



For His Glory

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | TROY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | AUGUST 2022

Over the last few weeks, I've had some significant conversations with Ellie, my oldest child about drought. I think I've taken for granted that she would understand the severe lack of rain and heat that we're having this year, but when I've stopped to think about it, this year marks the first time that she's really experienced a drought. She was born in 2013, which means that she missed the last significant time of drought that we had. Drought is difficult. The oppressive heat, the seemingly endless cloudless day. The waiting on rain that just won't come. It's begun to bother her. She can't go outside during the day because it's too hot. Our garden is a withered mess because hose watering wasn't doing the trick. We lost one of our chickens to the heat. She sees the fires that have been popping up around us and worries. She sees the drying tanks, the scorched grass, and worries every night that the rain won't fall.

Do you remember when you were a child? How each day seemed to last and last. How a week seemed to stretch on, and how a summer break lasted nearly forever? Now as adults, we have a different perspective on time. A day takes almost no time, weeks fly by, and years seem to disappear before we know it. It's easier with such a perspective on time to have faith that the rains will come again. For many of us, this summer is physically, mentally, and spiritually difficult. This seems to be doubled for my sweet daughter, as it most likely is (and then some more) to our farmers and ranchers, who also add in the welfare of animals and financial considerations to the mix.

Ellie came up to me the other night I was getting ready to tuck her in and said, "Daddy, I prayed for rain." I love her faith. She sees a world in need all around her and she's powerless to fix it, but she knew that she could turn to God and ask for help. This is faith, pure and simple. Knowing that despite the difficulties and trials we are currently going through, that God is still present in the time of our drought and that God will act to restore us in the future. We may not receive rain today, tomorrow, or the next day but there will be a day when rain restores our parched land.

Over the month of August, our sermon series will focus on drought. We'll focus beyond our physical drought to talk about the times in life where we experience spiritual drought. We'll look at how God is still present to us in times of scarcity, and point to hope for the days when the Holy Spirit moves in powerful ways in our midst.

My first solo appointment was to Newcastle and Jean. I arrived there in 2011, right at the beginning of the last significant drought we saw. The church had a saying attributed to a saint of the congregation, Gene Lowe. The church remembered something that he would say in the dry times, "It's one day closer to rain." Each day we spend in drought marks a day that brings us one day closer to rain. Hope in the Lord, keep faith in the Lord, during times of plenty and times of scarcity. Each day brings us closer to seeing the fullness of His love and grace!

We've had a wonderful time meeting together in one worship service over the month of July. Because of the great feedback we've received, we're going to extend our time meeting in one combined worship service until our Church Council has a chance to meet this month and discuss our worship services in depth. To that end, we will continue meeting for Sunday School at 9am and for worship at 10am instead of going back to two worship services the first of this month as originally planned. We're releasing a preference survey to find out everyone's worship style and time preferences, please take a moment to complete the survey!

At our Church Council meeting this month, we're going to talk about how we worship as a congregation. We've received quite a bit of positive feedback regarding the combined worship service, so we want to explore if staying combined for a while or resuming two worship services works best for the ministry of our congregation. Please take a moment to complete the short survey that the QR code below links to. It'll allow you to share with our leadership your worship preferences!

Church Council Meeting August 10 @ 6:30



Earlier this year we offered a Methodist 101 class that covered the basics of what it means to be a Methodist. We talked about our history, how our denomination is structured, and what our beliefs are. We are going to offer this class again, this time on Sunday evenings starting at 5:00. If you weren't able to come out to the first class, or would like to come again, we'd love to see you. We're going to meet for three weeks, beginning August 14. Come join us as we talk about who we are as Methodists!

VBS 2022 was a MONUMENTAL success this year! The kids had a blast, made new friends and learned a lot about Jesus! Many thanks to everyone that volunteered their time to help. Without your help each year this would not be possible! Also, thank you to the UMW that prepared a snack supper each evening before VBS.





join our PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

I am excited for this opportunity to grow in faith with each of you as I begin my internship year here at Troy United Methodist Church as the Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation. As we discussed during our July Chasing Perfection sermon series, Christian believers are not called to a passive faith; we are called to grow and mature daily to be more like Jesus. That growth takes work on our part by intentionally attending worship, participating in individual and communal spiritual disciplines, sharing in communion, and spending time in prayer, to name some ways we can actively mature in our faith. Long story short, that is what Spiritual Formation is all about: taking advantage of the opportunities, activities, and disciplines that each of us individually and as a congregation participates in. Otherwise, we run the risk of living in a stagnate faith. Part of my internship is to work with Pastor David, our staff, and the laity to decide where our congregation can offer additional spiritual formation opportunities, revamp opportunities that we already have, and what we are already offering that is helping us mature our faith.

One of the first things I am working on is a congregational prayer ministry. While I am sure that we are all praying individually for each other and our church, we want to make sure that prayer is the foundation for everything we do. The first step in the prayer ministry is starting a prayer team. The prayer team will meet weekly to pray over prayer requests, our church, our community, and anything going on in our lives. The prayer team will hopefully start meeting by the end of this month, and there is still room for people to join the team. As part of our desire to make prayer foundational for all aspects of the church, we are changing one of our classroom spaces into a prayer chapel. The prayer team will meet in the chapel, but the chapel will be open for anyone to go in and pray during the church's regular office hours and for services that still require a sacred space but on a smaller scale. Eventually, the prayer team can expand into additional prayer ministry offerings like prayer outreach and special prayer services.

As I get started and throughout my internship year, I would love to hear from you about what opportunities for spiritual growth you think our congregation might need to adjust to add as part of our spiritual formation. I can be reached through email (shashawna@troymethodist.org) or by phone at 254-541-5530.

ShaShawna Bush
Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation



August Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Tracie Tedrow
4 Patti Ross
5 Christiansen Dunsmoor
6 Bailey Wormstadt, Maggie Payne
7 Lori Roessler
8 Susan Maedgen
9 Shelley Martinez
10 David Holmes, Claire Pausewang
11 James Neal
13 Mike Mercer, Rodney Tedrow, David Ray
15 Paula Thrift, Ronnie Porter
16 Rob Jolliff
20 Emily Roessler
22 Harper Jarma
23 Liz Graves-Smith
25 James Oliver
26 Jason Lambert
28 Athena Pincombe
30 Phyllis Lynch
31 Tracey Holmes

9 Rob & Michelle Jolliff
10 Gaylon & Christin Ivey
13 Nick & Cathy Olveda
18 Tooter & Susan Creech
Seth & Amanda Rurup
25 J & Melody Ledger



~ Memorials ~

In memory of Robbie Eaton by Richard & Betty Hester

In memory of Bret Allen by Tim & Janice Kirkscey, Richard & Betty Hester, Larry & Sarah Stewart,
Mark & Terry Bolger, Mark & Barbara Bean, Ned, Matt & Philip Calvert, Danny Bachhofer

In memory of Jeff Sims by Larry & Sarah Stewart

In memory of Rowdy Mays by Larry & Sarah Stewart