

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
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The Scandal of the Cross

“For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” - 1 Corinthians 1:18

Nearly two thousand years later it is hard for us to fully appreciate how offensive and strange the cross must have seemed to first-century Christians.

We wear cross jewelry. We fashion beautiful necklaces and earrings with little silver or gold crosses. We place intricately hand-carved crosses on the walls of our homes. We put large golden and wooden crosses up on our church altar for all to see. In short, we’ve often turned the cross into a beautiful work of art.

But not so in those early days of the Christian faith. In the first century the cross was ugly and brutal, bloodstained and shameful. It was a means of torture and death for only the worst of criminals and the most scandalous of political enemies. To admit that you knew someone executed on a cross was embarrassing, a source of shame.

So, it was hard for a non-Christian back then to appreciate how we as Christians could glory in that shame. It seemed like foolishness. There was a scandal to the Cross.

Only one thing changed that. You and I know that the Cross is the source of our salvation. Jesus’ death provides the atoning sacrifice for our sin, and we receive the forgiveness of sin through His shed blood. So, where they see shame, we see glory. Where they see scandal, we see the power of God’s saving grace. May we ever glory in the Cross of Christ, the means of our salvation.

– *Brother Lauren*

September

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Hiskidz Tailgate Games
- 5:30 p.m. Solid Ground Youth
- 5:30 p.m. Church-Wide Tailgate Party

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study Millie's house
- 6:00 p.m. Nominations Committee

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Handbell Choir
- 5:30 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:15 p.m. Snack Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Youth

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 24. Camp King
- 26. Shirley Dew
- 27. Bob Coker



Memorial Gifts

Miller P. Holmes, Jr.

Alison Nixon M/M Howard Webb
Pauline Bridgforth Sunday School Class
M/M John Freeman M/M Phil Nichols
Buford Atkinson



Weeks after the children receive their Disciple Booklets, the local churches follow up with their Discipleship program. The children are taught 10 lessons on how they can receive forgiveness, eternal life and become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Since 2010 more than 16,609,981 children have participated in the Bible Programs. At the end of the program the children are given a Bible in their own language. 11,257,343 of these children made a decision for Christ. If you haven't picked up your shoe box, please do so this week.



Join us for a great time of fun & fellowship! Bring your favorite Tailgate/Appetizer foods & Family Friendly Games

September 24, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
First Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
Church will provide tea, lemonade and water.



For the month of September, we will begin a new series called *Good and Bad Choices*. The lessons we will be covering are “God’s Direction”, “Godly Choices”, “Giant-Size Problems”, and “Jealously & Trust.”

W.O.W. Wednesday

Wednesday night Bible Study for Grades K-6th will begin at 5:30 p.m. This year’s Bible Study will be Bible-in-Crafts. For the past few weeks, we have been studying lessons from the book of Genesis. For the next several Wednesday nights, we will be talking about the Great Flood and The Tower of Babel. We have some fun crafting activities planned for these lessons. Supper will be at 6:15, and we will dismiss at 6:30 p.m.

There will also be one scheduled Sunday afternoon activity (field trip) each month. This Sunday we will meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. for Tailgate Games on the church playground.



Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group are back in full swing. Sunday nights we have been having a great group of youth who continue to show 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 Nights we will have supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 6:40 p.m.

Youth Supper List

Sunday Night Youth Suppers are starting up again. Parents will receive a Group Supper List and be asked to prepare a Sunday Night supper for our Youth.

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 a deposit of \$75 will be required by **September 24th** to hold your spot. Sign-up will begin soon. Payment will be due in full by the last week in October.

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Greeters	LaShone Robins/Maddie & Amanda Canard
Scripture	Genesis 3:1-13
Sermon	“The Fall”
Flowers	Patsy Clark

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

SEPTEMBER

24. 17th Sunday after Pentecost	Mark 9:30-37
25. Gifts of the Spirit	1 Corinthians 12:1-6
26. Renewing commitment each day	Luke 9:23-25
27. A story about judgment	Matthew 25:34-40
28. Days of feasting	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
29. With the LORD's help	Psalms 124
30. Pray and sing	James 5:13-20