

Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church

The Messenger

March 2021

Following the Shepherd's Voice

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." - John 10:14-16

I recently read that sheep-calling contests are still very common in Palestine. Several flocks of sheep are put in the same field and intentionally mixed together. When the shepherd calls out to his flock with his own unique whistle or call, his sheep immediately heed his call and find their way out of the multitude. The shepherd who collects the greatest number of sheep in the shortest amount of time is the winner.

Sheep know their shepherd's voice and it's the only voice that they'll follow. I think that's one of the reasons Jesus compared Himself to a shepherd. He was encouraging the people of his day to listen for His call and not to get misled by the other voices.

Most scholars agree that Jesus was talking about the Pharisees. The Pharisees encouraged the Israelites to live according to the law and to stay focused on keeping all the rules. Jesus, on the other hand, encouraged people to be in a relationship with Him and to live lives of love. He taught that we can keep every religious law on the books but if we aren't motivated by love and in a relationship with God, then we're missing the point.

Although the false prophets of Jesus' day are different from ours, their voices contain the same empty promises. They say that following Christ is unnecessary and that there are other ways to obtain peace and happiness. They encourage us to put our trust in other things.

Modern day false prophets try to convince us that the search for success is more important than our friends, families, and sometimes even our relationship with God. They'll tell you to make more, to do more, to achieve more. They'll tell us that we can be good enough to "make it into heaven". Nothing is further from the truth.

Be very clear, we can use the holy scriptures to write a thousand rules for good living. And, we can live by those rules from now until the day they put our bodies into the ground, but if we aren't in a relationship with Jesus Christ, then all of our efforts, works, and good deeds amount to nothing.

Just know, false prophets are still around and if we're not careful, they can mislead us and pull us away from God. Their voices can lead us over hills and through pastures in search of abundant life. And if we follow them, we'll get off course and find ourselves spiritually drained and exhausted.

False prophets today still try to convince us we can earn God's love. Don't believe it. God's love cannot be earned. It's freely given. It's unmerited, undeserved and unconditional. All that God requires is that we believe in His Son and that we continue to follow His voice.

Grace and Peace,
Jay



We are excited to announce that you can now give your tithes, offerings, and financial support to THUMC online and/or by sending a text message. It's quick, simple, and safe!

Here's how it works:

TO GIVE TO THUMC ONLINE

1. Visit our website at www.thumc.org
2. Click the "DONATE" Button (on the upper right side of the homepage) or click on the blue "GIVE ONLINE" Button (on the bottom right corner of the homepage).
3. Click "General Church Expenses" or one of the other funds shown.
4. Enter the amount that you would like to give, along with your debit/credit card or bank account information. (You can choose to make a one time donation or a recurring donation. If you prefer, you can also register by entering your name and creating a password so that your payment information can be safely saved for future giving.)
5. Click "Submit" and you're done! You will be emailed a receipt.

TO GIVE TO THUMC BY SENDING A TEXT MESSAGE

1. Simply text the amount that you would like to give to 844-785-0248.
2. You will be immediately sent a link where you can enter your payment information.
3. Click "Submit" and you're done! You will be emailed a receipt.



SUNDAY SCHOOL ONLINE

The Friendship Class is now meeting in person. You can also participate in this class online 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!

SMALL GROUPS FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS

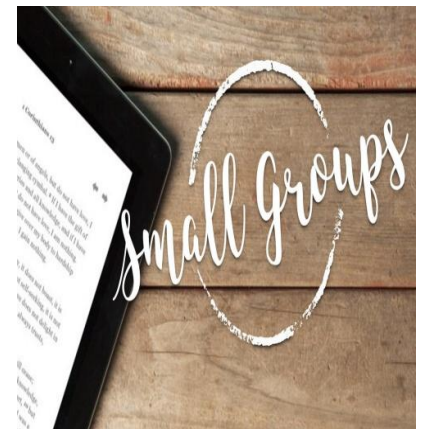
Journey Land (kids PK-5th grade) meets in the Glow Kids room upstairs on Sundays at 9:00am

The Friendship Sunday School Class meets at 10:00

Children's Sunday School Classes (PK-5th) are meeting upstairs at 10:00

Oasis Youth Group (6th-12th grade) are meeting on Wednesdays from 6:15pm-7:30pm in the Oasis House

Beginning April 8th, the Open Door Grief Group will meet in person every Thursday at 6:00pm in the Friendship Classroom



NEW SERMON SERIES

We hope that you'll be able to join us each Sunday leading up to Easter as we continue the "Chainbreaker" Sermon Series.

This series is based on the idea that our God wants to set us free from all of the things that hold us captive.

9am - Contemporary Worship in the Fellowship Hall

11am - Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary or on Facebook Live



Please note: Prayer requests remain on the church's prayer list for four weeks. If a request needs to stay on the list longer than four weeks, please let us know. To add or remove a friend or loved one, please contact the church office at (706) 673-4022 or thumc@optilink.us.
Thank you!

THUMC Family:

Butch Middleton, Ginny Horne, Thomas Blackwell, Chet Dreschel, *Alton Shires family (Ginny Horne)

THUMC's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Extended Friends & Family of THUMC:

Seth Monk – Anne Monk's son
Elaine Hankins – friend of Judy Lusk
Rev. Mark Atkins – friend of Julia Davidson
Katie Hasty – friend of Tammy Horne
Wayne Whited – Megan Teems' father
Jordan Garcia – friend of Liz Dennis
Barry Henderson – Gene Henderson's cousin
Keith Locke – friend of Barry Gilley
Frank & Carol Dubee's cousin
Frank & Carol Dubee's former pastor & wife
*Nancy Estes – friend of Janice Helton
*Sue Crist – M. Martin's sister / V. Cleaver's Aunt

(*Denotes new additions)

To our church family –

So happy to share that Marla has completed her chemotherapy treatments. We are thankful and appreciative of you for each call and card and also for remembering her (and us) in your prayer time.

*Blessings,
Bill & Carolyn Watkins*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Budget Needed: \$5,130

Total Giving for December

GENERAL BUDGET: \$23,240
OTHER DESIGNATED GIVING: \$5,339

Total Giving for January

GENERAL BUDGET: \$19,730
OTHER DESIGNATED GIVING: \$2,157

Total Giving for February thru 2/22

GENERAL BUDGET: \$8,250
OTHER DESIGNATED GIVING: \$865