



Mossy Creek United Methodist Church

February 24, 2023

MOSSY CREEK MESSENGER

Food for thought from J

With our observance of Ash Wednesday this week, we have officially entered the season of Lent, those 40 days (not including Sundays) that lead up to Easter. While we often talk about “giving things up” for Lent, what does this mean and why do we do it?

Well, Lent is a season of preparation for celebrating Easter and remembering that the cornerstone of our Christian faith, our risen savior, literally gave up his own life so that all who believe in him might not perish, but have eternal life. While Christians around the world have, historically, chosen many ways to observe Lent, it is most customary, for those seeking to honor the sacrifice of Jesus, to temporarily “give up” something of value in their lives as a means of demonstrating their own sacrificial spirits. Subsequently, giving up favorite foods, social media, or watching television are popular sacrifices made by observers of Lent.

In addition to giving things up, however, it is also appropriate to add a spiritual practice to our routines as a means of preparing for Easter during this season. This might include joining a Bible study, undertaking a Lenten devotional program, or simply committing to begin every day in prayer and contemplation of Christ’s sacrifice for us. If you have not decided on how you will prepare for Easter in 2023, I encourage you to consider the message of Matthew’s gospel, and its call to true repentance, as a first step on the road to discipleship. We all continue to struggle with sin in our lives, and taking the time, daily, to pray for the strength to finally put aside that sinful way of acting, talking, or thinking, may help us be more prepared to receive the message of Easter than laying off chocolate or Facebook.

Regardless of how you may be led to observe Lent this year, though, I hope you will make Mossy Creek UMC a central part of your life as we join together as Easter people.

WORSHIP NEWS

Lead, Follow, or Get out of the Way

This week’s sermon will continue our search for finding the narrow path that leads to true repentance, discipleship, and a spirit of evangelism. I 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 30

Day 1	-	2 Kings 7-8, 2 Chr 21, Matthew 6
Day 2	-	2 Kings 9-10, Psalm 49, Matthew 7
Day 3	-	2 Kings 11, 2 Chr 22-23, Psalm 131, Matthew 8
Day 4	-	2 Kings 12, 2 Chr 24, Psalm 50, Matthew 9
Day 5	-	Joel , Matthew 10

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.

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 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>

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 15. 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 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.

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. 19, 2023	86	33
Feb. 12, 2023	119	61
Feb. 5, 2023	98	64
Jan 29, 2023	94	139

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

- Cecilia Whitaker
- Troy Waddell
- Tom Lindquist
- Jimmy Carter

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.