



Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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Tell Your Story

In his *Confessio*, St. Patrick shares his fascinating biography, placing Jesus at the center. Believers should follow suit, especially in a culture that is “ignoring and forgetting the Christian story,” states Father Billy Swan. At WordOnFire.org, the Irish Catholic priest writes:

“Our calling is to retell the greatest story ever told and to help people find their place within the drama in which God has created them to participate. Like St. Patrick, we retell that story not as detached bystanders but as witnesses whose lives have been changed by being drawn deeper into the dynamics of the great love story of God and his people.”

Patty Breen, a lay minister in Michigan, also finds inspiration from the fifth-century saint. “The journey and life story of St. Patrick invite us to wrestle with and consider these questions,” she writes. “Who is God for me? How do I contribute to the coming of the kingdom of God? What is God’s plan for my life? Where am I invited to serve?”

Writing down our own *Confessio*, or faith story, is “a way to remember and see God’s presence with you at each step of your life,” adds Breen, “even at times when you weren’t necessarily following God.”

Two-way Benefits

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless,” observed Connecticut politician Pauline Keezer. “But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” Indeed, it’s impossible to shine light in someone else’s life without lighting up your own.

We might think being generous toward another with our time or possessions leaves us with less. But as Jesus said, “Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:39, NIV). How common it is that when we minister to others in Christ’s name, we find we have also — or perhaps even more so — received ministry. This is the miracle of God’s love at work.

JANUARY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

- 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 27

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

- 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

- 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
- 6:15 p.m. Snack Supper

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



- 23. Barbara Parks
- 26. Linda Coker,
Jordan Johnson
- 29. Kathy Phillips
- 1. Drake Smith



A gift has been given in Honor of Rodney Henderson by his daughter and husband, Lynn and John Oldshue.

Men's Retreat

There will be a Men's Retreat Friday, February 28, 2025 at St. John's Methodist Church in Greenwood and Saturday, March 1, 2025 at Indianola First Methodist Church. The featured speaker is 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

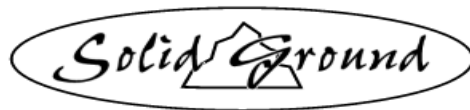
Knowing the Bible - The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness

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.

VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

Greeters	Sandra Martin/Molly & Bill McNair
Scripture	Romans 3:21-31
Sermon	“Justification by Faith”
Flowers	Pam & Hubert Hatfield

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JANUARY

26. A prophet like Moses	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
27. The beginning of wisdom	Psalm 111
28. One God and one Lord	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
29. Like cold water to a thirsty soul	Proverbs 25:25
30. Whenever we call	Deuteronomy 4:7-9
31. Keep these words	Deuteronomy 6:4-9

FEBRUARY

1. Have you not heard?	Isaiah 40:21-31
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