

MESSENGER

Is it "Fall" or a push?



A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran, she prayed, *"Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"* While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, *"Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"*

Ha! Do you sometimes feel like God has given you a shove toward Sunday School? I know I do. This feisty little girl reminds me of how important it is for me to hustle to God's house for some loving and learning with God's people in our small groups!

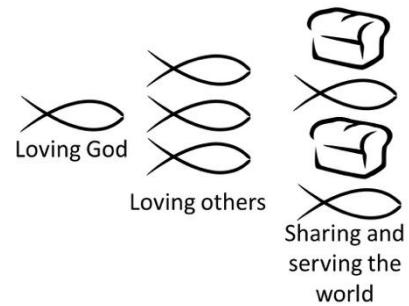
Our lives are so busy. Not just with our regular work and routines, but think of all the surprises and changes we experience. For many of us, many firsts and many changes have come our way recently. Earthquakes, storms, and wildfires, changes in health and wellness; some of us have moved into new jobs, new school situations, or new places to live. Some of us have even experienced deep changes—including births and deaths—in our families.

Will Willimon's *This We Believe* says, "The Christian life was not meant to be left to chance, haphazard meetings with God. We need not sit idly by and wait on God to show up in our lives; God has graciously given us means of grace." He reminds us that there could be no better place to stay connected to God's love in all of these changes than waiting in the "means of grace, constantly urged on by the practices and ordinary habits of the Christian life." You are exactly right if you think of these "ordinary habits" as praying, reading Scripture, taking communion, or fasting. But one of the most important ordinary practices of growing disciples is meeting together to share and hold each other up in support and love "to be in covenant to work for one another's growth in grace."

All of these "ordinary habits" don't make us spiritual heroes, but they give us time and companionship with the living God. John Wesley said our worship together and our personal devotion "free us from our subservience to the lords of this world so that we might be free for obedience to our true Sovereign." These ordinary habits are not about boosting us to some unreachable goal with God, but they are *sustaining*.

It is my prayer that you will come be a part of one of the most foundational “ordinary practices” of disciples—meeting in small groups for loving and learning together. At Tom’s Creek United Methodist Church, we offer small groups for learning together on Sunday mornings at 10:30am. Even a nursery is provided for families that need safe and secure care for their small children while they go learn and grow with other disciples.

God is not sitting still in the Tom’s Creek United Methodist Church parish. The LORD is growing disciples of Jesus—maturing in loving God, to loving and learning with others, to sharing and serving in his love! I invite you to come “go and grow” in discipleship with us too. If Sunday School doesn’t neatly fall together for you on Sunday mornings, give it a push! May God bless our year together, learning and loving as growing disciples of Christ.



In Jesus’ love,

Pastor Mike

Service August 2nd Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Message: We Struggle Too!



Message, Communion, and Young Disciples- by Pastor Mike

Lay Reader- Pat Chapman

Service August 9th Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

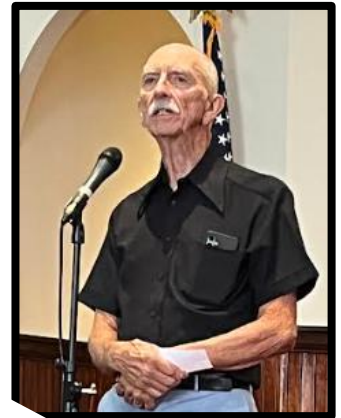
Message: **You Trust Me!**



Lay Reader: **Phyllis Kelly**

Special Music: **“Try a Little Kindness”**

by **Roy Chapman**



Just as the Disciples were in the boat with Jesus, our Young Disciples gathered in their makeshift boat. **Pastor Mike** takes a ‘Leap of Faith’ out of the boat, only to be saved by them. As the message taught: **Be Jesus’ hands and feet!**



The Tom’s Creek family extends their deepest sympathy to **Sam Wivell and his family** following the passing of his sister **Helen Reaver** on August 9, 2026.

August 9th Lorien Service

The Seekers Sunday School class led the worship service for the residents of Lorien Assisted Living in Taneytown on August 9th. Thanks to **George Tuggle** for planning the service and delivering the message. Thanks to **Anita Hill** for reading the scripture. Thanks to **Kathy Amoss** for preparing the communion elements. The residents are always so appreciative of us taking time out of our day to worship and visit with them. Everyone is always invited to join us!

Pictures of the Lorien Service-



Some of the residents and their Caregiver, **Sherry**, enjoying the service.



Kathy Amoss and **George Tuggle** preparing to serve communion.

Service August 16th Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Message: Mercy Me, Family



Lay Reader:
Donna Shriner



Debbie Henning and **Chris Botker**



Pastor Mike with Young Disciples

Annual Tom's Creek Church Yard Fundraiser Sale

Yard Sale Fundraisers!

This year we went bigger! We had a Christmas in July Yard Sale on July 18th and a Community Yard Sale on August 22nd. Buyers from all around the state as well as Florida and North Carolina came to find treasures. We lovingly served and connected with our community. While all the receipts are not in at the time of this writing, our net profit is over \$3,000. We would like to thank you church family for all of your donations, time, muscle, cookies, food, supplies, and prayers. We were asked if we are going to continue to do this. Do you think we should? Can we go bigger? I think we can! But to do this, we need your help. Join us!

Still counting Blessings, **Kathy Imirie**



*What's
your favorite
hymn?*

**Hymns
of Faith**

Our September Worship Series will feature your favorite hymns.

Every Sunday in September we will showcase your favorites—from the prelude to the postlude and the songs in between. Join us for this special series as we experience your favorite hymns helping us connect and grow in discipleship. *Thanks to everyone who turned in your favorites!*

ROUND UP SUNDAY September 20

DECK OUT IN YOUR WESTERN WEAR AND ROUND UP SOME FRIENDS TO BRING TO WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH US. SHARE THE GOOD NEWS: THE LORD IS OUT TO GATHER US ALL IN!



Service August 23th Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Message: Name Calling

Lay Reader- **Pastor Bill Warehime**

Special Music-**Debbie Henning/ Erica Messinger**

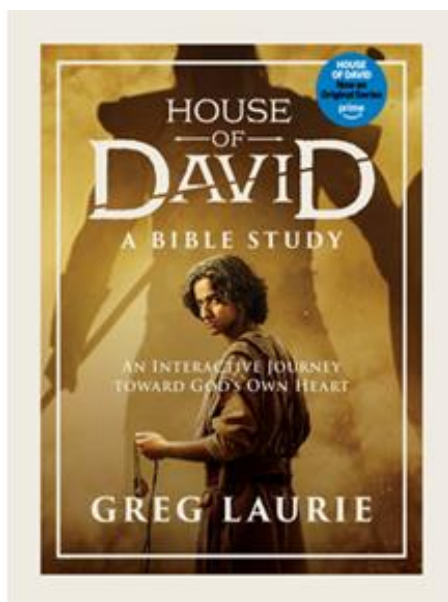


Pastor Mike / Pastor Bill

Pastor Mike with Young Disciples



“HOUSE OF DAVID” PART 2 - 2026 FALL BIBLE STUDY BEGINS



“**House of David**” **Part 2** begins Thursday, September 24, at the church and will meet each Thursday for eight weeks, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Facilitated by **Carol Hipp**, this study is authored by Greg Laurie and inspired by the Prime Video Original Series *House of David*.

Together, we will continue exploring David’s rise from obscurity to the throne and the lessons his life offers about faith, perseverance, redemption, and God’s unwavering grace. Whether David was defeating Goliath, navigating Saul’s court, or seeking restoration after failure, his story points us to a faithful God in every season.

- **No prior participation required:** You do not need to have completed Part 1 to join this second session.
- **Sign up by September 6:** Please let **Carol Hipp** know by this date so study guides can be ordered.
- **Cost:** Study guides are \$15, with payment collected at the first class.
- **Invite someone:** Bring a friend! All Bible studies are open to church family and friends.

Sign up by September 6th----- First class September 24th 9:30 am to 11:00 am.

September Happenings---- Mark Your Calendar--- Participate

Ice Cream Social and Pizza Party, September 13, The Promised Land

3:00 – 5:00 pm – Games

5:00 pm – Pizza and Ice Cream

6:00 pm – Pastor Mike

Bring your favorite ice cream topping

Annual Prayer Partner Reveal Night - September 14th, at 6pm. Please bring a gift and card with your name on it, so they know who has been praying for them. Any new ladies are welcome to join. Any questions, contact or call Mary Harner at 443-340-2872.

Round-up Sunday, September 20 – We're rounding up everyone for worship and Sunday School! Come as you are or come dressed in your best Western attire. Round up your family and friends and join us for a great Sunday together! Flyers are on the lobby table for you to take and distribute to your family and friends.

Bible Collection for Prisoners (ongoing). Join our CONNECT/SERVE/SHARE Team in gathering Bibles to send prisoners through Mount Hope Prison Ministry. We Will deliver our collection of Bibles to Hagerstown after the last Sunday of September. Any translation is great if it is in good shape! Collection box is in the hallway. Thank you!

The Christian Education Team needs teachers and helpers. Contact Trudy at 717-337-2897 for information or questions. Contact Heather Fitzgerald to get approved by our Safe Sanctuary Committee.

TCUMC Note Cards –8 cards for \$25 and all proceeds go to the Church. There is a basket on the lobby table with the notecards in it. Make checks out to TCUMC and give them to Mary Harner or Judy Coleman.

A Note from the Editor:

Many thanks to all who submit information, pictures, copies of items, proofread my first drafts, and above all are patient with me. Those who help on a regular basis deserve special recognition. They include **Pastor Mike, Judy Coleman, Karen Wivell, Mary Harner, and Kathy Amoss**. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Keep up the good work!

Thank you all for your patience with me as I am creating a system that works for all. Your compliments and encouragement have kept me going with this task. If you ever have a desire to learn how to do this, just let me know.

Also, if you ever want to submit something for the newsletter, or have suggestions for something we can include, please let me know. My email address is: smtrice15@gmail.com. Your deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month. I shall continue to include the services and big events through that particular month.

Blessings to all,

Susan Trice