

# August

Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church

[www.nelsonmemorialumc.org](http://www.nelsonmemorialumc.org)

August 2023

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“Desire”

*Lord, you are more precious than silver. Lord, you are more costly than gold. Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds, and nothing I desire compares with you.* (More Precious than Silver, Roy Hicks, Jr., 1976 Latter Rain Music)

I was 12 or 13 when I first heard this song. It was a youth group gathering during our praise our worship time. Our youth leader played it on guitar while another youth leader sang along. None of us had heard it before and as I sat there listening to them lead worship, I was moved by these words about our desire for God.

Last evening Sara and I were driving back from picking up one of the boys from Blue Springs. We often pass the time on car rides with Sara reading to me (usually I'm the one driving), and most often the books we read are the Harry Potter series. We have probably read through this series at least 5 or 6 times so far, but we enjoy the material and hear new things each time we read. It happened again last night. We are reading the first book in the series and got to the part where Harry discovers the “Mirror of Erised,” a magical object that reveals the “deepest, most desperate desire of our hearts.” Harry sees a family he has never known. His friend Ron sees himself as a hero, standing out in a family in which he has always been in the background. While discussing the mirror with Professor Dumbledore, Harry asks his professor what he sees in the mirror.

As Sara continued to read, my mind started to wander (as it often does) down the rabbit hole of what I might see if I looked in that mirror. To be honest, I'm not sure what is my “heart's deepest desire.” What are the things that would make me feel the most content or happy? I know what they used to be. If you asked me 10-15 years ago, although I might not have admitted it, my desires would have revolved around more materialistic and egocentric things— expensive cars, clothes, and homes, going on fancy vacations, having the “best” appointment and getting attention and recognition for everything “I” am doing, as well as being someone others wanted to learn from and emulate. In my heart of hearts, these are the things that I believed would lead me to happiness and a life of fulfillment.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus paints a different picture for the disciples about happiness and fulfillment. He tells them, “Happy are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Happy are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Happy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled... Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5: 3-6, 10). Jesus is painting a picture here for us about what really leads to contentment and happiness. It's not more possessions, power, or prestige, it's about caring for others above ourselves while also seeking God's kingdom and being used for his purposes.

So, I leave you with a variation of the question Harry asked Dumbledore, “What would you see in the mirror? What is your heart's deepest desire?”

Blessings, Chris

## Prayer Ministry



Did you know that every Wednesday morning a group of dedicated prayer warriors meets for about 15 minutes (over Zoom) to pray for our church, our members, our community, our world, and any other needs that arise? If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact the church office ([boonvillemethodist@gmail.com](mailto:boonvillemethodist@gmail.com)).

## Choir is Back!



Choir rehearsals for the Methodist Music Makers will begin this month. We are switching to Thursday evening practices immediately following Praise Band rehearsals. Our first meeting will be Thursday, August 3 at 7:00 pm. We practice twice a month. We are always welcoming new singers and hope to see you there! Please contact Leah Gumbel for additional information.

## S'mores N' More



Join us as we Celebrate National S'more Day on Thursday, August 10 on the church lawn. Live music will begin around 7. Guests are encouraged to bring a chair and come ready for some good food, good music, and great fun! All the S'more fixin's will be provided. Don't forget to invite a friend or two (or ten).

## KIDS HOPE Celebration



Make plans to join us Sunday, August 13 as we celebrate a very special ministry – Kids Hope. Kids Hope is a program we participate in partnership with David Barton Elementary School where we pair up a mentor with a student for one hour a week. Some of the students need academic support, some need social support, some just can use another adult who cares about them and wants to be a part of their life. Join us on August 13 as we celebrate this ministry, say thank you to Debbie Maxwell for her years of serving as our Kids Hope Director, and welcome Karma Haller and Greg Silvey as our new Kids Hope Directors. If you are interested in learning more about Kids Hope, come to church on August 13 or speak with Debbie, Karma, Greg or Pastor Chris.

## Note of Encouragement for Teachers



On August 17 the Outreach Committee will put together a tray of breakfast pastries for the teachers at LSE to welcome them back to school. Feel free to write a note of encouragement for teachers and staff to include. You can leave it in the Sanctuary or church office.

## Church Picnic August 20 – Time for Some Food and Fun



The United Methodist Men are hosting our Annual Church Picnic Sunday, August 20 at 6:00 pm. We will gather at the church yard. UMM will provide the meat and drinks. Please bring a dish to share and also a (lawn chair or blanket). Feel free to invite friends, family and neighbors to join in on the fun.

## Best of Boonville



We already know that Nelson Memorial UMC is the best place in town to worship! We need your help letting everyone else know as well. The Boonville Daily News is conducting their annual "Best of Boonville" Reader's Choice Awards and we have been nominated for the "Best Place to Worship." To vote for Nelson Memorial, please go to [www.boonvilledailynews.com](http://www.boonvilledailynews.com) and click where it says "Best of Boonville." On the voting site, we are under the category of People and Places. Thank you for your support.

## Back to School Time!



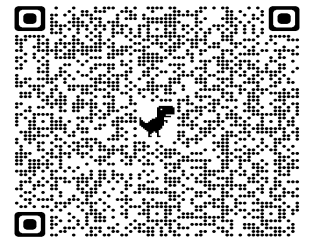
Children, young adults, and teachers will be back in school this month. Our Sunday school classes will be expecting, and ready for, new students and those who have been gone over the summer. Our Kids Hope program will be back at David Barton to mentor children at risk. Here are some things you can do:

- + Pray for our teachers and students
- + Volunteer and be trained to be a Kids Hope mentor
- + Ask a teacher how you can help their classroom be more successful (supplies, reading to students, etc.)
- + Ask God how you can use your gifts to help with Children's Church, Sunday school classes, and youth group
- + Start looking to cooler weather, when we will distribute coats to children in need, and look for good deals
- + Let the children in your life know you care about their education; talk with them and encourage them!

## Blood Drive



Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is coming up on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 6:00 in our Fellowship Hall. As happens most summers, the supply of blood available is in short supply and donors are greatly needed. To schedule a time for donating blood, scan the QR code.



## Church library news



Tom Maxwell is our own famous author for the month of August. The title of his book is Grandfather's Journal. A Grandson's Journey into His Grandfather's Life. In this journal, Tom engages his grandson with life stories that resonate with both kids and adults. Tom was in the U.S. Navy for 27 years. He shares many stories about his years as a naval aviator. Tom lifts the history and love of America's greatest generation and shares his love for the Lord. The grandson he wrote the journal for is Trent Maxwell. His book will be on display in the library for the month of August. If you want to purchase this book check with the church office.

**HVAC Update:** Each month we will provide you an update on our progress toward paying off the HVAC loan.

Loan Amount	Amount Pledged	Amount Received To Date
\$115, 217.00	\$116,200.00	\$64,218.75

When writing a check please remember to write in the memo line how much you would like to go towards the HVAC. Thank you for your generous support of Nelson Memorial, UMC.

## AUGUST 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm - Congregational Care Team Meeting, Lounge	2 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, FH	3 6:00 pm - Praise Band Practice 7:00 pm - Choir Practice	4	5
6 6:30 pm - Christian Movie Night, FH	7 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, FH	8 4:30 pm - 10:00 pm PEO, Fellowship Hall	9 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, FH	10 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Baby Grace Size and Sort, Annex 7:00 pm - S'mores N' More, Church Yard	11	12 8:30 am - UMM Meeting
13	14 9:00 am TOPS FH 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, FH	15 6:00 pm - Administrative Board Meeting, FH	16 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, FH	17 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Baby Grace Distribution, Annex 6:00 pm - Praise Band Practice 7:00 pm - Choir Practice	18	19
20 6:00 pm - Church Picnic	21 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, FH	22 School Starts	23 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, FH	24	25 10:00 am - 12:00, Lounge Reserved	26
27 6:30 pm - Christian Movie Night, FH	28 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, FH 2:00 - 6:00 pm Blood Drive, FH 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, FH	29	30 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, FH	31 6:00 pm - Praise Band Practice 7:00 pm - Choir Practice		



### August Birthdays

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Linda Gordon, Presley Thacher         | 20 Teresa Graham, Leslie Reardon, |
| 2 Abigail Wax, Magdalena Wax            | Pastor Chris Snyder               |
| 3 Kaitlyn Bohannon                      | 21 Morgan Baker                   |
| 4 Jessica Brownfield, Caden Ruesing☺    | 23 Wiley McVicker                 |
| 7 Elena Baker, Mike Krohn, Bill Siebert | 24 Christine Schmidt              |
| 10 Austin Krohn                         | 25 Justin Wood                    |
| 13 Kathleen Thomas                      | 26 Elvin Farquhar                 |
| 15 Gavin Seeley, Erin Wooldridge        | 27 Becky Stotts, Charlotte King,  |
| 17 Kaleb Arnold                         | Sheryl Wood                       |
| 18 Elsie Langkop, Ron Lenz              | 29 Mary Beth Schnell, Ed Tiff     |
|   | 31 Natasha Ruesing☺               |

