



Stoke the Fire of Your Faith

On a cold winter's day there are few things more inviting than a nice warm fire in the fireplace. A good fire will warm not only your hands and your feet, but it will even warm your heart. It just makes you feel better all the way around.

However, the thing about a fire is that it cannot go untended. Left to its own devices the fire burns down and the flame dies out. And soon, all you are left with are the dying embers of what used to be good fire.

To keep the fire going you have to take the poker and stoke the fire. You have to move around some of the wood in the fireplace to open it up to more air so that the oxygen can feed the flame again. Sometimes you even have to fan the flame a little bit to get it burning bright again. Fires take a little bit of work to keep going. Otherwise, they die out and grow cold.

Paul suggests that the Christian life is like that, too. In 2 Timothy 1:6, Paul says, "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God." Paul suggests that just like a fire in the fireplace, you and I need to tend the flame of our faith in God.

Our faith, like a fire, needs tending. Our relationship with God needs to be fed. Sometimes you and I need to take a spiritual poker and stoke the fire. We need to fan the flame. We have to stir the cold embers of our faith and get it burning bright again so that the fire of our love for God blazes for all to see.

What are you doing to stoke the fire? What are you doing to fan the flame? What are your daily spiritual disciplines that feed the fire of your love for God? *Brother Lauren*

JANUARY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

- 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

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Office closed

- 6:30 p.m. Prison Ministry

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

- 6:00 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

- 5:30 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Solid Ground Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



This **Thank You Note** was received from **Bonnie Holmes**:

My dear Church Family,

I want to express my gratitude to you for your prayers during my bout with cancer. Thank you for lifting Allison and me up to our all-powerful God for healing Sunday! I know our all-powerful God heard your prayers.

First Methodist with its Godly caring spirit has meant so much during this cancer battle and during my life. I am looking forward to my return.

In Christ,
Bonnie



- 19. Claude Martien
- 20. Sherrill Ann Chaney
- 22. Janet Adams
- 22. Sam Smith
- 23. Peyton Hines

MEN'S Retreat

SESSION 1
FRIDAY
02.28.2025 5 PM
St. Johns Methodist Church

SESSION 2
SATURDAY
03.01.2025 9 AM
Indiana First Methodist Church

SPEAKER
JORGE ACEVEDO



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

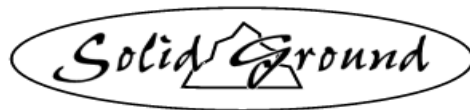
Knowing the Bible - The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness

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.

**Madison District
GMC Training
Event**

"The Doctrine, Spirit, and Discipline of Early Methodism and Why It Matters Today"

Guest Speaker: **Dr. Kevin Watson**
(Asbury Theological Seminary and author of Perfect Love, The Band Meeting, Doctrine, Spirit, and Discipline, and more)



SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
1:30-3:30 p.m.
Madison Methodist Church
100 Post Oak Road Madison, MS 39110

www.madisonmc.org/training

Dr. Kevin Watson

On Saturday, January 25, Dr. Kevin Watson, a well-known Methodist historian, will be speaking at Madison Methodist Church. The gathering begins at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Watson has recently written a new book on the history of the Methodist movement, tracing the church from John Wesley in 1738 all the way to the recent launching of the Global Methodist Church.

If you get the chance to go hear him speak, I highly encourage it. I think you will enjoy it!

VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025

Greeters

Joyce & Sam Pace

Bettina & Steve Newman

Scripture

Romans 2:17-29

Sermon

“Circumcision of the Heart”

Flowers

Jenny & Jimmy Whitaker

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JANUARY

19. 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

John 1:43-51

20. Looking to the LORD

Micah 7:1-7

21. The yoke of discipline

Jeremiah 27:1-13

22. From generation to generation

Luke 1:46b-55

23. God changed his mind

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

24. God alone is my rock

Psalm 62:5-12

25. Time has grown short

1 Corinthians 7:29-31