



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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October 2023

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director
Todd Spangler, Pianist

Edie Jo Hall, Children's Director
Taylor Stephens, Youth Director

*Sharing God's love with our neighbors,
inviting them to share in the joy of Jesus Christ.*

ARTICLE

As many of you heard or gathered, my wife and one of my daughters vacationed at the Outer Banks a couple of weeks ago. We left after I preached so were on track to reach our destination around midnight after traffic jams and pit stops.

As we crossed over to the string of islands, we still had a ways to go before arriving at our condo rental. There was a very long stretch of road with no gas stations or fast-food joints and very little light. Of course, this is when nature began calling to me fiercely.

With no civilization in sight, I finally decided to pull off the side of the road to relieve myself before it was too late. I immediately regretted this decision. We literally sank into the sand as if it were snow and got stuck.

We were in Becky's car and not my 4X4 truck, so this made things more difficult. We tried putting branches and floor mats under the wheels for traction.

Two different Good Samaritan's in trucks stopped to help but to no avail. At one point, we had three men and a young lady pushing but we just kept digging ourselves deeper. Poor Nicole was covered head to toe with sand from her efforts to dig us out.

I am not accustomed to feeling utterly helpless. My motto is "*Where there's a Doyal, there's a way.*" But I had to face reality, we were not going to be able to save ourselves through brain or brawn. I began to sing in my head, "*I was sinking deep in sand, far from the peaceful shore. Buried deeply.*" Around 12:30 a.m. I called AAA.

With the help of a large roll-back tow truck, we were finally freed and back on the road about an hour later. The metaphor of how we can be stuck in sin, helpless to save ourselves and reliant on God's power and grace should hopefully be clear. Sometimes we just need the reminder.

Steve

TRUNK OR TREAT

We plan to have this annual event on Sunday, October 29th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

If you are going to have a vehicle or table in Trunk-or-Treat, please let Steve or Edie know ASAP. Right now, we need at least 4 more vehicles.

The BLUE CANDY BARREL is out and ready to receive. Please bring individually wrapped candies for the children. We are also collecting small toys and non-candy items for those children with allergies. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make it to Bookwalter with Trunk-Or-Treat in the memo.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CAMPOUT

The Children will be camping at Ms. Alicia's house Friday, October 13-14. Drop off Friday at 5:30 pm. Pick up Saturday by 9:30 am. We will serve dinner, snacks, and breakfast.

What to Bring:

Sleeping bag or blankets, pillow, toiletries, PJ's and any toy you need to sleep, , waterproof shoes (the fields are usually wet,) lantern/headlamp/flashlight, camp chair, tent if you have one, cot if you have one. We have air mattresses.

Parents are invited to attend also! We need to know if you are coming and if you need a tent. Call Alicia 865-388-6547 or Edie 865-388-6547 to RSVP. We need to make sure we have enough tents and food.

COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH

We will have this quarterly special worship service on October 29 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This marks the one-year anniversary of this unique gathering. We will have donuts and danishes and such also.

HOMECOMING

Homecoming is Sunday, November 5th. We are celebrating Bookwalter's 141st birthday. Former pastor Dwight S. Kilbourne is the speaker.

A covered dish luncheon follows. Please mark your calendars and invite someone to come with you.



THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

We are once again collecting food items for the less fortunate in our community through the Friends of Inskip. This year we are asked to collect 200 boxes of instant stuffing, 200 packets of gravy (NOT jars) and 200 bags of sugar. Thank you for your support.

NOMINATIONS MEETING

Our Nominations and Leadership Development team will meet Tuesday, October 3 at 7 PM via Zoom to select persons for positions in the church in preparation for our Charge Conference on November 15 at 7 p.m.