



Mossy Creek United Methodist Church

March 2, 2023

MOSSY CREEK MESSENGER

Food for thought from J

As we continue looking closely at the teachings of Jesus in Matthew, so far, we have discussed the gospel's overarching theme that Christians are to be active participants in our faith – going and making new disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them the commandments of Jesus. But Matthew also teaches that making disciples necessarily requires understanding what being a disciple entails, and, to a great extent, this is exactly the kind of reflection that is encouraged during Lent.

Thankfully, Matthew is also a valuable resource for considering the “how” of discipleship by providing us with the teaching and examples of Jesus, as the very embodiment of God's kingdom on earth. Nowhere is the teaching of Jesus clearer and more poignant than in the Sermon on the Mount. So, over the next few weeks, our exploration of Matthew will focus on key lessons from this sermon that many consider to be the most important one Jesus ever preached.

Join us for worship Sunday as we praise God in song and prayer, and take the next step in answering some of the questions we have raised recently about finding our way to the path that leads to the Father and the kingdom of God.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”- Matthew 5:2-5



WORSHIP NEWS

I Give Up!

This week's sermon will look at an unexpected theme from those beloved verses in the Sermon on the Mount known as “the Beatitudes.” Come and prepare to draw closer to God through this teaching of Jesus.

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>

CHURCH BUSINESS

Church Council

Our Church Council will have its first meeting of 2023 on Wednesday, March 15th, at 6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. We ask all members of Church Council to make every effort to attend, and all church members are also invited to come learn more about the business and ministries of the church.

Technology Update

If you have watched any of our live streamed worship services on Facebook lately, you will have noticed significant improvements in the video quality, such that our online worship experience is now something we should all want to share with our friends and neighbors. Especially as we enter Lent and prepare for Easter, if all of us who are regular users of Facebook will commit to sharing our weekly worship service with our Facebook friends, we can increase, drastically, the number of people who are exposed to the message of the gospel, through Mossy Creek UMC, each week. I hope you will consider joining me in this new practice in the weeks ahead.

Check out our Updated Website

Our Mossycreekumc.org website is being upgraded, complete with a fresh, new look and important updated information about our church. We hope you will take a minute to look over the website and then utilize it as an important resource for keeping up with church activities and events or referring friends and neighbors who might want to know more about our church. You can click on the link below to view:

<http://www.mossycreekumc.org>

DISCIPLESHIP/FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Read the Bible in a Year

Week 31

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| Day 1 | - | Jonah 1-4, Matthew 11 |
| Day 2 | - | 2 Kings 13-14, 2 Chr 25, Psalm 53, Matthew 12 |
| Day 3 | - | Amos 1-2, Matthew 13 |
| Day 4 | - | Amos 4-6, Psalm 55, Matthew 14 |
| Day 5 | - | Amos 7-9, Matthew 15 |

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 to 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.

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*. 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 16. 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 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 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Their next meeting will be at 5:00 P.M., March 15th at the Cottage House.

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

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook views</u>
Feb. 26, 2023	109	254
Feb. 19, 2023	86	33
Feb. 12, 2023	119	61
Feb. 5, 2023	98	64

March Birthdays

3/2	-	Sally Crowe
3/3	-	Doug Head
3/6	-	Mike Rogers
3/7	-	Lora Everette
3/8	-	Randall Campbell
3/9	-	Lily Kostulakos
3/10	-	Ella Blair
3/11	-	Jon Kostulakos
3/13	-	Laurene Sosebee
3/14	-	Hazel Fain
3/15	-	Connie Campbell
3/20	-	Mike Dorsey, David Hollingsworth
3/21	-	Grant Keene
3/29	-	Allen Head

March Anniversaries

3/27	-	Brad and Vicky Hunt
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NEW PRAYER NEEDS AND CONCERNS

Peace and Healing

- Helene Blake
- Jenny and Karl Meyers
- Connie Crawford
- Lilliana Smith
- Rosie Hite
- Family of Melissa Tysor Dean
- Family of Mary Jean Rabb

BUILDING UPDATE

New Building Available for Limited Use

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.