

The Pathfinder

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

-- Ephesians 1:3-14 (NRSVue)

What does it mean to be chosen? I remember being in school and always getting picked last for the sandlot baseball teams. I wasn't popular in school, and I did not play organized sports, so the other kids perceived me as not a good athlete. It wasn't until one day I got up to bat and started hitting home runs that the other kids began to pick me for their teams before waiting until I was the very last choice.

It often seems that being chosen in our society has something to do with our characteristics, traits, abilities, etc. We are often chosen because we can do something to benefit the people doing the choosing. We are not chosen because of our lack of certain characteristics, traits, abilities, etc. because we cannot provide for the benefit of whoever is choosing. It happens in our work, in our schools, and in our

churches. People routinely do not get chosen because they just don't measure up to someone else's standards or expectations and, many times, those standards or expectations are self-serving at their core.

Not even one of us can measure up to God's standards based on our own merit. If God relied on our own innate traits to decide who will be chosen and who won't be, none of us would stand a chance of being picked. Thankfully, that is not how God operates. Instead, God chose humanity, out of pure, unadulterated and unmerited love, to have redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ, and “the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of [God's] grace.” God has chosen you for no other reason than the fact that God loves you. You haven't earned the right to be chosen. You haven't lived up to God's standards. You haven't displayed the right characteristics and traits and abilities necessary to persuade God to choose you. You are simply chosen because you are a child of God who, “with wisdom and insight...has made known to us the mystery of [God's] will, according to [God's] good pleasure...set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in [Christ], things in heaven and things on earth.”

There is a contemporary Christian song with lyrics that ask the questions, “*Why are you striving these days? Why are you trying to earn grace?*” These are good questions. The answer lies in the fact that society has taught us that we *must* strive to achieve happiness and that we *must* earn anything we receive. God, however, tells us a different story. Although we do strive to be more like Christ as we grow in grace and faith, we do not need to strive to earn the right to be chosen. We are already chosen. You are already chosen. God has chosen you from the foundation of the universe. Everything God has done since the dawn of the Creation itself is an act of love for God's Creation. We are a part of that, and God's love is just a part of our lives that we can respond to freely as God's chosen people.

May you go through this day and every day knowing that, even if the world doesn't choose you, God has!

Peace, Pastor John

If you are interested in giving a gift "In Honor of or In Memory of", you may do so by making a check payable to FUMC and indicating on the memo line the person being honored or remembered and the fund designation of your choice. Then place it in the offering plate, or drop it off at the office.

Financial News & Attendance

FUMC	05/05	05/12	05/19	05/26	06/02	06/09	06/16	06/23	06/30
Worship									
Offering	\$	\$8,480	\$	\$4,347	\$	\$6,825	\$	\$6,936	\$
Amt. Needed Wkly	\$3,378	\$3,378	\$3,378	\$3,378	\$3,378	\$3,378	\$3,378	\$3,378	\$3,378
Amt. Budgeted YTD	\$60,919	\$64,224	\$67,530	\$70,836	\$74,174	\$77,589	\$81,005	\$84,421	\$87,837
Amt. Rec'd YTD	\$54,593	\$54,593	\$62,258	\$62,258	\$65,896	\$67,267	\$72,407	\$72,407	\$79,897

FUMC Building Fund
Balance as of:
06/30/2024 \$276,614.55



**United
Women
in Faith**

The United Women in Faith will not meet in July.

We will have our annual luncheon out for the August meeting on Tuesday, August 6th, 11:00am at Los Locos Mexican Restaurant (located at 204B Sylamore beside Dollar Tree). Come join us for lunch and fellowship!

We will start up our regular meetings Tuesday, September 3 at 1:00pm in the Willis Room.

Wishing you all a great summer filled with love and blessings!

Nita Todd

July



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00 pm , AA in parlor	2 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor 5:30 pm Bible Study in Kemp Hall	3 12 noon AA in Parlor 5:30 pm NAWR in pa	4 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor	5 12:00 Noon, AA in Parlor	6 3:30 pm NAWR in parlor
7 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am In-person Worship and live on Facebook 3:00 pm NAWR in Parlor 5:00 pm AA in parlor	8 Office Closed 6:00 pm , AA in parlor	9 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor 5:30 pm Bible Study in Kemp Hall	10 12 noon AA in Parlor 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor	11 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor	12 12:00 Noon, AA in Parlor	13 3:30 pm NAWR in parlor
14 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am In-person Worship and live on Facebook 3:00 pm NAWR in Parlor 5:00 pm , AA in parlor	15 6:00 pm , AA in parlor	16 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor 5:30 pm Bible Study in Kemp Hall	17 12 noon AA in Parlor 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor	19 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor	14 12:00 Noon, AA in Parlor	20 3:30 pm NAWR in parlor
21 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am In-person Worship and live on Facebook 3:00 pm NAWR in Parlor 5:00 pm , AA in parlor	22 6:00 pm , AA in parlor	23 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor 5:30 pm Bible Study in Kemp Hall	25 12 noon AA in Parlor 5:30 pm NAWR in pa	27 rlor 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor	21 12:00 Noon, AA in Parlor	28 3:30 pm NAWR in parlor
29 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am In-person Worship and live on Facebook 3:00 pm NAWR in Parlor 5:00 pm , AA in parlor	30 6:00 pm , AA in parlor	31 5:30 pm NAWR in parlor 5:30 pm Bible Study in Kemp Hall				

David Aiken	4
Elaine O'Brien	9
Beverly Heck	11
Johnny Purvis	17
Liz Beck	19
Sherry McOwen	21
Rex Blackwell	22
Donald Sinclair	22
Harold Bowles	23
Lillian Aiken	26

First United Methodist Church
209 Church Ave
Mountain View, AR 72560

Address Service Requested

To be a church where people come to know Jesus Christ as Savior, grow in their discipleship of Jesus Christ, and show the love of Jesus Christ in thought, word, and deed.

church office: (870) 269-3252

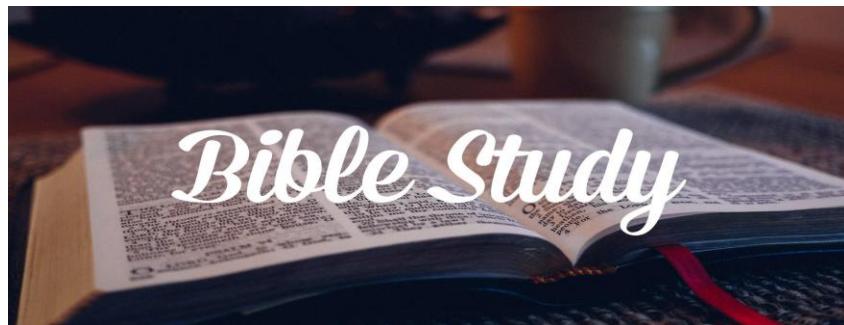
email: fumcmv@mvtel.net

website: mountainviewfumc.org.

FB: facebook.com/fumcmtnview

John Michael email:

john.michael@arumc.org



Join our bible study beginning July 23/24, 2024. We will meet on Tuesday evenings at 6 pm and again on Wednesday at noon (bring your lunch) in the big Sunday School room. Pick your time and join us. The title of the study is "Context, Putting Scripture in its Place" by Josh Scott and will run for 6 weeks.