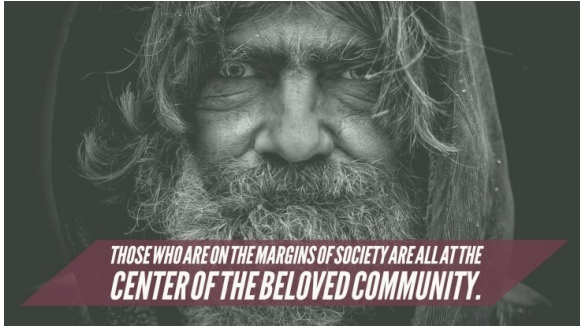


# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



*"Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives."*

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"Whoever isn't against us is for us. I assure you that whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will certainly be rewarded. (Mark 9:40-41, CEB)*

Today I want to use my column to share with you from the blog of Moses Kumar, General Secretary and Treasurer of the United Methodist Church General Conference. He brings us a wise perspective worth reading.

The question of who is in and who is out of the beloved community is one of the threads running throughout the gospel of Mark. What we find when we study Jesus in Mark is that those who are on the margins of society – the sick, the dying, the poor, the "unclean", Gentiles, children, women, Galilean fisherman, prostitutes and the demon-possessed, are all at the center of the community. Always have been and always will be.

His "healing" of them is not power asserted against their "marginal status" but is directed at the system of religious and bureaucratic oppression that make them marginal when in fact they are God's children. Jesus cures and heals the people restoring them to the beloved community and in doing so breaks down the reli-

gious and political laws that would isolate them until they were made "pure" again by sacrifice, tithe or alms.

Where are we as a denomination? Where are we today in our actions toward our beloved community – the fellow people of God – regardless of belief, or stance or preferences? Those who stand outside the community do so of their own free choice. Instead of embracing love they embrace rules and laws and its monetary rewards that once served a purpose. But now these same rules and laws serve to ostracize people from one another.

Love is often conditional. Our love has restraints and prices. But in Mark, Jesus tears down all conditions to God's Love. It is this very unconditionality that brings the people to Him. With Jesus, there is no "us" and "them". There was no doctrine, no impressive sound system, no fireworks or boundary drawn between "me" and "you." All Jesus offered was unconditional love.

And it was enough. All Jesus continues to offer is unconditional love. And it will be enough.

*God of heaven and earth, open our hearts to you and to one another. We have lived too long under the divisiveness of the law. We have forgotten that it is your unconditional love that saves us not divides us. If we practice such love, people will come to hear about you in our churches, our pubs, our store fronts, at work and in our homes. Help us to remember too that whoever is for us, is not against us. As John Wesley writes, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?" Help us to remember and live as if we know there is only one Source of Love, You. Amen.*

Amen and amen!  
Pastor Don



## **"Sermon Suggestion Box"**

You may have noticed that, for the past several weeks, we have been asking for your feedback about worship here at SSUMC. Here is the notice from our Sunday bulletin: *"Our Worship Planning Team wants to hear from you. Is there something missing from Sunday worship that you want to see? Is there a particular song you want to hear? Is there a topic for a sermon you're interested in? Please let us know your thoughts and we will do our best to use your ideas when we can. Let someone on the team know: Marybeth Arnold, Daniel Comer, Cathy Gifford, Katherine Reeves, Linda Tabberer, Karen Wilder, or Pastor Don. We really want your ideas and your feedback."*

I want to take this a step further and ask you to give some really serious thought to sermons. I am inviting you to share with me your suggestions for sermons and sermon series you would like to hear me preach in the next 24 months. Tell me about your theological, biblical and spiritual questions or struggles. What are some of the personal or relational issues you might like to hear discussed. I cannot promise to get to everyone's idea immediately, but, over time, we should be able to tackle a substantial portion of the ground you want covered.

I would ask that you send me your ideas in writing, either via email or "snail-mail". A quick conversation in the hall on Sunday morning is more likely to get lost in the shuffle. I would also hope that your suggestions would not be anonymous. I'd like to be able to talk with you in case I need clarification. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing some inspiring ideas.

Pastor Don

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Closed 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. for Lunch



## **UMW NEWS**

Last week Church Council and UMW voted to sponsor a private water well testing project in connection with the mission study Climate

Justice. Jay Bullard will be doing the testing. He is searching for e-coli and immuno-toxins in private well water. If you or someone you know has a water well, would like to participate, and lives in Oklahoma; please call Judy Bullard at [918-693-1279](tel:918-693-1279). You may e-mail them at [bullard.j@att.net](mailto:bullard.j@att.net) for more information.



## **Hey kids--**

We are excited !! Only one week and Vacation Bible School starts on Sunday, July 17th from 6:15 p.m to 8:30 p.m. Invite your friends to come along with you as we "Catch the Wave of God's Amazing

Love". We had a fun time on Sunday as we learned the Bible story of Hannah and how God gives good gifts. Have a great week-stay cool and see you next Sunday.

Miss Debbie & Miss Marty

## **Also Attention: VBS volunteers**

We will gather at 5:30 on Sunday, July 17th in the parlor with Pastor Don for a short meeting before VBS begins. Many thanks for volunteering to help. We appreciate you!!

## **4th Monday Community Dinner**

**July 25**

**5:30 p.m.**

## **Fellowship Hall**

We need cornbread, side dishes, salads, **YOU!** Sit down with a stranger, leave with a friend!

## Sunday Lists

### Sunday Volunteers—July 17

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery  
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David  
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids  
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin  
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Marty David  
 Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

### Sunday Volunteers—July 24

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery  
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David  
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids  
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin  
 Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Katherine Reeves  
 Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

**August Coffee:** TNT

## Please Keep In Prayer



*Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Bill & Clare Caldwell, Darryl Muse, Jack & Jewell Brown, Owen Johnston, Tris-tan Schwartz, Charlene Reeves, Del-ber-t Sloan, Mark Hill, Jim McCor-mick, Pauline Hanigar, Barbara McClintock, SSUMC & Unspoken Re-quests*

### Help Wanted

**We are seeking nursery  
 attendants to start immediately.  
 Please contact the Church Office.**

**Please Note...** I will be out of the office the week of July 18th. I will return July 25th.

Tracey



Here are your  
**2016 Newsletter  
 weeks. Please  
 remember-articles are  
 due by 11 a.m. on this  
 date. Please, mark  
 your calendars.**

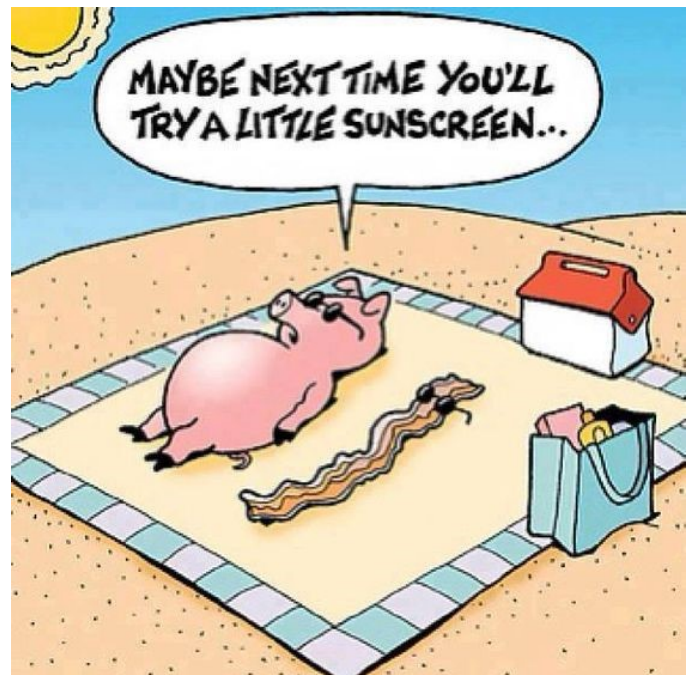
June 27  
 July 11  
 July 25  
 August 8  
 August 22

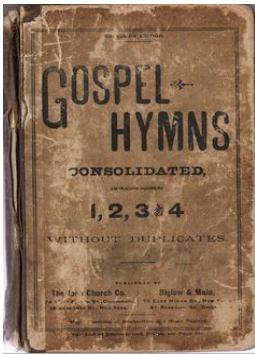
September 5  
 September 19  
 October 3  
 October 17  
 October 31  
 November 14  
 November 28  
 December 12  
 January 9, 2017



### Here is some of your 2016 Youth Dinner Schedule

7/13-Priscilla Circle  
 7/20-Noah/Searchers  
 7/27-Harmony  
 8/3-No Youth  
 8/10-CIA/Pathfinders  
 8/17-Faith Circle  
 8/24-TNT  
 8/31-Ruth Esther Circle





## History of Hymns: “Blessed Be Your Name” by Matt Redman

by Nelson Cowan

Our journey begins with Matt Redman, a contemporary worship artist and author born in Watford, Hertfordshire, UK, on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1974. Since the age of 20, Redman has served various churches and movements as a worship leader, regularly leading with an acoustic guitar. Most notably, he is a worship artist associated with the Atlanta, GA-based Passion Conference, which is spearheaded by Louie and Shelley Giglio and regularly features other prominent worship artists such as Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, Christy Nockels, and Kristian Stanfill, among others. The Passion Conferences draw thousands of college students and young adults each year and have produced many hymns regularly sung among PEC churches and others.

Matt Redman, a contemporary worship artist and author born in Watford, Hertfordshire, UK, on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1974, is known for hymns such as “Better is One Day” (1995), “The Heart of Worship” (1999), “You Never Let Go” (2005), “10,000 Reasons” (2013), and the subject of this article, “Blessed Be Your Name.” Penned in 2001, “Blessed Be Your Name” was co-written by Matt Redman and his wife, Beth, in part as a response to the tragedy of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks in the United States. While in California shortly after the attacks, the Redmans observed that among contemporary hymn repertoires, there was not enough language to grapple with grief. The Redmans write, “Where were the musical poets and prophets to help the people of God find a voice in worship at this tragic time? The truth was, in most places we visited (or led worship in), there was a distinct lack of songs appropriate for this time...when it came to expressions of pain and lament, we had very little vocabulary to give voice to our heart cries.”<sup>1</sup>

“Blessed Be Your Name” is one approach to grief and lament, a theme that to this day remains underdeveloped in contemporary hymns. However, the song does not focus on lament, but instead takes the worshiper on a journey. Stanzas one and two bless God’s name in times of abundance and in times of wilderness. Similarly, stanzas three and four echo this balance of blessing God in good times and bad. In all seasons of life, the hymn calls us to bless the name of God. Though unproblematic when life is going well, it is certainly a tall order to bless God for many who have experienced intense grief or the loss of a loved one. The bridge reinforces this call to bless God in all circumstances:

*You give and take away;  
My heart will choose to say,  
“Lord, blessed be Your name.”*

As the Psalmist declares in Psalm 135, this blessed name of God “endures forever,” and God’s renown endures through all generations. May it be so.

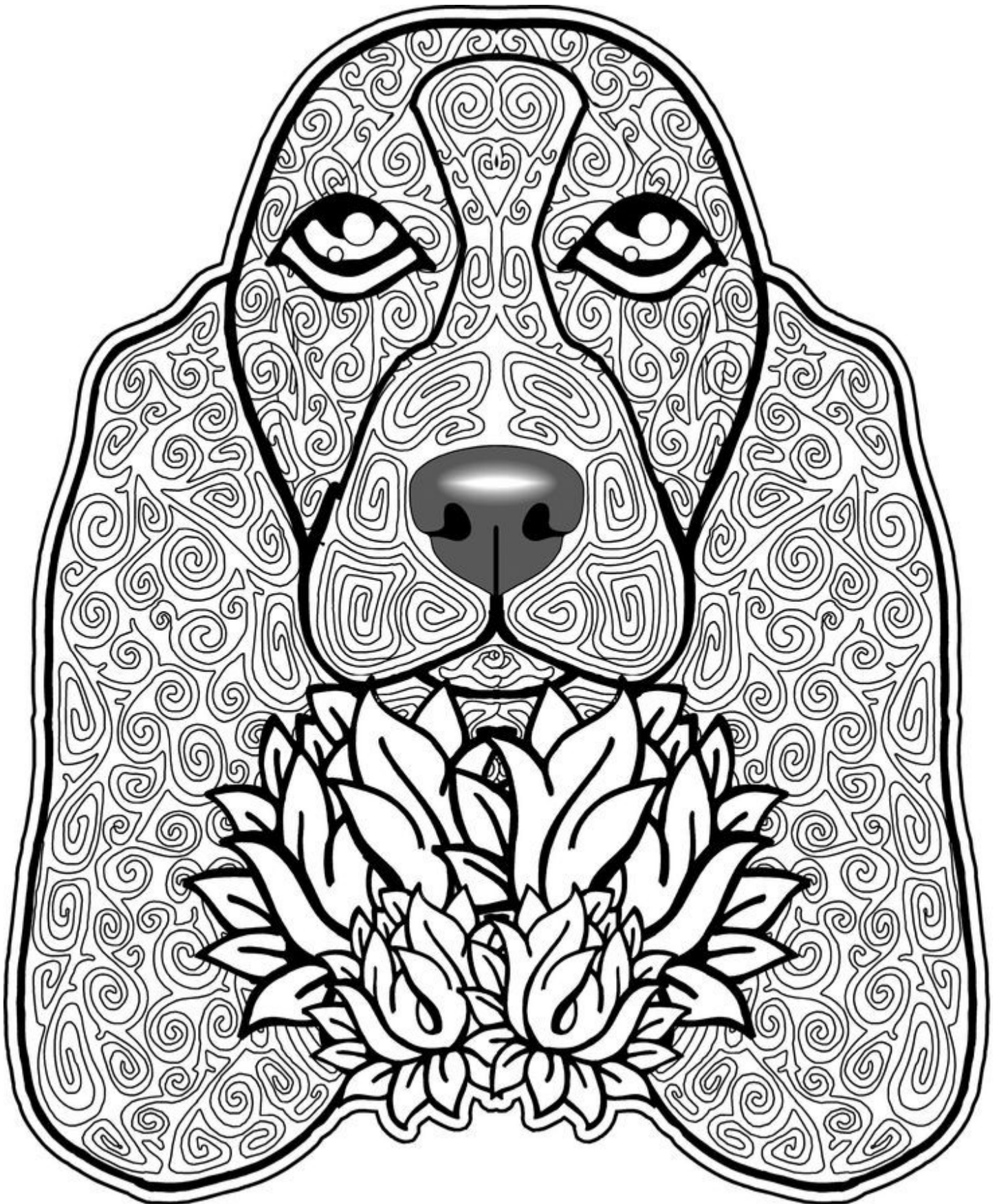
*Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be your glorious name.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Matt and Beth Redman, “Blessed Be Your Name: You Give and Take Away, My Heart Will Choose to Say,” (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2008), 34.

**Nelson Cowan** is a PhD student in Liturgical Studies at Boston University School of Theology with a focus in Pentecostal, Charismatic, and Evangelical expressions of worship and mission. He is in the process of becoming a provisional elder in the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

*Stay inside and COLOR during*  
*THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

### Tuesday, July 12

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC  
7:00pm-Praise Team  
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

### Wednesday, July 13

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café  
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth  
7:00pm-NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, July 14

\*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

### Friday, July 15

6:00pm-VBS Decorating

### Saturday, July 16

9:00am-VBS Decorating

### Sunday, July 17

8:30am-Contemporary Worship  
9:45am-Communion Service  
10:00am-Sunday School  
11:00am-Traditional Worship  
12:00pm-VBS Decorating  
6:15pm-Vacation Bible School

### Monday, July 18-No Tracey

6:15pm-VBS  
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

### Tuesday, July 19-No Tracey

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC  
6:15pm-VBS  
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

### Wednesday, July 20-No Tracey

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café  
6:15pm-VBS  
Youth volunteering with VBS!  
7:00pm-NO Chancel Choir

### Thursday, July 21

6:15pm-VBS

### Friday, July 22

NO Activities

### Saturday, July 23

1-3pm-Boy Scout Merit Badge Boot Camp-FLC

### NOTE:

FLC-Family Life Center

\*-Not sponsored by SSUMC but welcome

For more calendar information, call the office at 918-245-5955.

**Sand Springs UMC**  
319 N. Main Street/PO Box 336  
Sand Springs, OK 74063  
918-245-5955 Fax-918-245-2801  
Family Life Center: 918-245-3725  
[www.SandSpringsumc.org](http://www.SandSpringsumc.org)



**SURF SHACK**  
"Catch the Wave of  
God's Amazing Love."  
Vacation Bible School  
July 17-21  
6:15-8:30 p.m.