**THE HILLSIDE**

Acts 5:29

29  But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. In this section of scripture, Peter was in jail but was let out by an angel. The angel told Peter to return to the temple and preach to the people. When the Chief Priest was ready to question Peter and the others, they found the jail locked, but Peter and the others were gone. When they were arrested again and told they were not to preach this name, Peter’s response, verse 29, establishes their defense.

2023 is now here. What does the new year hold for us at Johnston Chapel? There will be some scary times, there will be painful times, and there will be celebrations. We will be okay because we will strive to obey God. The only way to accomplish that is to stand on the scripture,

spend time in prayer, and fast. We will be intentional in being disciples of Jesus rather than

just believers. Jesus said that we are to be light and salt. In my time here, it has always struck me that our worship facility is set on a hill. We cannot hide under a bushel; we shine brightly as a lighthouse in this community’s seashore. This year let’s bring people who want to grow as disciples and make sure we are making new disciples by seeking and bringing the lost to Christ.

 **What does it mean to be a disciple?**

We talk about being a disciple but has that term ever been explained? According to Unger’s Bible Dictionary, a disciple follows the teaching of one individual and upholds those teachings. In the New Testament, you have several disciples. There were disciples of John, the Pharisees, and of course, Jesus. As Christians, we are disciples of Jesus and follow his teachings, which also means that we are making disciples for Jesus. Being a disciple is more than believing in a person or an idea. It is following and wanting to live as they live. It was the disciples of Jesus who changed the world. They followed his teachings, and they taught what he taught. A disciple never becomes the teacher; they continue the teachings. We want to be disciples of Jesus Christ, making more disciples and helping present disciples to become stronger. To be a disciple must be intentional actions of the person wishing to be a disciple. This will be the focus of this new article in the Link, replacing the Know Your Pastor article.

I look forward to helping us all grow in becoming disciples of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Dwayne





Ushers: JK Bales, Dakota Farmer, Lawrence Weems, Robert Walker

Greeter: Robert Walker

**YOUTH AND CHILDREN NEWS**

December was a great month. We helped with the live Nativity, had a very fun youth party, and the children had a great time at Happy Land and looking at the lights. The children did a great job treating others in our group and those not from our group like Jesus would have. It was really cool to see them being an example of Jesus to others.

In January we will be reflecting on what we do now that Christmas is over. The youth will sell hot dogs and snacks at the Sunday night movie. Everything will be $1. So bring your money to help raise money for the youth. The youth and children will help pack UMCOR shoeboxes on January 8th at 4:00.

Watch the bulletin for more information on a possible retreat/activity during Martin Luther King weekend.



**UMW will meet on January 10th at 6:30 p.m. for a pledge service.**

“We are women of purpose, vision, faith and mission. Through our work and financial support, we make a positive difference for many individuals in our hometowns and communities all around the globe. We invite you to explore how you can share your gifts, compassion, interests and abilities with those in need through membership in the United Methodist Women of Mississippi.” (copied)

All ladies are invited to come and join us.



**The United Methodist Men will not meet in January.**

**MISSIONS UPDATE**

“As we give to those in need, we give to the Lord.”  Matthew 25:40 is our reminder to give to those in need.  Again, I want to say “Thank You” to all of you for your generous  hearts demonstrated by your giving to those in need throughout the year.  May God bless you for giving.

To recap the year of 2022:  Ministries we participated in throughout the year:

**UMCOR SHOEBOXES**

     On January 8, we will be packing our 5th set of 50 boxes provided by our membership combined (for 4-5 year olds), one of our members packed 2 boxes for an older group, and we will have packed 10 “in memory of”  loved ones for a total of 262 boxes.  It is really not possible to put an exact monetary value on the boxes because many of the materials are donated at no cost to the church.  However, I think we can be very proud of what we as a church have given.

     We again honor the memory of **Tara Abdul Hadi** for a box paid for by Trace, Bethany, Maddox, Braxton, & Jaxon Abdul-Hadi in November.  Thanks for your gift.

     I want to say thanks to all of you who have donated items, (whether new or used) and thanks to those who have helped get items ready (sewing, making jump ropes, and assembling items for packing). And thanks for you who help pack.   It takes all of us working together.  May God bless you all for your work and your gifts.

     I will be providing a new “Inventory Update” soon to let you know what we need for our next shipment.  Your monetary donations are appreciated for purchasing items in bulk to get better pricing and for items we run across at “dirt cheap” prices.

**CLASH OF THE CLERGY**

Early in the year our church rallied around Bro. Dwayne with a total gift of $1500 for him to participate in the “Clash of the Clergy” Event at Camp Wesley Pines for the purpose of providing scholarships for workers at the camp during the summer months.

**UMCOR FLOOD BUCKETS**

We were asked to fill 11 buckets, but your gifts were enough to fill 14 buckets (at an approximate cost of $85 per bucket or a total church gift of $1190).

**WESLEY FOUNDATION**

Our church hosted two “dessert auctions” in 2022.  With the participation of our church members and members from other district churches, a total of $2,144 was raised for the Wesley Foundation.

**MICA (McComb Interdenominational Care Association)**

Thanks to all of you who have been actively involved with MICA throughout the year, helping to feed the hungry in Pike County.  You especially came through with extra food products during VBS and the “Christmas in July” promotion for MICA.

**METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOMES**

Thanks for your gifts totaling $1,027.00.

**SPECIAL FAMILY AT CHRISTMAS**

Thanks for your gifts for our special family (selected by the UMW) to receive a little help at Christmas time.  Your gifts totaled $1,037.00

**BABY BOOMERANG**

Your filling of baby bottles with money in June to help those in need at the Crisis Pregnancy Center was really a blessing.  Thanks for giving.

Carolyn Butler

**Bible Study**

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

**Personal Bible Study**

Have you ever been challenged to read the Bible in a year? This year, we will face and overcome that challenge together.

Bro. Dwayne will be providing a calendar for readings for each month. Please see the bulletin for more details.

**MOVIE NIGHT!**

We will have movie night on Sunday, January 22 and will be watching *The Jesus Music*. This movie shows how Christian Contemporary music transformed from the Jesus Music movement of the 1960s. It features such stars as Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Toby Mac, and Kirk Franklin. These are just a few of the artists who have devoted their lives to sharing their faith through the universal power of music. The movie will begin at 6:00 p.m. The youth will be selling hot dogs, soft drinks, and other items for you to snack on during the movie. Everything will cost $1.00. Please join us!

**WHAT IS THAT SONG?**

Welcome to 2023! Do any of you make New Year's resolutions? It's something I've never really done, but this year I'm going to try one. Showing love to others no matter what, that's what I'm going to try. I think the following song that came out several years ago still describes the world in which we live. It's a secular song but has a Christian message. I thought it would be perfect to highlight during the month we recognize the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Where is the Love?

by Black Eyed Peas

What's wrong with the world, mama?

People livin' like they ain't got no mamas

I think the whole world's addicted to the drama

Only attracted to things that'll bring you trauma

Overseas, yeah, we tryna stop terrorism

But we still got terrorists here livin'

In the USA, the big CIA

The Bloods and The Crips and the KKK

But if you only have love for your own race

Then you only leave space to discriminate

And to discriminate only generates hate

And when you hate, then you're bound

to get irate, yeah

Madness is what you demonstrate

And that's exactly how anger works and operates

Man, you gotta have love just to set it straight

Take control of your mind and meditate

Let your soul gravitate to the love, y'all, y'all

CHORUS

People killin', people dyin'

Children hurt, hear them cryin'

Can you practice what you preach

Or would you turn the other cheek?

Father, Father, Father, help us

Send some guidance from above

'Cause people got me, got me questionin'

Where is the love (love)

Where is the love? (The love) x2

Where is the love, the love, the love?

It just ain't the same, old ways have changed

New days are strange, is the world insane?

If love and peace are so strong

Why are there pieces of love that don't belong?

Nations droppin' bombs

Chemical gasses fillin' lungs of little ones

With ongoin' sufferin' as the youth die young

So ask yourself, is the lovin' really gone?

So I could ask myself really what is goin' wrong

In this world that we livin' in people keep on givin' in

Makin' wrong decisions, only visions of them

dividends

Not respectin' each other, deny thy brother

A war is goin' on but the reason's undercover

The truth is kept secret, it's swept under the rug

If you never know truth then you never know love

Where's the love, y'all, come on? (I don't know)

Where's the truth, y'all come on? (I don't know)

Where's the love, y'all?

REPEAT CHORUS

Where is the love? (The love) x6

Where is the love, the love, the love?

I feel the weight of the world on my shoulder

As I'm gettin' older, y'all, people gets colder

Most of us only care about money makin'

Selfishness got us followin' the wrong direction

Wrong information always shown by the media

Negative images is the main criteria

Infecting the young minds faster than bacteria

Kids wanna act like what they see in the cinema, yo'

Whatever happened to the values of humanity?

Whatever happened to the fairness and equality?

Instead of spreading love we're spreading

animosity

Lack of understanding, leading us away from

unity

That's the reason why sometimes I'm

feelin' under

That's the reason why sometimes I'm

feelin' down

There's no wonder why sometimes I'm

feelin' under

Gotta keep my faith alive 'til love is found

Now ask yourself

Where is the love? x4

Father, Father, Father, help us

Send some guidance from above

'Cause people got me, got me questionin'

Where is the love?

Sing with me y'all (one world, one world)

We only got (one world, one world)

That's all we got (one world, one world)

And something's wrong with it (yeah)

Something's wrong with it (yeah)

Something's wrong with the

wo-wo-world, yeah

We only got (one world, one world)

That's all we got (one world, one world)

Songwriters: Justin Timberlake, Will Adams,

Jaime Gomez, Allan Apll Pineda, Printz Board,

Michael Fratantuno, and George Pajon

Beloved, let us love one another, for love

is from God; and everyone who loves is born

of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

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

Nelvia Agnew – cancer

Mike Boggs – cancer

Family of Danney Bullock

Family of Nell Cox

Duane Church – infectious disease

Yvonne Church – spinal issues

Family of Glen Martin

Jackie Moak – cancer

Frances Pace – hospice

Clayton and Mary Roberts

Family of Jane Roberts

David Roberts

Dr. Dawn Sumrall – cancer

Chad Wallace – lost home to fire

Toni Wild - cancer

If you have names that you would like added to the LINK Prayer list, please sign the lists placed around the church or contact Deedra Bales at 601-695-1184.

**January Birthdays**

01 – Brandon Andrews

07 – David Kincaid, Shane Williams

09 – Ginger Ritter

11 – Donavin Cash, Leslie Johnson

13 – Mya Pullin

14 – Jordan Allred

15 – Helon Brown

19 – Pat Lewis

20 – Chayse Kirkland, Jenna Dickerson

21 – Catherine Andrews

22 – Dwight Stockton

24 – Myles Foil, Savannah Cash

25 – Justin Lofton

27 – Floyd Brown

28 – Drew Worthy, John Adams

30 – Bryce and Dylan Meyers, Drayton Allred

31 – Dean Philebar, Felicity Cash, Glenda Richard

**January Anniversaries**

01 – Justin and Karen McKenzie

02 – Daniel and Deedra Bales

19 – Danny and Joyce Farmer

24 – Lee and Linda Roberts

27 – Charles and Annie Waguespack

****