

# WESTOVER REFLECTIONS

WESTOVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JULY 2022

## *A Letter From The Pastor*

Greetings Westover UMC,

As you likely know by now, my name is Damion Quaye, and I am the newly appointed Pastor at Westover United Methodist Church. One of the first things pastors are asked when they arrive in a new place is what do we call you? Let's get that out of the way first. I'm partial to Pastor Damion, or Pastor D., but I am extremely flexible. My family and I are excited to join you in ministry and hope to become a productive part of the church community. I know these types of transitions can be unnerving, so I'd like to share a little about myself and my family to help ease some of the uncertainty.

My wife and four kids are among the most important parts of my life. My wife, Chandra, and I have been married for over 20 Years. My oldest son, Damion Jr., lives in Fayetteville and has a daughter, Sarai, of his own. Christian, 17, Trinity, 15, and Eden, 7, still live at home with us. Christian has been accepted to Highpoint University and will be headed there in the fall.

I have a diverse religious background. I attended both a Catholic school and a predominantly Jewish school growing up. I was raised in the Baptist Church. I first joined the Methodist Church in Maryland about 20 years ago.

In addition to the diversity of my religious experiences growing up, I have also had a diverse journey in ministry. I have served as Youth Pastor in a United Methodist Church in Maryland as well as Associate Pastor for two United Methodist churches. I have served as a camp counselor/director at a Christian camp sponsored by Children Bible Ministries. My previous appointment was as Pastor of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. Before moving to North Carolina, I served as pastor of a non-denominational church.

I consider myself a storyteller and over the next few months, I hope to have the opportunity to share more of my story with you. Hopefully, this serves as a beginning to that story and a way to help ease some of the uncertainty surrounding my arrival.

Churches are facing particularly challenging times, perhaps even more so for United Methodist churches. In times like these, there is comfort in stability, but my very arrival brings the mystery of change. I pray we will navigate that mystery together and uncover ways to make Westover stronger and serve the Lord productively together.

Blessings,  
**Pastor D.**

# First Fruits of Worship

## UNDERSTANDING THE NAMES OF GOD

BY BRUCE SMITH  
DIRECTOR MUSIC MINISTRIES

Worshiping the living God requires us to know to whom our love, praise, and adoration is directed. We need to have a picture, a glimpse, and an understanding of the One we devote our worship to. With that in mind, I think we can get a clearer view of Him by looking at the many names of God from scripture. Each of these many names point to a characteristic of God that can prompt a response from us – an acknowledgement from us based on how He has ministered to us directly with that quality.

The Bible shares over 900 names of God, and I believe these names are used not to confuse us about who God is, but to clarify just how He can minister to us in our time of need, joy, hurt, and peace. So, let's examine just a few of them (no - we're not going to examine all 900!) and how we can focus our worship by understanding these wonderful names.

**Yahweh** - (Exodus 3:14) This is the only proper name uttered in the Bible for God. It originates from Moses' encounter with God on Mount Sinai where God tells Moses "I AM who I AM". This name specifies an immediacy, a presence. Yahweh is present, accessible, and near to those who call on Him for deliverance, forgiveness, and guidance.

**Jehovah-Jireh** - "The Lord will provide". (Genesis 22:14) This is the name identified by Abraham when God provided the ram to be sacrificed in the place of Isaac. It is God's character to provide all our needs "according to His riches in glory".

**Jehovah-Shalom** - "The Lord our peace" (Judges 6:24) This is the name given by Gideon to the altar he built after the angel of the Lord assured him he would not die as he thought he would after seeing God. This character of God assures us of His perfect peace in our lives.

**The Counselor** - (Isaiah 9:6) This characteristic of God refers to His desire to guide and instruct us, to be that small voice in desperate places pointing the way for us.

**The Cornerstone** - (1 Peter 2:6) This name is a reference to the architectural significance of the most important load bearing stone used at the corner of a building, and how this points to the quality of God as the most significant element of our spiritual structure and life.

**The Great Shepherd** - (Hebrews 13:20) The Bible is filled with references to shepherds watching their flocks, and this characteristic points to God's love and care for us – His sheep. It points to His protection over us, His provision for us, and His devotion to us.

**King of Kings** - (1 Timothy 6:15) No one is higher in the power structure than the king. But, the King of Kings rules and reigns over the most powerful. This characteristic of God points to His authority over the universe, and the power to command and guide. We can trust in the power and authority of the King of Kings.

**Light of the World** - (John 8:12) Our God possesses the great light that can illuminate any dark place we find ourselves. He wants to shed light on our path, so we do not stumble or lose our way.

**Abba, Father** - (Romans 8:15) This is the most intimate of names for God, literally declaring "My Father". It is the name of deepest love and trust, and is possessive – it's a claiming name that we are all challenged to use. For with this name, we have claimed Him and He has claimed us as His children.

So as you worship God, I encourage you to think on these names and qualities of God. This can give us all a closer image of the One to whom we direct our praise. Give thanks to "the Great Shepherd" who cared for you when a loved one died. Praise "Jehovah-Jireh", who provided food, clothing, and shelter to you and your family at a time of great need. Worship "Abba Father", who has adopted you as His own child when you were so unworthy of His love.

When we think of His names, we can make sense of His enormity and omniscience and can relate to His love for us, and worship Him with full appreciation for who He is. And, isn't that just what He wants?

# So Many Blessings

BY CLARA WORSLEY  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CHAIR

We may think of summer as a time to sit back and relax – but it seems that Westover UMC didn't get that message! We are busy, moving ahead, making plans, carrying out plans...lots to do this summer! What a blessing!

For starters, we are blessed to welcome Reverend Damion Quaye as he begins his ministerial appointment with Westover as of July 1. We are delighted to have Pastor Damion with his wife Chandra and children Christian, Trinity, and Eden. We are known as a welcoming community and I know that we will welcome them with open arms and open hearts! We're excited to have them as part of our family and know that great things are ahead for all of us.

So that Pastor Damion and family can learn who we are, we are asking that those in worship services wear name tags during the month of July – we'll provide the name tags at each Sunday service during the month so please be sure that you get one.

That should be helpful to Pastor Damion and his family, but, perhaps the best thing we can do is keep Pastor Damion and his family in our prayers as they join us and as we get to know them.

To welcome them, there will be an ice cream social on Sunday, July 17, from 2:00-4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

At our last Administrative Council meeting, we voted to have a designated fund for A.B. Combs so that we can help out school families and children whenever the leaders at A.B. Combs identify needs. We've helped several of the A.B. Combs families who were having difficulties. We'll still do the school supplies before school begins so more information will come about that project. In the meantime, if you feel led to contribute to the A.B. Combs Fund, you can write a check to Westover and put A.B. Combs in the memo line.

What a blessing that we can assist those in need!

As always, Council members are available if you have questions or suggestions as we move forward this summer...we have so many possibilities....so many blessings, but to accomplish what we hope to do, we need Westover members to step up! Health problems for some of our "family" mean that things that have been handled by these folks for a long time now need others to step up and fill those shoes. This is your church; this is your family – it does take a village! So please volunteer, even if it's something small – there's a place for each of us and you'll be blessed!

God has a plan – God loves each of us, cares for each of us – and provides for us...we are to give back from the many blessings bestowed on us by our God! May each of you and your loved ones stay safe and well...with blessings abounding in your lives.

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## WELCOME *New Nursery Caregiver!*

Welcome to Emilie Fairman! Emilie has been hired as our Nursery Worker for the months of July and August. She will be available for the Arise and Shine Service and the 11:00 Worship Service. Lindsay is unable to continue in the role – we appreciate her service and wish her well!

Emilie lives in the community – close to Mark and Laura Brooks. She is very well qualified to work with children. She has done extensive babysitting and has been a camp counselor for children kindergarten to 8th grade. Emilie is certified in first aid and CPR. She is a senior at Ferrum College in Virginia and will spend a semester abroad in Italy.

Emilie's first Sunday with us will be July 3 – so please stop by and welcome her to the Westover family! We know that she will be a blessing to us and to our children!



# SONG STORY: DAYS OF ELIJAH

BY BRUCE SMITH  
DIRECTOR MUSIC MINISTRIES

**“Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call!”**

The Northern Irish worship leader and songwriter, Robin Mark, was watching a “Year In Review” television special one evening in 1994 and was struck by the devastating and tragic stories in the news that year (the lives lost in the Rwandan civil war as well as the tragedies of the struggles between Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the year.) “I began to feel a great despair for the world and it led me to prayer.” In his prayer, he asked God if He really was in control of the world and what sort of days we were living in.

“I felt in my spirit that He replied to my prayer by saying that indeed He was very much in control and that the days we were living in were special times when He would require Christians to be filled with integrity and to stand up for Him just like Elijah did, particularly with the prophets of Baal”, Robin recalls. As he thought about this, he not only recalled the courage and integrity of Elijah, but also other great Biblical characters like Moses who was holy and just, and David who reinvigorated a spirit of worship and praise. Because of Robin’s love for the Old Testament and the great stories of these spiritual giants, the song quickly took shape.

In this great anthem of hope, Robin Marks heralds the great spiritual qualities of these giants.

Of David...

**“And these are the days of Your servant, David, rebuilding the temple of praise”**

And Ezekiel...

**“And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh”**

And Moses...

**“And these are the days of Your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored  
These are the days of great trials, of famine and darkness and sword  
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying “Prepare ye the way of the Lord!”**

But this isn’t just a song about the past giants of the faith – this is a song of hope. Specifically, it is a hope-filled song about the church. It calls us to be laborers in the field – reaping the harvest. And the greatest hope of all is found in the chorus – reminding us that Jesus will return to earth for us!

**“Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun, at the trumpet’s call  
Lift your voice, (it’s) the year of Jubilee. Out of Zion’s hill, salvation comes!”**

As we find challenges of faith in the world around us, let us be reminded as Robin Mark was, that God is certainly in control, and we need to be bold enough to stand in courage to be the voice in the desert - “Prepare the way of the Lord”!



- 1 ETHAN BATTS
- 2 LES WATKINS
- MADDIE CHIN
- 3 VERA WENTZ
- CHRISTOPHER CROWDER
- 6 BONNIE HIGHSMITH
- CLAY ADAMS
- 7 CINDY CALDWELL
- 9 HELEN SLOAN
- 10 SANDRA DANSKIN
- 11 SEGUN ADEBIYI
- LANDYN REESE JOYNER
- 12 LANG KSOR
- 13 MAKENZIE WATKINS
- 15 MICAH MEDLIN
- KIERSTEN MARSHALL
- 16 JENNY BROWN-CHIN
- LYNNE CRUZ
- 22 PASTOR CLAIRE CLYBURN
- 23 LUCILLE LAMB
- 28 BARBARA GUE
- 30 TRAVIS KSOR
- DAVID MOY





# SAVE THE DATE

7/17



## WELCOME TO WESTOVER ICE CREAM SUNDAE SOCIAL

*Let's join together to welcome Pastor Damion and family...and enjoy ice cream too!*

On Sunday, July 17, from 2-4 pm come to the Fellowship Hall where we're having an ice cream social. This will be an informal get-together to meet and greet Pastor Damion Quaye, his wife Chandra, and children Christian, Trinity and Eden. We'll have ice cream, yummy toppings, and cookies...so eat a light lunch so you'll have room for ice cream. Hope you can join us!



## 7/24 CAMRYN LUCAS BABY SHOWER

Let's Shower Mommy To Be! A baby shower for Camryn Lucas will be held on July 24 from 2-4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. She is registered at Target and also on Amazon. You can access by entering Camryn Lucas and Clayton, NC or by visiting <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/3EKTODINSQ59G>

## WESTOVER UMC CALENDAR REGULARS

**Sunday: Arise & Shine Worship 9-10am**

**Gateway Christian Fellowship 10am-3pm**

**Sunday School: 10-11am**

**Worship Service 11am-12pm**

**Montagnard Service 1:30-4:30pm**

**AA 6-9:30pm**

**Emmanuel United Church 5:30-8:00pm**

**Monday: Flower Ministry 9am-3pm**

**NA 6:30-9:30pm**

**Wednesday: Zoom Prayer Group 11-11:30am**

**NA 6-9:30pm**

**Thursday: AA 6-9:30pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Sanctuary**

**Wesley Hall**

**Zoom Mtg**

**Builders**