



Westover Reflections - June 2026

“And as Jesus taught in the Temple, He said, ‘How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.’ David himself calls him Lord. So, how is he his son? And the great throng heard him gladly.”
-Mark 12:35-37

I like reading, and watching, mysteries. My wife will tell you that I can usually **figure out the ending** before the story concludes. However, strange as it may sound, **I am not** really that good with **riddles**. Maybe it is my lack of interest in them, or maybe I simply have those moments wherein I’m dense. **Who knows?** Frankly, I like to think that it is because I am **too logical, too detail oriented**, which has caused me more than a few headaches along the way.

The above Scripture has caused more than a few folks to **scratch their head: “The Lord...my Lord...David... lord...so how is he his son?”** The **Gospel** reminds us that **“...the great throng heard him gladly.”** I am almost certain that they still hadn’t a clue as to what Jesus was saying! After the Resurrection, they would have a better understanding. They would know that Jesus was Messiah and Lord, Son of God, and son-descendent of David-of King David. Of course, this understanding would bring more joy.

But in this moment of the **Gospel scene**, it is rather difficult to comprehend the jubilant crowd, to be among them. Instead, I find myself standing off to the side with the **rest of Jesus’ disciples**. Yes, in my mind, I am, to be sure, interested in what is being said. But I am also pondering the **“riddle”** of the words. Recall, if you will, that in **Mark’s Gospel** especially, the disciples are the answer to another riddle: **“Who has eyes but cannot see and ears but cannot hear?”**

Here’s the thing: I am okay with sometimes being a part of that bumbling lot of Jesus’s followers. You see, I think that we Christians too often read the Bible over and again as some sort of means to the end of **black-and-white certitudes**. We have seen more times than we know wherein the Scripture has been turn into a weapon to strike our enemies, to advance our own worldview.

If we come to Scripture, my friends, in prayer and somehow expect to always be delighted, then we are **missing the boat**, as they say. To be sure, we would much rather stay clear of the **storm-tossed sea**, but we forget that that is **precisely** where Jesus tends to meet us, drawing us into an ever-deeper relationship.

If we come to Scripture in prayer and expect to always be in a state of peacefulness, well, here’s another riddle: **“What must be broken before God can use it?”** It is not an egg, my friends! It is **Christians themselves**.

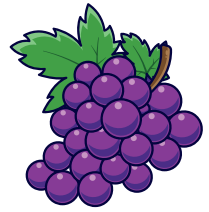
Remember that Jesus said, **“This is my Body broken for you.”** To be in Christ means to allow ourselves to be **broken** so that suffering and death will no longer be a concern. So that those who are lowly will be lifted up, the oppressed will be set free, the hungry will be fed, and the stranger among us will be protected.

“What goes up but never comes down?” I imagine more than a few things. But Christ ascended to the Father is not one of them. The One who sits on the Throne of Glory at the right hand of God the Father is still among us...always and everywhere...seeking to give us the heart and mind of Himself that we may be for the world those who seek to live into the image of the Risen Lord and to be the change in a world that seems to be spiraling downward at times.

Still in His Peace,
William



First Fruits of Worship



by Bruce Smith
Director of Music Ministries

Song Story: "In Christ Alone"

"In Christ alone, my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song."

Songwriters are a unique breed of musician. Often they covet having penned great songs with only their names attached to it for full credit. But in the case of Keith Getty, he was looking for a great collaborator to eventually write the great song of the church "In Christ Alone". Getty was looking to write a hymn that embodied the full faith of the church and have it be a full, rich, life-giving story of the gospel. He had his own struggles of faith from his youth. "I struggled to understand and fully embrace my faith amid an unbelieving, universalist, and multi-religious culture (when growing up in Durham, England). It was a journey to believe in the uniqueness of Christ, the Scriptures and the gospel story. By the time I came through this, my faith was stronger, and I really wanted to write songs for the Church."

Keith sought out the songwriter, Stuart Townsend, a lyricist, who had written the great song of the church "How Deep The Father's Love For Us." Getty stated in an interview that he told Townsend "let's write one song, I knew I wanted the song to be story-driven, so I said, "Let's do a song that tells the whole story of Christ coming to earth-the whole gospel story in one song. Let's have as many verses as we want, and let's just go for it."

So Getty wrote the melody and harmonic component of the song on the back of an electricity bill and sent it to Townsend, who loved it immediately. And, immediately started writing down lyric ideas on what they wanted to say covering the life, death, resurrection of Christ and the implications of this on our lives. Townsend commented "throughout this process was a deep desire to dig deep into the meaning of God's word and express it in poetic and memorable way, so that the truths of His word would remain in our minds. So that the truth about God and who we are in Him remains central to our lives as believers."

The Biblical truths abound in this amazing song – line-by-line...

In Christ alone my hope is found (Straight out of John 14:6)

He is my light, my strength, my song (Light – Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 5:8, 1 Peter 2:9, 1 John 1:5-7, 1 John 2:7-11. Strength – Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 22:19, Psalm 28:7-8, Song – Psalm 40:3)

This cornerstone, this solid ground (Christ is the chief cornerstone that is the foundation for the church (1 Corinthians 3:10-11 and Ephesians 2:19-22)

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm (References the wise and foolish builder parable in Matthew 7:24-27.)

What heights of love, what depths of peace (Summarized in Romans 5:6-8, Christ's love for us is expressed in sacrifice. Though Christ came the first time not to bring peace, but a sword of division)

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease (We no longer live for ourselves, but for God, summarized eloquently in 2 Corinthians 5:15 and Galatians 2:20.)

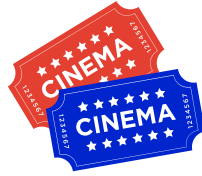
My comforter, my all in all (See Psalm 23:4, Psalm 71:21, Psalm 119:50-52, Matthew 11:28-30, and 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.)

Here, in the love of Christ, I stand (Philippians 2:16)

One great song, by two amazing composers, expressing in 4 detailed verses, the fullness of faith in Christ alone!

Movie and dinner night

Movie night is June 12 and the movie this month is “Jesus Revolution.” This is a thought provoking true story that will be sure to get you thinking. Dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM, with movie to follow.



United Methodist Men BBQ

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with the BBQ! The UMM report that it was a great success. It was a day of great food and fellowship with our church family and community. In addition to profits that will be used for various UMM projects, nearly \$350 in donations were given to support our blessing box



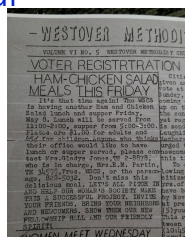
Blessing Box Reminder

Our blessing box continues to be, well, a blessing to those in our area with food insecurities. **This ministry relies entirely on donations and small fund raisers.** There is a donation box in the Hobby Chapel for anyone who feels led to help with this ministry. You are especially encouraged to bring items on the first Sunday of each month to coincide with Communion. **Most needed items are canned fruit, canned tuna or chicken, ready-to-eat canned soup, peanut butter, cereal or granola bars, canned pasta (like ravioli) and pasta sauce and noodles.**

Back in the day...

Recently, a copy of a Westover newsletter from May 1964 was shared with us. The leading story? A fundraiser by the Women’s Society. The women sold ham and chicken salad plates for \$1 per adult and 65 cents per child. Everyone was asked to bring their neighbors or newcomers and to show them “our new fellowship hall and our frinedly spirit!”

Although the menu, and definitely the prices, have changed, the invitation and friendly spirt are alive and well!



We maintain a pantry in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. If you are at church and notice the box outside is nearly empty, please feel free to grab few things from the pantry shelves and restock. **Everyone can be part of the blessing!**

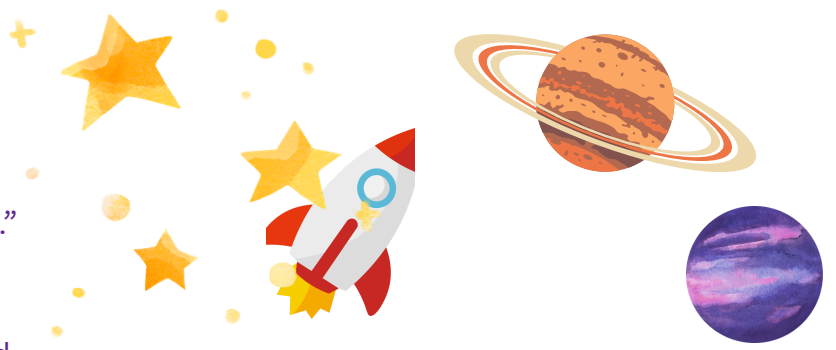


Vacation Bible School

It's hard to believe, but it is nearly time for VBS! Our theme this year is "Galaxy: Launching Kids on a Mission of God's Love."

As in the past few years, VBS will be a Friday evening and Saturday morning filled with stories, games, crafts, music, fellowship, food and most of all, God's love.

We'll need all kinds of help, so there truly is something for everyone to do! If you are interested in being part of the fun, please contact Sharron Gibson. The dates are July 17 and 18, so mark your calendar.



Sunday School

Our adult Sunday school class is continuing our study of the gospel of Luke. This book is so familiar to most of us, but we continue to be amazed at how much there is to learn. There is a seat for you, so feel free to come and learn with us! Sunday school starts about 10:10 AM every Sunday.

If you have children who would like to come to Sunday School, we are prepared for that! Just let someone in the adult class know and we will be delighted to spend that time in God's word with the young ones.

Books and puzzles, oh my!

Remember that we have quite a nice library and many puzzles available in the adult Sunday school room. Feel free to stop by and borrow something fun to do on a rainy (or sunny) day.

Mark your calendars

- Saturday, June 6 **Craft Circle** 10:00 AM
- Saturday, June 6 **lunch** 12:00 PM
- Saturday, June 6 **United Women of Faith** 12:30 PM
- Friday, June 12 **Dinner and movie night** 6:30 PM
- Sunday, June 14 **One Board Meeting** 1:30 PM
- Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18 **VBS**

Happy June Birthday to

Happy Birthday



- 2 Ayanh Ksor
- 2 Allie McDonald
- 5 Lucas Ksor
- 5 Samuel Danskin
- 9 Eli Carico
- 12 Lucy Walters
- 13 Briana Adebiji
- 14 Danielle Poole Joyner
- 23 Kathy McKinnon
- 23 Kolton Watkins
- 27 Richard Montes
- 29 Ron Hunter
- 29 Peggy Johnson