

# The Springs

Where The Thirsty Find Life

May 31, 2023

*"Let your eyes look directly ahead, and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil."*

*Proverbs 4:25-27*

The world is full of distractions: Facebook, Tik Tok, Twitter, movies, TV shows, video games, toys, cars, houses-even people! So many things try to grab our attention, making it difficult to focus on the right things. Sometimes, things are no different in the church. And certainly, in the United Methodist Church, this is no different with distractions all around-particularly relating to issues around homosexuality and churches leaving the denomination.

The Bible, however, calls us away from distractions and into a focused gaze upon the life we have in Jesus. Look up some of these Bible verses: Luke 10:38-42; Psalm 119:15; Matthew 6:24-34; Philippians 4:8; Joshua 1:8. Meditate upon them and discover how God is calling us to live our lives focused on him as the Word made flesh. We need to keep the main thing the main thing. But I'm not referring to making disciples, giving to the needy, feeding the poor, clothing the naked, serving others, or reaching out into our community. Those activities are part of our mission as disciples, and yes, they are a vital part of our corporate life in Christ. But they do not rise to the nature of our core identity in Christ. They do not define us. If our life itself is missing the presence of Christ, none of those things truly matter. In John 15:4, Jesus says "Abide in me, and I in you." This is the key for us today. The focus of our lives must be on the transformational nature of our identity as image-bearers of the Holy One (see 1 Peter 1:14-16). That is what God has called his people to be from the beginning, and the call is no different today. This must be central to the understanding of our faith.

So, when the things of the world (or the church) seem to distract you, take a breath. Remember who you belong to, remind yourself of your calling, and focus your mind & eyes upon your relationship with Christ. Stay firmly fixed on him as your solid foundation. Be in constant prayer. Meditate upon the Word. Look inward, and draw your strength from his life & light. As Jesus reminded Satan "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4) Let the Word of God, and THE Word (Jesus), be your guide in this life-no matter what troubles or distractions may come.

In Christ,

Matthew Hall

## New Prayer Requests

### Please continue to pray for:

Shirley Dooley, Francois du Plessis, James & Glenda Smith,  
Ken LaBruyere, Otha Barham, Barbara Walker, Brenda Huffman,  
Sharon Stephens, Delaney Heckert, Charlotte Chaney, Will Alexander,  
Shane Helton, Kati Stembridge, Adrian Hill, Robert Sanford,  
Martha Holt, Brenda Ferry, Cheri Barry, Neal Martin,  
Nora Goodsell, Justin Dean

If you have a prayer request please let the office know.

## June Birthdays

1st Mike Partridge  
3rd Harold McBrayer  
6th Tootie Ellis  
7th Carol Burton  
8th Ridge Brown  
9th Steven Brown  
Debbie Young  
13th Robin Thompson  
14th Darrell Gatlin  
Bessie Kent  
19th Rebekah Rhett  
21st Robert Rhett  
22nd Owen Hill  
23rd Ken LaBruyere  
24th Danny Young  
27th Sandi Pupa  
28th Katie Autry

### Sunday, June 4

9:30 A.M. Worship  
10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

### Tuesday, June 6

10:00 A.M. *The Story of God, The Story  
of Us Study*  
Last Study/Meet in Parlor  
6:00 P.M. Basketball

### Wednesday, June 7

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 P.M. *The Story of God, The Story  
Of Us Study Last Study*

### Sunday, June 11

9:30 A.M. Worship  
10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

### Wednesday, June 14

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, June 15

5:30 P.M. Vacation Bible School

### Friday, June 16

5:30 P.M. Vacation Bible School

### Saturday, June 17

9:00 A.M. Vacation Bible School

### Sunday, June 18

9:30 A.M. Worship and Vacation Bible School  
Celebration and Potluck Lunch

## Wesley House

### June - Spaghetti Sauce

Your donations can be placed in the sanctuary  
(Donation Bins) or brought by the office.



# Rocky Railway VBS

June 15th - 18th

Thurs & Friday - 5:30 pm - 8 pm

Saturday - 9 am - 2 pm

Sunday - 9:30 am - 12 Noon

We're gathering snack supplies:

- individually wrapped granola bars (*no nuts or chocolate chips*)
- Twizzler Pull 'n' Peel candy ropes
- plain bagels
- berry cream cheese (*8 oz. containers*)
- mini marshmallows
- butter
- cocoa crispy rice cereal
- Oreo cookies
- black gel food coloring
- honey wheat twist pretzels
- frosting pouches with caps
- graham crackers
- strawberries
- blueberries
- whipped topping (*8 oz. containers*)
- clementines



Congratulations to Jake and Keller Joyner

On the birth of twin boys

**John Gabriel (Gabe) Joyner**

**James Aaron (Aaron) Joyner**

Friday, May 19th, in Jackson.

They are welcomed by their siblings:

Kalin, Elise and Hendrix

Everyone is home and doing well.



## Volunteer Opportunities

### June 4

Acolytes:	Megan & Aaliya Mendiola
Greeters:	Linda Long, Sandy Thomas
Scripture Reader:	Janet Barham
Sunday Snacks:	Cathy Ellis, Amy Floyd

### June 5 - Monday

Meals on Wheels Delivery: Wanda McBrayer, Linda Long

### June 11 - Sunday

Acolytes:	Grady Coleman, Kevin Peterson
Greeters:	Cindy Lang, Luci Wolvers
Scripture Reader:	Janete Weeks
Sunday Snacks:	Carrol Barham, Jan Eggler

### June 12 - Monday

Meals on Wheels Delivery: Dixie LaBruyere, Cindy Lang

### June 18 - Sunday

Acolytes:	Danny Young, J.L., Young
Greeters:	Angie Sherrill, Cathy Ellis
Scripture Reader:	Jennifer St. John
Sunday Snacks:	_____, _____



Where The Thirsty Find Life

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

### STAFF

#### Rev. Matthew Hall

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#### Mark Adkins

*Maintenance*

*601-917-9415 text or call*

To:

### The 2023 Bible Challenge

May 31	Esther 6 - 10
June 1	Job 1 - 4
June 2	Job 5 - 7
June 3	Job 8 - 10
June 4	Job 11 - 13
June 5	Job 14 - 16
June 6	Job 17 - 20
June 7	Job 21 - 23
June 8	Job 24 - 28
June 9	Job 29 - 31
June 10	Job 32 - 34
June 11	Job 35 - 37
June 12	Job 38 - 39
June 13	Job 40 - 42

Commit spending time every day in God's word. For those who meditate and journal, here are some reflection questions:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about ourselves?
3. What does this passage teach us about our world?
4. Are there any thoughts, words or phrases that caught your attention ? Why ?

**May 31, 2023**

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