



Mossy Creek United Methodist Church

February 9, 2023

MOSSY CREEK MESSENGER

Food for thought from J

Over the next few months, we will begin a sermon focus, each Sunday, on the gospel of Matthew. Interestingly though, while Matthew is the first gospel we encounter as we open our Bibles and turn to the New Testament, Matthew often seems to fall further down the list in the order of the gospels in which students tend to have the most interest. In fact, in my experience with Bible studies in general, I have found that students are more likely to seek out, for serious study, the poetic and deeply theological teachings of John's gospel, the historical detail of the Luke/Acts combination, or the brevity and concision of Mark before settling on a deep dive into Matthew.

But why is this? As the first book in the New Testament, Matthew is not only the first account of the life of Jesus we find in the Bible's table of contents, but also, it contains important and unique material and themes that are critical to understanding the life of Jesus and how it communicates the Christian message to us in life changing fashion. For example, Matthew provides the most detailed account of the role Joseph played in the life of Jesus. It provides our only record of the wisemen and the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt. It has the most detailed account of timeless teachings like the Sermon on the Mount. It contains several unique, yet beloved, parables. It provides some of the richest teaching on the subject of "end times," and it provides us with the first of the "Great" commissions.

So, with all of this historical, theological, and Christological value, it is important that we not overlook the teaching of Matthew and his gospel if we seek the most comprehensive understanding possible of the life and message of Jesus for the transformation of our lives and the life of the church. I hope you will join us each week as we dive deeply into the wisdom of this important gospel, in search of the message God has for each of us today.

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

WORSHIP NEWS

Starting at the End

As we our walk through Matthew's gospel, we begin this week, ***at the end***. This Sunday we will consider how the Great Commission, that is found in its closing verses, provides a message of active mission that permeates the entire gospel. Join us Sunday for a look at how we are being sent out today just like those first disciples.

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 28

Day 1	-	1 Kings 12, 2 Chr. 10-11, Titus 1
Day 2	-	1 Kings 13-14, 2 Chr. 12, Psalm 47, Titus 2
Day 3	-	1 Kings 15, 2 Chr. 13-14, Titus 3
Day 4	-	1 Kings 16, 2 Chr. 15-16, Philemon
Day 5	-	1 Kings 17-18, Psalm 119, Jude

UMW Scholarship Fundraiser

The United Methodist Women will hold their annual scholarship fundraiser Sunday February 12th in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Bring a covered dish(es) and your checkbook to support our scholarships for graduating high school seniors active at Mossy Creek. For questions see Sally or Beth. Everyone in the church is invited.

Family Promise

Mossy Creek UMC's next week to provide meals for Family Promise is February 12-18, and all the meal slots have been filled. Thanks to all of our faithful Mossy Creek UMC supporters of this important ministry.

Ladies Fellowship

Our Ladies Fellowship Group will meet for their next monthly luncheon on Wednesday, February 15th at 11:30 a.m. at Fender's Diner in Cornelia.

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 5 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 13. 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, February 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 February 12th at 8:00 A.M. at the Cleveland Burger King.

Our Ladies Fellowship Group meets monthly for a time of food and fellowship. Their next meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 15th at Fender's Diner in Cornelia.

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

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook views</u>
Feb. 5, 2023	98	64
Jan 29, 2023	94	139
Jan. 22, 2023	101	180
Jan. 15, 2023	115	55

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

- Lynn Merritt
- John Williams
- Donald Hunt
- David Anderson
- A friend having tests

Christian Sympathy

- Family of Jimmy Allen
- Family of Allison Link
- Family of Bruce Irvin

BUILDING UPDATE

Check Out the Progress 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.

