



Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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Singing Scripture

I've always loved singing good hymns. There's something about the power of music to stir the soul and inspire the imagination. But, even more, the best of hymns also inform our faith. They remind us of important Scriptural truths and etch them into our hearts and minds. Long after everything else has faded, hymns and songs stay with us and reaffirm our faith.

Rev. Danny Pasquale mentioned one of my personal favorites a couple of Sundays ago: *And Can It Be*. It's an old Charles Wesley hymn (#363), and it focuses on God's amazing grace for us in Jesus. So, the opening verse is:

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood!
Died He for me? who caused His pain! For me? who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Charles Wesley, the brother of John Wesley, ponders the mystery of Jesus' love for us and His unthinkable sacrifice for our sake. And then, in verse 4, Charles pulls from the imagery of Peter's miraculous release from prison in Acts 12:1-11 as he writes:

Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray. I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose went forth, and followed Thee.

What a powerful description of God's saving grace in our lives! The power of forgiveness and the freedom we have in Christ! But then, that's the beauty of a good hymn. They convey the wonder of God's love. What's your favorite hymn, and why?



Help Needed: Mike Wilson, Church Security

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Solid Ground Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



- 13. Tim Richards
- 14. Jamie Patterson
- 16. Claire Burnham
- 17. Lauren Porter

Monday, December 30, Mike Wilson's house tragically caught fire and burned down. While Mike and his family were safely able to escape, all of their possessions were lost in the blaze, even their vehicles. Currently, they are staying with his daughter and her family.

Mike has been our church security guard for the last several years, and we ask that you join with us in praying for him and his family during this difficult time. If you would like to donate to assist Mike and his family, you may make checks payable to *First Methodist Church* with the words "Mike Wilson Relief Fund" in the memo line. We thank you for your prayers and support.



For the month of January we will be in the series, *Jesus: His Mission*. Each week we will have a lesson about Jesus as He prepared for his ministry.

Learning about God - Jesus went to the Temple to learn and teach about God.

Showing Commitment - The Baptism of Jesus

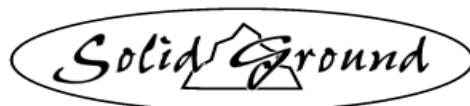
Knowing the Bible - The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness

Following Jesus - The calling of the disciples

HISKIDZ/W.O.W. WEDNESDAY

Children's Bible Study has resumed. Our schedule will be as always. Bible Study at 5:30 p.m., followed by snack supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m.

We will continue to craft through the Bible. We will pick up with the lesson about David as he takes over as King of Israel.



Youth Bible Study and Small Group

Youth Bible Study is back, and we will be meeting every Sunday and Wednesday evening for a time of fellowship and group time together. I am still working on our next Bible Study topic which will be decided on soon.

M28 Camp –Date June 29 - July 2, 2025

We have registered for camp and more information will be sent by text in the weeks to come. Payment installment dates will be sent out soon.

VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

Greeters	Christy & Albert Vandevere David Parker
Scripture	Romans 1:18-25
Sermon	“All Creation Declares”
Flowers	Julie & De Paul

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JANUARY

12. King forever!	Psalm 29
13. Your servant is listening	1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)
14. I am still with you	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
15. Glorify God in your body	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
16. My God will hear	Micah 7:1-7
17. All the nations shall serve Him	Jeremiah 27:1-13
18. My spirit rejoices	Luke 1:46-55