



# Christian Challenger

Vol. 66

August 14, 2019

No. 17

## Acolyte Training



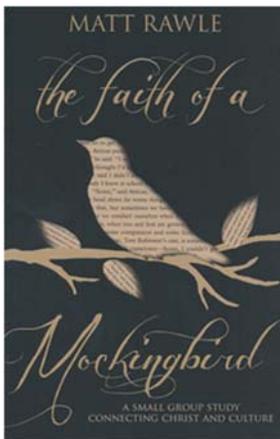
Calling all 3rd-5th graders! If you would like to be an acolyte for this upcoming school year, please attend the training this Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. This training is for both new and current acolytes. If your child would no longer like to be an acolyte, please let Claire know so she can take their name off the rotation.

## CGRM Fundraiser Luncheon

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> for the Common Ground Recovery Ministries fundraising luncheon. We have a special way for you to help...please pick up a 4 X 4 canvas in the church office and paint any type of heart on it. Then **return it to the office by September 13<sup>th</sup>**. These paintings will be used as part of the Fundraiser. If you have any questions contact Cindy Hernandez 642-0167.



## Fall Bible Study: *The Faith of a Mockingbird* by Matt Rawle



As lead Pastor of The Well United Methodist Church in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, Matt Rawle loves to tell an old story in a new way, especially at the intersection of pop culture and the church. This 5-week study is based on the book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Rawle uses the beloved characters of Harper Lee's novel to explore our place in the world and in God's story as well as what it means to live out a hopeful faith in a broken world.

Join Sheri Sutton as she leads this study beginning Wednesday,

September 25<sup>th</sup>, in Room 310. Each session will begin at 10:15 am.

Call the church office at 692-2282 to register. Books will be available in the church office soon for \$12.00 each. Please read the Introduction and the Refresher on the novel before the first session.



## MSU Mustangs Pantry

We are excited about helping the MSU college students! We will be collecting non perishable food for the MSU Food Pantry and will be handing out bags with lists this Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, in Chapel/Sunday School/Sanctuary/etc.. The Food Drive Collection Day will be Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Some MSU students plan to be in the Sanctuary service that day for a blessing of the filled bags.

Items that are on the contribution list include:  
**Proteins** (canned meat/tuna/chicken; beans, soup, peanut butter, nuts); **Fruits & Veggies** (canned fruit/veggies, pasta sauce, dried fruit/raisins, instant potatoes, juice); **Grains** (pasta/noodles, macaroni & cheese, rice, oatmeal, cereal, crackers, granola bars, pancake/muffin/bread mixes); **Other food** (jelly/jam, Jello/pudding, honey, tea, coffee, dry or powdered milk); **Non Food Items** (hand soap/body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, laundry soap, dish soap).

These ambitious students, some from the other side of the world, could use our help, and we look forward to helping them on their journey in our town. If you have any questions, contact Polly Tonemah or Sally Hastings on the Outreach team.

## MSU "Welcome Pack Giveaway"

A million thank you's for supporting the Mustangs Pantry! We sincerely appreciate your kindness!

Sincerely,  
Cindy Cummings



# Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender  
Senior Minister



## Role Models

My preaching professor died this week. The Rev. Dr. Joseph (Joey) Jeter was my Professor of Homiletics (that fancy “seminary” word for preaching). Dr. Jeter retired from teaching more than ten years ago and, unfortunately, dealt with the effects of Alzheimer’s Disease for most of his retirement.

As seminary friends and fellow alumni posted their condolences on Facebook upon learning of his death, nearly every one mentioned Dr. Jeter’s advice to us as new ministers. While the wording from semester-to-semester varied slightly, he told us that we should:

1. Always be prepared to say a good word for Jesus Christ.
2. Always have a sermon in your back pocket. (We weren’t supposed to literally carry a sermon with us, but to always have something you could preach on at a moment’s notice).
3. Always preach the gospel. Even when you preach from the Old Testament, there is Gospel to be proclaimed.

I often thought that Dr. Jeter had one of the most difficult teaching positions. It’s one thing to grade theology or church history papers. It’s another to grade sermons...to offer helpful feedback...to extend grace when it is so badly needed. For many seminarians, Dr. Jeter’s class was the first place they had ever given a sermon. In my own experience, I had probably preached 15-20 times before taking his class, but I was just as raw as a first time preacher. I may have been more nervous preaching in front of him (and in front of my peers) than on any other occasion. While that first sermon for Dr. Jeter wasn’t my best, he still found words of affirmation and grace.

*Grace* - that was the other word that has been used frequently to describe Dr. Jeter since word of his death began to trickle out Monday evening. One seminary friend recalled that she turned in a paper to Dr. Jeter that was later than it should have reasonably been accepted. He gave her a D, but wrote “grace abounds.” Another friend noted that he was the seminary associate at the church Dr. Jeter attended. Fellow students would ask him, “Doesn’t it make you nervous to preach on Sundays in front of Dr. Jeter?” Surprisingly, he said, “No. Dr. Jeter sits there and prays for you during the entire sermon. It’s helpful rather than nerve-wracking.”

Monday night was our Meet the Teacher night at *Children Come First*. As I greeted children and parents, I thought about what it meant to *always be prepared to say a good word for Jesus Christ*, and how we do that through our childcare and preschool programs. I thought about how we do that through our music programs as I passed by Stratten Hall. As I left for the evening, I walked by the Chapel and, once again, thought about how we say a good word for Jesus Christ. It’s relatively easy to think about how that messaging takes place here at the church.

But what about beyond the walls of the church? How prepared are you to say a good word for Jesus Christ at work? With your neighbors? With the cashier at the grocery store? Where are you extending grace to someone who needs it?

In the *Children Come First* School Age Room, there is a behavior chart posted on the wall by the door. It provides instant feedback for the students about how they are doing in terms of listening to their teachers and being in community with other students. It also informs parents about how their child conducted himself or herself that day. What caught my eye when I saw that chart on Monday evening was the top level. While all of the students start at a “ready to learn” level, some students might receive praise for their good choices or for doing a great job behaving throughout the day. But, if they move to the top level - to being a role model - it means they have done things that make them an example for others to emulate.

Dr. Jeter was a role model for so many in my profession. He didn’t just do a good job, he “practiced what he preached.” There are thousands of ministers serving churches today who were shaped by his example and by his gentle leadership. In addition to being a very fine preacher himself, he also preached the gospel through his teaching and through the way he lived his life.

It was the Apostle Paul who told the Corinthians, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). Paul set a standard that many of us would struggle to adopt ourselves. Can you imagine asking others to imitate you, as you are the example of Christ?

Yet, that’s just what we are called to strive for. We can go through life “thinking about” being a Christ follower, or we can live our lives in such a way that when people see us, they see Jesus Christ. We aren’t going to get it right all of the time. But the good news is that grace abounds. Sometimes we are the ones dealing out the grace and sometimes we are the ones receiving it. Both are signs of being children of God...of being people who have been transformed by the Gospel.



Mark



## OPPORTUNITIES

### Sunday, August 18, 2019

8:40 Worship (Chapel)  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:30 Acolyte Training (Sanctuary)  
9:30 Adult Forum: Generations of the Church (Fellowship Hall)  
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)  
5:00-7:00 Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)  
5:45-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

### Monday, August 19, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)  
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)  
9:00-12:00 Young Ages School "YAS" Staff Meeting (Rm 405)  
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

### Tuesday, August 20, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)  
6:00 Education Ministry Meeting (Rm 222)  
6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)  
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups

### Wednesday, August 21, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)  
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)  
9:30-12:00 YAS CPR Class (Rm 310)  
5:30 Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00-7:00 First Kidz (Grades Pre-K-5th) (Rm 402)  
7:00-8:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)  
7:00-9:00 Chancel Choir (Stratten Hall)

### Friday, August 23, 2019

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)  
12:00 Discovery Class Hosting HHH Riders Begins

### Saturday, August 24, 2019

5:00pm Discovery Class Hosting HHH Riders Ends

### Sunday, August 25, 2019

#### MSU PANTRY SUNDAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:30 Adult Forum: Generations of the Church (Fellowship Hall)  
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)  
5:00-7:00 Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)  
5:45-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

### Monday, August 26, 2019

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)  
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)  
6:00-8:00 CCF Staff Training (Rm 310)  
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

### Tuesday, August 27, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)  
6:00 YAS Parent Orientation (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 Executive Council Meeting (Rm 310)  
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups

### Wednesday, August 28, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)  
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)  
5:30 Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00-7:00 First Kidz (Grades Pre-K-5th) (Rm 402)  
7:00-8:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)  
7:00-9:00 Chancel Choir (Stratten Hall)

### Thursday, August 29, 2019

6:00 Through the Bible in a Year (Rm 310)

### Friday, August 30, 2019

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

## SERVING SUNDAY

### ELDERS

8/18: Dwight Ross III, Rick Appling; Kathleen Lauck, Presiding  
8/25: Woody Gossom, David Collins; Andy Wilson, Presiding

### DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

8/18: Shirley Craft, Fred Gentry, Teresa Archambo  
8/25: Melody Jennings, Margaret Phillips, James Poole

### DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

8/18: Karen & Terry Burross and Braelyn Crowe  
8/25: Liz & Emily Thomas

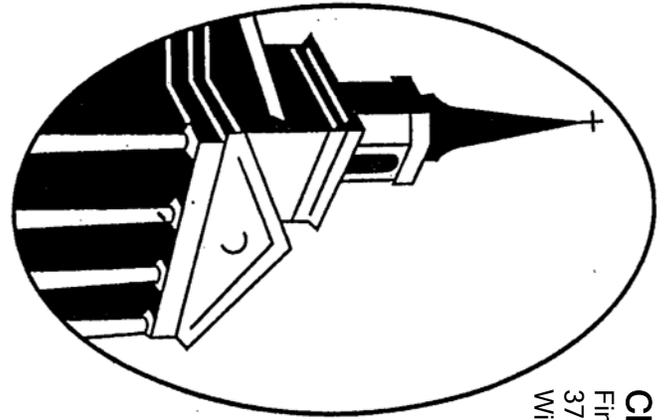
### AUGUST DIACONATE SERVERS

Sherry Martin & Kris Gossom, Co-Captains

Karen & Terry Burross, Chris Showalter, Debi & Larry Ballard, Alan Freeman, Lynette Gill, Liz Thomas, Teresa Archambo, Shirley Craft, Fred Gentry, Melody Jennings, Margaret Phillips, James Poole, Braelyn Crowe, Emily Thomas.

### THE CHURCH STAFF...

Church Number	940-692-2282	FAX Number	940-696-3085
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Claire Baer, Director of Children's Ministries			692-2282
Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries			763-8515
Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator			691-7265
Heather Dickerson, Director of Children Come First			687-2231
Alisa Gardner, Director of Young Ages School			692-3640
Rev. Margaret Scales, Common Ground Recovery Ministries			337-1712
Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary		Tina Williams, Financial Secretary	
Karen Watson, Receptionist		Debbie Watson, Organist	



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