



# The Good News

July 2020

WE ARE THE CHURCH



## VBS At-Home July 13-16

We're excited to try something new with at-home VBS this summer, with an awesome theme of *We Are the Church, We Are the Light!* We will be partnering with FUMC Bentonville to present this all-online at-home

VBS as a way to enrich the spiritual life of children of all ages, as well as to give them a space to connect virtually in this time of social distancing!

The schedule for each day is as follows:

**9am** - VBS daily video will be posted to the church Facebook page

**3pm** - Live communion with Pastor JJ Whitney,  
Senior Pastor at FUMC Bentonville, via Facebook Live

**4pm** - Small groups meet via Zoom

You don't have to be a member of First UMC Bella Vista or Bentonville to participate in VBS, so if you know of a child that would like to spend a few days this summer connecting to God and finding the light inside of themselves, please encourage them to register.

To register, visit [fumcbellavista.com/vbs](http://fumcbellavista.com/vbs) (see *Children's Chatter* page 5 for more info)

## Bella Vista Pre-School Now Enrolling!!

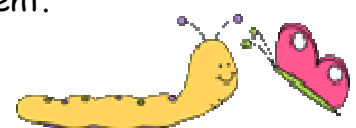
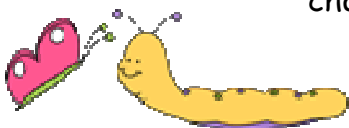
20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715

BVPS is a non-denominational Christian preschool serving students ages 3-5 for over 40 years. At BVPS children work and learn in an environment of creativity and play that also challenges them to new levels of accomplishment.

[www.bvpreschool.wix.com/bvps](http://www.bvpreschool.wix.com/bvps)

[bvpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:bvpreschool@gmail.com)

Look for us on FaceBook!!

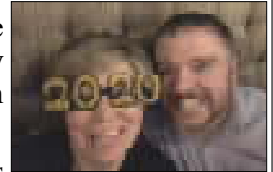




## *Glimpses of Grace*

Rev. Jeanne Williams, Senior Pastor

On New Year's Eve 2019, my family and I rang in the new year with some extended family. I was so excited to see 2019 go and was filled with lofty expectations that 2020 would surely prove to be so much better than 2019. I even took a selfie wearing my snazzy New Year's 2020 glasses.



I don't think that I could have correctly predicted anything that we have experienced to-date this year. This has turned into a tragic and trying year that I will tell my grandkids about. Between the many challenges from living in a COVID19 world to hearing the loud calls for social justice that are sweeping the globe in response to the killing of George Floyd, this year has been tougher than I ever imagined. I suspect many of you are feeling some of the same feelings I am. I am an inherently extroverted person, and my faith is fed through how I experience Jesus in community, so I know this has been hard for all of us.

Though I didn't hesitate when I had to make that difficult decision to cancel in-person worship back in mid-March, I never expected that we would still be separated now. I want you to know that I truly miss each and every one of you, and I am so excited for the day when we can safely worship in person together again! I love you all, and it's that motivation of love guiding our decisions to hold off restarting in-person worship for the time being.

We continue to monitor the evolving CDC recommendations and the trends of COVID19 cases in Arkansas and around Benton County. As most of you know, cases in Arkansas are growing at a faster rate than they ever have, and Benton County cases also continue to rise. I'm beginning to hear from some of you that you or a family member have been tested, and thankfully, those are coming back negative. I invite you to continue to be in prayer for those testing positive and our community.

As of right now, we hope to restart in-person worship around the end of July or beginning of August if things start to trend in a healthier direction. But when we do start back, it will be quite different from how we have ever worshiped before. Based on guidance from the CDC and our bishop, we will strive to make our worship experience as safe as possible. This means that we will worship socially distanced. Masks will be required for everyone in attendance. There will be no congregational singing or reciting liturgies together as a group, as they force the air to a much greater distance. Music will be experienced only by solos and specials. People 65 and older are encouraged not to attend. There will be no Sunday morning children or youth ministries. If any adult Sunday school wants to meet, it should be outdoors, socially distanced, with everyone wearing masks.

Worship will not feel the same, but God will still be fully present. I have learned that even though in-person gatherings have stopped, worship has never stopped! Many of us have continued to gather for worship on our Facebook Live or through our website livestream.

God continues to be present and move among us. Jesus's followers started by doing church in their homes, and the Spirit moved in powerful ways. Even though we are doing church in our homes, I fully expect the Spirit to move among us in life-changing ways!

Jesus teaches us that to be his follower means we must love God with every cell of our being and love our neighbor as ourselves. Because of my love for God, I knew that the most responsible way for us to love our neighbors was to suspend on-site worship for a while. It is my love for neighbor that tells me this is still the most responsible option for the time being. Believe me, I cannot wait to see you all again when the time is right!

For those of you who are unable to join us online, we love you, miss you, and are praying for you. Many of you have the option of tuning in via the Bella Vista channel on Sunday or Wednesday at 11:00. I hope you are able to do that. If you need to talk to someone, need any help, or would like me to pray with you, please don't hesitate to call me at the church office 479-855-1158 and leave a message. I receive those as soon as they are left.

May each and every one of us do all in our power to better love God and our neighbor every day.

Blessings, *Rev. Jeanne*



## JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

Rev. Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor

### True Worship

*With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?  
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?  
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:6-8

As we have been unable to be together at the church for worship in more than 3 months, and as I have watched the news of late, I have been reminded of a well-known verse written by the prophet Micah, chapter 6, verse 8. As children of our creator God (mortals), we are called to ‘*To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*’ **This** is how we worship.

Micah was a prophet in the 8<sup>th</sup> century, about 130 years before the fall of Jerusalem and its citizens being taken into captivity by the Bablylonians. The culture at the time was filled with corruption and oppression, with idol-worship, with injustice, with have’s and have-nots. The prophet asked the Lord, what shall we do to honor you? And the Lord replied, ‘act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.’

We often try to make it so hard, and yet it is so simple. We see dark images of injustice and oppression around us; we see the idols of pride and money and stuff, and we wonder, what shall we do? And the Lord replies, do justice, be compassionate, remember that I alone am your God, not those worldly things, walk humbly with Me.

I was thankful for the UMW Sunday worship on June 28 where we were all reminded of the Lord’s justice and compassion as exemplified in the mission of the women of our United Methodist Church. In those who led the worship, we were reminded of the unity of diversity of young and old, of black and white, of female and male, of many voices blended together in True Worship. (If you missed that Sunday, I encourage you to find it on our webpage or Facebook page.) Google United Methodist Women and you will see described the 800,000 women who work for justice world-wide through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems.

To be the church away from the building, we are called to be in True Worship by acting justly, having compassion, and walking humbly with our God through our lives. In the coming days, weeks, and months, may we resolve to all join in **this** journey together.

Blessings, *Pastor Brenda*

**Until we can meet again, Please join us for worship every Sunday right in your own home!**

**BEGINNING SUNDAY, JULY 5**, we will be Live - Broadcasting from the church every Sunday.

**9:30am** on our website at [fumcbellavista.com](http://fumcbellavista.com) or [facebook.com/fumcbv](https://facebook.com/fumcbv) or [fumcbellavista.com/livestream](http://fumcbellavista.com/livestream) or [ustream.tv](http://ustream.tv) **OR ... 11:00am** on Sunday & Wednesday mornings you can catch a re-broadcast of the service on ATT U-Verse and Cox channel 222.



## OUR FAMILY

Each month this space is used to tell about the people who are part of our church family. If you know of a graduation, community recognition, someone moving away or moving in, whatever the rest of the church might like to know to keep up with folks, let me know so I can include the information in these pages. Send your information to Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care at [brenda@fumcbellavista.com](mailto:brenda@fumcbellavista.com) or 479-855-1158.

### JOYS

**Finn Alexander Brewer** – was born May 28, weighing in at 6 lbs and 12 oz. and is 18.25 in height. His parents are Kim and John Brewer. **Nancy Spangler** is the delighted grandmom. Finn is her 13<sup>th</sup> grandbaby. What a joy!!

**Anna Joie Valdez and Christian Taylor Davis** were married on Saturday, June 20th at Garrison Gardens in Texarkana, AR. Our own **Kacy Spears** travelled to be in the wedding party. We give thanks for this celebration!

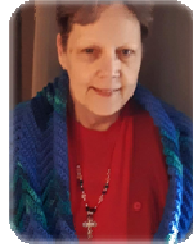


**Antoine Family...** Ashley shared: ‘Well a couple of days ago we did a thing... I introduce you to our newest family member - Benny Boo Antoine! He is adorable, gentle and sweet with the girls already, and is adjusting well to our crazy household. Even Dylan likes him (I think?!). The girls are in love with him, and that makes it all worth it!’



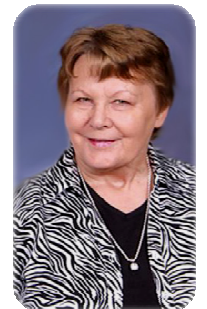
**New Life—kittens!!** - Ann Miner, our childcare worker, has new kittens in her family. She shared a picture of the Momma and 4 little ones. What a joy!!

### IN MEMORIUM



**Barbara Denson** – Barb Denson passed away late Friday, May 29th, at her home in Bella Vista. Barb was diagnosed with a very aggressive cancer back in the winter and fought it valiantly. She had recently begun to receive home hospice care. She passed away with her family by her side. Barbara and her husband Jerry joined our church family back in early September of 2019. She had been helping in several of our ministries when she received her diagnosis. A small family gathering to celebrate her life was held Thursday, June 4th under our portico. Our pastors officiated. Please keep Jerry, their children Alisha and Jeremy, and all of their family in your prayers. Cards may be sent to Jerry at 3 Davis Circle, Bella Vista 72715

**Shirley Wenger** - passed away Thursday morning, June 18 at Bradford House. Shirley had been fighting serious illness for several years and had begun receiving hospice care at Bradford House back in January. A small family gathering to celebrate Shirley’s life was held Wednesday, June 24 under our portico. Our pastors officiated. Please keep Walt, his family, and her many friends in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Shirley. Cards can be sent to the residence: 5 Ashton Circle, Bella Vista 72715



**Beverly ‘Bee’ Johnson** – passed away in Lacey, Washington, on Wednesday, June 3rd. Bee has been a member with us since 1989, but had moved to Washington about a year ago to be closer to family. A service and interment of her ashes will be held in Tekamah, Nebraska, when it is safer to travel. Cards may be sent to: Family of Bee Johnson, c/o Marie Zimmerman, 6607 Milano Court SE, Lacey, WA 98513







## OUR FAMILY

**Ella Mae Hoeller** – longtime friend of Marion Korns, passed away in Cape Girardeau, MO this past month. Please keep Ella Mae’s family, Marion, and all those who loved her in your prayers at this time.

**Frances Prueitt** – sister-in-law of Keith Prueitt passed away on Wednesday, June 17, in a care facility in West Des Moines, Iowa. Please keep Keith and his family in prayers in this time of loss.

**Anne Miner’s brother** - Dave Movick, passed away on Wednesday, June 17 in Missouri. Anne is our childcare worker. Dave had recently been placed in hospice care. Please keep Anne in prayers in this loss.



### Children’s Chatter

Ashdon Wilson,  
NextGen Children

VBS looks a little different this year! We have partnered with FUMC Bentonville for a Virtual VBS experience! *We Are the Church, We Are the Light* starts Monday, July 13th. Videos will be posted on the FUMC Bentonville Facebook page and shared to our FB page at 9:30 each morning. **Registration is live NOW!** All supplies for VBS are provided at no cost to families! This includes snack, craft, and communion elements for each day of VBS. Pick-up kits will be available the week before VBS begins.



If you register your child with FUMC Bella Vista as your home church, they'll be added to a small group with their friends from this church!

If you have any questions, please contact me!

Have a safe 4th!

*Ashdon*  
Ecc. 3: 12-14



## MEDIA MUSINGS

Kacy Spears,  
Director of Communications

### Digital Evangelism

Have you ever heard the term “digital evangelism?” Me either until recently! I had a conversation with someone who works in the communications office at the Arkansas United Methodist Conference, and he said “in a world that’s all online, we need to be doing more digital evangelism!”

I don’t know about you, but that feels a little intimidating. Is he saying we should share our entire faith journeys on Facebook Live? Should we be posting Bible verses every day and hoping for the best?

Digital evangelism can mean that, but it can also mean something more genuine. It can mean that we’re seeking to make disciples of Jesus the Christ even in a COVID-19 world.

Social media consumes a lot of our lives, even more so lately as we try to stay connected with each other. What if we were to use social media as a way to be better disciples?

Pause for a moment and think of someone you know who needs to hear an uplifting word, know that there’s a support system here for them, or who needs to hear that Jesus is still at work today.

Now, ministering to that person will look different now than it would pre-COVID. Pre-COVID, you could invite them to lunch or for a walk on a trail while you catch up and invest spiritually in one another. Today, that looks more like a phone call, FaceTime conversation, or even by sharing something on social media!

Clicking the “share” button on Sunday morning Facebook worship and inviting your friends, family, and loved ones to experience worship with you is a great way to do digital evangelism! You’re taking a step of faith to share the worship you’re experiencing and participating in at 9:30am on Sunday mornings and sharing a pillar of your faith, which is this church body.

“But how does sharing a Facebook video make disciples?” Great question! On average, we humans have to see something seven times to remember it, and even then, it’s a partial memory of the true event. If you share a Facebook worship service once, someone might scroll by. Share it the next week and personally invite people to join you in watching it, and they’ll remember the experience but maybe not the sermon or any of the music. As you continue to increase exposure, that’s when they’re able to become introspective and ask questions about worship, maybe about Jesus, maybe about heaven! Discipleship is a process, and a worthy one! Investing in the spiritual life of others is how the church began and continues to grow!

So, now I ask you, how can you do digital evangelism?

*Kacy*



### LAY LEADER'S MESSAGE

Lou Kaufmann

This is certainly going to be a year to remember in all our lives. A virus that has caused more damage than most pandemics we have had over the last 100 years. Economic fallout that is as bad and could be worse than the great depression. Churches being closed for six months. Protesters taking to the streets around the country and some causing damage, destruction and anarchy. And then we have the elections and all the gobbledegook that that brings. We certainly have had some dates in the past that we will never forget like the one that President Roosevelt said "Will live in infamy", December 7, 1941. And of course 9/11 and the Trade Center.

Some say the virus will go on to 2021 with all the masking that will bring. So how do we survive in this difficult year and make it into the future. One of the greatest powers that God had given us is the power of choice. Each day we have choices to make that decide how our lives and those of our families are going to go. Starting each day with prayer is one good choice. Asking God to help us in making the right choices every day. Being cautious as we venture outside to do our daily lives. Masks in the right places. Social distancing. Proper greetings. All these are choices.

And above all, maintaining a Positive Attitude in spite of all that is happening. As Abraham Lincoln said, "You can be as happy as you make up your mind to be." We will get past all of these things with God and we will.

Blessings, Lou



### ARKANSAS UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

The Arkansas Annual Conference was held June 13, 2020, via a 4 and a half hour Zoom webinar. Reverend Jeanne, Pastor Brenda, Lou Kaufmann, and Ken Swanson attended as FUMC members while Amy Gilmore and Kenneth Wilson attended as District At-Large members. All voting was done via polls on Zoom or telephone. There were approximately 700 voting members in attendance and most were able to vote without a problem!

The Bishop opened the Conference with an 8 minute, 46 second silence in remembrance of George Floyd. Bishop Mueller then spoke about the justice and racism that continues in our country. He talked about supporting the black churches, such as the St. James United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff, an historic Black church more than 150 years old. He also unveiled annual mandatory training for clergy that will be sponsored by Philander Smith College, a black UMC college that actually hosts our Conference offices in Little Rock.

We had the following worship services: an opening service, a celebration of life service for those pastors and spouses who died in the past year, a retiree recognition service, and a sending forth service in which the District Superintendents gave their district a blessing.

We had various reports and the unveiling of 200,000 MORE Reasons. 200,000 Reasons was our conference initiative to end childhood hunger in our state. As we have begun to address the hunger problem, it has become obvious that more than providing food is needed. We adopted a new initiative of 200,000 MORE Reasons to increase literacy and education, especially in the southeastern portion of our state where the statistics are the worst. Please watch for more information about this coming soon!

Here is Lou's summary: "Certainly something was missing in that we were not all together, but the conference did its best to put together the meeting that normally would cover two and three days, in just four hours. It was concise and to the point. The Bishop presided very well as he usually does. Considering the times we are presently in, I feel the church did its best with our current situation and got its message out to everyone. I am sure next year everyone will be together again and everything will be better."

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Jeanne, Pastor Brenda,*

*Lou Kaufmann, and Ken Swanson*

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mike Roth & Cathy Luck
- 2 Jon & Jessica Mendoza
- 8 Bill & Jane Potts
- 13 Rev. Jim & Mary Verkest
- 14 Charles & Florence Hill
- 22 Sean & Kristin Crider
- 25 Ed & Barbara Jenner
- 27 Dick & Karen Bacon
- 30 Rick & Dena Mayes
- 31 Bill & Connie Wilson

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sue Nebrig
- 1 Allan Ward
- 3 Jacqueline Beahm
- 3 Wanda Holliday
- 3 Mary Ann Kennedy
- 4 Earl Kennedy
- 5 Sandy Fitch
- 5 Pat Fox
- 5 Lou Kaufmann
- 6 Judith McVickers
- 7 LaVon Fryer
- 7 Allison Totten

## JULY BIRTHDAYS *(continued)*

- 8 Chet Campbell
- 8 Helen McBride
- 9 Jennifer Lehmann
- 9 Carmen Phillips
- 9 Mike Roth
- 10 Layne Anderson
- 10 Carol Pennington
- 10 Ashdon Wilson
- 11 Leota Rowison
- 13 Juanita Prior
- 15 Merle Lantz
- 15 Tommy Runnels
- 16 Ken Hammarstrom
- 17 Dorothy Phillips
- 17 Carol Zurn
- 18 Verle Shoemaker
- 19 Noah Pittman
- 24 Allen Janssen
- 24 Rachel Smith
- 25 M.J. Rhein
- 27 Jack Kolbe
- 27 Jamey Rowland
- 27 Katrina Sparlin
- 31 Pamela Pittman

### July 2020 Newsletter ~ May 2020 Financial Data

		2020 Actual	2020 Budget
Month of May	Income	\$ 42,982.64	\$ 36,709.84
Month of May	Expenses	\$ 45,476.90	\$ 47,114.17
	Difference	\$ <b>(2,494.26)</b>	\$ <b>(10,404.33)</b>
Year to Date (as of 5/31/20)	Income	\$ 191,871.85	\$ 183,549.20
Year to Date (as of 5/31/20)	Expenses	\$ 215,468.99	\$ 235,604.17
	Difference	\$ <b>(23,597.14)</b>	\$ <b>(52,054.97)</b>

*Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest*

*Amy Gilmore*, Church Administrator





Artie Lawless,  
UMM President

STILL CHECKING TO SEE



IF Y'ALL DOING ALRIGHT

## Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer

I remember those days, as I'm sure you do, too. Grabbing "your spot" on the beach. Playing the music, maybe a bit too loud. Showing off for the girls. Laughing it up with friends. All in good fun. Where I lived as night fell, we all piled in cars and went to the Drive-In. "Life was Fun".

Maybe your summer was different. You might have gone to your favorite fishing hole or built a fire with some pals to roast marshmallows or cook hotdogs. You might have gone hiking with a couple of buddies. Worked on someone's car. "Life was good".

The point is, your Journey was always surrounded by friends. You stuck together, maybe even through life, You looked out for each other. Helped when needed, both physically and sometimes emotionally. "Life was full"

Friends, I say to you today, Life has not changed. Even as adults we should be looking out for each other. Checking on each other. Helping, in any way, if needed. "Life is caring".

Now, instead of Running on the beach or hiking in the woods we're golfing together, or Bowling on a team. We talk about life, both good and bad. Yes, we joke and tease a lot, but are saddened when we hear one of us has had some kind of trouble. Life has not changed. We need to continue to care about each other in the same way Jesus cares about us. He is a friend, a Best friend, and he wants us to be like him. "Life Is Christ"

As we wait for the time when we can gather together again, as friends do, look out for each other. Be that friend that everybody remembers they had in those lazy, hazy, crazy days of Summer. "Life is Complete".

Blessing, *Artie*

## Tell a Pastor

Need to tell a pastor something?

Joys, concerns, health updates?

[fumcbellavista.com/tellapastor](http://fumcbellavista.com/tellapastor)

## UMM NEWS

Here we are already in the month of July and still under the thumb of Covid - 19. It is frustrating to miss being together and to still be unable to plan definitively. We continue to support and pray for the workers on the front line, healthcare workers and all of those people in jobs termed essential. We continue to make face masks for anyone who requests one. It is so important to wear face coverings to show our love and respect for the health of others.

At this time, we are postponing the UMW rummage sale. We hope that at sometime before the end of the year, we will be able to safely have a rummage sale. Please continue to save items or if that doesn't work, call Verna Bottjen who can find storage for you.

We encourage those of you who are filling these days in creative ways or growing plants for the bazaar to keep doing so. The bazaar is still several months away. We hope to find a safe way to have a bazaar, also.

Ladies, you will soon receive your Bakeless Bake Sale letter. Thank you for any donation you are reasonably able to make. The agencies we support are in even greater need this year. We appreciate your help in making our gifts to them possible.

It was a joy to be able to meet outside for our June circle meetings. We will definitely have meetings again in September, outside again if necessary! Call the church office or Judy Bilyeu if you need a face mask. Stay well!

*Judy Bilyeu*, UMW President

## ATTENTION UMW READING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Please have your information to me no later than August 10. Under these unusual circumstances, I just need to have the number (I, II, III, or IV) of the plan you completed.

You can email me at [jdvdellavista@yahoo.com](mailto:jdvdellavista@yahoo.com) or call me 479-876-1676 before the deadline. Thanks.

*Diane Verville*





## From the Organ Console

Broc Hite, Organist/Pianist

What a difference a month makes! Change seems to be accelerating, which is not always a good thing. We have many more freedoms than we did last month this time, but we also have far more coronavirus cases, including serious ones that are filling local hospitals. Black Lives Matter has come back into our lives with a force that I can't remember in my lifetime. Just to clarify, though I was born during the Civil Rights Movement in the mid-sixties, my memories of the time are of Captain Kangaroo and Bozo the Clown. With all the labeling going on these days, hopefully I can catch a break for that period of my life where I could count my age using one hand!

While many were posting the black square on Instagram, protesting in the streets, or writing profusely on their Facebook accounts, I largely stayed silent. For me, it was just better to listen than to talk, like the old expression that God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason, and that reason isn't symmetry!

Even before BLM re-emerged, I had been thinking about how to expand my repertoire to include female composers. I purchased a short composition by Stephanie Ann Boyd, whose music I introduced to Bella Vista in the Wesley Series back in 2016, though haven't learned it yet - it's quite difficult! I also just bought a book of the piano music of French composer Cécile Chaminade, who joins Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann and Amy Beach as 19th-century composers you've heard of, but whose works you probably couldn't name. Female composers will emerge in church and/or on the Weekly Acorn.

I would really like to purchase several volumes from Oxford University Press's Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora, but the scores are really expensive. Since music scores are paid for out of my own funds, I'll have to budget and introduce them eventually.

For July, expect a return to the organ in force, even though you won't be returning to the sanctuary just yet. I will be playing Dudley Buck's Concert Variations on the Star-Spangled Banner in our patriotic concert online at 6:00 Friday, July 3rd. For postludes, you'll hear some pieces of Leo Sowerby as a teaser of what to expect for a postponed birthday recital dedicated to his music. You'll hear other organ music that I would categorize as meaty, or portabello for my vegetarian friends. In August, there will be another installment of the Waltzes of Frédéric Chopin.

To close, I offer you a reminder about the Weekly Acorn. It's a bite-sized weekly recital, typically 5 to 10 minutes long, and usually on piano. A new episode airs each Friday at noon, and you can get alerted by following my Facebook business page. The archives can also be found on my Website.

**Broc**

Please join me online!

On the Web: <https://brochite.com>

On Facebook and Instagram: @BrocKeysPedals



## In the Belly of the Well

Kenneth Wilson  
The Well Contemporary Worship Leader  
& NextGen Director

### Answers to last month's puzzle

Hope you had fun with this!

#### \*\*\*ACROSS\*\*\*

- 3 A "messenger"  
ANGEL
- 5 Another talking animal.  
SERPENT
- 8 From the second creation story, rhymes with rust.  
DUST
- 9 Not Elisha, but...  
ELIJAH
- 13 Not the devil, not lucifer, but...  
SATAN
- 14 Not a fish... well kinda.  
ICHTHYS
- 15 Replacement disciple.  
MATTHIAS
- 17 How much does a penny cost?  
PENTECOST
- 18 David made Richard Simmons look bad when he did this in the streets.  
DANCING
- 21 Greek for "books."  
BIBLIA
- 22 Worth killing Jesus for.  
THIRTY

#### \*\*\*DOWN\*\*\*

- 1 Best Sunday School answer.  
JESUS
- 2 One of many talking animals.  
DONKEY
- 4 Called down a curse of 2 bears on 42 boys.  
ELISHA
- 6 Not profit, but...  
PROPHET
- 7 Only known female Judge in the OT.  
DEBORAH
- 10 Does not like big fish.  
JONAH
- 11 David before he was king.  
SHEPHERD
- 12 Alternate spelling for John The Baptizer's mom.  
ELISHEBA
- 16 Found 2 coins in a fish.  
PETER
- 19 Not Jesus' last name.  
CHRIST
- 20 Jesus' favorite thing to take...  
NAP

*Kenneth*



## Stewardship Corner

### The Purpose of Wealth

*Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; come and share your master's happiness!*

Matthew 25:21b (NIV)

It is an odd question for the son of a truck driver, who was the son of a sharecropper, to ask, but the question is valid; **“What is the purpose of wealth?”**

I understand there is a false presupposition that anyone who creates wealth is evil. This mindset comes from passages like “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10), which is true. Nevertheless, the same book presents the wealthy man as the hero in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). Also, Proverbs 13:22 reminds us that a “good man leaves an inheritance for their children’s children.”

“Indeed, the Jewish tradition views a person’s quest for profit and wealth to be inherently moral.” ---Rabbi Lapin

**Somehow, most Judeo-Christians do not have such a noble view of wealth creation.** Many Christians see wealth creation as inherently depraved. Perhaps that needs to change, since if one considers wealth creation morally reprehensible, then making money and building wealth become something to avoid rather than achieved. And, **with wealth, many Christian endeavors would be unattainable.**

So, what is the purpose of wealth? One very materialistic view is “he who dies with the most toys wins.” But, in truth, he who does die with the most toys still dies. The “win” in wealth is not in toys. **The “win” in wealth is found in the purpose of money.**

**What does God want us to do with our money?**

God calls on us to give tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:7-12, Proverbs 3:9-10 to the local church. **One of the most worshipful things a believer ever does is give.** Giving is a matter of the heart. It is an act of love. We offer ourselves first, then give our wealth willingly, liberally, cheerfully, regularly, and proportionately (1 Corinthians 9:6-7 and 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:5, 12:9-7) So the **“win” in wealth is that our giving is greater.** God will often test us with our money. Be ready! (Luke 18 and 19, Joshua 7). There are many biblical examples of those who failed the test, and there are those who passed the test.

**Will you pass the test?**

Will you excel in the grace of giving? (2 Corinthians 2:8) Have you ever seen a U-Haul behind a hearse? Why do we try to keep that which we cannot keep? The win in a biblical understanding of wealth is passing the test.

God wants us to use our wealth to provide for our families (1 Timothy 5:8). **There is great satisfaction and joy in taking care of your immediate family and those in your church family.** I doubt anyone will ever recognize all the social welfare provided week after week by local houses of faith. The win in wealth is the ability to care for those you love.

Hospitality is opening you home to those you know and have deep relationships with and those with whom you have yet to build a friendship. **It is not about your home being extravagant or humble; it is about it being used to spread Christ’s love (Romans 12:13).** Indeed, wealth allows us to practice the rich tradition of faith, providing for our family, and hosting friends in our homes.

Wealth allows us to fund Kingdom business (1 Kings 5-7; Luke 8:1-3). I look back at all the church expansions, Christian universities, missionaries, pregnancy centers, homeless shelters, medical missions, children’s homes, etc. that I have had the joy to contribute to, and I smile. **There is great contentment in being a part of the expansion of God’s Kingdom.**

While serving as an Executive Pastor, we were in a campaign. It was Sunday morning, and she made a beeline straight to me. I do not know how you feel, but when a church member on Sunday morning makes a beeline to me – often, it is not good news. She stopped, opened her hands, and said – “The jerk left me years ago; it is about time this did something good again.” I looked and in her hand was the biggest diamond I had ever seen. So, what did I do as an Executive Pastor? I took it and sold it. And then we used it to fund the Kingdom.

Money matters. **Wealth in the hand of a righteous man is noble.** So, whether you are a one-, two-, or five-talent person (Matthew 25:14-30), I pray you will be found faithful. I pray you will show an increase. May you hear the words, “Well done, you took what I gave you and created wealth.”

Adapted from the original publication, Perkins, D. C. (2017) [Stay Focused: Living right, Thinking Right](#)  
Written by D. Clay Perkins, Ph. D.



## MISSIONS



### July & August Mission Habitat for Humanity of Benton County

HABITAT for HUMANITY is a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. They believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities.

Habitat for Humanity of Benton County is fundraising to build homes from foundation to roof, and they need our help!

To donate, write "Missions" or "Habitat for Humanity" in the memo line of your checks. Thank you for your generosity and building our community!



**SHOEBOX MINISTRY** has not been as active as normal the past few months. However, they were still able to provide

150 men's and women's boxes filled with needed toiletries and other necessities to Salvation Army Bentonville and Fayetteville last month. If you have empty shoeboxes just sitting around in your closet, please bring them to the church. More deliveries will need to be made soon.

Thank you, *Your Shoebox Team*

## THANK YOU

Thanks to all who sent me cards after I broke my arm AGAIN. (Apparently I haven't found enough Bubble Wrap to cover me.). I miss everyone and can't wait until I see y'all again.

*Wanda Williams*

With love and appreciation, the family of Barbara Denson thanks you all for your condolences and prayers.  
*Gerald, Alicia, and Jeremy*

## UMW Charter for Racial Justice in an Interdependent Global Community



The United States—a nation of many peoples of different races, nationalities, languages and cultures—is challenged to make the Charter for Racial Justice a charter for everyone.

The Charter for Racial Justice was created and adopted by the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries in 1978. In 1980 the division successfully recommended adoption of the charter by the whole denomination. General Conference has consecutively readopted it, every eight years since, most recently in 2008. The charter continues United Methodist Women's urgent call for study and action on the principles and goals of its vision.

For more information of the history of the Charter and its resolutions, please go to:

[www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org)

**Martha Circle** met Monday June 15 with 9 members attending on the lower back deck of Church. We were able to take care of some delayed business, sent a *Thinking of You Card* to Dixie Young as she has been our Chairwoman for many years and devoted so much to UMW. Karen Roenfeld and Connie Knauss will co-chair Martha Circle for the coming year. We all agreed that it was wonderful being able to see each other again even as we sat at a safe distance and wore our masks. We will meet again in September.





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**Newsletter Deadline: 20th of the month**

Return Service requested

***To the Home of ...***



**STAY CALM**  
&  
**REMEMBER to**  
**WASH YOUR HANDS**  
several times a day,  
drink plenty of fluids,  
and disinfect frequently-  
used surfaces.

**STAY HOME**  
if at all possible.

**STAY IN TOUCH**  
with family and friends  
and others who may be alone,  
with a quick phone call,  
text, e-mail, or send a card.

**PLEASE DON'T BECOME COMPLACENT**  
**or WANT TO HURRY THINGS!!**  
**WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!**

**STAY SAFE!**  
Remember, You are loved!