

## Open to Wonder

Imagine walking beside a wild little river in cool shade, near a waterfall. You came all this way just for the waterfall. But you are preoccupied. The affairs that you abandoned when you left town came with you; you are mentally absent.

You stop. Your ears open. Music!! The song of the river! It comes rushing into your conscious hearing. It is as if your ears had been turned off. Now you make a choice: I'm listening to this. The reality surrounding you supersedes the troubles you had been carrying around.

But the next moment you must choose again. And the next moment, and on and on; your burdens try to tempt you to switch your ears off! It is frightfully easy to walk alongside this wonder, neither seeing nor hearing.

So it is as we walk in Christ, in His astonishing reality. Day and night His works are speaking. "Take care how you listen," Jesus says (Luke 8:18). "Do you have ears and not hear?" he asks (Mark 8:18). If I turn my ears on, I hear the sound of many waters, because God is speaking via all reality, demonstrating His goodness and His will. He has put me here to see it, because the word He intends us to speak is a greater thing than even the heavens can declare. Let ears be for hearing and hearts for knowing the Eternal, so that what I am created to declare is foremost on my soul. And from the overflow, my mouth will speak.

*Stephanie McGuirk is a freelance writer from Middle Tennessee.*

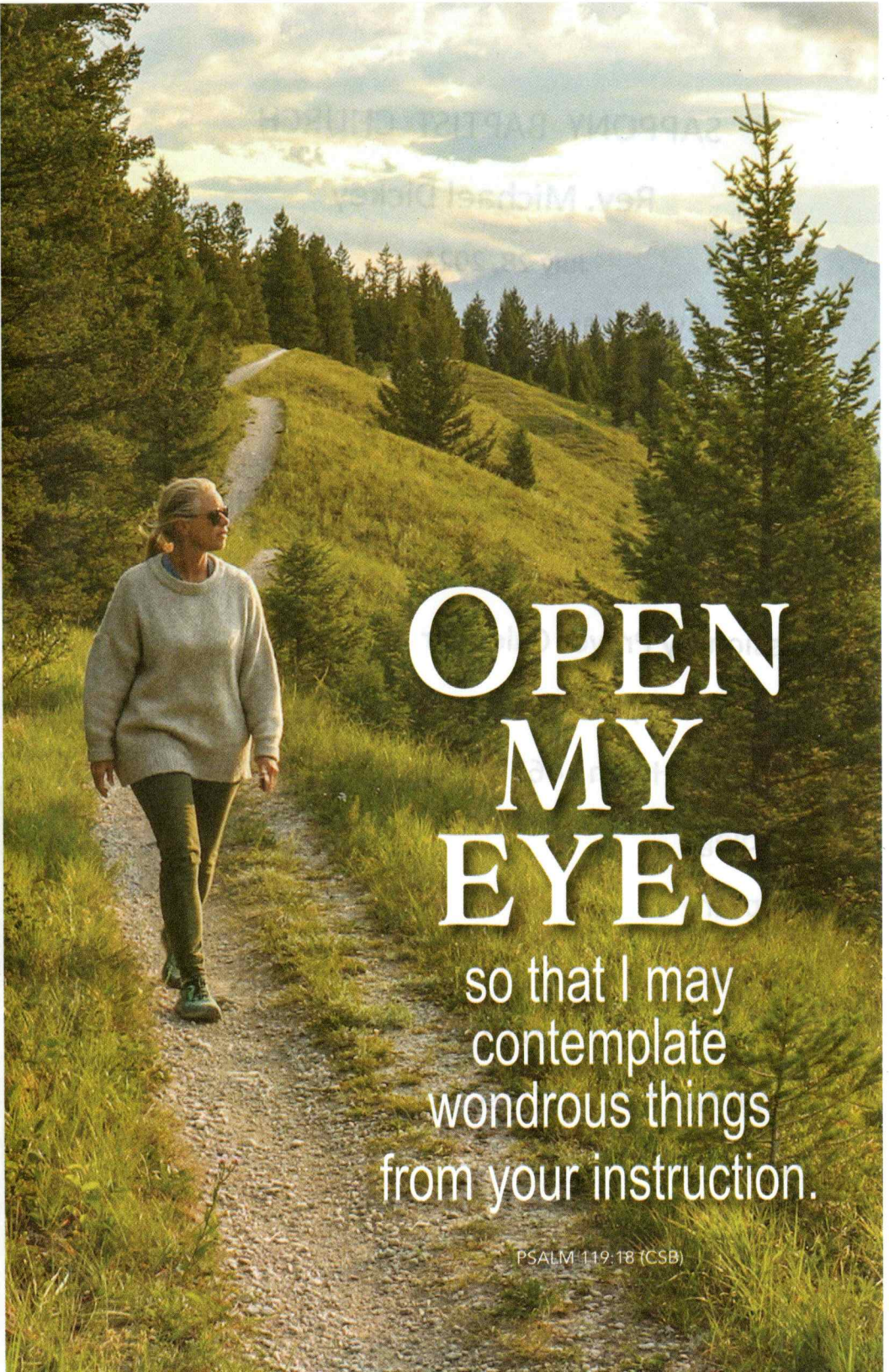
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**Lifeway**™

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A woman with blonde hair, wearing a light-colored sweater and dark pants, is walking on a dirt path that winds through a lush green forest. She is looking up towards the sky, which is filled with soft, golden light from the setting or rising sun. The path is surrounded by tall grass and dense evergreen trees. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

# OPEN MY EYES

so that I may  
contemplate  
wondrous things  
from your instruction.

PSALM 119:18 (CSB)



# SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Dickey

July 28, 2024

[www.sapponybaptist1773.org](http://www.sapponybaptist1773.org)

Invocation and welcome

Hymn No. 350 "The Church's One Foundation"

Hymn No. 621 "Lead on O King Eternal"

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Hymn 467 "There Shall Be Showers"

Doxology

Scripture 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Message Rev. Mike Dickey

"A House for You"

Hymn No. 448 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Benediction

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be in prayer for our sick and shut-ins as they are unable to be here with us.

The children will be collecting coloring books and notebooks for the month of July for The Shoe Box Ministry.

The following items are needed for backpacks for West Virginia: Non-rolling backpacks, 3 ring binders, notebook paper (wide rule and college-rule), spiral notebooks, rulers, scissors, crayons (24) #2 pencils, glue sticks, bottles of glue, blue/black ink pens. Socks and underwear are also needed. The packing is on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 8am at the PBA. For more information contact Elinor Antis at 804-931-8939

Look for our daily devotional on our website  
[www.sapponybaptist1773.com](http://www.sapponybaptist1773.com).

To subscribe to our text alerts, text "JOIN" to 804-430-6282.  
We send out prayer requests and reminders.

Missed a sermon? Or just want to hear it again? Our past sermons are available on our website, Facebook, Youtube, and your favorite podcast app.

PRE-READ FOR NEXT WEEK: 2 Samuel 11:1-15

*Brif Bus Mtg.*