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THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP:

Have you ever noticed that some of the hardest seasons of your life are also the ones that change you the most?

When I was a kid, our local pool had a huge high dive and two lower diving boards. One summer, my friends and I looked at the tallest one and thought, “You know what sounds fun? … Potentially regretting all of our life choices! Let’s do this!”

And somehow, that diving board that once felt impossible didn't anymore! The diving board hadn't changed, but we sure had! And honestly, I think faith can work a lot like that.

God never promises an easy life – and I don't believe God causes pain or unsavory circumstances just to teach us a lesson. But I do believe in a God whose grace meets us right in the middle of our pain…a God who can take even the things we never wanted and somehow use them to deepen our faith, to grow our trust and to transform us.

This Sunday, we're asking: ***What if incredible faith isn't about avoiding the hard things – but discovering that God's grace is already there when we face them?***

Come wrestle with that question with us at 9:15 or 11 a.m. To prepare, you're invited to read a familiar story from **Matthew 14:22-33**.

See you Sunday!
Christi Crawford
Minister to Youth, Children & Families

NEW THIS WEEK:

Cottage Meetings with Pastor Jacob

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you, one small group at a time.

I wish there were a catchier name than "cottage meeting." It's an old term for a long-standing tradition: a new pastor going house to house, getting to know the congregation. During these gatherings, I hope to hear your passions, your dreams and your hopes for our church.

Over the next few weeks, I hope to visit with each and every one of you through these gatherings.

Some of you are already part of groups – Sunday school classes, Bible studies, the choir, the praise band and son on – and I'll be meeting with those. For everyone else, I invite you to choose a date from our list of available cottage meetings *(see this week's Connect Card in worship for availability)* and sign up through the church office or on your Connect Card.

Since I'm hoping to meet and hear from all of you, I ask that you sign up for just one cottage meeting. Afterward, I look forward to sharing with the whole congregation what I've learned from each of you.

I can't wait for our time together. Thank you for being part of this.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jacob

COMING SOON: I AM _____

A Worship Series

and his faith. At the same time, this series seeks to help all of us better know ourselves and our faith. As we look at starting our ministry together, we begin with the Gospel of Matthew's account of how Jesus and the disciples began their ministry together.

August 23: I am loved! Matthew 3:13-17
August 30: I am called! Matthew 4:17-22
September 6: I am connected! Matthew 5:21-24
September 13: I am salty! Matthew 5:13-16
September 20: I am more! Matthew 5:41-48

August 23 | I am loved! (Matthew 3:13-17)
Can you imagine what relationships could be like without the human fear of rejection? This Sunday we remember that in our baptism the voice of God proclaims to all of us, “You are my beloved.” Let’s live in the abundance of grace and acceptance and just see what happens when you offer that to others together!

August 30 | I am called! (Matthew 4:17-22)
We continue this Sunday with the idea that God has called you, each of you, all of you, not just by name, but to a special purpose. When you find and claim your own vocation – that which fulfills you and creates good in the world – you are freed from the bonds of what others may expect of you or claim for you. Discipleship comes in many, and sometimes unlikely, forms.

September 6 | I am connected! (Matthew 5:21-24)
Who you are cannot be fulfilled in isolation. You were made for relationship and for passing on the life and love given to you by God. You’ve all experienced the pain of broken relationships and the joy of restored ones. How does your relationship to others define you? How does living in right relationship with friend and stranger send reverberations into the world and into the future?

September 13 | I am salty! (Matthew 5:13-16)
Being loved, called, and connected are useless if you keep these gifts to yourself. Instead, Jesus reminds you that as the salt of the earth and the light of the world, you are to let his light shine through you from the hilltops for all to see and experience.

overflow. Offering this surplus with others is the command of God. But even more than that, scripture invites you to go beyond just what you have to offer, and also move into giving what you must strive to offer on behalf of love. How can you go the extra mile as a church?

OTHER NEWS:

Check out our church merch at United in Love (the official store of FUMC Jonesboro)! We have several styles of t-shirts, long-sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies, plus hats and even a blanket and a Christmas ornament.

This is your chance to take the church with you everywhere you go this summer (and beyond), and all proceeds benefit youth ministries here at FUMC Jonesboro.

Click here to visit our store.

EXTENDED FAMILY MINISTRY SAVE THE DATES:

- **NOV. 6-8:** Refuge: Shepherd of the Ozarks (6th-9th Graders)
- **FEB. 12-14:** Veritas in Fort Smith (6th-12th Graders)
- **JULY 11-14, 2027:** Youth 2027 (A worldwide United Methodist youth gathering that happens every 4 years; the 2027 event is in Dallas)

Ashton Bryant
Rhett Carter
M.G. Ferguson-Myering
Allison Gentry
Paul Holmes

Carolyn Naughton
Iona Jones
William Kaloghirou
Jeff Landers
Jean McCain
Jay Melton
Tommy Nesmith
Nathan Raviscioni
Will Roach
Farrah Senteney
Murl Sickbert
Simon Storer
Kenny Williams

*This list represents those for whom we have been notified.
Please call the church office (870.932.7479) to be added to the prayer list.
In your prayers please include all who are written upon our hearts.

COMMUNICATIONS PROCESS

We've created an online form for you to submit announcements, event details or articles for our church newsletter, ***The Messenger***. **Click here to visit the form now**.

Please note that all submissions are due by **Tuesday at noon** for publication in that week's newsletter and any submissions not received by Tuesday at noon will be held for the following week.

Submission does ***not*** guarantee inclusion; publication is at the discretion of staff; submissions may be edited for clarity, brevity and formatting.

Get in touch with us!

870.932.7479

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9A-4P; Friday 9A-Noon

Sunday Schedule:

9:15 a.m. Modern Worship in Wesley Hall

10:10 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

11 a.m. Classic Worship in the Sanctuary

Church Staff:

Rev. Jacob Lynn

Senior Pastor | jacob.lynn@arumc.org

Christi Crawford

Director of Youth & Children's Ministries | 501.860.5678 | christi.crawford@arumc.org

Joslyn Johnson

Church Administrator | churchadmin@fumcj.org | Monday-Thursday; 9A-2P

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