

WESTOVER REFLECTIONS

WESTOVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2022

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Westover Family and Friends,

2022 is a new year. I think many are cautiously hopeful. Each day is pregnant with new possibilities. Life can be full of surprises, and part of the pleasure of living are the good surprises that God places into our lives. Romans 8:28 says: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. No matter what this year brings, God promises to be faithful to you and to do good. Even when life becomes difficult and you face an uncertain future, you can be sure that God has your back. Good can come out of the trouble. May 2022 be a good year for us all.

Peace,

Pastor Sung



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 MARY ANN BROOKS
- 6 FRAN MCDONALD
- 7 DER KSOR
- 9 ADAM HOLT
- 14 AARON JONES
JONI MEDLIN
- 17 ANDREW MITCHELL
- 18 FRED BURKE
- 25 MELIINDA FAY
- 26 SCOTT GORDON
- 27 MAX DANSKIN
- 30 DOUG NOWELL
HAYLEIGH DENNY

FIRST FRUITS OF WORSHIP

Spirit & Truth

Bruce Smith

Director Music Ministries

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.” John 4:23

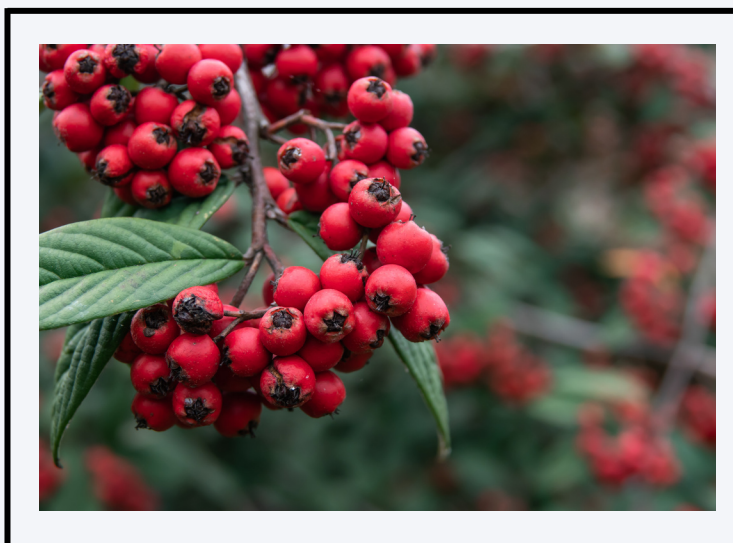
In this final installment in this series, we are looking at the two important qualities of worship shared with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well in the Gospel of John – spirit and truth – and how we benefit from worshipping the living God in this way. To date we have discovered that these qualities of our worship produce Power, Healing, and Revelation in our lives. This month, we’ll consider the fourth benefit of Spirit and Truth worship...

4. Reconciliation

Let’s face it – we live in a broken world. We see it all around us – broken relationships, divorce, anger, disappointment, and unfaithfulness. Whether at work, in our homes, in the church, with our extended family – don’t we all have some broken relationships out there that cause us pain? We are a people in need of reconciliation.

Reconciliation is defined as “the act of causing two people or groups to become friendly again after an argument or disagreement”. This quality was desperately needed in the early church in Corinth. The Apostle Paul wrote these words to encourage these believers...

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.” 2 Cor 5:18-19



Because God has always been about the business of reconciling His people to Himself (note the entirety of the Old Testament is devoted to God reconciling His chosen people!), He certainly wants that for us in our lives. He wants there to be

- harmony in the household
- unity in the church
- peace and productivity in the workplace.

In the midst of our “spirit and truth” worship, He will guide your conscience and tap you on the shoulder to encourage you to go apologize to your neighbor, your spouse, your co-worker. He will urge you to sit down with that brother or sister you are feuding with. He is the God of peace – do you think He’s capable of restoring peace for you? Then take Him at His word.

In our moments of concentrated focus on God, we learn things about ourselves and others, and God uses that “teachable moment” in His presence, to help seal and save friendships, marriages, jobs, and important relationships. He’s in the reconciliation business, and He wants us to be too!

PLANNING FOR 2022

Clara Worsley

Administrative Council Chair

Happy New Year to each of you! The year 2021 has flown by (as time always seems to do) and now we can begin anew with thoughts, plans and hopes. We had thoughts, plans and hopes for 2021, but life throws curves and it sure has for many months! We despair; we are saddened; we are confused – and our faith can be tested. I know that God understands how we feel – we are God’s children so our Father understands us – as our Creator. So, God never gives up on us – we should never give up on God.

Our Heavenly Father hears our thoughts; Our Heavenly Father hears our plans: Our Heavenly Father hears our hopes. God knows all of this, for each of us. And God has plans for us. God has plans for Westover. God is with us in all the challenging moments as God is with us in all the good moments. We must continue to trust and to obey and to not lose faith.

Administrative Council has thoughts and plans and hopes for 2022. We know that some of those things will come to pass, but we also know that the “best laid plans” can fall apart. But we promise to keep on and to move forward, and to always plan and do what is best for you and God’s Church. Council members want to hear from you with ideas, thoughts and plans. We cannot go through this year alone – we must go through 2022 together, with God at the center. May the year 2022 bring you joy and blessings!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAIRBOOTH

By Tommy Highsmith

As we all know the 2021 NC State Fair is over and our church food booth has been put to rest until 2022. It is with pleasure that I say this project was a total success; thanks to all the hard and dedicated workers we had, especially the Cross Waves group. We could not have accomplished this without them. Our profit for the 2021 Fair was **\$21,113.26** which will be distributed accordingly. Once again, a great big **THANKS** to all those who had a hand in making our Food Booth successful in 2021 and we hope this can be done again in 2022. Hoping that all had a Merry Christmas and your New Year will be prosperous and filled with joy.

BAG LUNCH MISSION

By Janet Giannattasio

In March of 2020, due to the pandemic, the Bag Lunch Mission started sending \$150 a month to Oak City Cares as it was not safe to go there in person. We continued to send that amount through October 2021. In November I sent what I thought would be the last donation, \$151.54. In November 2021, Oak City Services provided:

Showers with toiletries - 704

Laundry with detergent pods and dryer sheets - 419

Care Coordination - 154

Total Meals Served through the OCC Weekend Meals Program- 2,760

You all have been so kind, and, once again have shown your generosity; I have been informed that there is now enough money for several more months! THANK YOU! In December, Lou and Kim went to Oak City to drop off well over 200 Tide laundry pods, several bags of toiletries, towels and blankets. Needless to say, Oak City was extremely grateful. I think that the Bag Lunch Mission will "make it" to the 13-year anniversary. May you all be richly blessed with good health and happiness in the coming year.



UMM

By Tommy Highsmith

Just a reminder to the Methodist Men that our group has not been dissolved or abandoned. Our meetings will resume when it is felt that we can do so safely. In the meantime stay safe, healthy and have a Happy New Year.

JANUARY WORSHIP

January 16: Rev. Gray Southern will be preaching at both services.

January 30: Music Service lead by Bruce Smith and Robert Daniels

PASTOR AWAY/UNAVAILABLE

Pastor Sung will be away from January 16-18. You can contact her on her mobile number for emergencies. She will also be in the area but not be available January 12-14 from 9-5 and January 24-25 from 12:30-5pm.