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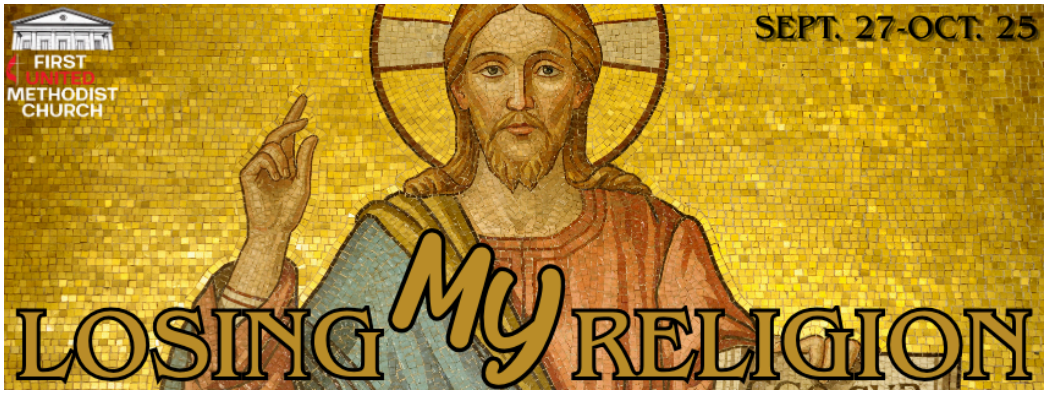
LOSING MY RELIGION

A Worship Series



Does it ever feel like something is missing in church today? Does the church you know now look nothing like the church you used to know? It seems like many “Christians” have forgotten Jesus’s lessons about loving your neighbor, loving your enemy, and welcoming the stranger. With the direction Christianity is heading, it can begin to feel like you are losing your religion. Join us for this compelling series for the next few weeks as we consider the role of women, the Bible as a tool of transformation not as a weapon, the problem of excluding people based on who they love, the growing problem of Christian Nationalism, and the Image of God that is present in **ALL** of us.

- **September 27: “A Woman’s Place”—Luke 24:1-11**

- **October 18: "Un-Christian Nationalism"—John 18:33-38**
- **October 25: "DEI in the Imago Dei"—Acts 8:26-38**

TOWN HALL MEETING, RE: COTTAGE MEETINGS

Join us ***Sunday, November 8, at 10:10 a.m. in Wesley Hall*** as we share what we heard in our 15 cottage meetings.

Over the past few months, more than 200 of you opened your homes and your hearts, answering the same four questions about when you've felt closest to Jesus, what breaks your heart, what brings you joy and what you'd do if nothing stood in the way.

What came back is remarkable: a congregation that lost more than a thousand people and fought for its building for two years – and came out smaller, warmer, more honest and more missional than before, with a discipleship identity built almost entirely on service and a clear, repeated list of things we want to do next.

This gathering is for everyone, whether you hosted a meeting, attended one or couldn't make one at all, because these findings belong to the whole church, not just the rooms they came from.

Come hear the themes, see the ideas that surfaced independently in room after room, and help us discern where God is leading us next – I hope you'll be there.

SPECIAL CALLED CHARGE CONFERENCE

On **November 16**, before our regular council meeting, we will have a **Special Called Charge Conference** solely to elect an honorary member to our church council per ***Book of Discipline ¶ 246.3***.

THE POWER OF WORDS

A New Worship Series for November

The tongue has the power to destroy or build up, to polarize or unite. How do we reign in hurtful words and instead, use our tongues to bless others?

Join us for a practical, relevant and inspirational sermon series as we explore the power of the words we say, we hear and we write.

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)

November 1: Words Said (Ephesians 4:25-5:2)
November 8: Words Heard (James 1:17-27)
November 15: Words Written (James 3:1-12)
November 22: In the Beginning was the Word (John 1:1-5, 11-14, 16-17)

TRUNK OR TREAT / BLOCK PARTY
WED., OCT. 28, 6-7:30P

*****Our normal MidWeek ministries will be canceled due to the Trunk or Treat, but we welcome all help! Volunteers should plan to eat before or after the event.**

and sno cones or hot chocolate (depending on temperature) available on a first come, first served basis. Expect long lines for the food/beverage items.

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY INFO
FOR VOLUNTEERS & TRUNKS

- **Anyone handing out anything to the public (candy/trinkets) needs to be wearing a lanyard. Christi will pick these up, and they will be available on the day of the event.** Lanyards can be passed back and forth to other volunteers, as they are not personalized.
- **There are prizes available this year!** Judges from the ***Mayor's Youth Council*** will come to judge between 6:30-6:50 p.m., and winners will be announced by KLEK at 7:15 p.m.
  - **Trophy for Top 3 Most Tricked Out Trunks/Decorated Spots**
  - **Best Costume**
- **Streets will close between 1:30-2 p.m.** Union St. will be blocked from Jefferson to Oak and Matthews and Warner will be blocked from Main to Madison. If you need to visit the church after noon on Wed., Oct. 28, please park in the Union St. parking lot across from the youth building.
- Our handicap-accessible parking spots between Wesley Hall and the youth building will be available on a first come, first served basis, but the parking lot will only be accessible (in or out) from Main Street.
- **Do NOT begin handing anything out until 6 p.m.**
- **Crowd is expected to be around 10,000.**
- **TRUNK OR TREAT INFO:**
  - **Trunk setup begins at 4 p.m.**

    - **Games are allowed if they're part of your "trunk." If you'd like to have a game at your trunk (and need one from the church's supply), please let Christi know by Monday, October 26.**
    - **Only vehicles used for booths/trunks are allowed to park in the event area.**
    - **No vehicles will be allowed out of the event area until 7:45 p.m., but all vehicles must be out of the street for the street sweepers by 8:15 p.m.**
    - If you'd rather do a 10x10 tent than a trunk, you can, but you must supply your own tent and supplies to anchor it (as wind has been an issue in the past).
- Gojo is offering a shuttle from the Municipal Building lot to Jefferson/Union to help people access additional downtown parking.
- For those looking for snacks during the event, this year's free food options include hot dogs, nachos, chips, popcorn and water – plus either sno cones or hot chocolate, depending on temperature.

EXCITING TIMES AHEAD

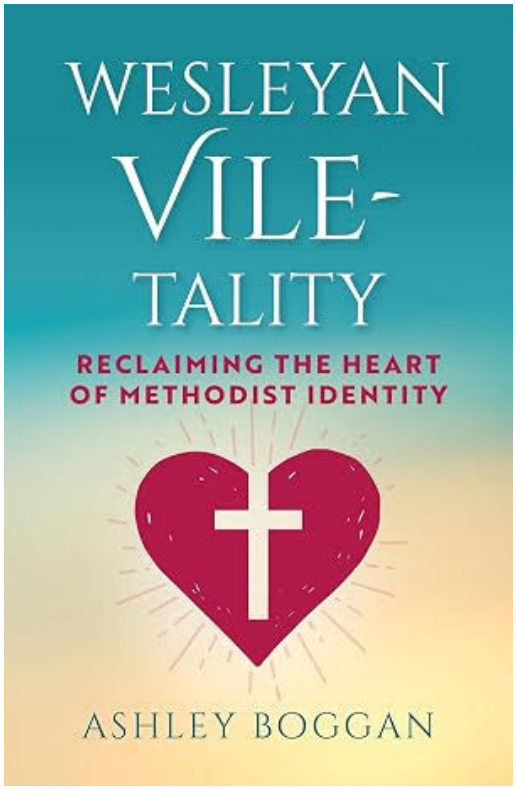
This year's *All Saints service* (classic worship, 11 a.m., Nov. 1) will feature an exciting collaboration with our choir and First Baptist Church's choir, joined with Dr. Marques Ruff (soloist; Assistant Professor of Vocal Music Education and Coordinator of Vocal Music Ed at A-State; conductor of Scarlet Voices and United Voices)

- Our choir will sing at First Baptist's traditional service at 8:45 a.m., and then they'll join us at 11 a.m. for our classic service.
    - It will be a ***BIG*** day for many of our choir members. The afternoon of Nov. 1, the A-State Concert Choir, with visiting artists (vocal soloists and organist), will perform Duruflé's Requiem mass at Blessed Sacrament at 3 p.m. All are welcome!

MIDWEEK RESUMES NOV. 4

The MidWeek meal will resume Wednesday, November 4, at 5:30 p.m., with classes for all ages meeting from 6-7 p.m.

- **Meal:**
    - $5 per person; $20 maximum per family



NEW MIDWEEK STUDY BEGINS NOVEMBER 4

Wesleyan Vile-tality calls us back to the roots of our identity. Centered on the moment John Wesley "submitted to be more vile" in spreading the love of God to all people, Ashley Boggan argues that Wesleyan vile-tality is at the core who we are as Methodists. As rule-benders, rabble-rousers and outcast-embracers, those early Methodists stood out and stood up. She traces how that original identity was lost as the predecessor denominations to The United Methodist Church grew and began to embrace respectability over "vile-tality." In an accessible and engaging account of a fascinating history, these stories of our past call us to understand who we were, question who we are and reclaim who we should be.

- **FOR THE YOUTH:** Long a fan of the work of Rachel Held Evans, Christi is leading the youth in an exploration of selections from ***Braving the Truth: Essential Essays for Reckoning with and Reimagining Faith*** by Evans. Each week features time for our own questions as well as a little bit of lighthearted fun. This study meets in Room 212.
- **FOR THE KIDS:** Our pre-K-5th graders meet in Room 213. This year we're asking big questions about God. Each week, we read scripture together, wonder together, experience spiritual practices together, grow together and play together.

GIVE ONLINE

Click here to give online today!

OTHER NEWS:

The first edition of *The Connection* is available in the Family Ministries info holder outside Wesley Hall. This will be our monthly newsletter for the grownups attached to our youth and children, and will come out on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

SAVE THE DATE:

- **OCT. 25: Youth Outing to CHILL FACTOR in Trumann, Meet at the church at 5:30 p.m., and we'll be back at the church by 8:30 p.m.**
  - Chill Factor is an 8200 sq. ft. building, featuring 2 thrilling and chilling attractions Different themed rooms and mazes with trap doors will rattle your bones! Elaborately placed animatronics, lights, fog and some of the most intricate haunted house trickery complete this creepy, high tech and shocking experience. Features both a haunted house and a fun house. **Cost is $25, and includes dinner.**

- **OCT. 28:** Block Party, 6-7:30 p.m.
  - Streets will close at 1:30 p.m. to traffic; setup begins at 2 p.m.

- **NOV. 6-8:** Refuge: Shepherd of the Ozarks (6th-9th Graders)

- **NOV. 13-14:** Bible Quest at Camp Tanako (3rd-5th Graders)
  - This opportunity for learning, fellowship and worship is a fun weekend for our 3rd-5th graders. They're invited into a path of learning more about their Bibles as they have fun around camp. There's a special pathway just for 5th graders that will give them a taste of the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries. Registration is now open.

- **FEB. 7:** Youth prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday
- **FEB. 10:** Ash Wednesday
- **FEB. 12-14:** Veritas in Fort Smith (6th-12th Graders)

- **JULY 24-28, 2027:** Assembly (Current 6th-12th Graders) ***tentative date***

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.

Ashton Bryant
Candice Dickson
Jim Dickson
M.G. Ferguson-Myering
Paul Holmes
Nixon Holmes
Carolyn Hudgins
William Kaloghirou
Jeff Landers

Nathan Raviscioni
Will Roach
Simon Storer

*****We extend our deepest sympathy to Lily Stafford, in the death of her father, Jess Stafford.**

*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

Taylor Reynolds
Finance Assistant | finance@fumcj.org | 870.932.7479

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