



# *COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

*Rev. Len McRaney  
12298 Shorecrest Rd.*

*Biloxi, MS 39532*

## *October 2025 Newsletter*



### **From the Pen of Bro. Len**

#### **Focus on God, Not on Fear**

"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?"

– Psalm 27:

Every October, elaborate Halloween decorations begin popping up in and around our community. Some of them are whimsical, but a lot of them are designed to look as scary as possible. One yard features a goblin that zips down from a tree to surprise people as they walk by on a sidewalk. One house has a battery-operated witch on the porch, constantly babbling threats in a creepy voice. Then there's the place that features a gigantic skeleton towering over a house and glaring with red lights in its eyes at people passing by. It amazes me that so many people spend so much money on those decorations, and so much time setting them up, simply to scare people.

Our world often glorifies fear during October. From haunted house decorations to scary, people celebrate fear in all its forms as Halloween approaches. It can seem entertaining to seek out experiences that make us feel afraid. But all the spooky darkness around us in this fallen world isn't worth our attention. As believers, our focus should not be on fear but on God.

The world may try to draw us into a mindset of fear, but God offers a powerful reminder that we don't need to fear anything or anyone, because God is our stronghold. King David, who wrote those words while inspired by the Holy Spirit was no stranger to scary situations. He faced real dangers from enemies who sought to harm

him, yet his response was not to dwell on those fears but to declare his confidence in God's protection. David declared: "The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?" This declaration is a call to shift our focus from the things that frighten us to the One who is greater than all our fears.

During October, when our fallen world encourages us to be entertained by fear, we have the opportunity to choose a different path. Instead of allowing fear to take root in our hearts, we can focus on the truth that God is our stronghold. That means we can trust our all-powerful God to give us strength in all situations and to protect us from all that scares us – including the darkness that casts scary shadows of doubt and worry around us can't overpower the light of God's presence in our lives.

Fear is a powerful emotion, but it's not stronger than the power of God. When we allow fear to dominate our thoughts, it can paralyze us and keep us from living the thriving lives God wants us to live. However, when we focus on God, we remember that God is in control, that God is with us, and that God is for us. No matter what circumstances we face, we can be confident in the assurance the Bible gives us in guiding us through even the darkest circumstances, delivering us from all that threatens to harm us.

During October – and every day of the year – consider how you can shift your focus away from fear and toward God. Instead of getting caught up in the culture of fear, spend time with God in PRAYER and meditation regularly. The more time you spend with God, the more God will dispel any fear that tries to take hold of your heart. Remember, the Lord is your light and your salvation, so you never need to be afraid!

As you consider the importance of focusing on God rather than on fear when you feel afraid, you might reflect on these questions:

What fears have been weighing on your heart lately? How can you bring them before God in prayer?

How does remembering God's faithfulness in the past help you trust God in the present?

In what practical ways can you shift your focus from fear to God throughout your day?

How does meditating on God's Word help you fight fear?

What does it mean to you personally that God is your "light" and your "salvation"?

## *From Jan*

### **YOUTH**

The youth continue to journey through the Bible, learning quite a lot and applying to their own lives. They are also learning the books of the Bible in order and categories. I am so proud of their eagerness to grab their Bibles and dig in! The youth will be coordinating a Toy Drive for some kids in our community that the Social Worker from Woolmarket Elementary asked our church to help with. A box for collections will be placed in the sanctuary. Details will be given real soon!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our children's class have begun studying the Ten Commandments. We have several fun activities to help us learn them. Each week they will study one of the Commandments.

### **F.I.S.H.**

Our young adults will be raffling off two Fall baskets this month. Tickets are \$1. The proceeds will be given to Mrs. Andi Moore, a local youth director they have known for a long time. Andi's been battling a rare cancer and her house burned completely recently. Please keep Mrs. Andi in your prayers.



**Brothers and Sisters**, it is always a privilege to share with you thoughts our Father has shared with me. October is indeed a beautiful month as it reveals a change of season. There are many times in our life that we must adjust to a change in our culture and make the best of each situation. It is a time that God is calling us to apply His word and share 'Him' with the rest of the world. It's an opportunity to 'stand and exercise our faith.' We all want 'peace'. True peace for the world we live in will only come when Christ returns. Until then we are to be prepared by living a righteous life, live out our life by serving others, spread the gospel, be on guard of false prophets, continue to feed your faith that we may endure sufferings, and more.

Earth is not our permanent home. Heaven is. While we are here we are to keep the faith and continue to pray for peace for all individuals and the world.

Remember to always ask His Holy Spirit to guide you in your prayers.

**May His Word be a blessing to you.**

**October 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>:** We are to rely on God's divine power. John 16:33

**October 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>:** Peace is available to troubled hearts. John 14:27

**October 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>:** Unwavering trust is the key. Isaiah 26:3

**October 26<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>:** Knowledge of Him is also a key. 2 Peter 1:3 – 4

**God's presence and strength provide a foundation for peace.**

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

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

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

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

**Men's Breakfast Group meets on Thursday mornings at 8 AM at Fayard's Marathon on Popps Ferry Rd. All men are welcome.**

## Anniversaries

## Birthday

## Monthly Events

## Scheduled Meetings

## Weekly Events

CLC – Christian Life Center

FH – Fellowship Hall

S – Sanctuary

CW – Contemporary Worship

TW – Traditional Worship

AB – Administrative Board

BG – BUNCO Group

CB – Cornerstone Band

CC – Cemetery Committee

DT – Daisy Troop

FISH – Young Adults

JAM – Children's Ministry

MT – Mission Team

SL – Senior Luncheon

UMYF - Youth

October 2025						
◀ September						November ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Backpack</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> – Beanie Weanies 12 <sup>th</sup> – Ramen Noodles 19 <sup>th</sup> – Ravioli 26 <sup>th</sup> – Tuna	<b>Blessings</b> Beanie Weanies Ramen Noodles Ravioli Tuna		<b>1</b> Vernon Peterson	<b>2</b> 8 AM, Men's Breakfast, Fayard's Marathon, PF Rd.	<b>3</b> Rhonda Hepler  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>4</b> Carla Grimes  3:30 PM, CLC Reserved
<b>5</b> 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 11:30 AM, SL  5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8 AM, Men's Breakfast, Fayard's Marathon, PF Rd 12 – 3 PM, BG, FH Bill Massie Bob Sherlock Carmen Urbati	<b>10</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S 11 AM, Potluck for PAD, CLC  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	<b>13</b> Tony Harrison  6 PM, AB, FH	<b>14</b>  5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6 PM, DT, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8 AM, Men's Breakfast, Fayard's Marathon, PF Rd	<b>17</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>18</b> Gabi Phillips
<b>19</b> 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S Brian Stinson 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC 6 PM, CHARGE CONFERENCE (Nugent UMC)	<b>20</b> Amanda Arnold Brandy Yennie	<b>21</b>  5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	<b>22</b> Kim King	<b>23</b> 8 AM, Men's Breakfast, Fayard's Marathon, PF Rd	<b>24</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>25</b> Jose Ortiz Taylor Ortiz Mary Ann Wiginton
<b>26</b> 9 AM, SS, FH 10 AM, W, S  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC FISH, CLC	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> David Talbot Kandace Smith  5 PM, Yoga, CLC 6 PM, DT, CLC 6:30 PM, CB, S	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8 AM, Men's Breakfast, Fayard's Marathon, PF Rd Eleanor Bahm	<b>31</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	