

# THE METHODIST TRIBUNE

## CHURCH EVENTS

*None at this time*

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July 2021

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Desk

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Our US Military**

**Our Schools**

**Reba Finch**

**Jewell Spivey**

**Laura Virgil**

**Nathan Widmer**

**Hiawatha Arms**

**Tom & Nancy Venable**

**Katherine Johnson**

**Tyler Stafford**

**Ana Amat**

**Butch Barlow**

**Lori Davenport**

**Shirley Hopkins**

**Martha Moore**

**Bradley Murphy**

**Kerry Mitchell**



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**<http://www.gainesboroumc.org>**

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***“A Caring Community of Faith”***



**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!**



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*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 1 Corinthians 12: 23-25*

The Christian church has celebrated holy communion since the very beginning. In fact, the earliest Christian writing, written 20 years before any of the books of the New Testament, deals mostly with the disciples receiving Holy Communion. And in the 2000 years since, we have never ceased. But why? Do we just do it because they did? It was good enough for Paul and Silas, so it is good enough for me? Do we do it as a memorial to the crucifixion of Christ?

Well, one thing I have learned about the human race is that we do not do a whole lot of things, certainly not sustained for 2000 years, unless they benefit us in some way. But the strange thing about communion is that most of us enjoy receiving communion, know that it benefits us, but cannot quite put words on what it does for us. In fact, the church has struggled to find words for this throughout our existence. And while different theological backgrounds have argued about the nuances of how it takes place, the majority of Christians throughout our history have agreed that holy communion is a sacrament.

What does that mean, to be a sacrament? We recognize two sacraments in our church, baptism, and holy communion. Sacraments are sign acts. In other words, they are a physical representation and embodiment of a spiritual reality. And we believe them to be a sacred moment. A moment in which we perform a sign act, but God is present and does something exceedingly above everything we could ask, think, or imagine.

This has a few implications. First, the method we choose does not matter. Whether we dip or we use a little cup does not matter. Whether the bread has yeast or not, whether the juice has fermented or not does not matter. It does not matter if we come down front or if it is passed through the rows. But it is to be a sign act. So, it needs to be done in a way that points to God. That means that that we must be serious and intentional about how we perform this ritual including what words we use. How often we celebrate it does not matter. But more frequent is certainly better than less. As stated, we believe the presence of God to be at work during this time of ritual more powerfully than any other reoccurring time in our life. Why would we ever argue for a less frequent observation?

I offer you these musings about how important holy communion is. But I cannot do it justice in this article. I can tell you that the reason I give this teaser is because we will restart receiving holy communion on a regular basis in the month of July. We have maintained an active Covid case count in Jackson County of around 5 cases in a population of 11,000 people. And, thanks to people self-quarantining when they have symptoms, we have not had one single person pass the disease to another at church. If you have not re-joined us in person yet, now is a good time. Come and receive this sacrament and learn more about it.

# THE METHODIST TRIBUNE

## ALWAYS THERE

### **Margaret Anderson**

4343 Lebanon Road  
T-1114  
Hermitage, TN 37076

### **Reba Finch**

104 Cox Avenue  
Gainesboro, TN 38562

### **Ann Hart**

141 Shorewood Drive  
Long Beach, IN 46360

### **Katherine Johnson**

Mabry Health Care  
Room B-4  
Gainesboro, TN 38562

### **Nancy Venable**

820 Quarles Hollow Road  
Gainesboro, TN 38562

### **Martha Moore**

2105 Griffin Town Road  
Sparta, TN 38583

## BIRTHDAYS

### *July*

7<sup>th</sup> Bobby Stafford  
10<sup>th</sup> Tom Venable  
11<sup>th</sup> Susan Huffines  
19<sup>th</sup> Ann Hart  
23<sup>rd</sup> Stella Cain  
23<sup>rd</sup> Ann Hughes  
31<sup>st</sup> Melissa Nelson

### *August*

5<sup>th</sup> Karen Eberly  
5<sup>th</sup> Charles Thaxton  
5<sup>th</sup> Anne Thaxton  
9<sup>th</sup> Jesse Gaskin  
9<sup>th</sup> Douglas Holliman  
11<sup>th</sup> Josh Milton

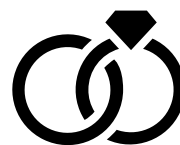
## ANNIVERSARIES

### *July*

10<sup>th</sup> Tim & Susan Huffines

### *August*

14<sup>th</sup> Kenny & Susan Randolph  
19<sup>th</sup> Bobby & Suzanne Stafford  
20<sup>th</sup> Frank & Terry Montgomery



# THE METHODIST TRIBUNE



## *In Memory of*

### ***Landscape Fund*** ***James "Jim" Test***

### **Patrick & Sandy Heinrich, Peyton** **Sagely**

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#### "Our Christian Heritage"

For over 245 years, America has been blessed as the longest on-going Constitutional Republic in the history of the world. These blessings are not accidental, they are blessings of God. This is evident as we look at the turmoil in other nations and contrast that to the stability we see in America. Preserving American liberty depends first upon our understanding of the foundations on which this great country was built, and then it depends on preserving the principles on which it was founded. On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to approve a complete separation from England. Two days later, the early draft of the Declaration of Independence was signed. Four days later, members of Congress took the document and read it out loud from the steps of Independence Hall, proclaiming it to the city of Philadelphia, and

afterward, they rang the Liberty Bell. The inscription on the top of the bell is [Leviticus 25:10](#), which reads, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof. John Adams said, "The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity." Probably the clearest identification of the spirit of the American Revolution was given by John in a letter to Abigail the day after Congress approved the Declaration. He wrote her two letters that day: One was short and jubilant that the Declaration had been approved; the other letter was much longer and gave serious consideration to what had been done that day. Adams could already foresee that their actions would be celebrated by future generations. The Declaration of Independence was the birth certificate for this nation, but the men who signed it knew it could be their death warrant. The closing paragraph states, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance of the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." The 56 Founding Fathers, 27 of whom were trained as ministers, took their pledge seriously. The spiritual emphasis, directed towards King George III who violated God's laws, gave rise to a motto during the American Revolution: "No King but King Jesus." The Founding Fathers passed the torch to us. It is our responsibility to not let it go out.