



# THE VISITOR

First United Methodist Church  
320 West Main, Magnolia, Arkansas 71753  
[www.magnoliafumc.org](http://www.magnoliafumc.org)

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

March 3, 2021

## Sunday

Family Worship—9am  
Sanctuary Worship—10:45 am  
Facebook Live 10:45  
YouTube  
Noon—Cable Channel 13  
KVMA-AM 630  
KVMA-FM 99.1

## Wednesday

7:00 PM—Cable Channel 13

## How to Reach Us:

## Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday  
8:00am –1:00pm

**870-234-4530**

## Our Staff:

Reverend Dr. Gary Maskell;  
Shelly Burgess,  
Children & Families Ministries;  
Tracie Nipper,  
Administrative Secretary;  
Amanda Franks,  
Business Manager;  
Dr. Kim Shirey,  
Director of Music;  
Sharon Ard,  
Organist;  
Skippy Warlick,  
Building Supervisor;  
Kenneth Manning,  
Custodian;  
Gwendolyn Reed,  
Dir. Child Development Ctr;  
Barbara Lewis,  
Director, The Caring Place;  
Libby and George Gilbert,  
Stewpot Cooks;  
Burlene Easter, Kathy Easter  
& Kimberly Easter,  
Nursery Attendants

[This is a very abbreviated version of the Sunday sermon, and much is missing, so make sure you get *The Magnolia Messenger* for the whole Sermon and more!] Please read: *Romans 12:1-8 (NKJV)*

With COVID-19, social media drama, and a plethora of unpleasant news, I am reminded of a neat book by James Moore, entitled, *"Attitude Is Your Paintbrush: It Colors Every Situation."* I was initially drawn to the book by its catchy title, but the many possible consequences of both our good and bad attitudes on those around and even ourselves are what ultimately reeled me in. With that direction in mind, I had my message all ready to go. In essence, it was a message about how our attitudes can either build each other up or tear each other down. But the longer I thought about this notion, the more I felt moved by the Holy Spirit to consider our attitudes toward God and our relationship Jesus His as disciples. I believe that our attitudes toward our relationship with God Himself can also positively or negatively affect the way we treat each other. Call it trickle-down spiritual economics, if you will, but our attitudes toward God can also have a powerful effect on our interpersonal relationships in the here and now! Oh, and by the way, I'd hate to disappoint you, so we will consider our own attitudes in the coming week or weeks!

So rather than consider the entire eight verses, we will tighten our focus onto only the first two verses of Romans 12. In *verse 1*, we read, ***"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."*** Paul begins with an appeal using the very *"King Jamesy"* word, *"beseech,"* which means to ask someone urgently and fervently to do something! Paul is fervently urging us to live out a special course of action in our lives. In case you hadn't noticed, the entire New Testament urges us toward living a certain way. Truth be told, we live out some of those highly recommended ways of living, but we occasionally fall short of actually doing many of them. As in our daily lives, we are more motivated to follow a course of action when we have some good reasons to do so! Like when your doctor tells you to cut back on highly processed junk food for your health or else some bad medical malady will befall you! I believe the Apostle Paul understood this notion quite well! Please re-read the first verse listed above before you read on.

A few words immediately stand out to me: (1) Present your bodies as a ***"living sacrifice"*** — In the old sacrificial system, the sacrifice started off alive and, as you probably guessed, ended up dead. Luckily, that is not what Paul literally meant in this passage. We are to present ourselves as living sacrifices. That's what makes it a challenge, at least to me. A living sacrifice has the ability to squirm off of the sacrificial altar. Jesus is the supreme example of one who stayed on the sacrificial altar of Calvary's Cross as the perfect sacrifice for sin.

We can sacrifice ourselves to God and walk away with our blue jeans and flannel shirts intact! Yes, we are called to die to our own selfish desires, but it is not physical death that Paul means. (2) Did you notice that little word **"therefore"** gently resting at the beginning of the sentence? That connecting word **"therefore"** connects us with the previous eleven chapters! *So why should we offer ourselves as living sacrifices?* (a) Because we are now free from the penalty of sin — *"For the wages sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 6:23 (b) Because we are now free from the power of sin — in Romans 6:6 Paul tells us, *"We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin."* (c) Because you have been adopted — Romans 8:15 *"So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children."* (d) Romans 8:38-39 *"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love."*

*Do you get the idea?* We have been blessed beyond compare, therefore give/sacrifice your life to God! Paul then tells us how we are to offer ourselves up to God as *living sacrifices*. (a) **Holy** — which means that the person or thing is separated for God's special use or purpose. Think about the Bible as being holy. It's often listed that way on the cover, as in, *The Holy Bible*. It is a book, or more accurately, a compilation of books spanning some 2,000 years and penned by numerous authors that we set apart for God's special use to lay out God's plan of redemption for humankind. (b) **Acceptable** — *What's all about?* In common usage, that word acceptable can mean that something is not terrible but not great either. Like when you order a used book from Amazon, and it's listed as being in acceptable condition, which means it might have some marks, folded pages, and so forth. However, the Old Testament can give us some clues as to what God finds acceptable instead of being unacceptable. And believe me, there is a world of difference. Think about Cain and Abel from the Book of Genesis. Cain offered up an unacceptable sacrifice, and Abel brought an acceptable sacrifice to God. Neither thing was terrible in and of itself of either item sacrificed, but only one of them was acceptable to God's directions.

So, *"Is God asking too much for us to make such a sacrifice?"* No, when God commands something, He gives us the power and authority so that we can live out that command in our lives. By the way, the last thing mentioned in this verse is that this holy and acceptable sacrifice is our reasonable service to God. That word **"reasonable"** comes to us from the Greek word, λογικός (*logikos* — *Strong's #3050*). We get our word logic from that word. In other words, based on the blessings we have received and God's command, our logical response is to present ourselves totally to God for His service and Kingdom. *Is this how we are to worship and serve God?* After all, you might be thinking, *"I come to church or watch online each week. I sing all the hymns and give God's tithes and my offerings and gifts! Is there more?"* Yes, there is an aspect of worship beyond the externals and ventures into the interior of our souls and spirits. In John 4:24, we read, *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* All the external things we do are expressions of worship, but true worship comes from our innermost beings!

Real worship comes as we give ourselves fully to God as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice. So, as we continue on in our Lenten Journey, let's remember to pray, fast, meditate on God's Word, and give ourselves totally to the King of kings and the Lord of Glory!

And remember that you have been blessed to be a blessing. So be one!

Pastor Gary

## Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the reminder this morning to pray. Thank you that we have been given the right to draw near to you with boldness, that we may receive your mercy and find grace and help in our time of need. Thank you for the reminder that while we may pray publicly and corporately, there is nothing like the solitude and the intimate communion with you in secret prayer.

Renew us today Lord and increase our desire to know you more and find ways daily to spend time alone with you. Clear our hearts and our schedules from being too busy and create a right heart within us that we are compelled to pray.

Help us to develop a habit this year of praying in secret every single day. Thank you that prayer does not require eloquence or perfection, it is an interaction with you Lord, who calls us friends.

Thank you for the beautiful model included in the word: **The Lord's Prayer**

Our father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Thank you Lord that we can cast all of our cares and worries on you because you care affectionately for us. Remind us today to call on you and you will save us. Trust in you and commit our ways to you and you will guide our paths. Come to you when we are heavy burdened and you will give us rest. The reward is great for our secret prayer as it comes from you.

In Jesus name, Amen



**FRIDAY, MARCH 5**



## TREEHOUSE FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

### A Blind Man Healed

March 7-13, 2021

Read together: "A Blind Man Healed" (pages 432-435) in the *Spark Story Bible*). You might read John 9:1-41 in your Bible or at [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com).

#### Family conversation cues (younger children)

Jesus healed a man who was blind. What is a hard thing in your life that God could help you with? Do you want to take a moment now to ask God for help?

#### Family conversation cues (older children)

This is another story of God showing his power through Jesus. What would you say if Jesus asked if you believed in him? Why would you say that?

#### Family Blessing

We all have problems in our lives. Jesus said he was the light of the world and he helps us with our problems. [Family member's name], because you believe in Jesus, you can share his light with others. You are a blessing.



3/1	T.H. Bradley, Jr.	3/15	Lana Meadows
3/2	Carl Bismark	3/19	John Alexander, Sr.
3/2	Clair Burge	3/20	Bob Burns
3/2	Lucy Ray	3/21	Randy Couch
3/3	Shelby Chesshir	3/23	Michael Davis
3/3	Tracie Nipper	3/24	Mia Bailey
3/5	Harriett Alexander	3/25	Brianna Brummett
3/5	Todd Beams	3/25	Caylea Brummett
3/7	Ella Williams	3/27	Clay Boreing
3/8	Morgan McDonald	3/27	Joey Kaar
3/9	Mike Boyd	3/28	Taylor Fallin
3/9	Lori Epperson	3/28	Riley McCook
3/12	Amanda Haynes	3/31	Gary Maskell
3/13	Tabitha Lewis		
3/13	Maggie McDonald		

For Where Your Treasure is ...



## Methodist Family Health

February 17 - April 1, 2021

Your donation helps the Arkansas children and their families in our care. Will you give today to those in our care who are abandoned, abused, neglected and suffering psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual issues? Here are easy ways to give.

- Text GIVE to 501-881-2258 to initiate a donation you can easily manage on the go.
- Donate online now using our secure online donation form. In the designation box, please choose "Donation Closet" so your contribution will go to Get Up & Give.
- Call 501-906-4201 to make a secure contribution with your debit or credit card.
- Mail your cash or check donation to Methodist Family Health Foundation, PO Box 56050, Little rock, AR 72215-6050. Please note "GUAG" in the memo field of your check.
- PayPal. Visit [PayPal.com](http://PayPal.com) and search for Methodist Family Health Foundation.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### THURSDAY, MARCH 4

8:00 AM —1:00 PM Church Office Hours  
4:00 PM STEWPOT

### SUNDAY, MARCH 7

**TREEHOUSE FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL** at home

Lesson posted in newsletter, Facebook, and website

9:00 AM **FAMILY WORSHIP** - Peace Hall (everyone)

9:35 PM **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES—**

CLEGG/OPEN DOOR—Parlor led by Larry Kelso

SPARES AND PAIRS —Averitt led by Cecil McConnell

Ways to attend: In-Person Zoom

Zoom link available on request for each class

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**—Treehouse

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**—Confirmation room

10:45 AM **SANCTUARY WORSHIP** (everyone)

Ways to attend: In-Person, Facebook Live, Recording  
(posted later) on Website, YouTube

12:00 noon Broadcast Channel 13 Sanctuary Worship

4:30 PM **YOUTH** (Peace Hall)

5:30 PM **ADULT'S AND CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY**

"IT IS FINISHED" IN PERSON AND ZOOM

NURSERY IS AVAILABLE

### MONDAY, MARCH 8

8:00 AM —1:00 PM Church Office Hours  
4:00 PM STEWPOT

### TUESDAY, MARCH 9

8:00 AM —1:00 PM Church Office Hours  
2:00 PM THE CARING PLACE GREET AND GRAB  
4:00 PM STEWPOT  
6:00 PM CUB SCOUTS—Peace Hall

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

8:00 AM —1:00 PM Church Office Hours  
7:00 PM Broadcast Channel 13 Sun. 10:45 Worship

All In person events require sign-in, masks and social distancing.

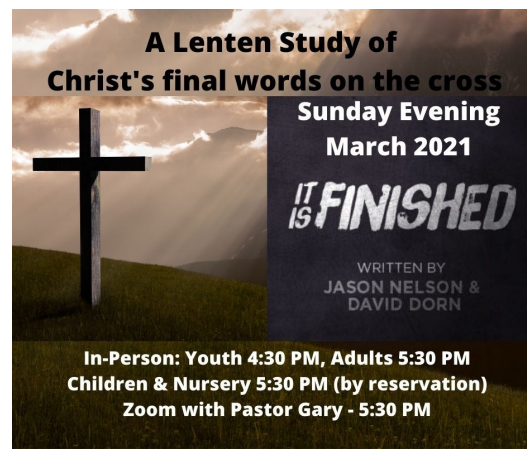
### OUR SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to the family of Anna Gurnea.



### A Record of Our Faithfulness

		Attendance	Offerings
February			
7th	Family (9:00)	34	
	Sun. School (9:35)	20	
	Sanctuary (10:45)	24	\$9,530.00
14th	Family (9:00)	21	
	Sun. School (9:35)	16	
	Sanctuary (10:45)	23	
21st	All church services were cancelled due to inclement weather		
	Total deposit for Feb. 14 and 21		
			\$9,726.00
28th	Family (9:00)	27	
	Sun. School (9:35)	32	
	Sanctuary (10:45)	32	
			\$4,758.00



Dear FUMC Family,

Thank you for letting Girl Scouts use the bus barn to receive and separate cookies. We really appreciate your help.

Billie Dadgar

First United Methodist church  
320 West Main  
Magnolia, AR 71753

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