



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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September 2025

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director
Todd Spangler, Pianist

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor
Betsy Payne, Secretary

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 you may have read in your email prayer concerns, I have had a rough week. An MRI on my knee confirmed I have a torn meniscus, a strained MCL and arthritis eating away at the cartilage. Thankfully the pain is better and the doctor is not advising surgery at this point. I got a steroid shot and a regimen of physical therapy.

In addition, I also developed a case of Bell's Palsy. I have started medication for that, but currently half of my face is "paralyzed" making speech, eating, drinking, smiling, etc. a challenge. It is also affecting my eye because it is not blinking properly.

While I was already pondering how these simple activities are something I take for granted normally, David Hawkins sent me a little reel on Facebook that expresses my thoughts well:

"While we woke up this morning, someone else will never open their eyes again.

While we take our health for granted, someone else dreams of having their health back.

While we complain about having to walk, someone else will never take another step.

While we are unhappy with our food, someone else goes to sleep hungry.

While we complain about work and wait impatiently for the weekend, someone else prays just to live another day.

While we dream of a bigger house, someone else has no roof over their head at all.

While we worry about getting older, someone else would give anything just to relive these very years.

Someone once said, 'We don't appreciate what we have until it's gone and it's absolutely true.

When we forget gratitude, we lose our happiness.

So why not thank God today for every blessing we have.

For the gift of life and for another beautiful day."

Thanks, David

Steve

COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH

We have a special surprise guest speaker for worship in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 31 at 11:00 a.m. Please join us and remember to bring a canned food donation for the Cedar Lane UMC Food pantry.

CHURCH COUNCIL

We will meet on Monday evening, September 8th at 7:00 PM in the Chapel Classroom and online via Zoom. We did not meet in July, so we may have much ground to cover regarding the business of the church.

BOOKWALTER DEVOTIONAL

We are moving forward with plans for this special project. In 2026, we want to fill each day with the voices, visions, and prayers of our people. 365 devotionals created by the Bookwalter family. Whether you feel called to write a reflection, pen a prayer, or share through art - this devotional welcomes all forms of heartfelt expression.

Every person - child, teen, adult, and elder - is invited to contribute at least one devotional entry (hopefully more!). You might choose to write, draw, paint, color, or share something creative that speaks your truth. There are only two requirements: include a short note or sentence explaining the meaning or message behind your submission and a scriptural reference.

This devotional will be shared with our entire church family, with special care given to our homebound members - offering them a daily reminder that they are deeply connected to a loving, vibrant community. But wait...there's more! Every Bookwalter family will receive a copy to use for personal and/or family devotions. Additional copies may be purchased at a very nominal cost.

To sign up or ask questions, please contact Pat Newman at patn.106@gmail.com or (865) 394-3295. Right now, we only need to know if you intend to participate. Let's journey through the year together—one day, one heart, one community, one family in faith.

SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAY

Pat Newman will be filling in for Rev. Doyal on Sunday, September 21 and already has a theme in mind. It is "Sock It To Me" Sunday and that entails a couple of things. Everyone is encouraged to bring donations of socks for children at Inskip Elementary. Also, to get in the spirit of the day, please wear some wacky socks yourself.

On this same day, the children will make up the Water Day that got rained out last month. They need to bring or wear a bathing suit, shoes that don't slip in wet grass and have a towel. Parents should bring a chair. The kids will also have pizza.

HOPE AND RESTORATION WOMEN'S EVENT

We are excited to welcome Dr. Carol Price-Guthrie as our guest speaker on Friday evening, October 3rd and Saturday October 4th for this special occasion.

Topics will include Restoring Our Joy, Renewing Our Strength, Beauty From Ashes and the Power of Forgiveness.

Saturday will also include break-out sessions on the following: Self Care, Prayer, Art Therapy and Stress Management. Make plans to join us and tell your friends.

PACK-A-BACKPACK

Thank you to everyone who came out to assist with the school supplies distribution on August 5th. We served over 220 students with this important and helpful outreach project.

