



SEPTEMBER 2023 ISSUE

# THE PINEVILLE CONNECTION

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

**Through the Deep Waters  
Our Longing to Belong**

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# Pineville Connection

## SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES: THROUGH DEEP WATERS

During the month of September, Pastor Mark will focus on belonging. One aspect of our common humanity we all share: we yearn to be a part of something beyond ourselves. We are innately created to be social creatures. Science has given us ways to understand this genetic impulse inside us. The Bible has also given us ways to understand this soulful desire from deep within. And through the waters of Baptism, the church builds upon both of these amazing blueprints to help us better understand our longing to belong.



### Through the Deep Waters Our Longing to Belong

## LEARN ABOUT Life groups

On Sunday, September 24, following worship, the church will host an opportunity to learn more about our Life Group Ministry. We will also be forming and launching new life groups so this is a chance to get involved! Attending the Lunch & Launch doesn't obligate you to join a Life Group. You can just come to listen and learn about how Life Groups can enhance your friendships and your faith and then decide.

But just what are Life Groups? Life Groups are small groups in which members share their lives with one another in a comfortable, non-threatening, supportive and prayerful environment. They're designed to help build and strengthen our relationships with each other and with Jesus, and to help us apply a growing faith to our everyday lives.

Consider giving a Life Group a try. God never meant for us to do life alone. We were created to walk with each other, to grow with one another and to glorify God together.

## FROM PASTOR JESSICA

I was baptised on August 8, 1971, at Pilgrim Presbyterian, a place where my grandmother's aunts worshipped all their lives. There was a single rose bud placed on the altar. Afterwards, my family celebrated the day and my grandmother's 51st birthday at a local restaurant. Of course, I don't remember any of this because I was only 8 months old. I only know these details because my mother would remind me throughout my childhood. My mother did not grow up in church and had only just embraced a faith in Christ. Her fledgling acts were sincere and laid a foundation for both of our lives. She was going through very hard times. Her five year marriage had come to a devastating end, she lost a house she designed herself and loved, and she was in the middle of what would become a four year battle with my father just to settle their assets, etc.



*Jessica Edwards*

The light during this time was Jesus. She had heard about Him from a friend, Grace Aicher, and began to learn about, lean on, and love Him. My mother would be baptised a few years later in the Jordan River. One day when she was telling me the story of her baptism, I found grace too and knelt down beside her bed to ask Jesus to be my Savior and friend.

This month as we study "Through Deep Waters," I will again remember my baptism and all the things that Jesus has done for me, my family, and others. Join me, the water is fine.

## CONNECTION TEAM: WE NEED YOU!

Connection Teams are a new/revised ministry to help connect new people to the ministries and fellowship of our church. We are looking for a few members in each service to greet and befriend a new face, We want to give the new person a point of contact and a safe place when they return each week. There is training so you feel equipped to serve. If you are interested, please join us at 12:15 p.m. on September 17 to discuss forming Connection teams. Questions, contact Jessica Edwards at [jedwards@pinevilleumc.org](mailto:jedwards@pinevilleumc.org).



# BACKPACK PACKING EVENT: SEPT. 17

We've blessed the backpacks and the kids are back in school! It is time for us to resume our yearly ministry partnership with Pineville Elementary to provide weekend food for their students experiencing food insecurity. Each year after the first few weeks of school, the Social Worker is able to identify students who will need some extra assistance with food for the days when they can't receive free breakfast and lunch at school which includes weekends and school holidays. On Sunday, September 17, between services and after 11:00, in the gathering area of the Crossroads Center, there will be an opportunity for us to pack the first 9 weeks of food bags for the students. All are welcome to participate in this packing event.



## CONGRATS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Our Scholarship team is pleased to announce our 2023 recipients of the Pineville United Methodist Church scholarships. PUMC offers the Baker Scholarship and the Wellene Griffin Scholarship for upcoming high school graduates, current college students, or adults thinking about going back to school. For more information on our scholarships, please visit [pinevilleumc.org/scholarships](http://pinevilleumc.org/scholarships). Join us in celebrating and praying for our wonderful students.

- **Cassandra (Casey) Adams**
- **Kinsey Bolick**
- **Avery Chiseck**
- **Olivia Chiseck**
- **Alec Eaker**
- **Zachary Eaker**



# 10 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT JOHN WESLEY AND UNITED METHODISM

A MESSAGE FROM THE PUMC EDUCATION TEAM

## **1. John Wesley rode far enough on horseback to circle the earth 10 times.**

Wesley rode 250,000 miles! He was convinced that it was important for him personally to spread the gospel through relationships and continue to grow closer to God in those relationships. Asked if he would consider walking instead of riding, he replied, "Nay."

## **2. Wesley believed you could not be a Christian on your own.**

He said that we needed to be involved in "social holiness." Though some often think this term is synonymous with "social justice," its meaning is quite different. Wesley believed we could only grow as Christians in community. In his preface to the 1739 hymnal, he was adamant that "the gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness."

## **3. John Wesley coined the term "agree to disagree."**

Over the years, Wesley had serious theological differences with another popular pastor named George Whitefield. Though they both argued passionately, Wesley reflected on these differences in a 1770 memorial sermon for Whitefield by saying: "There are many doctrines of a less essential nature. ... In these, we may think and let think; we may 'agree to disagree.' But, meantime, let us hold fast the essentials. ..." This appears to be the first recorded use of the term. It was a hallmark of Wesley's way of holding to his convictions while remaining in connection with those with whom he disagreed.

## **4. Wesley had serious doubts about his faith.**

Almost everyone has questions about their faith at some point or another. Doubts are essential to the process of making any belief system one's own. They do not mean that one will ultimately lose it. In fact, even as Wesley struggled with deep doubts about faith, he followed the wise instruction of a mentor who told him to "preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith." Even as we struggle, we can maintain our hold on the truths we question until we can settle all our doubts.

## **5. "Methodist" was originally a derogatory term.**

The details of the origins of the term "Methodist" are in dispute, but one thing is clear. It was originally used by outsiders to mock John Wesley and his early societies because of their dedication to following a method for growing closer to God. They ended up accepting the term, considering it a positive descriptor of their movement. Way to own it, Methodists!



## 10 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT JOHN WESLEY, CONTINUED...

### **6. Wesley never intended to split from the Church of England.**

However, when the revolution happened in the American colonies, most of the Anglican priests returned home. Faced with the fact that none of the Methodists in the colonies could receive the sacraments, Wesley ordained ministers whom he sent to do the same in America (he was practical even when it caused problems). That act was the beginning of the separation that formed the Methodist Church in America. The Methodist Church in England did not officially form until after Wesley's death.

### **7. Wesley counseled people to “eat a little less than you desire.”**

Staying slim was far from Wesley's goal, though he did weigh in around 128 pounds. This was not the result of dieting, but rather of a practice to ensure that people were not ruled by their natural desires but exercising control over them.

### **8. Wesley never said this famous quote attributed to him.**

It has been on the back of more than one United Methodist youth camp T-shirt: “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can.” Though the quote is often attributed to John Wesley and is consistent with his perspective on life, many historians have confirmed there is no record of Wesley ever saying that.

### **9. Methodism grew from four to 132,000 members in Wesley's lifetime.**

The beginning of Methodism was a group of four who called themselves the “holy club” at Oxford. When Wesley died in 1791, he left behind a movement with 72,000 members in the British Isles and 60,000 in America.

### **10. John Wesley wrote one of the all-time bestselling medical texts.**

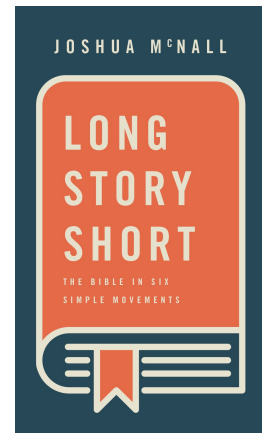
Wesley was deeply convicted that God is concerned about our earthly life as well as our heavenly one. To that end, he wrote a medical text for the everyday person titled Primitive Physick. You can read the full version online and it's pretty interesting. The book detailed the current knowledge about home remedies and went through 32 editions, making it one of the most widely read books in England. Many of Wesley's cures and tips on healthy living remain widely accepted.

Reference: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/10-fascinating-facts-about-john-wesley-and-united-methodism>

## Upcoming Opportunities

### **Fall Bible Study**

Our next church-wide small group study will be a 6-week study of a book by Joshua McNall entitled *Long Story Short - The Bible in Six Simple Movements*, beginning in September. The Bible can be daunting. It's ancient, enormous, and sometimes challenging to understand. *Long Story Short* presents the Christian Scriptures not as a complex list of rules or doctrines, but as a single drama tracing the big story of who God is and how he is saving the world through six simple movements: Creation; Fall; Israel; Jesus; Church; New Creation. Register online at [pinevilleumc.org/current-bible-studies](http://pinevilleumc.org/current-bible-studies) or use the QR Code on the back cover.



### **Two class options will be offered:**

- Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (begins 9/17)
- Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in Stacy Hall with virtual connectivity (Begins 9/11)

### **Pineville Elementary Volunteers Needed!**

With school starting next month, Pineville Elementary will be in need of help with tutoring, being a mentor and also being a Busy Bee who help with tasks for the classroom. If you are interested in helping, please call Pineville Elementary at (980) 343-3920 after school starts.

### **Stateline Orchestra's "The Suite and The Incomplete"**

Plan on joining Stateline Orchestra on Sunday, October 8 at 3:00 p.m. in the Crossroads Center for suite and incomplete music! A concert of about an hour with music by Saint Saens, Dvorak, Mendelssohn and Schubert. This will be a free concert with donations accepted.

### **International Mission Trip Spring 2024**

Are you interested in being part of an international mission trip to Central America in Spring 2024? We're gauging interest for a possible trip with Living Water International ([water.cc](http://water.cc)), an incredible organization committed to providing safe drinking water and hygiene clinics in developing countries in conjunction with sharing the word and love of Jesus Christ. If you are interested in learning more or contributing to the planning process, please contact the church office at (704) 889-2022 or Jeff Mills at [jeff@millsandrea.com](mailto:jeff@millsandrea.com) or Paul Claiborne at [pclaiborne2@gmail.com](mailto:pclaiborne2@gmail.com).



### **Save the Date: Rise Against Hunger**

Our Rise Against Hunger food packing event will be on Sunday, October 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the Crossroads gym. Please put this date on your calendar. We need at least 80 people to participate. It was a fun time of serving and fellowship last year. Our September Love offering will be for this ministry. We need to raise \$4,000 to cover the cost of 10,152 meals. More information will be forthcoming in the next few months.

# LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

**Prayer Ministry List for Healing:** Jim Edwards; Teresa Feola; David Morrison; Gary; Thomas Cassidy; Madison Washington; Dr. John Byer; Genovia Ragin; Betty Lemon; George Harmon; Larry Warren; Sharon Baucom; Mary Hawkins; Ken Walker; John Dantzler; Denise Mills; Tara Murray; Dot Phillips; Bill McGough; Saretta Burns; Martha Turner; Sharon Truesdale; Mary Ann Rippey; Nicole Rippey; David Bennett; Mary Jo Alms; Dani Morton; Mark Short; Charles and Sharon Gaskins; Robert Quick; Jeanne Long; Brittany Alden and parents Holt and Mary Alice Poling; Hannah Claire Calbreath; Lisa Johnston; Gene Pharr; Sylvia Ashcroft; Janice Walker and family; Carolyn Harris; Donna Threewitt; Amanda DeHeaven; Diane Snead; Mike Kish; Sara Collins; Peter Hodes; Chris Harmon; Toi Warren.

## **On Going Concerns:**

Larry Gunter; Vito Banci; John Hopkins; Joann Parris; Dwight Keller; Barbara McInerney; Marietta Young; Nancy Nyilyk; Sue Weed; Bob Nark; Carl Weatherman; Toni Marquette; Eve Perry; Joe Thompson; Barbara Anderson; John Rea; Teddy Quimet; George House; Glennette Ranson; Glen Walker; Ray Phillips; Christel Short; Ruth Gleason; Sharlene Adams; John Racey; Larry Wadsworth; Allen Morris; Gary Short; Lisa Akers; Dr. Bill James; Doris McClee; Bill Hawkins; Mike House; Jackie; LaVon Sigmon; Les Haga; Wyamon Price; Joyce Hunter; Mark Decker; Flor Quesada; Judy Workman; Allie Gullede; Rev. Dean Guest; Gwen Brown.

## **Military Concerns:**

Joey Calbreath; Jerome Menendez; Scott Weeks; Bill Hillis; Adam McClary; Joe Soderlund; Elijah Read; Michael Douglas; Noah Lewis; Chase Lewis; Arielle Aeby; Matt Windisch; Tyler Baucom; Samuel Faulkner; Garrett Rodriguez; Cameron Jackson; Richard Beaman.

### **Share a prayer request:**

**We would love to join you in prayer. You can share a prayer request** by submitting a Prayer request card in the Attendance Pads or by contacting the church office.

### **Join the Prayer Team**

Our Prayer Team meets every Monday at 11:00 in Stacy Hall. Contact Darlis Gross at [Hidol51@aol.com](mailto:Hidol51@aol.com) for more information.





# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



## KEY DATES

- 9/4 - Labor Day - Office Closed
- 9/6 - Golden Pines Returns
- 9/11 - Monday Fall Study Begins
- 9/17 - Sunday Fall Study Begins  
Backpack Packing Event  
Connections Team Meeting
- 9/24 - New Life Group Launch

For the full calendar and more information, please visit [pinevilleumc.org/calendar](http://pinevilleumc.org/calendar).

## September Birthdays

Barbara Carranza 9/3  
Shelly Forward 9/4  
Donna McKinney 9/6  
Siánneth Sánchez 9/6  
Felicia Marie Long 9/6  
Eric Howell 9/7  
Pam Kurpil 9/8  
Mary Nark 9/8  
Diana Matusa 9/8  
Cooper Hillis 9/8  
Jennifer Sydorick 9/10  
Sydney Green 9/10  
Dot Phillips 9/11  
Debbie Gafney 9/11  
Sam Sydorick 9/12  
Randy Randolph 9/12  
Robert Marze 9/12  
Linda Walley 9/12  
Dannielle Kaminski 9/13  
Christian Babin 9/13

Zach Ebert 9/13  
Wyamon Price 9/14  
Clara Mills 9/16  
Peggy Bridgers 9/16  
Jennifer Parker 9/16  
Mia Gibbons 9/16  
Rex Read 9/17  
Heidi Meek 9/18  
Allie Gullledge 9/19  
Charley Kale 9/19  
Junior Helms 9/19  
Nikki Cable 9/19  
Stephen Parris-Garcia 9/20  
Nathan Courtright 9/20  
Stani Gibbons 9/21  
Cristy Dyar 9/21  
Jonathan Shutt 9/22  
Oscar Richardson 9/22  
Kelly Green 9/23  
Daniel Kaminski 9/23

J.P. Dyar 9/25  
Evelyn McClung 9/26  
Chris Gennosa 9/26  
Cassidy Calbreath 9/26  
Colton Dyar 9/26  
Susan Ogden 9/26  
Rebecca Sekowski 9/27  
Brady Carpenter 9/27  
Allen Bolick 9/28  
Michael Kellett 9/28  
Jake Young 9/28  
Laney Ballowe 9/28  
Rhoda Howell 9/29  
Virginia Chambers 9/30  
Velvet Gaines 9/30  
Allie Powers 9/30  
Leah Walton 9/30

### A Note About The Pineville Connection:

The Pineville Connection seeks to share the stories of our church as we fulfill our mission. If you would like to submit an article for next month's newsletter, please send it to [mmcgill@pinevilleumc.org](mailto:mmcgill@pinevilleumc.org) by June 15th!

Pineville UMC  
PO Box 3  
Pineville NC, 28134

# FALL STUDY

Long Story Short:  
The Bible in Six Parts

*September 11 - October 29*

**REGISTER:**



JOSHUA M<sup>C</sup>NALL

LONG  
STORY  
SHORT

THE BIBLE IN SIX  
SIMPLE MOVEMENTS

