



Monticello First UMC
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Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Pastor: Rev. Kara Wilson

Choirmaster: Joneen Padgett

Youth Director: Ashleigh Kelly

Financial Secretary: Sam Kelly

Church Secretary: Gail Cowart

Monticello First UMC • July/August 2021 Newsletter



Letter from Pastor Kara

Dear friends,

When I was a very young reader, my mother would sign me up for the summer reading club at our local public library. If you could read 20 books during the summer, you would get a prize. Can anyone guess what that prize was? Yes--more books!



The spirit of the “summer reading club” has risen again for me recently. After a particularly long and gratifying spring semester, I finally have the freedom to dive into (or finish) the books that have been sitting patiently on my shelves (or in my online shopping cart). Unfortunately, I do not think any of them would qualify as a “beach read,” because they tend to probe into deep questions about life and existence. One particular book I’ve enjoyed recently is *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* by Parker J. Palmer. My review of it goes, “This book is about 100 pages long, and it has ruined my life in the most compassionate way possible. 4.5 stars. Would recommend it.”

Coincidentally, that’s also the essence of my review of the Bible, too. Sometimes it’s so confusing and confounding that no explanation can help; other times, it makes such perfect sense that I cannot put it into words. Sometimes it’s deadly serious; other times, it’s seriously funny! Sometimes the Bible provides a clear way forward, and sometimes it provides a stumbling block to bring me down.

Furthermore, when we study the Bible, through sermons, devotionals, or reading and highlighting, some of us may come away with completely different understandings, interpretations, or even messages than other people do. Sometimes that is due to insight, other times that is due to ignorance. And then we come back, again and again, and discuss it with one another, because each one of us has something to learn from another, and something to teach another. It’s not about arguments, with winners and losers. It’s about how Scripture speaks to us through the Holy Spirit and transforms us. The transformation by the Holy Spirit softens our hearts and teaches us the way of love and wisdom. This transformation also ruins us for the world in the most compassionate way possible. Jesus was hated by the world, and was regarded as a stumbling block for people’s faith. But Jesus is also the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the one through whom we come to know and love our Father.

I can say absolutely that the Bible has ruined my life. But it has also saved it. 5 stars. Would recommend it. Happy reading, everyone!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kara

Sermon Scriptures for July and August

July 4 – Mark 6:1-13

July 11 – Mark 6:14-29

July 18 – Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25 – John 6:1-21

August 1 - John 6:24-35

August 8 - John 6:35, 41-51

August 15 - John 6:51-58

August 22 - John 6:56-69

August 29 – James 1:17-27



LIVE FLOWERS – SUNDAY

These beautiful long-stem roses were sent “in memory of our parents, Jack and Gwen Yearwood by Beth and Patricia” on Father’s Day.

If you would like to donate a live floral for a special Sunday for your family, please contact Crazy Daisy’s florist and let us know the date to announce in the Sunday Bulletin.

During the online-only services, Joneen provided beautiful arrangements using silk and plastic flowers, fillers and vases.

WEBSITE UPDATE: *It’s a work in progress, but Pastor Kara is updating the look of our website. The web address url stays the same. Stay tuned for further details!*

YOUTH ACTIVITIES ...

Our Youth enjoyed an end-of-school trip to Six Flags. The Youth Car Wash Fundraiser in May raised nearly \$400! Sunday afternoon meetings at the Youth House are suspended for the summer. For more information, check your emails or contact Ashleigh Kelly.



SUMMER MOVIES ON THE LAWN

M1UMC hosted the first Summer Movie featuring *Monsters, Inc.* recently. Check emails and bulletins for upcoming dates. In case of inclement weather, the movie will be shown in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone welcome!

Monticello First UMC presents

**SUMMER MOVIE
ON THE LAWN**

featuring Disney Pixar's

MONSTERS INC.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19
at dusk (9 PM)**

Bring lawn chairs and
blankets

CHOIR RETURNS THIS FALL!

Rehearsal will resume in August; details to come. Check emails, bulletins for announcements from Joneen. “Let’s make a joyfulnoise unto the Lord again!”





Sunday School 9:45 AM Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall and Youth/Children meet in the Nursery.
Traditional Worship in person every Sunday
 or join us on Facebook Live at 11:00 am!

NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS

The **United Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting** is the first Sunday each month. *They will not have a meeting in July due to the holiday.* The next breakfast meeting will be August 1st at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

The combined **Youth House Meetings** of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches are suspended for the Summer. For questions please contact Asheigh Kelly, Youth Director, ashleighke@aol.com.

Leadership Council Meetings are held each month and all members are welcome. The next meetings will be July 11th and August 8th, 5:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. Check emails and Sunday bulletins for details.

Pastor's Bible Study is 5:00 – 5:45 pm each Wednesday. Go in-depth into Sunday's scripture with Pastor Kara!

UPPER ROOMS for July & August are here! Pickup at the office, Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please call the office and leave a message if you need assistance.

Every fourth Thursday is **Mobile Day at the Jasper County Community Food Bank**, open to all our friends and neighbors in Jasper County. Hours are 1:00 to 4:30 pm on Mobile Thursday. Other Thursdays, hours are 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. If interested in volunteering, call 706-468-6076 and leave your name and number.

July Birthdays:

- 4 Julie Tucker
- 5 Jackie Tyler
Hunter Smith
- 6 Wyley Deleza
- 9 Ken Horton
- 12 Corbitt Kelly
Jessica Bell
- 15 Carole Tyler
Scott McElheney
Stephen Arena
- 16 Martha Brock
Sue Williams
- 18 Eric Arena
- 21 Laverne Smith
- 24 Rinthia Tyre
- 30. Amanda Crews



August Birthdays:

- 2 Cindy Smith
- 4 Dot Strother
- 6 Frank Pool
- 9 Suzanne Arena
- 13 Will McElheney
- 14 Scotty Dumas
- 18 Katherine Sauls
- 20 Lin Caldwell
- 25. Lena Lane
Nancy Cullum
- 28. Jaquilynn Howe
- 31. Zoe Arena

July Anniversaries

- 12 Matt & Mary Tumlin
- 13 Lamar & Charlotte Crawley
- 19 Bill & Cindi Nash
- 22 Eric & Suzanne Arena

August Anniversaries

- 6 Jeff & Mary Greeson
- 8 Keith & Gena Smith
- 9 Danny & Skye Camp
- 20 Andrew & Becky Boyd
- 21 Leslie & Lin Caldwell
- 26 Don & Louise Kelly

For corrections, additions, deletions to the Birthdays and Anniversary lists, please leave a message at the church office, 706-468-6118.

Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.