



# Mossy Creek United Methodist Church

April 27, 2023

## MOSSY CREEK MESSENGER

### *Food for thought from J*

I am often questioned about the difference between church denominations, particularly Methodist versus Baptist or another type of protestant church. And, while there are differences between Methodist (Wesleyan) theology, and that of other denominations, the name – Methodist – is less about theology, and more about the practice of our faith. In fact, the term “methodist” was, originally, a derogatory name given to John Wesley and his colleagues who were particularly rigorous in their practice of spiritual disciplines or “methods” in pursuit of growing as disciples of Christ. These methods included regular worship, receiving the Sacraments, Bible study, regimented prayer time, and helping the needy. One of the keys to all this method, though, was the importance of doing it **often** and **communally**. While we, as modern Methodists, continue to enjoy many of these activities, together, every Sunday, we often lose sight of the importance of making additional regular and communal *Bible study* a part of our personal “method.” Yet, this should seem particularly important to us if we consider how unlikely it is that we could ever hope to learn all we need to know about something as central to our growth as Christians as *The Bible*, simply by reading it by ourselves or sitting through a 20-minute sermon once a week.

Fortunately, this is why, at Mossy Creek, we have a solid and growing offering of group Bible studies and Sunday school classes that provide regular opportunities to study scripture and the tenets of our faith - together:

#### Sunday School

- The Young at Heart class is reforming right now with a focus on traditional Cokesbury Sunday school curriculum.
- The Choir Room Class is studying C.S. Lewis’s *Mere Christianity*, which many experts view as one of the most important theological writings of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- The Fellowship class focuses on devotional practices and group prayer. They meet in the old Middle School classroom in the main church building.
- On April 30<sup>th</sup>, we will begin weekly confirmation classes for our young members who are seeking to be confirmed and to make a public affirmation of their faith in Christ.

#### Other Bible Study Opportunities

- The Tuesday Bible study meets weekly at noon to take a systematic look at one specific book of *The Bible*. We are now studying Paul’s letter to the Galatians, which is an excellent introduction to the writings of the great apostle.
- Our UMW meets monthly for fellowship and to study biblical topics. They are wrapping up their current study of the book, *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*.

If you aren’t involved in at least one of these activities, I encourage you to consider making time to join one. If you need to find a more convenient time for Bible study, or you have a desire to lead a specific study of your own, please give me a call and we will work toward finding a way to add that to our current list of offerings. Whatever the case, *The Bible* remains one of the God’s greatest gifts to help us understand God, God’s plan, and our place in it. May we all make studying God’s word a priority and a method for strengthening our faith and drawing closer to God as disciples of Christ.

## WORSHIP NEWS

### Resurrection Stories

Christ is risen, now what? As we continue to celebrate the season of Easter, over the next few weeks, we will be looking at what each of the gospels has to tell us about that time immediately following the resurrection and what we can learn from these amazing Resurrection stories. I hope you will join us each Sunday.

### 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

### 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

### 2023 Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The classes will be held during the Sunday School hour each week, with the actual Confirmation service being held in June. If you, or someone you know, has a child who would like to participate, please call the church office or speak with J.

### 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.

### Read the Bible in a Year

#### Week 39

Day 1	-	Habakkuk, 2 Corinthians 7
Day 2	-	Zephaniah, Psalm 74, 2 Corinthians 8
Day 3	-	Jeremiah 1-4, Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 9
Day 4	-	Jeremiah 5-7, Psalm 75, 2 Corinthians 10
Day 5	-	Jeremiah 8-10, 2 Corinthians 11

## 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 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.

## 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 class offers an opportunity for group prayer, fellowship, and spiritual devotion using such resources as the Upper Room. They meet in the old Middle School classroom in the main church building.

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 meets every Tuesday at noon. The class is doing a chapter-by-chapter study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. Everyone is invited to join us as we take a short but in-depth look at this very important early work of the apostle Paul.

Our United Methodist Women are currently studying Shannon Bream's book, *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*.

The United Methodist Men meet for breakfast on the second Sunday of each month to share food, fellowship, and a time of spiritual devotion.

Our Ladies Fellowship Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month for food and fellowship.

## BUILDING UPDATE

### **New Building Available for Limited Use**

Our new 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.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### Financial Report

#### General Fund – Through March 2023

- 2023 YTD Receipts	\$58,454.00
- 2023 YTD Expenses	\$56,973.00
- Net income/(loss)	\$ 1,481.00

#### Building Fund – Through March 2023

- 2023 YTD Receipts	\$ 29,957.00
- YTD Balance	\$ 57,236.00

### Recent Attendance

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook views</u>
April 23, 2023	119	47
April 16, 2023	103	120
April 9, 2023	138	29
April 2, 2023	82	37

### April Birthdays

4/2	-	James Nelms
4/6	-	Evy Owens
4/8	-	James Crowe, Sid Crowe
4/12	-	Reid Murphey
4/14	-	Ashley Miller, Josh Adams, Cooper Adam
4/15	-	Donna Fitzpatrick
4/16	-	Jessie Meaders
4/28	-	Brenda Parson, Juanita Lanham
4/29	-	Solomon Dadd
4/30	-	Jeff McAvoy

### April Anniversaries

4/4	-	Keith and Christine Horn
4/28	-	CJ and Haley McDonald

### NEW PRAYER NEEDS

- Ronnie Dorsey
- Vivian Smith
- Alisha Gordon
- April Mann
- Carolyn Dorsey
- The Farmer Family