



Ashland Place

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 12, 2024 E-News

A mid-week word from Pastor Darren...

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

–Psalm 19:1-2

Dear Friends,

As one who has lived along the shores of the Gulf Coast for the majority of my life, I never cease to appreciate the lessons that come from the experience of “storm watch.” The initial anticipation is one thing—causing different degrees of anxiety—but the experience of actual landfall is another story altogether.

When the damage is severe, we plead with God for mercy and strength. When the storm misses us, we often shout our thanks and praise. If the storm misses us, but then hits someone else, then we wonder about that too. Last week James reminded us that God does not play favorites, so how do we make sense of this?

Is God trying to tell us something? And if so, what? Or do we leave it simply to the local meteorologist to tell us ‘what is up’?

This week’s church newsletter is hardly the place to solve those ancient mysteries, but it is the place to invite us into a deeper reflection of where and how God is showing up in our lives. How inclined are we, really, to remain curious about these things? And where do you go to find quick and easy answers for those threats or challenges that appear just over the horizon? Do you have an app for that? Is it working?

I confess that I do not. In fact, I don’t even want one. Such an individualistic solution is bound to have its limitations. I also recognize just how much I miss by relying only on that which I can hold in the palm of *my* hand.

As Psalm 19 declares, there is much to be said for looking up and out beyond the fragile grip of our control.

As Jerry Webber has expressed it,

The heavenlies speak to us: They tell us that God is beyond our religious imagination, and that God is beyond our most outrageous scientific thought. They tell us that God has not stopped creating the cosmos, nor is God finished creating God's human children.

I do love the idea of God's continuing work in creation. As if God were not done with us...as if there is more to be revealed in this relationship...as if we had reason to trust and hope in that which we do not yet see or understand...as if God might actually love us far more than we realized or were willing to admit.

I know, I know. Those are some big "If's." But if we pay attention, then I believe we will discover that Ashland Place UMC is a wonderful place to ask these very real questions of ourselves and God. I believe that you and I are meant to work on this together!

In the coming days and weeks, you will find more and more invitations for you to join in any number of spiritual conversations. Of course, having the information by itself will not change a thing. But when we choose where and how we intend to show up...it can make all the difference in the world.

Day by day the story gets told again; night after night there is a new refrain.

When the storms of life are raging, stand by me
When the storms of life are raging, stand by me
When the world is tossing me like a ship upon the sea
Thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me

No matter what the weather, how glad I am to be in this boat with you!
Come, Lord Jesus...thank you for standing with us!

Yours,

Darren



Third Grade Bibles

This Sunday at 11:00

Under the guidance of our Children's Director, the children have been practicing during Sunday School for a special song that will be performed during the 11:00 service.

Also at this service, the third graders will be getting their bibles.

Monday Morning Men's Group

What does it mean to have a spiritual life? Where can I get one? Inspired

by the flourishing of our regular Women's Bible Study, Pastor Darren will be hosting a weekly opportunity for men to come together to explore the work of the Spirit in their own lives. This will be a regular opportunity to listen for God through a variety of Christian disciplines and scriptural means of discernment. Is this sort of thing for you? Come and find out! We will meet each Monday beginning **September 30** in the Wisteria Parlor at 7:00am.



Next month we will begin collecting candy donations.

Also, please contact Linda Noble if you would like to provide a trunk.

Are you feeling Hospitable?

Our hospitality committee is looking to expand! We need volunteers who are willing to help prepare and serve food,

arrange flowers, and assist with special receptions and events. If this sounds like you, please contact Mae Winters at (251)533-4725 for more information.



Altar Flowers - Would you like to honor someone, remember a loved one, or celebrate a happy occasion???

There is a sign-up sheet on the Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board or you may click below for a link to Sign up Genius.

Your \$55 donation can be made to APUMC and placed in the offering plate, arranged online (apumc.com) or delivered to the office. Please include your preferred wording.

[Click here to sign up!](#)

How can you help The Joseph Project?

Paper products
Cleaning Supplies



Gently used
toys and
children's books



Please place donations on the rack located in the Fellowship Hall hallway.

Sign-up for a small group home meeting



Click on the link below to sign up for a small group home meeting.

[Sign-up for small group home meetings](#)

Around the Congregation...

Circle of Concern

Please hold these persons in your prayers: John Allen, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Victor Brown (Dee Dee Cook's brother), Linda Chamlee, Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Julie & Steve Dugan, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Marcia Golson, Ruffin Graham, Jim Harter, Bill Higgs, Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Tee Hope, Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Freddie Jones, Tyler Mazey, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Burton Roton, Mary Davis Rutledge, *Joann Smith, Peggy Tanner (Cindy Roton's mother), Kathryn Willingham (**new concern this week*)

Ashland Place United Methodist Church
www.apumc.com





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