



God knows us, who we are, and all of our secrets... and God still wants us!

by Pastor Ruth Prile

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the story of the Samaritan woman at the well. If you want to re-read the story, it can be found in John 4:5-42.

“How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?”(v.9) How is it that you, a resident of the suburb, ask a drink of me, a resident of the inner city? How is it that you, a northern factory worker, ask a drink of me, a southern tobacco farmer? How is it that you, who have been lumping all of us together into some invisible group, now suddenly ask something of one of us?

Forces of darkness and evil are constantly working to destroy life, to diminish the good, to make us into groups and treat us as statistics and thus destroy the edges, the individual gifts, the uniqueness of all creation. And the power of God’s grace is constantly working to put us individually on stage, in public, and allow us to use our special talents and abilities for the benefit of all.

To God, we are not invisible. God already knows who we are. The Samaritan woman is invisible to the Jews because first of all she is a woman and second she is a Samaritan. They see labels and symbols and history, but they don’t look at her. She has secrets that most people do not want to hear about. That is why she comes to the well alone at midday.

Many of us try to be invisible—to keep a low profile—because we think there is something about us that would make other people reject us, dislike us, oppose us, or exclude us if the secret was out. We do not want to be noticed because we are afraid the attention will expose our sins and we will be condemned.

Jesus makes this woman visible because he has a need, a thirst, and the well is deep and he has no bucket. She becomes visible when Jesus asks for help and talks with her as though she matters, talks to her as a human being, with respect and dignity, as if her being there at noon is nothing out of the ordinary.

As the story unfolds, we discover the amazing thing is that Jesus already knows the secret. Jesus does not treat her with respect because he does not know. Jesus treats her as a human being *even* knowing the story. God already knows the secrets we are hiding. God is seeking us, calling us. God has work for us to do, and God already knows the secrets we are using as the reason for holding back. And in that light of God’s love and mercy, the secrets lose power over us, and we are free to exert ourselves in the great joy and mission of God’s people.

The secrets are known, and yet God still has a place and a job for us. It is not that what we *did* does not matter; it is just that what we *might do* as part of God’s future is so much more important that God invites us to come out to the center stage of history and join this work of being the people of God. The past can’t hurt the future of God’s kingdom.

**(Cont’d on next pg - “God Knows Us”)*



Church News

youth MINISTRY Schedule

February 18	6:30-8pm
March 17	6:30-8pm
April 14	6:30-8pm
May 5	6:30-8pm



Thanks for Donating!

Wish—List for 2024:

- Easter erasers
- Easter coloring books
- Easter pencils
- Candy
- Laundry soap pods
- Dryer sheets
- Playing cards

Thank you! SG



Wednesdays @ Noon



Saturday February 17

Community Breakfast UM Women's Mtg

8-10AM



9AM

FINANCIAL NEWS ; Duane Stokes, Treasurer

General Fund 2023

	DEC	YTD
GF Income	34,043.87	176,706.14
GF Expenses	17,804.60	175,970.84
	16,239.27	735.30



Dear Church Community,

We want to start by expressing gratitude for your generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

You can give now at this link:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZK1R>

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

Thank you again for all that you do.

Blessings!

NEW QR code! Scan to donate



With Sympathy

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Irene Yates on her passing. She will be lovingly missed and remembered.

* "God Knows Us" (cont'd from page 1)

The Lenten season invites us to think on a deeper level about our role in making God's transformational love and presence known in the world. God has work for us to do! Don't let your past or present secrets keep you from being the people of God. Repent, ask for God's forgiveness and begin the work God has set before us.

See you in church as we do Kingdom work together!

Pastor Ruth

The Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday
Palm/Passion Sunday
Holy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday



Feb. 14th
Mar. 24th
Mar. 28th
Mar. 29th
Mar. 31st



are having a soup and sub sale!

Main sub ingredients are:

Ham, Turkey and Cheese

Soup choices are:

Chicken Noodle

Vegetable

In addition, a number of desserts will also be available. ***Cost is only a donation!***

A sign-up sheet for pre-orders is available. You can also contact Kelly Looby at:

kalooby@gmail.com OR

614-325-2752 (call or text)

Thank You!

Liturgist Sign-Up

We are always in need of new volunteers to read the opening prayer and scriptures every Sunday. The sign up to be liturgist is on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

No experience needed! Sign up for Liturgist 😊

Membership

Baptism

If you are interested in membership here at West Jefferson UMC, please see Pastor Ruth, or call the office. Also, if you are ready for baptism or to have your child baptized, please let us know. It is a blessing to see many new faces and members. Let us know how we can help with this wonderful sacrament of Christ's Church

~Pastor Ruth

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the wonderful gifts this Christmas Season. I am truly thankful and humbled! I will find something fun to do with it.

I appreciate all you do for me and for this Church!

Blessings, Pastor Ruth

Easter Flowers

Orders must be received by **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH**. Fill out the information below and place in the offering plate.

EASTER LILY (W) \$12 # OF PLANTS

TULIP (R) \$7 # OF PLANTS

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

GIVEN BY:



TOTAL #: _____

TOTAL \$: _____

PAID:



Make checks payable to **WEST JEFFERSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** and mark **EASTER FLOWERS** in the memo. *Thank you!*

*West Jefferson
Upcoming
Events*



February
2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

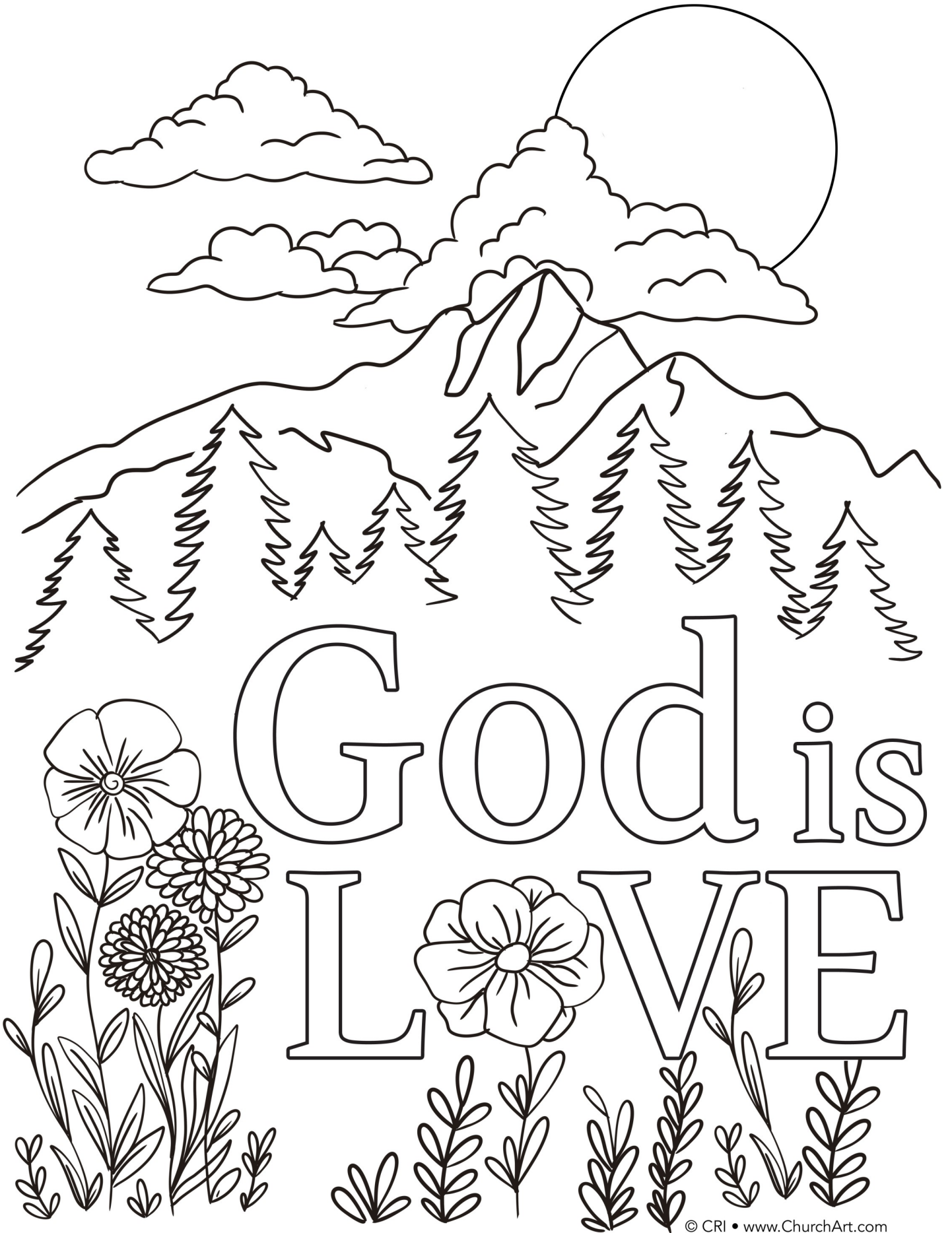
				1 Sufficient Grace delivery 11:30a	2	3 Food Pantry 10-11a
4 Worship 10a God's Kids 11a Alleluia Ringers 11:15a	5 Sufficient Grace 1p Boy Scouts 6:30p	6 Food Pantry Set-up 7:30a Shawl Sisters 9a	7 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Chancel Choir 7p	8	9	10 Food Pantry 10-11a
11 Worship 10a God's Kids 11a Alleluia Ringers 11:15a	12 Sufficient Grace 1p Boy Scouts 6:30p	13 Food Pantry Set-up 7:30a Shawl Sisters 9a	 14 Ash Wednesday 	15 Girl Scouts Service Unit 6-8p	16	17 Community Breakfast 8-10a UMW Mtg 9a Food Pantry 10-11a
18 Worship 10a God's Kids 11a Alleluia Ringers 11:15a Youth Meet 6:30p	19 Sufficient Grace 1p Boy Scouts 6:30p	20 Food Pantry Set-up 7:30a Shawl Sisters 9a	21 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Chancel Choir 7p	22	23	24 Food Pantry 10-11a
25 Worship 10a God's Kids 11a Alleluia Ringers 11:15a	26 Sufficient Grace 1p Boy Scouts 6:30p Leadership Mtg 6:30p	27 Food Pantry Set-up 7:30a Shawl Sisters 9a	28 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Chancel Choir 7p	29 		

West Jefferson

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Vaughn & Jean Darding (A)</i>	2 <i>Margaret Chambers Natalie Rinehart Nancy Wilson</i>	3 <i>Frank & Dixie Adkins (A)</i>
4 <i>Madelyn Gaus</i>	5 <i>Will Kelly Xavier Rossi</i>	6 <i>Joshua & Kim Ellison (A)</i>	7 <i>Paul "Tony" Glock</i>	8	9 <i>Judy Arganbright</i>	10
11 <i>Ron Clark</i>	12 <i>Vaughn Darding Jamie Rinehart</i>	13	14 <i>Robert & Nancy Wilson (A)</i>	15 <i>Sharon Oldham Melissa Sicles</i>	16	17 <i>David Kelly</i>
18 <i>Scott Murry</i>	19 <i>Emma Hockenbery Paula Peters</i>	20	21	22 <i>Mallory Winters</i>	23 <i>Matthew Truxal</i>	24 <i>David & Paula Peters (A) Grace Kelly Tom Looby</i>
25 <i>Jay & Dawn Barnes (A) Cheri Cowper Karren Wells</i>	26 <i>Meredith Green Shelby Stevens</i>	27 <i>Jean Darding</i>	28	29		





West Jefferson United Methodist Church

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614-879-8130

Email: wjumc@att.net

Rev. Ruth Pribe, Pastor

Email: preacherlady@aol.com

Worship 10AM

Sunday School 10AM

YouTube, Facebook, or by CD (audio only)



February 2024

