CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25
8:00—12:00 Church Office Hours

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
Nursery is available from 9:00 am till 11:30 am
9:15 AM CONFIRMATION CLASS
9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
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
Counsel
Jr. High and High School - Basement - led by Pastor Kenny
5:30 PM CHILI COOK-OFF
10:15 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP
Ways to attend: In-Person, Facebook Live, Recording
(posted later) on Website, YouTube

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
4:00 PM STEWPOT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
5:00 PM CHILDREN’S CHOIR PRACTICE
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, FEBRUARY 1
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
10:00 AM THE CARING PLACE
4:00 PM STEWPOT

A Record of Our Faithfulness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Offerings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>$13,656.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>$3,731.00</td>
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<td>January 14</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
<td>24</td>
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First United Methodist Church
320 West Main
Magnolia, AR 71753

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

January 24, 2024

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

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.

[Come see who gets a pie in their face, Pastor Kenny or Shawn!]
**Digging Out of The Snow**

Looking out of the window in my office, I can see and hear a light rain falling. I can see the small remnants of the snow-turned-to-ice from last week’s winter weather. The Caring Place had a bit of ice when I stopped by this morning to check the building.

The staff is back at work, and we are all busily trying to catch up on a hundred small tasks that we could not do during the shutdown. The janitor is busily trying to clean up and get the building back in order. The building maintenance supervisor surveyed the damages. Work is already underway with various contractors to repair the damaged water lines and the heating unit in the sanctuary.

The rain is delaying a service call on Peace Hall because that unit is on the roof. I am grateful that space has no water that might serve to further compound the problem. We hope their collective efforts will get things back on track as we reopen and plan for Wednesday Night Programming. Please pause and pray for all this work to come together.

This is not my first rodeo dealing with cold weather wreaking havoc on a church facility. The first church I pastored was constructed in several phases, with changing city building codes throughout construction. The person who was chair of trustees knew every intricacy of that facility.

We later discovered that the newest wing on the property had an upstairs sprinkler line with its own heating unit. Just so happened that the Trustee Chairperson changed hands at the charge conference, and the information failed to be shared with the new chairperson. That communication breakdown proved to be a significant oversight.

A subzero cold snap turned that wing into a water park. The sprinkler pipe froze and burst. In minutes, a six-inch unmetered pipe damaged every part of that building, both upstairs and downstairs. The water blew holes in walls, flooded upstairs closets, and even turned out the fire department.

I soon learned that the fire department protocol was to turn off all power to the entire facility until an electrician made a safety inspection and the sprinkler company repaired the broken pipe. I was just the associate pastor, but I ended up dealing with the emergency because the senior pastor was overwhelmed by the scope of the damage. I called the sprinkler company and an electrician and stayed with them until 11 PM, when the power was restored.

The insurance company sent a remediation company the next day. I became their primary point of contact. Their work included disposing of a lot of previously stored junk in rooms and closets. It was a massive problem at face value, but the final outcome was positive. Each damaged space received updates, with new paint and floor covering. The entire wing received new ductwork, air handlers, and HVAC units. Thanks to the insurance claim, even the flooded kitchen received all new cabinets and counters.

Over the years, challenges proved to be learning experiences. Each one adds tools to the toolbox of pastoral ministry. We will get through this latest challenge together, and things will be better as a result. Jesus did something like this with the apostles as they watched how he reacted to challenges and crises, gaining knowledge and experience as they watched their rabbi and followed his example.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

_Pastor Kenny_