

# Call to Worship

Westbrook Park United Methodist Church

Dr. Joel L. Adkins, pastor

330-456-4797 office

10:15 am Sunday Parking Lot Praise & Pajamas

7:00 pm Wednesday Night Online Worship

Visit our website at [www.westbrookparkumc.org](http://www.westbrookparkumc.org)

Issue 2021-4W

*Our Vision: We are committed to being Christ for Canton and our surrounding community.*

*Our mission is to go to the community of Canton and make disciples by serving and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ*

## How we are worshiping...

Here is how you can join us for worship during this time when our building remains closed.

### Sunday Morning @ 10:15 am

#### **Parking Lot Praise & Pajamas with Music, Scripture, Message**

(you provide the luxury seating for this event if you join us in person by remaining in your vehicle for worship)

#### **Available:**

From our Parking lot on AM Radio

Facebook Live on your phone or personal computer.

Live Stream Video at [www.westbrookparkumc.org](http://www.westbrookparkumc.org)

### Tuesday Bible Study Online & Wednesday Night Online Worship

#### **Available to all by phone:**

Call one of these numbers to join.

1-312-626-6799

1-929-205-6099

1-301-715-8592

When prompted enter the meeting ID# and then password

**Available through your computer as well on Facebook or at [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)**

Enter the meeting ID# Password: 2521 (if needed)

\*\*\*\* MEETING #'S\*\*\*\*

Tuesday Bible Study Meeting # **891 8430 0457** Pswd #2521

Wednesday Night Worship # **896 8665 8061** Pswd #2521

*If you have prayer requests please let us know by calling the church office or sending a message to Pastor Joel at [westbrookpastor@gmail.com](mailto:westbrookpastor@gmail.com) or the church office at [office@westbrookparkumc.org](mailto:office@westbrookparkumc.org).*

*Then join us on Tuesday Mornings @ 10:00 on Zoom as we join together to pray with and for one another.*



# Graves Into Gardens

## Verse 1

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me  
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade  
Are never enough  
Then You came along and put me back together  
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

## Chorus

Oh there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

## Verse 2

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness  
My failures and flaws  
Lord You've seen them all  
And You still call me friend  
'Cause the God of the mountain  
Is the God of the valley  
And there's not a place  
Your mercy and grace won't find me again

## Bridge

You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can

## Bridge

You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can

## Graves Into Gardens

"Graves Into Gardens" is a testimony song to the power and authority of our God. It's a song that very confidently declares how faithful He is to each of us. There's moments we can all experience in life where we find ourselves having a funeral for dreams that we once really believed in. Times when the loss of a close relationship knocks the breath out of us and suddenly we feel like we're staring at a hopeless situation - but this is where our God steps in to demonstrate his authority over it all...and He specializes in turning things around. He specializes in resurrection. He's the only one who can make a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. He's the only one that can turn our mourning into dancing. Give us beauty in exchange for ashes. And he can even take a grave and turn it into a garden. We hope this song stirs your faith to believe that God's purpose will prevail and remind you that his love endures forever and his faithfulness continues through all generations.



## 'Count Your Blessings': An Antidote to Despair

**A UMC.org feature by Crystal Caviness\***

Count your blessings. Name them, one by one.

This simple mandate for cultivating gratitude and thanksgiving is the opening line in the catchy chorus of “Count Your Blessings,” a church music staple first published more than a century ago.

All these years later, the four verses and chorus can be summed up this way: Counting your blessings may be the antidote to feeling disheartened.

The remaining line of the chorus implores you to, after counting and naming the blessings, to “see what God has done.”

The faithful act of assessing blessings and acknowledging what God has provided in your life may give perspective when challenges and conflicts occur, as the four verses detail (see sidebar).

The author of these song lyrics acknowledges that you can feel burdened and life can seem unfair. So can counting your blessings really help when turmoil swirls around you and discouragement weighs heavy on your mind?

Such was the case for Jacob, who, in Genesis 28, is fleeing from his angry brother, Esau. When Jacob stopped for the night at a place he would later name “Bethel,” Jacob was in the midst of a bad situation. He was alone, scared and had nowhere to go. He also had no idea about how his circumstances might turn out. That night in a dream, God reassured Jacob that He was with him, that He had a plan for Jacob’s life and that He would not leave him. Jacob awoke the next morning with a change of heart and life didn’t seem so bad. “Surely the Lord is in this place,” Jacob said, “and I did not know it.” (Genesis 28:16)

Numerous stories in the Bible remind you to look beyond your circumstances to see you are not alone, that “the Lord is in this place,” providing anecdotal evidence of the importance of gratitude.

In addition to the anecdotal proof, the virtues of gratitude have been proven by science.

In a study published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, the test group was asked to daily write down five things for which they were thankful. After doing this every day for one week, the test group reported better sleep patterns and a more positive emotional outlook than the control group.

Whether the song’s author was battling tough times when he wrote the lyrics is unknown. What we do know is that Johnson Oatman Jr., the lyricist, was a Methodist Episcopal minister who had a penchant for songwriting. “Count Your Blessings,” intended as a song for youth, first appeared in “Songs for Young People,” which was published in 1897 by the Methodist Book Concern, a precursor to The United Methodist Publishing House. Over Oatman’s life, he penned more than 5,000 songs, including the classic hymn “No, Not One.”

For “Count Your Blessings,” Oatman partnered with E.O. Excell, who put Oatman’s words to music. Excell operated a Chicago-based publishing business specializing in Sunday School materials and collaborated with the Methodists for numerous projects. Fun fact about Excell is that he is the same person who wrote the arrangement of “Amazing Grace” that is most often sung throughout the world today.

But back to “Count Your Blessings.”

Once “Songs for Young People” was published, “Count Your Blessings” became a favorite, quickly gaining popularity throughout the world.

Beginning in 1899, only two years after its debut, “Count Your Blessings” appeared in at least half-dozen or more new hymnals each year, a pace that continued for at least a decade. The song was added to hymnals published by the Methodists, Presbyterians, Disciples and southern gospel publishers. Even into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the song continued to be a favorite.

The song was especially popular in the United Kingdom. During the 1904-1905 Welsh Revival, the largest Christian revival in Wales during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it is told that “Count Your Blessings” was sung at every service.



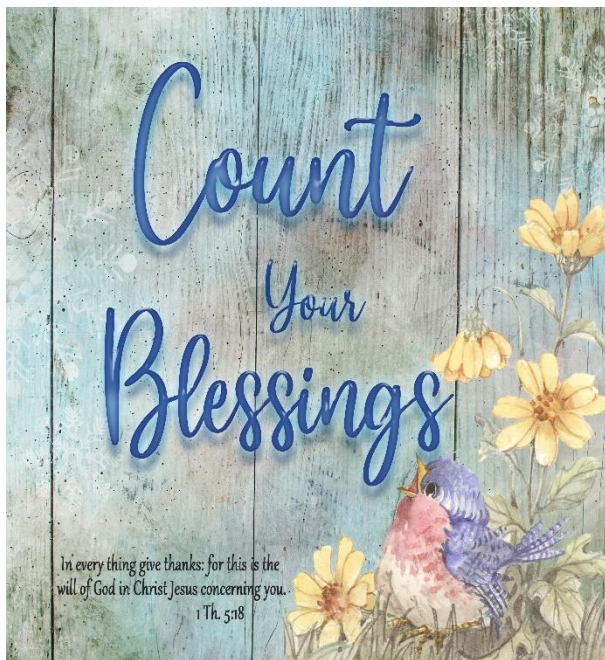
## 'Count Your Blessings', continued

One account from a London daily newspaper says that when the famous British evangelist Gipsy Smith presided over a meeting, he announced a hymn, saying, "Let us sing 'Count Your Blessings.' Down in South London, the men sing it, the boys whistle to it, and the women rock their babies to sleep to the tune."

In addition to the upbeat, simple tune that people have found easy to remember, its message has been uplifting folks for generations.

"Like a beam of sunlight," wrote J.H. Hall, Oatman's biographer, in "Biography of Gospel Song and Hymn Writers, "('Count Your Blessings') has brightened up the dark places of the earth."

*\*Crystal Caviness works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications*



## "Count Your Blessings"

*Verse 1:*

*When upon life's billows you are tempest toss'd,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

*Verse 2:*

*Are you ever burden'd with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly  
And you will be singing as the days go by.*

*Verse 3:*

*When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold,  
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.*

*Verse 4:*

*So amid the conflict, whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.*

*Chorus:*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God has done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.*

## Nothing Can Stop Jesus

- History could not forget Him.
- Temptation could not distract Him.
- Circumstances could not deter Him.
- His enemies could not prevent Him.
- Death could not contain Him.
- Satan could not defeat Him.
- Modern thinking cannot cancel Him.
- And when it comes time for Jesus to come again, nothing will be able to stop Him.

Are you ready?

Edd Sterchi  
Campbellsville, KY

Christ  
is  
Risen!

## The Power of Hope

Have you been struggling with some feelings of hopelessness lately? Whenever we have a hard time seeing the end in sight or we face uncertainty or are exposed to fears and anxieties, it can undermine our determination to have hope. Yet, over a hundred times in Scripture, God points us to the hope His children have through Him and His promises. We have such a resource because of the rock-solid expectation He provides. Whatever may happen to us this week, this month, or this year, the Christian can look forward with confidence at the fulfillment of what God through Christ promises us. And Scripture says it so many ways:

- Hope does not disappoint (Romans 5:5)
- Hope helps us persevere with eagerness (Romans 8:24-25)
- Hope causes rejoicing (Romans 12:12)
- Hope fills you with all joy and peace in believing (Romans 15:13)
- Hope is an abiding quality, alongside such elite qualities as faith and love (1 Cor. 13:13)
- Hope enables deliverance (2 Corinthians 1:10)
- There is one, unconquerable hope (Ephesians 1:18; 4:4)
- Hope is tied to earnest expectation and boldness (2 Corinthians 3:12; Philippians 1:20)
- Hope is connected to steadfastness (Colossians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 1:3)
- Hope offsets grief (1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- Hope tunes our hearts to look for Jesus' appearing (1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 2:13)
- Hope encourages the pursuit of our eternal life (Titus 1:2; 3:7)
- Hope anchors the soul (Hebrews 6:19)
- Hope helps us draw near to God (Hebrews 7:19)
- Hope is tied to endurance (Hebrews 10:23)
- Hope is instrumental to faith (Hebrews 11:1)
- Hope prepares for eternity (Colossians 1:5; 1 Peter 1:3,13)
- Hope helps give a defense (1 Peter 3:15)
- Hope purifies (1 John 3:3)

Remember this:

"How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, Whose hope is in the Lord his God" (Psalm 146:5).

"The hope of the righteous is gladness..." (Proverbs 10:28).

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him" (Lamentations 3:24).

"Christ Jesus...is our hope" (1 Timothy 1:1).

You will face nothing today or ever that is too destructive, terrifying, or powerful to offset this hope! That doesn't mean be rash, reckless, or rebellious. It does mean be faith-filled, optimistic, and courageous! Are your faith and hope in God (1 Peter 1:21)?





**Food Pantry  
We are being  
Christ for Canton**

**FOOD PANTRY NEWS**

**We served 55 families and 159 people**

God blessed us with a beautiful day for Food Pantry.  
Our numbers are still down, but the people we serve are very grateful.

We continue to take precautions to be safe for the clients and ourselves.

God continues to bless us with excellent volunteers: May God bless you: Bob Spaulding, Randy, Bonnie and Kara Rhodebeck. Pastor Joel Adkins, Lisha Watson, Travis, Zachary and Blake Pellegrino and Adam Little.

Each household received: bag of groceries, potatoes, apples, oranges, bananas, green peppers, orange juice, candy, breakfast bars, rice, raisins, peanuts, milk, cereal, mayonnaise, vegetable oil, trail mix, rice krispie treats, bread, cheese, hot dogs, meat, 3 lb. ham, and hand soap.

Special thanks to Venetia Meyers, Alice Thomas and Gloria Kahler for providing Easter treat bags for each child.

Items that are in need: **shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, dish soap and laundry detergent.**  
These are items families need and cannot be purchased with their food assistance money.

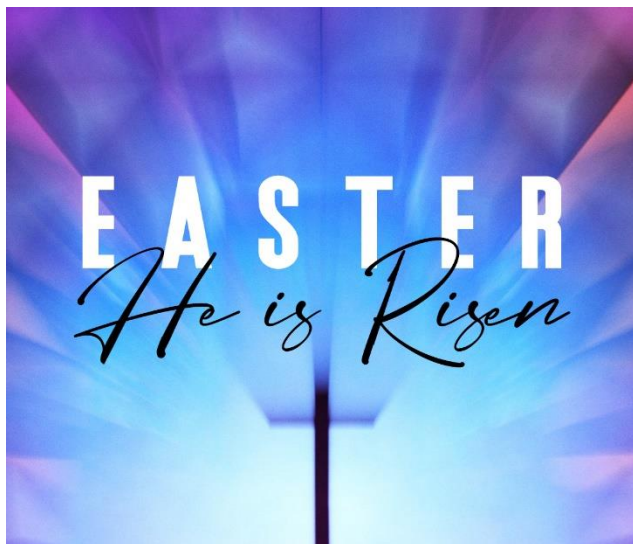
Our next food pantry will be **April 20th.**



March has been a busy month in the school at Westbrook. We continue to add new students to our group and we have had a lot of new experiences. We had fun painting with our feet, playing outside as the weather improved, coloring with chalk, and finished March with coloring eggs and an Easter Egg Hunt in the classroom. Thank you for your support and continued prayers for this ministry.







## Happy Birthday

Gary Dougan	04/02
Dolores Fouts	04/11
Ethan Barress	04/13
Maxine Gunsaulus	04/14
Travis Pellegrino	04/17
Esther Green	04/20
Wilma Cowley	04/25

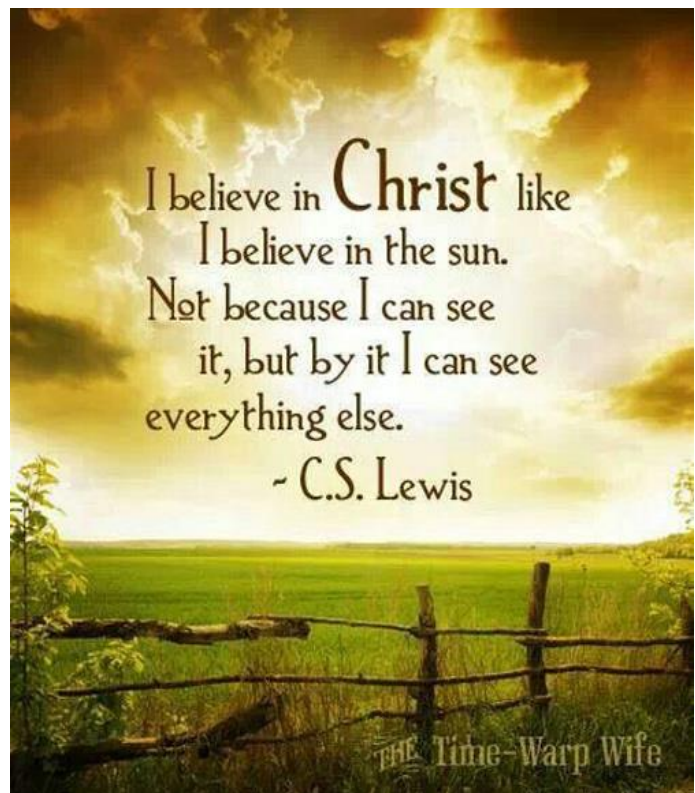


We wish to express our sympathy to the family of Hamilton family whose grandson Chad Dine passed away in March, 2021.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 10:15 Parking Lot Worship	29	30 10:00 Bible Study	31 7:00 Wednesday Night Online Worship	1 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	2 <i>Good Friday</i>	3
4 10:15 Parking Lot Worship  <i>Easter Sunday</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:15 Parking Lot Worship	12	13 10:00 Bible Study	14 7:00 Wednesday Night Online Worship	15	16	17
18 10:15 Parking Lot Worship	19	20 10:00 Bible Study 5:00 Food Pantry	21 7:00 Wednesday Night Online Worship	22	23	24
25 10:15 Parking Lot Worship	26	27 10:00 Bible Study	28 7:00 Wednesday Night Online Worship	29	30	1
Office Hours are 8:30-1; 2:00-4:00						



## Office Hours

*Our building is still closed  
But staff is in the building  
Monday-Friday  
8:30-4:00*

*Please call the church office should you need  
anything. Leave a message if we are not  
available and we will return your call.*