



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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February 2025

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director
Todd Spangler, Pianist

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

ARTICLE

I get a daily email with a reading extracted from the extensive writings of C.S. Lewis. The following one caught my eye this week and I wanted to share it with you.

Steve

I remember once when I had been giving a talk to the R.A.F., an old, hard-bitten officer got up and said, 'I've no use for all that stuff. But, mind you, I'm a religious man too. I know there's a God. I've felt Him: out alone in the desert at night: the tremendous mystery. And that's just why I don't believe all your neat little dogmas and formulas about Him. To anyone who's met the real thing they all seem so petty and pedantic and unreal!'

Now in a sense I quite agreed with that man. I think he had probably had a real experience of God in the desert. And when he turned from that experience to the Christian creeds, I think he really was turning from something real to something less real. In the same way, if a man has once looked at the Atlantic from the beach, and then goes and looks at a map of the Atlantic, he also will be turning from something real to something less real: turning from real waves to a bit of coloured paper.

But here comes the point. The map is admittedly only coloured paper, but there are two things you have to remember about it. In the first place, it is based on what hundreds and thousands of people have found out by sailing the real Atlantic. In that way it has behind it masses of experience just as real as the one you could have from the beach; only, while yours would be a single glimpse, the map fits all those different experiences together.

In the second place, if you want to go anywhere, the map is absolutely necessary. As long as you are content with walks on the beach, your own glimpses are far more fun than looking at a map. But the map is going to be more useful than walks on the beach if you want to get to America.

C.S. Lewis – Mere Christianity

OUTREACH MEETING

We will have an Outreach meeting on Saturday, February 15 at 11:00 am in the Chapel Classroom. We will also have an online option.

FRIENDS OF LITERACY BOOK DRIVE

Bookwalter UMC will hold a children's book drive during the month of February. We are requesting new or gently used children's books be donated. These will be given to **Friends of Literacy**. They provide books for children visiting Cherokee Health facilities. Each time a child visits they get to take home one book. The idea is to instill a love of reading from an early age. It also helps with developing language skills. Friends of Literacy also supports seven free libraries around Knoxville and gives out books at special events.

They are seeking books for children from infancy through elementary school. These could be board books like for babies, picture books and early childhood books.

Bilingual books would be great, but these are more expensive. They have both English and Spanish on each page. They prefer books not be religious oriented since they are serving children from all backgrounds.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Like we have done the last several years, we will gather with the sole purpose of putting on our thinking caps to come up with creative ways for our church to be in mission and ministry to our community. We will gather Saturday morning February 22 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel Classroom. Everyone with a brain is welcome.

AV UPGRADE

Our new Audio-Visual equipment is now in place, and we are getting used to the capabilities. Most of the cost was covered by a \$10,000 grant from the Conference, but there was a difference of about \$2,000 for labor if you would consider helping offset that cost.

ONLINE GIVING

As Mary Mahoney shared last Sunday morning, our church offers a service wherein you can set up online giving to be automatically made. The folks who use this have shared how convenient it is. From the perspective of the church, it would be helpful in situations like we just experienced with the snow hindering worship attendance. If you are interested, please talk to Mary for more details and about how to set it up.

FROM RESURRECTION 2025

