

SUNDAYS AT FIRST OZARK UMC

In-person Sunday morning services

10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary (Traditional/Contemporary)

Facebook & YouTube Live
104.9 FM @12:00 noon

For I am not ashamed of the gospel;
it is God's saving power for everyone
who believes, for the Jew first and
also for the Greek.

Romans 1:16

In-Person Sunday Morning

Attendance:

07-09-23: 179

07-16-23: 153

In-Person Sunday School

Attendance:

07-09-23: 63

07-16-23: 72

Total Online Worship Reach

07-09-23: 189

07-16-23: 175

www.firstozarkumc.org



FIRST MESSENGER — OZARK —



167 E. Broad St., Ozark, AL 36360-0583
Return Service Requested

July 21 - August 3, 2023

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 59

Word from the Pastor Dealing with Changing Times

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The joy of the Lord is my strength (Neh. 8:10). This text comes after the children of Israel returned to Jerusalem from exile. They were listening to the law being read, they were overcome with condemnation, and they were weeping. But instead of being rebuked and condemned, they were instructed to celebrate because of "the joy of the Lord."

The children of Israel were never known for their perfect behavior. They were known for being the people of God. They were His. He loved them. His people had been separated from Him in exile for years and were finally reunited with God. Why not be joyful?

The children of Israel were living through changing times. Today we who are a part of the United Methodist Church are living through changing times. We have grieved individually and as a family of faith. The challenges facing the UMC have impacted us locally at First Ozark UMC.

Dealing with changing times is never easy. Some of our members continue to grieve while it seems an increasing number are ready to move toward acceptance and leaning into the joy of the Lord. The joy of the Lord is our strength! I believe the changing times we have been through and continue to live through are helping us to develop spiritual muscles. It has been a joy to worship together in one service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary!

I talked to Bishop Lawson Bryan about dealing with changing times, and he expressed the need for the local church to remember powerful, positive memories from the past. First Ozark UMC is blessed with a long, proud history and tradition of how God has been faithful again and again. One example is during the days of the depression, the church took on a building project. God blessed and the church grew! God continues to bless as we look forward to the completion of the Kingsley Christian Learning Center!

The joy of the Lord is our strength! One way to face changing times is to grow closer to Christ in faith and commitment. I hope and pray that you will join me in praying for Bishop Lawson Bryan and our revival August 6-8!

God is the great waymaker! May we trust God to make a way and give us joy in the midst of changing times.

The joy of the Lord is our strength,

Jason

OUR STAFF**Senior Pastor:**

Dr. Jason Thrower
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Pastor Melanie Sebastian Foust
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Pastor Emeritus:

Dr. Billy Gaither

CLC Director:

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Administrative Assistant/**Secretary:**

Melena Shiver
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Prayer Concerns

Patti Williams, Lottie Brauer, Joey Thrower, Stephanie Thomas Francher, Kathryn Harper Lancaster, Jan Fuqua, Rhonda Kale, Oliver Kingsley, Jack DeLoney, Anne Butler, Betty Gilland, Martha Overstreet, Larry Pittman, Sherryl Baggett, Judge Ben McLaughlin, Joe and Dot Adams, Evan Renfro, Jennifer Kirkland, John McGee, Ethan and Jason Gentry, Aaron Andrews, Roger Haburey, Bethene and Earl Chidree, Debbie Powell, Joyce Esslinger, Charlotte Lisenby, Jan Foshee, Charles Beverly, Grace and Lewis Mitchell, Charlie Breedlove, Betty Borer, Beverly Raley, Roberta Segers, Carol Heath, Helen Parsons, Martha Dan Thompson, Sam Keys

Nursing Home Residents: Virginia Hess, Carroll Skinner

Assisted Living Residents: Suzy Harris, Jean Beverly

Please contact the office when you wish to be removed from the Prayer List.

Upcoming CLC and Finance Meetings

On July 24, the CLC Board will meet at 5:00 p.m. in the Library. Also, the Finance Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231.

Outreach Night

Our next Outreach Night will be on Thursday, July 27, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!!

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. on July 31, August 14, and August 28 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be continuing the study on the book, *"Getting to the Other Side of Grief, Overcoming the Loss of a Spouse,"* by Susan J. Zonnebelt-Smeenge and Robert C. De Vries. Please come and enjoy food and fellowship.

Bible Study

Please join us on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for Bible Study. We will be beginning a new study on *"Life Lessons from Acts,"* by Max Lucado on August 3. This series brings the Bible to life in twelve lessons filled with intriguing questions, inspirational stories, and poignant reflections to take you deeper into God's Word.

Upcoming Scholarship Committee Meeting

On July 31, at 12:00 noon, the Scholarship Committee will meet in the FLC dining room.

Upcoming SPRC Committee Meeting

On August 14, the SPRC Committee will meet in Room 231 at 6:00 p.m.

Revival

Bishop Lawson Bryan will be the speaker at the revival that will be held at the church from Sunday, August 6, at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 7, and Tuesday, August 8, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

CLC Brick Fundraiser

We are getting ready to conclude the second personalized brick fundraiser for the First Ozark CLC! All proceeds of this fundraiser to line the walkway will assist in funding our KCLC project! These bricks make great gifts in honor or in memory of a loved one! Each brick is \$100, and the deadline to order is **July 28**. Payments may be made by **check only**, payable to the First Ozark CLC. Please contact Alisha Eastman with any questions at 334-445-1329.

Souper Day

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Our Souper Day food pantry continually needs to be replenished. We are also in need of volunteers to help pack and deliver meals. Souper Day happens on the first and third Tuesday of the month. When there is a holiday on a Tuesday, the deliveries will happen on the Wednesday of the same week.

Additionally, if you are aware of someone who should be included in this ministry, please contact the church office.

There are three ways you can choose to serve:

- (1) Food—Bring food in single-serve containers and place in the freezer. There will be forms available for you to fill out with the name of the dish, warming directions, and your name to be attached to each of the containers. Fruit, snack items, bread, and desserts are also welcome.
- (2) Packing—Arrive at 10:00 a.m. in the FLC Kitchen to help pack bags to be delivered.
- (3) Delivery—Bags are to be delivered after they have been packed. Any help is appreciated with the delivery of the Souper Day bags.

Any help you wish to provide is appreciated. The next Souper Day will be **August 1**. Thank you! for all you do!

New Members

We would like to welcome A.J. & Sonya Bradford and Eric & Amy Swain as members of our church family. We are so glad to have you join us!



A.J & Sonya
Bradford



Eric & Amy
Swain

Memorials and Honorariums

Memorials

CLC Scholarship Fund in Memory of:

Sallie Brannon by Mr. & Mrs. Estus Walker

Food Pantry Fund in Memory of:

Hazel Sessions and Daniel Woodham by Judy Mobley

General Fund in Memory of:

Dr. Charles Smith by Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mathison

Kingsley CLC Building Fund in Memory of:

Sallie Brannon by Mrs. Lynn Carrington

Billy Jordan by Mr. Dan Sowell

Rachel Schell by Mr. & Mrs. Dick Jordan

Billy Jordan by Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Owens

Memorials Continued...

Vivian B. Adams Scholarship Fund in Memory of:

Sallie Brannon by Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Smith

Honorariums

General Fund in Honor of:

Anne Butler, Martha Overstreet, Les Perault and Cecil Skinner by Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mathison

Kingsley CLC Building Fund in Honor of:

Jason Thrower and Melanie Sebastian Foust by Mrs. Becky Robinett





FIRST MESSENGER

OZARK

www.firstozarkumc.org

July 21 - August 3, 2023

Ushers and Greeters (July)

10:00: Steve Clouse, Jonathan Chapman

Ushers and Greeters (Aug)

10:00: Andy Lewis, Sammy Judah

Construction Update July 2023

The KCLC continues to evolve into an amazing place for children! We wanted to give you a brief synopsis of the current state of the construction.

The month of July is seeing some very tangible progress. Included in this is pouring concrete for the mezzanine and outside columns, window installation, veneer blocking, framing of the porch and drive thru, storm drain installations, setting columns and beams for the porch and drive-thru, and HVAC duct installation. Ongoing throughout the month will be setting metal roof panels, electrical wiring, sprinkler system, and plumbing.

The interior colors have been chosen throughout (different shades of grays with blues) and exterior brick chosen to match the church. The personalized bricks from the original fundraiser have been received. Most importantly, security matters have been discussed in depth and the decision made to enhance the safety of the facility. This has become a priority at the construction meetings, while also considering financial reality.

Alisha Eastman, our new Director, has been invaluable in the planning and implementation process and has done a tremendous job taking over the position. We would also like to welcome Mickenzie Braman, our new Assistant Director. We want to thank you, the members of First Ozark, for your continuing support and faithfulness. Without you, there would be no realization of this dream.

Birthdays

July 21 - August 3

7/7: Tim Jones, Michael Ziegler

7/22: Brooklyn Head, Tim Camper, Judy Mull

7/23: Mike Porterfield, Shay Hamilton

7/24: Wayne Eldridge

7/25: Bard Brown, Sara Beth Carroll

7/28: Charlie Harper

7/30: Donna Eldridge, Skip Harris, Rachel Bowman

7/31: Carol Hohbach, Sallie Lisenby, Bobbie McLaughlin

8/2: Kay Nicholas

Counting Teams

07/23: Team 2

07/30: Team 3

Evening Chapel Schedule

07/23: Evening Worship (Chapel — 5:00 p.m.)

07/30: Messy Church (FLC— 5:00 p.m.)

Ministry Minute: Tuesday and Thursday mornings - around 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Preview: Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

(Can be viewed on our Facebook page and YouTube channel—listed below)



facebook.com/firstozark



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx4L_RyYwXIG_imByqKuW-A/videos

