



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.

July 7, 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 "*God's Grace is Sufficient for You*" in the Magnolia Messenger for the "rest of the story" Read *2 Corinthians 12:1-10*.

Paul had been a persecutor of Christians in his earlier years. He sought out believers in Christ Jesus to punish them, even going so far as to be complicit in their murder by stoning. Then Jesus appeared to Paul in a blinding light on the road to Damascus. After his healing, he was sold out to Christ and became a powerful apostle to the Gentiles. After Paul became a believer in Christ Jesus, you would think that his life would be smooth, but no! Paul went from being an opposer of the faith to being the one who was opposed. Such opposition was happening to Paul in Corinth. Some claimed to be apostles of Christ, but they were preaching a different Jesus, a different Spirit, and a different Gospel than they were taught by Paul. Paul had founded the church during his second missionary journey and first travels through Greece. But almost from the moment he left, his authority to lead the church was called into question by various groups that aligned themselves with different teachers within the church at Corinth. Paul referred to them sarcastically as "*super-apostles*" due to their claims to be far superior to Paul's apostolic ministry. These teachers were not only teaching doctrines that were opposed to the authentic Christian faith but were calling into question Paul's qualifications as an apostle. So, what was the substance of their challenge to Paul's authority? It would appear that their objection seems to have been that an apostle of God should lead a life that demonstrates the power of God. Perhaps his opponents claimed to be able to perform miracles and to have had spectacular spiritual experiences. By contrast, Paul characterizes his ministry not in terms of triumph but of suffering (2 Corinthians 11:23-33). Why, the "super-apostles" asked, would anyone want to accept what Paul was offering instead of their provided glories? Paul appealed to his many sufferings, and he relates a blessed experience he had some fourteen years ago when he was taken up to heaven. After that, Paul continued on saying that such boasting does not benefit the Kingdom of God, but rather, Paul said he would rather boast in his weakness. He did this so that no one would ever think better of him than they saw in his own life and ministry.

I believe that there were at least two reasons that Paul did not want to boast about himself: (1) Paul, from the beginning of his ministry in Corinth, had chosen to focus his preaching not on the glories of the Son of God but upon "*Christ crucified*" (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

It was when his own ministry shared in the weakness of Christ crucified through "insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities" that he was in fact tuned into the strength of God (v. 10) (2) There was another reason Paul chose not to boast about this experience as well, and that was because he had a constant "thorn ... in the flesh ... to keep [him] from being proud."

In that way, Paul's life would serve as a witness to the grace, mercy, and love of God rather than anything inherently great in Paul. With that said, he did not let the trials, miseries, and woes destroy him or his faith in God, despite being denied healing after praying numerous times!

But how about us? (1) What happens when trials, misery, and woes befall us? (2) Do we let them destroy us or our faith? (3) Do we try to hide them by wearing a mask of invulnerability, or (4) Do we lift others up in their times of need by becoming humbly vulnerable?

Truth be told, some of us try to hide behind a mask of "imperfect perfection," believing that being vulnerable is a sign of weakness rather than it being courage in the face of fear. I could bore you by relating many different cancer scares, open-heart surgery, abandonments, and various physical problems, some of which I am still suffering from. But the words that God gave to the Apostle Paul ring true in my ears. God said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." From my experience, God is faithful and true! I will spare you the gory details, but, unlike Paul, I have prayed for healing more than three times for months and years and have yet to receive healing from God.

Let me share one final thought about the effect that our afflictions, miseries, and weakness can have on our lives if we let them! "During the Great Depression, a Christian man lost his job, fortune, wife, and home. As he wandered through his city one day, wondering why all these things had happened to him, he saw masons working on the stonework of a large church. Observing one man carefully chiseling away a triangular piece of stone, this Christian asked, 'What are you doing with that?' The mason stopped and pointed to a tiny opening near the top of the nearly completed spire. He said, 'See that little opening up there? I am shaping this down here so that it will fit in up there.' The poor man's eyes suddenly filled with tears as he realized that through his troubles here, God was shaping him for heaven." Indeed, God is shaping us for better service in this world and the world to come!

Let me close with these thoughts: (1) I think there is a good reason why there is so much mystery as to what Paul's thorn in the flesh was, it was so that no matter what our thorn, affliction, or misery might be, we can rest comfortably in the knowledge that God's grace is sufficient for us, just like it was for Paul. (2) Let me doubly assure you that God's grace is sufficient for you in the good times and in the bad times. So, on this fourth of July, where we celebrate freedom, let Christ free you from the burden of heartaches, failures, sickness, and sin by remembering who you are in Christ Jesus and that you have been blessed to be a blessing. So be one!

Pastor Gary

TREEHOUSE FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

A Message from God

July 11-17, 2021

Read together: "A Message from God" (pages 100-101 in the *Spark Story Bible*).

Be sure to read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 in your Bible or at biblegateway.com.

Family conversation cues (younger children)

God told the people to love him and to teach their children about him. What does your family do to teach each other about God? What are some things in your house that remind you of God? How can you remember to love God with all your heart?

Family conversation cues (older children)

God told the people to keep his message in their hearts and in their minds. What does it mean to keep something in your heart? What are some ways to keep God's message in your mind? When and where can you talk about God?

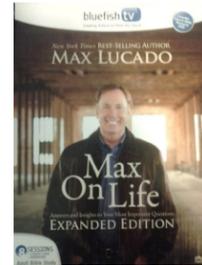
Family Blessing

(From Deuteronomy 6:5 and Luke 10:27)

[Family member's name], love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.

Max on Life Bible Study

Sunday at 5:30 pm
Wednesday at 6:00 pm



Join us via Zoom at 5:30 for our new study by Max Lucado! The study is, "Max on Life" and is an eight-week study. You can read more about it below...

"Why Me? Why am I here? Why did this happen? Can you help me understand? Where's the lifeline? 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."

[Join Zoom Meeting for our Sunday evening group to begin our new study!](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87469554477?pwd=YU5QcmQ1Qkhubldla1BCdXVsQ25jdz09)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87469554477?pwd=YU5QcmQ1Qkhubldla1BCdXVsQ25jdz09>

Celebration of Life

Dorothy Jeanne Fincher

Sunday, July 11, 2021
Service at 2:00 p.m.
Visitation following service (Parlor & Averitt)

Celebration of Life

Lois Gene Russell

Saturday, July 17, 2021
Service at 1:00 p.m.
Celebration/Reception to follow at
The Russell/Joella Farm



7/1	Donna King	7/16	Joseph Cannon
7/2	Kallie Wright	7/18	Nancy Jordan
7/3	John Kirkpatrick	7/19	Mariah Guevara
7/3	Reese Lewis	7/19	Kathleen Hoover
7/4	Clay Kardas	7/21	David Burgess
7/5	Marion Miller	7/21	Tommye Doherty
7/7	Deborah Guevara	7/24	Sydney Castlebury
7/11	Linda Wood	7/24	Harriett Franks
7/13	Nick Bolding	7/25	Logan Brummett
7/14	John Jordan	7/26	Sarah Guevara
7/14	Addison Ochs	7/26	Rebecca Peterson
7/15	Breanna Griffith	7/30	David Kaar
7/16	Lana Beams		

"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, JULY 8

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

FRIDAY, JULY 9

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

SUNDAY, JULY 11

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 Roger Guevara
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)** Zoom

MONDAY, JULY 12

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

TUESDAY, JULY 13

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
6:00 PM **ADULT BIBLE STUDY (MAX ON LIFE)**
6:00—8:00 PM "TRIPLE J ADVENTURE"

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

THURSDAY, JULY 15

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

A Record of Our Faithfulness

	Attendance	Offerings
July 4		
Family (9:00)	9	
Sun. School (9:35)	24	
Sanctuary (10:15)	56	

Dear FUMC Bereavement Committee,

I want to thank you on behalf of the family of Tootsie Schmidt for the delicious and plentiful meal you provided for us on the day of mother's memorial service. I can't think of a more important ministry than yours, such a comforting way to provide support to families when we need it the most!

My mother loved the church, of which she was a member all her life, and would have so appreciated your kindness also.

Thanks for being an important part of our celebration of her life.

Love, Nancy Schmidt Culbertson

Thank you so much for remembering mother. She loved the church.

Sincerely, Phil Schmidt



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