

### Sunday, May 14, 2023, Sixth Sunday of Easter and Mother's Day

## Weeping, Joy, and Disaffiliation Update

For his anger is but for a moment; his favour is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning  
Psalm 30:5 NRSV

Hey Everyone! Thank you for following along with our updates in regards to disaffiliation. We are coming to the end of a very long road and there is immense joy arriving with us at our destination. However, the road has not been easy and emotions have run high at times as we have traveled together.

The psalmist wrote about many things in chapter 30 but specifically addresses two in the verse above. He addresses the emotion but then addresses the outcome we should expect as believers in response to that emotion. The first was anger. I think if we were honest with ourselves, we would admit that there have been times throughout the process where we may have felt a little anger. Anger is an emotion given by God, like many others, that helps us express how we feel and comprehend what's going on in our surroundings. To feel it is natural and to respond is at times necessary but used in the wrong way can be hurtful to those we love the most. While there have been times we may have felt angry, I think we would also agree that we have seen God's miraculous favor over the last several months as well. One example would be our final disaffiliation fee decreased another \$13,000 in the last two weeks. When we started two years ago, we thought the total cost would be over \$289,000 and now it's just under \$83,000. Even though His favor is not often financial I yelled for joy when it manifested in the final agreement with the South Georgia Annual Conference of the UMC! This is only one example of many other good things that are taking place within and outside the walls of the church where we can see his sovereign favor manifest in our community. Yes, there is anger but it's only for a moment. The psalmist writes that if we see past the anger and embrace His will/our calling we will experience His favor for a lifetime.

The second was about weeping. I've talked to a lot of people over the past few months. Most in our church and countless outside of our church as well. While there has been anger for only a few, the most prominent emotion has been weeping or as some translations put it; sorrow. There is a sadness when we think about leaving something we have been a part of and lived in for so long. I would be a liar to say I didn't have the feeling of sadness about some of our changes. I'm sad to think of not going to annual conferences, some of the clergy gatherings, and leaving behind years of labor of love. I've wept over changes made and people who have been hurt or displaced in so many churches around South Georgia, even in our own context in Centerville. There is a loss that feels as if we are experiencing the death of a dear friend. Weeping, like anger, is also natural and requires a response in order to grieve and move forward. The writer writes to the reader that sorrow, although painful, lasts for a short time. New days are coming, and there they will find Joy!

There are emotions but where's the update? The first two paragraphs of this week's newsletter/ update were pertinent to what we want to share with you today. I pray you go back and read the other updates as everything in matters of finance and the building are moving along in a timely manner and on schedule. Today we are focusing on opportunities to experience our emotions but to also live into God's favor and celebrate with Joy new mornings that are ahead.

May 21st will be unofficially our last Sunday as a United Methodist Church. That afternoon the Annual Conference will vote to approve disaffiliations of all the churches who have voted through their own church conferences to separate from the UMC. We will only have ONE SERVICE on this particular Sunday for a couple of different reasons. One, is to love one another as we remember all the work that has been done in our congregation since our inception. God has blessed us in so many ways and will continue to as we become The Well at Centerville. But to say there will not be sadness and even anger is hubris. It's ok, and as the body we will experience this together and pray with one another through it. The second is for us to gather together for a time of prayer and to remember that even though we may feel our sorrow and even weep that there is a

#### Scripture & Sermon:

1 Peter 3:13-22

"Letters:  
Wisdom of Suffering:  
Eager Faith"



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

#### New Concerns

Family of Connie Cross  
Thomas & Joy  
Scott Warren  
Warren McDow  
Debbie Herrington

#### Continue Prayers for:

Family of Peggy Holcomb  
Natalie  
Leon and Nancy  
Betty Byrd  
Carl Stone  
Glenda Green

#### Wesley Glen Ministries

Mary Prater  
Jim & Mary Leary  
Virginia Eadie  
Hailey Holder Allen  
Bill Reedy  
Sarah Mayer  
Cary Martin  
Mac McNeal  
James McNeal  
Our Country, Leaders, Military

#### Finance Report for May 7

Operating Budget.....	\$7,204
Apportionments.....	75
Technology.....	101
Local Mission.....	126
Total .....	\$7,506

#### Worship Attendance:

135

#### Sunday School

54

God is love,

and he who abides in love,  
abides in God, & God in him.

1John 4:16

BibleVerseImages.com

new day ahead of us. Through Prayer as a body of believers God will see us through the night and into the morning. After Service, we will fellowship with one another at our Dinner on the Grounds fundraiser. We will share fond memories and Thank God for all He has done to make us what we are.

June 11th is another important Sunday for our church where again we will have ONE SERVICE at 10:30 for a few important reasons as well. This particular service is our official relaunch Sunday as The Well at Centerville. We will celebrate the work God has done as Centerville UMC and the "greater works" we have been praying through that he will do as we move into our new morning. Our goal, on June 11th, is to begin a new season where we give our best efforts to the work we are called to in our community and move beyond the challenges we've faced through disaffiliation. We will recognize our charter members, have a meal after, and praise God as one body for seeing us faithfully through this process. Our hopes are high and we invite you or anyone you know to join us as we celebrate this historic occasion.

We can focus on anger and sorrow; or we can choose to see His favor and new mornings. The reality is it's a choice. I have felt all the emotions through this process and know you probably have too. The overwhelming picture of the Psalm 30:5 is that in God's complete sovereignty He uses the moments that are hard to produce an outcome that is more than we could have imagined apart from Him. My prayer for you over the next few weeks, as we draw to a completion the changes we have implemented, together is that you see His goodwill at work; in the weeping and in the morning.

Keep the Faith,  
Pastor Tommy

### Letter from Pastor Tommy

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

When the world fails you, your hope is in Jesus. Be kind to yourself, His mercy will sustain you. Choose Joy, the rest will take care of itself. Remember, Christ Cho sacrifice, was a costly sacrifice but it was for you. Live Holy when it's easy, you'll need the discipline when it's not. You've been born anew, don't waste the gift.


Remember, you are the example, no matter your suffering. Not because of what you have done but by His wounds. His will is your priority. You were chosen for His purpose. Value His will and manage your expectations.

Keep the Faith, Pastor Tommy

### Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- \* In honor of Mary Frances' birthday by Vicky & Don Moore
- \* In memory of Connie Cross by Joyce & Bennie Wyatt

**Happy Birthday!**



14  
Mary Leary  
Tommy Odum  
19  
Amy Van De Water  
20  
Jim Bailey

<b>Bible Reading Plan</b>	
<b>Week of May 14<sup>th</sup>:</b>	
Sunday.....	1 Corinthians 2
Monday.....	1 Cor 3
Tuesday.....	1 Cor 4
Wednesday.....	1 Cor 5
Thursday.....	1 Cor 6
Friday.....	1 Cor 7
Saturday.....	1 Cor 8



### Twin Beds to be Rehomed

Does anyone, or do you know of someone that can use 2 twin beds, they're free, please contact the office at 478-953-3090.

### Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry May 24, 11a... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Clothes Closet Volunteers for May 16- Barbara Hilliard, Marilyn Outz, Betty Byrd
- Our Open Door Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday 9a-noon. **Items needed: Men's sneakers and sandals; Size 1 (newborn) diapers; travel size- shampoo/conditioner, soap, lotion, toothpaste/mouthwash, sanitizer, sanitary pads/liners.**
- The Clothes Closet will be open Saturday, June 24, 9a-12noon.

### Dinner on the Grounds

There are only a few tickets for the Dinner on the Grounds, Sunday, May 21 after the 1030a service... ticket sales will be cut off this Sunday, May 14 and there will be no tickets sold "at the door". So, contact the Friendship Circle or the office to get yours!



## New Name

We have a new name! The United Methodist Men have voted to change their name and will now be known as "Men at the Well". I love it! Well done, Men... no pun intended.

## Sunday School

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

### Sunday School Class

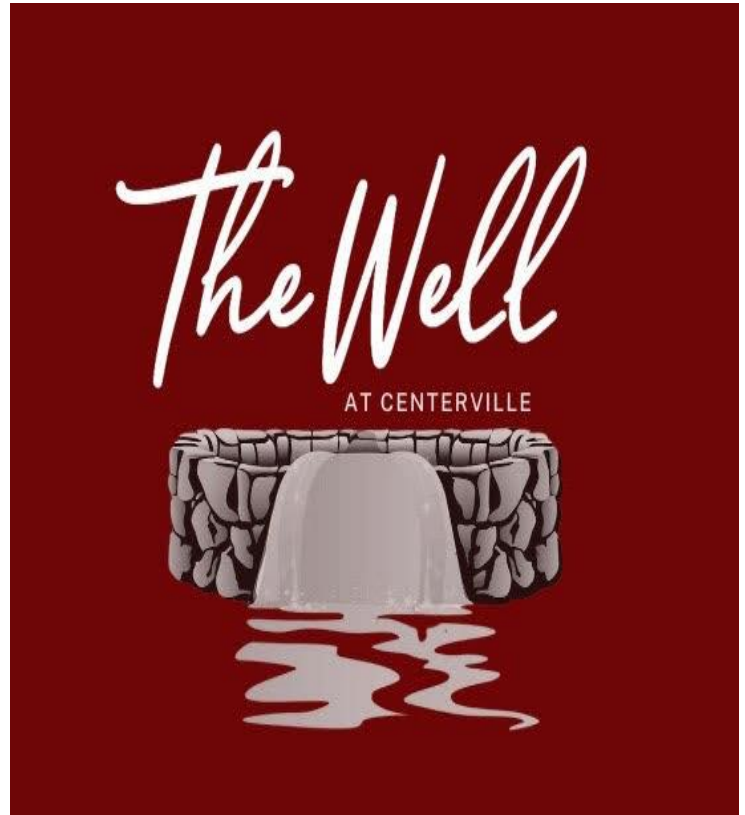
Seekers  
Issues & Answers  
New Beginnings  
Christian Fellowship  
Youth  
Pilgrims

### Lenten Studies

Spiritual Warfare  
Matthew  
The Parables  
Romans  
Why and How Do I Pray?  
Gospel Comparisons  
for major events in Jesus' life

### Teacher

Kathy Rutke  
Katie Odum  
Nancy Hudson  
Don Schall  
Eric & Gloria Nelson  
Kathy Blanchard



# Dinner on the Grounds

A Fundraiser for Centerville UMC Expenses

**Sunday, May 21**  
**11:30am**

**Tickets:**  
Adult - \$25  
Child (10 & under) - \$10

**Serving:**  
Beef Tips  
Fried Chicken  
Green Beans  
Squash Casserole  
Mashed Potatoes  
Cornbread  
Dinner Rolls  
Iced Tea  
Homemade Desserts

**Sponsored by Women of Faith**

Contact the Friendship Circle or Church Office for Tickets  
478-550-2362 or 478-953-3090



# Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

## This Week's Schedule:

**Sunday- May 14**

### Ushers

### Mother's Day

8:30a W.C. Hester, Michael Walston  
 10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier  
 Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter  
 Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen  
 8:30a Early Worship  
 9:15a Sunday School  
 10:30a Worship

### Greeters

10:30a Sherrie Shell, Sharon Morrison

### Communion Servers

Marie Davis, Louis Sampson  
 Sherrie Shell, LaWanna Porter

### Finance Stewards

LaWanna Porter, Kathy Rutke, Hilda Rozier

### Assisting with Children

**Sunday- May 14**

Nursery- TBD  
 Children- Sherrie Shell, Amber Gamble  
**Sunday- May 21**  
 Nursery- TBD, Laura McKenzie  
 Children- Marie Davis, Brenda Crow

**Monday- May 15**

10:00a Quilters  
 7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

**Tuesday- May 16**

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet  
 9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
 10:00a Partners in Prayer  
 10:00a Yoga  
 7:30 p Narcotics Anonymous

**Wednesday- May 17**

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
 11:30a Friendship Circle  
 6:30p Choir Practice  
 7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

**Thursday- May 18**

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
 10:00a Yoga  
 5:30p Dulcimers  
 6:30p Handbells  
 7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

**Friday- May 19**

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

**Saturday- May 20**

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Happy Mother's Day