

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

JULY 2025



Cindy and I have been reading through the book of Genesis over the last month. I remember Genesis being a book of beginnings as we saw in the creation story and a book of faith as we saw in the story of Abraham. But I have to admit, I forgot about a lot of the other stories in Genesis. Matter of fact, I remember saying to Cindy it almost seems it very much is a book about deceit and sex. Fiction writers today don't have anything on Genesis. Save your money on novels, Genesis has it all! I remember thinking, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Rachel, Joseph - these are biblical heroes, the good guy so to speak. I would hate to see the bad guys. But it reminded me that what set these people apart was not that they never did anything wrong, but rather that they believed and trusted God even though they were far from perfect. Remember, God didn't declare Abraham righteous because of his exemplary behavior. Rather God declared Abraham righteous because of his faith (Genesis 15:6). That doesn't mean God doesn't desire us to live holy lives, because he does. It only means that faith is what allows us to be declared right with God. It means that we trust God even when we mess up. It means we trust Christ to save us even when we may question whether we are worth saving or not. Our sins certainly affect our relationships with others. Jacob's sin of showing favoritism toward Joseph led to jealousy by his brothers and dire consequences for Joseph. Yet in the end, because of those dire circumstances, what would become the nation of Israel was saved from starvation because Joseph ended up in Egypt and continued trusting God.

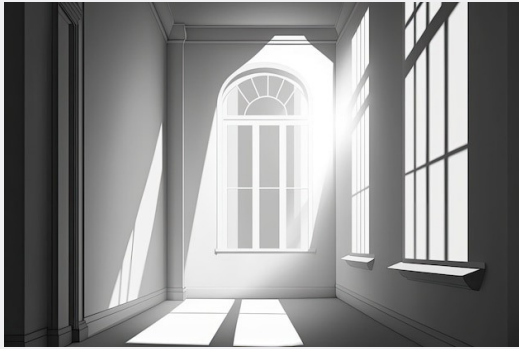
So I just want to remind you to keep trusting God. Even though you may have made mistakes along the way, keep trusting God. As we age, it seems our bodies may betray us at times and suffer the loss of friends and family. Keep the faith. Part of a song called "Blessings", by Laura Story come to mind:

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not, this is not our home
It's not our home

"Faith is being sure we will get what we hope for. It is being sure of what we cannot see," says Hebrews 11:1. And what we hope for and cannot see is an eternity with Jesus. That is our home. Faith - we believe God, we believe he loves us and wants what is best for us even when we mess up. We trust God to forgive us and help us not to mess up again. Is there something in your life you need to trust God with?

Blessings,

Brian



Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." This phrase signifies Jesus as the source of spiritual light and guidance. As followers of Christ, we're also called to be the light of the world, shining with goodness and righteousness, reflecting God's love and teachings to guide others. We're meant to let our light shine before others so they may glorify our Father in heaven.

NEW SANCTUARY WINDOWS

Just in case you did not notice, our new windows have been installed. This project is not complete. Moving forward, a team will be examining the possibility of using some of our old stained glass to create stained glass windows to hang over our new windows. This project is in its infant stages. Many have expressed a desire to have a piece of the old stained glass. This may be a possibility at a later date.

GREENLEAVES

Greenleaves met on June 17th and enjoyed pizza, salad, and cookies. Brian presented a program on the Global Methodist Church. The next meeting is July 15th at noon. Ron and Mercer will provide the meal. Plan on joining us.



MISSIONS

The June 14th Jambalaya Fundraiser was successful. Thanks to all who worked the event and to everyone that purchased a meal.





Dear Centenary Methodist Church,

Words cannot adequately express my deepest and heartfelt thanks to each of you for the love, generosity and support you have shown me and my family during this extremely difficult time. This church has been our home, our calling, and our joy for the past four years and I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the love you have shown us in so many ways-especially in the days following the passing of my husband, your pastor. Cecil's passing has left a void that cannot be filled, but your prayers, gifts, kindness, and presence have carried us in ways we could never have imagined.

While it is incredibly hard to say goodbye, I do so knowing that the same God who has carried us this far will continue to lead each of us. Thank you for honoring Cecil's memory with such love and grace and for holding me and my family in your prayers. You have helped me find strength in sorrow, and I will never forget your love and kindness. You will forever hold a special place in my heart.

May God continue to bless and guide this Church in the days ahead.

With all my love and gratitude,

Brenda

Brenda Locke (228) 219-3549

348 Lakebend Drive

Brandon, MS 39042



Congratulations to Peyton & Sydney Richardson on the birth of their son, Stephen Clarke on June 4, 2025. Clarke weighed 5 lbs., 8 oz. and was 18 inches long. Congratulations to Centenary Great grandmother, Mary E. Richardson.

Congratulations to Drew & Deborah Steven on the birth of their daughter Hope. Proud grandparents are Drew & Peggy Stevens and Centenary family, Barry & Hope Bickham.



Frazier, Kip, and I visited Moss Bluff UMC recently. We definitely surprised our former pastor, Steve Porter. Steve sends his greetings to all at Centenary.

JUNE ATTENDANCE

June 1	SS	39	Worship Service	76
June 8	SS	36	Worship Service	81
June 15	SS	32	Worship Service	68
June 22	SS	32	Worship Service	69
June 29	SS		Worship Service	



7/2 Monroe Carter	7/17 David H. Burris
7/8 Brenda Locke	7/21 Ron Brumfield
7/9 Vaida Bahm	7/22 Beth Reedy
7/10 Barry Bickham	7/24 Jocelyn Davis
7/10 Michael Bickham	7/25 Jim Cody
7/14 Chip Burris	7/28 Cole Green
7/14 Hope Bickham	7/29 Annette Stockstill
7/14 Peyton Richardson	7/30 Shirley Brown
7/16 Austin Reedy	7/30 Chris Foret

METHODIST MEN

The Centenary Methodist Men's Club met on Sunday June 1st and enjoyed their customary delicious breakfast prepared by Barry Bickham.



The program was presented by Ms. Patsy Welch, Director of the Pregnancy Center of Washington Parish, who explained to us how the Center helps expectant mothers and new mothers with preparation for birth and care for newborns. One of the services that they offer is helping new mothers deal with the sometimes overwhelming stress of caring for a newborn along with a job and other children.

The Men's Club is now in their customary Summer break and will resume meeting on Sunday, October 5th where we will hear from representatives of the Washington Parish Fair Rodeo Committee.





PRAYER CONCERNS

Judy Alston, Irving Andre, Laina Asprion, Baby Jack, Emerson Barger, David Berlin, Beth Blalock, Joan Brooks, Bob Burris, Will Burris, Irma Clark, Russell Creel, Jim Cody, Gayle Collier, Heather Young Crawford, Vignan Deshaboina, Patrick Dier, Sanjana Saraswathi Ganginen, Paul Givens, Barrett Green, David James, Katie Johnston, Melissa Lebo, Marguerite Lipaini, Ed Lyles, Jeanne' Lynch, Madelyn Massicot, Cynthia McCormick, Mike Mobley, Leighann Morel, Pam Penny, Jane Rester, Iris Reviere, Virginia Stager, Drew Stevens, Bonnie Stokes, Sandy Winkle, Rodney Wood.

Families of:

Tanda Schilling, Fredrick Brumfield, Polly Carter, Ad II Burris, J. D. Broadway Jean Folks, Rita Haswald, Tommy Vessier, Cecil Locke.

TEDDY BEAR BABIES

Baby Boy Worth-Parents: Spencer Worth & Lizzy Hafey, Grandparents: Allen & Casey Worth, Centenary Family: Barry & Hope Bickham.

OUR MILITARY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Gavin Berne, Carson Fontenot, Kelly Reiss, Brody Schilling, Jackson Stewart, Chad Penny, T. J. Smith, Josh Magee, Andrew Darbonne, Gavin Brumfield, Dillon Mitchell, Mason Knudson, Jonathan Pignato.

CONTACT US

Brian Ridgedell (985) 323-3889

Faith (985) 515-0134

Church Office (985) 839-3808

Pastor: Brian Ridgedell
Secretary: Faith Bahm
Custodian: Lee Dudley

Choir Director: Bonnie Pope
Treasurer: Julie Foret

CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH

office@centenarymethodist.com

1015 Cleveland Street, Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

Centenary Methodist Church

1015 Cleveland Street

Franklinton, Louisiana 70438