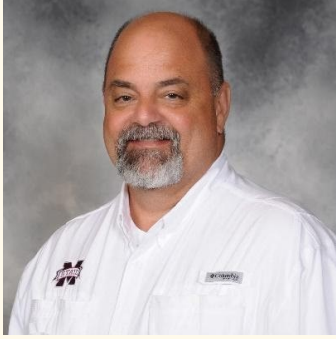


THE CIRCUIT RIDER



May 2023

Today is Wednesday, April 26, 2023. This coming weekend is weighing heavily on my mind. Some of us will gather this weekend for a camping outing at Bogue Chitto State Park. On Saturday many more will gather for our church picnic and all the activities associated with it. I'm still working on a message for Sunday morning worship, and we have a Church Conference scheduled for Sunday evening to vote on disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. I don't know how any of these things will eventually turn out. I may have some thoughts and leanings toward which direction things will go but there is no guarantee how anything will be.

Anything from bad weather to mechanical issues can quickly derail a promising camping trip. Weather will play a role in the success or failure of the picnic. Mike may burn all the chicken, or someone might fall in the lake during our children's fishing tournament. My Sunday morning message may be the most brilliantly constructed sermon that speaks life and truth to all who hear it, or it may fall flat and put half of y'all to sleep. And the vote Sunday evening may not go as you hope.

I may not know how things will turn out this weekend, but I do know this, God will be with us. Monday morning God will still be God. And God will still be leading and guiding us. God will still be healing and helping us process the events of the weekend. And as we reflect on the picnic or the sermon or the vote, we will see God at work in these events also.

Regardless of the outcome of Sunday evening's vote, we will have a time of healing on Sunday May 7, 2023. This has been a difficult season in the life of our church, and we need to spend some time allowing God's Grace to restore and heal before moving forward.

Blessings,
Bro Cecil

NEXT STEPS

Our church has officially voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. What are the next steps?

The vote will be approved by a special session of the Louisiana Annual Conference on May 27, 2023.

If approved, and there should not be any issues, separation will be official on May 31, 2023.

The office staff and church leadership is busy changing our official name with the Secretary of State, obtaining a new Federal Tax ID number, changing names on our banking accounts, removing the Cross and Flame emblem from all church property, setting up a new web page and all the other administrative changes that need to take place,

We will have to purchase new Hymnals. The United Methodist Hymnal we currently use is exclusively for use in United Methodist Congregations. We are looking at purchasing a Hymnal from Seedbed Publishing named "Our Great Redeemer's Praise." Information will soon follow with how to purchase one in memory or honor of someone. Our current United Methodist Hymnals will eventually be boxed up and given to the Louisiana Annual Conference per the withdrawal agreement. If your family purchased one of these hymnals in honor or memory of someone and you wish to have that particular hymnal, it will be made available to you.

We will begin exploring whether we will remain independent or associate with another Wesleyan/Methodist denomination. Some disaffiliating churches are choosing to remain independent, but the majority are moving toward the new Global Methodist Church. We will have a series of meetings to discuss our options and will vote when everyone is comfortable and ready.

I will be traveling to Jackson, MS., this Saturday May 6, 2023, to hear from Bishop Scott Jones who has left the United Methodist Church and has joined the Global Methodist Church. Bishop Jones will be giving an update on the current state of the GMC. Bishop Jones will be speaking and taking questions from 2:00-3:30pm, at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Madison, MS. The meeting is open to anyone, and I welcome anyone who may want to attend with me.

We will have meetings on Wednesday evening May 10, 2023, Sunday evening May 14, 2023, and Wednesday evening May 17, 2023. All meetings will be at 6:00PM. We will have additional meetings if needed or desired.

Church Picnic & Camping



Centenary had 7 campers participating in our campout at Bogue Chitto State Park this past weekend. Our picnic was held there on Saturday and was a success. The food was good and the weather did not hinder our activities.

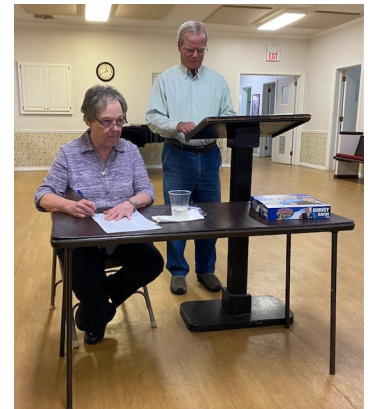
CENTENARY EASTER EGG HUNT

A big Thank You to Ron & Mercer Brumfield for organizing our annual Easter Egg Hunt and to Mike & Cynthia McCormick for hosting the event. The kids enjoyed hunting eggs, games and refreshments.



GREENLEAVES

Greenleaves met on Tuesday, April 18th in the Fellowship Hall. Mercer & Ron Brumfield provided the meal. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a game of Family Feud. The Armadillo Family defeated the Muskrat Family. Everyone enjoyed having Catherine Tiner back at church. The next gathering will be on Tuesday, May 16th at noon. Sandy Miller, Elizabeth Ard, and Pam Killingsworth will provide the meal.



GREENLEAVES is invited to attend the Annual Fish Fry with Mt. Hermon Methodist Church at 11:30 am on May 13th. 22055 Hoyt Stafford Road.

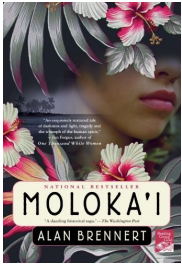
UNITED METHODIST MEN

The men met on Sunday, April 2nd and heard Sean Johnson, CEO of Riverside Medical Center, who gave us an update on the hospital and discussed its future plans. Our next breakfast will be on May 7th and the speaker will be Penny Jones, Legislative Assistant to State Senator, Beth Mizell, who will inform us about the Veteran's Park that is currently being constructed. We urge all of Centenary's vets to join us for this breakfast. On Thursday, April 27th, a number of our members attended the annual Men's Supper held at St. Timothy Methodist Church in Mandeville to hear the Rev. John McKellar of Springlake, TX who spoke on "The Cost of Courage." We have filled our table every year that we have attended and this year was no different.



APRIL ATTENDANCE REPORT

April 2	SS-33	Worship-64
April 9	SS-	Worship-94
April 16	SS-33	Worship-67
April 23	SS-36	Worship-82
April 30	SS-31	Worship-72



BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet on Monday, May 15th at 11:00 a.m. May's book is **Moloka'i** by Alan Brennert. Please come with a suggested summer reading list.

Finn Rhodes recently got in the car an hour early eager to get to church. Finn wanted to carry the FIRE in to the church. Thanks to Emma & Kate for their assistance.

IS THERE A MESSAGE FOR US IN THIS STORY?



THURSDAY, MAY 4TH

NOON

FLAG POLE AT ROCK HOUSE



- | | | | |
|------|------------------|------|----------------|
| 5/2 | David Norwood | 5/23 | Drema Sabiston |
| 5/6 | Mattie McCormick | 5/25 | Amelia Norwood |
| 5/7 | Grayson Bell | 5/30 | Laura Logan |
| 5/9 | Jesse Burris | | |
| 5/10 | Robert Thomas | | |
| 5/11 | Whitney Bahm | | |
| 5/15 | Mike Todd | | |
| 5/20 | Zack Bell | | |
| 5/20 | Mary Jo Poole | | |



PRAYER LIST

Irvin Andre, Kathy Andre, Clara Jo Beaushaw, Don Bernard, Beth Blalock, Hallie Blalock, Haylee Brooks, Izzy Brooks, Al Bontrager, Lynn Bourgoyne, Stacey Breaux, Jewell Burch, Bob Burris, Sharon Bush, Steve Bush, Polly Carter, Roland Carter, Patti Catalano, Willie Chauvin, Charlie Corkern, Kelli Darbonne, Amy Dudley, Lee Anna Dudley, Kathy Dykes, Elaine Forrest, Prentiss Forrest, Charles Hamilton, Sue Johnson, Pat King, Margerite Lipani, Donna Locke, Betty Logan, Peggy Lyles, David McBride, Bobby McInnis, Lylia McInnis, Margie McInnis, Bobbie Brumfield Miller, Mason Pepin, Myrna Schilling, Mike Sharp, Dr. Jerry Thomas, Catherine Tiner, Steve Wise.

Families of: Richard Holmes, Margie Passman, Jackie Harrison, Ann Harris, Alaina Jane Foreman, Pearl Descant.

TEDDY BEAR BABIES

Baby Girl Tregre-Parents: Cody & Sofia Tregre, Centenary Grandparents: Don & Sarah Tregre, Centenary Great grandmother: Margie Dunnington, Centenary Great uncle: Jeffery Dunnington.

Baby Madison Elizabeth McCain-Parents: Connor & Natalie McCain, Centenary Grandparents: Kelvin & Kay McCain, Centenary Great Grandmother: Mary E. Richardson.

Baby Girl Bryant-Parents: John & Caitlyn Bryant, Siblings : Beau, Jackson, & Serena

OUR MILITARY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Gavin Berne, Carson Fontenot, Megan McCain, Kelly Reiss, Brody Schilling, Dr. Rebekah Schott, Lee McCain, Jackson Stewart, Chad Penny, T. J. Smith, Josh Magee, Andrew Darbonne, Gavin Brumfield.

**IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT THE CHURCH DURING OFFICE HOURS
CALL 985-839-3808. OTHERWISE 985-515-0134 OR 985-335-
7662.**

Pastor: Cecil Locke
Secretary: Faith Bahm
Custodian: Lee Dudley

Choir Director: Bonnie Pope
Treasurer: Julie Foret

CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

office@cumcfranklinton.org

1015 Cleveland Street, Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

DATES TO REMEMBER

5/2 UMW

5/7, 28 Mini-Methodist

5/18 Council Meeting

5/3, 10, 17, 24, 31 The Chosen

5/7 Book Club

5/23 Piecemakers

5/16 Greenleaves

Centenary Methodist Church
1015 Cleveland Street
Franklinton, Louisiana 70438