CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26
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 Courson
  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 GRADES 4-5
5:30 PM CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE
5:30 PM YOUTH (MIDDLE SCHOOL)
6:00 PM INTERCESSIONARY 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

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Offerings</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>81</td>
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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 24, 2024

Sunday
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m.—Sanctuary Worship
Noon—Cable Channel 13

Wednesday
7:00 PM—Broadcast of previous Sunday’s 10:15 Service Cable Channel 13

How to Reach Us:
Church Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
8:00-4:00
Friday 8:00-Noon
870-234-4530

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
Snow Days

When I was a kid growing up in the country, snow always meant one thing: rabbit hunting. Fresh snow let you see where they were or sometimes where they’d been. We’d kick every clump of grass, shake every brush pile, and walk through brambles that would stick your skin even through the extra clothing. Occasionally, I wonder what my kids will remember about snowy days providing an unexpected school holiday.

Snowmageddon 2024 has worn out its welcome. Snow is beautiful, falling in the hushed stillness of little to no traffic. At first, it appeared there would be little to no accumulation, but then overnight, wha laa, the snow covered the drive and grass. As I write this on Wednesday, it is now the third snow day in a row, and I don’t know about you, but the novelty has worn off:

I’ve spent some time at 320 W Main the last few days checking heating, water, etc. The Caring Place is nestled down in the newfound warmth of the recently repaired mini-splits. Thanks, South Arkansas Supply! Crossing Main Street this morning is the absolute worst yet. I looked for a big break in traffic and carefully picked my way across the street to the Averitt Hall entrance, where the walks were clear.

Yesterday, I could tell that even though the snow melted at some intersections, the colder temps would soon re-freeze roads, creating black ice and making travel even more challenging. Samantha had a counseling appointment today that was rescheduled from Monday. Then, on Tuesday, the office called again to reschedule for later in the day to allow for adverse travel conditions.

Donovan, Penny, and Samantha piled into the Nissan as it had the best cold-weather road manners. I did recon-naissance earlier and determined it was possible to get down and back up the hill. When they returned home, everyone was wide-eyed from an incident close to McDonald’s where the Nissan went into an uncontrolled skid and jumped the curb. Donovan was able to drive out of the problem, but they were all glad to get home. Donovan said they were not going out again today.

My people are tired of staying inside and ready for life to become something closer to normal. It’s to the point that even my kids might not be adamantly opposed to returning to school. The puppies have enjoyed the snow, but it means that it’s too cold for them to be out for any length of time. Up until this morning, I’ve been able to navigate the drive, yard, and street. Still, ice is melting under the snow, melting off roofs, and spilling onto frozen snow, creating ice as slick as glass.

This week, I’ve taken the time to spend some time with my kids. Samantha talked me into watching a TV show with her. Donovan and I have hung out and talked about our experiences driving on the snow. The puppies enjoy having all their people home full-time.

Penny took the time to call some people, and I’ve also fielded some phone calls. I met earlier today with a new volunteer who was getting stir-crazy. I’ve been in the office the last two days, trying to catch up on worship planning, write this article, and do frequent building walkthroughs. I’ve made several Facebook posts, worked on paperwork, and will soon post this article on the website and Facebook.

Later today, I promised myself to curl up with a book in front of the gas logs and get warm through and through. It makes me wonder what winter was like for Jesus and the disciples. Did they sleep under the stars with snow on the ground? What sort of extra clothing did they use to stay warm? I know there are many caves in Galilee, but I think those might be pretty damp and uncomfortable. I think I would like to hear Jesus’ snow day story. In the meantime, stay warm, check on your neighbors, and be safe. This, too, shall pass.

Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth. Hosea 6:3

Pastor Kenny