CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 10
8:00 - 12:00 PM  Church Office Hours

SUNDAY, MAY 12
Nursery is available from 9:00 am till 11:30 am
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 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
4:00 PM  ADULT BIBLE STUDY “JESUS CENTERED” AVERITT
5:30 PM  YOUTH

MONDAY, MAY 13
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  Church Office Hours
4:00 PM  STEWPOT

TUESDAY, MAY 14
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  Church Office Hours
4:00 PM  STEWPOT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  Church Office Hours
11:00 AM  ADULT BIBLE STUDY “JESUS CENTERED” (AVERITT)
5:30 PM  CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE
5:30 PM  YOUTH (MIDDLE SCHOOL)
7:00 PM  YOUTH (HIGH SCHOOL)

THURSDAY, MAY 16
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>Attendance</th>
<th>Offerings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>$6,884.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School (9:15)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctuary worship (10:15)</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OFFERING COUNTER NEEDED

If you would like to volunteer to count the offering every other Monday, please contact the church office at 870-234-4530.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“JesusCentered” led by Pastor Kenny Lee

Wednesday

11:00 a.m.  Averitt Hall

First United Methodist Church
320 West Main
Magnolia, AR 71753

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RECOGNITION OF THE
2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Elizabeth Tye, Confirmation Sunday School teacher

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

Ryder Herron, Judd Hickmott, Samantha Lee, Sloane Waller, Pastor Kenny Lee

Ryder Herron baptized by Pastor Kenny Lee during Confirmation recognition. He is the son of Gary and Kandice Herron.
Bonnie Adcock, confirmation mentor.
After the rain…

Our region has been getting more than its fair share of precipitation for the last few weeks. Lakes, rivers, creeks, ponds, and ditches in many portions of Columbia County are bank-full. Taking care of the lawn at the parsonage has been an exercise of trying to find the driest period during a particular day.

I am grateful for the break in the rain on Saturday that allowed us to mow Saturday evening. I also took advantage of the damp soil and tilled up a couple of places to plant vegetables in the yard. I also used barnyard compost to fertilize the roses and the fig tree in the backyard. In doing so, it was apparent that there are places in the yard where the soil is rich, black humus full of earthworms. We anticipate a bumper crop of squash, tomatoes, and cucumbers.

Everything in the yard is lush green and growing at a phenomenal rate. It will be time to spray some weed killer as soon as it dries out a bit. We currently use the push mower and the weed eater to keep things manageable. My biggest nemesis is the prolific greenbriers. These pesky plants develop tubers much like potatoes (indigenous peoples used them as a food source) and a substantial network of underground roots, making ongoing control of them challenging.

Every time we mow, I go back through the flower beds with a pair of cutters and destroy the newest greenbrier tendrils. Some come in small with leaves and twirl themselves around perennials with insidious regularity. Others push up thick vines with no leaves at all. Controlling these pesky plants requires constant vigilance. I’m the sort of communicator that uses a lot of inference. Looking over what I’ve just written, I can’t help but reflect how similar our lives of faith are to well-watered lawns. Things can quickly get overgrown if we do not take care of daily and weekly spiritual upkeep.

Weeds of sin can overrun the tender growth of even the most committed Christ-follower. Neglecting the essential work of prayer, bible reading, Christian conferencing, fasting, and worship will quickly devolve into a heart garden overgrown and unrecognizable. It takes care and intentionality to tend to the garden of the heart, where God walks and talks with us, and needs to be well-kept.

This Sunday is Mother’s Day, and we look forward to seeing families gather around them to celebrate all they do and have done to shape us as human beings. Remember to buy a card, order some flowers, make a reservation at a local restaurant, or plan, cook, and serve a meal to honor these VIPs. No one except the Lord loves us more than Mom.

There is a lot of buzz in the UMC in the wake of the General Conference. The body approved the regionalization of the Global Church pending the ratification of all of the annual conferences. This likely will not be fully effective until 2025. General Conference is the only body that can change the Discipline, and they removed the restrictive language, paving the way for the full inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community.

How this plays out in local churches is yet to be determined. Our resident Bishop Laura Merrill is approaching this as we all should, with love and grace towards all of God’s people. There are no action items requiring immediate attention. Our goal remains to make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples for the transformation of lives, communities, and the world. Love and support one another, provide vital ministry to our community, continue to be formed in our faith, worship God, and love others with our words and actions.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Pastor Kenny

Sunday, May 12

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) 904-5766 or
Shelley Burgess (870) 234-4530.

SPECIAL DATES FOR MAY

• National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2024
• Ascension Day, May 9, 2024
• Mother’s Day, May 14, 2024
• Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2024
• Pentecost, May 19, 2024
• Victoria Day (Canada), May 20, 2024
• Trinity Sunday, May 26, 2024
• Memorial Day, May 27, 2024

EMAIL ADDRESS REQUEST

If you would like to receive information from Pastor Kenny, please fill out this form with your email and return it to the church office.

Email address