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# he Lamplighter August 2024 · Volume XVII · Issue VIII

"Take Off Your Bib, And Put On Your Apron'

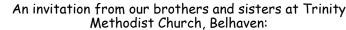
I once led a Bible Study by James Moore entitled, "Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned, But I Have Several Excellent Excuses." In one lesson, Moore wrote of the importance of Christians taking up the task of servant ministry. He used an illustration about a man who was speaking to a minister. He said, "I want to join the church, because I want to be fed." The minister then said to him, "Well, that's fine, but we would all be better off if you would take off your bib and put on an apron!"

What a powerful and poignant illustration! It is true that the church exists, in part, to "feed" its members, to meet their spiritual needs, and sometimes even their physical needs. But, we must always remember we as Christians have been called to follow the one who "...came not to be served, but to serve." The servant mentality is a central part of the Christian faith, and we should never forget this.

There is no shortage of opportunities for us to "take off our bibs and put on our aprons." There are several opportunities within our church to be active in servant ministry, be it participating in the various committees of our church, feeding the hungry, caring for children, guiding youth and countless other opportunities. Many of our members support these programs, but we need more willing hands. There is a place for everyone to be in ministry. Each of us, upon taking the vows of membership, promised to support our Lord and this church through our "prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness." If we meant what we promised, we will not wait to be asked to serve, but offer ourselves, our time and our gifts in the service of our Lord and our church.

We have many opportunities to "make good" on our confession of faith as Christians and our vows of church membership, to follow the example of our Lord, to "take off our bibs, and put on our aprons." Let's rise to the occasion now and every time we have the chance. See you in church Sunday.







Ark Encounter and Creation Museum Cost \$809—September 16-19, 2024

Join us as we tour the Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, Kentucky Derby and Churchill Downs in September 2024. The \$809 fee for each person covers double occupancy lodging, 2 dinners, 3 breakfasts, taxes and tips, with the exception of our bus driver and guide. Single occupancy lodging is available for an additional fee. Trip insurance is also available for \$92. We need your help to fill our bus!

Contact Carolyn Ricks (252) 945-5329 by text or call her and leave a message. She will contact you with the details or answer any questions you may have. Thank you and may God bless each of you.



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First Methodist Church Washington (established 1784)

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# From Your Associate Pastor of Missional Discipleship

First Church Family,

I wish to thank you for offering me this time of Sabbatical Leave. As you read through the Gospels, there were many times Jesus honored the command for Sabbath rest as He continually took time to be alone with His Father. I pray that this time will offer to me an intentional time to connect even closer with our Lord, as I ask for Him to pour into me a deeper sense of vocation so that I may best serve Him especially among the people here at First Church. I will see you all soon with a refreshed spirit.

In Christ,

Stephen Bazan

# Statement/FAQ

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has voted to approve a **Sabbatical/Renewal Leave** for the Associate Pastor Stephen Bazan of one month in length (**July 15-August 15**, **2024**).

### ---What is a Sabbatical/Renewal Leave?

A sabbatical/renewal leave is essentially an extended leave/absence in the career of an individual for the purpose of renewal. There is provision for such a leave time in the <u>Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline</u> (paragraph 417.3). Clergy may become eligible for such leave time when they have served in active ministry for a term of at least six (6) years.

Christian sympathy is expressed to the families of:

Patsy Bazan Amy Sheridan Zack Waters

# **4:30 PM** | Wedding **23** 3:00 PM Lennon/Feola Rehearsal SPRC Meeting *AM* Men at the e PM SPRC Meetir Teachers' 15 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM Child Care Staff Meeting AM Men at the Men at the **1** 7:00 AM Menat t Table AM Men at 1 29 Preschool ' Workday 7:00 AM N Table 7:00 / Table 6:00 / 22 7:00 / Table 6:00 / 28 Preschool Teachers' Workday | 1 4:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 7:30 PM Praise Team Men of Redemption Praise Team Men of Redemption Praise Team Men of Redemption Children's Ministry Chancel Choir **21** 4:00 PM ( Rehearsal 4:00 PM N 7:30 PM F **₹** ₹ ₽**₹** ₹₹ 14 4:00 | 7:30 | 4:00 6:30 Meetii 7:30 Calendar **20** 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 27 \*\*Preschool Teachers' \*\*Workday\*\* 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting Church ctivities 26 Preschool Teachers' Workday P 9:30 AM Methodist Women V Executive Board Meeting 1:00 PM Matthew 25 Board 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Children's SubCommittee 5:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Family Ministries Committee 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting Methodist Troop 99 Meeting Child Care Board < 5:30 PM ( 5:30 PM ( 6:30 PM P Meeting 7:00 PM 7 00 PM Ø 25 9:00 AM Blended Worship Service and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship Meetings 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship First

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# Letters

We want to thank all of you for building our ramp. Gentlemen, Without it Michael wouldn't have been able to come home. It is so nice and working out great for us. What a wonderful ministry you all are providing.

Blessings. Michael & Susan Dowdy

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the amazing brunch and gifts! I will take my Bible with me to NC State and use it often!

Thank you again!! Annabelle Howdy

Many thanks to the crew of folks from FMC who worked so hard to assist in making Mom's service so lovely, smoothly run, with lovely programs and delicious lunch! My family is grateful!

Jerri

Thank you so much for the wheelchair ramp for Jan! Rather big project! It looks great and will be a tremendous help.

We so appreciate your hearts for this wonderful mission. We understand that someone paid for the material. We are blown away by the generosity. We have enclosed a donation for the next ramp!

Blessings, Mark & Jan

I would just like to extend a big THANK YOU to this loving congregation for all your expressions of love and caring while Seth and I had both hip surgery recovery and COVID going on in our house at the same time. It was certainly a bump in the road, but your love got us through it. You will always be in our hearts!

Seth and Lyda

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the September Lamplighter is August 12, 2024, the second Monday of the month.

### MW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting will hold its August meeting at 9:30 a.m. on August 26 in Asbury Conference Room.

### AGAPE CIRCLE SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Agape Circle will pack Child Care snacks at 9:00 a.m. on August 6.

### AUGUST BLOOD DRIVE AT THE CHURCH

The Channels Missional Community will be hosting a blood drive in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, August 15 from Noon to 5:00 pm. Donors who participate will receive a \$20.00 Amazon Gift E-Card with a valid email address. If interested in helping to support this project with a life saving gift of blood, you can log in to schedule an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org, and look for the First Methodist Church sign-up for August 15. Sign-up will also be available on the clipboard at the Welcome Center in Wesley Hall. We thank you in advance for you support of this important way to meet the needs of our local friends and family in the area.

Channels Missional Community.

### **ONLINE GIVING**

Our Church now offers secure online giving through Square! You may designate funds to go towards various ministries of our Church or give to the General Fund. Contact: Chris Bollow.



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	Celebrating the gift of life during the month of August:
1st	Debbie Modlin, Michael McCullen
2nd	Paula Willey, Robert Sandy
4th	Ken Matveia, Landon Modlin
5th	Billy Jackson, Kim Roberson, Katherine Davis
6th	Billy Talley
7th	Danny Allen, Spencer Stanley
9th	Gordon Nash, Jim Buckman, Nelson Harbor, Paul Thompson
10th	Abbott Tunstall
12th	Bill Cook, Kim Jones
13th	Trey Howdy
14th	Miles Cox
15th	Ann Jones
16th	Sandy McFadden
17th	Janie Hauser
18th	Pam Griffin, Valerie Harris
19th	Kathy Lake
20th	Ryal Cox
22nd	Blair Stowe
23rd	Hazel Arnold, Bruce Mears, Angela Haltigan
24th	Doug Whitehead, Penny O'Brian, Bob O'Brien, Nathan Sopher
26th	Betty Jo Bradshaw, Debbie Branch
27th	Hanna Copeland
29th	Nancy Hemink, Becky Buck, Gary Stainback, Amelia Brown
30th	Judy Sinclair, Matt Sopher, Donna Buck

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# Family Ministries

August is a busy month here in our church. Summer is winding down, last minute vacations are happening before families need to return home and get back into their normal routines. School is about to start back, sports have already started to have practices, the nights are starting to get shorter, and for the most part, the travel season is winding down for many of us. So why do we do a special Sunday right in the middle of all of that called Promotion Sunday, and why do we make a big deal about presenting Bibles to our rising third graders? As Pastor Ken would say, "I'm glad you asked!"

At First Methodist, we have some very dedicated Sunday School teachers that are here every Sunday, upstairs in Sunday School classes with our youngest disciples, and they are very intentional during every lesson of having multiple opportunities for our children to be reading directly from the Bible. They don't just read the verse to the children or write it out for the children to read, but they ask children to bring their own or to use a classroom Bible and teach them the difference in the New and Old Testaments. They teach the different books of the Bible (in song even) and help the children know what a chapter is and a verse and then help the children practice finding where verses are and then have the children read those verses out loud. We are intentional about helping our children know how to read, how to search, and how to rely on the Bible to learn God's Word and His desires for their lives.

It is important for us to understand we are all the body of Christ, and we share these Bibles with our children because we are responsible for helping them learn about God and how He sent his son to die for us and how the Holy Spirit is with us always. You may not be actively involved with the children or youth ministry, but I pray that as they are walking their journey you are praying for them. I encourage you to smile and say hello as they come into church and maybe share a favorite Bible verse to help them continue to reach for their Bibles and want to learn more.

Parents of children who have or are receiving their Bibles from the church, I pray that you will encourage your child to bring their Bible to church. I pray you will use these Bibles in family devotions to continue to feed that spark of what God has for your children and for yourself. No matter how many times we hear the Word of God, He can say something new every time we open it.

"Everything written in the past was written to teach us. The Scriptures give us strength to go on. They encourage us and give us hope." Romans 15:4

### Sarah Beth

Director of Family Ministries 252-946-3311 Ext. 204 dfm@fmcwashington.com

# Child Care

July has been HOT! It has been the perfect month for our 3-5 year olds to study the Ocean and all that God has going on under the surface and above it! Some outside water play has added to the fun of summer for them, too. As our Bible lessons have taken us on visits through sharing by learning about the widow and her oil, the four friends who didn't give up and made a way to get their friend inside to see Jesus, and Mary showing love by listening closely to her friend, Jesus, each class has learned and experimented through activities with how to share with one another and how to do that at home in their neighborhoods as well. The kids have a friend named Topher the Gopher who loves to share the Gospel message with them as they learn. We promise he won't escape and do any lawn damage!

Diane Van Staalduinen

Child Care Director
Director's Cell: 252-947-2836

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# Matthew 25

# July Fellowship Meal

The Matthew 25 fellowship meal took place on July 13, 2024. John Gunnels spoke on prayer, and Kay Smithwick provided piano music. Cathy Oestreich led the cook team. Alton Griffin, Page Davis, and Kemp Huss grilled hotdogs. Seven members of Scout Troop 99 led by Dal Newbold and Carl Dunn served in many capacities.

Seventy-six guests were served in the Fellowship Hall, and 16 meals were delivered to our homebound church members for a total of 92 meals served.

Fourteen other volunteers and two nurses also provided services to our quests.

# Matthew 25's Tenth Anniversary

July 2024 marks the ten-year anniversary of the Matthew 25 ministry. This ministry has been filled with adventure, challenge, and great joy as we have worked to bring the love of our Lord Jesus to those in need in our community. We continue to grow and learn what it means to love unconditionally and serve selflessly as we seek to glorify our Lord.

We are thankful for the generosity of our church family and other members of the body of Christ for faithfully supporting us during the past ten years. We are encouraged as we anticipate what our Lord has in store for this ministry.

If you are interested in learning more and possibly becoming a volunteer, contact Lorre Bowen at 252-944-6548 or lorrebowen@gmail.com

# Thank you, Shirley

It is with grateful appreciation that we acknowledge the contributions of Shirley Stone to the Matthew 25 ministry. As one of the original founding members of this team, Shirley has dedicated herself to every aspect of this ministry for the past 10 years. Her wisdom, creativity, tireless labor, love, and compassion have been a great witness and encouragement to all.

Shirley is now lending her many talents to other areas of ministry in our church. We can say with much love, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

# School Supplies

The following school items are requested for our guests during the August and September meals for children in PreK through Grade 12. Your donations are appreciated and may be placed in the Matthew 25 basket outside the Sanctuary or in the bin outside Wesley Hall—Pencils, Crayons, Glue Sticks, Scissors, Pencil Box, Markers, Spiral Notebook, Black/White Composition Notebook, Dry Erase Markers, Expo Markers, Pencil Erasers, Gallon- and Quart-Size Baggies, Box of Kleenex, Clorox Wipes, Index Cards, Highlighters, 1.5-Inch 3-Ring Binder, Colored Pencils, Pens (Black or Blue), and Post-It Notes. Any donations that are leftover are given to the schools for students in need.

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# Library News

August is back to school time! Time for more learning and fun. Visit your church library to check out young adult books about bullying (has been going on forever-but now add internet bullying), "Coping with Bullying" by Charlotte Giuliano discusses in an easy to read (and lots of pictures) only 48 pages for students and parents.

Thank you to Janie and John Hauser for the ADORABLE framed picture for the children's corner.

Read every day!

Delane Juquay Church Librarian

### Summer Music Series

Please join us at our 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship Service where the Summer Music Series continues in August with guest vocalists and instrumentalists including:

August 4, harpist Kathy Sprau, well-known in North Carolina

August 11, violinist Michael Johnson (who played violin for us in our Christmas Cantata), and Leigh Stanley and Susan Crawford will play a 4-hand piano duet

August 18, vocalist Sally Thomas, soprano who is on the faculty at Campbell University and has been a part of this series for several summers!

Guest vocalists and instrumentalists during the Summer Music Series are made possible by the B.E. Singleton, Jr., and Jane W. Vaughn Memorial Funds.

### A GROW YOUR FAITH EVENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Join us on Sunday, September 15, at 5:30 pm to hear Jodie Berndt share how to Pray the Scriptures for your Family. This includes your immediate family, your church family, your friends and neighbors. Jodie is a popular speaker and the author of ten books, including the bestselling Praying the Scriptures series for Children, Teens, and Adult Children. Jodie has been a repeat guest on programs like Focus on the Family and The 700 Club, and she's written for Fox News, Proverbs 31 Ministries, and Ann Voskamp's daily devotional, as well as several family and parenting magazines. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center and outside the Sanctuary, or you may register online at <a href="www.hearttoheartconference.org">www.hearttoheartconference.org</a>. There will be a nursery provided, but you must sign up in advance. For more information, contact Beth Page at <a href="mailto:bethpage5@gmail.com">bethpage5@gmail.com</a>.

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# Preschool

We are excited that August has now arrived and we get to look forward to the start of a new preschool year. There are still a few available spots in our Little Bits and PreK classrooms. We would like to have a full house by the beginning of the school year, so please help us spread the word. Registration forms can be found on the church's website.

I would like to ask for prayers for our teachers and students as they prepare for the transition into the beginning of the school year. It is always a joyful time, but also a challenging time as well. With that said, here is a great opportunity to serve our preschool throughout the year. Please consider becoming a prayer partner for a teacher or classroom. This is an easy way to give support, without having to do very much. In the event that you sign-up to be a Prayer Partner, I will provide you with basic information about a teacher or class. You may choose to use this information however you wish, but the main goal is to cover them in prayer! Please call or text me at 252-532-7604 or email me at <a href="mailto:fmcwpreschool@gmail.com">fmcwpreschool@gmail.com</a> if you would like to be a prayer partner.

We look forward to a wonderful 2024-25 school year. Our teachers return on August 26, and our students begin the day after Labor Day.

Amanda Bazan

Preschool Director Cell: 252-532-7604 fmcwpreschool@gmail.com

# Children's Ministry

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Children's Ministry had a great July with our trip to Sylvan Bird Park on Thursday, July 11, and then we had a wonderful day on the river where Mrs. Laura and Papa Paige hosted us with hotdogs and Papa Paige's special homemade ice cream! What a fun time for our children and families to come spend time together. Thank you to Mrs. Amanda Bazan for organizing these fun events and for all of her time and love of the Lord that she shared with our children during her time as our Children's Ministry Coordinator.

In August, the children will be celebrating Promotion Sunday on August 18 where we will have lots of things happening. We will celebrate and have a special blessing over our children as they prepare to go back to school. Promotion Sunday is a chance for the whole church to see our children and celebrate their promotions to the next step in their journey with Christ. Our Sunday School teachers will join the children at the front to share our thanks with them for their dedication to our children. We will also celebrate with our rising third-graders who will start joining their parents in worship on Sundays and receiving Bibles from the church. Parents, please join us in encouraging your children to bring their Bibles to church and use them during worship and Sunday School and while you are at home in everyday life, too.

We are also looking forward to what is becoming a yearly kick-off pool party at the Bowes Home (133 Southwind Drive, Washington) on Sunday, August 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. Parents, please plan to stay with your kids for some swimming and fellowship and make sure to bring towels and sunscreen! If you have any questions about any of our children's events or how you can volunteer, please contact Sarah Beth at <a href="DFM@fmcwashington.com">DFM@fmcwashington.com</a>. It's going to be a fun August. We hope to see everyone!

Sarah Beth

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# Celebrating the Mission Statement of the Global Methodist Church

Since the announcement of its formation in March of 2022, the Global Methodist Church has proclaimed that its mission is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly." In just fourteen words, the challenging and joyful statement is rooted in Scripture, practiced by Christians down through the ages, and grounded in the preaching, teaching, and life of John Wesley and the people called Methodists.

In the Great Commission, Jesus told his followers to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." But what kind of disciples?

The psalmist calls God's disciples to "Worship the LORD with gladness," so our mission calls us to gladly bring our bodies, minds, and souls to the experience of worshipping God passionately! In the Gospels, Jesus calls us to love others extravagantly when He commands us to "Love [our] enemies, and do good to those who hate [us]." And in the New Testament Church, Peter and Paul, and so many other disciples, courageously proclaimed the Gospel to people from all walks of life, setting an example for us to boldly bear witness to the love of God poured into our hearts and minds by the power of His Holy Spirit!

For centuries great leaders of the Church have, by exhortation and example, reminded Christians of their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship God, love their neighbors and enemies, and bear witness to the lifegiving message of the Gospel. When leaders of the Church of England flagged in their zeal for this mission, the Lord raised up Wesley and the people called Methodists.

When fervent worship was lacking in the churches, Wesley and his followers took the Good News to the masses, preaching in church yards and fields, and inviting people to fervently worship God with thanksgiving and praise! In time, both John and Charles Wesley produced thousands of hymns that have enriched the worship of God for Methodists and millions of other Christians.

When the poor were not cared for and prisoners were treated harshly, Wesley and the Methodists went among them, showing them extravagant love! As Wesley preached, "Love suffers... all the malice and wickedness of the children of the world, ... not only for a time, [or] for a short season, but to the end." Methodists believe extravagant love is supremely revealed in the way of Christ's cross.

And when people reviled Wesley and his followers for taking the Gospel message out to the lowly and downtrodden, he and his followers still boldly bore witness to Jesus Christ even as the learned ridiculed them and mobs threatened them with physical harm. Wesley taught us that a bold witness unapologetically puts our faith into action where we bring light to darkness, and where we confront lies with the truth. Indeed, we speak the truth in love to a world in need of hearing the Good News!

Wesley desperately desired that those who were far from God would be brought into a deep, abiding relationship with him through Jesus Christ. Famously, he proclaimed to his followers, "You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work." Wesley and his followers called for complete devotion to God (worship), to our being perfected in love (sanctification), and to the proclamation of the Gospel (witness) so others would come into a saving relationship with God.

Through Wesley's teaching, preaching, and example, Global Methodists know in their hearts that they are nourished when they gather together for passionate worship. They also know godly worship infuses their hearts and minds with the love of Christ. And so fired by that love, they commit themselves to boldly bear witness to the Gospel so all people might come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Drawing upon the entirety of Scriptural Christianity, Wesley desired that the whole Gospel of grace should be proclaimed around the world. And so the GM Church's mission statement is a call to action, to engage our bodies, minds, and souls as we worship God, and so love people from all walks of life that we are willing to witness among them to the transforming power of the Gospel.

It has been a great joy of mine to see how our local churches and provisional conferences have organized their work around our mission statement. Rooted in Scripture, embraced by Christian throughout the ages, and fired by a warm-hearted Wesleyan expression of the faith, Global Methodists are eager to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly! All to the glory of God.

Rev. Keith Boyette is the Transitional Connectional Officer of the Global Methodist Church

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# Youth News

Youth ministry took a bit of a break in July as many of our youth were traveling, working, and just enjoying summertime! The Brodies hosted the youth for a pool party after church on Sunday, July 28, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., where we had a wonderful afternoon of swimming, food, and fellowship.

The month of August is a busy month for our youth. We ask for your prayers as 7 youth and 4 adults head to the SURGE retreat at Fort Caswell on August 9, 10 and 11. This is a non-denominational sponsored retreat, but there will be several other Global Methodist Church youth groups from North Carolina in attendance. This will give our youth time together and time with other like-minded youth to share in worship, fellowship and learning in Christ.

August is when most of our youth will be headed back to school, and as a church, we will have promotion Sunday where we celebrate those who will be joining youth from the children's ministry. Promotion Sunday will have a blessing of the children and youth and their backpacks. We also plan to have a youth river day at Paige and Laura the home of Paige and Laura Davis on Sunday, August 18, from 12 to 2 p.m. Youth can be dropped off, or parents can stay with us as we join in youth group staples of food, fun and fellowship. Please make sure youth have sunscreen and a towel!

In September, we plan to have a schedule change and the youth group will start meeting on Wednesday evenings instead of Sundays. Youth will meet from 6:15 to 7:15 in the youth room to start off with, the time may adjust as needed. We are making this move so families can have an easier time planning and with travel times, and so the entire family can have an evening at church of knowing, growing and learning in Christ! We already have a study picked out for us to start with and some fun games, too. Also, on September 22, Youth will go to Pamlico Plantation for Fellowship Day from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. So if your youth is in grades 6 through 12, have them join in the fun at any of our events! If you have any questions about youth events or how you can volunteer with our youth, please contact Sarah Beth at DFM@fmcwashington.com.

Sarah Beth

## NEW YOUNG ADULT (under 50) SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Are you interested in deepening your fellowship with people in our church as well as growing in your faith? Join us for the newly formed Young Adult Sunday School Class beginning on Sunday, September 8. Will and Beth Page will be facilitating the discussion and would love for you to join them! More details in the coming months, but feel free to contact Beth (bethpage5@gmail.com) to express interest or to ask any questions.