

# The Springs

Where The Thirsty Find Life

October 25, 2023,

*"And it came about when the king heard the words of the book of law, that he tore his clothes."*

*2 Kings 22:11*

In the Old Testament, there are 40 kings (and one queen) who reign over Israel and/or Judah. Most of them are described in less than positive ways; they are all judged according to whether they followed God with all their heart (as in the case of the kings of Judah who are compared to David) or whether they followed in the sins of Jeroboam (the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel who erected golden calves for his people to worship). During the divided kingdom period, only two kings are described in positive terms: Hezekiah and Josiah.

Josiah's story begins as an 8-year-old (!) in 2 Kings 22. In his 18<sup>th</sup> year as king, he commissions repairs to the temple. During those repairs, a "book of the law" was found and read to Josiah by his scribe. It is most likely a copy of the entire (or large portion of) book of Deuteronomy. Although part of the Torah in the Hebrew Bible, the style and themes of Deuteronomy are closely connected to Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. The connections between Israel's obedience/disobedience and God's blessing/cursing of Israel & their presence in the land are spelled out in stunning detail in Joshua through Kings. Both Israel and Judah had not been living up to the standards that God set out for it. When Josiah heard the words of the "book of the law," he was distraught. Tearing one's clothes in the Old Testament was a sign of repentance and mourning. Josiah knew that Judah was due to receive the wrath of God (see 2 Kings 22:13), and inquired of the Lord what would become of his kingdom. God told him that Judah would not be spared from his wrath, but because of his humble and tender heart, God would not cause it to happen during his reign. (2 Kings 22:15-20).

Josiah wept because of Judah's sins. Do we do the same about ours? It's easy to have a tendency to simply shrug off our sin with a simple "Well, I'll try to do better next time." But is following God simply a matter of trying to do better? Is that what God expects of us? Joel 2:12-13a says "'Yet even now, declares the Lord, 'Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping, and mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.'" Now, let me be clear: this is not about measuring ourselves up to God's yardstick every day and being constantly critical of ourselves when we fall short. God isn't looking for holy rollers who are perfect, or even try to be perfect in performance. He is looking for sons and daughters who seek to delight themselves in God and live in close relationship with him. Jesus said "Abide in me, and I will abide in you." (John 15:4) He is looking for people who take sin seriously as they seek to live in holiness. But we have to be willing to see our sin as God sees it; we have to be willing to weep over it. We have to be willing to let the light of God's truth shine in every corner and crevice of our hearts. This is serious business. This is holiness.

In Christ, Matthew Hall

### New Prayer Requests

Benny Egger - Northpointe RM 307

Billy Anders - Chemo

Joe Kieronski - Heart Failure

Israel/Gaza Conflict

Mitch Raybuck (Kristi Brown's brother)

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

Lyndsay Slayton - Leg Pain & Swelling

Shirley Dooley, Francois du Plessis, James & Glenda Smith,  
Benny Egger, 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.

### November Birthdays

1st	Will Floyd
3rd	Butch Wright
7th	Christine Carson
12th	Marissa Mendiola
18th	Max Autry
20th	Rayleigh Floyd
28th	Danny Hall
30th	Sally Rhett

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### Wednesday, October 25

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

5:30 P.M. Fall Festival

Need Candy & Volunteers

(Day school kids start at 4 pm)

No Bible Study

### Saturday, October 28

**10:00 A.M. Lazy Acres, Chunky MS**

Church wide trip, meet there, cost \$15.95 online  
- \$20.95 at the gate. Children under 2 free.

### Sunday, October 29

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

4:00 P.M. Handbells

### Tuesday, October 30

No Bible Study

### Wednesday, November 1

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

5:15 P.M. POTLUCK

6:00 P.M. Telling the Story

### Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Day

***(Don't forget Daylight Saving Time Ends)***

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

**3:00 P.M. CHARGE CONFERENCE**

**3:00 P.M. Reading Helps Begins**

4:00 P.M. Handbells

## Wesley House Needs:

### Baking Mixes

*Muffins, Brownies, Corn Bread,*

*Cookie and Cakes*



Join us, October 28th,

from 10 am - 3 pm

at Lazy Acres Farm in Chunky MS.

This is a church wide trip. We will meet there. You can purchase your tickets online or at the gate.

*(cost \$15.95 online - \$20.95 at the gate and children under two are free)*

Reading Helps will begin November 5th,

3 - 4 pm. Volunteers are needed.

Please sign up with Ashley Rue.



Thank You Cards are on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area from  
The Care Lodge and Coach Walker/MHS Track and Field.

### October 29 - Sunday

Acolytes: Ashley Rue, Mariah & L.J.  
Greeters: Robin Thompson, Nancy Crews  
Scripture Reader:  
Sunday Snacks:

### October 30 - Monday

Meals on Wheels Delivery: Wanda McBrayer, Linda Long

### November 5 - Sunday

Acolytes: Sandi Pupa, Karin Both  
Greeters: Linda Long, Sandy Thomas  
Scripture Reader: Brian Smith  
Communion Celebrants: Dianne Shannon, Dixie LaBruyere  
Eddie Crews, Ginny Adkins  
Sunday Snacks: \_\_\_\_\_

### November 6 - Monday

Meals on Wheels Delivery: Margaret Yates, Cathy Ellis

### November 12 - Sunday

Acolytes: Bekah Hall, Hannah Hall  
Greeters: Cindy Lang, Luci Wolvers  
Scripture Reader: Carrol Barham  
Sunday Snacks:

## Volunteer Opportunities

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

### STAFF

**Rev. Matthew Hall**

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**October 25, 2023**

**Mailing Address:**

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**Meridian, MS 39303**

**To:**

### The 2023 Bible Challenge

October 25	Luke 4 - 5
October 26	Luke 6 - 7
October 27	Luke 8 - 9
October 28	Luke 10 - 11
October 29	Luke 12 - 13
October 30	Luke 14 - 16
October 31	Luke 17 - 18

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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