



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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June 2026

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

You may be aware of the surge in popularity of the musical aesthetic known as "Yacht Rock" lately. It is a broad description of soft rock that used to be called the West Coast Sound. Traced back to the Beach Boys, it includes music by Michael McDonald, Kenny Loggins and Steely Dan. The clearest example is Christopher Cross.

I remember when Cross burst onto the musical scene in 1979 and won five Grammy's for his debut album. Three of those awards were for his hit "Sailing" which was all about the virtues of hitting the sea for a relaxing escape and finding some peace of mind.

Having heard it several times recently, I began to wonder about the meaning of the line "Oh, the canvas can do miracles." I always thought that *canvas* was referring to the material that sails were made of, but it occurred to me it might instead be what is used by an artist to paint.

Sure enough, when I checked with our A.I. Overlords at Google, they said "the song touches on the restorative and transformative power of art where any creative pursuit or passion can mentally transport someone to a better place."

Was I mistaken all these years about the lyrics' meaning? I do not think so because part of the beauty of art is its capacity to contain many interpretations. I have heard many musicians refuse to explain what a particular line in one of their songs "means" to not limit it.

Interpretation is a loaded word for Christians when applied to Scripture. Many people want to believe there is one and only one right way to read any passage. I have personally found, however, that God's Word can speak to me differently at various times in my life and under diverse conditions.

Perhaps it is more helpful to say a passage may have one "meaning" but multiple applications. For example, the verse "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" can be comfort in grief, encouragement in difficult circumstances or even motivation toward a tough goal. Then there is the original context in which Paul spoke those words. He was in prison at the time and enduring the hardships thereof. How God can speak to us in such a way is part of what makes the Bible Holy. Every word is a symphony. Won't you believe me?

Steve

COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH

Rick Russo, the Sports Director at WVLT will be our guest speaker this coming Sunday, May 31 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. He will speak about how his faith has been intertwined with his career and how it is helping him in his current battle with kidney cancer. Spread the word and invite a friend.



SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN JUNE

The Outreach Team is encouraging everyone to have some fun in June with a series of themed services for the month. We had a good time with “Sock It To Me” Sunday so they are expanding the idea this year.

For the first Sunday, June 7th you are invited to wear Hawaiian shirts and leis if you have them. A Lei is a traditional symbol of love, honor, and celebration. We will have a limited number available at the church.

On June 14, which is Flag Day, the congregation will be asked to wear red, white and blue.

Father’s Day June 21 will be Bad Joke Day and Ugly Tie Day (or scarves or anything ugly).

Finally, June 28 will be Crazy Hat Day.

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

For four weeks in July, we will have Wild and Wacky Wednesdays for the Children. The focus this year will be on fun science and engineering projects. More specifics will be available in the next newsletter.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Please be in prayer for our pastor and representatives and all those gathered at Lake Junaluska next week for decisions and business at the conference level of the United Methodist Church.

SHARON WILSON WEDDING

Everyone is invited to the wedding of Tony Rose and Sharon Wilson at the church on Saturday, June 6 at 2:00 PM with a small reception in the Fellowship Hall afterwards.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Rev. Doyal and youth leader Taylor Stephens will be co-leading a six session Confirmation class for several young folks in June and July on Wednesday evenings. We hope to then have a church picnic in the mountains or by a river to celebrate their decisions for Christ by baptism.

