



MEADVILLE MESSENGER

From the Pastor's Desk...

Matthew 6:25-26 (selected parts) —²⁵ “Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you’ll eat or what you’ll drink, or about your body, what you’ll wear... ²⁶ Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are?”

I have been asked often, “Are you and your family settled in?” The truth is we’re not sure. If we are speaking of boxes and belongings, the answer is, “Absolutely not!” Not after a two day delay in the arrival of our “stuff”. But ask if we are settled in our place and the answer seems to be yes. There is an element of uncertainty in all these answers because the truth is both Meadville United Methodist Church and the Wilburn family have been through a tremendous amount of emotion in the last few months.

The Wilburns have left a place where they were settled and loved. Meadville UMC has been doing wonderful and effective ministry in love for a long time. The initial uncertainty of the new appointment of a relatively unknown entity as pastor from thirty miles south of where Milt and Cindy moved from to Meadville doesn’t immediately calm the raging seas. But God has already been at work allowing the unknown to become the known and the fears to give way to excitement and to allow a degree of contentment. I have likened it to riding a large roller coaster of emotion with all the extreme highs and lows.

Though the roller coaster ride has its “unjoyable” moments, it is the total of the ride with joys and fears that we judge the ride by. There are still fears and uncertainty as God continues to unveil what He is doing in our midst. For us, Li'l Bit and Tex have not joined us (they are our fur babies). Our son is traveling with buddies and is yet to arrive. We have been told the sun sets at our front door but our bodies and minds are still uncertain because we are in an unfamiliar place. Or is it?

“Are you and your family settled in?” Yes. We are home. We have a place to rest, to eat, to look for stuff, to enjoy life and just be. We are so incredibly blessed beyond measure. We are already incredibly loved. That’s what God has done. That’s what you as the Meadville UMC family have done. Are we tired? Yes. But we know the tiredness will fade as the boxes disappear, one-by-one.

We hope that our arrival has not been too hectic or traumatic for you. If it has, we will do our best to be gentle and give God time to heal and calm your fears. We will still be “settled” at home. We just won’t be unpacked.

God’s blessing to our amazing new church family and those they love.

Peace and Joy and Love,

Rex Wilburn, pastor
Meadville United Methodist Church

Worship Matters!

Pat Jones

God bless America!

In the month of July, we celebrate the birth of our nation. The birthday of the United States is not a religious holiday, and we certainly do not translate our patriotism as worship of our country, our flag, our anthem, or any of the patriotic symbols we respect.

There are valid reasons for celebrating our liberty in the church, however, and we Christians are thankful for our freedom we are given. I love the phrase in our Holy Communion liturgy that says, "Free us for joyful obedience." Praise God we are free to worship, praise, and gather in our sanctuary as we desire!

Patriotic music is so moving and emotional and you are probably familiar with all the standard songs/hymns. I would like to share some lyrics of a couple of songs written by my friend, Marty Parks. I wish you could hear this beautiful music, but hopefully you will be blessed by reading these profound words.

*"Our only hope for tomorrow, and the only praise that will last;
Yes, our only joy through the sorrow
is in the One who led us in the past.
Our only hope for tomorrow, and the only praise that will last;
Yes, our only joy through the sorrow is in the One who led us in the past."*

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*"Hear our prayer, O Father, hear our prayer;
In mercy, please forgive us, as Your blessing we share.
And heal our land, O Father, heal our land;
And grant to us Your vision, and the courage to stand.*

*Your precepts are holy and right, And Your Word gives radiant light!
So hear our prayer, Lord, hear our prayer."* © Copyright 2003 by PsalmSinger Music

*Let us continue to worship and trust the One who has led us in the past!
See you at the grace place!*

SUMMER FUN FOR SUPER KIDS!

This summer our MUMC Super kids will have several different places to find fun with friends and Jesus.



July 10 5:00-7:30

We will meet at the church and travel to David and Suzie Abadie's pool. Bring a towel and wear your suit.

July 24 5:30-7:00

We will meet at the church and go to Charlie and Wells house to swim. Bring a hula hoop if you have one.

All plans are subject to change because of weather. **Call in advance to make sure we are meeting!!**

COLEMANISM:

Forget yourself for others and others will not forget you!

Bishop Swanson invites all interested persons to attend one of six listening sessions where he will respond to questions regarding proposed legislation which will be considered at the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis February 23-26, 2019. Some members of the 2016 delegation representing the Mississippi Annual Conference will also attend this meeting with Bishop Swanson. Dates and locations are below:

- Wed., August 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Batesville First UMC
- Thurs., August 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Booneville First UMC
- Sun., August 19 at 3:00 p.m. at Wiggins First UMC
- Sun., August 26 at 3:00 p.m. at Moore Memorial UMC in Winona
- Mon., August 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Crystal Springs UMC
- Tues., August 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Central UMC in Meridian



— Mississippi Conference Connectional Ministries and Communications Team



Sunday
 9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Morning Worship
 4:00 - Intercessors
 5:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday
 4:00 - Prison Ministry

Friday
 6:00 - Sewing Ministry

JULY

Twenty eight

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Welcome Luncheon for Wilburn family 1	2	3	Independence Day!  4	5	6	7
8	9	10:00 A.M. Jolly Elders 5:00 P.M.  10	11	12	13	14
COM Luncheon 15	16	6:00 P.M. Emmaus 17	18	19	20	21
22	23	5:30 P.M.  24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**He has made everything beautiful
 in his time.**

ECCLESIASTES 3: 11

The Hands of Christ committee appreciates the ladies (and men) of MUMC giving of their time and special meals for families who have lost loved ones this year. We ask and you respond. Y'all are the best cooks and the most generous!!

Dear loving congregation of Meadville UMC,

This thank you is belated but so deeply heartfelt! Thank you for giving to my family after our home flooded last year. To finally be to a point of feeling restored is a wonderful feeling! I may have been uninsured, but I was never unloved!

At times progress was slow, but I was constantly reminded the end was in sight by friends, family, and loving strangers who helped me along the way. My son and I are forever grateful for your care.

Jill & Brayden Shields



JULY BIRTHDAYS!

July 01 Mary Lou Webb
 July 03 Gary Hurst
 July 09 Blaine Freeman
 July 09 Bobbie Smith
 July 14 Tammy Torrey
 July 22 John Guice
 July 24 John Grayson Priest
 July 25 Randy Youngblood
 July 28 Cookie Stroud
 July 29 Scotty Smith
 July 30 Jessye McBride
 July 31 Mary Kathryn Williamson

JULY ANNIVERSARIES!

July 9 Jimmy & Charlotte Jones
 July 11 Bubba & Judy Oglesby
 July 19 Harold & Joddie Spring

Dear MUMC Family,

Mama would be so proud to know how much she was loved by the Meadville Church family. Thank you so much for the delicious meal, the beautiful flowers, the kind words and especially your prayers. They are definitely answered!

Mama (and all of us) loved our times and memories from MUMC. May God bless you all! Thank you so much for your kindness to our family.

The Anna Prather family

**GOD CHANGES CATERPILLARS INTO
BUTTERFLIES, SAND INTO PEARLS
AND COAL INTO DIAMONDS
USING TIME AND PRESSURE.
HE'S WORKING ON YOU TOO.
-RICK WARREN**

Chosen by God to Proclaim Christ through Worship, Study, and Service

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