

God did not promise Sun without rain
light without darkness
or joy without pain
God only promised us
strength for the day
when darkness comes our way!

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2018 NEWSLETTER

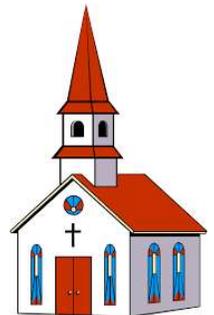
A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SOMMER

WHAT WORSHIP MEANS TO ME:

When I think about worship I think about the euphoria I feel when I listen to the praise team playing the opening song. As I enter the Sanctuary, I know the Holy Spirit is right there with me, with us all in this space. I also think about those “High Church” songs written by Charles Wesley, brother of John, like “O for a Thousand Tongues,” or other Methodist standards such as “Lift High the Cross;” songs that I learned when I first joined the Methodist Church fifteen years ago. They taught me theology, about the Holy Spirit, and the Power of God! I think about the old church songs that I was raised with in a small Baptist church like, “Old Rugged Cross,” “Sweet, Sweet Spirit,” and “Precious Memories.” I think about the first time I heard “It is Well With My Soul” and felt the power of the Holy Spirit in my young Christ filled soul. Or the time I heard “Here I Am, Lord” and wept for the call God placed on my life. I remember the prayers of the people from my classes in seminary, or during clergy meetings, and other times where we would hear or share a prayer request followed by “Lord in your mercy” and everyone would respond in agreement, “Hear our prayer.” I remember the time during a silent spiritual retreat where it was just me and God up on a tall hill, the wind blowing so strong, but I just sat there, in silence and awe of our Mighty God and the conversation we were having.....



Worship happens on Sunday mornings without fail, should happen there for all of us. Corporate Worship is important, but worship should be personal as well. Sunday morning is an important **part of a Christian’s development**, for it gives us the experiences and resources to worship God on a deeper spiritual level. The Christian who is strong in worship can and does experience God in a multitude of places. We learn how to worship together and take it with us throughout our week. Then we come back together the following Sunday for more instruction and fellowship.



For the past few Wednesday nights, I have been leading our congregation to think more deeply about the meaning of worship. We will have an *open discussion about our Sunday morning worship experience on May 3rd, at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary, and all are welcome!* So, what do you think of when you hear the word *Worship*?



Out in the Cold

It has come to my attention that there are a growing number of them out there. Though they don't seem to be cold, on the contrary! While, I think there is a longing for them to come in, there is something keeping them out.

As Christians, we often think and talk about ways of sharing our love and our faith with those outside the church, yet we are rather confused when we find that many of those outsiders are Christians themselves. We all give thought to what reasons might have caused them to leave the church, and often we think it is because someone hurt their feelings, but this is not the only reason. You see there is a, sort of, phenomenon that happens in the life of a believer **sometimes I've heard it stated as a disenchantment** with the faith/church. Taking their faith and belief seriously and beginning to study on a deeper level Christians can start to question the beliefs they were taught and come to a different understanding. They may find ideas and theologies that will lead them outside of their denominational doctrines. For some this experience is quickly denied, but for others, with a deep breath, they continue on this way. Learning the challenges of original languages and cultural differences, and understanding that doctrines are man made theologies that are meant to aide in the teaching processes that churches adapt, not to indoctrinate the

members. Yet in many instances we find indoctrination to be the case. This is why these Christians leave their denominations; they find no room for that kind of thinking and conversation, no room for that level of questioning, and no way to return to their former way of thinking. The question is how can the two be united again? The church must abandon the idea that a particular doctrinal explanation is a settled matter which is closed for discussion, people need to be able to discuss these matters.

If denominations will open this avenue of discussion then, they can invite the thinkers back in and the two can continue on growing together in the faith.

I am pleased to find that most Methodist denominations do allow for this kind of discussion and consideration and I have experienced that Homestead Methodist is just such a place. If denominations do not allow thinking outside the box of denominational beliefs how can its people grow into a personal understanding of Biblical truth?

If you enjoy this level of discussion join us in one of our discussion groups here at Homestead, there is nothing you can say that would cause those involved to reject or judge you, we just love a sincere discussion.

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JUNE 3 -VBS MEETING/FINALIZATION ON VBS, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH. LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.

JUNE 24—ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT DORTON

JULY 1—VBS CELEBRATION

Donations are now being accepted until June 10th for the pizza night held during VBS. If you would like to donate, please use the envelopes in the Narthex, labeled VBS PIZZA NIGHT, and place it in the offering plate. All donations are appreciated!



June 25th—June 28th

MARK YOU CALENDARS!!

Stewardship

Stewardship, Praise, and Love

Psalm 98 is a song of praise:

“Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations....He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.”

God is so good to us. So good. Is there anything else we can do except to give Him praise?

In the Book of John, Jesus says, “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.” He closed this passage by saying, “This I command you: love one another.” In one form or another in the Bible, Jesus tells us to “Love one another” eleven times.

The words praise and love, like stewardship, imply action.

Jesus reiterates his commandment that “you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

How do we love one another? How do people see the good news of God in us? Do we live and serve joyfully? By sharing praise and love, we live joyfully into what life abundant may look like and be.

Giving joyfully expresses our gratitude and praise to God. We see God's awesome love and generosity and have joy when we respond to God's love and care by giving our time, talent and treasure back to God.

Food Pantry

April Food Pantry:

119 Clients

349 Total in Household

May is the Postal Food Pick Up. We will need as many people as possible that can carry bags. Please consider coming to the May food pantry—**we need everyone's help!!**

The God Hug Lady

What is a hug? What does a hug mean to you when you receive it? A hug is a universal understanding regardless of a language barrier. Like a smile or a hand shake, a hug has meaning to the receiver and the giver.

My new friend at Homestead, Nancy Martin, shared the following news clip about what a hug is.

HUGGING

Hugging is healthy: It helps our body's immune system, it keeps you healthier, it cures depression, it reduces stress, it induces sleep, it's invigorating, it's rejuvenating, it has not unpleasant side effects, and hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug.

Hugging is all natural: It is organic, naturally sweet, no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients and 100 percent wholesome.

Hugging is practically perfect: There are no movable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic checkups, low energy consumption, high energy yield, inflation-proof, non-fattening, no monthly payments, no insurance requirements, theft-proof, non-taxable, non-polluting and, of course, fully returnable.

No explanation needed, so instead of a hug—give a God hug and be blessed every time.

Blessings,
The God Hug Lady



The Bulletin Board

Church Office Hours:
 Monday 9:00 - 2:00
 Wednesday 9:00 - 2:00
 Thursday 9:00 - 2:00

NOTE: NEW WEDNESDAY HOURS!!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE RECIPE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? EMAIL TO JACKIE AT HOMESTEADERSSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

Church Cookbook

Pull out those favorite recipes and send to Jackie ASAP. We are going to print a church cookbook for Homestead and Dorton to sell as a fund raiser. All categories of recipes are appreciated!!

METHODIST COMMUNITY PICNIC

Saturday, June 9th
 11:30 am—2:30 pm
 At the Methodist Campground

All are welcome and Encouraged to attend!!

HUG O' WAR

I will not play at tug o' war.
 I'd rather play at hug o'war,
 Where everyone hugs
 Instead of tugs,
 Where everyone giggles
 And rolls on the rug,
 Where everyone kisses.
 And everyone grins,
 And everyone cuddles,
 And everyone wins.



Dates to Remember!!

- May 3 Ladies Bible Study—8:00 am
- May e Worship Open Discussion—6:30 pm
- May 4 Movie Night
- May 6 Church Council
- May 10 Ladies Bible Study—8:00 am
- May 12 Food Pantry
- May 20 Worship at Camp Ozone 9:00 am
- May 27 Youth Sunday & Graduate Recognition
- Jun 2 HUMC Outdoor clean-up service
- Jun 3 VBS Meeting—after church-lunch to be served.
- Jun 9 Methodist Community Picnic 11:30-2:30
- Jun 24 Ice Cream Social at Dorton UMC 5:00 pm
- Jun 25-28 Vacation Bible School
- Jul 1 VBS Celebration at HUMC

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary please contact Jackie in the church office.



May 23 Leon & Jerri Fullick

- May 3 Linda Little
- May 7 May DeRossett
- May 12 Ema Allen
- May 12 Linda Kelly
- May 13 Royce Burgess
- May 16 Ron Tucker
- May 17 Ella Loveday
- May 19 Robert Taylor
- May 21 Charlee Dayton



- May 24 Gabe Worley
- May 27 Steve Olson
- May 27 Amy Swindle
- May 30 John Worley

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1			
			2	3	4	5
			WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00 Dance 3:00 - 5:00	Worship Open Discussion - 6:30 pm	Movie Night - 7:00 (Youth at 6:15)	
			Disciple I - 5:30 at DUMC			
			8	9	10	11
			WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00 Dance 3:00 - 5:00	Disciple I - 5:30 at DUMC	Food Pantry Prep - 5:00 pm	Food Pantry Distribution 8:00-10:00 am 7:30 am for helpers
			9	10	11	12
			Disciple I - 5:30 at DUMC			
			13	14	15	16
			<i>Mother's Day</i>	Disciple IV 6:00 at HUMC		
			14	15	16	17
			15	16	17	18
			WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00 Dance 3:00 - 5:00	Disciple I - 5:30 at DUMC	Youth Parent Meeting - 5:30	
			16	17	18	19
			19	20	21	22
			20	21	22	23
			Service at Camp Ozone - 9:00 am Service at HUMC 11:00 AM Pentecost			
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Youth Sunday
Graduate Recognition

Memorial Day

Service at Camp
Ozone - 9:00 am

Service at HUMC
11:00 AM
Pentecost

Mother's Day

Disciple IV 6:00 at HUMC

Church Council

Disciple IV 6:00 at HUMC

WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00
Dance 3:00 - 5:00

Worship Open
Discussion - 6:30 pm

Movie Night - 7:00
(Youth at 6:15)

WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00
Dance 3:00 - 5:00

Disciple I - 5:30 at DUMC

Food Pantry
Prep - 5:00 pm

Food Pantry
Distribution
8:00-10:00 am
7:30 am for helpers

WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00
Dance 3:00 - 5:00

Disciple I - 5:30 at DUMC

Youth Parent Meeting - 5:30

WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00

Disciple I - 5:30 at DUMC

June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00			1 Spring Clean-up at HUMC 9:00 AM
3 VBS Meeting at 12:15 ALICE TRAINING at 5:30	4	5	6 WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00	7	8 Food Pantry Prep - 5:00 pm	9 Food Pantry Distribution 8:00-10:00 am 7:30 am for helpers Methodist Picnic 11:30 - 2:30
10	11	12	13 WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00 Annual Conference	14	15 Annual Conference	16
17 Fathers Day	18	19	20 WNL/Dinner 5:00,Class 6:00	21	22	23
24 Ice Cream Social at DUMC 5:00 pm	25	26	27	28	29	30
	VACATION BI- BLE SCHOOL	VACATION BI- BLE SCHOOL	VACATION BI- BLE SCHOOL	VACATION BI- BLE SCHOOL		