



# Advance Memorial United Methodist Church

## *THE MESSENGER*

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Flatwoods, KY 41139  
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Volume 1, Issue 16

September 11th 2020

### From The Pastor

#### Our Refuge

I recently watched a couple of episodes of a TV series called “Alone.” The gist of the show is that the production crew drops ten people out in the middle of the wild separated by several miles so that they will not encounter each other. Each person is given a set of basic survival gear. The contest is to survive and establish a home that can be sustained for as long as possible. They are completely alone but have a satellite phone to check in for emergencies or to “tap-out.” A call for help or a call to quit both end the person’s participation in the contest. The last person who is still living in the wild wins \$500,000.

In season 1, only 5 people remained in the

game by day 6. Most had tapped out because of the threat of bears and cougars, both of which existed in large numbers around the contestants. I cannot blame them for their anxiety. Imagine being in the middle of nowhere and hours away from anyone being able to come to your aid. In the middle of the night in the pitch dark you have big black bears and cougars nosing around your hastily built lean-to with only a tarp separating you from a possible attack.

In a survival circumstance, your ultimate needs are water, food, and a simple shelter to get you out of the elements—basically in that order. But in this situation, I felt like some substantial, protective shelter would be needed

as quickly as possible. I would not have been able to focus on gathering food while knowing that when night came I could become food. A tarp and a decent fire might be great protection against wind and rain and could; but it is wholly inadequate to shelter from starving cougar or bear.

What does all of this have to do with anything devotional? Funny you should ask. Haha. We have a lot of things we look to for shelter in this life. Our jobs provide us with daily needs. A little extra money in the bank can provide a shelter against unexpected financial stressors. Our health and abilities provide us with some security and independence.

*Pastor Sean Shrall*

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## The Sand Dollar Legend

Family and friends we often depend upon for encouragement and sanity. These basic shelters can get us through an awful lot of the storms of life. But, we do have some tragedies and obstacles prowling around us that are too much for these shelters to bear. Jobs can be lost. Money can be spent, invested unwisely, lost in a financial crash, etc. Family and friends can move away or pass away. As blessed as we are to have all of these things, they are not a total refuge. We do have one, however.

Proverbs 18:10 - The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.

Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Notice, these verses don't tell us that God provides us with a refuge. They tell us that God *IS* our refuge! When we do life in Him, He is the strong tower we trust our safety to. And He is more than enough. Always. But Sean, sometimes Christians still get caught up in life's storms. They get sick, they get diagnosed with cancer, they lose their jobs. True. Many of the waves of life's storms we will pass through unscathed because He will grant us full

protection. But if He chooses to allow a wave to press against us or even knock us off our feet, still we are safe in His ultimate care and cannot be separated from Him and His love for us. God has secured our eternity - provided we stay in relationship with Him. So no matter what causes us anxiety or worry or difficulty in this life, we are secure in Him. As I have said before, "the best is always yet to come."

*Pastor Sean Shrall*

## The Sand Dollar Legend

Described in "The Legend of the Sand Dollar" below, it's design by God, the Creator, tells the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! This makes a wonderful Christian object lesson for kids of any age!



One of my favorite activities as a child was finding sea shells at the beach. Although, I didn't live near a beach, my oldest sister did. Those are some wonderful memories as we searched for these treasures in the sand.

Even now one of our family's favorite vacation spots is a beach on

the Gulf Coast. At least once on each vacation all six of us go on a walk to look for sea shells. Oh, the treasures we find, and the fun we have together as a family!

The greatest treasure though was, and still is, to find a sand dollar! This is still the "ultimate find!"

### Legend of the Sand Dollar

There's a pretty little legend  
That I would like to tell  
Of the birth and death of Jesus  
Found in this lowly shell

If you examine closely,  
You'll see that you find here  
Four nail holes and a fifth one  
Made by a Roman's Spear.  
On one side the Easter Lily,  
Its center is the star

That appeared unto the  
wisemen  
And led them from afar.

The Christmas poinsettia  
Etched on the other side  
Reminds us of His birthday  
Our Happy Christmastide.

Now break the center open  
And here you will release  
The five white doves await-  
ing  
To spread Good Will and  
Peace.

This simple little symbol,  
Christ left for you and me  
To help us spread his Gospel  
Through all eternity.

Anonymous

## Rummage Sale

We still have plenty of stuff left to sell.

If you want to look through boxes, etc. you are welcome to come to my house and go through Just call me,

836-3712 and I will make arrangements. Please *no more than 4* at a time. Yes you must wear a mask

Thanks for understanding.

God Bless

*Martha Osborne*



## Upcoming Showers

### It's a Boy!



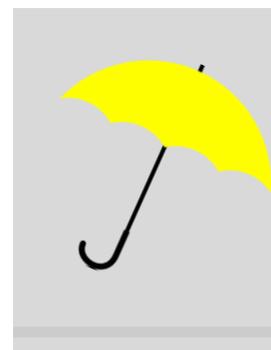
**Baby Shower** for Tyler & Ashley (Sennett) Parsley on **Saturday, October 3rd from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.** Ashley is the daughter of Scott & Patty Sennett. They are registered at Target & Amazon.

### Bridal Shower

**Bridal Shower** for Natalie Conley on **Saturday, October 17th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.** Natalie is the daughter of Chris & Susan Conley. She is registered at Target & Bed Bath n Beyond!.

### It's a Girl!

Elizabeth (Floyd) and Enzo Delgado is expecting a Girl in early October! Elizabeth is the daughter of Tony & Nancy Floyd. She is registered on Amazon (it will be shipped to them)!



## Children's Program

Tiki Shroll and Carrie Fraley are in the process of putting together packets for the children, ages 5 through the 5th grade.

If you know of a child, that would like to have a packet,

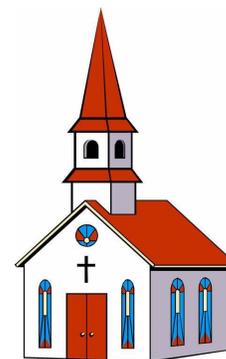
please contact Tiki, Carrie or the church office.

### We are collecting:

- Old CD's or DVD's
- Flip Top Dish - washing Liquid Lids

- Clear Lids from: old Pringles cans & Cool Whip containers.

*Thank you,  
Tiki Shroll & Carrie Fraley*



## Upcoming Events

- **Methodist Women not meeting.**
- **Council on Ministries - Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm (this will be a Zoom Meeting).**
- **Methodist Men not meeting**

Ladies Bible Study meets on **Thursdays, from 12:30 to 2:00 pm.** We are studying the book of **Galatians!** Bring your Bible, lawn chair, face mask, a snack if you desire. We will meet at the home of Edie Shroll weather permitting.

In case of rain, we will meet in the church gym. Call me if you have any questions 831-2319!

*Edie Shroll*

We are open for in person worship, the 11:00 am and 6:00 pm services. However, everyone needs to make sure they familiarize themselves with the guidelines. Pastor Sean Shroll has reposted these on the church Facebook page and website. *Thank you!*

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## ADVANCE MEMORIAL

### United Methodist Church

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### A Look Back

*Tuesday, February 23,  
2010*

Scripture: Psalm 118:1  
O give thanks unto the  
LORD; for he is good:  
because his mercy  
endureth for ever.

How long is forever  
anyway? Is it the  
length of my life? Is it  
as long as our govern-  
ment will last? Is it as  
long as the bricks and  
mortar of Advance  
Memorial United  
Methodist Church will  
stand? Is there any-  
thing concrete to tie the  
concept of 'forever' to?

"Good," "forever,"  
"love," "thanks,"  
"Lord." Words in this  
verse of the Psalm.  
Those words are words  
to think about; words  
that fill one's heart  
with joy; words that  
carry us past each and  
every obstacle; words  
that put wind in our  
sails; words that make  
life worth living.

As the years roll by and  
things like eyesight,  
hair, hearing and youth  
fade, they are ever  
more fully replaced by  
gifts that God has given  
which never fade.

"Love," "good,"  
"forever." Those words  
always bring us hope  
and are gifts from God.

We have this day; it is  
a gift from God. Will  
we fill it with love,  
with good and with  
thanks? Or will we fill  
it with worry, with  
fear, with mindless  
activity?

*Margaret King*

