



# COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Len McRaney  
12298 Shorecrest Rd.  
Biloxi, MS 39532



## AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER



### From the Pen of Bro. Len:

#### The 4 Promises of God When You Need Him

Many people today are asking themselves, “Where is God?” It’s a legitimate question during a global pandemic—War in Ukraine—economic woes—global tensions, etc.

If you’re asking, “**Where is God?**” right now, the Bible has an answer. He’s right beside you—no matter where you are. God is all over the place. He is omnipresent. This theological word carries real and relevant importance.

Jeremiah 23:23-24 says, “*I am God who is everywhere and not in one place . . . Do you not know that I am everywhere in heaven and on earth?*” (GNT). That means, no matter what you’re going through, **God is with you**. When you look at the struggles we’re dealing with right now, God’s presence changes everything.

Here’s how he does it:

#### **When you’re lonely, God is your companion.**

“*Turn to me and have mercy on me, because I am lonely and hurting*” (Psalm 25:16 NCV). Our world has never had more people, and we’ve never been more connected to each other. Yet we’ve also never been lonelier. Pain and anxiety, worry and stress push us away from God and one another and we find ourselves adrift upon the troubled seas of life. We seemingly have lost our sails and oars and there is no wind stirring and no hope in sight and we can be tempted to give up in discouragement.

God doesn’t want you to feel alone. So, what do you do when you experience those moments of uncontrollable loneliness and can’t do anything about it? **You welcome and embrace God’s presence.** He is your companion. Hebrews 13:5 says of God, “*I will never leave you or abandon you*” (CSB). He’s a friend who knows more about you than any other friend. He even knows more about you than you do.

#### **When you’re worried, God is your confidence.**

God says this: “*When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up—the flames will not consume you*” (Isaiah 43:2 TLB). Those verses remind me of the three Hebrew men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who walked through the fire in Daniel 3. God walked through it with them. When they came out, the ropes were burned off. God doesn’t promise we won’t go through difficult trials. He promises to be WITH us in the trials giving us power and peace and providing our need while protecting us.

For many of us, walking through 2022 has felt like walking through a fire. You might be concerned about the future of our church and the Church. We are indeed facing unusual and difficult days. None of us can predict what we’ll face in the last few months of 2022. But we can be certain of this: God will give us the confidence to make it through.

#### **When you’re tempted, God is your counselor.**

First Corinthians 10:13 says, “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it” (NIV). When God is with you, he provides a way out of any temptation you experience.

God knows exactly where you’re struggling. He’s pulling for you. He’s also preparing an escape route. God sees your temptation coming before you do. Willpower isn’t enough to keep you from giving in. You need God’s presence to fight temptation.

**When you’re discouraged, God is your comforter.**

If you’re discouraged, one thing I can tell you with all confidence is this: God will comfort you. Psalm 34:18 says, “The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope” (GNT).

God feels your hurt. He feels your discouragement. He knows when you’re struggling and frustrated. This year didn’t surprise him. Nothing about life’s situations and circumstances catch God by surprise. He will never mutter in frustration---“I didn’t see that coming.”

No matter what you’re going through, God is walking through it with you. He isn’t some impersonal force. He’s personal, and he’s never too busy to listen. You’ll never hear him say, “Come back later.” He is sympathetic to the stress you are feeling.

God’s presence will change everything about the pain you’re experiencing, but you must tune in to it. The key is in Psalm 116:9: “I walk in the presence of the Lord” (GNT). Even if God seems millions of miles away, he is present with you.

Hang in there! God is here and God cares about you and your needs. Don’t give up on God or his ability to see you through the issues facing and consuming you at this present time. Everyone person alive facing storms and difficult days, but, the SON still shines and God is still on the throne. Wait for God’s interruption of your life with His powerful presence and provisions. You’ll be glad you did!

**Phone #s:** (228) 392 – 5970 (office)  
(601) 938 – 7967 (Bro. Len)

**Office Hours:** Mon. – Thur., 9 AM – 1 PM

**Email:** [coalvilleumc@outlook.com](mailto:coalvilleumc@outlook.com)

**Web:** [www.coalvilleumc.org](http://www.coalvilleumc.org)

The Seashore District newsletter email  
[seashore@mississippi-umc.org](mailto:seashore@mississippi-umc.org)

The Circuit Rider newsletter website  
[mississippi-umc.org](http://mississippi-umc.org)

## AUGUST EVENTS

**NO Senior Luncheon for August.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Luncheon, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM**  
following the 2<sup>nd</sup> service in the fellowship hall.

**Administrative Board Meeting, Monday,**  
**August 11<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM** in the fellowship hall.

## From Jan Gum

### Youth

The youth and young adults had a wonderful time on their much – deserved trip to the cabin near Starkville. They enjoyed the pool, games, food and fellowship. We also had some spirit filled worship together!

We ask for prayers for our two recent graduates as they head to college. Chris will head home to Starkville to college, after being here with us the whole summer, and Witt will be headed to Ole Miss. We are proud of them but will miss them greatly and look forward to seeing them on school breaks.

Also pray for the youth as they head back to the classroom. Especially pray for guidance and courage so that they can be lights for Jesus in our dark world.



When our heavenly Father looks down into Coalville church every Sunday morning He sees the Bahm family filling up the pew. They are there together and

faithfully worshipping our Lord. They must put a smile on His face.

Both Mr. 'Toogie' (Harry Dewitt Bahm, Jr., BD 9-8-41) and Mrs. "Sharon" (Rosharon Shirly Stone, BD 12-20-39) were born at King's Daughter's Hospital in Gulfport. They both attended North Central Elementary School in Gulfport and to this day Toogie says that's when Rosharon fell in love with him! (first grade) 😊

Rosharon's family moved and she grew up in Miami, FL. As a child she enjoyed baton twirling, being active in church and later while attending Perk she was a member of the Baptist Student Union. Toogie spent most Sunday afternoons swimming in the Biloxi River and having picnics. He had a paper route, worked in Breaux's grocery store, and played baseball on the Junior League for the Jones Bros. Rebels. Before TV came into their lives they remember listening to the radio programs. They remember the days when movies cost 15 cents to get in and popcorn was 10 cents.

They met while attending school at Perk. Toogie says she was a big city girl and he was a small town boy! They were married on April 16, 1961. They have three children: Harry DeWitt III "Dee" who lives in Bartlett, TN, Shelli Weston who attends Coalville & lives in McHenry, MS, and Jonathan lives in Largo, Florida. Rosharon and Toogie have 6 grandchildren (Ginny, Caitlyn, Hannah, Witt, Jasper, and Clara) and one great granddaughter, Harper.

Rosharon has deep faith in her Lord. By her bed she keeps a sticky note that has a prayer she prays especially during difficult times:

"Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I together can't handle." Amen. She enjoyed helping Shelli with children's Sunday School, working with MYF and being treasurer of the women's group.

Toogie's great grandmother attended Coalville. When Toogie and Rosharon first married they moved from the city (Gulfport) to the Woolmarket area. They decided to join Coalville April 22, 1962.

Toogie served in several different areas through his years at Coalville: chairman of the Admin. Board, PPRC chairman, finance committee, nominating committee, and usher for several years.

When asked what they were most pleased with in their life Toogie and Rosharon responded; family, our children and how well they all turned out, all are excellent parents.

When asked what they appreciated most about their spouse Mrs. Rosharon said Toogie has a sense of humor, love has lasted all these years, despite ups and downs. Mr. Toogie said of Rosharon; she has been a loving wife all these years, "She was more mature than I was". "She has always had the more level head and her thinking, is optimistic."

Thanks to the Bahms for their efforts and time spent in the past to keep Coalville moving forward.

Coalville has had many good dedicated members to build up this church and to keep it going. It's easy to forget the effort and love members put into this body of Christ. Share your thanks and appreciation to others. It takes everyone doing their part to build God's kingdom. Not just a few.

Everyone is special in His eyes and ours too. LOVE...."Pass It On" ♥

## UMC CAMP MEETINGS

By Lay Leader, Jan Garner

I have heard of "Camp Meetings", all my life from my Baptist cousins, but never attended and didn't grasp the concept, until I became a Methodist. We here at Coalville UMC are very familiar with Palmer Creek Campground and the "Camp Meetings" that have been held there for many decades, but I thought it would be interesting to dig into the history in connection with the UMC.

The historical information came from an article, written by Joe Lovino, for UMC Communications @ UMC.org, the story was published September 2018.

For many United Methodists in the United States, camp meetings are an important part of their summers. These evangelistic gatherings that were part of the early days of the Methodist movement in America, have evolved over the years, but still lead people to revival and renewal today.

**Early days:** In 18<sup>th</sup> century America, churches were not nearly as prevalent as they are today. In the spirit of John Wesley and the first Methodist field preachers in England, early Methodist, United Brethren, and Evangelical Association leaders in the U.S. went to where people lived and worked to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Though difficult to definitively verify, the first camp meeting in the U.S. is believed to have been held in Logan County, Kentucky, in July 1800. It was an ecumenical affair led by two brothers, one a Methodist preacher and the other a Presbyterian pastor. The event was well received and was soon replicated around the nation. Though they began as multid denominational gatherings, camp meetings are commonly considered a Methodist institution because of the leadership provided by early Methodists and their commitment to the form.

In his journal, Francis Asbury frequently writes about attending and preaching at camp meetings. He shares reports of large attendance and many conversions. He saw camp meetings as vital to evangelistic ministry. In a letter to a Methodist preacher dated December 2, 1802, Asbury writes, "I wish you would also hold camp meetings; they have never been tried without

success. To collect such a number of God's people together to pray, and the ministers to preach, and the longer they stay, generally, the better." He then concludes with a reference to Matthew 4:19, "This is fishing with a large net".

A typical camp meeting lasted 8-10 days, sometimes longer. Families would pitch a tent on the grounds and attend preaching, Bible studies, and class meetings throughout the day, and sometimes long into the night. At times, the spectacle drew the attention of those not connected to the church. **Some heckled, others were converted.**

**Resurgence:** Unfortunately, their popularity didn't last. "As the nineteenth century wore on," one historian writes, "camp meetings gradually fell into disuse. After the Civil War they were revisited and once again became somewhat popular" (Encyclopedia of World Methodism, page 384).

Rather than meeting in remote locations as before, this resurgence of camp meetings often included building projects. Many United Methodist camp meeting structures still in use were built during this period that lasted through the late 1800s. Similarly, the Evangelical Association and United Brethren, who had been part of the early camp meeting movement alongside the Methodists, began a tabernacle movement. During the summer of 2018, Witwen Tabernacle in Sauk County, Wisconsin, celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their tabernacle. "Witwen Camp had been established in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Evangelical Association. They constructed the Tabernacle in 1918," shares the Rev. Dan Dick, Assistant to the Bishop in the Wisconsin Conference, who was the featured preacher at the celebration. "The Tabernacle Movement was a way to bring a group of small churches together to have a large congregation to be a part of," Dick explains. "If you came to Tabernacle, you were going to have a quality experience unlike that which you were used to at home." Unlike the annual, multi-day, early camp meetings, tabernacles were a place church members would return regularly throughout the year.

**A native tradition:** Many camp meetings, like Ocean Grove, New Jersey, continue today. Preaching, concerts, and choir festivals bring people together throughout the season. But near Charlevoix, Michigan, for example, the essence of the original camp meeting remains. The Greensky Hill Indian United Methodist Church has been holding a camp meeting each summer, "For as long as anyone remembers," says the Rev. Jonathan David Mays. Peter Greensky, a Chippewa and a Methodist preacher, founded the congregation in the mid-1800s.

In addition to being evangelistic, "Camp meetings were the place where tribal people would gather to share crafts, food and culture," Mays shares. "The old fashioned summer tent meeting with the same intent and theme has continued." The Greensky Hill Indian UMC Camp Meeting is a three-day gathering that typically features preaching by native evangelists. On Friday night, a family hosts a meal with preaching and music to follow. On Saturday, participants regroup—not many stay overnight anymore—to sit around a fire and share stories. "Native elders tell traditional stories and legends and tie them to the Gospel," Mays explains. In the evening they again share a meal and worship together. Sunday morning worship is held at the camp meeting site, a natural amphitheater that includes a covered space for the musicians and preacher. Then, after worship, there is a potluck meal.

**Revival and renewal today:** Historic camp meetings are just one of the ways United Methodist churches and our predecessors have sought to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Today United Methodists gather under tents, in tabernacles, on beaches, beside lakes, in town centers, and elsewhere to worship and invite others to come to know Jesus as their savior.



On July 20, 2022 we lost a good friend and member of our church, Jim McGrew.

Please keep Carolyn and her family in your prayers as they take this journey without their loved one.



**Psalm 66:19: "But truly God has listened; He has attended to the voice of my prayers."**

Our God is so awesome. He is available 24/7, 365 days waiting for His followers to call upon Him for our needs. Your name is on His list to pray for yourself, your family, friends and others.

In your prayer time please remember to pray for:

**1) the Methodist Church, 2) military, 3) border patrol and volunteers, 4) law enforcement, 5) each of our church leaders, 6) national leaders. and 7) those on the prayer requests list.**

That may seem like a lot. Hopefully, it will be enough to keep us on our knees serving God by serving others. **Just think of how blessed we all are because of these groups.** Have enough love in your heart to care, enough faith in God to intervene in all situations, and willingness to submit to God to use you.

Please use the 'blue cards' to write your requests. When we have an address we send words of encouragement to them. Our prayer groups love praying for you. They are very sincere. Pray for us too. 🙏🙏

**Birthdays**

**Anniversaries**

**Monthly Events**

**Scheduled Meetings**

**Weekly Events**

**CLC – Christian Life Center**

**FH – Fellowship Hall**

**S – Sanctuary**

**CW – Contemporary Worship**

**TW – Traditional Worship**

**2<sup>nd</sup> SL – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Luncheon**

**AB – Administrative Board**

**C2 – Chosen 2**

**CB – Cornerstone Band**

**DD – Dixie Doll Twirlers**

**JAM – Children’s Ministry**

**Pm – Prayer Ministry**

**SL – Senior Luncheon**

**UMYF - Youth**

**YA – Young Adults**

August 2022						
◀ July						September ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 Ted Keller</b> <b>Michael Vereker</b>  3 PM, DD, CLC	<b>2 Chelsea Butler</b>  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, C2, CLC	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM, Pm, FH	<b>4</b>  5:30 PM, Pm, FH 6 PM, CB, S	<b>5 Gwen Husley</b> <b>Diana Ludlow</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>6 Juan Cobar</b>  All Day, CLC Reserved
7 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, YA, CLC	<b>8</b>  3 PM, DD, CLC  6 PM, AB, FH	<b>9</b>  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, C2, CLC	<b>10</b> 10:30 AM, Pm, FH	<b>11</b>  5:30 PM, Pm, FH 6 PM, CB, S	<b>12 Chris Laut</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>13</b>
7 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S 12 PM, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , SL, FH  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, YA, CLC	<b>15</b>  3 PM, DD, CLC	<b>16</b>  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, C2, CLC	<b>17 Lulu Mitchell</b> 10:30 AM, Pm, FH	<b>18</b>  5:30 PM, Pm, FH 6 PM, CB, S	<b>19 Keith Ludlow</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>20</b>
7 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, YA, CLC	<b>22 Akiyla Sadovsky</b>  3 PM, DD, CLC	<b>23 Cindy Holland</b>  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, C2, CLC	<b>24 Julia Mitchell</b> <b>Rita Smith</b> 10:30 AM, Pm, FH	<b>25 Kathy Taylor</b>  5:30 PM, Pm, FH 6 PM, CB, S	<b>26</b>  [-----DD]	<b>27</b>  CLC-----]
7 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  <b>Kyle Phillips</b> <b>Stan Peterson</b>  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, YA, CLC	<b>29 Jerry Gardner</b> <b>Carolyn McGrew</b>  3 PM, DD, CLC	<b>30</b>  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, C2, CLC	<b>31 Cory Joiner</b> 10:30 AM, Pm, FH	<b>Backpack Blessings</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> – chicken noodle soup 14 <sup>th</sup> – oatmeal/grits 21 <sup>st</sup> – Beane Weenees 28 <sup>th</sup> – Ramen noodles		