



**For
everything
there is
SEASON
And a time for
every matter
under heaven.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1

August 2025

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve and
Share Christ*

www.lexmoumc.org

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Sarah Black,
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Sunday worship: 11 a.m.
Children's Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Young Couples Class: 10 a.m.
Youth Group: 6 p.m. August 17
Worshiping Winds Rehearsal:
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 10 a.m., Aug. 24

August has arrived—and with it, the excitement of a new season! Our kids are heading back to school, vacation days are winding down, and yet we remain firmly in a season of growth. Just as “*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven,*” (Ecclesiastes 3:1), we see God’s hand guiding us into new beginnings.

Speaking of growth, our youth ministry is buzzing with life! We’re excited to kick off our 6th through 12th grade youth group again this month on Aug 17th.

On August 7–8, we’ll be taking a group of 13 youth to Branson in collaboration with Higginsville UMC. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who sponsored our kids—your generosity makes a difference that can’t be measured.

If you’re still looking for a way to support our youth ministry, we are still seeking donations to help cover our \$950 bus rental. We are deeply grate-

ful to Randy Small for kindly reducing the cost. Having this transportation isn’t just practical—it’s vital to creating those extra hours where kids and volunteers truly bond as one group. As

Proverbs 27:17 reminds us, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”



**Rev. Andrew
Sanders**

We’ve also made wonderful progress on “The Well,” our youth room. Our hope is to worship and gather there regularly this year. Thank you to everyone who lent strong backs and willing hearts to move the heavy equipment—you helped build more than just a space; you helped build community.

Around the church, you may have noticed ongoing improvements. One highlight: our new projector! Many hours were devoted to ensure our congregation has the best worship experience possible—thank you to all involved for your dedication and expertise.

Council continued on page 4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays: Worshiping Winds rehearsal
9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal: begins Sunday, Aug. 24,
10 a.m.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Adult Sunday School
with Liz Johnson, facilitator.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Children's Sunday
School with Donna Slusher & Katie Dye.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Young Couples Class,
"Fireproof Your Marriage," with Sarah
Black, facilitator.

BABY GRACE: Sundays 10-11 a.m.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m.

Sunday, August 10, Noon: Provided meal,
"Dinner & Direction," stuffing of
backpacks and blessing of backpacks. All
are invited!

HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Monday,
August 11, 8 to 11 a.m.

BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION: 6 p.m.,
Tuesday, August 12 at the gazebo on
Main Street. Volunteers needed.

YOUTH GROUP: Begins Sunday, August
17 at 6 p.m.

FINANCE TEAM MEETING: Tuesday,
August 19, 6 p.m.

COMMODITIES: THURSDAY, August 22,
8:30 to 11 a.m.

****The 9 a.m. Wednesday morning**
exercise class is canceled until further
notice.

Ever wonder what is on the church
calendar? Visit: lexmoumc.org and click
on "calendar," for an updated list of
things going on at the church—including
funerals.



August 2	Cheryl Cooley
August 4	Kaye Worthington
August 4	Rebecca Estines
August 10	Jeff Simpson
August 20	Cooper Davis
August 31	Patty Skelton
August 31	Ava Herbst

LUMC serves up Thursday night meal at VBS

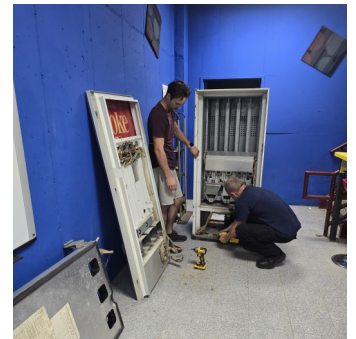


Teri James & Pam Johnson, along with Steven Fuller (not pictured) served up a Mexican meal to the VBS kids the last night of VBS at the Assembly of God Church. Lafayette Regional Health Center donated the food. Eighty kids and 15 volunteers were served.

New projector, clean Well = projects getting done



Left: Pastor Andrew and Phillip Davis are sky high on the scaffolding in the sanctuary to install the new projector, which involved a lot of wire-feeding through the ceiling.



Above right: Many thanks to our PPR Chair (and fire chief), Jim Martin, who brought several of his staff to help with the work in the church last week. Here they're dismantling the old soda machine that was in the Well. Once apart, they got it upstairs and out the door where it's gone to a scrap yard.

Now that the Well has been cleaned out, Pastor Andrew and Melissa Beal are ready to start up Youth Group (grades 6-12) on Sunday, August 17 at 6 p.m.

Left: Just to show how tall the scaffolding has to be to install the new projector, Phillip Davis helps work the wiring up through the ceiling.

Congregants will note a much sharper and brighter colored images on the screen each Sunday. Many thanks to David Cooley for sourcing the projector and acquiring it.





Liz Johnson | Secretary

Present: Sarah Black, Rev. Andrew Sanders, Thomas Rowland, Teri James, Nancy Oles, Steven Fuller, Cheryl Cooley, David Cooley and Roger McFadden.

- Sarah called the meeting to order.
- Pastor Andrew opened with a prayer.
- Sarah spoke about The Missouri Methodist, "A Hopeful Season" regarding staffing, finances and navigating a new reality.
- A new vision statement was unveiled.
- **Leadership Development:** training for teams is coming up.
- Reviewed new people.
- Minutes of the April meeting were approved after motion by Steven and seconded by Teri.
- **Finance:** We had to borrow from the savings account. Giving has been down. We are anticipating having the need to move more funds. As of the date of this meeting, we had not received some reimbursements from Waverly (these were received a few days after the July meeting).
- Teri announced that PayPal has been set up.
- Two names must be on all church bank accounts. (There are a minimum of 2 – verified by Liz J)
- Steven has applied to Venmo to get an account set up.
- The Hicklin Hearthstone Homes Tour yielded \$1,635.85 to pay apportionments. (an additional \$20 was donated following the tour).
- **Sunday School:** we need a possible rotating schedule. Sarah would get the curriculum. Last year's teachers are unable to do it again. We will kick off the fall season August 10th with a dinner following the 11 a.m. worship service and stuffing the backpacks (to distribute August 12th)
- We need someone (a man) to start up the men's group.
- **Summer Events from Pastor Andrew:** Team training is scheduled. VBS is at the Assembly of God Church, July 20-24th. LUMC is to provide dinner on Thursday, July 24th. On Saturday, July 26th, a Bible Festival will take place in Higginsville. Pastor Andrew will portray Jesus. Our Youth Group will start back up August 17th.
- The local funeral home will begin a contribution of \$250 per visitation and \$250 per funeral – if they're on different days – otherwise it's per day – when visitation and funeral are on the same day. \$75 would be for the use of the pastor's office to meet with deceased's family for arrangements. As of July 7th, the funeral home has had six services here. **Note:** Liz Johnson drafted a proposal to Austin Ledford, the director of Walker-Nadler-Fuller Funeral Home, which has been accepted and a check for all services to date has been mailed. Moving forward, they will pay us per service/arrangements.
- There was a conflict with the previously scheduled council team training dates. Sarah will reschedule and let everyone know the new dates and times.
- **Finance Ideas:** Pledge drive, possible video, Trade Days, Harvest Dinner (Nov. 1st).
- **Women's Group:** This is a very small group. Gifts for graduates.
- **Church Internet:** nothing has been done about upgrading at this time. Liz J is to get bids for the internet and bring to council for a vote.
- David presented a wish list for new video equipment. Woods Chapel has a grant available we could get. Andrew will check into this. The group went to the sanctuary to view the old projector vs. the new projector.
- We need to understand this group are the leaders of this church.
- We would like to have more contemporary music.
- **Retreat for council group:** Selah – Odessa, MO.
- Roger would like to clean out the basement.
- **Liz J will add to the bulletin:** When the service is over, doors will be locked. If you are the last person here, exit through the choir door after making sure the sanctuary side doors are locked and all lights turned off.

Sarah closed the meeting with a prayer. The next meeting is Monday, August 4th at 6 p.m. Thank you to Cheryl Cooley for the meeting notes.



We will be collecting **BACK-TO-SCHOOL** items to fill backpacks again this year as one of our mission projects. We are partnering with the Ministerial Alliance on this project. Needed items are: **BACKPACKS, PENCILS AND KLEENEX**. There is a basket in the hallway outside of the sanctuary where donations can be dropped off through Aug. 10.

-BACK-2-SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help stuff the backpacks following worship service and Lunch on Sunday, August 10th in the Family Life Center. We will be blessing the backpacks once they're ready for distribution – **distribution will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Aug 12th** during the Lexington Community Fair. Contact Teri James with any questions.

FALL-KICK-OFF: Sunday, August 10th with Children's Sunday School.

Adult Sunday School is "John: The Gospel of Light and Life."

Young Couples Class, "Fireproof your Marriage."

Dinner & Direction luncheon after the 11 a.m. service and stuffing of the Back-2-School backpacks. We need volunteers!



We now have a way to digitally tithe to Lexington UMC via PayPal. You will need to have the PayPal app installed on your phone.

Then, scan the QR code on the bulletin (or at right) to tithe to Lexington United Methodist Church. You can even choose to have a regular tithe sent to the church via PayPal. We are working on getting the ability to donate through our website.



WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.

Sunday School: 10 a.m. Adult.

Children's Sunday School is 10 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal: 10 a.m. August 24th.

Worshiping Winds Rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org

July: 2025



Treasurer's Report

July Offering:	\$ 16,511.60
July Building Rental:	\$ 2,825.00
July Expenses:	<u>-\$ 14,088.82</u>
Total	\$ 5,247.78
Year to Date (as of 7/31):	-\$ 7,650.84

*Avg. Expenses 2025 \$ 13,641.00 (per month)
July expenses includes quarterly taxes.
July offering includes additional generous donations from several of our members. Thank you! God bless!

Teri James: Treasurer

Liz Johnson: Finance Secretary

Sharol McMullin: Finance Chair

Sarah Black: 2025 Council Chair

Jim Martin: 2025 PPR Chair

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Sanders

"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor." ~ Proverbs 22:9

Pastor ... continued from pg. 1

In the spirit of shared leadership, we recently hosted a training with our church leaders. You can now visit our website to find a list of leadership roles, expectations, and time commitments. This resource helps us walk together in transparency and faithfulness, just as Paul encouraged: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24).

If you haven't been to Sunday school lately, now's the perfect time to rejoin us! We're continuing to add new classes and opportunities for study, fellowship, and

spiritual growth.

All these blessings are possible because of YOU—your prayers, your gifts, your time, and your presence. Together, the Spirit of Christ is alive and evident in this place. As Romans 12:4–5 reminds us, "For just as each of us has one body with many members... so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Don't forget to come worship with us every Sunday at 11 a.m.—there's always room for you here.

With gratitude and hope,

Reverend Andrew Sanders

A message from church administrative assistant, Liz

Johnson: "I wish to respectfully request that church members **please limit texting & phone calling contact with me to my workdays, Monday-Thursday, 9-2. Anything after 2 p.m. on those days or my days off: Friday-Sunday, please email me: secretary@lexmoumc.org**" – thank you so much and God bless! (I will reply during my



Sunday, August 3, 2025

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Clutter is nothing more than postponed decisions. —Barbara Hemphill



Imagine cleaning out a closet that has been cluttered for years. You discover items you no longer need — old clothes, broken gadgets and things you’ve outgrown. I just went to a closet in my office. I was shocked when I took inventory: board games, candlesticks, recipe box, Spanish and Mandarin flash cards, an illustration file, a folding chair, a Calumet Baking Powder tin, three cigar boxes, file folders and much more! It would be very difficult to get anything else in that closet. Sometimes, to make room for the new, you have to let go of the old.

The apostle Paul writes in our Bible reading for today that we should “put to death” earthly things like anger, greed, and malice (vv. 5-8) — things that clutter our mental, emotional and spiritual lives. These behaviors belong to our old selves, Paul says, but in Christ, we are called to clean out the closet and clothe ourselves in new attitudes that reflect his character.

To “put on the new self” (v. 10) is to live as people transformed by grace. It’s an ongoing process, requiring daily renewal of our minds and choices. It means living with an eternal perspective. Perhaps it means that we will evaluate what occupies our thoughts and how we spend our time. Living out our “new self” might also require that we let gratitude shape our perspectives. Remember, every good gift comes from God, and gratitude goes a long way to making life easier.

But, we may need to clean out the closet and get rid of a lot of useless junk — stuff that just collects dust and grime. When we set our hearts and minds on things above, we begin to see life through God’s perspective. This doesn’t mean we ignore earthly responsibilities but that we live with a deeper purpose. As Paul says, “Your life is now hidden with Christ in God” (v. 3).

Perhaps it is time to ask God to help you as you attempt to become a cleaner and leaner follower of Jesus!

Let us embrace this new identity and walk in the freedom and hope it brings.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, thank you for giving us a new identity in Christ. Help us to focus on things above and not be consumed by earthly distractions. Teach us to put off the old self and to live in the new, reflecting your love and grace in all we do. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 13-14

Monday: 2 Kings 22-25

Tuesday: Obadiah

Wednesday: Jeremiah 1-2

Thursday: Jeremiah 3-5

Friday: Jeremiah 6-8

Saturday: Psalms 82-84

WHAT NUMBERS?

What numbers should replace the question marks?

7	8	9	8
5	1	1	4
2	7	8	4
2	2	7	2
?	?	1	2

WHAT BIBLE BOOK?

In what book of the Bible would you find the following popular Bible stories?

- Jonah and the fish
- Daniel in the lion's den
- The visit of the magi
- The prodigal son
- Noah and the flood
- David and Goliath
- Manna in the wilderness
- Joseph's multi-colored coat
- The annunciation
- The wedding at Cana

WORD SEARCH: ROMANS 8

This is one of the great chapters of Scripture. In it we find such themes as what it means to walk in the Spirit and how we cannot be separated from the love of God. Find the words taken from this chapter in the word search below.

N	O	I	T	A	N	M	E	D	N	O	C	X	V	Q
J	J	U	S	T	I	F	I	E	S	D	G	C	E	U
I	T	C	H	S	E	L	F	N	E	G	J	V	G	E
Q	I	K	S	P	R	N	O	I	T	P	O	D	A	S
G	R	F	A	U	D	O	F	T	A	L	D	C	D	K
G	I	X	N	R	F	I	R	S	T	B	O	R	N	U
U	P	Z	G	P	R	T	E	E	F	F	B	E	O	I
H	S	X	E	O	E	P	Y	D	U	A	T	A	B	L
J	R	J	L	S	E	M	A	E	D	Q	M	T	U	P
O	E	G	S	E	D	E	C	R	E	T	N	I	G	S
R	W	S	G	O	O	D	E	P	L	C	L	O	L	V
C	O	Y	U	H	M	E	D	C	L	E	W	N	C	Y
D	P	I	H	S	D	R	A	H	A	L	B	D	B	P
F	R	U	I	T	S	I	R	H	C	E	P	T	W	K
H	E	A	R	T	F	A	G	H	A	G	P	Z	D	R

Abba	elect	Jesus	adoption	family
justifies	angels	firstborn	Lord	bondage
flesh	love	called	freedom	Spirit
Christ	fruits	powers	condemnation	heart
glorified	peace	creation	conquerors	
good	purpose	hardship	decay	
died	intercedes	redemption	predestined	

ANSWER to What Numbers?:	0 and 5.	Subtract the lower line from the one immediately above it and put the answer directly below.	Answers to What Bible Book?	1. Jonah	2. Daniel	3. Matthew	4. Luke	5. Genesis	6. 1 Samuel	7. Exodus	8. Genesis	9. Luke	10. John
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Sunday, August 10, 2025

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.
—Martin Luther King Jr.



Last year on precisely today's date, one of our granddaughters was married at a beautiful location in Vermont. We flew into Hartford, and then rented a car and headed north on the interstate. We went through Springfield, Massachusetts, which is the home of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. So, we stopped and had a great time.

In today's reading from Hebrews 11, we are given a glimpse into the Bible's "Hall of Faith"! It is known as the "faith chapter" of the Bible because it chronicles the lives of men and women whose trust in God shaped their actions and altered history. From Abel to Abraham, this chapter reveals the heart of faith: *a confident trust in God's promises, even when circumstances make them seem impossible.*

The reading forces us to ask questions about how healthy and strong our faith is. What promises of God do you need to trust in this season of your life? How can you live out your faith in a way that inspires others?

These are important questions. Fortunately, we know that faith is not blind optimism or wishful thinking; it is a deeply rooted assurance in the character of God. Verse 6 reminds us that "without faith, it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Faith acknowledges that God exists and is faithful to his promises. The chapter gives us numerous examples.

Consider Abraham, who was promised descendants as numerous as the stars. His unwavering faith not only honored God but also set an example for all believers. Faith enables us to act in obedience, even when we do not fully understand God's plan.

- Noah built an ark in preparation for a flood he had never seen.
- Moses led the Israelites through the Red Sea, trusting God to make a way.

These acts of faith were not grounded in visible evidence but in the assurance of God's faithfulness. As Christians, our faith is anchored in Jesus Christ, "the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

What an incredible Hall of Faith this chapter gives us! How can we not fail to be inspired by the lives of those who walked by faith and not by sight?

May we, like the HOFers of Hebrews 11, walk in faith, pleasing God and glorifying God's name.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Thank you, O God, that you will meet me where I am in order to take me where you want me to go. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: James 1-2

Monday: Jeremiah 9-12

Tuesday: Jeremiah 13-16

Wednesday: Jeremiah 17-20

Thursday: Jeremiah 21-23

Friday: Jeremiah 24-26

Saturday: Psalms 85-87

VERSE TO REMEMBER

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. —James 1:5

Things in Common

What is one thing shared by all three items in the same group?

A: a cow, a shoe, a baby

B: a doctor's office, a post office, music

C: a zipper, a shark, a comb

D: restaurant goer, a bird, the Senate

E: a potato, a hurricane, a target

F: a river, a person, a cave

Yea or Nay?

Read the following question and then answer with either a "yes" or a "no."

If the day before the day after the day before today was hotter than the day after the day before today, was the day before today hotter than today?

RIDDLE

1

You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?

RIDDLE

2

What is the only way a leopard will change his spots?

THE SAME AS ... Can you identify the word that has a similar meaning (synonym)?

1. COERCE: reduce, mislead, improve, pressure.
2. EFFICACY: effectiveness, effortlessly, emergency, morality.
3. EBULLIENT: daring, violent, lively, ready.
4. CATAclysm: wonder, disaster, miracle, session.
5. ALTRUISTIC: greedy, humanistic, selfish, inconsiderate.
6. FACILITATE: worsen, hurt, block, expedite.
7. ENIGMA: undefinable, appease, clarify, enlighten
8. CONSENSUS: agreement, denial, refusal, opposition.
9. DOCILE: observant, obedient, headstrong, resistant.
10. EMPHATIC: weak, insistent, remorseful, trite.

Answers: Things in Common — A. a tongue, B. a scale (or a key), C. teeth, D. a bill, E. an eye, F. a mouth.
Yea or Nay? — Yes. The day before the day after the day before today was yesterday. The day after the day before today is today. And the day before today was yesterday. That is why yesterday was hotter than today.

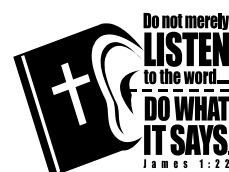
Riddle 1 — An ear of corn or a chicken.

Riddle 2 — By going from one spot to another.

THE SAME AS — 1. Pressure; 2. Effectiveness; 3. Lively;

4. Disaster; 5. Humanistic; 6. Expedite; 7. Undefinable;

8. Agreement; 9. Obedient; 10. Insistent.



Sunday, August 17, 2025

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Run when you can, walk if you have to, crawl if you must; just never give up.
—Dean Karnazes



Has running ever been a part of your life? When you were a kid, you surely ran in a three-legged race. You had to do some running in gym class. Today, running is also very popular among oldsters! Are you 100 years old or older? Somewhere, there's a race for you!

The verses from today's reading in Hebrews are all about running and how to do it well.

First, notice the *spectators*. The Bible calls them a great "cloud of witnesses," suggesting that we are not running this race alone. It's as though these spectators are cheering us on as we remember their example of perseverance, faith and reliance on God. We all know that teams playing in their home stadiums have the "home field advantage." We have this, too. The heavens are rooting for us!

Second, a runner carefully has to consider *possible problems*. To achieve peak performance, professional runners go to extraordinary lengths to reduce anything that might slow them down. Elite runners wear aerodynamic clothes — specialized and lightweight clothing designed to minimize drag. Runners are also meticulous about what they eat, body weight and overall fitness. They also pay close attention to mental focus and self-discipline.

It's not hard to see how this applies to our spiritual lives, is it? The instruction to "lay aside every weight" reminds us to identify and remove anything in our lives that impedes our spiritual progress. So, we need to shed those nagging *sins and habits* which weigh us down. The apostle Paul urges us to "put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts" (Ephesians 4:22). And it wouldn't hurt to *simplify our lives* by focusing on what truly matters. This may mean letting go of some possessions, materialism, distractions or unhealthy relationships.

Finally, the best runners know how to *persevere*. Every race has moments of difficulty — the hills, the heat, the fatigue. Modern runners prepare for these challenges, knowing that perseverance is key to finishing well. Our spiritual race is no different. The Bible says, "Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised ..." (James 1:12). And in Isaiah we read, "Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may it be true for me as it was for Paul, that great evangelist of the early church. He "fought the good fight, ... finished the race, ... kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: James 3-5

Monday: Jeremiah 27-29

Tuesday: Jeremiah 30-32

Wednesday: Jeremiah 33-36

Thursday: Jeremiah 37-39

Friday: Jeremiah 40-42

Saturday: Psalms 88-90

Verse to Remember

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. —James 4:8

NUMBER STRINGS

Directions: Fill in the blank spaces with the correct numbers based on the “pattern” clue. Notice the example in letter A.

A. 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 (pattern is $\times 2$)

B. 5, 13, 21, 29, __, __, __ (pattern is $+8$)

C. 5, 7, 6, 8, 7, 9, 8, __, __, __, __ (pattern is $+2, -1$)

D. 98, 93, 97, 92, 96, __, __, __, __ (pattern is $-5, +4$)

E. 41, 39, 40, 38, 39, 37, 38, __, __, __ (pattern is $-2, +1$)

F. 10, 6, 18, 14, 26, 22, 34, __, __, __ (pattern is $-4, +12$)

G. 4, 20, 100, 500, __, __, __ (pattern is $\times 5$)

ADJECTIVE STRING:

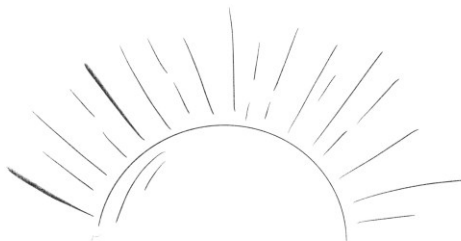
Adjectives are words that modify nouns. “The big boy hit a small ball.” In this sentence, “big” and “small” are adjectives. We will give you a NOUN, and then you must write an adjective that begins with its last letter, and then continue to add adjectives with the last letter of the previous word, until you can do no more.

Example: Motorcycle: eye-catching, green, new, wondrous, speedy. Here is your word:

RIVER. Write your responses below. Have fun!

ANSWERS: Number Strings

B. 37, 45, 53; C. 10, 9, 11, 10;
D. 91, 95, 90, 94; E. 36, 37, 35;
F. 30, 42, 38; G. 2,500, 12,500, 62,500



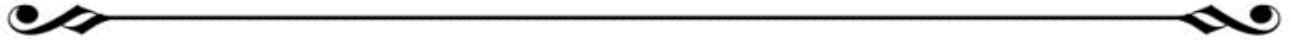
“AS SURELY AS THE
SUN RISES, HE WILL APPEAR...”

HOSEA 6:3, NIV

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. —Winston Churchill



In today's Bible reading, the Lord calls the young Jeremiah to be a prophet to the unfaithful people of God. Jeremiah demurs, saying, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy" (v. 6). His comment made me wonder about the ages of some young kings and queens in the history of Western civilization. Here's a partial list of what I found.

- King Tutankhamun of Egypt was 9 years old when he became the pharaoh and reigned from 1332-1323 B.C.
- Alfonso XIII of Spain was born a king! His reign: 1886-1931.
- Mary, Queen of Scots, was 6 days old. Her reign: 1542-1567.
- Wilhelmina of the Netherlands became queen at the age of 10. Her reign: 1890-1948.
- Louis XIV of France was 4 years old. His reign: 1643-1715 (72 years!)

Of course, monarchs ascending at young ages had to rely heavily on regents or advisors to govern until they reached maturity. Many of these young rulers became historical icons, leaving lasting legacies despite their early beginnings.

This is what Jeremiah did not realize at first. Perhaps he thought God was simply throwing him into the deep end of the pool, expecting him to learn how to swim without any lessons.

But God quickly reminded him, as he did to Moses centuries earlier, that Jeremiah would never be without divine guidance. "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD" (vv. 7-8). God even promises to put words in the mouth of the young prophet; he won't need to worry about speaking in public (v. 9).

God may not be asking you to be a prophet. But you might be called to do something difficult. Perhaps there is someone who is in mourning and needs comfort. Perhaps there is a dear soul who is lonely and God is calling you to be a friend. Perhaps you know of some staffers whose faithful work every day goes unnoticed and unappreciated. God is calling you to offer a word of encouragement and gratitude.

Say "Yes!" Jeremiah did and he became a great spokesman for God!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: God, give me courage to say "yes" to anything you ask of me. Amen.

Week of August 24, 2025

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Galatians 1-3

Monday: Jeremiah 43-46

Tuesday: Jeremiah 47-49

Wednesday: Jeremiah 50-52

Thursday: Lamentations 1-5

Friday: 1 Chronicles 1-3

Saturday: Psalms 91-93

Verse to Remember

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

—Psalm 91:1-2

MAGNIFICENT MYSTERIES!

Consider the riddles and enigmas below and prepare to have your mind challenged!

1. What was it that Adam never had and never saw yet gave to his children?
2. When does a chair hate you?
3. Which candle burns longer, a wax candle or a tallow candle?
4. What kind of clock shows the exact time twice a day, but is wrong at all other times?
5. What question can never be answered by "Yes"?

WORD MATCH

Directions: Below is a list of 10 compound words, but you need to draw lines from a word in the left column to a matching word in the right one. Write the new word (a compound word) in the space provided.

door	line	_____
jaw	brush	_____
farm	worm	_____
back	fish	_____
earth	mat	_____
air	ground	_____
gold	house	_____
candle	blot	_____
hair	bone	_____
ink	stick	_____

Solution: 1. Parents; 2. When it can't bear you. 3. Neither; they burn shorter. 4. A stopped clock. A stopped clock will show the correct time twice a day. 5. Are you asleep? WORD MATCH: doormat, jawbone, farmhouse, background, earthworm, airline, goldfish, candlestick, hairbrush, inkblot.

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Scripture Reading: Psalm 112

I am a slow walker, but I never walk back. —Abraham Lincoln

In the 2002 movie, “Catch Me If You Can,” Frank Abagnale, Sr. (Christopher Walken) receives the highest honor at his local rotary club. In response, he tells the story of two little mice — a story about perseverance.

Two little mice fell into a bucket of cream. The first mouse quickly gave up and drowned. The second mouse, wouldn’t quit. He struggled so hard that eventually he churned that cream into butter. And crawled out.

The moral of the story: *It’s not over til it’s over*. This is an aphorism attributed to Yankees catcher Yogi Berra who played in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. But the moral isn’t just about sports. It’s a reminder for all of us to keep pushing forward when life gets tough.

We all face situations that feel overwhelming — whether it’s a personal loss, a health challenge, financial strain, or broken relationships. In those moments, it’s easy to throw in the towel. But Yogi’s wisdom calls us to stay the course, to trust that the story isn’t finished yet.

In the Bible, we find many stories where it seemed “over” for God’s people, but the final outcome proved otherwise.

Moses and the Israelites at the Red Sea: Trapped between the sea and Pharaoh’s army, it seemed hopeless. Yet, God parted the waters, making a way where none existed (Exodus 14:21-22).

David and Goliath: A shepherd boy with a sling and stones appeared to have no chance against a giant. Yet, with God’s strength, David triumphed (1 Samuel 17:50).

Even the resurrection! For the disciples, when Jesus was crucified, it must have seemed that it was over. But on the third day, Jesus rose, defeating sin and death forever (Matthew 28:5-6).

God’s plans often defy human logic. When we feel at our weakest or most defeated, God is still at work. As Galatians 6:9 reminds us, “Let’s not get tired of doing good, because in time we’ll have a harvest if we don’t give up” (CEB).

This is another way of saying that if we fall into a bucket of cream, like the little mouse, there’s hope — if we keep churning!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, when I feel like giving up, remind me that my story isn’t finished. Help me to trust your timing and to persevere, even when the road ahead seems impossible. Thank you for being my strength and my guide through every challenge. May I always look to you with hope, knowing that you are at work in ways I cannot see. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Week of August 31, 2025

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Galatians 4-6

Monday: 1 Chronicles 4-6

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 7-9

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 10-13

Thursday: 1 Chronicles 14-16

Friday: 1 Chronicles 17-19

Saturday: Psalms 94-96

Verse to Remember

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

—Galatians 5:22-23

LABOR DAY AND THE PEOPLE WHO LABOR

Tomorrow is Labor Day. To remember with gratitude those who work hard, go through this list and make a check mark beside each occupation, if the description identifies a friend or family member. On the margins, write the names of people you know who work in occupations not listed here. Remember to pray for these people this week and to be grateful for all they do.

- ☐ Accountant
- ☐ Actor/Actress
- ☐ Cashier
- ☐ Computer Programmer
- ☐ Babysitter
- ☐ Baker/Cook
- ☐ Bank Clerk
- ☐ Barber/Hairdresser
- ☐ Bus Driver
- ☐ Business Executive
- ☐ Banker
- ☐ Carpenter
- ☐ Dentist
- ☐ Doctor
- ☐ Electrician
- ☐ Factory Worker
- ☐ Farmer

- ☐ Firefighter
- ☐ Flight Attendant
- ☐ Homemaker
- ☐ Hotel Manager
- ☐ Journalist
- ☐ Judge
- ☐ Landscaper
- ☐ Lawyer
- ☐ Librarian
- ☐ Mechanic
- ☐ Model
- ☐ Nurse
- ☐ Office Worker
- ☐ Photographer
- ☐ Pilot
- ☐ Plumber
- ☐ Police Officer

- ☐ Politician
- ☐ Postal Carrier
- ☐ Professor
- ☐ Psychologist
- ☐ Real Estate Agent
- ☐ Salesperson
- ☐ Secretary
- ☐ Security Guard
- ☐ Social Worker
- ☐ Stockbroker
- ☐ Tailor
- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Trash Hauler
- ☐ Travel Agent
- ☐ Truck Driver
- ☐ Waiter/Waitress
- ☐ Writer