to study God's word. We have made a slight time change for Sunday's and will be gathering at 5:30 for this semester. Wednesday August 23, was our first mid-week session.

### WINTER XTREME

The youth will be attending **Winter Extreme** in Branson, December 27-29. We will hear multiple speakers and Christian Artists. We will also have a few activities planned in the Branson area. The cost is \$125, and half of the cost (\$75) will be required as a deposit to hold your spot. Sign-up will begin soon. Payment will be due in full by the first week in October.



Allison Hughes forwarded this note to our church:

Again, you have made sure my children have everything they need for going back to school. You will never know how much your gift is appreciated.

Thank you, Jean Guzman

## Sunday, August 27, 2023

Greeters	Christy & Albert Vandevere/Patsy Clark
Scripture	Joshua 20:1-9
Sermon	<b>“Sanctuary Cities”</b>
Flowers	Melinda & Tim Richards

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### AUGUST

**27. 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

28. To walk his ways

29. Fair and righteous judgment

30. A promise to exiles

31. The time of singing

**John 6:56-69**

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

Psalm 9:1-8

Ezekiel 11:14-20

Song of Songs 2:8-13

### SEPTEMBER

1. A scepter of equity

2. First fruits of creation

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27