A Record of Our Faithfulness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Offerings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School (9:15)</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary (10:15)</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,078.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 11**
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
10:00 AM THE CARING PLACE
4:00 PM STEWPOT

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12**
8:00—12:00 Church Office Hours

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**
Nursery is available from 9:00 am till 11:30 am
9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
9:15 AM Clegg/Open Door - Parlor - led by David Cole, Billie Dadgar, Roger Guevara
Explorers/Morning Star -Upstairs - Scott Nipper/Dan Grantham
Children Sunday School - Preschool - 5th Grade
Upstairs in Treehouse - led by Shelly Burgess/Diana Courson Jr. High and High School - Basement- led by Pastor Kenny
10:15 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP
Ways to attend: In-Person, Facebook Live, Recording (posted later) on Website, YouTube
4:00 PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY
THE ROCK, THE ROAD AND THE RABBI

**MONDAY, JANUARY 15**
Church Office, CDC and Stewpot closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 16**
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
4:00 PM STEWPOT

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17**
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
11:00 PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY (AVERITT)
THE ROCK, THE ROAD AND THE RABBI
5:00 PM CHILDREN'S CHOIR GRADES 4-5
5:30 PM CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE
5:30 PM YOUTH (MIDDLE SCHOOL)
6:00 PM INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP (CHAPEL)
6:10 PM ADULT HANDBELL PRACTICE
7:00 PM YOUTH (HIGH SCHOOL)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
10:00 AM THE CARING PLACE
4:00 PM STEWPOT

**Winter Fest Annual Chili Cook-off**

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**
5:30 p.m. Peace Hall

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual chili cook-off and an evening of fun. We need chili or cookies or brownies.

**The Visitor**
First United Methodist Church
320 West Main
Magnolia, Arkansas 71753
www.magnoliafumc.org

To invite all to know the love of God, to share grace, and to develop relationships

January 10, 2024

**STEWPOT CAN SORTING**
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Thank you to all volunteers who took time out of their Saturday to help sort the cans. We appreciate your support of the Stewpot Ministry.

**Our Staff:**
Reverend Kenny Lee
Shelly Burgess, Children & Families;
Tracie Nipper, Administrative Secretary;
Dr. Kim Shirey, Director of Music;
Sharon Ard, Organist;
Shawn Warlick, Building Supervisor;
Kenneth Manning, Custodian
Gwendolyn Murphy, Director, Child Development Center
Barbara Lewis, Director, The Caring Place
Stephen and Diondra Biddle, Stewpot Cooks
Burlene Easter, Kathy Easter & Kim Easter, nursery attendants

**First United Methodist Church**
320 West Main
Magnolia, AR 71753

**Non Profit Organization**
U.S. Postage PAID
Magnolia, AR Permit No. 84
Another Crazy Monday

Some Mondays are just crazy. For example, this Monday, Penny woke up precisely 30 minutes before she needed to be at work. She immediately told me she needed my help with the kids. I got dressed, woke Samantha up, and started the van. I returned upstairs and woke Donovan up, which is no mean feat.

We hurried Sam along, getting ready with a promise of breakfast at McDonald’s. As I hurriedly drove Penny to work, Sam in tow, I realized I’d left my wallet at home. We headed to breakfast after Penny dutifully supplied us with her debit card. After I ordered our food, I borrowed Sam’s phone (yes, I left that at home, too) and sent Donovan an invitation to join us. He arrived just in time for me to order and pay for his meal before Sam and I darted off to the Middle School. All this before 8 AM.

Returning home, I got ready for work and headed across the street, hoping to beat this morning’s rainstorms. As is often the case, many people were in and out of the office. I’m always glad to see folks and enjoy the casual conversations in the hallway. Frequently, these impromptu visits lead to deeper spiritual conversations.

It started to rain after lunch, and traffic slowed down considerably. The skies darkened, lightning flashed, and thunder rolled. I love watching the rain from inside my office. The sound of rain hitting the windows and the sidewalks is very soothing. Great weather for a chance to reflect and write.

Last week, I began planning worship for the next several months. It is a very involved process for me as it builds a framework for the church to encounter God in worship. The procedure involves choosing scripture, creating titles, forming a synopsis, and choosing graphic art for our Facebook page. However, the work allows me to provide the worship team and the staff with the tools they need for a cohesive worship experience.

Wednesday, children and youth programming resumes, and we are looking forward to catching up with the kiddos. I also look forward to working alongside the volunteers that drive our programming. We can’t provide excellent experiences for our budding youth without volunteers. If you are a volunteer, we want you to know that you are as essential to what we do as fuel is in automobiles, and we want to thank you! Your investment of time and attention makes a huge difference in the budding faith of our children and youth.

2024 is well underway. School is back in session, and life is returning to a more manageable pace. Start getting your chili recipe ready for the Chili Cookoff on January 28. I’m looking forward to this event and hope you are too.

As you navigate the new year, I hope you can find ways to be more intentional with your faith life. Bible apps like Bible Gateway offer free access to the bible, reading plans, and even commentary for the erudite biblical scholar. New bible studies will be forming for Lent, so plan to join one of our current groups or maybe form a new one. Most importantly, pray...for your pastor, our community, and the lost. People need Jesus; your life is the conduit for others to find and experience grace.

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. Matthew 21:22

Pastor Kenny