



A Message from Keith



Keith Keeton
lead pastor

Don't do it. Most people will, even if they don't say it out loud. The church is like music; it ebbs and flows, crescendoing and decrescendoing as the seasons come and go. In other words, the church has a rhythm that we all feel but rarely acknowledge. One of those rhythms is quite constant. We drive with increasing intensity and fervor toward

Easter day, the pinnacle and climax of the Christian year. There are no days like it other than Christmas. It's a time of heightened joy and excitement in the church. Then, like clockwork, comes the Sunday after Easter, when everyone returns to their regular routine, and the balloon deflates. Following this, the church limps toward the summer, holding its breath until back-to-school time.

Why does that happen? The early Church didn't envision it that way. The early Church had 40 days of Lent leading into the great 50 days of Easter. The 50 days of resurrection power ends on Pentecost, when we celebrate the birth of the Church and the Spirit's power. This "movement" of the Church's symphony is supposed to be the spiritual propulsion engine that changes the world. Don't miss the significance. This spiritual theme is pretty constant and powerful.

Jesus shows us the way. He does the remarkably brave thing of leaving it with us. We go out feeling confused, terrified, expectant and joyful. We use our gifts to tell Jesus' story to the world. We help people envision the transformed world he desired, spreading love and hope to a desperate world. That's our current season. It's not a depressing slog to summer; it's the great 50 days of Easter!

During Holy Week, we witnessed the power of the church's laity and staff. It began on Palm Sunday with our children's participation in bringing in the palms. That same day, the Hoods' hospitality hosted a fantastic egg

hunt and fellowship for our children. The choir worked hard to prepare a meaningful worship experience on Maundy Thursday. Anne-Russell Bradley crafted beautiful liturgy that focused our attention on the Last Supper and the passion narrative for the choir's worship program. A number of laity read the passion narrative on Good Friday. Then, on Easter Sunday, we saw the combined efforts of so many people to make the celebration happen. We even had a baptism where one of our students, Jumar Mack, devoted his life to Christ.

I always tout "participation over perfection." The great 50 days of Easter celebrate that. Beautifully flawed people carry the message of Easter into the world. We don't have to limp into summer. If we continue to engage with the resurrection message, we can be a powerful witness to the world around us.

Where will you participate to ensure that the crescendo of Easter doesn't die a slow, miserable death? It is a season of resurrection after all!

-Keith Keeton



SENIOR SUNDAY
at Parkway Heights

Sunday, May 4

SENIOR SUNDAY - MAY 4 AT 10:45 A.M.

On Sunday, May 4, we will honor our high school seniors. Most of the seniors will be recognized during the 10:45 a.m. service in the Sanctuary. All of the seniors will be announced at the end of the 8:30 a.m. service. Please join us for this special celebration of these students.

READ A CHAPTER A DAY CHALLENGE

The United Methodist Church invites you to embark on a transformative journey with the next Read a Chapter a Day Challenge! Reading the Bible is one of the essential spiritual practices of disciples. This reading challenge from June 9-July 26, 2025, will guide participants through Romans, 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians, providing a strong foundation in Christian theology, practical church life and discipleship. The plan is designed for everyone — both new and mature believers — who want to engage with scripture daily.

The challenge will include:

- reading seven days a week
- daily questions from a theologian for each chapter
- weekly small-group material for personal or group study
- a pastor responding to your questions in a dedicated Facebook group.



Register online at umcdiscipleship.org/articles/read-a-chapter-a-day-summer-2025-challenge. From June 9 through July 26, you'll receive a daily email with a new chapter from the books of Romans and Corinthians. Sign up today and be a part of this powerful summer challenge!

"Please continue with the reading programs. Sometimes, I don't do my daily Bible reading because I don't know where to start, or I'm hesitant because I'm afraid I won't understand what I'm reading. Having the scripture in the actual email made it convenient to read, and the translation was easy to understand. I would also like a few 'thinking points' at the end of the scripture, so I can review what I read. Thank you for making this program available to me. It has enhanced my Lenten season."

-previous challenge participant

Stephen Ministry: We Care!

LISTENING
ENCOURAGING
SUPPORTIVE
COMPASSIONATE
EDUCATED

SPIRIT-LED
PRAYERFUL
PRESENT
FAITHFUL
CONFIDENTIAL

If you're having a difficult time, a Stephen Minister could help! Our ministry is here to listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support. Stephen Ministers have received at least 50 hours of special training to provide one-on-one conversational care to those who are experiencing life's challenges (i.e. grief, isolation, divorce/separation, chronic illness, disability, transitions, occupational challenges and other life changes). Confidential services are donated, without charge and without obligation — ever!



Please complete the online form located at 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.

Men's Ministry

The next Men's Ministry Burger & Fellowship night will be Friday, May 16, at 6 p.m. at Dan's Diner, 4878 Highway 49, Suite A, in Hattiesburg. All men are welcome and invited to come for some good food and good conversation. Invite someone to join you!



On Thursday, April 24, Parkway Heights' Men's Ministry gathered at Keg and Barrel and enjoyed dining outside.

outreach

Baby Bottle Boomerang

This month, Parkway Heights is once again participating in the Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser to benefit Hope Clinic of Hattiesburg. Hope Clinic provides support and hope to women facing unplanned pregnancies and helps them feel valued.

Hope Clinic offers services such as free and confidential pregnancy testing and sonograms. The staff and volunteers work compassionately, one-on-one, with women to help them make informed decisions about their future and the future of their babies.

Pick up a baby bottle at church on Sunday, May 11, and fill it with loose change, dollars or checks. Please return the filled bottles by June 15.

May's Communion Offering: Sunday Fund

The communion offering collected Sunday, May 4, will go to the Sunday Fund. This benevolence fund helps ease the financial burden of senior citizens who live on one of the 12 Methodist Senior Services campuses across Mississippi, such as Wesley Manor in Hattiesburg. This assistance is for elders who have outlived their resources and can no longer afford the cost of housing or care. To support this fund, designate it on your check or select "communion offering" if you give online. Thanks!

Supporting Hattiesburg Public Schools

- Parkway Heights will help host a teacher and staff appreciation breakfast at Woodley Elementary School on Monday, May 5, at 7:15 a.m. If you can help serve the meal or greet the teachers, please let Lee Anne Venable know by emailing leeannevenable@gmail.com.
- Also, on Wednesday, May 7, we will provide breakfast to the teachers and staff at Hattiesburg High School at 7 a.m. If you'd like to volunteer at this breakfast, we'd love to have your help! Contact Thu Sellers at thusellers@gmail.com for more information.

Letter Carriers Food Drive for Edwards Street's Food Pantry

You can help with the largest one-day food drive in the nation! It's easy to participate! On Saturday, May 10, place a bag (or several bags) of nonperishable food items at your mailbox. Letter carriers around the country will hit their routes ready to collect the bags of donations. Edwards Street Fellowship Center will be one of the organizations in our local community that receives the donations. Thanks for helping to STAMP out hunger!



senior adults

First Wednesday Lunch for Seniors

Wednesday, May 7 / 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. / Main St. UMC

All adults 55+ are invited to join us for a fellowship meal and program with guest speaker, James Moore, who will speak about a father's perspective on addiction. This month's gathering will be at Main Street UMC on May 7, at 11 a.m.

Please make your reservation in the Sunday bulletin or at parkwayheights.org/calendar by Monday, May 5. PLEASE NOTE: the cost for the meal has increased to \$12 per person.

We're excited to partner again in 2025 with Main St. UMC in Downtown Hattiesburg for these monthly gatherings!

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

Registration brochures
coming soon!

Congratulations to Our Parkway Heights 2025 Seniors!



Scott Bolster



Mason Brady



Mary Carter Callaway



Carley Gilbert



Laura Kate Hrom



Maddy Kay



Jumar Mack



Caroline Morris



Mattie Roberts



Hudson Selman



Ryleigh Ward

Class of 2025

Please Write Notes to Our Seniors

As is our tradition at Parkway Heights, we encourage you to please write notes or cards of support and encouragement to our high school seniors. They are listed above. Please return your letters to church before Sunday, May 4. Thank you!

May Dates to Remember

Sunday, May 4 - Cuatro de Mayo at Papito's Grill

Sunday, May 11 - NO SN@P due to Mother's Day

Sunday, May 18 - Summer Kickoff - Bring your favorite side dish. We'll have burgers as our main course! Get ready to get wet!

Wednesday, May 21 - KIDNAP PILLOWCASE PARTY!

youth

Kidnap Retreat Registration Deadline: May 12



Get excited! It's almost time for our favorite trip of the year... our annual KIDNAP RETREAT! Shhh...let's keep the dates (Saturday, May 31-Tuesday, June 3) and location (Gulf Shores, AL) a surprise for the rising 7th graders!

Parents, time is running out to register your student! The registration deadline is Monday, May 12. Scan the QR code below to register.

The cost is \$300 for current 7th-12th graders, \$200 for current 6th graders and \$150 for adult leaders. The trip fee includes everything except two fast food meals and snacks. Remember, if your child earned funds at our Wednesday Night Live fundraiser, that credit can be used on this trip.



PHUMC YOUTH	
SUMMER 2025	
youth calendar	
JUNE & JULY	
MAY 31- JUNE 3	Kidnap 2025 in Gulf Shores, AL
JUNE 11TH	Geyser Falls Day-Trip
JUNE 16-19TH	VBS at PHUMC
JUNE 23-28TH	Cultivate Trip to Colorado
JULY 13TH	Summer SN@P
JULY 14-16	Local Missions Week
JULY 20TH	Summer SN@P
JULY 27TH	Summer SN@P

Youth Happenings in April

1 - CITYWIDE 2025 AT USM WESLEY Our middle school and high school students gathered together with other local Methodist churches at the USM Wesley Foundation on April 6 to enjoy games, food, fellowship and worship together, all led by our USM Wesley college students. What an absolute blast to see students lead students in faith!

2 & 3 - SN@P RESURRECTION STORY WITH MICHELLE VAN VLEET Our Parkway Heights Youth family celebrated Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week with a powerful testimony from one of our faithful adult leaders, Michelle Van Vleet. Our students are blessed with committed adults who share their faith journey openly and vulnerably. Shout-out to PHUMC Youth Alum James Fisher for also being a part of the night by putting together some Easter-themed games!

4 & 5 - MISSION SN@P WITH THE LOFT (AKA LEARNING TO PIVOT) After a last-minute cancellation to our originally scheduled mission project, our Loft students (5th-6th graders) and our PHUMC Youth joined forces for a fun game night! From board games to dodge ball to gaga ball and more, our kids of all ages enjoyed letting loose - and learning to pivot - together.



children

Wild Life VBS

Please reserve the mornings of June 16-19 for Wild Live Vacation Bible School! Wild Life is 4-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.



Children age 4 (by September 1, 2025) through rising sixth graders are invited to participate. (Fifth and sixth graders

will serve as helpers.) Registration will begin soon; watch for a link!

There are many ways to help! We need a team of volunteers to serve as small group leaders, station leaders, snack leaders and more. **Sign up in Sunday's bulletin or at the VBS station in the Atrium.**

We also need supplies! Stop by the VBS station in the Atrium to take a card off the supply board. Thanks!



EE SUNDAY

We celebrated Early Encounters Preschool and Learning Center and its 35 years of ministry at Parkway Heights during the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 27. Children enrolled in EE participated by singing several Chapel songs.

Holy Week Activities



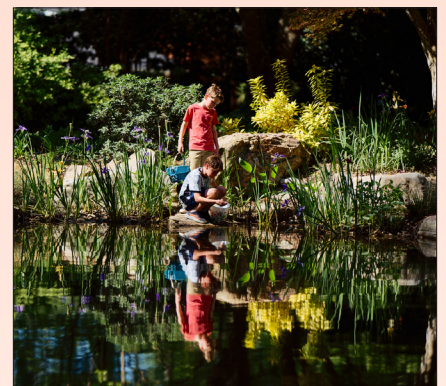
Palm Sunday Parade

Our children participated in a Palm Sunday processional in the 10:45 a.m. service on April 13.



Easter Egg Hunt

We had beautiful weather for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the afternoon of Sunday, April 13. Thank you, Warren and Carolyn Hood, for hosting the egg hunt again this year!



Sunday School Highlight

Our children enjoyed a special treat during Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 20. Parents, don't forget we have Sunday School classes available for children as young as two every Sunday at 9:40 a.m.

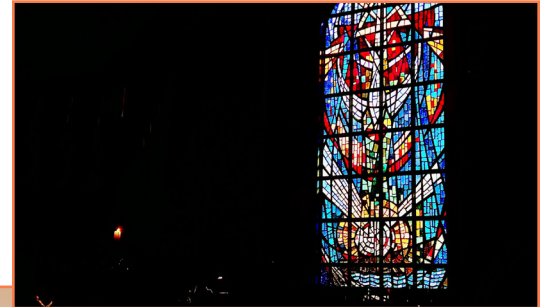


HOLY WEEK 2025



Easter Worship

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, was a wonderful morning of worship. Our Praise Band blessed us with great music, and we were thrilled to have Jumar Mack decide to be baptized!



"Wondrous Love"

On Maundy Thursday, we worshiped with beautiful music by the combined choirs of Parkway Heights UMC and Galloway UMC of Jackson.



Tenebrae Service

The Tenebrae Service was held on Good Friday, April 18. Members of our congregation read Scripture as we let the darkness surround us.



Women's Spring Retreat

Parkway Heights' Women's Ministry enjoyed "Stronger," its annual retreat April 26-27 at Longleaf Plantation. The women focused on the lives of three resilient women from the Bible: Rahab, Naomi and Ruth and how God uniquely strengthened them.



Pillars Studies

Over the past couple months, Keith Keeton, Julie Collins and David Sellers each led different classes about the Pillars of Parkway Heights, the foundational truths of all generations of our church. Watch for more study opportunities in the coming months!



First Wednesday Lunch

Kent Oliver with Laughs 4 Life was the speaker for the First Wednesday Lunch.



Peace Feast

We were happy to host the Peace Feast with international students on April 5.





Mail Room

Dear Parkway Heights UMC Friends,

This Easter season, hope thrives at Edwards Street Fellowship Center as struggling neighbors receive help, healing and love. Thank you for your generous support of our food pantry, health clinic and thrift store — vital ministries that bring hope to our community!

Good news! After a record-setting year in 2024, the first quarter of 2025 brought a slight decline in requests for food pantry assistance.

· 2024: average monthly food pantry distribution = 2,011 households (6,560 individuals)

· Jan.- March 2025: average monthly food distribution = 1,905 households (6,033 individuals)

While the need remains staggering, we are delighted to celebrate that some of our neighbors are starting this year on more stable financial ground!

Through all of our ministries, we provide a helping hand, so those we serve can better care for themselves and their families. Our staff and volunteers celebrate all the ways this help leads to “success,” such as:

· A patient whose improved health allows them to progress from a part-time job to full-time employment with health insurance and retirement benefits!

· Someone assigned to our thrift store to fulfill their SNAP (“food stamps”) requirements is such a great worker that we hire them!

· Families and individuals who visited our food pantry during a difficult season of life, but their situation improved, and they no longer need food pantry assistance!

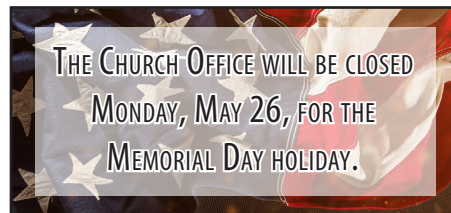
As a friend of Edwards Street, you are part of each success story! Your prayers, service and donations show compassion for neighbors longing for a better future. Thank you for being part of their community of support and encouragement.

Easter Blessings,
Ann McCullen, Edwards Street Fellowship Center

Dear Parkway Heights United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for allowing our DAR committee to meet for planning activities in your building. We appreciate your generosity.

Thanks Again,
Twentieth Star Chapter, NSDAR



PHUMC Finances

March 2025

Income	\$102,762
Invested Income	-
Expenses	\$101,388
Net	\$1,374

YTD Actual

Income	\$471,875
Invested Income	-
Expenses	\$354,769
Net	\$117,106

YTD Comparison

Budgeted Income	\$411,544
Actual Income	\$471,875
Invested Income	-
Budget Surplus	\$60,331

Prayer Concerns

Hughlene Perrott & Benson
St. Louis

Praise for...

- the birth of Hayes Thomas Lambeth, born to Sarah and Lloyd Lambeth, on April 8, 2025

- the birth of Jude Davis Doleac, born to Hannah and Alex Doleac, on April 10, 2025

Our mission:

“To connect, equip and send people for Christ”

Our website:



Our app:



Give online:



Stephen Ministry:



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



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

Services are livestreamed on various platforms.