



The Messenger
Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church
407 East Spring Street, Boonville, MO 65233
June 2022



“A Really Good Story”

All Jesus did that day was tell stories—a long storytelling afternoon. His storytelling fulfilled the prophecy: I will open my mouth and tell stories; I will bring out into the open things hidden since the world’s first day. Matthew 13:34-35 The Message.

“That show must be really sad.” This is what the 15-year-old said one night walking into the family room where Sara and I were watching the television show *This Is Us*. He said this because there were tears in Sara’s eyes and I was really quiet (how I respond when emotions hit me). Sara, through tears, shook her head and I explained that the show isn’t necessarily sad, but is actually very good. I went on to talk about how the show does such a great job of telling the story of the lives of the main characters. Over and over I repeated the phrase, “it’s just really good storytelling.”

There’s something about the power of a good story. A really good story told well can move us in a way facts and bullet points never will. I think this is the reason shows like *This Is Us* and certain movies speak so deeply to people—not because of the story they tell, but because of how well they tell the story.

When I was in the 6th grade, our English class did an entire unit on storytelling. Our final assignment of the unit was to tell a story from a list of children’s stories and fairy tales. I selected “Rip Van Winkle” (I think I liked the idea of sleeping for a very long time). When my turn at storytelling finally came, I was terrified. I wanted to get every detail of the story right, keep everything in the right order, and not forget anything. My stomach was in knots as I got up to recite this story. It didn’t take long for the train to go off the rails, and before I knew it, my teacher stopped me. I was instructed to take the weekend and come back and try again. Over the weekend I read the story, but instead of trying to memorize all the details, I decided to put myself into the story and tell it as if I was the central character, sharing what I thought van Winkle must have felt throughout his experience. The result was amazing. My teacher couldn’t believe the transformation and told me she was moved by my storytelling (probably just encouraging me, but I’ll take it).

Allowing us to feel what others are going through is one of the many gifts of a well-told story. I think this is why Jesus so often used story in his teachings. He didn’t try to convey facts or lay out a perfectly crafted argument (all of which would have been easy for him to do). Instead, Jesus spoke to hearts of his listeners by sharing stories and connecting with the emotions of others.

When we know what someone thinks, it might change our minds. When we understand how someone feels, it has the power to change hearts. What stories do you tell and how are you working to help connect with the hearts of others?

Blessings,
Chris

From the Board –

In this space, each month a different member of our Church Administrative Board will share with you a little about their work, their desires, and why they serve. This month, Bill Salyer has a devotional message he'd like to share.

The other day, I came across a devotion that has left me pondering it all week, so I thought I would share this devotion with you. The devotion was entitled "The Jesus Nut" written by Jeff Beman of the Lakeside Church in Worthington, Minnesota. Jeff was a helicopter mechanic while in the service and he makes a rather good analogy between a certain part on a helicopter and our spiritual life.

This devotion is based on Colossians 1:16-18

"For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent."

We've all heard them; somewhat disparaging terms for eager door to door evangelism – Jesus Freak, Jesus Nut and more. Today, however, Jeff wants us to look at the words "Jesus Nut" from another angle. During Jeff's time in the military, he performed maintenance and inspections on many different helicopters. He wrote that probably the most important part on the helicopter was called the "Jesus Nut". This was an extremely strong, large, threaded retaining nut that held the entire main rotor assembly to the drive gearbox. It was called that because if that particular part would break or otherwise fail, it is a very high probability that all souls on board would meet Jesus. Jeff continues that because of its importance to safety of flight, it was checked often and, on some helicopters, it is checked in-between every flight. This is the single most important thing that holds everything together on a helicopter.

The scripture from Colossians 1 says that for Christians, Jesus holds everything together. But we have a part to play also. When was the last time each of us went through a checklist to make sure our spiritual life is ready for flight? What should this check list include? Jeff writes that our spiritual flight check list might include the following:

- 1. Check our connection to God.** John 15:5 says "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." Each of us should intentionally and persistently set aside time for prayer and reading of the scriptures.
- 2. Check our connection to people.** Each of us has some people connections already. But are they the right ones? Do they help us become better or do they drag us away from God?
- 3. Check our connection with truth.** Jeff writes here that many of our problems can be traced to us believing in Satan's lies, instead of God's truth. Romans 12:2 refers directly to this as it says "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
- 4. Check your connection with character and maturity.** Have we stumbled in our faith because of character issues? Whether it be emotional anger, worry, depression or even addictions, we may have poor fruits. If this is what we see in ourselves, then we need to reflect on the image of Christ and the power of scripture. It is written in Matthew 12:33, "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit".
- 5. Check your connection with service.** God put each one of us on this earth to make some kind of impact on others. As we reach out to those others to bless them, you will find more of God's blessings in your own life. Genesis 12:2 says, "And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

So, how did you do on your spiritual preflight checklist?

Are you ready to take off, or do you need some maintenance?

Is your "Jesus Nut" tight?

Bill Salyer

5th Sunday Carry in Fellowship Dinners



Please join us as we try out a new idea for Food, Fun and Fellowship at NMUMC. We are kicking off the “5th Sunday Carry-In Fellowship Dinners” **this Sunday, May 29th after the 10:20 worship service.** Our plan is to have a Carry-In Dinner on each Month that has a 5th Sunday. We would have Carry-In Dinners on July 31st and Oct. 30th. The schedules will rotate with each dinner. These are not fundraisers but just an opportunity to fellowship together. If those with last names starting from **A-F please bring a salad, G-L please bring a vegetable dish, M-S please bring a potato dish and T-Z please bring a dessert.** If anyone would like to volunteer to provide meat for any of these dinners, please contact Karma Haller at 660-537-3061.



Camp Sagrada has reached out to us requesting our help with transportation of campers. **We only have a few people signed up, so please consider helping out with this vital ministry.** This is a ministry we did in the past. The camp's mission is to reach children with the gospel, whose parents are incarcerated. Campers experience the love of Jesus, and that of camp staff/counselors, in a fun filled natural environment, perhaps rendering them more receptive to the gospel. The camp experience is so important for these children who are burdened by the absence or stigma of an incarcerated parent. We are looking for help on the following dates: June 6 and 10, June 13 and 17, and June 20 and 25.

Each day we will need a team of 2 adults, one of which can drive the Sagrada van, the other to assist. You can volunteer for one day, or one week. Any adult, 18+, is eligible to help with this project. Each volunteer will need to plan on several hours of travel. The Camp Sagrada Van as well as fuel will be provided. Please take a look at your schedule and see if you are willing to make a trip, and if so, which date? There will be a sign-up sheet in the east narthex. More information will be provided to volunteers as the dates near. If you have any question, please contact Tim Von Engel at (660) 882-3348.

Youth Group News



- 6:30 pm Sunday, June 5th - Youth Group at the Jackson's
- 7: 00 pm, Friday, June 17th - Youth Group at the Jackson's

Save the Date - VBS July 6th-8th (9-11:30am)



Volunteers are needed to help with Vacation Bible School. This year, our program is called "Make Waves" and we will be teaching the children what they can do to change the world around them! Through fun activities, engaging lessons, and God's Word, we'll help kids understand how they can share God's love with everyone. The program is open to children 4 years of age to those who have just graduated 5th grade. Please contact a member of the education committee if you are interested in helping!

Our Daily Bread Devotional



Spend time each day in God's Word with thought-provoking devotions to strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ. "Our Daily Bread" devotional books have arrived, please help yourself to one in the back of the sanctuary.

New Way to Give - Venmo



As we continue to pursue virtual ministry and ministry in our modern times, we have found we need to keep up with digital technology trends. We are excited to announce that in addition to being able to give to Nelson Memorial by check or Vanco (automatic withdrawal from your bank account), we now are accepting offerings via Venmo. We can be found on Venmo at @NelsonMemorialUMC. If you don't know what Venmo is and would like to learn more, information about giving through Venmo can be found on our webpage at <https://nelsonmemorialumc.org/give/venmo/>.

June Birthdays

2 Victoria Paalhar, Carla Boehm
 3 Lanie Venable ☺, Henry Brownfield, Nick Campbell
 4 Larry Kay, Stephen Snyder
 5 Austin Caldwell, Kay Farris
 7 Tom Maxwell
 9 Katy Giroux, Nancy Schler, Garrett Snyder
 10 Missy Hicks
 11 Dennis Edwards



16 Margaret Hopkins ☺, Debi Huff
 18 Mason McGruder
 19 Jonathon VonEngeln
 21 Emma Brownfield
 22 Patty Mangels
 24 Kim Haller
 25 Brian Jackson
 27 Laura Wax

June Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | | 1 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 2 | 3 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 4 |
| 5 6:30 pm, Youth group at Jackson's | 6 9:00 am TOPS 10:00 am – Retired Teachers Association, Fellowship Hall 8:00 pm – Al- Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 7 | 8 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 09 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Baby Grace Size and Sort, Annex | 10 MO Annual Conference - Branson 7:00 pm Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall reserved | 11 MO Annual Conference – Branson 8:30 am UMM Meeting |
| 12 MO Annual Conference - Branson | 13 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm – Al- Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 14 6:30 pm NAMI | 15 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 16 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Baby Grace Distribution, Annex | 17 7:00 pm, Youth Group at the Jackson's 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 18 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, 4-H Club, Fellowship Hall |
| 19 Father's Day | 20 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm - Al- Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 21 6:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 22 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 23 Heritage Days | 24 Heritage Days 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 25 Heritage Days |
| 26 Heritage Days | 27 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm - Al- Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 28 | 29 10:15 am -Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall | 30 | | |

