CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FRIDAY, APRIL 12
8:00 - 12:00 PM  Church Office Hours
SUNDAY, APRIL 14
Nursery is available from 9:00 am till 11:30 am
9:15 AM  CONFIRMATION CLASS
9:15 AM  SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
  Cleeg/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 Gary Herron
9:15 AM  Young Adult Sunday School—Pastor’s Home
  Led by Pastor Kenny Lee
10:15 AM  SANCTUARY WORSHIP
  Ways to attend: In-Person, Facebook Live, Recording
  (posted later) on Website, YouTube
5:30 PM  YOUTH
MONDAY, APRIL 15
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  Church Office Hours
4:00 PM  STEWPOT
TUESDAY, APRIL 16
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  Church Office Hours
4:00 PM  STEWPOT
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  Church Office Hours
11:00 AM  ADULT BIBLE STUDY
  “JESUS CENTERED” (AVERITT)
  5:00 PM  CHILDREN’S CHOIR GRADES 4-5
  5:30 PM  CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE
  5:30 PM  YOUTH (MIDDLE SCHOOL)
  7:00 PM  YOUTH (HIGH SCHOOL)
THURSDAY, APRIL 18
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  Church Office Hours
10:00 AM  THE CARING PLACE
4:00 PM  STEWPOT
A Record of Our Faithfulness
Attendance  Offerings
April 7  Sunday School (9:15)  40  n/a
Sanctuary (10:15)  88

OUR SYMPATHY
Sympathy is extended to the family of Dan Doughty.

Save the Date
Vacation Bible School 2024
July 8 -11
We would love for you to be a part of VBS this year!
For volunteer opportunities contact
Tabitha Lewis (870) 904-6746 or
Shelly Burgess (870) 334-4530.

First United Methodist Church
320 West Main
Magnolia, AR  71753
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APRIL 8, 2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE ADVENTURE
CAMP TANAKO

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
April 10, 2024

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
Latrina Wyrick, Interim Director, Child Development Center
Barbara Lewis, Director, The Caring Place
Stephen and Dionedra Biddle, Stewpot Cooks
Burlene Easter, Kathy Easter & Kim Easter, nursery attendants

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The news has been full of hype regarding the total solar eclipse we experienced on Monday, April 8. Ms. Shelly coordinated with Kayla Hardage to arrange for a group of our members to attend the Great American Eclipse event at Camp Tanako in Hot Springs. My family and I have been looking forward to this event for some time.

I gassed up the van Sunday afternoon, loaded water and snacks, and parked in the Madison Street parking lot. On Monday, people appeared pretty early, and after a short prayer for safe travels and a good time, we were loaded and left the parking lot at 8 AM. We were excited about the event but somewhat apprehensive about travel issues like heavy traffic.

Arkansas was expecting roughly 3 million visitors from surrounding states. We noted a much higher level of law enforcement in every town and burg we traveled through. Billie Dadgar discovered on Facebook that I-30 was congested as we traveled toward Prescott. We made the decision to use Hwy. 67 to go through Gurdon, Arkadelphia, and then Hot Springs via Hwy. 7. That proved an excellent plan as we encountered very little traffic. We had an uneventful trip and arrived safely at Tanako by 10 AM.

Once we arrived, we checked in, paid our group fee, and spread out across the property. David Burgess was excited to see some of his friends there. Samantha busily set out to give Zoey Kirkpatrick the ten-cent-tour. The adults trudged up the hill to a set of six porch swings that overlooked Lake Catherine. We spent an enjoyable hour chatting and taking in a beautiful spring day.

Around noon, we relocated to where food was set up for us. We roasted hotdogs over an open fire, munched chips, and enjoyed moon pies (thanks Whitney Whitelaw.) Warm temperatures made the picnic lunch very enjoyable. The group was quite excited about the impending astronomical event.

After clearing lunch, we checked the sky with our commemorative eclipse glasses. By 12:30 PM, we began to see the moon’s edge, which was beginning to occlude the sun. The process was over 2 hours, so we had plenty of time to review and share observations. Some adults began using the glasses as light filters for their phone cameras and taking photos. Kay Waller inadvertently captured a great video on her phone.

When the eclipse reached totality, around 1:47 PM, the corona appeared, and we could view the eclipse without needing glasses. It was as dark as twilight during totality. Birds roosted and quit singing. There was a palpable silence of the sounds of nature. Honestly, this astral event was breathtaking. It will be 25 years before another lifetime event.

The synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) all describe the land covered with darkness for three hours during the crucifixion. The Catholic Church even translates Luke 23:44 in the New American Standard Bible, that the darkness was “because of an eclipse of the sun.” Here’s the kicker, the moon must be in its new phase for an eclipse, but Passover is always on a full moon.

The truth is that God caused the sun to stop giving light as an act of divine will. Joshua chapter 10 records an incident when God caused the sun to pause in the sky as Israel met the advance of Amorites for a full day (though I do not know how they determined the length of time associated with the event. Here’s the takeaway: God, who created the cosmos, can intervene in whatever way God chooses. Some events occur as part of the natural order of creation, and sometimes, God exercises authority over His creation. Control of the cosmos, in its totality, belongs to the Lord. Thanks be to God!

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 58:9

Pastor Kenny