CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 1
8:00—12:00 Church Office Hours

SUNDAY, MARCH 3
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 Dedgar, Roger Guevara
Explorers/Morning Star - Upstairs—Scott Nippenn/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
10:15 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP
Ways to attend: In-Person, Facebook Live, Recording
(posted later) on Website, YouTube
4:00 PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY “FOOLISH LOVE”
(AVERITT)
5:30 PM YOUTH

MONDAY, MARCH 4
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
4:00 PM STEWPOt

TUESDAY, MARCH 5
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
4:00 PM STEWPOt
6:00 PM SECURITY TEAM MEETING (AVERITT)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
11:00 AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY “FOOLISH LOVE” (AVERITT)
5:00 PM CHILDREN’S CHOIR GRADES 4-5
5:30 PM CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE
5:30 PM YOUTH (MIDDLE SCHOOL)
6:10 PM ADULT HANDBELL PRACTICE
7:00 PM YOUTH (HIGH SCHOOL)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
10:00 AM THE CARING PLACE

A Record of Our Faithfulness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Offerings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>$7,333.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday School (9:15)</td>
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<td>Sanctuary (10:15)</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday School (9:15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanctuary (10:15)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First United Methodist Church
320 West Main
Magnolia, AR 71753

CAFE

Adult Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Bible Study comes to us as a gift from Bentonville
FUMC, entitled Foolish Love. Bentonville FUMC has gra-
ciously provided a daily devotional, a bible study guide, and
seven videos suitable for personal or group bible study. We
will meet weekly beginning on
Ash Wednesday at 11 AM and
Sundays at 4 PM. Materials are
available, so you may pick them
up at your convenience. I hope
that you make plans to join us as
we walk the Lenten journey to-
gether.

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Welcome Spring

For with you is the spring of life. In your light we will see light. - Psalm 36:9

Church-wide Easter Festival
March 30
9:00 a.m. Peace Hall

First United Methodist Church
320 West Main
Magnolia, AR 71753

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
February 28, 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 Dionedra Biddle, Stewpot Cooks
Burlene Easter, Kathy Easter & Kim Easter, nursery attendants

For with you is the spring of life. In your light we will see light. - Psalm 36:9

But my God shall supply all my needs. Philippians 4:19

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

The blessings of spring are many and sweet. Isaiah 43:19

The Visitor
To invite all to know the love of God, to share grace, and to develop relationships.
February 28, 2024.

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1
Mending fences

When I was 13 years old, one of my classmate’s mothers approached me about building a fence on their property. It was the hottest part of summer, and my lawn-mowing business was a little slow, so I agreed to take the job. I can’t remember what she offered to pay me, but it probably wasn’t a lot of money.

She showed me the property line marked with string. She showed me a stack of hand-split cedar posts, introduced me to the well-worn posthole digger, and told me how far to space the posts apart. She went back inside her house to the air-conditioning, and I was left to tackle what proved to be some arduous work.

I soon discovered, much to my dismay, that the hot, dry summer conditions had turned the red clay soil into a nearly concrete consistency. My short experience with this digging device soon caused some substantial blisters on the web of both thumbs. To make matters worse, the split cedar posts were bigger at the bottom, which meant enlarging each hole to fit the post.

As the hot July sun beat down on the back of my neck, sweat poured from every orifice of my body. I learned to take frequent water breaks and sit in the shade for a few minutes to cool down, but it proved to be work of the first order. It was unpleasant when my new employer observed the job was not progressing as well as she’d hoped.

The next day, I got an earlier start and a pair of work gloves but soon ran out of posts. I learned that quartering seasoned cedar with an axe and wedges was not fun. Soon, my blisters had blisters, and my sunburn had sunburn. You can’t imagine my relief when my employer told me the job was too much for my stature. She paid me for my work, and I was much more careful to inquire about the specifics of a task before agreeing to take a job.

When Penny and I bought our first home, we built a privacy fence on one side of our property. The lessons I learned as a young person reminded digging post holes would be much easier because I purposely chose the wet part of the spring. I used landscape timbers for posts because they were less expensive and treated for ground contact. That job took a few afternoons, but I was young, strong, and determined. My prior experience served me well.

Over the years, I’ve maintained, stained, and repaired a lot of fences. My puppies developed a well-honed ability to squeeze through gaps in fences and gates. Last week, the wind blew open our driveway gates and damaged some pickets and a piece of framing. Upon further inspection, several broken pickets were noted, and replacement pickets and hardware were purchased for the repairs.

Donovan and I tackled the job together on Saturday. It gave me a chance to spend some quality time with my son and give him some skills that will be useful as he grows up. There’s nothing like a small project to make a man feel he can use his skills to make repairs.

The entire project took us about an hour and a half. We had lunch together afterward. We both enjoyed spending time together.

Lent is an opportunity for us to mend the fences of our lives. Life can be so busy at times that we fail to notice there are broken places that require our attention. You have to assess the damages, obtain the correct pieces, and put in the time to make the necessary repairs. Building a life of faith requires our time and attention. I encourage you to use this time of Lent wisely, as it lets us notice things that may be overlooked otherwise.

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 1 Corinthians 3:10

Pastor Kenny