

Newsletter of the
 First United Methodist Church
 Huntington WV

April 2019

The journey of faith called Lent takes us to many places. We can feel the promise of springtime and trees bud and flowers bloom. We know the fickle wind and weather of March days are over. That is the journey of Lent. In faithfulness, we make our way into places of warmth and growth and all seems good and holy. Then the moments come and we know temptation's easy ways and discover ourselves struggling against the wind of despair. We enjoy the refreshment of spring. We want to be faithful and hopeful and life-filled. We face the hardest part of our faith journey as Christ makes his way into Jerusalem knowing that the acclaim of a parade into town will quickly turn to the journey to the cross. We wonder how Christ endured it all. We give thanks that he did it all for us.

As your journey moves toward Holy Week, please think about these words from the book, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*, by Ann Weems.

HOLY WEEK

*Holy is the week . . .
 Holy, consecrated, belonging to God . . .
 We move from hosannas to horror
 with the predictable ease of those who know not what
 they do.
 Our hosannas sung, our palms waved,
 let us go with passion into this week.
 It is a time to curse fig trees that do not yield fruit.
 It is a time to cleanse our temples of blasphemy.
 It is a time to greet Jesus as the Lord's Anointed One,
 to lavishly break our alabaster and pour perfume out
 for him
 without counting the cost.
 It is time for preparation . . .
 The time to give thanks and break bread is upon us.
 The time to give thanks and drink of the cup is imminent.
 Eat, drink, remember:
 On this night of nights, each one must ask, as we dip our
 bread in the wine,
 "Is it I?"
 And on the darkest of days, each of us must stand beneath
 the tree
 and watch the dying if we are to be there
 when the stone is rolled away.
 The only road to Easter morning
 is through the unrelenting shadows of that Friday.
 Only then will the alleluias be sung;
 only then will the dancing begin.*

May your journey through these days continue with faith-

fulness, hope, and the assurance of Christ's love.

Journey Blessings,
Mark

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 14 8:45 First Light and 10:45 Sanctuary
 Worship

Palm-Passion Sunday Worship We remember the trium-
 phal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as on-lookers spread their
 cloaks and palm branches. The service moves on to include the
 story of the Passion of our Christ.

†††

Wednesday, April 17 12:05 pm

Lenten Worship in the Chapel with Rev. Angela Gay
 Kinkead, pastor at Pea Ridge UMC, as our speaker. Lunch will
 follow in the Fellowship Hall.

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Thursday, April 18 7:00 pm

Holy Thursday Worship in the sanctuary. This will be a
 worship of Holy Communion as we remember and celebrate the
 Last Supper. We will then share in Tenebrae. As the scripture
 readings of Christ's Passion are read, the lights of the sanctuary
 are dimmed until we experience darkness at the death of Christ.

†††

Friday, April 19 12:05 pm

Good Friday Worship at First Presbyterian Church The
 churches of the downtown community will join together to re-
 member the time of Christ's crucifixion. Rev. Skip Siebel, pas-
 tor of the First Presbyterian Church will be the preacher for the
 service.

†††

Sunday, April 21 8:45 First Light and 10:45 Sanctuary
 Worship

Easter Sunday Worship Join in the Easter Celebration
 of the Resurrection as we worship together. Special music
 will be presented at both worship services. (We will join in
 singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* at the end of the 10:45 ser-
 vice.)

Monday, April 22 The church office will be closed.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful. Together let us pray...

For those who are sick or homebound...

Bobby Adkins, Randy Adkins, Dawn Aikin, Drew Apgar, Pris Beard, Mary Berry, Faye Brangham, Jeanne Burford, Carolyn Cummings, Mary Jo Danford, David Daugherty, Leona Davis, Judy Davis, Jeanette Dorsey, Scott Drown, Paula Duckworth, Betty Duke, Jack Eblin, Sue Furbee, Barbara Gilbert, Grace Hammond, Ginny Lee Hastings, Dick Hensley, Christi Holley, Jo Kendall, Nancy Kincade, Gil & Sally Lester, Claire McClure, Harold McKenzie, Nancy Palmer, Barbara Pafford, Charlotte Tallman, Sara Tschop, Michael Waggoner, Wyatt Weeks, Jean White, Mike Williams

For those experiencing the waters of baptism...

Jonathan Thomas Butterfield son of Zach and Michelle Butterfield baptized on March 10

For those who grieve...

Phil Nelson and family on the death of his father, Bobby Nelson
Peggy Brown and family on the death of her mother, Christine Phipps



April
BIRTHDAYS

4/1	Bob Tebbetts
	Bill Weekley
4/3	Bull Archer
	Sara Allen
4/6	Logan Phipps
4/7	Stephen Riggs
	Gina Davis
4/8	Faye Brangham
4/9	Kelly Daniel
4/10	Garrett Weekley
4/11	Ginnie Tebbetts
4/12	Gavin Eddins
4/13	Abigail Sheets
4/14	Kenny Tschop
	Andrew Gooding
	Amy Young
4/15	Donna Griffith
	Jody Eddins
4/16	Pat Thabit
4/17	Scott Archer
4/18	Leona Davis
	Mike Sheets
4/19	Ben Fulks
4/20	David Daugherty
	Peyton Smith
4/22	Bonnie Hughes
4/24	Alexa Hensley
4/25	Chase Rutherford
4/26	Maribeth Anderson
	Kevin Sergent
4/28	Sue Furbee
4/29	Nancy Kincade
	Evelyn Rutherford

UMW Let's Celebrate!

United Methodist Women are having a birthday! Woman organized for Mission are 150 years old (not us personally). First Church is hosting the Spring District meeting on Saturday, April 6. Registration begins at 9. The program is from 10-12 followed by luncheon. This is not your usual meeting. Debbie Webb will sing like an angel. Emily and Judy will play their heavenly harps. And, saints from the past and the present will join us, including Susannah Wesley, Roberta Rice, and Sophia Fetzer. If you want to see how that happens, join us for a lively meeting. Jane will need some extra help in getting morning snack and lunch on the table in time. Call Jane for luncheon reservations.

C.O.M.E.

The Celebration of Mission Event is fast approaching. Has your class planned a fund raiser or collection? The needs lists for Heart and Hand, Charleston and Tyrand Cooperative Ministries are posted in your class rooms and by the elevator. The Event will be a part of District Conference on May 5. The ingathering will be from 12-3 with the Conference to follow at First, Barboursville.

Backpacks

A big thank you to everyone who helped with our backpack delivery in March. It truly takes a whole church effort starting with picking up the food, to sorting, to packing the bags, and delivery. We delivered over 250 bags each week, including a double order the last Thursday to cover spring break. This is our last month to deliver this school year but will do it again in the fall.

Potato Bar Thank You

Our crowd was smaller this year but the results were about the same. We made \$426 after taking out the cost of food. This years proceeds will help the Youth as they travel to Kansas City, to participate in Youth 2019. In the past, we have helped Ebenezer, FUMC Youth along with other local agencies and this year I took \$50 of left over items to Recovery Point after the lunch. To all who helped, a great big thanks!. Bob Ganzer

Empty Bowls—April 12

The 16th Annual Empty Bowls Benefit for the Facing Hunger Foodbank will take place April 12 from 10:30-2:30 at First Presbyterian Church. At this event you will have a lunch of soup, bread, and a drink and get a bowl made by students at Marshall University and area high schools. All proceeds will go to the Facing Hunger Foodbank. For more information, please visit marshall.edu/emptybowls.

Finances

During February we received enough income to pay all of our regular bills (including a \$3,676 gas bill). We also paid \$6,000 toward our 2019 Fair Share giving. We received \$45,822 in general fund contributions during the month. We appreciate your ongoing faithful support toward our General Fund budget. Your gifts help to keep our ministries and service going day by day. Thank you.

Please continue to support our church through your use of Kroger, Food Fair, and Amazon Smile cards.



From Debbie Bradley

Easter will be here before you know it. The children will be singing for 10:45 church on Easter Sunday, but we won't wear robes; we'll let their Easter clothes be visible.

Children's Musical May 5

We're coming into "the home stretch" on our spring musical, *In the Big Inning* and will be having double rehearsals on Wednesday evenings beginning April 17: Choir will begin at 6:00 (instead of 6:30) - but will end at the same time, 7:15. We're working on getting a price for custom baseball shirts and hats for the kids to wear in the musical (and keep afterwards). Parents: we'll let you know ASAP how much this will cost and we'll also be asking for sizes. The musical will be presented at the 10:45 service on May 5th with a tech rehearsal the day before (Saturday, May 4) from 9-11.

Midweek Lenten Services and Study Continue

You still have a few more opportunities to attend one of the Wednesday Lenten Services that take place at 12:05 in the chapel. Our last three guest speakers are: April 3, Rev. Erik Porterfield from Fifth Ave. Baptist; April 10, our own Schauna Chambers; and April 17, Rev. Angela Gay Kinkead from Pea Ridge UMC. The service lasts about 30 minutes.

The Wednesday evening Lenten Bible study continues as well. The study focuses on the people who were part of Jesus' life during the last days before the crucifixion—their relationships and roles in the story. The study meets each Wednesday evening at 6:00 in Room 208.

The United Methodist Women are selling spring flowers again this year. They will have red geraniums for \$1, pink and purple wave petunias for \$2, and hanging baskets for \$14. Watch for order forms to come out soon.



Dinner Rolls for Easter

Order some Easter Dinner Rolls from the youth and have one thing less to make for Easter dinner. You will find the order forms in the back of the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. The Youth will make them on April 20th and they will be available for pick up on Easter morning at the church or on Saturday if you need them then.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class will start Sunday March 31st and will meet every Sunday at 9:30 until May 19th in the stone sanctuary room on the second floor of the education wing. This is for youth grades 6 and up who would like to join the church. Any questions, please see Schauna.

Middle School Retreat

Asbury Woods will be holding a middle school retreat Friday April 12th through the 14th. For more information, contact Gayla Van Horn at 304-690-1590.



The Easter Egg Hunt will be at the church on Wednesday April 10th at 6:00. The younger kids will have an egg hunt while the older ones will have a scavenger hunt. Children's choir will begin at 6:30 that evening per usual.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Senior Pastor,
Mark Conner

Associate Pastor
Stephen Hensley

Director of Christian Education
Schauna Chambers

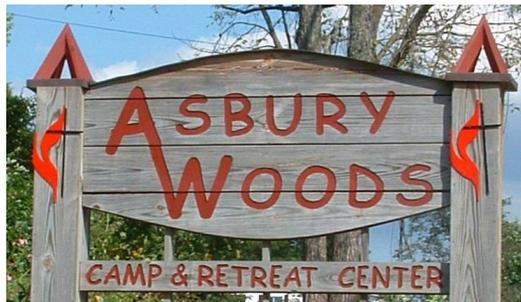
Sunday Worship Opportunities
First Light 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Korean Church 1:00 p.m.

Next Tower Topics Deadline is April 29

Asbury Woods Summer Camps

Church Camp is right around the corner. What a great way to dive deeper in faith and have fun with friends.

Younger Elementary
Dates July 1st-3rd
Theme: Lamb of God
Dean: Cassie Bacon



Middle School
Dates: July 7th- 12th
Theme: Unplugged
Dean: Gayla Vanhorn

Older Elementary
Dates: June 30th – July 3rd
Theme: Christmas in the Summer
Dean: Katrina Burgess

High School
Dates: July 15th- 19th
Theme: The Office
Dean: Schauna Chambers

See Schauna for costs for camp and for registration sheets!