



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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August 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

As the 2024 Olympics are underway, I'm focused on the positive and inspiring stories of these athletes who are at the height of their respective sports. I have always admired the dedication it takes to reach this level of competition which in many cases stretches the limitations of the human body.

In addition to the grueling training, many of the competitors give credit to the Lord for their gifts and strength. For example, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone hopes to repeat how she won the women's 400-meter hurdles at the last Olympics. After winning that gold she posted this moving testimony: *"What an honor it is to be able to represent not only my country, but also the kingdom of God. What I have in Christ is far greater than what I have or don't have in life. I pray my journey may be a clear depiction of... obedience to God... And He has prepared me for a moment such as this. That I may use the gifts He has given me to point all the attention back to Him."*

I am also in awe of Simone Biles who is widely considered the greatest gymnast of all time. She now has eight Olympic medals, including five gold medals across her three Summer Games appearances and could still add even more. Watching her perform is like seeing the special effects in a superhero movie.

Biles has spoken openly about her faith, previously describing her gymnastic ability as a God-given skill that she believes she's called to steward. She said: *"I think God gives every individual something special and mine was talent. So I never take it for granted. My dad always told me: don't waste God's gift that he gave you."*

While we may not have headline making talents or abilities like Olympic athletes, we are all given gifts by our Maker. Are we using them in His name and to the fullest? Pray for discernment of your gift and whatever you say or do, do it all for the glory of God.

Steve

PACK A BACKPACK

The date for Pack-A-Backpack has been set for August 7th from 4:30 – 6:30 PM. Volunteers can meet at the Inskip Elementary gym at 3:45, to set up the tables and supplies. Any and all help for this event is appreciated.

The Pack-A—Backpack list for Bookwalter includes Plastic folders, Glue sticks, Pencils and Cap erasers. There are boxes in the Fellowship Hall to place them. Monetary donations marked Pack-A-Backpack are welcome.

OUTREACH MEETING

There will be an Outreach Team meeting on Monday evening, August 12th at 6:30 PM in the Chapel classroom. There will also be a Zoom option if you cannot be there in person.

CONGRATULATIONS

Pam Ferguson married David White at the church in a small private ceremony on Tuesday, July 30. We wish them congratulations and a safe trip on their brief honeymoon.



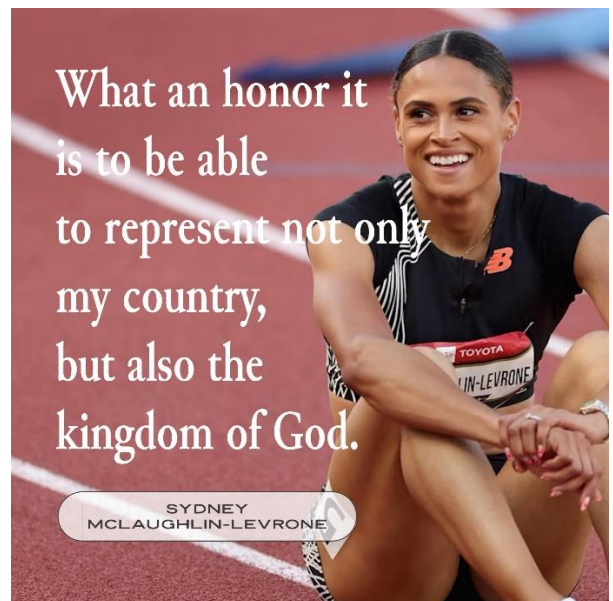
CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Our Administrative Assistant Betty Lenior is looking to retire later this fall after over 23 years of service to our church. If you or someone you know is interested in picking up the mantle and working a couple of days a week, please let Rev. Doyal know so arrangements can be made to observe and learn her many responsibilities.

RUMMAGE SALE

We have changed the dates for the Rummage Sale from the end of September to the first of October. The dates are October 4-5, Friday and Saturday

On Friday the hours will be 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and this will be half price day



1 Corinthians 9:24-25- “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”