

The Journey....

DRAWING OTHERS TO GOD THROUGH FAITH,
HOPE, LOVE AND SERVICE

MAY 2025



Bushnell Methodist Church
Bushnell, Florida
Joyce Dunne, Pastor



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

My Personal Testimony of Faith

I was blessed to have been raised in a Christian home and attend a non-Denominational Bible Church as a young child, where I was active in a girl's mid-week program called Pioneer Girls. This is where I really began to learn the stories of the Bible and the seeds of faith planted by my parents began to grow. During a summer camp experience at Word of Life in New York, I came forward at a campfire to publicly dedicate my life to Christ and made a decision to follow him. I always considered myself a Christian because my parents and grandparents proudly proclaimed Christ, read their Bible, prayed and attended church. My grandmother played piano in a Methodist Church, my mother served in the nursery and children's ministry, while my father served on committees. I thought because my family was Christian then so was I, that somehow my parents faith was my faith, not realizing until my summer camp experience that I needed to make a profession of faith for myself.

As a young teenager, my family stopped going to church, and I really didn't understand why, but as I grew, I learned that our pastor had committed adultery and stepped down from the pastorate and my parents were deeply hurt and devastated by the sin of the pastor. We started to visit different churches, but never connected to one again in the same way I felt connected to my childhood church.

During this same time my father became very ill. He went to work, came home and slept and basically didn't do anything else. He passed away when I was just sixteen years old. I was devastated.

My mom began working full time, so we wouldn't lose our home. I have memories of my mom coming home with government cans of peanut butter, blocks of yellow cheese, and powdered milk. We were a family who went from riches to rags when dad died. My new bicycle was my cousin's old bicycle, but we were happy even wearing our cousins' hand me downs. I had a free lunch card when only poor kids had lunch cards. But through it all, I knew I was loved and had everything I needed.

George and I were married in 1987 and we added two more children to our blended family of five that we already had to create our family. We joined a UMC church and became actively involved in ministry. Teaching Sunday school, active in children's ministry and leading the mission committee.

In 1998, we moved and began to attend my uncle's church. After a few months, I was involved in the children's ministry and began directing their midweek ministry with 85 girls and 25 volunteers. Then, an elder of the church asked me to fill the vacant position as their Children's Ministry Director where I served for almost 5 years.

Having the opportunity over the next several years to lead various mission trips in two countries and four different states served as a tremendous growth experience spiritually.

Having earned my Associates degree in Business Administration, some years earlier, my thinking at that time was to continue my education to become a lawyer. But the Lord changed my desire to study the Bible instead. Once I experienced that change in my heart, I adjusted my major and earned my Bachelors in Bible and Masters in Organizational Leadership to prepare for whatever God had for me next.

While working at a missionary sending agency, I felt the Lord call me back into church ministry, where God had used my gifts before.

By making myself available and allowing God to use my talents and education, I was able to help launch several new ministries, and realize numerical growth at the different churches where I served on staff and as pastor.

I vividly remember the first time I stepped into the pulpit to preach as the pastor. I was filled with doubt, fear and trepidation thinking is this really how God has called me to serve. I was literally shaking as I began the service, after all, I was comfortable teaching children and youth, but the pressure to get it right was greater before an adult congregation. Plus public speaking was not my strong suit. To make matters worse, the pulpit was too high, because the previous pastor was 6'4". Fortunately at the last minute, George found an old blueberry box for me to stand on so I could reach the mic. Unforgettably, just after a quick silent prayer, before stepping up on that plastic yellow crate to preach my first sermon, the Holy Spirit took all the fear away and replaced it with joy and confidence. Now knowing He had prepared me for such a time as this, to proclaim His word with clarity and purpose to bring encouragement and spiritual nourishment to His people.

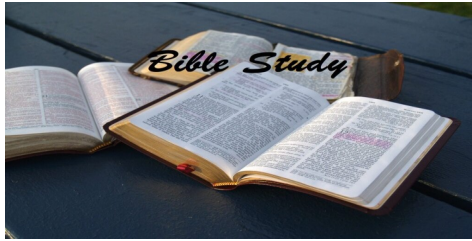
I only tell you this, because it was such an amazing feeling to experience the Holy Spirit change my fear into courage in an instant. A moment and experience that will never be forgotten the rest of my life.

As I reflect on how God has worked in my life, I can see why he changed my path from being an attorney to pastor, because my skill set has been better used in His church, to bring Him glory. In every church where I have served, ministries expanded, membership grew, leaders emerged, as the gospel was lived out and the Peace of Christ was shared. I praise God for the opportunity to witness churches grow in ways that I never could have imagined. My prayer is that you would allow God to use you also, beyond your imagination, regardless of what stage of life you're currently in. Our God is a loving and mighty God capable of doing great things when we allow Him to use us for His purposes.

Blessings,

Pastor Joyce





BIBLE STUDY
April 23rd through June 4th, Wednesday,
4:30-5:30 p.m.
"The Epic of Eden"
Understanding the Old Testament
by Author, Sandra L. Richter



FREE BREAKFAST
Saturday, May 3rd
Come join us the first Saturday of each month for a
free breakfast and fellowship. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to
10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!!



MEN'S BREAKFAST
Tuesday, May 20th, 9:00 a.m.
Darrell's Diner, CR-48, Bushnell



LADIES LUNCHEON

May 20th, Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.

Ladies luncheon will be held at the Amor & Agave Mexican Restaurant, 2082 CR-48, Bushnell. Please contact Celeste Hayes to confirm your reservation at 352-346-1304. Hope to see you there!



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 21st, Wednesday

**Trustees - 5:00 p.m., Finance - 5:30 p.m.
and Leadership - 6:00 p.m.**



The refreshments serviced prior to the Sunday morning service will be discontinued until the fall.

choir practice



Choir practice every Sunday morning
at 9:30 a.m on May 4, 11, 18th.

The last practice for the season will
be held on May 25th at 10:00 a.m.



MAY 26th - MONDAY



Happy Birthday to:

05/14 Hannah Foster

05/24 George Dunne

Happy Anniversary to:

05/17 Jay & Cindy Dittmer



Angie Bartel
116 Shawnee Trail
Ringgold, GA 30736

Marie Massey
3610 NE 16th Place
Ocala, FL 34470
352- 223-3766 (Cell)
352-620-9991 (Home)

Bert Park
110 Creekside Dr. Apt 204
Painted Post, NY 14870
607-689-6019

Betty King
2020 Harbourside Dr. # 422
Longboat Key, FL 34228



Please call or send a card



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11:00 a.m. Sunday, May 4
Scripture: Genesis 18:1-15 (NIV)
Sermon: "Sarah; A Gift With A Purpose"

11:00 a.m. Sunday, May 11
Scripture: Ruth 4:13-16 (NIV)
Sermon: "Ruth; Redeemed For A Purpose"

11:00 a.m. Sunday, May 18
Scripture: Genesis 29:16-30 (NIV)
Sermon: "Rachael & Leah; Chosen For A Purpose"

11:00 a.m. Sunday, May 25
Scripture: Luke 10:38-42
Sermon: Mary & Martha; Served With A Purpose

**Praying with you and for you,
Pastor Joyce**



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Website: www.bushnellmethodistchurch.org



SCAN QR CODE



EVENTS COMING YOUR WAY JUNE 2025

06/04 Bible Study, 4:30 p.m.

06/07 - Community Breakfast 8-10 a.m.

**06/17 - Men's Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. Darrell's Diner
Ladies Luncheon, 1:00 p.m.**

06/21 - Indoor Picnic Set-up

06/22 - Indoor Picnic



FARM SHARE

Come every 4th Wednesday of each month here at the church from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Some eligibility may be required.

MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Comm. B-fast 8-10 am
4	5	6	7 Food pantry 11a-1pm Bible Study 4:30 p	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day Choir prac. 9:30a	12	13	14 Food pantry 11a Bible study 4:30	15	16	17
18 Choir prac. 9:30a	19	21 Men's Break- fast 9:00a Ladies Lunch 1:00 p	21 Food pantry 11a No B/S Comm. meet- ings	22	23	24
25 Choir practice 10:00 a.m.	26 Memorial Day	27	28 Food Pantry 11a Epic B/S 4:30p FARM SHARE	29	30	31

Bushnell Methodist Church

221 West Noble Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513 Phone: (352) 793-3221
bushnellumc@yahoo.com

You're INVITED!

Sun. Worship at 11:00 AM

See you then!