

Encourage One Another

So then, my brothers and sisters, we have boldness to go into the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus. He has inaugurated a brand new, living path through the curtain (that is, his earthly body). We have a high priest who is over God's house. So let us therefore come to worship, with a true heart, in complete assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold tightly to our confession of hope, without being diverted; the one who anointed the message to us is trustworthy! Let us, as well, stir up one another's minds to energetic effort in love and good works. We mustn't do what some people have gotten in the habit of doing, neglecting to meet together. Instead, we must encourage one another, and all the more as you can see the great day coming closer."

Hebrews 10:19-25

As we move further into the summer, I am encouraged that our attendance is moving in the right direction. We are nowhere near where we were before the pandemic, but we will get there. In the meantime, there is much we can learn from the words of Hebrews 10.

Up to this point in Hebrews, the writer has been collecting key passages of Scripture, making arguments here and there, bringing up images and ideas familiar and unfamiliar, shaping and making his case for Jesus as God's Son, the Truly Human One, the Great High Priest, the Mediator of the new covenant. In Chapter 10 we see where it all has been going: "Let's come to worship!"

Most people, most of the time, have something which hangs heavy on their hearts, something they've done that they wish they hadn't, something which haunts them and makes them afraid of being found out. How wonderful to know that the sacrifice of Jesus, and the "sprinkled blood" which comes from it, has the power, as we accept it in faith and trust, to wash away every stain from the conscience, so that we can come to God in confidence.

The writer speaks of our bodies being "washed with pure water." This is a reference to baptism and seen as a sign of entry into God's Church.

So, then, we are to come to worship God-not just in private, but in public as well. The danger of us thinking we can be Christians all by ourselves seems to have existed in the early church as well as today and verse 25 warns against it.

There's no place for not showing up, declares Hebrews. Every one of us needs the encouragement of every other Christian. Everyone who comes through the door of the place of worship, whether it's a house on a back street or a big building like ours, is a real encouragement to everyone else who is here. When one person decides not to participate we all suffer because of it. It's not something to be taken lightly.

We are moving in the right direction. May we continue to meet together and regularly. I look forward to worshipping with you this coming Sunday and on.

Much love, Pastor Ken



The Chancel Choir helps to lead worship on July 4th.

Help Move the Library: We are moving our library to the former Alpha Sunday school classroom in order to move our nursery into our current library space. The books will be moved by the Youth of Hernando United Methodist Church, Memphis, TN. The move will take place Saturday, July 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. We would love for you to stop by and help.

Happy Birthday to...

- 2 Jim Jenkins
- 6 Betty Harris
- 9 Linda Gilliland
- 10 Glenda Guthrie
- 11 Glynda Brown
- 13 Zane Baxter
- 17 Daryl Watkins
- 18 Ethel Brooks
- 21 Jasmine Roberts
- 23 Phil Elkins
- 24 Earl Clem
- 28 Logan McGinnis

Anniversaries celebrated in July...

- 3 George and Sylvia Newman
- 16 Scott and Bo Brown

If you have time on your hands and would like to answer the church phones, now is your chance. Any time slot during August 2 – 5, 9 – noon or 1:00 – 4:00.

Come Enjoy Wednesday's in the Park every Week, 6 p.m.



Hannah Clem, Hale Booth and Jane Smith get ready to serve food on Hawaiian Night.



David Brackett passes out leis.



Nancy Watkins comes to the park dressed for fun.



Owen Sauer and Susie Booth play Corn-hole.



Jack and Debra Pitkin enjoy the food and music.



A time for fellowship.



David is getting into the music.



Barefoot Nellie brought us Blue Grass on June 2.



June 2nd was also "balloon night."



Jamie Harvey talks with a friend.



Holden Hart enjoys the summer evening with her dad Ware.



Emily and Penny Haber having fun.



Sonya and Devere Keller getting some, much needed, relaxation.