

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NOVEMBER 15, 2010

One of the stories that comes from the Book of Joshua is the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River. Moses has led this new generation of Israelites to the edge of the Promised Land on the east side of the Jordan River. The Israelites are now ready to enter that land. Moses has given them his farewell address along with instructions about the way they are to live when they enter the land. Joshua has been anointed the leader of the Israelites by Moses at the instruction of God, and Moses has died.

Joshua has sent spies to the city of Jericho, and they have come back with a favorable report. "We can take the city," the spies have reported. Jericho is afraid of us. Now it is time to enter the Promised Land. And that's all there is to it. Just cross the Jordan River and enter the land of Canaan.

But that's not all there was to it. The Israelites had come to the Jordan River at the time of year when it floods. The river was high, and they had to cross that river. And here were their instructions. The priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were to go first, and as soon as the soles of their feet touched the water the waters would part. Just like the Red Sea crossing of their forebears the waters up stream would dam up and leave dry land for Israel to cross on. But, and this is a big "but," the priests had to wade out into the flood waters of the Jordan before the waters would part.

Can you imagine wading out into a river at flood stage carrying this box-like thing on poles? It would seem to me to be kind of scary, but that's what the priests were instructed to do. Their feet had to touch the water before the waters would part. And that's where faith comes in. The Lord is going to provide a way, but the Israelites have to believe that and act upon it before it actually becomes a reality. It therefore takes some courage to exercise one's faith. The priests carrying the ark had to have enough courage to step into that deep water believing the waters would part as God had said they would.

So faith takes courage, and courage is the wherewithal to do what has to be done when it has to be done as it has to be done even though you may be afraid. Courage is not the opposite of fear. Faith is, but faith requires courage to act in such a way as to overcome fear.

Do we have the courage to walk by faith? That might well be the faith lesson from the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River. Walking by faith takes courage. It not only takes the confidence to believe God will do what God says he will do, but it also takes the courage to act on that conviction.

I had a conversation with a young minister in the Church of God of Prophecy a number of years ago. This young minister had been serving as an Associate. It was a kind of apprenticeship for him. He was learning how to be a minister of a church. But after a few years as an Associate it had come time for him to step out and become the senior pastor of a church. His denomination was asking him to do that. And in our conversation he said this. "You know I preach to our people about living by faith, but it is much easier to talk about than it is to do." And he was and is so right. It is much easier to talk about living by faith than it is to do. Living by faith takes

courage.

I dare say that we will all come to the point of realizing that if we are going to be a disciple of Jesus. Living by faith is not easy. It is much easier to talk about than to do. Jesus' living by faith in God took him to the cross. That certainly was not easy, and it for sure took courage. But at some point, if our faith is to be proven real, we must have the courage to take that first step that says we believe God's word to us is true. It is faith that overcomes fear, but it takes courage to act on our faith.

The priests of Israel took that first step. They had the courage to step into those flowing waters of the Jordan at flood stage, and the waters parted as God had told Joshua they would and as Joshua had told the Israelites they would. And the children of Israel walked into the Promised Land on dry ground. It was a miracle indeed, but there was some faith involved. There was some fear involved, I'm sure. And there was some courage involved for that miracle to come about.

Do we have the courage to walk by faith? Just something to think about.

Until next time, **Bro. Jim**

CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORTS

The following report forms are available in the church office and will need to be completed for Charge Conference: Trustees; Committee on Finance; Staff Parish Relations Committee; Martin Methodist Representative; and Lay Speaker Report. Chairpersons are responsible for the various reports. Charge Conference will be Sunday night, November 28th at 6:00 p.m.

FOOD FOR THANKSGIVING SERVICE FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is asked to bring finger foods to serve following the community wide Thanksgiving service First UMC is hosting on Sunday, at 6:00 p.m. Barbara Edwards is coordinating this and would like for everyone to drop their finger foods off by 5:30 p.m. in the CLC. Even if you don't plan to stay for the service, the food is needed and will be appreciated since there will be several people from other churches attending.

NOVEMBER HARVEST - "UPDATE"

Thanks to so many of you who baked pies and caked, made chicken and dumplings, chili, beef stew, pimento cheese, chicken salad, made candy and cookies and many other items for sale-our November Harvest was a great success! Over \$3,000 was raised on Saturday, November 13th. These profits will be used for the United Methodist Women's outreach to local Lawrenceburg missions, to national UMW missions and to international missions.

We are so blessed to have such wonderful facilities for the event and to have so many generous people who not only donated items to sell but also so many people in the church and the community to shopped with us. So many of you went above and beyond making and donating items for the bake sale or just coming in to help out for awhile.

The women of Lawrenceburg-First UMW send you a big THANK YOU. God bless you all.

Mary Ann Clayton

CHRISTMAS PLAY - "WHAT IS HIS NAME?"

NEXT PRACTICE AT 5:45 ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1

WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson

Freddie Mae Jackson

Bill Evans

Scottie McMackin
Jean Cone
Scott Dean
George Clark
Kelsey Gobble
Justin Mitchell
Selene Crews
Jane Marston
Buddy Gibbs
Kenneth Williams
Bea Thigpen
Byron Shelton
Peggy Cooke
Laura Kitchens
Bill Clark
Rob Raymond

The family of Randall Johnston. Bro. Clifton's brother passed away this past week.

...**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to all those who prepared chili and chicken and dumplings for our November Harvest. We were very successful and we could not have done it without you. What a blessing to have faithful and hardworking members like you who are willing to give your time and talent to support our church.

Layde Ezell

...**Thank you** to those who showed my wife and me many kindnesses during my surgery, recovery and re-hab. Your thoughtfulness has been much appreciated.

Carlos & Trena Pierce

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Janice Shaffer - Nov. 17th
Bruce Edwards - Nov. 17th
Beth Lerner - Nov. 20th
Beverly Duke - Nov. 20th
Nancy Nelson - Nov. 23rd
Sid James - Nov. 27th

I Will Be Loyal

**To The United Methodist Church And
Support It With: My Presence:**

Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010

8:15 a.m. Worship Attendance.....38

Sunday school Attendance.....93

10:30 a.m. Worship Attendance.....133

My Service: Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010

Acolytes: Nick Ricaurte & Maggie McKnight

Nursery Volunteer: Jansen Holt

Children's Church: Kim & Heath McKnight

Loaves and Fishes

Tues. Nov. 23: Linda Newton, Ray Price Martha Jo & Jerry Gibbs

Thur. Nov. 25: Closed-Thanksgiving

Attention: The coat rack is almost empty in the food pantry. If you or someone you

