



COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



September 2026 Newsletter



From the Pen of Bro. Len:

Have you ever gotten a “busy” signal when you are praying? For those who are not old enough to have experienced “land lines,” you would get a “busy signal” when the line you were calling was already in use. It would make an annoying sound that alerted you to call back later. Yes, I know the “line” is always open to God, and I can “talk” to the Lord anytime, anywhere under any and all circumstances and the Lord will hear me. BUT, I have those times when the Lord doesn’t answer me quick enough for my impatience and I become a little “out of sorts” and usually create and cause chaos for myself and others. That being said, I offer the following thoughts on the thought.....Connecting the Inside with the Outside...Or, the connection between your faith and your “wholeness.”

Luke 17:11-19 NRSV [11] On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. [12] As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, [13] they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” [14] When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. [15] Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. [16] He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. [17] Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? [18] Was none of them

found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” [19] Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

We are all invited to be made whole from the inside out by rejecting the lie that we are unacceptable and receiving the truth that God freely invites us to be completely changed. When we come out of isolation and approach God in a spirit of openness and faith, we’ll experience deep healing and wholeness.

I’ve read this story many times. It’s been a favorite Thanksgiving Day passage for many preachers of several generations. But I don’t think gratitude is the point of the story. Don’t get me wrong. Gratitude is powerful. It’s an essential attitude for spiritual growth and a key element of what authentic worship is all about. But to make the story of the ten lepers all about the expression of thanks by the one is to sanitize the story and to ignore a key phrase Luke decided to include in his telling of it. **“And he was a Samaritan.” (v. 16b)**

This is not just a story about how we ought to be thankful. This is a story about ten people who were touched by God, and the one whose eyes were opened to understand the true depth of what had occurred, whose life would never be the same, and who was previously stigmatized and disqualified by others from this kind of spiritual opportunity.

I would offer three thoughts about life from this story...

First, we ALL bear brokenness in our lives.

I used to say that “we are all broken,” but I’ve begun to change my language in that regard because, in our cultural climate, “broken” can be interpreted as worthlessness or uselessness, and I believe everyone has infinite worth and value and anyone can make a difference. Instead, I’ve started saying that “we all bear brokenness in our lives.” Here’s what I mean by that...

1. We’ve all **sinned**. We’re responsible for the damage caused by our selfish and sinful choices.
2. We’ve all **been hurt** because we live in a world that bears brokenness and is filled with others who sin.
3. We all have some **unhealthy habits** that tend to create chaos where there could be peace.
4. We’ve all suffered the **loss of relationships** for a wide variety of reasons.

In the case of these ten lepers, they bore the brokenness of their physical condition, which was no fault of their own. But leprosy carries a stigma and lepers are considered untouchable, both under the old Jewish Law and from a cultural viewpoint.

Second, we are ALL invited into wholeness in Christ.

There is plenty of healing to go around.

I *don’t* believe or intend to communicate that everyone is always entitled to complete physical healing. Our bodies are fragile and we are all bound for the grave eventually. Sickness and death are inevitable. Jesus didn’t physically heal everyone in his day and he isn’t physically healing everyone today, either.

What I do mean is that God is fully capable of continuing to work powerfully. His arm is never “shortened that it cannot save.” He has overcome our greatest enemies for all time by the work Jesus accomplished on the cross and in his resurrection. I will never hesitate to say to any individual, “*God wants you to be whole.*” I believe wholeness is freely offered in Christ to all who want it and are willing to receive it.

God’s vision for our lives is complete wholeness, holiness, and maturity, forever.

And God’s vision is for more than mere individuals. He is building a community of faith, formed from every tribe, tongue, and nation. Luke, the lone Gentile evangelist, points out that the one who returned was a Samaritan. So, in addition to being **untouchable** because of his physical condition, he was also **unacceptable** because of his ethnicity and presumed religious beliefs.

This story establishes firmly that nobody is unacceptable or untouchable in God’s eyes. No one has more or less value than anyone else because of the color of their skin, any physical disability, or any previous religious baggage.

Third, we ALL have eyes to see life the way God does.

But will we? The one who came back “got it.” All ten had been blessed with physical healing, but only one of them understood the kind of healing that goes much deeper than the skin. One of these ten had experienced true conversion. The scales had fallen off his eyes. He was now aware of the power and presence of God in a brand-new way. And this is the real goal.

Physical healing will keep us on earth for another day, but awakening to a relationship with God changes everything, forever.

****No matter who you are or what your story is, God loves you and invites you to come into his presence and experience his grace and his power at work to make you holy and whole again. But God forces no one’s eyes open. It’s up to you. Are you willing to come openly to God?

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

Office Hours: Tues. – Thur., 8 AM – 12 PM

Email: coalvilleumc@outlook.com

Web: www.coalvilleumc.org

The Gulf Pines District newsletter email
gulfpines@mississippi-umc.org

The Circuit Rider newsletter website Mississippi
news@mississippi-umc.org

Brothers and Sisters



Brothers and Sisters, we are blessed to have different seasons of weather during the year. As they come and go we have to adjust to the changes. That's okay because change is sometimes just what we need. Staying connected to our Lord should be our priority. We know He 🙌 has a plan for all situations.

Churches all over are suffering for different reasons. Remember, there is no perfect church because there are no perfect people. None. In the book of Revelations we read that Jesus had John send letters to five churches. He encouraged them for the good they were doing and pointed out their need for a change. Let's come together in love and unity and consider what a letter to our church would say to us. Before we speak what's in our mind, we should consider what to do first. **PRAY**. Not just a few praying, but every member prays as God leads. **His Holy Spirit will reveal God's message**. Remember, prayer begins with praise and a thankful attitude of the heart. Repent as needed. Listen to His Holy Spirit. As we repent, we are leaving our sin to God and He will forgive and set us free. Isn't that what we need? This letter is not an invitation to start meeting for this discussion. **No**. This will take more than one prayer. God can and wants to use us for His kingdom. We have a way to go before our light starts shining. This Newsletter is not intended for a down time. No. It is the first step in our church becoming what God has written in His word many times. Is. 56:7.".....For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." Matt. 21:13, Mark 11:7, Luke 19:46.

During the month of September every member is asked to pray every day at home for our church. Pray that our eyes be open to the truth, that we continue to seek His will for our church. We will not rush into anything for this that I'm sharing with you is God's will spoken to me many times over the last several years. It is a season to come together in love and unity and recharge our batteries for our light to shine for

His kingdom. Thank you, Brothers and Sisters of Christ and (mine). 🙌 🙏 😊

When we see a need, pray about it. Thank you.

Remember to pray this for the month of Sept.

Aug. 31 - Sept. 5: Is our work for the Lord motivated by love for **God**?

Rev. 2:4-5b

Sept. 6 -12: Put God's word as a priority in your service. Eph. 4:3-6

Sept. 13 -19: His Holy Spirit will guide us into the truth and help us identify the needs we have. John 16:13

Sept. 20 - 26: You will bear fruit for God when you do His will. Col.1:9-10

Sept. 27-Oct.3: Our outward expressions of unity will reflect our inward unity of purpose. Ps. 133:1

God rewards our obedience to pray. 😊 🙏 🙌



If you have any events to be placed on the church calendar, in the bulletin or newsletter, please e-mail or call the office. Coalvilleumc@outlook.com

228-392-5970

CORNERSTONE

Hello from Cornerstone. Welcome to September! We are all ready to cool off with some fall weather!

Here is another interesting excerpt from the book, *Before We Gather*, by Zac Hicks.

“Where can we anticipate the working of the Holy Spirit in our worship services? We often look for ecstatic or euphoric moments as places where the Spirit moves—and they are. We often look for moments of power when the preacher’s words seem to be on fire as places where the Spirit moves—and they are. But there are other places to be on the lookout for as well.

To explore this, we need to make an important observation that’s often neglected: a worship service is one long prayer session. We sometimes speak of prayer as a part of the worship service, but that’s really limiting the nature of prayer solely to those moments when heads are bowed and eyes are closed. Really, every part of a service is prayer. When we sing, we’re talking to God. When we hear preaching, we’re listening to God talking to us. When we give an offering, we are merely with our bodies acting out this prayer; “Jesus, take all of me.” When we receive communion, we’re hearing God say to us, “It’s true. I love you.”

When we recognize that worship is prayer, new fields of Scripture open before us. Passages about prayer become passages about worship too.Pray that God would open up your ‘spiritual senses’ to recognize the presence of the Spirit as you worship and pray on Sunday mornings.”



Coalville’s information text chain is up and running. If you would like to be a part of this text chain, please text Michael Roberts at

228-236-5496

Also, any prayer chain requests can be called or texted to Jan Gum at

228-860-2812

~~~~~YOUTH/JAM~~~~~

The JAM group had a going away ice cream party for Jolene, Hunter, Colt, and Katy Aldinger. Their family is moving back to their hometown in Virginia. We were so blessed to get to know them and how much they made a difference in our children's ministry. We pray they will find a church that loves them as much as we do.

JAN



Anniversaries

Birthdays

Monthly Events

Scheduled Meetings

Weekly Events

CLC – Christian Life Center

FH – Fellowship Hall

S – Sanctuary

W – Worship

AB – Administrative Board

BG – BUNCO Group

CB – Cornerstone Band

CC – Cemetery Committee

FISH – Young Adults

JAM – Children's Ministry

MT – Mission Team

SL – Senior Luncheon

UMYF - Youth

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Greg&Kim King, Anniv 11:30 AM, SL, FH 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	2 Beth Roberts, BD	3	4 Lori Rodriguez, BD 7 PM, AA, FH	5 Kathy Thoda, BD Kim Bischof-Smith, BD
6 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	7 Happy Labor Day	8 Abigail Yennie, BD Ayden Artechie, BD Chenoa Trepagnier, BD Hannah Weston, BD 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	9 Misty Ray, BD	10 12 – 3 PM, BG, FH	11 Kenneth Yennie, BD Patriot Day 7 PM, AA, FH	12 Clara Bahm, BD George Ray, BD Reagan Dyer, BD Remington Dyer, BD
13 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S Grandparents' Day Janna Householder, BD Mark Hepler, BD 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	14 6 PM, AB, FH	15 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	16	17	18 Dylan Slade, BD Herbie Ludlow, BD 7 PM, AA, FH	19 Colton Miller, BD FH Reserved Missions Team
20 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S Laura Grimes, BD 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	21	22 First Day of Autumn 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	23 Julie Farlow, BD	24	25 Lisa Jones, BD CLC Reserved 7 PM, AA, FH	26 CLC Reserved
27 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	28 Missions Team Meeting 5:30 FH	29 5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	30 Brooke Trocheset, BD Don&Barbara Jones, Anniv	BACKPACK BLESSINGS 09/06 Peanut Butter 09/13 Small Cereal 09/20 Chicken Noodle Soup 09/27 Oatmeal/Grits		