

INMISSION

A PUBLICATION OF PARKWAY HEIGHTS UMC

MARCH 2025

A Message from Keith



Keith Keeton

I am not from South Mississippi. I don't know about all of the regionally based festivities that carry significant cultural weight around here. I didn't even know that Mardi Gras existed until my sister got the holiday at USM. There weren't many Catholics in Morton. I did know

about Ash Wednesday, though. However, I didn't understand the full scope of Fat Tuesday until I dated a girl from New Orleans at Ole Miss. Then, I attended my first parade and "vacation" in the Big Easy during the season.

First, let me say that it isn't my type of event. There were lots of people there. There was lots of drinking, and I'm a teetotaler. Parking was terrible. Food was expensive. It was a barrel of all of my favorite things. However, I remember watching the end of Mardi Gras on the television in their living room in Terrytown because the ferry to the Westbank stopped running at midnight. The mounted police officers made a wall with their horses and slowly pushed down Bourbon Street to force everyone to go home. With that, the party was over, and the cleanup began.

I can't think of a better representation of Lent. This month, we begin the 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays), which start with Ash Wednesday and conclude with Easter Sunday. It is a time of preparation for the holiest day of the Christian year. Lent forces us to consider where we are headed.

Lent reminds us of several truths. The first is that we have work to do. Like the aftermath of Mardi Gras, we can leave our lives a mess. God wants to help us clean up. The second is that there is no time like the present to start. The 40 days can act as a motivating timer. Finally, Lent reminds us that all good things are usually intentional. Lent is a chance to choose a different outcome.

How will you celebrate this Lenten season? Will you use it or waste it? The early Church knew we needed the reminder. Let's not ignore how God can use the time to redeem our mission, vision and purpose. What does God want you to work on this season? I pray that you will root yourself in God's word, that the Holy Spirit will unsettle you in real ways, that you'll make a real effort to commit to community and that you will discover transformation like never before. Remember, the gospel is an invitation. Be invited to the new thing God wishes to do in your life.

-Keith

Ash Wednesday Worship

The Ash Wednesday worship service will be held Wednesday, March 5, at 6 p.m. in our Sanctuary. We are happy to welcome Westminster Presbyterian Church to worship with us as we begin the season of Lent.

On that same day, between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m., Julie Collins and David Sellers will offer the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary for anyone who can't attend that night. Everyone is welcome to come and go as you'd like and pray at the altar as you feel led.



We Need You to Serve

Parkway Heights is forming a new Bereavement Team to assist with funerals and funeral visitations by greeting guests, assisting with bulletins and tidying up. Six teams of five-seven people will serve on a rotating basis throughout the year.

In addition to the Bereavement Team, the Agape Team is also seeking volunteers. The Agape Team provides meals for families in times of need, such as funerals.

We are also looking for people willing to transport church members locally or possibly to Jackson for medical appointments. A background check will be required, and you will need to provide your own transportation.

If you'd like to serve in any of these ways, please email juliecollins@parkwayheights.org.



MEN'S BURGER & FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, March 20, at 6 p.m.
J's Tavern
All men are invited!

Women's Ministry Spring Retreat

Women's Spring Retreat
STRONGER
April 25-26
Longleaf Plantation

On this year's Women's Retreat, we'll explore the lives of three resilient women from the Bible: Rahab, Naomi and Ruth. As we see how God uniquely strengthened and sustained each of them through fiercely challenging circumstances, we'll gain a greater understanding of how God works in our lives to strengthen and empower



us through life's most difficult seasons.

The cost is \$100 and includes lodging, meals, snacks and all retreat supplies.

Don't miss this opportunity to grow and connect with other women through worship, study and fellowship. Invite a friend and join us for this inspiring weekend.

Register at parkwayheights.org/calendar starting March 2. When signing up, please plan to stay for the entire event.

Pillars of Parkway Heights Studies

Keith Keeton and David Sellers' Pillars of Parkway Heights studies have already begun, but you are still welcome to join! Julie Collins' class will begin Wednesday, March 12, at noon, and will last for six weeks (excluding April 2) in Room 303.

These Pillars are foundational principles that articulate our culture and framework for living in the present and moving into the future. Our A15 Committee crafted these; Church Council affirmed them; and now we pray that the entire congregation will use them as our guideposts for ministry and identity. To learn more, see the graphic at the end of this newsletter.

Stephen Ministry: We Are Here for You

Parkway Heights has Stephen Ministers available for you. 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 will be individually assigned by our supervising minister, Julie Collins.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

If you are interested in learning more or have questions about Stephen Ministry, please complete the form that can be found at parkwayheights.org/ministries/stephen-ministry. For more information, talk with our Stephen Minister Leaders: Carolyn Karlovich and Julie Collins or email juliecollins@parkwayheights.org.

FYI

“Reclaiming Joy” Study

Are you involved in a quarrelsome or contentious relationship that is keeping you stressed and on guard? Are you holding on to bitterness from the past? Does online bickering make you anxious? Do you feel stuck in a place that is stealing your joy?

Susan Eaton is offering a study of Genesis 26 for all men and women to help you explore where you might be stuck. This study will ask you to address some common attitudes, habits and behaviors that are preventing you from living the life of joy God desires for you.

After taking this journey you will:

- understand how ineffective and damaging fear is.
- recognize when you make assumptions about others.
- discern whether you may need to exit a toxic relationship or environment.
- be equipped to express kindness to difficult people.
- be positioned to forgive those who have hurt you.

“Reclaiming Joy” will be offered at two times: Sundays (March 9, 16, 23 & 30) at 4 p.m. and Mondays (March 10, 17, 24 & 31) at 10 a.m. Sign up in Sunday’s bulletin or by emailing susaneaton@parkwayheights.org.

OUTREACH

Communion Offering for UMCOR

March’s communion offering, collected Sunday, March 2, will support United Methodist Committee on Relief. Your gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God’s love with communities everywhere. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR’s administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all other gifts throughout the year for humanitarian response and recovery efforts for communities in need. Thank you!



Thanks, Blood Donors!

Big thanks to everyone who donated blood at our blood drive on February 16! Vitalant received 21 units, which passed our goal. On behalf of all the lives you saved, THANK YOU!

SENIOR ADULTS

First Wednesday Lunch for Seniors

Wednesday, March 5
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Main St. UMC

All adults 55+ are invited to join us for a fellowship meal and program at Main Street UMC on Wednesday, March 5, at 11 a.m. Following lunch, Main Street will have a brief imposition of the ashes service for those who cannot attend the evening service at 6 p.m.

Register at parkwayheights.org/calendar or in the worship bulletin by Sunday, March 2. Please note: the cost for lunch has increased to \$12 per person.

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

Save the Date for Senior Adult VBS

Senior Adult Vacation Bible School will be held August 4-6 at Parkway Heights, with Rev. Dr. Larry Hilliard serving as Bible study leader. Please mark your calendars now!

The planning team is excited about this year’s event! If you’d like to serve on the planning team, please contact Julie Collins at juliecollins@parkwayheights.org or at 601.544.7873.

North of 70

faithfully serving Parkway Heights UMC's senior adults

NORTH OF 70 MINISTRY DIRECTORIES

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

PH PICS



DR. JOE PAUL VISITS FIRST WEDNESDAY LUNCH

Parkway Heights welcomed Southern Miss President Dr. Joe Paul on Wednesday, Feb. 5, as the guest speaker during the First Wednesday Lunch for adults age 55+.



MEN'S MEAL & FELLOWSHIP

Parkway Heights' men enjoyed time together at Mercury Pizza.



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

We are happy to have Melanie and Dave Lowery join us as members. As the daughter of Bonnie and Zeke Powell, Melanie is no stranger to PHUMC. Welcome home, Lowerys!



SUPPORTING HHS

Parkway Heights (and volunteer Thu Sellers) showed appreciation to the HHS counselors by providing gift baskets during Counselor Appreciation Week.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Numbers are still being totaled, but the Wednesday Night Live fundraiser for our Youth Ministry on February 26 was a big success! THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for the auction, bid on items, volunteered and attended the event!



YOUTH

YOUTH SNAPS



RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Our youth volunteered at Carly Gilbert's service project on February 2.



SUPER BOWL PARTY

At the Youth Super Bowl Party on Sunday, Feb. 9, the students enjoyed inflatable games.



VALENTINE'S DOLLAR TREE DASH

The Youth D-Groups gathered together for a fun night of friendly competition on February 19. Each student shopped at Dollar Tree and attempted to create the best Valentine's Day gift basket for someone else.



Kidnap Retreat 2025

Believe it or not, it's time to talk Kidnap 2025! Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 31, through Tuesday, June 3, for this year's Kidnap trip to Gulf Shores, AL! But, shhhh...let's try to keep the dates a secret from the current sixth graders.

If you're unfamiliar, this trip is where we "kidnap" our upcoming seventh



graders into the youth group with a fun-filled trip with our entire youth group in tow. Registration for Kidnap will open on Monday, March 3, for all students and adults, and we will need a large number of adult chaperones to join us! If you are a parent or an adult interested in joining us for this Parkway Heights tradition, please let Alex Doleac know ASAP by reaching out by text at 601.522.6164 or by email at alexdoeac@parkwayheights.org.

CALENDAR CHANGE

There will be NO SN@P on Sunday, March 16, due to spring break.



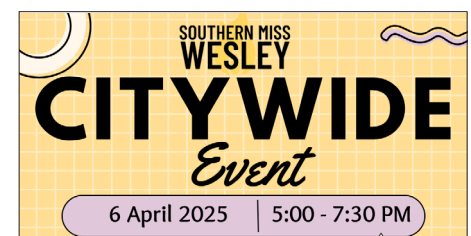
SN@P WORSHIP SERIES

Session four of the "All the Feels" discussion series will be Sunday, March 2. Students are learning to experience and express their emotions in healthy ways.



GUYS VS. GIRLS SN@P

On Sunday, March 9, our students will face a guys versus girls showdown at SN@P. Come ready to compete as we see who takes home the crown!



COMING SOON: CITYWIDE

Save the date of Sunday, April 6, from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. for the annual Citywide event at the USM Wesley Foundation. This will take the place of SN@P that night.

CHILDREN



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 VBS will be held on the mornings of June 16-19. Stay tuned for serving opportunities!

Camp Wesley Pines

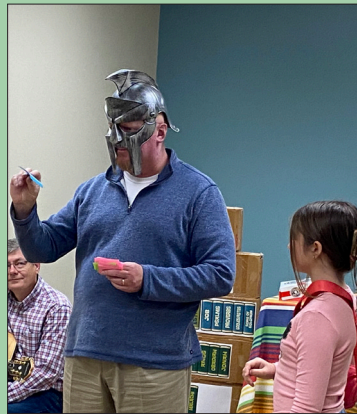
Have you registered your child for Camp Wesley Pines? Register early at wesleypines.com; spaces fill up quickly! "Early bird" discounts of \$50 are available until March 15.



Parkway Heights will coordinate transportation to and from camp for the following summer camp sessions this summer:

- 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!



Sunday School Spotlight

Children heard the story of Jesus healing the centurion soldier's servant on February 16. Sid Collins dressed as a centurion soldier to read the children's news and followed up with a fun game of "Centurian Says"!

Kindergartners and first graders reenacted the story of the disciples and Jesus on the boat during the storm from Matthew, chapter 8!

Kids in Action

Loft Climbing

Loft kids met at the Payne Center on Sunday, Feb. 2, for rock wall climbing and pizza!



Preschool Family Play Day

Preschoolers and their families gathered at Shooting Stars Playground and Trampoline Center on February 16 for fun and fellowship!

Valentine Traditions

Our preschoolers delivered handmade valentines to the adult Sunday School classes on February 16.



Bible Black Belts

Bible Black Belts is back! Kindergarten-sixth grade children meet on Sunday nights through March 23. Children learn about the books of the Bible, memorize select scriptures and practice locating verses in the Bible while participating in fun games and activities.

MISC.

Wesley Foundation Pastor Cook-Off

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 food, bid at the silent auction and celebrate this ministry! You can support our pastor chef (TBD) with your "votes" of monetary donations. Tickets will be one sale soon.

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.

Mail Room

Dear Parkway Heights UMC Friends,

Thank you for helping Edwards Street Fellowship Center shine the light of God's love across the Pine Belt! Your generosity provides nourishing food for those who are hungry, quality healthcare for those who are sick and a warm, respectful welcome to all who enter our doors.

Edwards Street Fellowship Center's programs and participants benefit from the Center's location in the midst of great educational institutions. Local higher education programs frequently provide quality services at no cost to our clients and patients, creating a win-win for everyone. Through these partnerships, students gain real-world experience in their academic areas and learn the fulfillment of helping their community, while we at Edwards Street benefit from the creativity and enthusiasm of a new generation of volunteers.

A few of our valuable ongoing academic partnerships include:

- Forrest General Hospital - Family Medicine Residency Program
- Pearl River Community College – Forrest County Campus - Dental Hygiene Program
- University of Southern Mississippi – College of Nursing and Health Professions and the Luckyday Scholars Program
- William Carey University - Department of Physical Therapy and School of Nursing.

We also have short-term projects this academic year with students in child and family sciences, communication, nutrition, psychology and other areas, as well as support from multiple student organizations. We hope the students' time with Edwards Street launches them on a journey of providing help and hope to vulnera-

ble individuals in the community they call "home."

God bless you for making a difference for those most in need today, while helping to provide a model of care for tomorrow's leaders.

With Gratitude for You,
Ann McCullen, Executive Director
Edwards Street Fellowship Center



Neal Bryan with the hygiene kits that were assembled as his Eagle Scout project

Dear Parkway Heights,

Thank you to everyone who helped me by donating items to my Eagle Scout project! We made lots of hygiene kits that will go to USM students who need them. Thank you for all your help!

Neal Bryan
Troop 90B

Prayer Concerns

Becky Grantham, Helen Paul,
Hughlene Perrott and Benson
St. Louis

Sympathy To...

Bob Martin and Diane Zachary on
the loss of Bob's wife and Diane's
mother, Joy Martin



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*

-- REMINDER --

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 9. BE SURE TO
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
BEFORE GOING TO BED ON SATURDAY,
MARCH 8.**

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"



Parkway Heights UMC
2420 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5911