

The Springs

Where The Thirsty Find Life

September 13, 2023

"Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel.'"

Ruth 4:14

The book of Ruth is such a complex, multifaceted book. A story of love, intrigue, loyalty, poverty, we usually focus our attention on either Ruth or Boaz. Ruth is the definition of loyalty, remaining steadfast in her devotion to Naomi in the midst of chaos. Boaz is the definition of sacrifice and kindness, reaching out to and protecting Ruth and eventually marrying her. Many will lift up the love story of Boaz and Ruth as a human example of the love story of God for his people. And indeed it is! I myself have spoken in those terms many times.

Yet there is another element of the story that often gets overlooked; I don't want us to miss it. The truth is, the main character of the book is Naomi. If you look at the first five verses of chapter one, you see Naomi lose not only her husband but also her two sons. All she has left are her daughters-in-law; in the ancient culture of that day, they were useless to Naomi. If you've been in Bible study with me, you'll know that in the moment, Naomi is left without any options. There is no one left to take care of her needs-to provide shelter, food, clothes, etc. She is left with nothing. And yet notice how the author interprets (in the form of the words of other women from her community in Bethlehem) the birth of Obed, the son of Boaz and Ruth. Not only do they say that Naomi is blessed (see the verse above), but they also say in 4:17 "A son has been born to Naomi!" We may read this with 21st century eyes and think "that's a little strange." And yet in that culture, the readers would know exactly what was happening. What was lost by Naomi at the beginning of the story had been restored with the birth of Obed. Even though it was Ruth's child, it was Naomi that was "redeemed." A simple definition of redemption is this: the state of being restored to a place with the kinship bonds of the family. Naomi was someone who found herself outside of the basic ability to care for herself in that culture. With Ruth's marriage to Boaz (and her continued loyalty to Ruth), she was able to recover what was lost to her. She once again found herself within the kinship family circle.

In the New Testament, the authors talk about Jesus in those same terms; Jesus is our redemption (see Luke 1:68; 2:38; Romans 3:24; 8:23; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:15). As sinners, we find ourselves outside of the kinship circle of provision & protection of Almighty God. We are hopeless, we are helpless, and we are doomed to an eternity full of "weeping and gnashing of teeth." Yet God sent Jesus to redeem humanity. God sent Jesus to restore our status from a lost son or daughter to one that was found. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins and invite us back into the family of God. God's covenant faithfulness, his everlasting love, did this. We did nothing. You did nothing. How will you respond today?

In Christ,

Matthew Hall

New Prayer Requests

Tom Sanderford - Chemo & Radiation (Dianne Shannon's brother)

Lyndsay Slayton - Leg Pain & Swelling

The Family of Ricky Brandt (Ken LaBruyere's cousin)

The Family of Lorraine Vaccarella

The Family of Joyce Sawyer (Angie Sherrill's mom)

Charlie Jordan - Pancreatic Cancer (cousin to Carrol Barham)

Frances Pierce - Bladder Surgery (cousin to Carrol Barham)

Martha Satterwhite - Broken Hip (Jennifer St. John's sister)

Betty & Bill Hammett - (Bill) Cancer Treatments MD Anderson

Robert Phillips and family - Brain tumor removal and care

Pat Rollins - Friend of Danny Hall

Shirley Dooley, Francois du Plessis, James & Glenda Smith, Ken LaBruyere, Otha Barham, Brenda Huffman, Sharon Stephens, Charlotte Chaney, Shane Helton, Adrian Hill, Robert Sanford, Brenda Ferry, Cheri Barry, Neal Martin, Nora Goodsell, Justin Dean, Jamie Rawson, Ceil Coleman, Ben Hutcherson, Thomas Vaughns, Martha Turbville

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

September Birthdays

2nd	Neldia White
3rd	Mariah Rue
6th	Lori Berrey Irby Lang Dianne Shannon Vivian Wright
14th	Grady Coleman
15th	Nancy Crews
16th	James Ashby
19th	Malcolm Martin
23rd	Kim Ridinger
24th	Lucy Autry
27th	David Litton

Sunday, September 17

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

4:00 P.M. Handbells

Tuesday, September 19

10:00 A.M. Bible Study/St. Andrews

6:00 P.M. Basketball

Wednesday, September 20

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

6:00 P.M. Bible Study/Matt

6:00 P.M. Bible Study/Debbie

6:00 P.M. Faith & Fitness

6:00 P.M. Youth and Children

Thursday, September 21

5:00 P.M. Missions Meeting

Sunday, September 24

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

4:00 P.M. Handbells

The month of September is when we celebrate Labor Day.

This year, September, will be our own
"Labor of Love" for Wesley House Food Pantry!

Some specific needs are: **Peanut butter; Spaghetti Sauce & Noodles; Chunky Soups**

Please donate regular-size cans rather than larger ones.



*Donations can be brought to the sanctuary on Sundays or to the church office
Monday - Thursday or Friday morning.*

*Thank You in advance!
Missions Committee*

Bible Study Opportunities:

“Passing the Faith Along”
Tuesdays 10 AM and Wednesdays 6 PM

“The Good Gospel” by Jennie Allen
Wednesday, September 13th, 6 PM

Faith & Fitness
Wednesday, September 20th, 6 PM

Memorials:

In Memory of:

Barbara Walker
Jerry & Linda Long
Irby & Cindy Lang
Mark & Ginny Adkins
Harry & Joyce Mayer
Martha Hudson
Gary & Robin Thompson
Elva Britt
Wayne & Cathy Ellis

Joan Rhett
Grady & Vicki Coleman
Ken & Dixie LaBruyere
Irby & Cindy Lang
Jerry & Linda Long
Gary & Robin Thompson
Wayne & Cathy Ellis
Butch & Dianne Shannon
Steven & Kristi Brown

Gertrude Hodges
Ron & Jennifer St. John
Jerry & Linda Long
Sandy Thomas
Mark & Ginny Adkins
Ken & Dixie LaBruyere

Mavis Thrash
Elva Britt

Fleta McElroy
Ken & Dixie LaBruyere

Office help needed

September 18, 19, 20 & 21,
(Monday - Thurs) - 9 AM - Noon

Please let Lori know if you
can answer the phone any
of those days.

September 17 - Sunday

Acolytes: Megan & Aaliya Mendiola
Greeters: Nancy Crews, Robin Thompson
Scripture Reader: Sandy Thomas
Sunday Snacks: Dianne Shannon

September 18 - Monday

Meals on Wheels Delivery: Nancy Crews, Grady Coleman

September 24 - Sunday

Acolytes: Cindy Lang, Ridge Brown
Greeters: Linda Long, Sandy Thomas
Scripture Reader: Steven Brown
Sunday Snacks: Ginny Adkins, Cathy Ellis

September 25 - Monday

Meals on Wheels Delivery: Marjorie Walker

October 1 - Sunday

Acolytes: Elva Britt, Bessie Kent
Greeters: Cindy Lang, Luci Wolvers
Scripture Reader: Alana Richardson
Communion: Carrol Barham, Cathy Ellis, Cindy Lang, Matt Hall
Sunday Snacks: Nancy Crews, Janet Barham

Volunteer Opportunities



Where The Thirsty Find Life

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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Mark Adkins

Maintenance

601-917-9415 text or call

September 13, 2023

Mailing Address:

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To:

The 2023 Bible Challenge

September 17	Daniel 7 - 9
September 18	Daniel 10 - 12
September 19	Hosea 1 - 7
September 20	Hosea 8 - 14
September 21	Joel 1 - 3
September 22	Amos 1 - 5
September 23	Amos 6 - 9
September 24	Obadiah 1, Jonah 1 - 4

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 ?

Poplar Springs Drive United Methodist Church

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