

In *Spirit* and Truth

Newsletter of Grapeland First Methodist Church

715 U.S. Highway 287 North / P.O. Box 457 Grapeland Texas 75844
(936) 687-4730 grapelandfmc@yahoo.com March 2024

The Pastor's Desk

We had a wonderful, Spirit filled worship last Sunday. I want to share a little from that message, but first tie into it a message from December.

"Where is the hope? Where is the peace? That will make this life complete."

While talking to one of my nephews during Thanksgiving, he seemed to echo the sentiments of this line from a song by Stephen Curtis Chapman, "Heaven in the Real World." And it seems to be the sentiments of many younger adults: what is the use in striving for anything? Prices are high and climbing, owning a home seems out of reach for many, crime is high, poverty is rising, somewhere in the world war is breaking out, people just can't seem to get along, and I could go on. While many are trying to find their place in this world too many appear to have lost hope.

Where is the hope?

I am sure you may already have the answer, "Their hope is in Jesus!" While absolutely true, my question is, how do they know this hope, where do they see it? The only way they can know about the hope that is in Jesus is to hear it from us. And the only way they can see the hope in Jesus is to see it in our lives. People need to see our living faith. Our faith that is active as we read in the book of James 2:14-26 "What good is it if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." Our faith must be active bearing fruit of God's Spirit. Read John 15:1-11. We are

called to bear much fruit and this glorifies God!

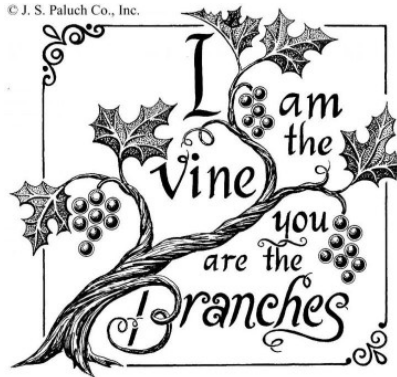
And second, if our faith is alive then we will grow in knowing God, we will become passionate and excited about God and sharing the Gospel message. Jesus tells us to abide in him so that our joy may be complete. I am sure you know that when a person is truly full of joy that is hard to hide from others. That abundance of joy overflows and is often contagious. And this joy is expressed in our worship. It doesn't matter if we are singing our favorite hymn/worship song, reciting the Apostle's Creed, or singing the Doxology (Praise God from whom all blessings flow...), we should be doing it with the joy of the Lord!

Jesus tells us that our lives will not bear the fruit of the Spirit unless we abide in him. And this requires work that God desires to do in our lives, pruning and fertilizing. But we must make ourselves available and willing for God to make these changes in our

lives. This is how we bear much fruit. This is the light of God that shines from us for others to see (Matthew 5:16). Let our living faith be filled with joy and passion for others to see so that they too can know the hope that is in Jesus!

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, work in our lives that our faith will be alive in you. Help us to abide in you so that our joy will be complete. Let all that we do be in your love and joy. May others see your presence in our lives, especially those who need hope. We thank you and praise your Holy Name. Amen.

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Prayer for revival will prevail when it is accompanied by radical amendment of life; not before.—A.W. Tozer

We recently received a donation to the church from a person in our community that is not a member, but attended one of our services. I would not normally write up a donation but we received a nice letter with this donation and I will summarize it below.

Dennis and Deko Conn gave a gift to our Lord and Savior through our church in memory of their son, Dennis Steven Conn (9/14/1967-9/29/2021) who was taken from them by the Covid pandemic. They are heartbroken but know that he is with Jesus.

They wish us all of God's blessings. The gift they have given us is "given to further the Word of God, spread His Gospel, teach his plan of Salvation or something your church needs and deems necessary to attain those goals." With this in mind it was decided that this generous gift will go towards our Vacation Bible School.

Vacation Bible School

March is just a few days away and summer will be here before we know it. That means we need to start planning for the summer and yes VBS! With the generous gift from the Conn's I hope to make this VBS extra special. But to do this, we need your help. We need 1-2 people to head up VBS to get it going and we will need a whole crew of volunteers. We have not set a date yet or selected materials. I am praying for a few leaders to step up so we can meet and get VBS rolling for the summer. If you are interested call the church office or fill out a VBS Volunteer card in the foyer. Pray for volunteers and pray for the kids that will attend. And may God touch in the hearts and lives of all involved with VBS!

***Grace and Peace
Pastor Wade***

Trip to Queen Esther Play

April 15, three nights. Lodging is covered, you will need to provide travel, food and tickets for any events. Contact Krystal Frank for details at 936-687-3872.

Sight & Sound Theatres is renowned for its amazing and breathtaking Biblical shows, and the new 2023 showing of Queen Esther holds up that reputation! The show is sure to delight with all of the things that make a Sight and Sound performance so special, from its special effects to live animals. Head to Branson to witness this marvelous production and learn about the life and struggles of Queen Esther. Search for "Queen Esther at Sight & Sound Theatres Branson" to find the website.



The Global Methodist Church

With the Global Methodist Church there are many things that are the same. However, there are a few things that are different. One is that we as a GMC church have a Catechism. This is NOT the catechism of the Catholic Church. This is our distinctive question and answer as Methodist to teach and define our beliefs. Below are questions 37-50 of 77 of the GMC catechism taken from their website <https://globalmethodist.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Catechism-V2.pdf>

B. Wesleyan Characteristics

37. *Are reason, tradition, or experience sufficient guides for Christian doctrine?*

No. Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation. (Isa. 40:8; 2 Kgs. 17:15; Rom. 1:21; Eph. 4:17-18; Col. 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:16; CoF IV.)

38. *What are the Sacraments?*

The Sacraments are symbols and pledges of the Christian's profession and of God's love toward us. (Mark 14:22-24; Matt 26:26-28; Luke 22:19-20; John 6:53-59; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 10:15-17, 11:23-25; CoF VI.)

39. *Are the Sacraments symbols only?*

No. They are means of grace by which God works invisibly in us, quickening, strengthening and confirming our faith in him. (John 6:53-58; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 10:15-17; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; CoF VI.)

40. *How many Sacraments are there?*

Two Sacraments are ordained by Christ our Lord, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (2 Kgs. 5:14; Isa. 44:3; Ezek. 36:25-27; Mark 14:22-24; Matt. 26:26-28; 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; John 3:5; 6:53-58; Acts 22:16; CoF VI.)

41. *May we baptize children?*

Yes. We believe children are under the atonement of Christ and as heirs of the Kingdom of God are acceptable subjects for Christian Baptism. (Luke 18:15-17; Acts 10:44-48; 16:15, 30-34; 18:8; 1 Cor. 1:16; CoF VI.)

42. *Is Baptism sufficient for salvation?*

No. Baptized children should be nurtured and led to personal acceptance of Christ, and by profession of faith confirm their Baptism. (Deut. 6:20-25; Mark 16:16; John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 2:38; 16:29-34; Rom. 10:9-11; CoF VI.)

43. *What is the Lord's Supper?*

The Lord's Supper is a means of grace, a representation of our redemption, a remembrance of the sufferings and death of Christ, and a token of love and union which Christians have with Christ and with one another. (Mark 14:22-24; Matt. 26:26-28; Luke 22:19-20; John 6:53-59; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-25; Gal. 3:27; CoF VI.)

44. *How do we encounter Christ at the Lord's Supper?*

Those who rightly, worthily, and in faith eat the broken bread and drink the blessed cup partake of the body and blood of Christ in a spiritual manner until he comes. (Luke 24:28-32; John 6:53-58; 1 Cor. 11:23-29; CoF VI.)

45. *Are there other means of grace?*

Yes. Among them are prayer and searching the Scriptures. (Matt. 7:7-8; Luke 11:13, 18:1-5; John 5:39; Acts 17:11-12; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; James 1:5, 5:13-18.)

46. *What is the natural state of humanity?*

We believe humanity is fallen from righteousness and, apart from the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, is destitute of holiness and inclined to evil. (Gen. 6:5; Ps. 51:5; Eccl. 9:3; Jer. 17:9-10; Rom. 3:23; 5:12-14; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 John 1:8; CoF VII.)

47. *Can we free ourselves from the misery of this condition?*

No. In our own strength, without divine grace, we cannot do good works pleasing and acceptable to God. (Ps. 51:5; John 6:63; Rom. 7:14-24; Gal. 5:17; Eph. 2:1; CoF VII.)

48. *Who then can be saved?*

With mortals it is impossible, but with God all things are possible. (Matt. 19:26; John 3:5, 16, 36; 5:24; 6:40; 8:51; 11:25-26; Rom. 5:8; Gal. 2:21; Eph. 2:1-10; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5.)

49. *How does God save us?*

By his preventing, convincing, justifying, sanctifying, and glorifying grace. (Rom. 2:14-16; 3:21-26; 5:15; 6:14; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:21; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 2:12-13; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Heb. 10:22; 1 Pet. 4:10; 5:10; 1 John 3:9)

50. *How does grace dawn in the helpless soul?*

God's preventing (or prevenient) grace lightens the effects of original sin even before we are aware of our need for God. (Deut. 4:37; 7:6-8; 14:2; Matt 5:45; Luke 15:20; John 6:44; 15:5; 2 Pet. 3:9; Titus 2:11-12; D&D §102.)



Thank you for being a faithful servant of our church! Please let Donna know if you are unable to fulfill your obligation for this month.

Counters

March

Jim Chambers

April

Bob Reeves
Sonny Tunstall

Deadline for April Newsletter

If you would like articles or information in the Monthly Newsletter please have information to Donna at the church office by March 15th at noon.

Average Worship Attendance

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Jan	32	37	45	49
Feb	33	44	64	47
March	54	46	54	
April	57	55	58	
May	54	45	59	
June	56	34	50	
July	52	49	52	
Aug	49	60	63	
Sept	48	55	41	
Oct	54	58	51	
Nov	52	52	47	
Dec	51	51	53	

Needed for monthly budget

\$19,648

Monthly Giving

Mar	\$12,588
Apr	\$13,372
May	\$12,123
Jun	\$11,485
Jul	\$17,428
Aug	\$16,877
Sept	\$12,051
Oct	\$14,879
Nov	\$11,309
Dec	\$15,667
Jan	\$10,369
Feb	\$15,098

Pray for One Another

Carry each others burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

If a person needs to be placed on the list or taken off the prayer list please contact the church office.

Carolyn Carole	Marilynn Wilkens	Dr. Divine
Albert Trip Chapman	Jennifer Nelson	Ed Lindsey
Mary Craiker	Jan Smith	Luka Bolselmo
Joe & Kay Daniels	Jim Whitmore	Johnny Gregory
Ruby & Buddy Kennermer	Porter Herod	Raymond Jordan
Troy Pennington	Regina Flewellen	Joy Riza
Joyce McDaniel	Bobby Hallmark	Bill Gayle
Charles Ridges	Marilynn Johnston	Kyle Malone
Georgia Foster	Chris Stephens	Maridelle Shirley



Memorials

January

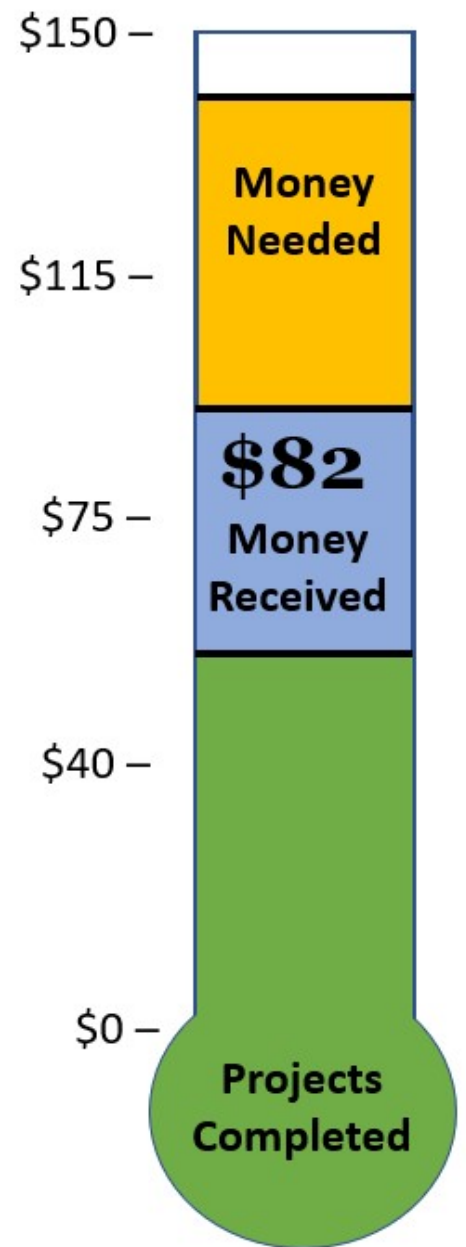
- In loving memory of Kaiston Enoch Taylor by Nancy Langham, Charles & Linda Blair, Ed & Beverly Palms
- In loving memory of Diann Montgomery by Nancy Langham, Tom & Vickie Gates, David & Nanci Olson, Coffee Class, Kevin & Kim Jones, Krystal Frank, Drue Cochran

February

- In loving memory of Dan Walling by Nancy Langham, Bo & Lissa Vickers, Jerry Hinson, Troy & LaWanda Pennington, Jim & Jan Chambers, Charles & Linda Blair, Loyd & Mildred Dickey, Drue Cochran, Porter & Frances Herod, Dave Bennett & Carol Anders, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Childress, Michael & Amy Cutshaw, Forest & Betty Hoch, Laura Denham
- In loving memory of Kaiston Enoch Taylor by Jim & Jan Chambers
- In loving memory of Diann Montgomery by Dlane Mattox. Bo & Lissa Vickers, Forest & Betty Hoch, Jim & Jan Chambers, Anonymous, Porter & Frances Herod, Darryl & Martha Brown, Michael & Amy Cutshaw
- In loving memory of James Hobson by Nancy Langham, Porter & Frances Herod

Grapeland FMC Proposed Projects

Proposed Projects	** Cost
Fence in back (completed)	\$15,800
Exterior Paint, Repairs & Bird guards	\$44,000
Drainage & Gutters in Back (completed)	\$9,800
Brick on Front	*\$10,000
Landscaping in Front	*\$2,000
Restripe Parking lot	*\$2,000
Stop the Bleed Kits (completed)	\$350
Security Cameras	\$10,000
Network & WiFi upgrade	\$1,000
Handrails in Sanctuary (in progress)	*\$500
Front Sidewalk Handicap Accessible	\$5,000
Sound System upgrade	\$23,000
Video Streaming & Overflow in FLC	\$6,000
Screens in Sanctuary	\$6,000
** <i>Expected Maximum Cost</i>	\$135,450
* <i>No bids acquired at this time</i>	



*We are depending on your donations for these projects.
 We will only begin projects as we have the funds for them.
 If you would like to donate towards these projects please
 put “Special Projects” in the memo of your check.*

Upcoming Events

I hope you can join us for these special events in the life of our church. Invite your friends and neighbors, especially those who do not have a church home. And for those who have a church home, there are several events where we hope the community will join us.

Holy Week

Sunday, March 24th—Palm Sunday

Monday, March 26 thru Wednesday, March 28

Lenten Lunch with singing and a devotional each day at noon

Thursday, March 28th at 6:00pm—Maundy Thursday Service
a service of Holy Communion remembering the *Last Supper*



Friday, March 29th at 6:00pm—Good Friday Service
a service remembering Jesus' crucifixion



Saturday, March 30th—Grapeland Egg-Stravaganza!

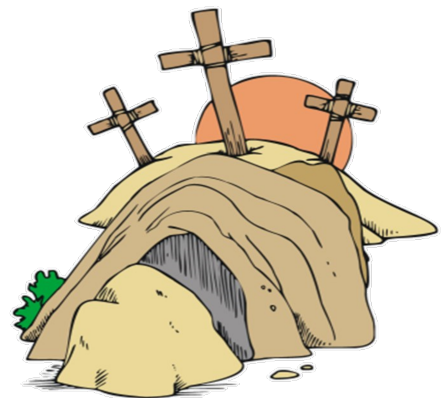
1pm-3pm at the Grapeland City Park

Sunday, March 31st—Easter Sunday

7:00am Sunrise Service and pancake breakfast

11:00am Worship Service

Praise Band & Coins 4 Kids



Wednesday, April 3rd at 10am - Women's Love Circle

Sunday, May 5th—Church in the Park - worship service will be held at the Grapeland City Park. Bring your lawn chairs and lunch.