

First Connection

A Publication of First United Methodist
Church of Blue Springs

March 7, 2018

Volume 12, Issue 3

Easter Celebration Services

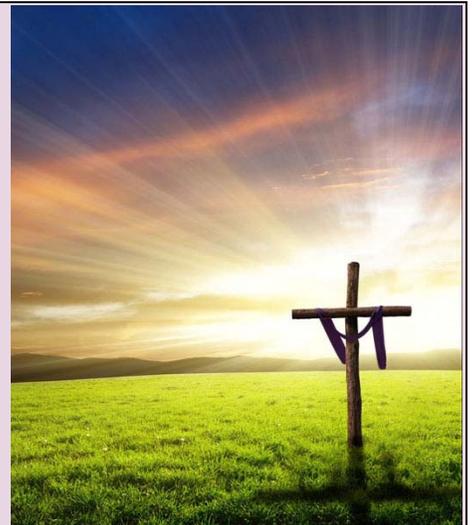
Saturday, March 31—5:00pm, Traditional
Easter Worship

Sunday, April 1: 6:45am—Sunrise Service—
outdoor chapel by the pond,
weather permitting, otherwise inside.

8:00am—Traditional Easter Worship

9:30am—Contemporary Praise

11:00am—Traditional Easter Worship,
featuring Chancel Choir and Brass Persuasion



A continental breakfast will be served in room 117 from 7:15-11:00am. Help support the youth mission team through a love offering.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 25. Join us at 5:00pm Saturday evening, March 24, or at one of the Sunday morning services as we begin Holy Week, and celebrate the arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

Palm Fun Day event begins at 11:30am in the gym. We'll have a potluck lunch beginning at 11:30, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt at 12:00pm for children through third grade. Bring the kids, a potluck dish, Easter baskets, and get ready for some Palm Sunday and Easter fun!

If your last name begins with the letters:

A-M: Bring a side dish to share (salad, vegetables)

N-T: Bring a main dish to share (casserole, spaghetti, lasagna etc.)

U-Z: Bring a dessert to share

The church will provide the meat (ham).

Maundy Thursday, Service of Darkness and Holy Communion, March 29, 7:00pm, sanctuary.

Good Friday Blues Service, March 30, 7:00pm, sanctuary. The story of Jesus' last days are told through blues music and drama.

First UMC's Mission Statement:

Making faithful, hopeful, loving disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Daylight Savings Time Reminder

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour.



First Connection



Dear First Friends,

We are in the middle of Lent. Three candles on our Lenten cross have been extinguished as we work our way to Maundy Thursday, when we will extinguish the final candle. There is a special beauty to this time of the year, in both our liturgical world and our outdoor world. Nature seems to still be in her winter drab, battered down against the last gasps of winter; yet the weeds have begun already to green up for their brash forays into our yards. The trees are leafless, yet the buds are beginning to swell. Although things may look dead, it is clear that new life is gathering itself.

The same things are at work liturgically and spiritually. We continue to walk through these days of Lent, getting closer to the cross. If you adopted a spiritual discipline during this season, these days may seem trying. Promises made blithely in February can feel burdensome by March. Hang in there, because new life is gathering. Easter celebrations of the Resurrection will be here before you know it, before you receive our next newsletter! New life is just around the corner.

I hope you see new life reflected in our new Leadership Council. The list of nominees is elsewhere in this newsletter. I am so thankful for a group of people that reflects so many different facets of our shared faith life. You'll see a healthy mix of seasoned church leaders and first-timers. We've got long-term members and people who are newer to our faith community. We've got representation from different ages, worship services, Sunday school classes, and other activity groups throughout our church. It is likely that none of you will know every person listed. That is a good and healthy thing for a church our size. I hope that, like me, you will uphold these persons in your prayers each day, as they serve all of us through our Leadership Council.

Yes, new life is springing forth all around us! God has so much ahead for each one of us, personally and as a church family. I pray that you journey through these last weeks of Lent as a time of diving deeper into your love for Jesus. Pray each day. Read the Bible. Do something nice for someone, even if they don't deserve it—especially if they don't deserve it. Do your best to imitate the One whose name you claim whenever you call yourself a Christian.

I look forward to seeing you in worship these coming weeks, and especially for our Easter celebrations. Be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you here for Easter worship. You'll be glad that you did.

Blessings,
Sally



February 17-18, 2018		
Giving:	2018	2017
One Fund.....	\$10,767	
YTD One Fund	\$120,503	\$130,112
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	363	
Sunday School		
Children.....	49	
Youth.....	10	
Adults.....	110	
Total	169	
Wednesday Evening Youth: 10		
More detailed financial information is available at the information table in the lobby or in the church office.		

February 24-25, 2018		
Giving:	2018	2017
One Fund.....	\$24,788	
YTD One Fund	\$145,292	\$159,181
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	402	
Sunday School		
Children.....	52	
Youth.....	7	
Adults.....	122	
Total	181	
Wednesday Evening Youth: No meeting		
More detailed financial information is available at the information table in the lobby or in the church office.		

March 3-4, 2018		
Giving:	2018	2017
One Fund.....	\$13,651	
YTD One Fund	\$158,942	\$169,572
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	364	
Sunday School		
Children.....	46	
Youth.....	10	
Adults.....	121	
Total	177	
Wednesday Evening Youth: 25		
More detailed financial information is available at the information table in the lobby or in the church office.		



*First UMC Children's
Ministry*

Weekly Sunday School—Join us every Sunday morning at 9:15 and 10:40. There are classes for 3-year-olds and up. Nursery is available for all worship services, birth through two years old.

IMPACT YOUTH
ministry

Join us:

—Sunday mornings at 10:40 downstairs in the youth room 014 for Sunday School! Fellowship Groups meet on Sunday evenings.

—and Wednesday evenings at 5:00 for youth group!

All are welcome—students and parents!

First Connection

First Kids

Contact Michelle Mueller-Hinton at mmueller-hinton@bluespringsumc.org

Wee Singers and Children's Chimers

Power Praise Kids

Wee Singers is for children ages Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 1. They meet on Sundays at 10:15am in room 115.

Contact Brooke Roskop at broskop@bluespringsumc.org.

Children's Chimers

Children in grades 2 through 5 have the opportunity to develop their musical skills through Children's Chimers (hand chimes). Chimers meet on Sundays at 10:45am in room 154.

Contact Liz Mueller at e.a.mueller@sbcglobal.net.

Power Praise Kids

Children in grades 2 through 5 have the opportunity to develop their musical skills through Power Praise Kids (vocal). Power Praise Kids meet on Sundays at 4:00pm in room 116.

Contact Linda Cox at lindacox53@gmail.com.

Learning Ladder Enrollment

Fall enrollment for church members is underway. Registration information can be found on the church website under the Ministries tab, then look for Learning Ladder Preschool. Please contact the Learning Ladder office at 229-9949 with any questions.

Impact Youth Ministry

Contact Mark Hansher at mhansher@bluespringsumc.org

March:

It's not a joke! Easter is on April 1 this year, and the youth are once again in charge of planning the Sunrise Service! We are working on the structure and details of the service, so be looking for more information coming your way soon! We would love to have as many youth involved as possible.

We're also in the planning phase of updating our youth room. Several people have been hard at work finding ways to make our youth room an even better place to be, and soon, we'll need your help, too! Keep an eye out and an ear open for opportunities, as we're looking to have help with tasks such as painting, cleaning, and general "handy-work" once this project gets off the ground.



HEALTH CONCERNS

Larry Allen	Johanna Baker	Doris Brooks
Max Brown	Marti Dietrich	Judy Gregston
Maxine Hall	Vicki Kerr	Gloria Kniffen
Lois Krueger	Chet Landes	Sandra Meinershagen
Jean Moore	Wayne Ogilvie	Pat Parr
Marvin Rinne	Chere Semple	Janet Tabler
Steve Young		
Beverly England, friend of Gwen Wheeler		
Bill and Jean Best, per Marisa Gilbert		
Doreen Ninemire, Nathan Ninemire's mother		
Grant Hess, Jean Moore's brother-in-law		
Jean and Bill Best, per Marisa Gilbert		
Karen Gangestad, friend of Gwen Wheeler		
Kathy Fields, friend of Kay and Perry McCormick		
Kelsey Kwapnoski, Kenny and Lenora Stoecklein's granddaughter		
Leila Lenning, Richard Lenning's mother		
Lucille, Alice Nathan's aunt		
Mandy Lockhart, per Brenda Yanney		
Marilyn Callighan, Jean Moore's sister-in-law		
Nancy Binkley, per Jim and Marti Dietrich		
Pete Shelton, friend of Randy Williams		
Rita and Bill Thompson, per Jean Moore		
Robert Case, per Kenny and Lenora Stoecklein		
Ryan McCormick, Kay and Perry McCormick's nephew		
Shane Pearce, per Dan Bartlett		

MILITARY

Michael Bailey*	Alec Kinder
Sean Batulis	Ben Patillo
Tyler Byrd	Christian Schroeder
Emily Brittingham	Justin Schroeder
Mason Buckler*	Randall Schroeder
Brady Dean	Jason Tisdale*
Tony DeMack	Randall Shaffer
Ethan Endicott	Cole Sims
Robert Gordanier*	Ryan Stacy
Tim Gorsline	Jonathan Tucker
Henry Grubb*	Seth Turman*
Rick Hansen	Brandon Walls
Brenton Jones	Michael Wagner
Drew Kerber	Angela Weigel-DeLuna
	Chase Weber*

Highlighted names—FUMC members *deployed overseas

If you have a friend or family member on the military list that needs to be updated, please notify the church office. We also appreciate being notified of address changes.

SYMPATHY

To Bobby Tiffin on the passing of her brother on February 10.
 To the friends and family of Annetta Baker, who passed away on February 12.
 To Jackie and Juel Clevenger on the passing of their son, Barry, on February 25.

JOYS

To Melissa Caskey, who joined First UMC on February 26.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Sunday, March 11</u>		
Wee Singers	10:15am	115
Children's Chimers	10:45	154
Disciple Bible Study	10:45	117
Power Praise Kids Rehearsal	3:00pm	Sanctuary
Youth Fellowship Group-High School Students	4:00	014
Youth Fellowship Group-Mid. High Girls	4:00	011
Youth Fellowship Group-Boys	5:30	014
<u>Monday, March 12</u>		
Finance Committee Meeting	6:00pm	Office
Church Council Meeting	7:00	103
<u>Tuesday, March 13</u>		
Pickleball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Wednesday, March 14</u>		
Impact Youth Group	5:00pm	014
Glorious Spirit Handbell Rehearsal	6:00	154
Men of Praise Rehearsal	6:30	150
Worship Team Rehearsal	7:00	Sanctuary
Creative Crafts/Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00	103
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30	150
Rhapsody Ringers Rehearsal	7:30	154
<u>Thursday, March 15</u>		
Back Fence Bible Study	9:30am	100
Altar Guild	2:00pm	Office
Diabetes Workshop	2:30	117
Pickleball	7:00	Gym
<u>Friday, March 16</u>		
Joy Ringers Rehearsal	9:30am	154
Adult Volleyball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Saturday, March 17</u>		
Worship Service	5:00pm	Sanctuary
<u>Sunday, March 18</u>		
Wee Singers	10:15am	115
Church Conference	10:35	Sanctuary
Children's Chimers	10:45	154
Disciple Bible Study	10:45	117
Power Praise Kids Rehearsal	3:00pm	Sanctuary
Youth Fellowship Group-Mid. High Girls	4:00	011
Youth Fellowship Group-High School Students	4:00	014
Youth Fellowship Group-Boys	5:30	014
<u>Monday, March 19</u>		
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00pm	150
Staff Parish Meeting	7:00	103
<u>Tuesday, March 20</u>		
Methodist Men's Lunch	12:00pm	015
Wesleyan Women	1:30	112
Pickleball	7:00	Gym
<u>Wednesday, March 21</u>		
Widows' Support Group	11:30am	Sinclair's
Impact Youth Group	5:00pm	014
Glorious Spirit Handbell Rehearsal	6:00	154
Men of Praise Rehearsal	6:30	150
Worship Team Rehearsal	7:00	Sanctuary
Creative Crafts/Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00	103
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30	150
Rhapsody Ringers Rehearsal	7:30	154
<u>Thursday, March 22</u>		

First UMC Missions News



Calling All High School Students

There will be a new, regular service opportunity for high school students beginning in March. We will begin going to Uplift Organization (www.uplift.org) on the second Saturday of each month. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Uplift or are just learning about the organization, they are a homeless outreach program. They are an all-volunteer group founded in 1990.

First UMC Blue Springs has sent many groups to Uplift over the last few years, including youth. Uplift opens their warehouse to volunteers on the second Saturday of each month. They have a variety of needs in the warehouse including sorting, organizing, cleaning, etc.

Our first trip will be this Saturday, March 10. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:30am and be back at 12:30pm. High school students and parents are welcome.

Contact Brooke Roskop, broskop@bluespringsumc.org, if you can go or have questions.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

Feed My Starving Children® is a Christian nonprofit committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and we ship these meals to distribution partners around the world.

Mark your calendars and invite your friends to pack these special meals. We will host a mobile pack in our gym on May 11 and 12. There are jobs for everyone from 5 years old to 105 years old!! Stay tuned for information on how to sign up.



reStart

First UMC prepares and serves meals to reStart residents as one of our community outreach missions. We need volunteers to prepare and/or serve Sunday lunches on

December 16

Please contact Kay McCormick at 223-0820 if you or your group would like to participate.



Memorial Paver Orders

If you'd like to honor a friend or family member who has experienced cancer, please purchase an engraved paver to memorialize or honor them. In order to have the paver in place for the Faith Walk in early June, orders are due by March 23.

First UMC Gardeners

It's time to start planning this year's First UMC Garden. You're welcome to join us in the fun by growing whatever you like for your family and friends or to give to a local charity such as Community Services League.

The plots are located behind the church on the northwest corner of the property.

Our meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 26, at 6:15pm in room 100. Call the church office with any questions.

Day Camp UPDATE

At the time of this printing, we have 48 kids registered to attend day camp here at First UMC!

How exciting it is to know we have that many kids coming to begin to build their life around Christ!

With a goal of 100 kids, we are just 52 kids away from reaching our target.

Please tell your friends and neighbors—and share the link www.eaglelakecamps.com/FUMCBlueSprings

An Irish Feast of Food and Song

Featuring The Men O'Praise and Special Guests

Friday, March 9, 2018

Food at 6:00pm Song at 7:00pm

The cost is \$10. Tickets will be available at the door.



Widows' Support Group

The Widows' Support Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, March 21, at 11:30am
Sinclair's
756 40 Highway
Blue Springs

Contact Joyce Maggard at 229-1300 or Carol Sartain at 229-9753 for reservations or more details.

Methodist Men's Breakfast

Food Fellowship and Service

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 7. The Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast Group is meeting again in Room 015 at 8:00am for a delicious breakfast, a chance to talk with old friends and make new friends, and to look forward to opportunities for service to the church and the community. All men are invited, regardless of age or previous experience in our group. Hope to see you there.

Church Pictorial Directory

Lifetouch Photography will be with us April 7-10, 12-14, 15, 17-18, for individual and family portraits for our new pictorial directory.

Appointment sign-ups will be in the lobby on weekends and online during the week. There is a link on the church website. From the drop-down arrow on the toolbar, click "Picture Registration".

If you would be interested in working at the sign-up table or checking people in for their appointments, please email Andrea Lyttle at alyttle@bluespringsumc.org or call the office. Volunteering qualifies for A+ hours for students. No computer work is required.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Several opportunities for scholarships are available at First UMC. A brochure describing the criteria for the scholarships, along with the forms, can be found on the information table in the lobby.

Scholarship forms can also be found on the church website: bluespringsumc.org. Go to Connect, then Scholarship.

Applications must be printed and turned in to the church office.

Application deadline for First UMC scholarships is noon on Friday, March 30, 2018.

Gardening Class

The University of Missouri Extension offers *Getting Healthy Through Gardening*, a free 9-week health education program that links gardening with healthy eating. Gardening improves your health in many ways. It's great exercise and eating more fruits and vegetables boosts your nutrition. The research-based information provided by this program helps participants eat more fruits and vegetables and build gardening skills, while promoting healthier food choices and physical activity. Participants need to attend 6 of the 9 sessions. Kids between the ages of 8 and 12 are welcome to attend with their parents. Classes will be on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 beginning April 9. Class time will be spent both inside and outside.



The deadline to register is Monday, March 26, by calling the church office.



WHY EMBRACE?

We are blessed to live in God's embrace and forgiven of our sins through Jesus' embrace on the Cross. Let's embrace one another, our community, and God's desire for our lives while making disciples.

WHAT IS AN EMBRACE GROUP?

An Embrace Group is a gathering of 8 to 10 people that desire to connect with God on a deeper level through study, outreach and mission. Embrace Groups meet twice a month for a Bible Study, once a month or more for a mission/outreach and once a quarter for a social outing. Let's learn together on how to truly embrace being a disciple: be the hands and feet of Jesus in our world.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

You. Me. Everyone. Believers. Seekers. Uncertain. When we say, everyone, we mean everyone. This group is open to all who desire to learn more, and we will learn and grow together. All who are a part of this group are asked to uphold one another in the full capacity of truth, grace, and love.

WHEN DOES IT START?

Registration ends on Friday, March 30.

We will set the schedule based on the availability of those interested. Click this link to register:

<https://mailchi.mp/c5b4f569865e/embrace>

Questions: Call Megan or Clayton Hayes at 832-3599 or megankhartwig@gmail.com



Invitational Ministries

Invitational Ministries will be sending out Easter Invitations to all Learning Ladder families and to our neighbors around our church property. We are looking for donations of small plastic Easter Eggs, filled with candy treats or toys for this project. Any leftover eggs will go into our Easter Egg Hunt on March 25. We are anticipating needing approximately 2,600 eggs for the invitations and 1,000 eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring your donations to the church office or the education office. We will begin "Egging" the neighborhood the week of March 18. If you are interested in being a part of the neighborhood egging, please contact Kristi Harris at kharris@bluespringsumc.org.

Power of the Purse

A ladies luncheon featuring a live and silent auction with a raffle and a "buy-it-now" purse table starting at \$5 to help fund our **Women Build Initiative for Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity**.

Date: Saturday, April 14

Time: 10:00am-1:30pm

Location: First UMC Gym

Cost: \$15 per person or \$120 for a table of eight

Deadline to RSVP is Monday, April 9. Use the event link at: www.trumanheritage.org.

Donations of new and gently used purses are needed for this event. If you would like to donate, please contact Linda Thorpe in our office at 461-6551, ext. 227, or email her at lthorpe@trumanhabitat.org. Donations can also be dropped off in the church office.

Guidestar

First UMC is now registered with Guidestar, an online source for donating to and getting information about nonprofits. We are currently registered with Amazon. You must go to smile.amazon.com and pick First United Methodist Church Blue Springs, then shop like normal; our church will receive 5% on your purchase.

First UMC Blue Springs has launched a Literacy Initiative called VILLAGE (Volunteers in Literacy, Learning, and Giving Enthusiastically), partnering with the Blue Springs School District's Difference Makers program. Our mission is to support students in the Blue Springs School District who need reading assistance and encouragement, answering God's call to live out our faith in the world.

Our rationale includes the following:

1. Bishop Farr is inviting congregations to be involved in supporting literacy in our communities, as literacy is proven to help those in poverty create a new future for themselves.
2. Pastor Sally Haynes has attended community meetings where needs of the community were identified, and literacy is one of those.
3. Members of First UMC have been seeking ways to serve in our community and have time resources.

Volunteers have to have background checks approved by the school district and are required to be Safe-Sanctuary certified through the Missouri Methodist Conference. Training is also provided. Currently, we have 23 volunteers who are starting in five schools after Spring Break in March, committing at least an hour a week. Next fall, we would love to have at least 50 volunteers in VILLAGE. To sign up for next fall, contact coordinator Linda Cox, at 816-898-3608 or lindacox53@gmail.com.

First Connection

First United
Methodist Church
Blue Springs

Ministers

All members who have pledged to uphold First UMC with their prayers, presence, service, gifts, and witness.

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Sally Haynes
email:
shaynes@bluespringsumc.org

Rev. Jan Bond
email:
jbond@bluespringsumc.org

Worship

Saturday, 5:00pm
Sunday, 8:15, 9:30, and
10:45am

Office Hours

8:00am—4:30pm
Monday-Thursday
8:00am—12:00pm Friday

Church Office: (816) 229-8108
Church fax: (816) 229-6705

Email
office@bluespringsumc.org

Learning Ladder Preschool
(816) 229-9949

Church Website
www.bluespringsumc.org

Like us on Facebook:
Blue Springs UMC 

March 7, 2018

First United Methodist Church
of Blue Springs
301 SW Woods Chapel Road
Blue Springs, MO 64015

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Blue Springs, MO 64015
PERMIT No. 21**

Address Service Requested



Scan this QR code to get an electronic copy of the newsletter

Church Conference

A Church Conference will be held at 10:35am on Sunday, March 18, in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on new officers for the Single Board Model. Proposed officers are listed below.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL-Nominees

Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Lisa Daniels	Mike Moran	Jim Barrows
Brand Eskew	Elsa Tuttle	Megan Hayes
Cliff Mohn	Randy Williams, Chair	Angie Schnetzer

Staff Members: *(Voice but no vote) Sally Haynes, Senior Pastor; Andrea Lyttle, Office/Facilities Manager; Elaine Buchholz, Financial Officer*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Todd Brewer	Lisa Daniels	Nancy Baker
Betty Hartwig	Cliff Mohn	Jon Frentrop
Jane Rosendahl	Cris Sullivan	Diana Griffiths