

# SPIRIT connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DEWEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | JUNE 2018

## THE INFINITE VALUE OF YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

*Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?*

*- Benjamin Franklin*

Whether you heard it from a Biblical source, a founding father, or a childhood camp song, you know the story—don't hide your light under a bushel! Please share it!

Talent is a gift, and oh what a wonderful gift! Putting your talent to good use is an important way to serve God and others.

Time is a resource, and its value is immeasurable. What you do with your time tells the world (and God) what you find important.

As a church, we value your time and

“Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.”

Matthew 5:15-16

talents. We value the choice that you make each and every day to spend your God-given talents and your precious time on work that serves to prove that you are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world.

Share your talent and shine bright!

## YOUTH HEADING OUT TO GROVE

On Monday, June 4, our Youth will head to Grove, Oklahoma, for Mission: Possible, a spirit-led and Jesus-fed mission to serve the community in and around Grove by working hard out in the heat of summer. This large group of eager youngsters will represent the very best of Dewey United Methodist Church as they lead by serving others.

Please keep the youth in your prayers as they spend this portion of their summer break serving others in the name of God.

## Church Events

### June 1

Annual Conference Concludes

### June 3

10 am *Lot's Wife*

### June 10

10 am *Jonah*

### June 17

9 am Father's Day Coffee

10 am *Prodigal Family*

### June 24

10 am *Peter and the Boat*

### June 30

1 pm UMW Hosts:

Ashley McAfee's Baby Shower

### Weekly Events

#### Sundays

9 am Sunday School

6 pm Chick-Lits

#### Wednesdays

5 pm One:10 Youth

6 pm Choir Practice

### Upcoming Events

July 1

Youth Sunday

Sept. 16

UMW Sunday

# Breaking a Habit

## *A message from Bishop Jimmy Nunn*

Luckily for me, my wife does most of the shopping. But occasionally I must go myself. Recently I visited a few stores with numerous fragile items for sale.

Leaving one of them, I discovered a life lesson. I noticed it as soon as I walked across the threshold of the store that had seemed filled with breakable things: My hands dug deep into my pockets. I realized I was repeating a reflexive action that I learned as a boy. In my childhood, the last thing my mother said as we entered a store was, "Put your hands in your pockets. Don't touch anything. If you break something, we will have to pay for it."

Those words were drilled into me. Even today recalling them evokes fear and trembling of sorts. Her message was reinforced by many stores. Signs were mounted near especially delicate items, declaring threats such as "You break it — you buy it" or "Thank you for buying the items you break." Those kinds of messages still send me in the opposite direction in a hurry.

Some of you are probably thinking, "Come on, it's just a store. It's no big deal."

But when I was a boy, "hands in your pockets" was a big deal. And I

suppose I've followed that habit my whole life. Only recently have I become self-aware enough to notice it.

As I have reflected on my little habit, I have determined to become a little more relaxed. I even have drummed up the courage to enter a store and let my hands have an out-of-pocket experience. Then I began to wonder if there is a larger message that I might learn from this practice.

People have lots of lifelong habits. Some of those habits relate to church.

There are people who push their hands down in their pockets when they walk into a church. Perhaps they sense an unwelcoming message when they enter.

Perhaps they are worried about the cost of breaking down or buying into something. Maybe they have had a bad experience.

Sometimes we in the church family reinforce those fears through both visible and invisible signs. Those signs say: "You are not part of us. You don't look like us. You don't act like us."

"You are not welcome here."

Once I suggested to a church that a sign displaying the times of its services might be a good idea. One of its saints told

me, "Everyone here knows what time church starts. We don't need a sign for the other people." I realized the place had a relational sign that broadcast the wrong message. No outward sign would change that inward attitude.

What messages tell people that it is OK to "take your hands out of your pockets"? How do we communicate that all people are welcomed, valued, and loved by God?

How do you personally send a message of welcome, value, and love to other people who may be filled with fear?

### Romans 15:7

*"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."*

How can we exclude or ignore others for our own selfish reasons, when Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us welcome? As you seek to find ways to include others or to become included by others, remember this verse and strive to follow the example of the welcoming attitude of God.



## Stories for Grownups

All the Bible stories you heard as a child, retold from a more mature perspective.

May 27 - Adam & Eve

June 3 - Lot's Wife

June 10 - Jonah & the Fish

June 17 - Prodigal Family

June 24 - Peter and the Boat

Youth Sunday is July 1.

*The next series is Moses, beginning July 8.*

# News Blotter

*A bit of news about what's going on in and around the church*

Nursery construction is about to begin! We've received a generous gift and are putting it to use in giving our nursery a long-overdue face lift! If you would like to help in this process, please contact the church office.

The United Methodist Men's annual garage sale fundraiser was a huge success, bringing in well over \$2,000—which the men will use for their good works.

The Mother's Day Tea had a nice group of ladies of all generations. We are proud to honor all the mothers in our church.

If you're even considering helping with VBS, please let us know! We can always use extra hands, and we can't do it without our volunteers. This also goes for the VBS kickoff party, which is scheduled for 4 pm on June 22.

Father's Day is June 17. We're thankful for all the fathers in our congregation, and we hope to see you all here.

The United Methodist Men's Scholarship was awarded to

Kali Adams. This generous gift will help Kali as she heads to OU in the fall.



## Welcome!

*Read on for a grown-up approach to the Bible stories you heard as a child*

How many times have we heard the same stories from the Bible told the exact same as when we were children? How many times have you read the story for yourself and found parts of the story that were left out or altered and you never really 'heard' the story? We are starting a new Sermon Series that runs from May 27 to June 24, called *NOT Your Children's Bible*. In this series we will look at five stories in the Bible in a different light.

I know many people do not read the Bible anymore. My hope is that some will take this as a good reason to start. My hope is that people find a story that resonates with them and speaks to a situation in their life. After all Scripture is the foundation of all that we do, and the stories in the Bible are about very real, and sometimes, very flawed people (just like us).

I invite you to take time to read each of the stories for yourself. I also would invite you to bring a friend to church with you so they can hear these stories in a new way.

May 27th - Adam & Eve

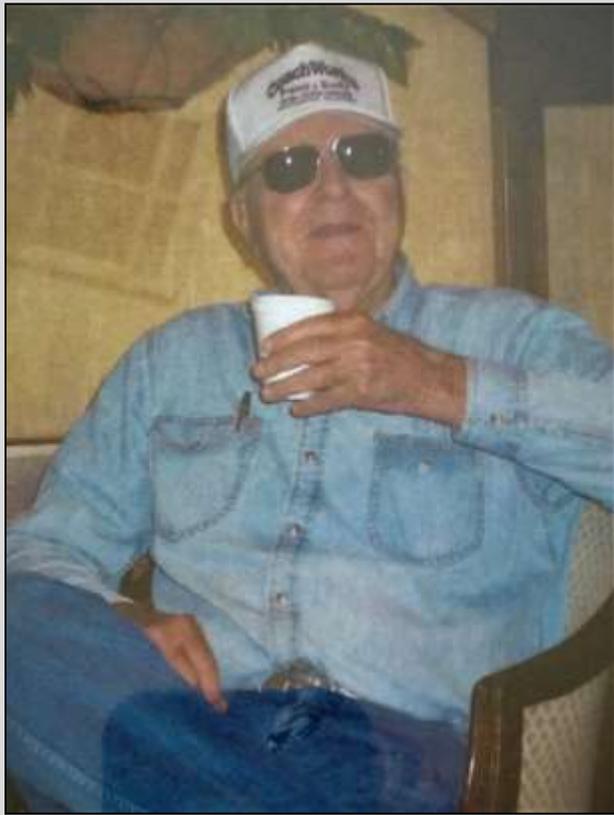
June 3rd - Lot's Wife

June 10th - Jonah

June 17th - The Prodigal Family

June 24th - Peter & the Boat

Rev. Jinx Barber, M.Div., GDBL  
Pastor



## A VERY SPECIAL NEW MEMBER

Jack Mattox joined the church through profession of faith and baptism. We're proud to have Jack as an official member of Dewey United Methodist Church!

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We're in the process of updating our contact information for all members and guests. Please take some time this month to fill out a complete Connection Card so we can have the most up-to-date information for you and your family!

# NOTES OF THANKS...

Dear DUMC:

Thank you so much for all the cards, hugs, phone calls, prayers and thoughts during the recent passing of Mark and my Mother, Joan Dyer. We also want to thank Pastor Jinx for all his visits. There are no words that can express how thankful we all are for each of you!

Love and HUGS, Jane Hodges and Family

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the calls, cards, flowers and prayers during my recent surgery.

Marilyn McAfee

Dear Church Family,

We sincerely appreciate all the well wishes and cards for Kali's graduation. It's been a tough few months without her, and we're so glad to finally have her home! - even if it's for a short while before she begins working for her dad and then ultimately heads to OU! Thank you all!

The Barber Family



# BABY SHOWER

Saturday, June 30 @ 1 pm

The UMW is hosting a baby shower in honor of **Ashlee & Matt McAfee** and their expected little one.

All are welcome to attend as we bless the happy, growing family.

The mom-and-dad-to-be are registered at:

- Walmart
- Amazon
- Buy Buy Baby

