CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
10:00 AM THE CARING PLACE
4:00 PM STEWPOT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5
8:00—12:00 Church Office Hours

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
Nursery is available from 9:00 am till 11:30 am
9:15 AM CONFIRMATION CLASS
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 Pastor Kenny
10:15 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP
Ways to attend: In-Person, Facebook Live, Recording (posted later) on Website, YouTube
4:00 PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY
THE ROCK, THE ROAD AND THE RABBI

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
4:00 PM STEWPOT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Office Hours
11:00 PM ADULT BIBLE STUDY (AVERITT)
5:00 PM THE ROCK, THE ROAD AND THE RABBI
5:30 PM CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE
5:30 PM YOUTH (MIDDLE SCHOOL)
6:00 PM INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

7:00 PM CHAPEL
6:10 PM ADULT HANDBELL PRACTICE
7:00 PM YOUTH (HIGH SCHOOL)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11
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>
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<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Offerings</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>$5,822.00 AM</td>
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<td>Sunday School (9:15)</td>
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<td>Sanctuary (10:15)</td>
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<td>Christmas Eve Worship</td>
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<td>Sanctuary (10:15)</td>
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Winter Fest
Annual Chili Cook-off
Sunday, January 28, 2024
5:30 p.m. Peace Hall

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual chili cook-off and an evening of fun.
We need chili or baked cookies or brownies.

OUR SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to the family of Mary Wyrick.
Sympathy is extended to the family of Judy Henderson.

First United Methodist Church
320 West Main
Magnolia, AR 71753

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
January 3, 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

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
Gwendolyn Murphy, Director, Child Development Center
Barbara Lewis, Director, The Caring Place
Stephen and Diondra Biddle, Stewpot Cooks
Burlene Easter, Kathy Easter & Kim Easter, nursery attendants
A fresh start

The year 2023 went out with a bang at our house. Our neighborhood is very fond of fireworks. As soon as it was dark, we heard sprinklings of celebratory explosions. The noise crescendoed between 11 PM and 12 AM, and light lasted well into the wee hours of the morning.

Samantha thought we all must stay up until the ball dropped on Times Square. Unfortunately, I turned into a pumpkin around 11 PM. I was still awake when Samantha popped her head in at 11:54, but apparently, I expired soon afterward. Penny and the kiddos made it to 12 AM. Penny swears there was a considerable concussion after she came to bed that rocked the whole house. Still, I knew nothing of that since I was already fast asleep.

New Year’s Day dawned fine and clear. We all slept late and arose in shifts throughout the morning. Samantha was starving, so I made pancakes for her and her brother. Each of the kids ate 9 pancakes each, and Penny and I split a 5-egg Western Omelet. It was a great start to a great day.

Samantha had a significant job cleaning her room, which was her least favorite chore. From the look of it, she had not picked up at all for several days. It’s literally like pulling teeth to keep that girl on task. She does the work in fits and spurts, and it is a big job to keep her moving.

By lunchtime, Penny had enough. She changed clothes while I was at the computer, paying bills and checking emails. She popped into the home office long enough to tell me that Donovan was taking her to Walmart and they would be back later. I think she’s had too much Christmas vacation. I think they are ready to return to school, but they all say otherwise.

Once Sam was about 80% finished, I held out an olive branch, suggesting we go to lunch once she was done. That did the trick. I was obliged to do a close inspection, which revealed several items in the bottom of the closet and underneath the bed that required additional attention. She grudgingly complied, partly out of hunger but mostly because she knew I was relentless regarding fine detail.

We each enjoyed a meal from our favorite places. I had Subway (they sent out a big sheet of coupons last week), and Donovan had too much Christmas vacation. I think they are ready to return to school, but they all say otherwise.

Penny had purchased all the necessary items for a traditional New Year’s Day feast. We had baked ham, purple hull peas, turnip greens, and cornbread. Penny and I got dinner on the go, and soon, the kitchen filled with the aroma of sausages, hamburgers, and fries. In between, Penny and Donovan had already returned from their shopping trip when we arrived.

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After we finished dinner, Penny cleaned up the kitchen; I peeled some potatoes, cut them up, and added them to the roast with carrots and a few rolled cabbage leaves. Penny could clean up all of my prep utensils without returning to rewash dishes. When the roast was done, I took it out and let it cool, never peeling back the foil from the pan. That roast will go from fridge to oven and make a great, no-fuss meal with a few rolls and a salad.

2024 is full of promise for all of us. Time, once spent, can only be remembered. The future is yet to come and is not promised. Today is the only day we have for making life changes, memories, or helping others. Today is the day for deepening our relationship with God, our families, and our neighbors. Make the most of today, live fully in the present moment, and remember to say “I love you” to those who matter the most. Make a fresh start today and make 2024 a year to remember.

Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. Luke 2:38

Pastor Kenny