

# IN MISSION

A PUBLICATION OF PARKWAY HEIGHTS UMC • APRIL 2025



## A Message from Keith

As we move through Lent, an Easter tradition rears its head. Everyone starts asking for their Easter outfit. "I don't have anything to wear. I can't wear something old for Easter. I'd be so embarrassed." That's when I realize my embarrassment threshold must be higher than everyone else's.

What they really want me to understand is that they need to be Easter Instagram-ready. They want to look sensational and out together for that family picture. The flower cross needs to pop against whatever perfect outfit is adorned. We want the perfect picture on the most significant holy day of the year.

It strikes me that we are looking for the perfect presentation on Easter. The first one certainly didn't live up to that expectation. If we're honest, it seemed like a disaster. It started in grief, quickly pivoted to confusion and ended with nonsensical hope. Maybe we need that kind of Easter instead of the Hallmark one we've created.

In a confusing and disorienting world, perhaps it's better to know that is how the disciples came, too. Where they expected it to be too big for God, they discovered that He overcame it. That spark of hope without complete understanding would propel the Church into the following two millennia. We don't have to show up with it all together. We have to show

up and then proclaim what we've witnessed.

You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to have it all together. You don't have to have the answers. You just have to come to the place where you expect to find Jesus. I hope you'll seek that place throughout the rest of this holy season, whether it's at church in worship or in the mission field with the least, the last and the lost. Jesus is in those places. He's waiting to meet us there.

- Keith



Keith Keeton

## EXPERIENCE HOLY WEEK AT PARKWAY HEIGHTS

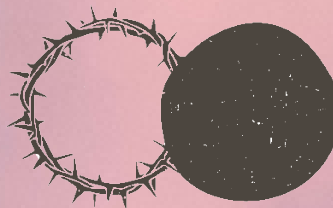
### PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13

8:30 a.m.: Founders Hall Worship Service

10:45 a.m.: Sanctuary Worship Service

To celebrate Palm Sunday, we will wave palm branches in both worship services. Our children will parade during the Sanctuary service.



### MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

We will be blessed by a special choral presentation by the combined choirs of Parkway Heights and Galloway United Methodist Church. We will also celebrate holy communion.

### TENEBRAE SERVICE

Good Friday, April 18

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

"Tenebrae" is the Latin word for darkness or shadows. As this service progresses, we will let the darkness surround us to remind us of the dark day of Jesus' crucifixion.

### EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 20

8:30 a.m.: Founders Hall Worship Service

10:45 a.m.: Sanctuary Worship Service

Alleluia! Celebrate our risen Lord!  
Invite someone to worship with you!

## Special Holy Week Choral Presentation

The entire community is invited to a special Holy Week choral presentation by the combined choirs of Parkway Heights UMC and Galloway UMC from Jackson.

"Wondrous Love" will take place during the Maundy Thursday worship service on Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



The two choirs have been working on this special music for months. Director of Music Dr. Greg Fuller says this collaboration is important because Parkway Heights and Galloway represent two of the biggest United Methodist churches in the state. After the performance in Hattiesburg, the choirs will also perform the concert at Galloway on Good Friday.

One special aspect of this concert that our congregation will appreciate is that Jim Moritsugu, son-in-law of the late Rod and Ginny Entekin, will play the clarinet in the performance.



## Easter Lilies

As we approach Easter, we are again offering our congregation the opportunity to place lilies in the Sanctuary and Founders Hall on Easter Sunday. The lilies cost \$20 each and can be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Pick up an order form in the Atrium and pay in the Church Office or order online at [parkwayheights.org](http://parkwayheights.org). The order deadline is Sunday, April 13.



You may take your lily with you after the Sanctuary service on Easter Sunday, April 20.

## SENIOR SUNDAY: MAY 4

### Do You Have a Senior?

Our annual Senior Sunday to celebrate our high school seniors will be Sunday, May 4. Parents, if your child (or grandchild) is a senior this year, please confirm with Alex that he or she will be participating in Senior Sunday. We don't want anyone to be accidentally left off our list! You can email him at [alexdoleac@parkwayheights.org](mailto:alexdoleac@parkwayheights.org).

### Notes for Seniors

As is our tradition, we encourage our entire congregation to write notes or letters to our high school seniors to show your support and love. Please turn in your cards by Sunday, April 27.

The seniors this year are: Mason Brady, Scott Bolster, Mary Carter Callaway, Carley Gilbert, Laura Kate Hrom, Jumar Mack, Caroline Morris, Mattie Roberts, Hudson Selman and Ryleigh Ward.



## A Taste of Asia Fellowship Meal

The Hospitality Team is planning another delicious Wednesday Fellowship Dinner! Join us for an Asian-inspired meal and good fellowship on Wednesday, April 9, 5:30-7 p.m., in Founders Hall.

The cost is only \$5 per person (with a maximum cost of \$20 per family). Bring yourself, your family and a friend and experience the warmth of Parkway Heights! We'll enjoy delicious, homemade egg rolls and fried rice, along with other Asian favorites, too! Cheese pizzas will also be available for any picky eaters.

If you plan to attend, please sign up in Sunday's bulletin or online at [parkwayheights.org](http://parkwayheights.org)/calendar. We can't wait to see you there!



## MEN'S MINISTRY

The next Men's Meal and Fellowship will be Thursday, April 24, at 6 p.m. at Keg & Barrel. All men are invited!

## Our Window and Its Symbols

It's hard to think of a more recognizable symbol of Parkway Heights UMC than our beautiful stained glass window in the Sanctuary. Below is a brief history of the window and the meaning of its symbols.

In September of 1978, the congregation of Parkway Heights United Methodist Church worshiped for the first time in its newly constructed Sanctuary. One of the distinctive focal points of the new worship space was the dramatic stained glass window in the north side of the room. The window is a contemporary design which soars more than 30 feet on the wall behind the communion table. During the long course of planning and implementing the construction of the Sanctuary, one of the many responsibilities of the building committee was to select the window design. The committee met several times with an art representative from the L.L. Sams Company of Waco, Texas, and had seen numerous window designs, but none of them seemed to be the right choice for Parkway Heights. One day, while looking through a catalogue at selections of light fixtures for the Sanctuary, the minister saw a window pictured on the cover. It was rich in symbolism, created with vivid, intense colors; and he felt immediately that it might be the right choice. The Sams Company confirmed that they could produce the design, and the committee quickly reached consensus in adopting the design.



*Sanctuary window  
photo by Keith Keeton*

The name of the designer of the window is not known, and thus the designer's personal interpretation of its symbols remains a mystery. But even if the original creator of the window's design were known, he or she would probably not choose to offer a concrete or detailed explanation of its meaning; artists rarely explain their work. So the interpretation of the window and its many symbols is left largely to the individual worshipper. Some symbols are clearly represented and easily visible to all; others are abstract and open to personal interpretation. A list of several of the Christian symbols which may be seen in the window follows.

**THE CROSS** is the central emblem of the Christian faith. Much earlier than the time of Christ, the cross was used as a symbol of life; so it is appropriate that Christians see the cross as a symbol not only of Christ's death on a cross, but also of the resurrection. **The Latin Cross**, used by the Romans to put Jesus to death, can be seen in the strong central vertical bar at the top of the window, with the base of the triangle forming the horizontal bar. The vertical bar can be seen as forming the support for several crosses formed with various horizontal crosspieces found along the length of the window. **The Cross and Triangle** incorporates the triangle atop the Latin Cross, emphasizing that Christ is one in the Holy Trinity. The **Anchor Cross** is formed in the window by joining the two purple bars to the foot of the Latin Cross. Like the symbol of the fish, it was used by the early Christians to hide their identity from all except other Christians. The pagan who saw the anchor cross would see only an anchor; the Christian would see a cross symbolizing hope, "a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul." (Hebrews 6:19)

**THE TRINITY** is represented by the prominent triangle at the top of the window. The triangle is continuous, never-ending, and its points signify God the Creator, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

**THE ETERNAL CIRCLE**, seen at the focus of the rays of light, illustrates that God's love is everlasting, without beginning and without ending.

**BLUE DOME** – In the early Hebrew concept of the universe, the sky is an inverted bowl above the earth.

**BOAT OR SHIP** – In the Old Testament, the ark saved Noah and his family from the flood. In the New Testament, the disciples were fishermen and "fishers of men." A boat symbolizes the church and its worldwide mission. The nave of the church (the lengthwise room) is from the Latin "navis," a ship.

*continued on following page*



## Handbell Concert

The Deep South Ringers handbell choir invites everyone to attend its upcoming Spring Concert on Sunday, April 27, at 5 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church. This community handbell group is comprised of advanced ringers from the Pine Belt and surrounding areas. Under the direction of Dr. Larry Smith, the Deep South Ringers regularly play locally and throughout the Southeast region.

## Please Help Us Keep Interior Doors Closed

In an effort to prevent wear and tear on the various air conditioning units in our building, the Trustees ask everyone to please keep all interior doors closed. Each zone or space in the building is conditioned by a separate air unit. When doors are propped open, the air handler for the smaller space is kicked into overdrive trying to adjust to the setting of the larger space. Even if the temperatures are the exact same, the smaller unit will drive hard to maintain the larger space.

We have developed habits over time that did not seem to be an issue in the past. For example, the door to the Youth Chapel has usually been propped open, but we need to try to break this habit. Also, the doors to the Sunday School classrooms should be closed at the end of Sunday School each week. The closing of doors helps in the AC management, but it also helps prevent smoke damage in case of a fire.

Thank you for helping us lower our maintenance and utility costs in this way!

**WATER** – In the Old Testament, at creation, the Spirit of God moved across the waters. The flood waters bore the ark and saved Noah. The Red Sea waters parted, bringing salvation to the Hebrews. In the New Testament, the disciples fished in the waters of the Sea of Galilee and later became “fishers of men.” The ship of the church sails the world’s seas.

**DOVE** – In the Old Testament, a dove moved over the waters at creation. A dove brought an olive branch back to Noah as a sign of hope and new life. In the New Testament, the dove signifies the Holy Spirit descending on the church at Pentecost.

**FLAME** – In the Old Testament, God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. In the New Testament, flames appeared on the heads of the disciples at Pentecost.

**RAYS OF LIGHT** – In the Old Testament, at creation, God said, “Let there be light!” The psalmist writes about the word of God, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” In the New Testament, the infant Christ is the Light of the World. The wise men followed the light of the Epiphany Star. The risen Christ is the Light of Resurrection. Christ brings the light of new day, new hope, new opportunities.

**COAT OR CLOAK** – In the Old Testament, Joseph’s brothers dipped his coat of many colors in goat’s blood. In the New Testament, the soldiers at the foot of the cross cast lots for Jesus’ garment.

**BLOOD** – In the Old Testament, the blood on the doorposts of the Hebrew people was a sign for the plague of death to “pass over” their households. In the New Testament, Christ shed His blood for us at the crucifixion. Christ offered the disciples the cup, the blood of the new covenant, at the Last Supper.

**FISH** – In the New Testament, the first letters of the Greek words for “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior” spell the Greek word for “fish.”

**PALM** – In the New Testament, the palm branch, a sign of victory and triumph for the Jewish people, was waved at Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem.

**THORNS** – In the New Testament, soldiers placed a crown of thorns on Jesus, mocking His kingship and symbolizing humiliation and suffering.

Are there other symbols you see? As mentioned above, some symbols are abstract and open to personal interpretation.

We are so blessed by our window, moved by what it represents and thankful for those who worshiped before us and worked to make it possible.

## Early Encounters Sunday

You are in for a treat on Sunday, April 27! During the 10:45 a.m. service that day, we will celebrate our beloved Early Encounters Preschool and Learning Center. Early Encounters families and teachers are invited to join us for this very special worship service. The EE children will sing songs they have learned in Chapel.



## United Women in Faith

Parkway Heights' United Women in Faith circles recently received recognition for supporting the mission of UWF in serving women, youth and children. They also received a certificate for completing a Mission U study written by UWF.



UWF Past President  
Patsy Register

All women are invited to participate in United Women in Faith. The Bevill/Vickery Circle meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The Outreach Circle meets on the First Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room. For more information, contact UWF President Jennifer James at [jjrjames64@aol.com](mailto:jjrjames64@aol.com).

## Women's Spring Retreat: STRONGER

Parkway Heights women, you are not too late to register for this year's Women's Retreat, April 25-26, at the beautiful Longleaf Plantation!

During the retreat, we'll gain an understanding of how God works in our lives to strengthen and empower us through difficult seasons. Rev. Susan Eaton will guide our teaching time, and Josh and Kristen Gray will be our worship leaders. The cost is only \$100 and covers meals, lodging and all supplies for the weekend. Register now at [parkwayheights.org/calendar](http://parkwayheights.org/calendar).



last year's  
Women's  
Retreat



yoga  
at the  
retreat in  
2021

## Stephen Ministry: Grief Affirmation

*When anxiety strikes, I'll breathe deeply, pray and remind myself that it will pass.*

Anxiety is powerful. If left unchecked, it can run our lives. Grieving hearts know all about anxiety. When loss comes, our hearts are hit. Emotions surge up from within us. Somewhere in the mix of shock, sadness, anger, guilt, fear and depression, anxiety inevitably rears its head. In other words, feeling anxious is common for those who are grieving. How we handle anxiety when it comes is important. Instead of following and feeding the anxiety within, we can choose to trust God. We can choose to believe.

**Believe that God loves us.** Believe that He knows us and what we're going through. Believe that He is with us, right here, right now.

**Believe that God has a good plan for us.** Believe that He goes before us and will be with us. Believe that He is leading us and guiding us through this wilderness.

**Believe that God has us.** Believe that He is sufficient for all we're facing and all we will face in the future. Believe that He is working in all things for our ultimate good.

**Believe that God will sustain us,** hold us together and heal our broken hearts.

Parkway Heights has Stephen Ministers available. These individuals have received extensive training to serve people who are experiencing challenging situations. Stephen Ministers are available to support, encourage, listen, comfort and care with confidentiality and with the help of God. Stephen Ministers are individually assigned by our supervising minister, Julie Collins.

Please complete the form on our website ([parkwayheights.org/ministries/stephen-ministry](http://parkwayheights.org/ministries/stephen-ministry)) if you are interested in learning more or have questions about Stephen Ministry. For more information, talk with one of our Stephen Minister Leaders: Carolyn Karlovich and Julie Collins or email [juliecollins@parkwayheights.org](mailto:juliecollins@parkwayheights.org).

# OUTREACH

## Christmas/Easter Offering

Every week, we receive requests from our community for assistance with purchasing medications, needing gas for vehicles and more. Unfortunately, we cannot always help, but we use our best judgment to assist those we can.

To fund our community benevolence fund, twice a year we ask our congregation to contribute to our Christmas/Easter Offering. These funds are also used when new ministry opportunities arise throughout the year, which do not have support from our current budget.

You will soon receive a letter about our Christmas/Easter Offering. We hope you can support this fund however you can. You can designate the gift on your check or select "Easter Offering" if you give at [parkwayheights.org/give](http://parkwayheights.org/give). Thank you for caring for your community!

## Can You Serve Breadbasket Ministry?

Breadbasket is a food ministry that provides assistance to about 2,250 people annually. It is a coalition of several churches, started by our friends at Westminster Presbyterian. Each church hosts Breadbasket on a rotating schedule.

Mitch and Marcia Cochran are our new coordinators at Parkway Heights. They will schedule volunteers, and these volunteers pack the Breadbasket bags at the Breadbasket pantry and meet the recipients in our parking lot. **We are looking for a few more volunteers who could assist for only an hour and a half once every eight-10 weeks.**

Are you interested in this easy serving opportunity? Sign up in Sunday's bulletin or call the Church Office at 601.544.7873 for more information.

## Friends of Wesley

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 1, for the 37th Annual Friends of Wesley Pastor Cook-Off! This fundraiser for Hub City Wesley will take place at Parkway Heights this year. Come support the Wesley Foundation, enjoy delicious chili, bid at the silent auction and celebrate this ministry! You can support our pastor chef (TBD) with your "votes" of donations. You can buy your tickets in the Church Office.

## April's Communion Offering

The communion offering collected Sunday, April 6, will support our Honduras mission trip through Baptist Medical Dental Mission International. BMDMI not only provides medical, dental and pharmaceutical care to the people of Honduras, the organization meets other needs by sharing the love of Jesus in various ways.

To support this offering, designate it on your check or give online at [parkwayheights.org/give](http://parkwayheights.org/give) and select "communion offering" as the fund.

## Ways to Help Hope Clinic

The annual Heroes Walk for Hope to benefit Hope Clinic of Hattiesburg will be held Saturday, April 12, at the University of Southern Mississippi Payne Center. Check-in and drawings will be 8:30-9 a.m., and the walk will begin at 9:15 a.m. To learn more and sign up, visit [hcfriends.com/walk-for-hope](http://hcfriends.com/walk-for-hope).

Hope Clinic exists to share Christ-like love with those in the midst of unplanned pregnancies. By making each client feel valued and offering truthful information about all options, Hope Clinic gives each client the opportunity to make a decision out of hope rather than out of fear.

Parkway Heights will also be supporting Hope Clinic in May with the annual Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information soon!



## Support Groups

Did you know...

- **Al-Anon** (for those with a loved one with a drinking problem) meets in Room 305B on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.?
- **Narcotics Anonymous** meets at the Cullefer House (on Parkway Heights' campus at 2405 O'Ferrell Street) Monday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 6 p.m.?

If you or someone you know can benefit from these groups, please pass along this information.

# SENIOR ADULTS

## First Wednesday Lunch

**Wednesday, April 2**

**11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Founders Hall**

All adults age 55+ are invited to join us for a fellowship meal with special guest, Kent Oliver, founder of Laughs 4 Life. Laughs 4 Life is an event intended to generate smiles and laughter throughout our wonderful Hub City community. But most importantly, it's a way to benefit incredible organizations who are making highly tangible differences through cancer research and patient experience.

Seasoned with Love will cater our meal of chicken tetrazzini, field peas, salad, roll and white chocolate bread pudding.

PLEASE NOTE: Cost for the meal has increased to \$12.

We hope you will join us for this time of fellowship!

We're excited to partner again in 2025 with Main St. UMC in downtown Hattiesburg for monthly gatherings! Parkway Heights and Main St. rotate hosting months on the first Wednesday. Go ahead and mark your calendar now for the May gathering at Main Street on Wednesday, May 7!



*Zhaolei Xie played the piano, and Dr. Taylor Hightower sang at the First Wednesday Lunch at Main Street UMC on March 5.*

## Memories That Matter: How Sharing Family Stories Deepens Identity and Faith

*adapted from UMC Discipleship Ministries' article by Lisa Jean Hoefner*

Soon, Memorial Day weekend, high school and college graduations, June weddings, July 4 celebrations and summer family reunions will be upon us. Traditions! Every one of these occasions is an opportunity to connect with extended family members and a wonderful time to strengthen family ties through sharing your history. We can help facilitate important conversations among the generations by encouraging people of every age to be curious, share their stories, embrace healthy family traditions and introduce some new traditions.

Understanding the history of our family members — what shaped them, what challenges they confronted, what joys sustained them and how these experiences continue to influence you — helps people grasp their identity and provides a meaningful foundation for living more fully. Similarly, through preaching and teaching, the church can help people connect their stories to the larger biblical stories that continue to shape us as God's people.

Older adults and those who work with older adults can shore up the resilience and grit of succeeding generations by recalling the varied chapters of our family's lives.

Rev. Jack Shitama has written a wonderful first-person account of how important it is for succeeding generations to know their family narratives. This comes from knowing stories such as where their grandparents grew up, how their parents met, what were the family tragedies and even the story of their birth. Research shows children from families with a strong narrative are more resilient and better able to navigate the challenges of life.

You can read the full article at [thenonanxiousleader.com/strengthen-family-sharing-history](https://thenonanxiousleader.com/strengthen-family-sharing-history).

## North of 70

"I will be your God throughout your lifetime — until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you." -Isaiah 46:4

### NORTH OF 70 MINISTRY DIRECTORIES

2025 North of 70 directories are available  
in the Church Office.

## Save the Date!

Senior Adult Vacation Bible School

"Joy in the Lord"

August 4-6 | 9:30 a.m.-noon

Rev. Dr. Larry Hilliard,  
Bible study leader

Dr. Taylor Hightower, music leader



# YOUTH

## Youth Pics



During Lent, our youth are taking part in a Table Talk series.



On March 23, the youth participated in baby shower games in honor of Alex and Hannah Doleac's new baby on the way. Max Day (pictured above) had to diaper a baby in a relay race.



Hannah Doleac's D-Group of 8th-9th grade girls surprised her with a baby shower and dinner at Ed's on March 26.



On March 30, Anna Roberts gave her best shot at a bread shape-creating game.

## It's Time to Register for Kidnap Retreat!



It's time to register for our favorite trip of the year... the annual Kidnap Retreat! Shhh...let's keep the dates (May 31-June 3) and location (Gulf Shores, AL) a surprise for the rising 7th graders! The cost is \$300 for current 7th-12th graders, \$200 for current 6th graders and \$150 for adult leaders. The trip fee includes everything but two fast food meals and snacks.

Registration is open now. Scan the QR code to the right to reach the online registration. The deadline is Monday, May 12, so don't wait too late! Spots are limited!



## All Youth Are Invited to Citywide

PHUMC Youth, get ready because the most electrifying event of the year is coming your way! Citywide 2025 is making its triumphant return; and this year, it's going to be bigger, better and more epic than ever!

**When:** Sunday, April 6, from 5 until 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Wesley Foundation at USM (3200 Montague Blvd., Hattiesburg, MS 39401)

**What to Expect:** Non-stop fun, amazing food and powerful worship led by Wesley Foundation college students!



This unforgettable night is just for jr. high and high school students, so rally your friends and make plans to be there! Use this QR code to RSVP by Thursday, April 3, and secure your spot! Don't miss out on an evening that will be packed with excitement, inspiration and memories.

## Kidnap Pillowcase Party

Save the date of Wednesday, May 21, for our annual Kidnap Pillowcase Party! All youth are invited to come help us prepare a warm welcome for our upcoming 7th graders being "kidnapped" this summer! We'll



decorate pillowcases and make goody bags for our kidnappees. See you there!

## YOUTH MINISTRY DATES

- **Sunday, April 6** - Citywide at USM Wesley Foundation
- **Sunday, April 13** - Palm Sunday SN@P featuring Michelle Van Vleet
- **Sunday, April 20** - NO SN@P - Easter Sunday
- **Sunday, April 27** - Mission SN@P
- **Sunday, May 4** - Cuatro de Mayo SN@P
- **Sunday, May 11** - NO SN@P - Mother's Day
- **Sunday, May 18** - End of the Year SN@P

# CHILDREN

## MEET KAITLYN SCOTT

*Our Children's Ministry is happy to introduce Kaitlyn to our congregation. Get to know her in her own words...*



Kaitlyn Scott

Hey, I'm Kaitlyn Scott, and I am a senior studying Child and Family Sciences at USM. I am doing a practicum here at Parkway Heights, helping out with Early Encounters Chapel and creating fun activities that incorporate the lesson, along with helping set up Vacation Bible School. I am from Omaha, Nebraska, and plan to go back and work with children after I graduate.

*If you see Kaitlyn on Sunday morning, be sure to give her a big Parkway Heights welcome and thank her for her service to our children.*



## Children's News

### Camp Wesley Pines

Parents, you are not too late to register your child for Camp Wesley Pines this summer. Parkway Heights will coordinate transportation to and from camp for the following sessions:

- Younger Elementary Camp (rising 2nd and 3rd graders): June 23-25
- Older Elementary Camp (rising 3rd - 6th graders): June 23-28.

Be sure to notify Lesley if your child will attend camp and wants to ride on the church van! Reach out to Lesley with questions. We have scholarship money available!

## Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is Sunday, April 13. The children will parade in the Sanctuary with palm branches at the beginning of the 10:45 a.m. service, as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Please note: children will only parade in the 10:45 a.m. service, not during the 8:30 a.m. service.



## KIDS IN ACTION



### SUNDAY SCHOOL FUN

Anna Walters, Charlie Kay, Darcie Mann and Emilia Blackwell "fish" for donut holes on Sunday morning. Any guesses who is on the other end?



### BIBLE BLACK BELTS

It's a wrap! Kindergarten through sixth grade children met on Sunday nights in February and March. The kids learned about the books of the Bible, memorized Scripture and practiced finding verses in the Bible while also participating in fun games and activities.



# CHILDREN

## Holy Week Passports

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 13. Be sure to pick up a Holy Week Passport for each of your children on Palm Sunday in the Atrium or the Narthex. As you journey



through Holy Week as a family, the children will add stickers to their "passports." Using their Holy Week Passport will be a fun and engaging way for them to track their journeys to Easter Day!

## Save the Date for VBS!

Wild Life is a four-day adventure where kids discover how special they are to God and how wild it is that they can share their story, use their gifts, spend time with God and spend time with others. Wild Life Vacation Bible School will be held in the mornings on June 16-19.

Children age four (by September 1, 2025) through rising sixth graders are invited to participate. (Fifth and sixth graders will serve as helpers.) We need lots of volunteers to serve before and during the week of VBS as small group leaders, station leaders, snack leaders and more! Please contact Lesley at [lesleyellison@parkwayheights.org](mailto:lesleyellison@parkwayheights.org) if you can help.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, April 13, at 3900 Jamestown Road, the home of Carolyn and Warren Hood.

Play time on the playground will begin at 2 p.m., and the egg hunt will begin at 3 p.m. Toddlers through fourth graders are invited to hunt eggs. Loft kids (all 5th and 6th graders) are needed to hide eggs.

Parents, please bring one dozen plastic, filled eggs per child to hunt. It's going to be a great afternoon!

## LOFT MISSION PROJECT

LOFT KIDS (ALL 5TH-6TH GRADERS) WILL JOIN THE YOUTH GROUP FOR A SPECIAL MISSION NIGHT ON SUNDAY, APRIL 27. THE KIDS WILL BE TYING FOOD BAGS FOR THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREWS. STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS.

# PH HAPPENINGS



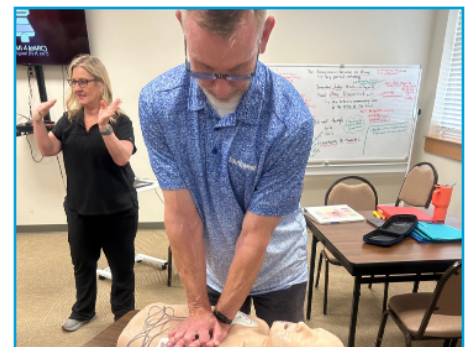
## Ash Wednesday Service

We were happy to have Westminster Presbyterian Church worship with us during our Ash Wednesday Service on March 5.



## Men's Ministry

The March Men's Ministry gathering was held at J's Tavern on March 20. All men are always welcome to attend the monthly meals.



## Safety Team Training

The church's Safety Team received CPR and AED training on Sunday, March 30. Brian Ford (pictured above) brushed up on his CPR skills.



# MISC.

## Mail Room

Dear Parkway Heights Friends,

For so many people in our world, life feels overwhelming. Although anxiety, stress and hopelessness are not determined by one's income level, a lack of financial resources can magnify difficult situations. Edwards Street Fellowship Center strives to provide help, healing and hope through our food pantry, thrift store and health clinic.

During medical appointments at our free clinic (FellowshipClinic.org), our volunteer nurses guide our patients through two mental health surveys: a GAD-7 and a PHQ-9. The GAD measures general anxiety, while the PHQ (patient health questionnaire) assesses depression severity. A volunteer physician addresses the patients' survey responses during their medical checkup, with further discussion a few minutes later between the patient and our RN case manager. Based on their situation, patients are connected with resources available through Edwards Street Fellowship Center, as well as other community agencies.

Through your generous support of Edwards Street's ministries, you are providing help, healing and hope to neighbors who need a helping hand. Thank you and God bless you!

"Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God."  
—Hebrews 13:16

With Gratitude for You,  
Ann

Ann McCullen,  
Executive Director  
Edwards Street Fellowship Center

Pastor Keith Keeton and Parkway Heights United Methodist Church,

On behalf of the entire membership of St. Paul United Methodist Church, we humbly thank you for allowing us to host our very first conference on dementia/Alzheimer's, held on March 1, 2025. Your beautiful building, so unique and practical, was truly a blessing to us. We had 121 participants and vendors. Mr. Wes Arrington was such a blessing to us. He allowed us to come on several occasions to walk through the building. He answered our questions, discussed the setup and just made us feel so welcomed. Rev. Julie Collins brought words of welcome during the opening sessions. We just can't thank you enough for your support and the use of your facility.

Respectfully,  
Elder Louis Johnson, Pastor  
Johnny Blake, Committee Chairperson

The Mississippi Conference Treasurer's Office sends special thanks to Parkway Heights United Methodist Church for paying 100% of your mission shares.

-David Stotts  
Treasurer, Director of Finance and Administration and Conference Benefits Officer

## WELCOME!

Please help us welcome our returning member, **Rose Hatch!** Rose transferred her membership to Parkway Heights last month.

## Church Council Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of our church leadership will be Sunday, April 27, on the third floor. Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee and Trustees will meet from noon-1 p.m. Following the committee meetings, Church Council will meet from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m.

## Prayer Concerns

Hughlene Perrott, Tom Richardson & Benson St. Louis

## Sympathy To...

- Anita Johnson on the death of her sister, Norma Grahl
- Amy Batson on the death of her father, Michael Baier

## PILLARS OF PARKWAY HEIGHTS

### Foundational Truths for All Generations

#### ROOTED

- Scripture is God-inspired and authoritative.
- The Holy Spirit comes to unsettle us.

#### COMMITTED

- Relationships are a means of grace.
- Community is more important than consensus.

#### TRANSFORMED

- Transformative communities are intentional.
- We are a work in progress, seeking holiness.
- The church's proclamation of the gospel is an invitation.



## Parkway Heights UMC

2420 Hardy Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5911  
parkwayheights.org  
601.544.7873

### Sunday Worship Times:

8:30 a.m.: Contemporary Service  
in Founders Hall

9:40-10:30 a.m.: Sunday School

10:45 a.m.: Traditional Service  
in Sanctuary



Keith Keeton, *Lead Pastor*

Julie Collins, *Executive Pastor*

Susan Eaton, *Discipleship Pastor*

David Sellers, *Associate Pastor*

Wes Arrington, *Director of  
Outreach & Facilities*

Alex Doleac, *Director of Youth &  
Family Ministries*

Lesley Ellison, *Director of Children &  
Family Ministries*

## -- HOLIDAY CLOSING --

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH  
OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, AND  
MONDAY, APRIL 21,  
FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY.

Our website:



Our app:



Give online:



Stephen Ministry:



Hold your cell phone's camera over  
these QR codes to activate them.

*Our mission: "To connect, equip and send people for Christ"*

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2420 Hardy Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5911

