



# The Steeple Story

Eastlawn United Methodist Church  
2502 Ingalls Ave. Pascagoula, MS  
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## Glorifying God By Brother Jeff

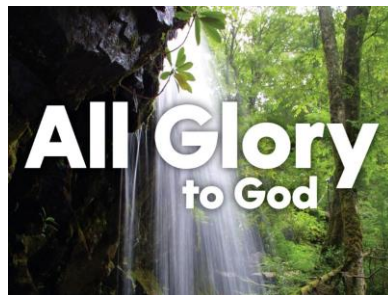
Though the Coronavirus pandemic is still going on, in the past several weeks we have been given the go-ahead by the Conference to resume in-person worship, and even Sunday school classes and small group meetings, so long as we continue making every effort to socially distance and protect ourselves and one another with extra cleaning, hand sanitizer, and masks. While many of us were nervous that it wouldn't be wise to start getting back together so soon, so far it has proven to be safe for us here at Eastlawn UMC.

The sanctuary has been open for worshipers for over a month, and has been more and more full each Sunday morning. Children, Tweens, and youth Sunday school classes have resumed, as well as the young adult GIFTED class and the Joyce Garrett class. While it's been great to be able to get together in person again, we can't help but notice that everything is at least a little bit different than it used to be. We long to get back to "normal," but until the virus goes away or becomes much more manageable, nothing can go back exactly like it used to be, and that's okay.

For our church, this pandemic has given us the opportunity to step back and look at what things are really important. What were we doing before that we really need to make every effort to get started back doing? What activities were we doing before that we should consider NOT resuming, even when we get the chance? Were we doing things a certain way just because that's how they've always been done, and now we can see more clearly that perhaps there is a better way to do them?

It makes me think of how God works in, and changes our lives from time to time through circumstances and events. It's good for us to pause every so often and reassess the things that are a part of our lives and daily routines. The trouble though, is that life seldom slows down for most of us to be able to do that very often. Sometimes God works through circumstances that force us to take a break from things so that we can step back and reassess.

Just like the church, we can step back and look at all the things that take up our time and energy and resources, and decide if all the things that make up our lives are glorifying God the way they should be. Are we doing things just because that's what we've always done? Are we truly honoring God with our worship, or are we just going through the motions out of habit?



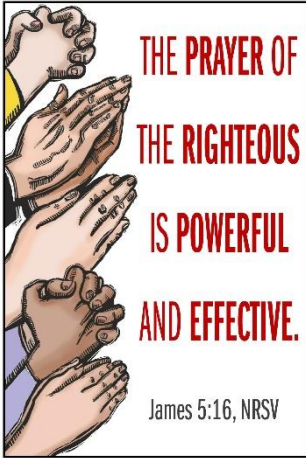
We all tend to fall into a routine, and that can be a great thing. Our denomination got its name due to just how productive and God-honoring a regular "method" can be when it comes to discipleship in Christ. But routine can also be counterproductive when we use it to remain in our comfort zones, so that we don't have to learn anything new or let God continue to transform and further sanctify us.

Any parts of our regular routines and habits which are causing us to get closer and closer to God are definitely things we need to continue. But may we also continue to ask God to search our lives for anything that is causing us to be complacent in our discipleship. May we give Him permission to reveal to us the things that need to go, and to reveal to us new ways in which we may grow closer to Him and grow more in the likeness of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

# THE STEEPLE STORY

## THE POWER OF PRAYER

At this time, the best calendar while we are home with our families is the email you receive outlining activities since they are so changeable! Presently, our service is streamed live on Sunday and you can also join the Bible Study with Jeff on Wednesdays through Zoom. Church has resumed IN PERSON in the sanctuary. Continue to find time to pray for friends, family and church family and of course, our country. God WILL see us through!



- Oct 2 ..... Brian Chapuis
- Oct 4 ..... Derek Mitchell
- Oct 6 ..... Megan Morie
- Oct 7 ..... Patty Vance
- Oct 8 ..... Pam Halbrook
- Oct 9 ..... Austin Haygood
- Oct 10 ..... Wendy Currie
- Oct 11 ..... Larry King
- Oct 14 ..... Wilda Cain
- Oct 19 ..... Carolyn Weathersby
- Oct 23 ..... Sara Smith
- Oct 24 ..... Chase Guess  
Harry McDonald
- Oct 25 ..... Jerry Clements  
Delores Merritt
- Oct 28 ..... Steven Messer
- Oct 30 ..... Jennifer Braez Boykin



**If you are interested in joining the Eastlawn Family or just have questions about the church, please talk with Brother Jeff. Call him at 662-617-1077.**



### EASTLAWN UMC STAFF

Rev. Jeff Walton	Pastor
Robert Weathersby	Lay Pastor
Suzanne Gill	Youth Director
Lashunda Taulbee	Administrative Assistant
Susie Riley	Children's/Family Minister
David Westfaul	Organist
Brenda McCormick	Day Care Director
Charlene Gibson	Nursery
Amy Davis	Nursery