

A Word of Encouragement

The Holiness of Communion

There are certain things that God's Word is exceptionally clear about being holy and sacred. In the Old Testament, we see that The Arc of the Covenant is holy. All throughout His Word, it is clear that Marriage between a man and woman is holy. Nothing is more sacred to God than human life, so much so that Psalm 139:13-16 delves into the intricacy with which He knit us together in our Mothers' wombs, and He knew us and all our days before we were born. You probably already know God's stand on all the above mentioned. But do you realize God also views Communion/The Lord's Supper as holy? Communion is one of those topics God's Word is very evident about holding sacred. We as present day Christ-followers have a tendency to become cavalier about this sacrament. This casual attitude grieves our Lord greatly. We partake of the Lord's Supper for many reasons. Two of the most important being to remember what Christ did for us on the cross and to rededicate our lives to Him. A few weeks ago, my church observed Communion, and my Pastor preached on something that we don't hear very often. Sometimes we overlook a very important admonition. Paul warns us in 1 Corinthians 11:27 to never take Communion in an unworthy manner.

The following are four ways we should never partake in Communion. 1) If a person has never been born again. Communion is a pledge of allegiance to Jesus for those that have placed their faith in Jesus and accepted His faith and forgiveness. If you have not yet had that time in your life, let the plate pass. Parents, this is an amazing teaching opportunity with your children that Communion is not a "snack" but rather a holy, sacred moment. 2) If you have sin on your calendar...meaning you are involved in deliberate sin with no intention of repenting, you should not partake in Communion. Maybe it's an unethical business scheme or an illicit relationship. Regardless, until you have made that situation right and repented, you should abstain from Communion. 3) Thirdly, if someone has ought against you or you have ought against someone. How do we expect God to forgive our sins, if we don't forgive others? 4) And finally, don't take Communion if you are distracted or irritated. Remember, Communion is a holy and sacred time with the Lord. It should take intimate concentration on what Jesus has done individually for us. If our focus is elsewhere, we should let the plate pass that particular time.

Could it be that many times we take Communion when we know we are not in a right relationship with God because we are worried about what others around us might think if we do not partake? Why are we not more concerned with what our Savior thinks of us than what mere men think? 1 Corinthians 11:29 states, "For the one who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not properly recognize the body". The King James version states we eat and drink "damnation" to ourselves when we partake in an unworthy manner. On the flip side, there is something very healthy about taking Communion in the right manner. Just as our physical body is nourished by healthy food, our spirit is strengthened and made healthy by regular participation in Communion. There is a unity and oneness that bonds us as brothers and sisters in Christ when we collectively partake in Communion and remember what Jesus did for us on Calvary. We as humans tend to forget just how monumental His sacrifice was. Nothing is a better reminder to us than the bread and the cup. I pray as you partake of the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday on October 2nd, it has extra special meaning to each and every one of you. May you be blessed like never before!

Communing and Worshipping Together,

Julie Simpson

Administrative Assistant, Stallings UMC



The Annual Stallings BBQ is set for Friday, October 21st from 10am –8pm. Due to the ever rising cost in meat (and food in general) tickets are \$15 this year. People have a choice of pork or chicken, (plates or sandwiches). Sides are beans and slaw. We offer dine-in & take-out.

It takes many hands & many hours to have a successful BBQ! The Thursday before is a full day of preparation for the event. We meet for breakfast at a local restaurant around 8am on Thursday morning (20th). After breakfast, we head to the church to begin the Prep work. Inside, we cut cabbage, make sauce, etc. Outside, the fire begins and meat starts to cook. Some people work shifts, others stay the entire day and night.

On Friday, the work and fun continues. It takes runners, cooks, servers, plate assemblers and so much more. After all is over, a clean-up crew is necessary to prepare for Worship on Sunday morning.

It truly takes the congregation working as a TEAM to accomplish an event like this. So where do you see yourself fitting into this puzzle? What part will you play on the 20th and 21st? Please see Katherine Tice, Bryan Spurrier, or Kevin Tice for more information or to volunteer. Or you are welcome to call me, Julie Simpson, in the church office during office hours. Let's make this the best Stallings BBQ yet!

Overview continued...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Tracy McLean	10-03	Christy Inman	10-14	Aubrey Little	10-19	Dennis Bennett	10-28
Laura Preslar	10-03	Nicholas Matthews	10-14	Becky Pruet	10-20	Paul Drye	10-28
Allie Bigham	10-07	Linda Barnes	10-15	Teresa Broome	10-21	Peggy Nuss	10-28
Kara McLelland	10-07	Gary Helms	10-15	Jonathan Murphy	10-22	Sophia Bramhall	10-29
Madison Malarney	10-09	Linda Hoyle	10-15	Sadie Creel	10-24	Ginny Bernstorf	10-30
Kathy Bramhall	10-12	Suzie Flippin	10-16	Louise Keene	10-24	Elizabeth Bankett	10-31
Mazie Caig	10-13	Jay Parrish	10-16	Matthew Creel	10-25	Mary Inman	10-31
Linda Mullinax	10-13	Nate Smith	10-16	Emily Frye	10-27		
Susan Shackelford	10-13	Lance Lauzon	10-19	Howell Pruet	10-28		

World Communion Sunday

October 2, 2022

Do this in remembrance of me.



Giving

Date	Budget	Building Fund
Sept 04	\$ 4,192.86	\$ 512.97
Sept 11	\$ 2,660.13	\$ 150.00
Sept 18	\$10,491.61	\$ 310.00
Sept 25	\$ 3,112.22	\$ 397.90

*Please do not forget your church when you go out of town, on vacation **OR** [watching online due to health reasons.](#)

Men's Breakfast

Our next United Methodist Men's Breakfast/Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 8th in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast, great fellowship and short meeting. If you are a man and have never been to this meeting, now is the perfect time to join this fellowship of brothers! All ages welcome!



Church Membership

Many of you have been visiting Stallings UMC for months. Some are even involved in Sunday School and Bible Studies. Several of you have spoken to me on the phone and in person about your interest in joining this fellowship. The Lord is very clear in His Word about the importance of belonging to the local Body of Believers. In The Book of Acts, 1 Corinthians and so many other places, His Word speaks of our need for one another. We need fellowship, accountability, the gifts that others bring to the table, and the list goes on and on. With Pastor Scott returning in October, if the Lord so leads you, the coming weeks and months would be the prime opportunity for you to find out what it means to become a member of Stallings UMC and make that membership official. You could be the missing pieces at Stallings. Let's fill in the puzzle!



Preschool Blessings

The Stallings Weekday Preschool is off to an amazing start. Our two new teachers, Mrs. Becky and Mrs. Christine have brought an element of faith and Biblical teaching to the classrooms that has been missing for many years. They pray with the children each morning. Mr. Tommy Stilwell has been by to have Bible time with them. The Word is being "hid in their hearts" as Scripture teaches. In addition, they are far ahead in activities and learning for this stage of the year. They sing daily! God has blessed above and beyond all we asked or thought! **HE IS FAITHFUL!**



Can you believe there are only 13 more Fridays until Christmas? I know its still summer outside, but its time to start filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. What a simple yet tremendous way to get involved in evangelism and discipleship of children around the world. Every single shoebox, is an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with a child in a foreign land.

The Shoeboxes will be officially available to you on Sunday, October 9th. You may pick up yours then or any weekday during church office hours (9am-2pm). Please note, Samaritan's Purse has said **NO toothpaste, candy, gum, lotion, food or war related items.** allowed in the shoeboxes due to certain countries' customs regulations. Please keep this in mind while filling your boxes. More detailed instructions are inside your shoebox. Stallings UMC goal is to fill 50 boxes as a church family. Then, on Sunday, November 13th we will have a special time of collection of Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes and prayer over the boxes during our normal worship services .

If you have never packed a shoebox before, why not make this the year. The joy is indescribable. It is one of the most simple ways to "be on mission". Don't miss out on this opportunity to be a blessing and be blessed at the same time!

