

August 29, 2018  
Volume 19, Number 33

# The Wesley Witness

**To Believe. To Belong.  
To Become Christ-Like**

## Do The Apostles Creed (Part I)

Every Sunday we recite the Apostles Creed as a statement of our faith. It expresses basic Christian beliefs that were established early on in the life of the church. Its compilation was part of the church's response to heresies that threatened the life of the church. Here is a little bit of the background.

The Christian faith started as a movement within Judaism. The movement was ushered in through the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pentecost, when the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the followers of Jesus, is usually understood as the birth of the church. This would have occurred on or about the year 33 AD. Early converts to the church came from a wide variety of backgrounds, which resulted in widely differing interpretations of the Christian message. Of these interpretations, none was more dangerous than Gnosticism.

The term "Gnosticism" comes from the Greek word "gnosis" which means knowledge. They claimed to have a special, secret knowledge that was the key to salvation. They believed that salvation was the main concern in faith, which was a spiritual thing. They came to the understanding that all of creation was evil, part of an abomination created by spiritual beings. Since creation is evil, the body is evil, and the spirit is doomed to be enslaved in it. The goal of this belief system, to escape from the body. They held that Jesus was the keeper of the

secret knowledge, yet denied his birth. As the body was evil, what a person did with their bodies was not important, the only thing that mattered was the spirit. They denied several crucial Christian doctrines, such as creation, incarnation, and resurrection. The movement was quite popular, as you can imagine.

Another threat to the early church was brought on by yet another heretic, Marcion. Marcion was the son of a bishop and so knew Christianity from an early age. But he had a profound dislike for both Judaism and the material world. Like Gnostics, he believed the material world was evil, therefore he concluded the God of creation was also evil and could not possibly be the supreme Father of the New Testament. The Old Testament God was judgmental, vindictive, and kept up with every fault, but selectively doling out punishment. Marcion ended up throwing out the Old Testament entirely and favored the Gospel of Luke (as it was written by a gentile) and the letters of Paul.

The result of these challenges to the early church was threefold. First there was the creation of the canon, the selection of books that would make up the New Testament. The canon established which books would be authoritative in the life of the church, this has not changed. Second was the creation of the creed. Its early form was written around the year 150 AD and was used as a part of the sacrament of baptism. It developed into the Apostles Creed and has since been considered a statement of basic Christianity. The Creed specifically denounces the beliefs of the dangerous heresies mentioned above. Third was the understanding of Apostolic Succession. Essentially stating that the true message came from Jesus and was handed down to the Apostles. Since then, that same message has been handed down generation after generation.

The Creed we recite is so much more than a set of words we have memorized. It is a statement of basic Christian beliefs nearly 2,000 year old. Every Sunday, as we recite the Apostles Creed, we join millions of other Christians professing our faith.

Grace and Peace,

Roger.....



Praying for others is an important part of our ministry as the body of Christ. Please incorporate this list as a part of your personal prayer life.

Vicky Burluson Regina Counce Rod Counce  
 Betty Flynn Wanda Green  
 Jimmy Langley Ruth Wilkinson  
 Ralph & Lanie Baker (Ronald Baker's Parents)  
 Jack Burge (Cherie Walker's Father)  
 Darie Chaney  
 (Robert & Sue Chaney's Daughter-in-law)  
 Grace Drake (Norma Jones' Great-Niece)  
 Phil Flynn (Requested by Betty Flynn)  
 Roger Gafford (Sue Chaney's Brother)  
 Richard Gilley (Requested by Phyllis Hunter)  
 Freddy Grant (Requested by Betty Flynn)  
 Wayne Guin (Requested by Judy Counce)  
 Kenny Jackson (Requested by Rod Counce)  
 Chris McCutchen (Judy Counce's Nephew)  
 Barbara Sparks (Requested by Judy Counce)  
 Austin White  
 (Ken & Angela Riley's Son-in-law)  
 Sgt. Cole Wilkinson  
 (Ruth & Ray Wilkinson's Grandson)  
 Connie Wren (Quay Whitten's Niece)  
 Kathryn Wright (Quay Whitten's Niece)

In praying for one another, please pray for these families: Gina Brownlee, Alexis Gassaway, Erica Gassaway, Nicholas Gassaway, & Savannah Gassaway; Kathy Byrd; Barbara Candy; Dewaine & Leslie Card; and Tommy & Betty Carr.



Are you willing to help shape little minds & hearts? You are needed as a Nursery Volunteer on Sunday & Wednesday nights!!!! Please contact Amy Wyatt (255-8930) or the Church Office to sign up.

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!



## Sunday Morning's Message

*The Christian Way of Life*  
 James 1:17-27 (NRSV)



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

### Sunday - September 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:30 - 9:50 AM  
 Sunday School

10:30 - 11:30 AM  
 Worship Service

## First Sunday Fellowship



Help support our Food Pantry during our First Sunday Fellowship. Any canned goods or boxed food items can always be used. Your monetary donations are especially appreciated. Thanks for helping those in need by supporting this ministry of Wesley UMC. Without your donations, it would not be possible.



## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

### Sunday - September 9<sup>th</sup>

immediately following the  
 Evening Worship Service

# WOW

worship on Wednesdays

Our WOW Meals will resume on September 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM. We have a variety of Cook Teams that will be alternating providing the meal. We will be asking for a donation for the meals, & teams may choose to donate their expenses or be reimbursed from the donations. If the donations are insufficient to cover expenses, then we will use previous WOW money to make up the difference.

To kick off the first meal, the menu will include Fresh Soul Food - Purple Hull Peas, Fresh Corn, Potatoes, Mustard Greens, Broccoli Salad, Cornbread, & Dessert. Where's the meat????? Come find out!

If you plan to come & enjoy the meal, please add your name to the sign-up sheet that will be in the Sanctuary Foyer.

## WOW Meal Cook Teams

**September 5<sup>th</sup>**

Wentris Alford, Phyllis Hunter,  
& Martha Webb

**September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Holly & Rob Haven and Pat & Jackie Pearce

**September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Rachel Davis, Randy Davis, & Anna Garner

**September 26<sup>th</sup>**

Good News SS Class

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Dewaine Card, Keith Garner, & Larry Walker

**October 10<sup>th</sup>**

Natasha Hutcheson, Frances Puhr,  
& Roger Puhr



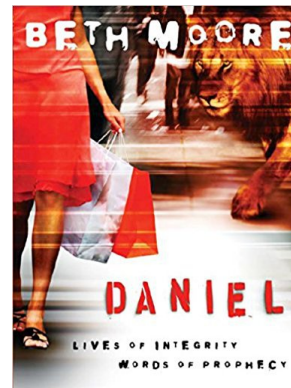
### Stay Young Fellowship

As Stay Young resumes in September, you are invited to join them on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 AM. The special guest will be Rev. Ray Hall.

He is the pastor at East Marietta Baptist Church in Marietta, MS. He will talk about Rosemary's Home of Hope, the Philippine Orphanage mission project that he & his church are involved in.

For lunch, the meat, bread, & beverages will be furnished. You are asked to bring the side dishes - vegetables, casseroles, salads, desserts, etc.

What: Women's Bible Study of  
*Daniel Lives of Integrity Words of Prophecy*  
by Beth Moore



When: Wednesdays at  
6:00 PM beginning  
September 5<sup>th</sup>  
after WOW Meal

Where: Wesley UMC  
(Room to be announced)

You will need to purchase  
the Bible Study Book  
(\$15.99) at Lifeway store  
or online.

For more info or to sign up, please contact  
Annette Wilson who will serve as facilitator  
at (662) 401-1051  
or [annettebwilson@comcast.net](mailto:annettebwilson@comcast.net).

## For the Record

**August 26, 2018**

### Attendance

Sunday School ..... 55  
Morning Worship Service ..... 95

### Stewardship

Weekly Budget Receipts ..... \$3,249



*Birthdays  
to  
Celebrate*

September 4<sup>th</sup> ..... Jim Counce  
September 5<sup>th</sup> .... Henry Hutson  
September 7<sup>th</sup> ..... Bill Austin  
Pat Pearce  
September 9<sup>th</sup> ..... Wanda Green

**Wesley United Methodist Church**

PO Box 2434 ~ Tupelo, MS 38803-2434

Located at 2010 West Main Street

Telephone: 662-842-2377 ~ Fax: 662-841-5632

Church Email: wunchurch@comcast.net

Church Website: www.wesleytupelo.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wesleytupelo

Pastor's Cell #: 662-871-5511

Pastor's Email: roger.puhr@gmail.com

Roger Puhr ~ Pastor

Linda Austin ~ Worship Leader

Vicky Burleson ~ Church Secretary

Martha Webb ~ Pianist

Sandi & Doug Haire ~ Custodians

**Wesley United Methodist Church**

PO Box 2434

Tupelo, MS 38803-2434

To Believe. To Belong.  
To Become Christ-Like Through Discipleship.



**SERVING  
FAITHFULLY**

Sanctuary Flowers . . . . . September 2<sup>nd</sup> - David Koon  
September 9<sup>th</sup> - Madie Morton

Sunday Morning Nursery Volunteer  
September 2<sup>nd</sup> - Martha Clay  
September 9<sup>th</sup> - Carley Herndon

Sunday Offering Counters  
September 2<sup>nd</sup> - Martha Clay & Brenda Pearce  
September 9<sup>th</sup> - Frances Puhr & Trae Wyatt

Sunday Sound Technician  
September 2<sup>nd</sup> - Russ Wilson  
September 9<sup>th</sup> - Dewaine Card

Sunday Trustee . . . . . September 2<sup>nd</sup> - Dennis Bazzy  
September 9<sup>th</sup> - Justin Herndon

September Ushers . . . . . Rob Haven

Food Pantry Volunteers  
September 4<sup>th</sup> - Julia Mendes, Joan Smith,  
& Marion Tootle  
September 11<sup>th</sup> - Wentris Alford, Kathy Byrd,  
Judy Counce



**AT  
WESLEY UMC**

**Sunday - September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

9:00 - 9:30 AM . . . . . First Sunday Fellowship  
(Holy Grounds area in CLC Foyer)

9:30 AM . . . . . Sunday School

10:30 AM . . . . . Morning Worship Service

**No Evening Activities**

**Monday - September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**The Church Office will be  
closed in observance of  
Labor Day.**



**Tuesday - September 4<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM . . . . . Stay Young

6:30 - 8:30 PM . . . . . Girl Scout Event

**Wednesday - September 5<sup>th</sup>**

5:15 PM. . . . . WOW Meal

6:00 PM. . . . . Disciple Bible Study

6:00 PM. . . . . Daniel Bible Study

7:00 PM. . . . . Chancel Choir Practice

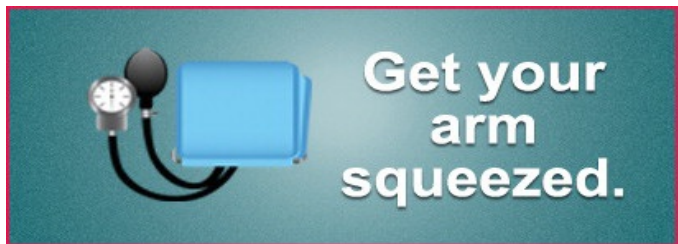
**Sunday - September 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 - 9:30 AM . . . . . Sunday Morning Coffee  
(Holy Grounds area in CLC Foyer)

9:30 AM . . . . . Sunday School

10:30 AM . . . . . Morning Worship Service

6:00 PM. . . . . Evening Worship Service  
with Administrative Council to follow



**Sunday - September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9:00 - 9:30 AM  
in The Gathering Room**