



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

4218 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

(865) 689-3349

www.bookwalter-umc.org

April 2024

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

There is a cemetery in Hanover, Germany that has a grave covered with huge slabs of granite and marble cemented together and fastened with heavy steel straps.

The plot belongs to a woman who died in 1782. She did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, but despite her unbelief took precautions in case such an event might take place.

She stipulated in her will that her grave be made secure so that if there were a resurrection, God could not get to her. She even had her marker inscribed with the words: *"This tomb bought for eternity may never be opened."*

However, as time passed, a seed from a nearby tree, which had been covered over by the stone slabs, began to grow. Slowly it pushed up through the soil and out from beneath the slabs.

As the trunk enlarged, the great slabs gradually shifted so that the steel straps were torn from their sockets. This site is now known as the "Open Grave" or the "Burst Grave" and is a tourist attraction.

As surely as that tiny seed had the power to open the woman's grave, God can raise her at the resurrection. I take comfort knowing that God will be able to "get to me" when that time comes.

Steve



EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

If you are interested in participating in a workshop on evangelism sponsored by the New River District called "Faith-Sharing 101" please let Rev. Doyal or Pat Newman know asap. It is designed to help you share your faith with others without feeling awkward, uncomfortable or pushy.

Some of the presentations will be Hospitality 101 led by Jim Goddard, Sharing Your Story led by Danny Nettleton, Social Media and the Small Membership Church led by Timothy Hale just to name a few.

It is normally \$35 a person, but if we participate as a group via Zoom at the church, it is only \$15 a person. It is Saturday April 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We have to register by 4/10.

SPRING INTO HOPE

There is a Mental Health awareness festival coming up at Ijams Nature Park called "Spring Into Hope" on April 6 from 2:00-6:00 PM. It is a "pay what you can" entry and there will be live music, yoga, journaling, food trucks and more. See Scott Payne for more details.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Wednesday night Adult Bible study group will start a new study on April 17 at 6:30 PM. The topic will be "Christian Virtues" and is described on the website - "In this nine-session LifeGuide® Bible Study, Cindy Bunch leads you to investigate—and learn to practice—key Christian virtues: faith, hope, love, wisdom, justice, courage, moderation, integrity and perseverance."

Books cost \$10 a piece and we need to order them by April 8th to get them in time. Please let Rev. Doyal know if you are interested.

CHURCH PICNIC

The Children's Department is hosting a Church Picnic in the pavilion on Sunday, April 28 following worship. They will provide hamburgers and hot dogs and are asking church members to bring sides, fixin's and desserts.

OUTREACH MEETING

Our Outreach team will meet Monday evening, April 15 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel Class. We can offer a Zoom option to anyone interested in attending virtually.

HANDS ON MISSION

Both the Smoky Mountain and Tennessee Valley Districts have been asked to put together 400 Food Buckets from each District for the 2024 Holston Annual Conference Hands-On Mission Project. These will be once again going to Zimbabwe.

Note: A \$5.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each bucket. Each church is asked to bring ONE check for the total shipping amount.

* Do not put money in the bucket! Pack in NEW 5 Gallon bucket with lid.

Each bucket should contain the following:

1 bag Self-Rising Flour (4-5lb)

1 bag Sugar (4-5lb) (TN VALLEY ONLY)

1 bag of dried beans (2lb)

1 bottle cooking oil (48oz or less)

Canned Meat (Ham, Tuna, Spam) 2 lb total

1 bag of Rice (2 lb)

1 powdered/dried milk (56oz or less)

Delivery dates and times will be announced later.

Remember, food items have expiration dates! Please, make sure the expiration date is 2025 or later to cover transport time and having a useful shelf-life for the people in Zimbabwe.