

Shoveling Coal



In the days of the steam-driven locomotive, there was always a coal car immediately behind the locomotive. The fireman, or stoker, as they were called assisted the work of the engineer by shoveling coal into the firebox of the boiler to produce the steam that drove the engine. As you can imagine it was hard, tiring work, especially if the fire had burned low and the water had cooled.

As we recover and regroup after the worst of the pandemic, we have arrived back at the church (the locomotive) to find that the water (Spirit) has cooled after the long rest. We are like the fireman who must re-ignite the fire that drives the engine of the church. Our spiritual muscles may have atrophied somewhat after the long rest. However, we all are needed to pitch in and help stoke the fire that makes us the church.

One of the greatest needs is to take and re-ignite the habit of being with us on Sundays for Bible classes and worship. Yes, we all have excuses to be somewhere else, but only if we make a determined effort in igniting the fellowship of the church and inviting young and old to be with us will we find things like they used to be.

Attending church is a spiritual discipline that informs the rest of our living. Only when we are consistent with it do we harvest the rewards of spiritual growth, an increase in love, and sweet fellowship. I pray you will make a dedicated effort to be with us as we journey in life and mission to our community and world.

Wrestling with Faith Sermon Series

On Sunday, July 4, we will start a series of sermons dealing with how we approach our faith through life's turbulent times. I hope you will be present with us as we wrestle with our own faith through application of God's word. Here are the sermon titles and scriptures I have chosen:

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| July 4 | Questioning God | Genesis 15:1-16 |
| July 11 | The Humpty Dumpty Gospel | John 21:1-14 |
| July 18 | How to be a Person of Faith | Psalms 107:1-9 |
| July 25 | Putting Confusion in its Place | John 16:16-24 |
| August 1 | Closing the Lid on Disappointment | Luke 19:28-44 |
| August 8 | Does it make Sense to Believe? | Genesis 22:1-14 |
| August 15 | When God Remains Silent | Matthew 15:21-28 |

The Potluck is Back!

Our choir will be singing some patriotic favorites in honor of Independence Day on July 4, to help our worship and celebration. We will have Holy Communion and after the worship is done we will dismiss to the Family Life Center for food.

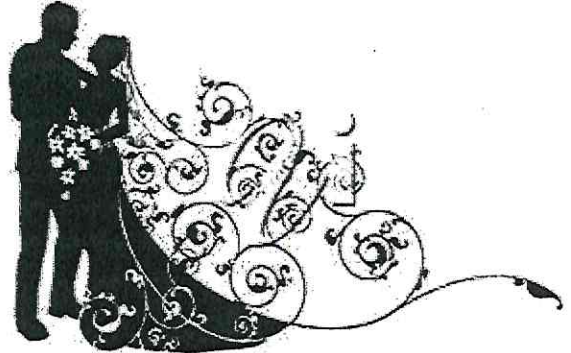
The long dry-spell is coming to an end (at least food-wise)! We will have tables set and cool air on to welcome everyone. Our hope is that you will plan to join us and prepare and bring your favorite dish, salad or dessert to share. It would be a great time to invite family or friends to be with us and join in celebration and feasting. Come and get it!

Pastor's Bible Study

If you have been missing our regular Wednesday Bible study with the pastor, the Zoom format has been dropped and we are back to meeting in the Education Building each Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. We are beginning a new study on 1, 2, and 3rd John this week and look forward to seeing some old and new faces who will join us as we journey through the Bible together. There is nothing more satisfying than discovering new insights for our living as we peer intently into God's word.

50th Anniversary

Bobby & Genice Applegate will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a Come & Go Celebration on July 25th from 2-4 pm in the Family Life Center. Everyone is invited. No Gifts.



Together with their families, Victoria Peek & Easton Carter, request the pleasure of your company to celebrate their marriage on Saturday, August 7th, 2021 at 5:30 pm at Cabin Creek Lookout, 1464 CR 2530, Lamar, AR 72846. Followed by Dinner & Dancing. RSVP Ashley Carter 479-453-9898 by July 1st.

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| Peyton Cheek | 07/01 |
| Bobby Applegate | 07/05 |
| Hallie Wear | 07/06 |
| Susie Hodges | 07/09 |
| Genice Applegate | 07/12 |
| Rebecca Campbell | 07/13 |
| Tyler Balloun | 07/14 |
| Dawn McCormick | 07/16 |
| Jack Wilburn | 07/18 |
| Ron Merritt | 07/21 |
| Jonathan Cheek | 07/25 |
| John Judkins | 07/25 |
| Wayne Bowman | 07/28 |
| Ricky Sims | 07/29 |

Prayer Concerns: Brian Conatser, Ann Shields, Carol Carter, Barbara Pfeifer, Pat Childres, Todd Middleton, Dwight Atkinson, Bud Choate, Steve Lawrence, Kathleen Balloun, and all the nursing home residents.



