



Mossy Creek United Methodist Church

February 16, 2023

MOSSY CREEK MESSENGER

Food for thought from J

As we seek direction from the Bible on how we should live our lives, it is no surprise that the best guidance for us, even today, comes from Jesus himself as he prepared his disciples for his ascension. The Great Commission from Matthew's gospel tells us to:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. – Matthew 28:19-20

The extended version of Mark offers a shorter but similar commission:

Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. - Mark 16:15

In Luke/Acts Jesus tells the disciples:

***you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
– Acts 1:8***

Finally, John's gospel tells us that Jesus directed Peter to:

Feed my lambs...Tend my sheep...Feed my sheep. – John 21:15-17

And yet, while all these passages clearly call us to lives of evangelism, Christ-like living, and charity, the process of making disciples, being witnesses, and taking care of Christ's sheep begins much earlier in our lives, with the fundamental need to become and to grow as disciples ourselves. Importantly, the first step in this process is true repentance; when we not only acknowledge the sin in our lives, but also, when we determine, through God's grace, to turn our backs on our sins and our sinful natures - once and for all.

The road to true repentance can be difficult, though, as we often want to believe we can either "turn over a new leaf" through our own hard work, or that we can earn God's grace through "doing good deeds." Scripture refutes both of these beliefs, however, when it teaches that we can never be good enough to earn God's favor, and that, absent God's grace, our fallen human natures exist in a state of enmity with God.

So, what hope do we have of truly repenting of our old, sinful ways and actually following that path that leads to God? Join us for worship each week as we explore Matthew's gospel, and you'll find out!

WORSHIP NEWS

Taking the First Step

As we continue our walk through Matthew's gospel this Sunday, we will consider the concept of repentance and the role it plays in our personal salvation and growth as disciples. I hope to see you there.

Preparing for Lent and Easter

We will kick off our celebration of the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service and imposition of ashes on Wednesday evening, February 22nd, at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. We hope to see you there.

Never Miss a Sunday

If you can't worship in person, you can watch our worship services on the Mossy Creek UMC Facebook page. Simply click on the link below to worship live or watch later at your convenience. **Be sure to introduce your Facebook friends to our church and the gospel message by sharing our online worship with them.**

<https://www.facebook.com/mossycreekumc>

Technology Update

...and regarding the live stream of our worship on Facebook, we have been upgrading the video capabilities in our sanctuary recently with the addition of new cameras to provide viewers with multiple camera angles, including a much-requested view of the congregation. We are still working through some challenges associated with these upgrades, but you should already notice a higher quality and more consistent online worship experience. We hope you will enjoy these enhancements and share them with your Facebook friends outside the church.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Read the Bible in a Year

Week 29

Day 1	-	1 Kings 19-21, 2 Chr 17, Psalm 129, Matthew 1
Day 2	-	1 Kings 22, 2 Chr 18, Matthew 2
Day 3	-	2 Kings 1, 2 Chr 19-20, Psalm 20, Matthew 3
Day 4	-	2 Kings 2-3, Psalm 48, Matthew 4
Day 5	-	2 King 4-6, Matthew 5

UMW Scholarship Fundraiser – A SUCCESS!

Thanks to all who participated in the United Methodist Women's Scholarship Fundraiser Luncheon last Sunday. We had great attendance and, once again, we showed what we can accomplish together. Fellowship and food were terrific, and we raised over \$3,500 toward scholarships for 2023 and the future. Additional contributions can be made at any time to Beth Nix, Treasurer UMW.

Christian Education Opportunities

Sunday School – 9:00 AM every Sunday

We have classes for children of all ages that focus on providing age appropriate and foundational lessons about the Bible, its main characters, and the fundamental life lessons they hold for us today.

Our Choir Room class is currently reading C. S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. This week we will continue to discuss chapter 6 of Book 3. We would love to have you join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M in the choir room.

The Fellowship Hall class offers an opportunity for group prayer, fellowship, and spiritual devotion using such resources as the Upper Room. The class welcomes anyone wishing to engage in these important spiritual practices.

The Young at Heart class meets in the room adjacent to the church office and follows the traditional Cokesbury Sunday School curriculum.

Bible Studies and Small Groups

The Tuesday Bible study group is continuing an in-depth study of John's gospel. We meet every Tuesday at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Next week we will be discussing chapter 14. It's never too late to get involved in serious Bible study, and we hope you will consider joining us in studying God's word from John's gospel.

Our United Methodist Women meet monthly on the Monday following the second Sunday of the month. They are currently studying Shannon Bream's book, *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*. Their next meeting will be on Monday night, March 13th at 6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

The United Methodist Men meet for breakfast on the second Sunday of each month to share food, fellowship, and a time of spiritual devotion. Their next meeting will be March 12th at 8:00 A.M. at in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Ladies Fellowship Group meets monthly for a time of food and fellowship. Their next meeting will be held in March with time, date, and details to be provided soon.

Gifts

Supporting the church with our tithes and offerings is necessary for the life of the church and as an important spiritual practice for growing as a disciple and exercising our faith in God's providence. Fortunately, there are several ways for you to give at Mossy Creek. In addition weekly offering during worship, contributions can be placed in the box outside the church office marked "Sally," they can be mailed to the church at PO Box 557, Cleveland, GA 30528, and they may be made electronically by clicking the "**donate here**" button of the church web site. Thank you for your continuing financial support of our church.

Children are our Future...

...but we need volunteers to work with our children on Sunday mornings and throughout the year, as we seek to grow disciples for the future of the church and God's kingdom. If you have a gift for working with and teaching children, don't wait to be asked to use your talent for God's kingdom. Call the office or talk to J to volunteer.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Financial Report

General Fund – Through January 2023

- 2023 YTD Receipts	\$20,872.00
- 2023 YTD Expenses	\$19,770.00
- Net income/(loss)	\$ 1,102.00

Building Fund – Through January 2023

- 2023 YTD Receipts	\$ 26,521.00
- YTD Balance	\$ 75,100.00

Recent Attendance

	In-person	Facebook views
Feb. 12, 2023	119	61
Feb. 5, 2023	98	64
Jan 29, 2023	94	139
Jan. 22, 2023	101	180

February Birthdays

- 2/1 – Carol Chambers Crumley
- 2/5 – Cindy Gaddy
- 2/7 – Cindy Fain
- 2/9 – Eunice Meaders
- 2/26 – Jamie Fain

February Anniversaries

- 2/23 – Jeremy and Cindy Fain

NEW PRAYER NEEDS AND CONCERNS

Peace and Healing

- Juanita Lanham
- Charlie Head
- Donald Hunt
- David Anderson
- Wesley Vandiver
- Christine Evans

Christian Sympathy

- Family of Ivan Clark
- Family of Cynthia Moss Gunnells
- Family of Trena Thomas Wingo

BUILDING UPDATE

Update on our New Building

While we await the last steps in completing our new building and receiving our final Certificate of Occupancy, the building is now available for limited use by our members. If you would like to reserve the building for an event or activity, please contact the church office to inquire about availability.