May 2024 Newsletter
What you need to know this week at Thalia United Methodist Church, where we are Living and Loving Like Jesus!

Oscar Self
A service will be held on Saturday May 18th at 1pm at Thalia
Please pray for the family and all who grieve his loss.

Dennis Shultis

A memorial will be held on June 1st at 11am at Thalia UMC.

Please pray for the family and all who grieve his loss.

State of the UMC
May 2024 Newsletter

“Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together.”

- Ephesians 4:2-3 CEB

Dear Church Family,

I sincerely hope our series on “Tough Stuff” has been helpful given the challenges we see in the world today. Our theme verse from James 1 still calls us to be diligent in listening, careful in speaking, and slow to grow angry. One of the topics we touched on in worship was marriage and sexuality.
Now that the General Conference for the United Methodist Church has concluded, I’d like to give you a brief update as far as it relates to our ministries at Thalia. When you see “General Conference,” think, “United Methodists worldwide.”

Many of you already heard some of the highlights. This is a link to read about the decisions for yourself: https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/general-conference-legislative-recap

Below are three of the major decisions along with my interpretation of foreseeable implications at our church.

Regionalization.

This legislative action laid the groundwork for releasing the United Methodist Church from the grip of in-fighting, “Delegates approved legislation that would restructure the denomination to be more contextual in different regions served by the church.” The delegates approved this measure with an overwhelming majority for the sake of fulfilling our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ around the world. It enables our churches to focus on the primary doctrinal standards, such as the nature of God and the need for salvation through Jesus Christ. It also signals a desire to move away from restrictive language and governance towards grace filled ministry together. Now we can refrain from being restrictive in how we carry out our mission within our unique context, particularly related to topics where there is a wide range of theological interpretations. This piece of legislation still needs ratification at the Annual Conference level before it is final, “This
would have to be approved by at least two-thirds of the total votes cast across all annual conferences worldwide in order for much of the regionalization legislation to take effect.” When you see “Annual Conference,” think, “Commonwealth of Virginia.”

**LGBTQ Inclusion.**

The single-most debated topic in the United Methodist Church seems to be settled at last. Restrictive language regarding homosexuality is officially removed from the United Methodist Book of Discipline and the Social Principles. This means that bishops are allowed to ordain anyone regardless of their sexual orientation within their respective annual conferences. It also means that pastors are allowed to officiate weddings for same-sex couples. However, the removal of the restrictive language does not require pastors to perform weddings or congregations to host weddings for same-sex couples. In other words, the ordination of LGBTQ persons and LGBTQ weddings are allowed but not required, “These changes bring the Book of Discipline back to a neutral place where one group is not singled out for discrimination.” As far as our ministry goes, I have not been asked to officiate for a same-sex couple anytime soon. If asked, I will be honored to serve in that way. However, I will be sure to consult you all before a decision is made about where such a wedding will take place.

**Apportionments.**

Delegates understand the financial strain that local churches are facing. In our best interest, they approved legislation that will reduce apportionments, “Conferences will shift from their current
base rate of 3.29% to a base rate of 2.6% for 2025 and 2026.” The total savings for Thalia will be determined in next year’s apportionments.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions to the best of my ability. For now, it seems like most of the people who call Thalia UMC their church family saw this coming and are overall pleased with going forward as we have been these last few years. I am honored to serve with you as a part of the church family.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Joe

The Thalia United Women in Faith (UWF) would like to thank everyone for your support of the Rummage Sale and Bake Sale.

Without the donations and support setting up and taking down and working the Rummage Sale, it would not have been a success. The UWF Rummage Sale reaped $2,829.54 for our missions to support women, children and youth. The Bake Sale made $2000.00 to support the Foundation for Orphans. It was a wonderful week of fellowship and love. Thank you Thalia for helping go make our Sale a success. We are a church filled with love.

A New Opportunity To Support Thalia UMC!
We need your help this Saturday May 11th!!

For over 20 years, Thalia United Methodist Men have been hosting a monthly Yard Sale as a fundraiser to support missions and scholarships at TUMC. The UMM have always tithed 10% of the proceeds from the yard sales to the TUMC General Fund. This year the UMM are being even more intentional about our financial support of TUMC. The UMM are opening up the opportunity for all who call TUMC home to participate in the monthly yard sales and 50% of the proceeds will be donated to the General Fund.

For anyone interested in supporting TUMC through service, volunteers are needed in shifts from:

- **6:00am - 9:00am:** Set up and preparation
- **9:00am - 12:00pm:** Selling concessions
- **12:00pm - 3:00pm:** Concessions and clean-up

**UMM Yard Sales are the 2nd Saturday of the month from April through October**

If you can come out for one of these shifts, or even a portion of one of these shifts, please contact Mark McKinney at 123mckinney123@gmail.com to coordinate your time.
Women's and Men's Choir

We will have our second annual Women's and Men's Choirs to sing at the **10:00 am** service on **Mother's Day (5/12)** and **Father's Day (6/16)**. The women will sing "**Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**" and the men will sing "**Nothing But the Blood**". ALL women and men are invited to participate; you don't have to be a member of choir and you don't have to be a mother/father.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus:  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYxCrtWcVIw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYxCrtWcVIw)
Nothing But the Blood:  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8HLtnWeXYY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8HLtnWeXYY)

The women will meet on Wednesday, May 8 from 6:00 - 6:30 pm to rehearse. The men will meet on Wednesday, June 12 from 6:00 - 6:30 pm. **Please reach out to Leah if you have any questions at music@thaliaumc.org**
Pentecost Potluck

Pentecost Sunday
May 19

Let's Fellowship Together!

Bring your favorite dish and join us for lunch following the 10:00 service.

Scholarship Announcement
Thalia United Methodist Men offer three scholarships annually. For details and to obtain an application please contact a current member of TUMM or the Church office. **The application deadline is June 1st.**

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**We Are Looking For Members Who May Be Interested in Assisting with Communion!**

Please consider helping with communion preparation on Sundays for our church. We are in need of coverage from members who may be available during our 8:30am and 10am worship services. If you are interested in helping, please contact Laurie Clarke at Laurieclarke@me.com

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**From The Ladies of Ties That Bind**
The ladies would like to share that they are here working and creating items made with prayer and love, and they treasure giving them to those in need of prayer or an extra hug. If you have or know of anyone in need of a special gift, please let one of the Ties that Bind ladies know.

Ties that Bind operates through your heartwarming donations! Please consider assisting the ladies with supplies of 100% cotton fabrics and synthetic yarn.

You can email Cassie Knapp, Betsy Kincaid, or Mary North and they will be glad to find a lovely gift for your loved one.

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**SPREAD THE WORD!**

**Celebrate Recovery**

A division of MicroChurch meets on Thursday morning with 2 sessions. 7:00AM breakfast and fellowship, 8:00AM small group meetings. For additional information please contact, Rev. Dennis at (603) 490-5992 or email microchurch@thaliaumc.org
SAVE THE DATE !!!!
July 15th - 19th 9am to Noon

Volunteers needed for all positions
Stay for the day or stay for the week
All are welcome!

Any questions, or to volunteer contact Cathy at discipleship@thaliaumc.org.

Sunday School & Bible Study - May 2024
Christian Home/Good News:
Meets in the small hall, next to the kitchen
We are reading the book "Noah Built the Ark in Sunshine" by James Moore. The author inspires Christians to build their faith to prepare in advance for any future storms and offers key passages of Scripture and themes centered on "building the ark" of spiritual strength.

Faith Builders:
Meets in Room 144, Day School Hallway
The Faith Builders class will be studying the book of Psalms starting May 5th, using a study book by John MacArthur. Please join us as we study together.

Searchers:
Meets in the room located just off the social hall
Through the month of May, the Searchers will be studying the book "Unafraid" by Adam Hamilton. Sometimes the world is a scary place, and even the most faithful Christian can give in to fear. In "Unafraid," Hamilton talks about the sources of our fear, learning to actively manage fear, and learning to trust God who has promised that he will "never leave us or forsake us." Everyone is welcome!

Seekers Class:
Meets in Room B8, Day School hallway
We continue our study of “The Spiritual Practice of Confession.” The spiritual practice of confession is based on two realities: our need for forgiveness and God’s desire to forgive. And we need to look at times when lesser things interfere with our being faithful disciples of Christ. During the four weeks in May, we will look at scripture from John, Matthew, and Acts. Please come and join us as we seek to become faithful disciples of Christ.

Women’s Bible Study:
We’ll resume our meeting times in September.

Prayers and Praises

Birthdays
Addison Payne (05/05)
Cathy Simpson (05/05)
Alison Cooper (05/06)
Cassie Knapp (05/06)
Ann Metcalfe (05/07)
Miller Varner (05/07)
Ayla Clark (05/09)
Candace Foster (05/09)
Georgiana Miltz (05/09)
Paula Finlayson (05/10)
Lisa Byrd (05/12)
James Crunden (05/13)
Karen Geers (05/13)
Bruce Grubb (05/13)
Benjamin Logan (05/13)
Amanda Burgess (05/14)
Brian Smith (05/17)
Duane Devoe (05/20)
Mary Ford (05/20)
Phyliss Baxter (05/21)
Jennifer Brooks (05/22)
Derek Hofler (05/27)
Andrew Cleek (05/28)
Holly Greene (05/29)
Bill White (05/30)

**Anniversaries**
Donna & Bill Shewchuk
Morgan & Pastor Joe Varner
Sara & John Ballowe
Leslie & John Martin
Diane & Joseph Kesterson
Darlene & William Wilburn
Inez & Douglas Jones
Grace & Bob Holdren
Candy & Guy Foster

**Prayers**
The Swarz Family
Jerry Hase
The Alexander Family
The Self Family
Christine Shultis
Gary Kennedy
Jane Lock
Canette Collins
Rand Hall
Irene Sturt
Janett Cousin
Bryan Cousin
Financial Positions

APR INC $43,153
APR EXP $44,860
<-$1,707>

YTD INC $178,293
YTD EXP $192,602
<-$14,309>

PRIORITY APPORTIONMENTS: 100% YTD
SUBORDINATE APPORTIONMENTS: 75% YTD

In months where making full apportionment payments is difficult, the Leadership Team is committed to making a partial payment to pay for those funds deemed as a priority (i.e., Active and Retired Clergy Health Care Funds).

General Funds: $1,114
Savings: $60,455
Thank you all for making Thalia UMC a financial commitment. Your contributions do more than simply keep the lights on at church.

You are helping change people's lives. Our Pastor and Staff depend on your steadfast support as they lead the church in making disciples who are living and loving like Jesus. Furthermore, our strategic location makes the church a safe haven for hundreds of people who attend various community groups, such as 12 step recovery programs. When the lights stay on at our church, we shine like a beacon for those who are looking for light at the end of the tunnel. Your gifts are making a big difference.