



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.

June 23, 2021

Sunday

Family Worship—9:00am
Sunday Sch. 9:15am
Sanctuary Worship—10:15am
Facebook Live 10:15am
YouTube
Noon—Cable Channel 13
KVMA-AM 630
KVMA-FM 99.1
Adult—Bible Study 5:30pm

Wednesday 7:00 pm—Cable
Channel 13

How to Reach Us: Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
8:00am—4:00pm
Friday
8:00am—12:00pm
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

Sunday Morning Sermon in a Snap!

If you missed last Sunday morning's sermon but would like to "hear" it in a very abbreviated format, then this is your answer! If you'd like to do so later, you can read the whole sermon "Optimism and the Brain" in the Magnolia Messenger for the "rest of the story" Read *2 Cor. 6:1-13*.

The phenomenon of which I speak is that of a "Complaints Choir," the first of which was formed in Birmingham, not Alabama (this one is in the United Kingdom) in 2005. It seems that there was enough interest in complaint-crooning that the phenomenon spread like wildfire to Helsinki, Finland; Hamburg, Germany, and St. Petersburg, Russia as soon as 2006. That didn't take long! From there, it spread to many other locales, including two in the United States!

I'll bet you can guess what they sing about! If you thought that they put all of their complaints, worries, and woes into song form, then you'd be right! Look at your neighbor and say, "Do I have a choir for your usual song!"

In our passage for this morning, we read Paul's words about the suffering he endured. He could have been the conductor of a New Testament Complaint Choir, but he chose not to be one. Instead of that, he decided that compared to the glory of knowing God and salvation, the sufferings of this world were insignificant. Instead of complaining, Paul describes his trials, tribulations, and other woes as, "*Our temporary minor problems are producing an eternal stockpile of glory for us that is beyond all comparison.*" *2 Corinthians 4:17*

More than likely, when we complain to God, He will give either give us comfort, put us on a new path, or even tell us to fix things ourselves! In some situations where I was the complainer to God about my circumstances, I've even found that God was using my aggravations, woes, and miseries to bring me to a new place of spiritual growth and trust in His wisdom and guidance! Ha! Go figure that God knows best!

So, what if we decide that complaining is our special gift from God, like speaking in tongues, casting out demons, or healing? Are there any natural consequences of our endless complaining? Besides losing friends and people dreading answering the phone when we call, there is a concern of a more personal nature. How about your brain shrinking? I hate when that happens! Look at your neighbor. Do you notice any of the tell tale signs, tell-tales being pulled into the skull? I didn't make this up; my information comes from an article entitled, "*Stress from negativity shrinks your brain.*"

A 1996 Stanford study suggests it's time to stop. Complaining, or even being complained to, for 30 minutes or more can physically damage the brain. "Researchers used high-resolution magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans and found 'links between long-term stressful life experiences, long-term exposure to hormones produced during stress, and shrinking of the hippocampus,' the study's authors wrote. (The hippocampus is the region of the brain involved in the formation of new memories and is also associated with learning and emotions.) The worst part is that the average person complains between 15 to 30 times a day, according to Will Bowen, best-selling author of 'A Complaint-Free World.'"

And that's how it is with most things we complain about. We can bellyache about them or even sing about them, but we are better off if we try to fix the ones that we can. If not, we might just be shrinking our brains, damaging our family relationships, friendships, and Christian witness. So take Paul's advice — Know that, if we let them, the trials, tribulations, and woes of this world can produce for us "...an eternal stockpile of glory for us that is beyond all comparison." 2 Corinthians 4:17

Complain for a bit, pray about it, express your hurt and pain to trusted brothers and sisters in Christ, but learn from the event, grow from the event, and be a part of the solution rather than being an irritating squeaky wheel that only gripes and complains! Remember Paul's words in verse 3, "We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry."

Oh, and by the way, remember that you have been blessed to be a blessing. So be one!

Pastor Gary

TREEHOUSE FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Saul to Paul

June 27 – July 2, 2021

Read together: "Saul to Paul" (pages 514-519 in the *Spark Story Bible*). You might read Acts 9:1-20 in your Bible or at biblegateway.com.

Family conversation cues (younger children)

How did Jesus get Saul's attention? How did Saul's friends help him? How do you help your friends? What important thing does this story help you know about Jesus?

Family conversation cues (older children)

Saul didn't like Christians. Why would Jesus want Saul as a disciple? In what way was Ananias a hero in this story? What important things does this story tell you about Jesus?

Family Blessing

When you forget to listen to Jesus or don't want to listen, he reaches out and gets your attention. Jesus changes you to be the kind of disciple he needs you to be.

[Family member's name], Jesus is changing you so that you can be a blessing to others.

Max On Life Bible Study

Why Me? Why am I here? Why did this happen? Can you help me understand? *Where's the life-line?* Where can I turn? **Is there any hope?**

We have questions. Real, important, and challenging questions. Questions about family, finances, and forgiveness. Unsettling questions regarding illness, death, and eternity. Don't we crave answers to these questions that tug on the deepest parts of our hearts?

Max Lucado has received thousands of questions and wrestled with plenty of his own. In these eight Bible study sessions, one of today's most trusted pastors takes on life's most important questions. Here's hoping that his answers to the questions of others will help you find answers to your own.

I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for seasons of rest and for refreshing our souls. Lord, you never get tired, You give strength when we are weary, and power when we are weak.

Remind us at every step this summer to rest in You, Lord. You are sovereign and in control of everything. Remind us you are bigger than any problem, stronger than any adversity and mightier than any condition. Lord we lay our burdens at your feet today and thank you that we can rest in knowing we are held in the palm of your hand. Lead us beside still and gentle waters today. Thank you that where you lead us is always a good path. Comfort us with you rod and staff today! Thank you that your goodness and mercy follows us all the days of our life. Thank you for lifting our heads today and refreshing us with Your loving mercy and kindness. We place our hope in You today Lord and thank you that you renew us and cause us to soar. We will walk and not faint and run and not be weary.

Let our hearts not be troubled in this season of rest. Keep our minds stayed on You and the vision of your glorious inheritance. May our family time be blessed and may our cups run over to bless all those around us with the hope of your calling.

In Jesus name. Amen.



6/1	Blake Watson	6/17	Dylan Beams
6/3	Landon Beams	6/17	Otto Heeb
6/4	Jane Alexander	6/19	Dennis Fuller
6/5	Bonnie Keith	6/23	Bonnie Adcox
6/5	Alvarene Peace	6/23	John Alexander, Jr.
6/6	Weston Roberson	6/23	Jake Nielsen
6/10	Blaine Greer	6/23	Tanner Nielsen
6/10	Robbie (Greer) Hall	6/24	Christian Routon
6/11	J Courson	6/27	Jennifer Goza
6/14	Laura Kaar	6/29	Ann Dickson
6/14	Ginger McConnell	6/29	Madilynn Watson
6/15	Ann Thomas		

The advertisement for 'TRIPLE J ADVENTURE' features a background of aged, yellowed parchment with a compass rose in the center. The text is as follows:

"TRIPLE J ADVENTURE"
Join the VBS Adventure!
Wednesday Evening - 6-8 PM
July 7, 14, 21, 2021

Vacation Bible School
Register at www.magnoliafumc.org
870-234-4530

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
4:00 PM STEWPOT

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Church Office Hours

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

TREEHOUSE FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL at home

Lesson posted in newsletter and website.

Nursery is available from 9:00 am till 11:30 pm.

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

9:15 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

CLEGG/OPEN DOOR - Parlor led by David Cole

SPARES AND PAIRS - Upstairs - Sheri Cheatham

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - Treehouse

10:15 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

5:30 PM **ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Max on Life)**

MONDAY, JUNE 28

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours

4:00 PM STEWPOT

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours

4:00 PM STEWPOT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours

5:30 PM **CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL** (Sanctuary)

6:00 PM **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

7:00 PM Broadcast Channel 13 Sun. 10:15 Worship

THURSDAY, JULY 1

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours

4:00 PM STEWPOT

6:00 PM SPRC MEETING (AVERITT)

A Record of Our Faithfulness

	Attendance	Offerings
June 6		
Family (9:00)	17	
Sun. School (9:35)	36	
Sanctuary (10:45)	59	\$9,811.00
June 13		
Family (9:00)	15	
Sun. School (9:35)	32	
Sanctuary (10:45)	55	\$7,103.00
June 20		
Family (9:00)	27	
Sun. School (9:35)	26	
Sanctuary (10:45)	67	\$10,616.00



Dear Bereavement Committee,

The lunch you provided for our family before Olga's service was so delicious and prepared with love. It was so nice to enjoy this time with each other and with you precious ladies. Thank you for the time and effort you put into making this meal so special. Olga loved this ministry and all of you.

With love,
Cindy and Tim English and family

Dear First Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for the Senior Sunday celebration and luncheon honoring West and the other graduates. I am so glad West was able to be a part of such a fabulous youth group.

Thanks, Ashley Hagaman

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320 West Main
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