Our youth ministry is working through a series called, “I was Wondering . . .” The youth turned in questions and then different people from the congregation and the community are meeting with them to take a stab at some of their deep and insightful questions.

A few weeks ago, I was asked to answer the question, “Why do bad things happen (to good people)?” It’s the question of suffering—the question of why if there’s a good God does evil and pain continue to exist in our lives.

As I shared with the students, the Bible never offers us an answer to the question of “Why” even though it’s asked throughout the Bible. Moses, Job, and countless others throughout the pages of scripture pushed God for an answer to “Why?”

The one question scripture answers for us repeatedly, though, is “Who?” Who is with us? Who walks beside us when we hurt? Who guides us through the valley of the shadow of death? The resounding answer from the first pages of scripture to the end is our God. God is with us. Even Jesus’ name Emmanuel means “God with us.”

When I was in high school one of my youth leaders encouraged us to find a verse we can lean on when our hearts cry out “Why?” The passage I chose? Psalm 121. What’s yours?

The season of Lent calls us to focus consistently on who is with us. During this season we remember that Christ comes to us in our weakness. As Romans 8 reminds us nothing—neither death nor life—can separate us from Christ’s love.

My prayer for us as a congregation is that over the course of the 40 days of Lent we will become more convinced and more sure of who is with us; who saves us; who guides us through this life.

I’ll see you Sunday,

Eddie

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Paul’s Letter to the Romans stands as a towering statement of faith. Through the letter Paul deals with doubt and faith, sin and salvation, pain and hope. Paul manages to tell us a truth that has the power to captivate us: God’s searing mercy has taken a grip on this world and will not be defeated. Each Sunday we’ll take a portion of Paul’s great letter as a way to prepare us for the ultimate truth of Easter.
Prayers

• Tom Hall
• Janie Cromeans
• Betty Sue Moore
• June Rosentreter

• Janice Burton, David Burton’s mother
• Miller Calhoun, Callie Kidder’s nephew
• Clinette Conlee, Sharon Fenger’s mother
• Malcolm Cullen, Corrine Cullen’s nephew
• Martin Dunagin, Virgie & Charlie Dunagin’s son
• Matthew Edwards, Mary Beth Mobley’s nephew
• W.D. Flaherty, Anita Ludlow’s father
• Stella Fields, Margaret Fields’s daughter-in-law
• Brenda King, Natalie Turner’s mother
• Dot Legnard, Connie Hunter’s mother
• Kay McNabb, Corley Wicker’s mother
• Herbert Moore, Patti Cavener’s father
• Alicia Newman, Cindy Kirk’s cousin
• Donna O’Callaghan, Dianna Mobley’s mother
• Johnny Paine, Brad Paine’s brother
• Sharon Pattee, Nicole Gladden’s mother
• Nita Press, Jessica Windham’s mother
• Elizabeth Rester, Eddie Rester’s step-mother
• Robert Earl Siedell, Cindy Summerlin’s father
• Phil Sneed, Claire Hardy’s brother
• Fonda Stewart, Dicki King’s sister
• Katie Stubblefield
• Ralph Watts, Norma Watt’s brother
• Bill & Tommye Webb, Molly Meisenheimer’s parents
• Jesse Williams, Barbara Purdon’s nephew
• Ashley Zepponi, Phil & Pat Kline’s daughter

MARCH

Wednesday, March 1
Ash Wednesday—12 noon (Square), 6 p.m. (Sanctuary)

March 12-18
Spring Break! No Youth Activities.

Friday, March 17
Primetimers’ Potluck Luncheon—12 noon, OUUMC Activities Center

Sunday, March 26
College Ministries Gathering—12 noon, at the home of Tony & Missy Caldwell (see p. 5 for details)

APRIL

Thursday, April 13
Maundy Thursday—6 p.m., Sanctuary

Friday, April 14
Good Friday—7 p.m., Sanctuary (office closed)

Sunday, April 16
Easter Sunday—One service, 10 a.m., OHS Gym

BUDGET UPDATE

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YTD Budget Receipts</td>
<td>$252,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>YTD Budget Expenses</td>
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<td>Receipts to Expenses</td>
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<td>$ (2,056)</td>
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GROWING GENERATIONS:

- Receipts, LTD
  - $3,080,137
- pledges due
  - $5,439,053

Altar Flowers

The Worship Committee has approved an option of one floral arrangement for altar flowers during Sunday services. If you would like to place flowers—one arrangement or two!—on the altar on March 19; April 9, 30; May 14, 21, 28; June 11, 18, please call Toya Bruss, 662.832.3061.

In Memoriam

Benjamin Huron Carraway
1951-2017

Johnnie Zanola
1942-2017

Frank R. Banks
September 20, 1936-February 11, 2017

Kevin McKay Hunter
March 3, 1964-February 23, 2017

Christian Love & Sympathy is Extended to

Jill Stevens
in the death of his grandmother, Mary Miley

Dianne Lovelady
in the death of her sister, Kathy Waggener

Josh Gladden
in the death of his uncle, William Bynum

Faye Cox & Charlie Williams
in the death of their nephew, Adam Tindall

Pearson Windham
in the death of his grandmother, Helen Mayo

Jonathan Mattox
in the death of his brother-in-law, Rodney Shaw

Beverly Cole
in the death of her sister, Dot Ketchum

Sandra Kennedy
in the death of her brother, Larry Grayson

Larry Wagster
in the death of his father, J.D. Wagster
NEW MEMBERS & BAPTISMS

Mary Cates, Robert, Dot, & Rob Williams
joined February 5

Betsy, Rhodes, Tucker, Coker, & Annie Scott
joined February 5

Christine, Jason, Fisher, Elise, & Worth Waldrop
joined on February 12. Worth was baptized during The Journey service that Sunday.

Robert Hudson Lomenick, III
was baptized on February 12. He is the son of Robert & Sarah Rose Lomenick

Claire Posey King
was baptized on February 19. She is the daughter of Will & Paige King

William Matthew Pittman, Jr.
was baptized on February 26. He is the son of Matt & Kati Pittman and is welcomed by sister Amelia.

Brady Bramlett
joined February 19

Jeni & Barry Bond
joined February 12

Bonney Anderson
joined January 8

Joyce McCoy
joined January 8

John, Lacey, Max, Ian, & Alex Mayo
joined December 4

Celia & Sonny Wilson
joined February 12

Daniel, Elizabeth, Dan, & Sam Jackson Harrison
joined February 12

Faye & Morgan Walter
joined February 12

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**Senior Adult Recognition: Sue Sneed**

Sue Sneed has spent all her life in Oxford, growing up in the College Hill area. She is thankful for being raised in a loving Christian home. Sue was the middle child to three girls born to Harper and Willie Hardin Shaw Mathis. Their family attended College Hill Presbyterian as did she until meeting Payne Sneed, her husband of 58 years. She once lived in the house on South Lamar now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Ernie Williams. She and Payne were married in the Parlor of that house. Payne and Sue met right after Payne returned from serving three years in the army in WWII and they married a year later in 1946. Payne grew up in O-U with his sister, Sue Sneed Fenger, Al Fenger’s mother. Sue joined the church soon after they married. They were a part of the Double Circle Sunday School Class taught by A. B. Lewis. It was the young adult Sunday School class and remains the same today. Sue shared that until recently Dr. Lewis was the only Sunday school teacher she ever had during her adult life. Sue made communion bread for years and Payne fixed absolutely everything - many times checking the boiler late at night on a Saturday night to be sure the church would be warm on Sunday. Sue always came with him to check on the parking lot lights or anything else no matter what time of the day or night. Their son, Harry later followed in his father’s footsteps.

Payne and Sue had two children, Susan and Harry. Payne, Sue and Parham Shaw (David Shaw’s grandfather) bought Sneed’s Hardware Store on the square the same year Harry was born. Sneed’s was formerly Courtney and Patton. Mr. Courtney was Mary Anderson’s father. Sue loved reminiscing about how the square was then. They were located where Rooster’s is now. Other stores on the square were TG &Y, Neilson’s, a doctor’s office, pharmacy, 5 and 10 cent store she called the dime store, another hardware store, a shoe shop, a laundry, a grocery - now City Grocery Restaurant. Other department stores were Chapman’s, Friedman’s, Cobb’s and Hayward’s Barn. Wagons with vegetables for sale were parked along the center of the square, mostly on Saturdays. Sneed’s was open until 6:00 every night but on Saturday until 8:00 to accommodate the farmers. Horse and mule supplies were a big demand. Oxford-University Methodist and Cumberland Presbyterian were right off the square. The first O-U burned and Cumberland Presbyterian was later torn down.

Harry started working at the store as soon as he was old enough and Susan became a teacher and now lives in Montgomery. Harry and his wife Vicki are very active in the church.

Sue discovered her gift of painting as an adult and is pictured with one of her paintings. The house is the one her parents had on College Hill Road. Harry carries on his gift of woodworking and has made several pieces for the church - communion table, kneeler for weddings, small crosses and several personal communion sets.

Sue shares that her children are very protective of her and they celebrate birthdays well. They recently took her on a Disney Cruise. Sue has always been a care giver - to her family, to her parents, grandparents and now she extends that to those around her—O-U friends and others at Brookdale.

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**ONE thing**

Each month in 2017, O-U will focus on doing One Thing as a church to show the love of Christ to others. For the month of March, we want to ignite a passion in Oxford for global health. We are joining with United Methodists around the world to save lives through an outreach called Imagine No Malaria. Imagine No Malaria works to strengthen the infrastructure of malaria treatment and prevention to ensure the greatest impact of this effort.

We are blessed to live in a country where diseases of poverty like malaria do not touch our lives on a daily basis. In Africa, a child dies from malaria every 60 seconds.

So, we are asking you to give money to this cause. $5 is enough to provide a lifesaving course of medication. $10 protects a family. Imagine what $100... $500...$1,000 could do. Our starting goal as a congregation is $2,500. But, **IF we were able to raise $7,500, Chris McAlilly will dress up like a mosquito and walk around the Square on World Malaria Day, April 25.**
coming up…

College Ministry gathering at the home of Tony & Missy Caldwell (March 26, noon, 78 Tuscan Hills Drive).

in sunday school…

Our study of Revelation will continue throughout the semester, led by Tony Caldwell & Dr. Tim Yenter. (10 a.m., Activities Center)

Friday afternoon yoga

gentle, meditative class

led by Missy Caldwell

free

2 p.m.

bring your own yoga mat, water, and a block if you have it

Youth Center

YOUTH MINISTRIES

No Youth March 12-18

It’s Spring Break!
(No Sunday Night activities, Wednesday Small Groups, or Prayer Breakfats)

Costa Rica Team Meeting

Sunday, March 26
10 a.m.
Location TBA

M28 Camp

July 2-6, Lake Junaluska, NC
7th-12th graders
$250 per youth*
Deadline to sign up: Sunday, May 21
Sign up and pay through O-U Connect (ouumc.ccbchurch.com/for_responsephp?id=39)

*discounts for families with more than one youth going. Email kfenwick@ouumc.org for more information!

Text reminders:
text @ouy to 81010
CONSTRUCTION CHANGES FOR LENT

Lent is a time for us when special services are traditionally offered at OU. However, due to construction some of our annual events will take a break until we’re back in our facility with all of our parking.

So, this year we will not be hosting Lenten Lunches or the Noon Holy Week services. We will have our regular Maundy Thursday (6 p.m.) and Good Friday (7 p.m.) services in the sanctuary.

Easter Sunday at O-U is a great celebration of the heart of our faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Due to construction this year, Easter will be significantly different.

This year we will hold one Easter Sunday morning service at 10 a.m. at the Oxford High School Gym (101 Charger Loop). We will have everyone together for one service. As we get closer to Easter we will begin to ask for volunteers (set-up, greeters, etc) to help us prepare for an amazing celebration.