



Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

April 2024 Newsletter



From Our Pastor

Reverend Parker Benson

In these days after Easter, many people in the larger culture, who care nothing about Easter, are wondering “how are we supposed to interpret life? How are we to live? Should I go this way – or that way? What am I to do?”

I would suggest that you first develop a worldview: the way you view the world. As Jesus said, “*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all this other will be added unto you.*” That is the worldview of a Christian.

Do you believe in God? If not, then I would suggest your worldview leads to nothingness. Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow you die – and enter oblivion (theologians call this belief annihilationism). It matters not what you do in this world, you are a mist and then you are gone. Just do whatever you want. Celebrate diversity!

Do you believe in God? If your answer is “yes,” then everything you do matters. That’s why I ask you every Sunday, “What do you believe?” You respond, “I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.” There – you have two places you believe in – heaven and earth, and you believe God created them both. That means there is a power greater than yourself – greater than any other power in existence. No one is greater than God! No one. Therefore, we need to learn as much as we can about this God and His world.

The Bible says, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” That is foundational to what we believe. Everything begins with that belief. We believe in God! The Psalmist writes, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.*” I don’t see how a person can look at creation and not believe in God. Evangelist Ray Comfort said, “You cannot have any building without a builder. You cannot have a painting without a painter. The painting is proof that there is a painter. The building is proof that there is a builder. And creation is absolute proof that there is a Creator.”



The next line in the Apostles' Creed is, "And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord." Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and He is our Lord! Paul and Silas told the Philippian Jailer, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.*" Jesus is the way to God; Jesus is the way to Heaven; Jesus is the way to eternal life; Jesus is the way to love, joy, peace and happiness in this world and in the next. That is what we as Christians believe. That is our worldview.

Still, you can turn your back and walk away. God gives you the freedom to do that. That freedom is called "free-will." You are a free moral agent just like everyone else.

But it is a sad, sad, world without God.

Happy Easter!

Parker 😊

REVELATION

A ***new Bible Study*** will begin on **Tuesday, April 2, 10:00 – 11:30** at Trinity House.

Rev. Benson will lead us in a study of the last book in the Bible, ***Revelation***.

This is "***The Revelation of Jesus Christ***" given to His apostle John, the disciple whom Jesus loved.

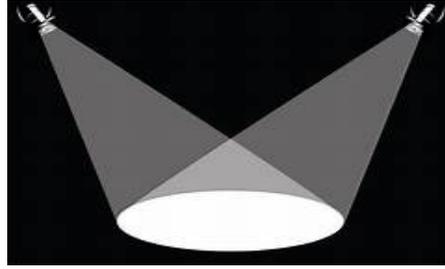
This will be a **10 week study** and we will work our way through what is called "***the final showdown between God and Satan.***" **Bring your Bible** and something to write with.

Hear Our Prayers

In the gloom of these troubled times, help us to see the brightness of Your presence and revive in us the hope of faith. May those in authority rely upon Your wisdom and not on their own. Give to our nation a boldness in faith and conviction to see Your Will.



Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church



“Monthly Member Spotlight”

**Meet Jack Gillooly
& his great grandson, Parks
(102 years apart)**



Where were you born and raised? I was born in September of 1920 in Pittsburgh, PA. My dad was working for West Penn Oil Company. Moved to Clarksburg, W.V. where I was raised until college.

How long have you lived in TN? I came to TN every summer since 1993 (April-Oct.) and moved here permanently in 2020.

Name something unique about you that very few people know? I spent a year with my great grandfather who fought in the Civil War (specifically the Battle of Bull Run). He was an immigrant from Clifden, Ireland.

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? Reading historical fiction and playing with my great grandchildren. I really like old movies like “My Fair Lady” (Aubrey Hepburn) and “The Quiet Man” (John Wayne).

What qualities do you admire most in others? A straight thinker, a person dedicated to family and who has a deep faith in Jesus.



Meet Bonnie Van Pelt

Where were you born and raised? I was born in Cumberland, MD and lived there for 21 years.

How long have you lived in TN? 44 years (24 in Maryville).

Name something unique about you that very few people know? If it is wintertime I like to get in my pajamas right after I eat dinner!

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? . I used to play with baby dolls, then I played with my three babies. When they grew up I played with a bowling ball, then a tennis racket. My play has now turned into a passion for studying God's Word.

What qualities do you admire most in others? I admire people who love Jesus and easily share their faith. People who are friendly, sincere, and together we can share some laughter.



Meet Sterley Van Pelt

Where were you born and raised? I was raised in Cumberland, MD until I was 19 and joined the Navy.

How long have you lived in TN?

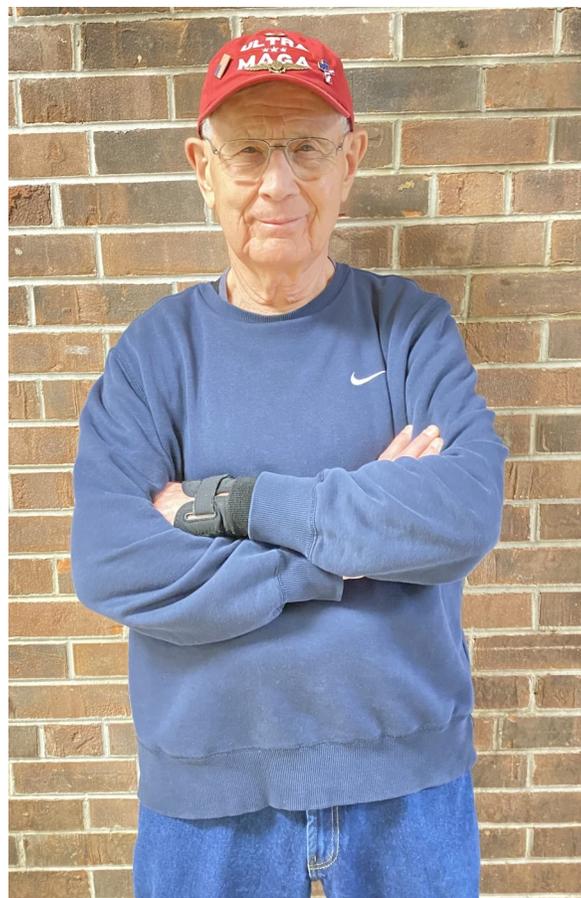
44 years (24 in Maryville).

Name something unique about you that very few people know? I was the personal pilot for the Vice President of the United States (Hubert Humphrey) for one day.

What is the hobby that you are most passionate about today? I enjoy camping, bicycling, and spending time in the woods.

What qualities do you admire most in others?

Honestly, integrity and unselfishness.





NOTICE

If you miss a Sunday service and would like a copy of the bulletin, please contact the church office @ 865-233-2365 or Pastor Parker at prbenson@gmail.com.

Just for today, I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study. I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.



44 Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus

#10 Called Immanuel

O.T. Isaiah 7:14

N.T. Matthew 1:23

#11 Fled to Egypt

O.T. Hosea 11:1

N.T. Matthew 2:14-15

#12 Escaped a Massacre

O.T. Jeremiah 31:15

N.T. Matthew 2:16-18

#13 Followed a Messenger

O.T. Isaiah 40:3-5

N.T. Luke 3:3-6



*"The more people pray,
the better the world will be,
the mightier the forces against evil."
Mother Teresa*

Don't Forget !!

SMGMC MEN'S LUNCHEON

April 18th

11:00 am @ Aubrey's



Smoky Mountain Global Methodist Church

3 Year Church Anniversary

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Trinity House

*Stay tuned for
further details.*

