

THE HILLSIDE

At the end of the book of Malachi to Matthew is four hundred years of silence from God, this time is called the dark ages. Before I go much further let me explain that when I listed Matthew I am talking about the time between the ending of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament. However, in that time when there was silence the Nation of Israel had something special, they had the prophets' writings. Through the prophets Israel had a promise that there was coming a Messiah, someone who would free Israel from their oppression. Then one night out of the darkness the light of God enter the world and Jesus was born. The promise of the Messiah gave hope. In the walk-through history, we are now in the age of the Church the Messiah has brought us freedom from the oppression of sin. What does Advent hold for us if Jesus brought about the first Advent, do we celebrate a remembrance? No, we have our Advent, the promise of the return of Jesus. Some would say that we are living in the dark ages again. It certainly seems we are living in godless times but that is not true. We have a new hope, the return of Jesus not as a Messiah but a king who is coming to make everything right again as it was in the days of the Garden of Eden.

Merry Christmas from Teri and Dwayne.

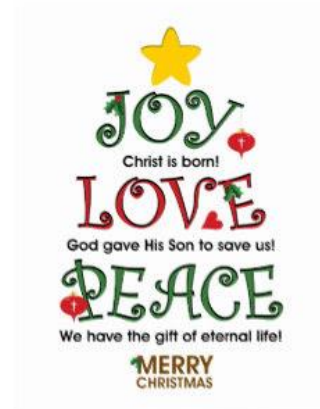


KNOW YOUR PASTOR

December 21, 6:30 pm will be the Blue Christmas service. This service is not about celebrating Christmas in fact it is almost the opposite. The Blue Christmas service gives people the place to accept Christmas. For them it is not merry and that it is okay not to enjoy the holiday season. I know it sounds strange that someone would not enjoy Christmas, but the best present you could give someone is to relieve some of the stress by saying "it's okay." By this simple statement you are allowing someone to be accepted as they are right now. It's like Eeyore in Winnie the Pooh. Although he is depressed a lot, his friends still include him in their adventures. It is okay with them that Eeyore is not as happy as they, not everyone can be a Tigger. When people do not feel the way that they think they should feel it brings guilt and that guilt just adds to the feelings they already are struggling with. For a Disciple of Jesus not forcing someone to be joyous is one of the most loving actions you can show. Remember this, just because someone might not be happy does not mean they are not experiencing joy. **Happiness is an emotional reaction to an outside stimulation; joy is a state of being from an internal presence.** This season invite those who may not be as merry as you are to your celebration, however, do not be surprised if they do not come. Just know that by your invitation you have expressed to them that you are accepted and not pushed to the outer edges just because you have struggles that I may not truly understand.

I wrote this article because I know the struggle of this time of year, but I want to say thank you to each of you for being so welcoming over these past two years for your support. I know pastors say this about the churches they serve, and some may even mean what they say. I want you to know I have been blessed to serve one of the greatest churches in the Mississippi Annual Conference, that is you Johnston Chapel United Methodist Church. God blessed me and Teri so much when he sent us here to serve as your pastor family. I can say there has been some healing on my own as I have served you. It is so wonderful to serve a Church where the Holy Spirit resides every day in the people of the Church. I used this word very selective because it is a word that I feel is only connected to God, but you are an AWESOME Church. You can only be that if God has his hand on you. I am looking forward to the coming year 2022.

Merry Christmas and Thank you
Bro. Dwayne





Ushers: Lana Burkett, Dakota Farmer
Colt Rogers, Tony Scroggs

Greeter: Angie, Beth, Curt Weems

Children's Buckets: Kylee & Caiden Farmer
Maddox & Braxton Abdul-Hadi



UMW will meet Monday, December 13th at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The program will be presented by Yvonne and Yvette. All ladies are asked to bring a finger food.



UMM will not meet in December or January. Prayer Breakfast will resume in February.



Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 we meet for Bible study in the fellowship hall. We are studying the book of Esther. Bro. Dwayne is our leader, and we would like to invite anyone interested. We serve coffee, or you can bring your favorite cola.



FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP

Family Night Supper is cancelled for Wednesday, December 1st. There will be a church-wide Christmas party Sunday, December 19th. Time TBA soon. Everyone who wants to play Bingo is asked to bring a gift that either a male or female would like.

WESLEY FOUNDATION DESSERT AUCTION

Saturday, November 20th was the second annual SMCC Wesley Foundation Dessert Auction. This is a project to help with funding for the Wesley Foundation on the SMCC campus. \$1,064 was raised and we are so thankful. Thank you to all who baked and bought for this wonderful cause.

LUNCH WITH THE SHEPHERD

Lunch with the Shepherd has been scheduled for Saturday, December 4th at 11:00 AM. Parents, put this special date on your calendars and plan ahead to bring your children, grandchildren, etc. This will be a very special activity. Please bring hotdogs, buns, chips, drinks, etc. for refreshments following.



JOHNSTON CHAPEL UMC LIVE NATIVITY

COME! TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AND EXPERIENCE
THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST!

DECEMBER 10TH & 11TH
6:00 – 8:00 PM



AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR JOURNEY,
HOT CHOCOLATE WILL BE PROVIDED
FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT AS YOU TRAVEL.

PEACE
JOY
LOVE
TO ALL!

KIM'S KORNER

Last time I said I would give you an update on how our Fall Fest went!!! It was absolutely amazing!!! It felt like things were back to normal. We had well over 100 people come through our trunk or treat!!! We had some awesome pumpkin cars this year and The Burkett's finally beat the Weems. Can't wait to see what happens next year!!! The youth gave out 9 volt batteries on Nov. 6th along with some diapers and wipes in memory of our friend Nolan. The youth have decided to go to Lake Junaluska on Dec. 29-Jan 2nd. They will bring in the new year worshipping God together and with other Methodist churches around the Southeast. They will also ski 2 days while they are there. The total cost is \$350 and must pay \$60 by Nov. 28 to be able to go. Thanks to all who bought chicken tenders. We made \$1000.00!!! This will help us get to Junaluska!!!

We are excited about the Live Nativity coming up along with decorating shoe boxes and the Youth Christmas party on Dec. 12.

We will have a church wide party on Dec. 19th where we will play Bingo!!! Bring a gift that a male or female would like to win for Bingo. Time TBA!!! Children will continue to meet on Wednesdays and Youth will continue to meet on Sundays and Wednesdays. I want to thank Rebecca, Richard, Angie, Sandra, Chris, and Logan for helping out so much during the fall semester. I could not have made it without each of you!!!

Kim Burkett

OPERATION SHOEBOX

Thanks again for your support with this mission project. We will be ready to pack the boxes soon after Kim and the youth decorate them on December 12. (May be January, since we are all busy with family, holidays, and special church and community programs. Our UMCOR representative said January will be fine. If we can do it sooner, I will let you know.)

Our UMCOR boxes go directly to United Methodist missionaries in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, & Dominican Republic.

As I have already stated, this is a project Methodist churches are working on year round. Of course, we don't want anyone to be overwhelmed with constantly working on this project. Ladies, I suggest that you keep a list of items that we use in the boxes with you and when you shop just keep this project in mind and when you run across "deals" you may want to take advantage. I will keep a running inventory. Just keep bringing them to the Operation Shoebox room. Call or text me (Carolyn Butler) at 662/528-3541 with questions or information. Thanks.

Items we still need for our first set of boxes: 29 toothbrushes, 16 bars of soap, small rubber balls (we have 15, need 10 more to give to boys only, or, 35 to give to boys and girls).

The following is a list you can keep with you as you shop throughout the year: (on clothing,

please buy sizes 4/5), flip flops, underwear, socks, shorts, tee shirts, combs, toothbrush/toothpaste, crayons

Optional items: mirrors, play jewelry, hot wheels, dolls, small stuffed toys, ponytail holders/barrettes, marbles pencils/pencil sharpeners, small writing pads, colored pencils, small packs tissue paper, small toys (similar to a McDonald Happy Meal toy).

Thank you,
Carolyn Butler

*The Gift
of Giving*

SUMMIT CHRISTMAS PARADE

Monday, December 6th at 6:00 PM

Our church will enter a float in the Christmas parade to help advertise The Live Nativity. We hope you all can come out and support this event.

**CHRISTmas
Parade**

For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

CHRISTMAS TREE FOR JESUS

Sunday, December 19TH

This is a project that we've done in the past. It's a time to give above and beyond our tithes. This money will go to the General Fund. We will pin our special offering on the tree that has been placed in the fellowship hall and then the sanctuary. We ask that you prayerfully consider taking part in this gift giving.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH – 3:00 PM /6:30 PM

There will be two services from which to choose, or you may want to go to both of them.



A SINGING CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH – 10:30 AM

This will be a joint Worship Service. There will be no Sunday School.

The choir will sing specials. Soloists will sing, and there will be a time for congregational singing. This looks to be a wonderful time of worshipping Jesus Christ.

There will be no evening activities.



WHAT IS THAT SONG?

A few weeks ago I was searching for a song that somewhat dealt with the birth of Jesus since this is the month we celebrate that joyous occasion. God had other ideas for me. During Bro. Dwayne's message on the Sunday before Thanksgiving something he said struck a chord within me. He spoke of how we spread the message of God every time we visit with others no matter how brief that meeting might be (just as the bee spreads pollen when it goes from flower to flower). At the same time I was wearing a shirt I had purchased at a Toby Mac concert. It states the title of one of his songs, 'Speak Life'. That's when it hit me, both are about the same thing! I remember seeing Toby sing this song in New Orleans. Before doing so he talked about how he had taken a walk through The French Quarter before the show. Toby spoke of some of the sights he saw there and how 'speaking life' to many of those he encountered could benefit from hearing a kind message. I believe it's something we all need to strive for and it can help us as well.

Speak Life
by Toby Mac

Some days, life feels perfect
Other days, it just ain't workin'
The good, the bad, the right, the wrong
And everything in between

Yo it's crazy, amazing
We can turn our heart through the words we say
Mountains crumble with every syllable

Hope can live or die
CHORUS
So speak life, speak life
To the dearest, darkest night
Speak life, speak life
When the sun won't shine and you don't know why
Look into the eyes of the brokenhearted
Watch 'em come alive as soon as you speak hope
You speak love, you speak
You speak life, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh
You speak life, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh

Some days, the tongue gets twisted
Other days, my thoughts just fall apart
I do, I don't, I will, I won't
It's like I'm drowning in the deep

Well, it's crazy to imagine
Words from my lips as the arms of compassion
Mountains crumble with every syllable
Hope can live or die

REPEAT CHORUS

Lift your head a little higher
Spread the love like fire
Hope will fall like rain
When you speak life with the words you say
Raise your thoughts a little higher
Use your words to inspire
Joy will fall like rain
When you speak life with the things you say

Lift your head a little higher
Spread the love like fire
Hope will fall like rain

REPEAT CHORUS

Some days, life feels perfect

Songwriters: Ryan Stevenson, James L. Moore,
Kevin Michael McKeenan

"The tongue has the power of life and death."
Proverbs 18:21

The stakes are high. Your words can either
speak life, or your words can speak death.
Our tongues can build others up, or they can
tear them down.

Have a blessed and safe Christmas!
Yvonne Church



OUR FAMILY ALTAR

Church & Its Ministries Children & Youth
Our Nation Unspoken World Caregivers
Homeless

Rev. Dwayne & Teri Scoggins

President Biden, Governors, Mayors, All in Leadership

All of the First Responders, Doctors, Nurses, Hospitals,
Pharmacists, Social Workers, Custodians, Everyone
affected by Covid

Shut- Ins/Nursing Home

Loss of Loved Ones

Family of James Henry Johnson – Deborah's Dad

Military

Jonathan Young – Serving on the USS George W.
 Bush in Norfolk, VA
 J.J. Boshart – Race Willoughby's Brother-In-Law –
 Kuwait
 Nick Mercer–Fort Stewart, GA
 Haley Richardson – Marine Air Station – Yuma, AZ

In Institution

Bridget Dillon, Chris Yawn, Landon Burrough

Working Away From Home

Paul Allred (Kansas), Mitchell Leon (Gulf of
 Mexico), Brett Stockton (Texas), Shane Williams
 (Saudi Arabia)

In Hospital/ Sick at Home/Need Our Prayers

Marvin Adams - Recovering from Covid - Father
 of Chris & Chase Adams

Damien Allen – Recovering from car wreck

Donna Bales – Health

Tammy Beard

Katie Paulk Bell – Problems with pregnancy

Aubrey Boyd – Health - Back

Jackie Boyd – Health

Kara Brashear – Cousin of Dwight, Glenda, &

Darlene – Cancer has returned

Danney Bullock – Recovering from knee surgery

Kathy Capral - Treatable but incurable cancer -

Aunt of Yvonne Church

Chuck – Phil Caudill's associate – A non-believer
 and dealing with health issues

Yvonne Church – Orthopedic problems

Valencia Damond – Cancer – Kim Burkett

Carolyn Deer – Health

Shannon Dunaway – Health

Curtis Edmonds - Health

Diane Fortenberry – Cancer treatments & Lupus

Barbara Rogers' friend – Not doing well

Peter & Sonya Francis – Health

Phyllis Freeman – Health

Virginia Freeman – Stage 4 cancer – Yvonne

Church's friend's mother

Brenda Green – Recovering from knee replacement

Dale Green - Health

Eva Nell Green – Health

Kalie Green – Mental Health

Tony Handberry – Amy Campbell's Father - Stage 4
 Cancer

Judy Harrison – Health – Nancy's friend

Ronnie Harrison – Cancer treatments – Nancy's
 friend

Gerald Howell – Health

Thomas Johnston – Health – MS more advanced

Joseph Kalil - Rare cancer (reoccurrence) –

Cousin of Yvonne Church

Lonnie Keist – Health

Lucy Lofton – Cancer Survivor

Safiullah Makhdoom – Stranded in Afghanistan –

Jeremy Roger's good friend

Sharon Marse – Recovering from heart surgery –

James Church's sister

Kathy Martin

Patrick McCaffery – mass on his lung – Nancy's Friend

Craig Moak – Recovering from a kidney transplant

June Moak – Recovering from leg surgery

Susan Montgomery – Health – Barbara Rogers's
 Friend

W.B. Netterville – Back Issues

Robert Pennington – Stage 3 Small Cell Carcinoma

Tony Ramirez

Donna Reeves – Cancer

Mike Richard – Back Pain

Tony Ritter – Health

Clayton Roberts & Mary Roberts – Health

David Roberts

Jane Roberts – Diagnosed with Parkinson's

John & Sandy Roberts

Lamar Roberts – Health

Sharon Roberts – Health

Robin Roberts – Health

Jill Robinson – ALS

Teri Scoggins – Recovering from Partial Cornea
 surgery

Jack Seale – Immunotherapy treatments for
 cancer

Marge Smith – Barbara Mercier's Friend – Radiation
 Treatments

Snuffy Smith – Health – Brenda Green

Sue Smith – Brenda Green's sister – Heart

Jean Spring – Breast Cancer – Chemo & Radiation

Landon Stamps – Cancerous tumor in his abdomen

Dwight Stockton – Health

Connie & Maxine Stoddard – Health

Mattie Taylor – Aggressive form of lymphoma – Pam

Dixon's friend's granddaughter

Beth Woodall Trantham - Health

Jessica Troutman – ALS – Friend of Darlene
 Johnston

Robert Walker & Marilyn Stutzman – Health

Deborah Tarver – Health – one of our former
 Custodians

Charles & Annie Waguespack – Health

Curtis West – Health – Brenda Green

**Linda West – Congestive heart failure – Brenda
 Green**

Lyndia Williams – Recovering from knee
 replacement – Yvonne Church's friend

Keith Williamson – Health

Renae Woods – Crohn's – Health issues

Joy Yawn – Blood clots in lungs and legs



Happy
Birthday



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 02 - BRO. DWAYNE SCOGGINS
- 03 - JANE ROBERTS
- 05 - DANNEY BULLOCK
- 07 - RYAN WILLIAMS
- 09 - CAEL YAWN
SKY LYN BROWN
- 10 - DEANNA MCKENZIE
- 12 - TYLER HOWELL
- 14 - JACOB CASH
- 16 - AMANDA ROBERTS
DAVID ROBERTS
- 17 - GRAYCE BALES
- 18 - AUBREY BOYD
CHARLES WAGUESPACK
CINDY WEEMS
DARELL BOYD
- 20 - WYATT ROBERTS
- 21 - MARTY BIGNER
PAT FREEMAN
- 26 - CONNIE STODDARD
KIM BURKETT
MACKENZIE STOCKTON
- 27 - CHRIS YAWN
- 28 - ALLISON WOODALL MARCH
DONNA BALES
- 29 - JAXON ABDUL-HADI
KAMIAH WILLIAMS
TAMMIE JONES
- 30 - JACKIE BOYD
KYLEE FARMER
SETH FARMER
THOMAS JOHNSTON

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



You'll always be just like
two peas in a pod.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!