

Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church

The Messenger

August 2020

“Who’s Hungry?”

My wife, Joni and I knew each other for almost 15 years before we ever dated. We had lived in the same town and our families knew each other but we didn’t actually date until I moved a couple of hours away. I tell everyone that’s when she realized that she couldn’t live without me. I like to say that’s when she tracked me down and asked me to marry her but that’s not true. Not at all.

The truth is, it was actually the other way around. I realized that I couldn’t live without her in my life. When I fell, I fell hard. I would drive a couple of hours just to see her or to spend an evening with her. I can admit it.

Have you ever wanted to be in someone’s presence that much? Have you ever been so in love with someone that you would do just about anything to spend time with them? Now I’d like to ask you an even more difficult question, think about that same thing as it relates to your relationship with God. How far are you willing to go to get to know Him better? How hungry are you to be in His presence?

That’s important for us to think about because God’s Word makes it clear, if there’s one thing that moves the heart of God, if there’s one quality that He loves to see in us, it’s spiritual hunger. You may say, what about obedience? Isn’t that important? Absolutely. What about love and compassion? Obviously those are important as well. But an appetite for God, a passion to learn more about Him and a deep craving to stay close to Him is absolutely critical. It’s important because the level of our hunger determines the depth of our faith.

And I’ve got to tell you, as a pastor, knowing that weighs heavy on me because I wish everyone on the planet had an appetite for God but I also realize that’s something that I can’t give to one single person. I can share lots of different things. I can give invitations to church. I can share information about God. I can even give my testimony but I can’t give one single person a spiritual appetite. And, the truth is, you can’t either. Unfortunately, we can’t make anyone hungry for the things of God. However, we can let the people around us see that hunger in us and hopefully that will encourage them to evaluate their own spiritual appetite.

In the 6th chapter of Luke’s Gospel, Jesus gives one of the most incredible promises to humanity that’s ever been given. He’s preaching to a large crowd on the side of a mountain and He says, *“Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.”* Isn’t that incredible? Isn’t that what most of the people you know are longing for? Aren’t they looking for fulfillment and satisfaction?

That’s such an incredible statement. Jesus was saying that we all can have the satisfaction we long for as long as we’re hungry for God. That’s His promise to humanity and it isn’t the only place you see it in scripture.

- Psalm 107:9 says, *“For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.”*
- Matthew 5:6 says, *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”*
- And in John’s gospel, Jesus says, *“I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not go hungry.”*

That sounds pretty good doesn’t it? That lets us know that the key to being satisfied in life isn’t found in wealth or knowledge or material possessions. Jesus says ultimately it comes down to whether or not we have an appetite for God. May we always stay hungry to know Him more deeply.

Grace & Peace,
Jay



August has arrived! Students will be easing back to school in the coming weeks, but a lot of uncertainty remains around Covid-19 cases in our area. With that in mind, OASIS is prayerfully considering how and when to get back to regular Wednesday evenings. Be on the lookout for more information in the near future. In the meantime, please make sure I have updated contact info for students and parents so you don't miss anything. You should have received links for these forms via the REMIND App. Thanks! - Adam



You're invited to join Pastor Jay online for prayer each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm using the Zoom Website/App. This is a great opportunity to share what's on our hearts with God and with each other. This weekly meeting typically lasts around 30 minutes.

To participate go to <https://www.Zoom.us> and sign on with this info:
Meeting ID: 981 361 7195 / Password: 816365
Hope you can join us!

The Friendship Class sponsors an online Sunday School lesson every Sunday at 10am using the Zoom Website/App.

To participate go to <https://www.Zoom.us> and sign on with this info:
Meeting ID: 729 7056 5806 / Password: 012815
Everyone is invited to take part!



Mailing Address for Tithes & Offerings

We are thankful for the faithfulness and generosity of the THUMC family. Your gifts are enabling us to continue all of the vital ministries of our church. If you need to mail your tithes and offerings, please mail them to: Tunnel Hill UMC, P.O. Box 146 Tunnel Hill, GA 30755. Automatic monthly contributions can also be set up. If you prefer to give in this way, please contact Karen Chesser, THUMC's Financial Secretary. Thanks!



New Fruit of the Spirit Sermon Series

We hope that you'll be able to join us in worship over the next several weeks as we consider the Fruit of the Spirit that God plants and cultivates in our lives.

9am in the Fellowship Hall (Using Masks & Social Distancing)
11am in the Sanctuary (Using Masks & Social Distancing)

Or you can watch online using Facebook Live at [Facebook.com/TunnelHillUMC](https://www.facebook.com/TunnelHillUMC)



THUMC Family:

Margaret & Jim Doyle, Pat Anderson, Barbara Vaughn, Shirley Gribble, Vera Nations, Frank Moody, Ed Bates, Butch Middleton, Gabarb Vaughn Summers, Ginny Horne, Maribelle Richardson

THUMC's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Extended Friends & Family of THUMC:

Agnes Sutton-Kay Henderson's Mother
Raya Owens-Friend of Jada Barton
Breanne Locklear-Jo Anna Davenport's niece
Marge Fox-Cindy Fehd's mother
Orallia Hernandez-friend of the Middletons
Richard Sharp-Friend of Stephanie Loggins
Dolly Hamby-friend of Kay Jernigan
Eddie Mac Sanders-Friend of Kenny Gowin
Kyler Bass-Friend of Wendy Voiles
Scott Hannah-Friend of Todd Middleton
Mrs. Barbara (Bobbie) Phillips-Mickey Reed's sister
Jack Rhodes-Grandson of Linda & Gerald Pack
Ray & Leona Trotter-Friends of Macoy Griffin
Ronnie Burgess – David Helton's Brother-n-law
Gerald Watkins- Friend of Janice Helton
Zack Webb – Susie Webb's Son
Donna Hooper – Jerry Hooper's wife
Beth Powell
Joy Bryson
Ron Page – Susie Webb's Friend
Johnnie Bogozan – Susie Webb's Friend
Pam Cook – Brenda Hampton's Sister
*Robbie Allen – friend of Valerie Cleaver
*Daemon DeCamp – grandson of Melissa Columbia
*Rev. Carl Stall – friend of Valerie Cleaver
*Charlene – friend of Frank & Carol Dubee
*Marla Barbaree – Bill & Carolyn Watkins' daughter

(*Denotes new additions)

To add a friend or loved one to the Prayer List, please contact the church office at 706-673-4022 or thumc@optilink.us.

Prayer requests will remain on list for four weeks. If a request needs to stay on the list longer than four weeks, please let us know. Thanks!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Budget Needed: \$5,130

Total Giving for May

GENERAL BUDGET: \$49,019
(includes \$24,500 Payroll Protection Funds Received)
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$75

Total Giving for June

GENERAL BUDGET: \$13,755.59
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$200

Total Giving for July Thus Far

GENERAL BUDGET: \$17,530.13
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$100

To my church family –

Thank you for all of your prayers, calls, cards and meals during my time of surgery & recovery. I am doing great and it is ALL because I was lifted up by mighty prayer warriors like you!

Thank you & I love you all!!

Becky Gowin